

CIRCUIT

SGT REYNAERT
RADAR SQN

SUMMER 1975

The Journal of No. 1 Radio School, R.A.F. Locking



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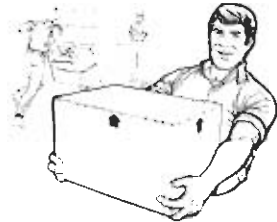
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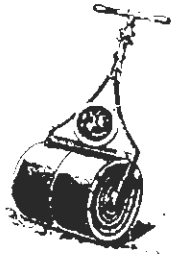
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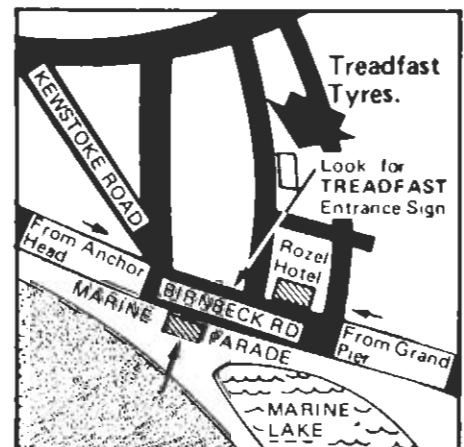
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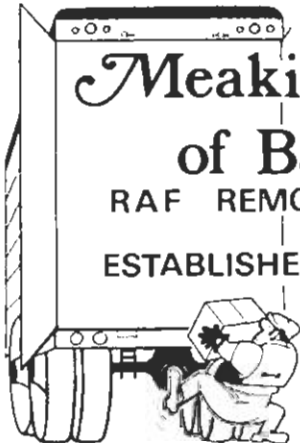
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EDITORIAL

The Locking Circuit is about to enter its fourth year of publication. During this period it has changed both in shape and content, and has seen five different Editors. The emphasis in the Circuit has altered mainly due to the recent introduction of the Locking Scene.

The purpose of the Scene is to keep personnel at Locking up to date with what is happening, or about to happen, on the Station. The Circuit aims to be a literary outlet for all the budding authors on the Station and to give a review of the events and changes that have occurred during the previous few months. The news items continue to flood in, but we seem to have a sad lack of budding authors. Surely some of our readers must feel the urge to cut loose on our pages — now is your chance !

Don't forget to read the ads.



TRADE PRACTICES FLIGHT

I have been asked to repudiate the rumour that T.P. Flight is to open a vegetable stall. We've got our priorities right and are doing a musical with an agricultural theme. I have, in fact, written one or two ditties for the show. My co-writer and I compose under the nom-de-plume "Giblet & Suffering", and we hope to perform after the harvest. Tickets will be on sale at the T.P. Flight veg. stall, 4(T) Block.

As Percy Throwup once said, whilst watering his bulbs: "Spring and a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of mulching". Well, now that spring is sometimes here, I imagine that many cost-conscious individuals will be planting vegetables. After two back-breaking digs, my garden is still not co-operating. When I started the first dig, the most suitable crop would have been rice, and now it requires a sledge hammer to make any impression at all ! I dread the thought of planting out and then having to move, probably to a place which hasn't been cultivated, before I can benefit from the vegetables of my labours. Equally incensing is the thought of someone re-mantling the rockery I had to dismantle before I started; the previous occupant had a mania for rock plants, I imagine.

Savings, which after all are the prime motivator, can be considerable, whilst the beneficial effects of the exercise involved are an additional bonus. I shall derive a great deal of gastronomic delight (not to mention nutrition) as I tuck into my very own home-grown salad. That is — if I can ignore the pain of a sore back and blistered hands.

No-one has arrived, or left, lately, so there is nothing worthy of mention in that area.

It only remains for me to wish all and sundry a good crop, and to congratulate Cpl. Denis Cruze on passing his T.I.T. Course. Denis is still busy, gardening !

Don't forget, as Percy Throwup once said: "One good turn is another man's poison !"

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Captain F. M. Holroyd.*

*Cover Picture: Selworthy (near Minehead),
with Exmoor beyond.*

This is not an official publication. All views expressed within these pages are those of the authors concerned and are not intended to reflect official policies.



PASSING OUT OF DR 6

Among his last duties before completing his term of office as Town Mayor of Weston-super-Mare, Councillor W. B. Prosser presented prizes and certificates to Course DR 6, which passed out on 23rd April, 75.

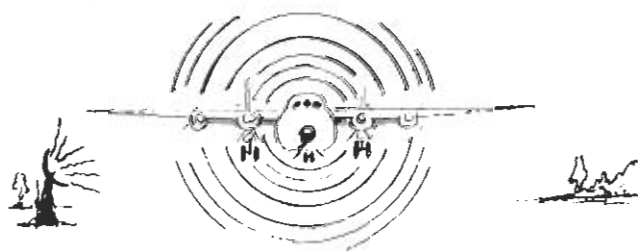
The Davidson Award for the best practical tradesman was presented to Jnr. Tech. T. Birch, who also received a certificate of Merit for obtaining a distinguished pass.

The Axbridge Trophy was presented to Jnr. Tech. J. Toye, who showed the greatest improvement overall during the Course.

The Holroyd Shield for the student displaying the highest qualities of leadership was awarded to Jnr. Tech. D. Tennant.



N.B. Copy for the next edition of 'CIRCUIT' must be handed in as soon as possible.



RADAR SQUADRON

There have been few moves since the last edition; Sgt. Jack Hennessey has left for the sunnier climes of Cyprus, having completed his Skynet course. The way things go, he will probably end up back here after his tour is completed.

We had Chf. Tech. Harry Hawkes back in the office to see us, having been to Wattisham and Benbecula since leaving here. Welcome back, Harry, there's no shortage of classes for you.

It's goodbye to Mr. Pete Worts, who is leaving for Cranwell in July. The FPS-6 lab, won't be the same without him - in fact, that could be said about 2(T). All the best, Pete.

And now it's back to the paper pile and preparation for Flowerdown Fair and

COMMUNICATIONS LINK

From the amount of topical news about the Squadron for this issue, I can only assume that everyone is still in a state of hibernation and has not realised that Spring is here. "Wake up you lot and do something daft, by the next edition!" From what I have just said, pardon me if I waffle on.

If you read the last edition of Circuit you may remember that here in Marconi Block we were having trouble with the water; (that is - the water which coming in through the window maketh the nasty puddly all over the floor-i-mold). Well, folks, someone Up There heard us and at last we have all new windows. The job took a bit longer than was at first estimated, as the contractors found the block to be a bit tougher than they expected. OC Comms Equipment however was convinced that the extra time involved was because the workmen found his office most convenient and comfortable for their tea breaks.

We have now a new face at the helm of Comms Equipment, Flt. Lt. Ferren, who has moved across the road from Student Squadron, relieving Flt. Lt. Gavin, who is now once again on the bridge, in command of EESF. (left hand down a bit !!)

Whilst on the subject of new faces, WO Tony Edwards has joined the supervisory staff in Marconi Block having recently returned, with a now faded suntan, from Cyprus. Another brown and definitely mad (his own words, folks) Chief, in the form of John Herring, came to us from 'the sharp end' at Salalah. He told me that I ought to go there, (cheek) but that if he should ever return, there would be questions in the House. (Copy of this edition to PMC please).

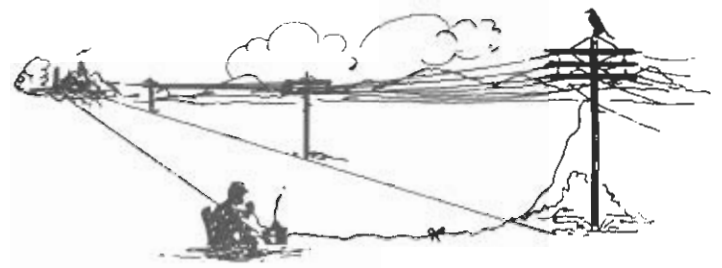
By the way, the man with the strange continental accent and the SS uniform is Bernie Doherty, recently arrived from Wildenrath.

Guess what's next, its bye-byes-time. Jeff Jackson left us in May for OCTU at Henlow, best of luck, Jeff, and Alex Whitehall will be departing shortly to take up full time occupation as a mister.

Chas Trimble, the boots, and one time contributor to this column, has forsaken Marconi Block and gone to dwell in Comms Org Flight - this was some time ago and we have not heard of him since hasn't it gone quiet?

At the time of going to press, Jim Lampard should be starting his expedition training aboard some boat or other - he does it every year - trouble is that when he gets back, he can't walk straight for about two weeks and I am sure its not all due to the roll of the boat.

I was knocking a few golf balls about the other day on the field near the new allotments and had not been there more than ten minutes, when, up walks a figure carrying an orange box. Placing said box in the middle of one of the allotments, he sits on same and starts to talk to himself. It was Derek Horman, yes, him again. "He has flipped", I thought, "he's shaved off his moustache and the sun has got to his brain". Needless to say I was wrong and there was a perfectly rational explanation. He told me that he always had success whilst fishing if he talks to his maggots, so he thought he would try it on his vegetables. He also said in passing that if anyone would like to try their hand at clay modelling there is a wealth of raw material over there.



We often say farewell in this column, to friends who for one reason or another have to leave Locking. It is not often, however, that we live to see old equipment depart. How often have you heard the expression "Are they still teaching that at Locking?" Well, here are two equipments to which that expression will no longer apply. The old transmitter 1509 has just had the last rites performed over it by EESF and Ray Wood is negotiating with SCAF for the future removal and internment of the Creed Teleprinters.

To end with this month, by way of an obituary to the Creed machines, I include an extract from a publicity brief, written by Flt. Lt. Ferren:

"The last Telegraphic Equipment Servicing Course, Tels F34, to be RAF trained on the Creed Teleprinting Machine left Locking on 7th May 75 for such exotic climes as Miasirah, Malta, Cyprus, Singapore, etc. Since Locking took over telegraphic maintenance training from 3S of TT Compton Bassett in 1967, six hundred and twenty-eight fitters and mechanics have attained competency on Creed machines. No records are available from Compton Bassett, but it is estimated that at least fifteen hundred personnel must have been Creed trained there between the years 1946 and 1967, so the total figure will be in excess of two thousand.

"Doubtless many others considered themselves competent Creed Maintainers from associations with the machine during and prior to the last war, before the advent of formal RAF training. Going back still further, Creed machines were used by the Armed Forces in the First World War but its official introduction to the RAF appears to be in 1935 at Stanbridge, then known as the Tactical Signals Centre. Locking would be interested to hear from anyone with such early associations with teleprinters.

"After forty years' service with the RAF the Creed machine is being phased out now because its successor, the Siemens T150 machine, is more electronically orientated towards the present and future systems approach to communications. Training will also commence later in the year on the even more up to date NCR EM-T20 machine which will have single copy applications. Canadian born Creed with his watchword: 'There must be an easier, faster way', would have been in his element during the monumental advances in communications over the last few years. Unfortunately, he was ahead of his time and had as much difficulty sixty years ago marketing his prodigy as BAC are having now with Concorde, in fact many of the arguments against it were very similar.

"Creed persisted where many other inventors in the communications field fell away. He developed his first machine in the garden shed of his lodgings in Glasgow, and finally persuaded the Glasgow Herald into backing him towards some form of production. In 1902, at the age of 31, he sold his first twelve machines to the Post Office; this did not open the floodgates for further orders and Creed had to virtually sit on the Post Master's doorstep before further needs were recognised. Further applications for teleprinters gradually developed and are taken for granted now in the Armed Forces, Police Work, Press Agencies, Oil Companies, Finance, Television 'Grandstand' and numerous other activities where high speed communications are essential".



TELS F 34 - The last telegraphic equipment course to be trained on Creed machines — passed out on 7th May 1975.

CRICKET IN A PACIFIC PARADISE

Just 1,150 miles north-east of Sydney lies an Emerald Isle, 250 miles by 31 miles — New Caledonia. It is a tropical paradise of blue waters, white sands, lazy hot days and balmy evenings. New Caledonia was first discovered by Captain Cook and later became a French colony. Amazingly one learns that "cricket" is played on "this small piece of the south of France with the flavour of Paris". That is unexpected enough, but it becomes quite remarkable when one learns that it is only the WOMEN who play the game. The reason for this seems rather obscure. It could be that the men consider it too 'cissy' but seeing the way in which these tough women play that is extremely unlikely.

Although the laws and conditions of play are somewhat eccentric to say the least, the game is definitely recognisable as cricket. The matches take place on any available land, but usually on a slag pitch, because any grass is reserved for baseball and football. The women use a bat which is long and shaped like a baseball bat. The ball, called 'la Boule', is made of dried sap and bounces even on the slag pitch. The ladies' bowling actions vary from a blatant chuck to a good old-fashioned lob. They are dressed in loose-fitting, gaily coloured floral smocks and the teams are 15-a-side, plus two substitutes. The minimum age for a player is 15. They wear no pads, batting gloves, thigh pads or indeed any other sort

of protection as far as one can see under the smocks !

Runs count as in our cricket and are called 'pines' but there are no boundaries and the batswomen or 'joueuse' must run up and down the pitch barefoot until the ball is returned to the wicket-keeper. It is therefore not surprising that the rules allow a tired batswoman to be replaced by the next on the list or to call for a substitute to run for her. Each run is greeted with shrill tin whistles and a hand-clapping version of the Melanesian Pilau-Pilau war song.

And now just in case the whole thing smacks of 'women's liberation', here comes the rub. Both umpires and the scorer must be male. They are considered fairer and have authority in a dispute and are capable of breaking up a scrap if the women get excited and fight — as they often do. Here are some of the general rules these umpires must enforce:-

It is forbidden for players to throw insults
nor must any player enter the field in a
state of drunkenness.

Finally further proof that the umpires are in complete control, neither the players nor the public are allowed to look at the score.

There are no time limits and the match goes on until the umpire declares one side the winner. The losers then have to fork out about £5 to give to the winning team.



CPL. HUGHES WINNING THE 100 METRES



BOXING CLUB

The RAF Locking Boxing Club can look back on a very successful season, which has included the winning of the Junior Wakefield Tournament and being runners-up to a worthy Halton team in the RAF Junior Championships. However, like most RAF Clubs, activities have not been restricted to service competitions and Alfie Massiah, Andy Symonds, Chris Troup, Eddie Lum-You, Andy Perry and Glenn Nelson, among others, have taken part in key bouts at several meetings in the South West of England, with a considerable measure of success.

One Club member, Patrick James, whose father is serving at Masirah, has had a particularly successful season. Patrick started boxing at the age of 12 and had his first bout at 14. Now 15 years old, he has won 8 out of 10 and is a very much improved boxer who has a bright future. One of his defeats was at the hands of Robert Jones of Hartcliffe ABC in the quarter-finals of Junior ABA Championships, and Jones (a seasoned English schoolboy boxer of some 45 bouts) had to struggle to win.

R A F LOCKING SPORTS DAY

The Athletic Stadium was the setting for a thrilling afternoon of athletics during the Station's annual Sports Day on Wednesday, 14th May, 1975.

Despite some early showers, all the events were very keenly contested between the Permanent Staff and the Trainees. The Permanent Staff team won the Athletic's Trophy with a total score of 246 points against the Trainees' total of 204 points. The trophy was presented to the winning team's Captain by Mrs. F. M. Holroyd, wife of the Commandant.

The outstanding athlete of the afternoon was Cpl. Hughes, of the Physical Education Flight, who won the long jump and the 100 metres sprint events to collect the Victor Ludorum Trophy. Good performances were also produced by J/T Brolly in the 3000m and 1500m distance races.

The Commandant entered into the spirit of things by winning the discus event and by making a guest appearance in the shot-putt, where he astounded his fellow competitors with a good sequence of throws for a minor placing.

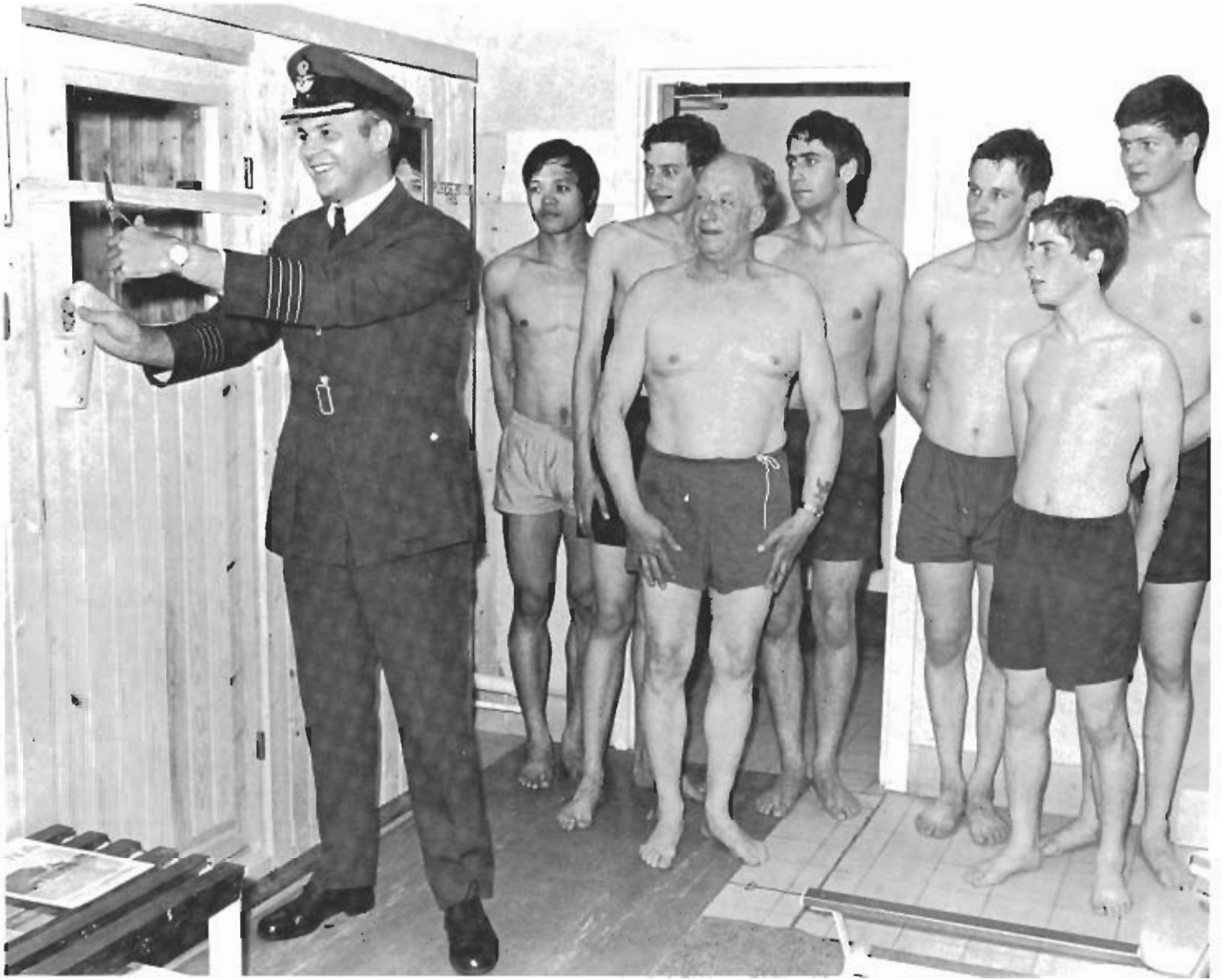
In the Ladies Race, Mrs. Diane Jacklin ran away with the First Prize !



COMPETITORS — THE STEEPLECHASE



A PROSPECT FOR THE OLYMPICS



THE COMMANDANT OPENING THE NEW SAUNA SUITE



PHYSICAL EDUCATION FLIGHT

The gymnasium is now "under new management" and there have been some changes among the Corporal P.T.I.'s. We welcome Cpl. Holmes from Cyprus and Cpl. Carnell from Germany. N.C.O. I/C P.Ed. Flight, is now F/S Hawkins, who was promoted on 1st April. For some reason there has been an upsurge in tennis over the last few weeks and the Station team to play in the first match of the season includes four people from the P.Ed. Flight !! Seriously though, tennis training for anyone interested is on Tuesday evenings, 17.15 hrs. to 18.30 hrs. on the courts by the Officers' Mess.

We two P.Ed. O's have now tried out the pitch & putt course, but judging from our scores, need more practice. Either that, or one or two trees need moving and the holes could be made larger !

We now have a Sauna Suite available for use in the gym, and bookings can be made by ringing extension 242. There are some rules and regulations to be followed and they are posted on the Sauna wall.



The R & I camps continue, though Sgt. Terry Stones has to teach the remaining staff how things operate. We are grateful to the support received from M.T. and Catering Flight.

It is understood that the Ladies Netball Team has been resurrected and they play and practice on Wednesday evenings in 3(T) Block. Interested players should contact Mrs. Audrey Leeman, 6 Woolvers Way.

Finally, the Commandant's Trophy is still going strong with Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Soccer and Volleyball still to play; though some teams have failed to make appearances in the early rounds. As a reminder, the details for the various matches are posted in S.R.O.'s and team organisers should react accordingly.

Quote from an R.A.F. P.T.I. — "You have one body; look after it".



STATION SOCCER

This season has been a season of very mixed fortunes for the various soccer teams.

The 1st Team, competing in Division I of the Western United Services League, finished in the top half of the table. If it had not been for a number of occasions on which we were forced to field weakened teams, RAF Locking would undoubtedly have been challengers for the Championship. Our success in Cup competitions was the brightest feature of the season. We won the Faville Soccer Trophy for the first time in our history, with a convincing 3-1 win over RAF Cosford at Cranwell. The Final of the WUSL Cup, however, was a very different story. The pressure of so many games late in the season was obvious as Locking lost 1-0 to St. Athan in a dull, scrappy game at RAF Hullavington.

The 2nd Team, in contrast to the previous season, had a frustrating season. On the rare occasions when they did win, they did so in style, but for most of the season it was a struggle to raise a balanced team. However, all credit must go to the players who determined to enjoy their football, went out week by week with the odds stacked heavily against them.

The Saturday Team performed a remarkable cliff-hanging feat, just avoiding relegation by winning their last match of the season. After an average start to the season the team went through a patch when it looked as if they would never win again, and reached the half-way stage with only six points. However, the latter part of the season saw a tremendous revival, due to the availability of more established players for mid-week matches combined with an increase in confidence in front of goal. As the season progressed, they certainly demonstrated that, with a larger pool of players and a stable team, they were capable of outplaying any team in the League.

In addition to the team details, there have been a number of individual successes during the season. Congratulations are due to Cpl. Keith Christie who represented the RAF at full and youth levels and to AC Tom Main, who represented the RAF at youth level. Both are in their first year in the Service. Flt. Lt. Colin Burns also represented the RAF against Devon F.A. During the season we have also supplied a number of players for the Training Command Team, including Flt. Lt. Burns, Cpl. Christie, J/T Derek Nicholson, SAC Andy Anderson and LAC Dennis Horrocks.

So as one season ends, preparations begin for the next. If you are keen to be involved next season either as a player or in some official capacity, the OIC Soccer, W.O. Waldron, is just waiting to hear from you !



CLUB NEWS

The Photo Club has been very active during the past few months.

The beginners' classes are proving very useful to those just starting in photography. Quite a few members have started colour printing and colour slide processing and are surprised how easy it is.

One popular event was the studio evening when Jane (daughter of Sqn. Ldr. and Mrs. Baker) came to model for us. Jane wants to be a model when she leaves school and judging by the pictures shown on this page, she certainly has some of the qualities required.

The Club's stocks of materials have been selling rapidly and this enables materials to be purchased in bulk at great savings in cost.

Come and visit the Clubroom any Tuesday — 20.00—21.00 hours.

Remember — **TAKING PICTURES IS HALF THE FUN !
MAKING PICTURES IS TWICE THE FUN !**

PHOTO CLUB



PHOTO TIPS

The photographer is like an artist — he creates a picture. The artist uses paints and a brush, the photographer uses films and a camera, but only as tools.

Good pictures can be produced by inexpensive cameras if a few simple rules are followed:-

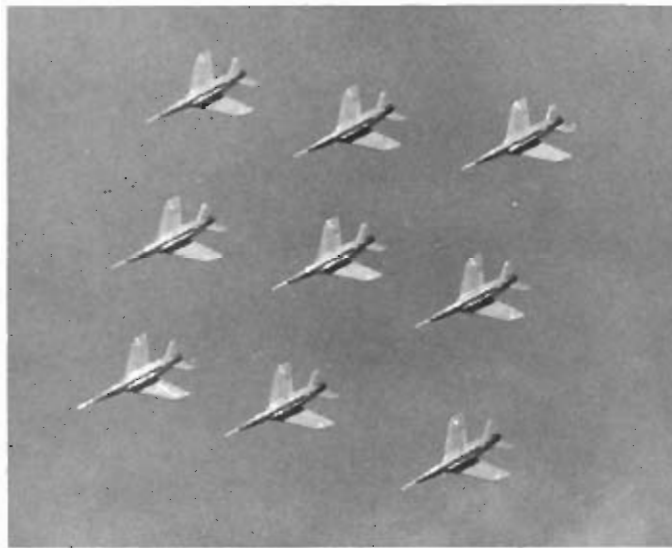
1. Some of the best pictures are those that are taken just as they happen and not posed, especially those of children.
2. Get in close and fill your viewfinder with your subject. Leave all distractions outside the picture area.
3. A few bold shapes nicely contrasting with each other are more pleasing to the eye than a profusion of small details.
4. Look for designs and patterns. Commonplace things can look excitingly different when viewed from a different angle or with the light coming from a certain direction. Looking from above or below the subject, with light coming from the side or behind, emphasises shape and texture.
5. Have a point of impact. On viewing a picture, the eyes should be led from the side or corner to a point of interest in the picture area, not necessarily in the centre, and there they should rest.
6. Much improvement can be made if you print your own pictures. You then have more time to attend to the finer points of composition that were overlooked at the time when the picture was taken.



The Engagement



Little Boy Fishing



The Red Arrows



Roar of a Lion



Baptism

STUDENT SQUADRON

We firstly extend a warm welcome to Messrs. Tucker, Trewinnard, Dickson, Holmes and Carnell and record our final farewell to John Cole who it appears may possibly drop in again (from 12,000 ft.) on June 21st, to Terry Ferren who is still contacted in emergencies but is now a happy engineer again and to Tom Kelly whose raucous tones are still heard from the factory across the main road.

The passing of DC9, DC10, DR6 and DC7 took place at great cost to RPC stocks. We are in fact out to gain entry in the Guinness Book of Records for the number of ADMIN. ORDERS produced in a single year. On a more serious note we were honoured to welcome Air Vice Marshal Davidson, Air Vice Marshal Leonard Williams and Councillor Prosser to these pass-outs and their respective addresses undoubtedly added to the occasions.

Student Squadron staff congratulate the two successful Ten Tors teams for their splendid efforts on Dartmoor at Whit weekend. Well Done !! It has been confirmed that John Middlewick had to carry out a square search to find his married quarter. Needless to say 'the stranger' was welcomed home. We fear to mention when training for the 1976 expedition will commence.

Time is pressing (what's new) but we record for historical interest the following events:-

Sports Day	(Successful, but a little damp!)
Opening of the Sauna	(Installed to tone up the Station for the A.O.C.'s ?)
R & I Camps DC9, 10, 11, DR6, 7,	(We just cannot keep the P.Ed. Flight out of the act !)
PFR	(Having apparently convinced the C-in-C that we are worthwhile, we await the establishers with confidence).

SUPPLY SQUADRON JOTTINGS

"Magpie" lost his beak in December, so life has been quiet. Soon our new computer will purr into life; we are all waiting with bated breath.

Exercise "Rock's Revenge", in which we were all involved has already livened up the month of May. Don't believe any rumours you hear about Junior Supply Officers remustering to the exalted ranks of the "Pebble Monkeys" (RAF Regiment to the uninitiated).

We say farewell to Fg. Off. (soon to be Flt. Lt. ?) Mike Perks (and thus to "Magpie"). Mike is rejoining the RAF as a team leader on UKMAM's at RAF Lyneham. Good luck, Mike, we hope that you and Jan have a good tour.

MAXWELL HOUSE

Because of the 'flu' epidemic which usually accompanies the start of the summer season, some of the staff of Maxwell Block naturally took precautions by the daily dosage of vitamin pills. Trevor Ward threatened to purchase the entire stock of vitamin pills from our librarian, Liz, when he learnt that the pills possessed some aphrodisiac qualities it is not known whether or not the Trade Descriptions Act has been brought into disrepute in this matter !!!!

Flying Officer John Crouch has certainly made a dashing start since arriving at Locking and he has done so with the sharpest of points, namely the end of his epee. John has just returned from the RAF Individual Fencing Championships at Halton where he put his weapons to good use by emerging as runner-up to the Master-at-Arms out of 35 RAF competitors. He has also been selected to represent the RAF at the Inter-Services Competition in June and the Royal Tournament at Earls Court in July.

We say farewell to Flt. Lt. Dave Jacklin who leaves us to commence advanced specialist training at the Joint Services School at Blandford in Dorset. Dave was very active on the Unit as Business Manager of the Magazine and as Press Liaison Officer. He will also be remembered (among other things) for running over his Flight Commander with his bicycle on the road outside S.H.Q. Apparently there was some misunderstanding as to who was turning to the right and who was going straight on — with inevitable results.

We also extend a very warm welcome to Squadron Leader John Dalkin who is no stranger to Locking and who returns to us from Newton.

BREVITIES

Overheard in the corridors of power in 3(T) :-

Ernie:- "Dave, have you seen Frank ?"

Dave:- "He's in the radio demonstration room."

Ernie:- "Where's that ?"

At Stella's party, held recently, a good time was had by all who were lucky enough to be invited. Some haven't looked the same since !!

Sqn. Ldr. Stuart Hocknell won the shooting event at the recent RAF Pentathlon Competition. We are given to understand that he was the only competitor.

Members of Maxwell Block wishing to carry out any reproductive tasks are requested to give prior notice of their intentions to the P.L.O. or Exams Officer who will act as co-ordinators, thus ensuring that all (behavioural) objectives can be achieved with the minimum outlay of time, energy and resources.

WANTED:- That well-fed dog who stole the Editor's Sunday joint . . .



A LOOK AT THE W.R.A.F. AT RAF LOCKING

There are eight WRAF personnel serving at RAF Locking, including 1 WRAF Secretarial Officer who is the WRAF Flight Commander.

Six Aircraftwomen are employed on Clerical duties under the local service scheme which enables them to work at the base and live at home. The seventh is a Corporal Steward in the Officers' Mess. She also assists in the day-to-day administration of the Mess.

WRAF Small Bore Shooting Competition 1975

The WRAF Leaconfield Trophy

The WRAF team, which consists of 3 members, has been particularly successful in winning the WRAF Small Bore Pistol Competition, "The Leaconfield Trophy", for the past three successive years. The team, known locally as the 'Locking Sharpshooters', are about to defend the title yet again, against another WRAF team from RAF Wyton. The 1975 team will consist of:-

1. Flying Officer Beverley Lovegrove (Captain)
2. Senior Aircraftwoman Pauline Lee
3. Senior Aircraftwoman Rosemary Langdon

The WRAF Individual Pistol Championship

In the 1974 WRAF Individual Pistol Competition, "The Turrier Cup", SACW Jan Wood (who is now a full-time housewife), and SACW Pauline Lee, became WRAF Champion and runner-up respectively. This year Pauline will be making a strong bid for the Individual Championship with her Captain, Fg. Off. Lovegrove, who started shooting only 6 months ago.

The WRAF Team has also performed well against local civilian opposition in small bore shooting matches.



STOP PRESS

The Locking Sharpshooters won "The Leaconfield Trophy" yet again. In the individual championship, Fg. Off. Lovegrove was runner-up with S.A.C.W. Lee joint third.

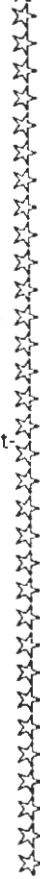


CYCLING PROFICIENCY AWARDS

At a recent ceremony at RAF Locking, twenty five young children whose ages ranged from eight to eleven years, received their cycling proficiency awards. Top of the course, with 96% was nine-year old Ian Scott, son of Sqn. Ldr. George Scott (now retired).

The course leading to the awards, organised by PC J. West, of the Ministry of Defence Police, has a proud record at Locking, with pass rates varying between 85% and 96% in its three year history. One of the instructors – SAC Stone of the Station Fire Section, who has assisted PC West since the start of the scheme, was presented with his Qualified Examiner and Instructor credentials at the same ceremony.

On hand to present the awards were Cllr. Tremaine, Chairman of Woodspring District Accident Prevention Panel, and Gp. Capt. F. M. Holroyd. Also in attendance was Mr. J. Anning, the Road Safety Training Officer for the District of Woodspring.



STATION SERVICES SQUADRON

This month sees a complete change in the officers of Station Services Squadron. First and foremost there is our Leader, Sqn. Ldr. Sillence, who is being dragged, kicking and screaming, from his much loved and envied position of OC SSS. Sqn. Ldr. Sillence has been selected for a long finance course at Worthy Down on which we wish him every success. We would also add our thanks for the numerous improvements to both married quarters and the Station appearance, which have resulted from his efforts and initiative.

Flt. Lt. Chris Clark, the terror of the duty rosters, has now departed to rule the roost over a gaggle of Swinderby recruits. Welcome to Flt. Lt. Peter Lines who, having just completed an Officers' Command Course, is now occupying this commanding position of OC GD Flight.

Finally, our new Families Officer is Fg. Off. Helen Chinn. Helen's husband is a helicopter pilot at present working with the Navy at Yeovilton and her posting to Locking is most convenient for travelling from her new home at Somerton. Fg. Off. Beverley Lovegrove leaves to join her husband at Cranwell and becomes plain "Mrs" at the end of August. Cranwell be warned – she's threatening to be the horror of the Road Reps Meetings!

LADIES PAGE

SPOTLIGHT ON:-

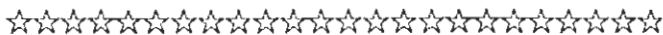


'MISS WESSEX 1972' — Air Hostess Carole Pike

For this issue, I met Carole, the younger daughter of Sqn. Ldr. and Mrs. H. E. Pike. Carole was born at Moreton-in-the-Marsh, and was educated at forces schools in Germany, England, Cyprus and finally Malta, where she gained 5 'O' Levels and 1 'A' Level. On leaving school, Carole began a course on theatrical make-up at a London College, through which she developed an interest in beauty therapy, and decided to qualify in this subject, specialising in electrolysis. Then began a period as a junior therapist for Dorothy Gray, followed by four years in Salisbury as a fully qualified beauty therapist. Her work included one day a week at a local hospital where she practised electrolysis. During this time Carole met some air hostesses, who suggested she might enjoy their life and persuaded her to write to British Caledonian. After two interviews and four weeks of intensive training at Gatwick, Carole was soon flying in BAC 1-11's and Boeing 707's^y to Europe, West Africa, South America, U.S.A. and the Far East, finishing after 16 months with a breathtaking flight over the Andes to Santiago. She is now with British Airways travelling the world in 747's, the shortest flight being to New York.

Obviously during these trips Carole has met many interesting people, including David Frost, Jackie Stewart and recently King Constantine of Greece on his way to the Coronation in Nepal. Whilst staying at the Hilton in Teheran, she and fellow guests had to leave to make room for Henry Kissinger and his 101 members of staff — (should that read 'Dalmations' ?!).

Sometimes the work is hard and passengers can be very demanding. Although languages are not an essential qualification for the job they are an advantage on certain trips. Carole is a 'Bar Girl' which involves handling many different currencies and for this she uses a calculator for converting these monies into either sterling or American dollars for change. Before each flight, there is a 1½ hour briefing and often at the end another two hours before clearance through Customs. The time change going West is perhaps the most difficult part of flying, particularly on the flights to Los Angeles or Anchorage in Alaska. Despite this, there are many compensations — e.g. shopping in exotic places, lazing in the sun whilst we at home freeze, and perhaps most of all, the excitement of knowing that every trip will bring new friendships, new experiences and lasting memories.



N.B. Additional copies of this magazine are available from the Business Manager — FLT. LT. SELF — Maxwell (3T) Block.



A DISCREET EATING PLACE

A picture hanging, a chair empty,
against a lemony wall.
There is hushed talking
and stooping over tea cups.
Murmured thoughts are dispersed
in smoke and in crumbs
and flaking pastries,
in brimming saucers and tumblers
spilling milk.

A thin man smoking
is nervous, cautious, polite;
would be insignificant
with provincial newspaper, rolled,
tucked under his arm.
And fingers that play morse,
tap tap tapping
upon the laundered tablecloth
behind the saucers.

The evening is hidden
behind long still curtains
draped high and wide
against the fading light.
A clock hanging
ticks only to itself,
while from behind closed doors
and shut windows
a chill draught winds in.



THE LOCKING BROWNIES ENJOYING THEIR 21st BIRTHDAY

1st LOCKING R.A.F. BROWNIES

Two new Tweenies have recently joined us – Jane Tasker and Kathleen McKay.

At an enrolment ceremony attended by their parents, the following Brownies were enrolled:-

Julie Pounds
Hedyeh Asgarzadeh
Deborah Catley
Eleanor Taylor

During the evening a number of Brownies gained their Hostess Badge by serving the parents with refreshments which the Brownies had beautifully prepared. These Brownies were:-

Julie Crosby
Harriet Mills
Rebecca Bates
Alison Self
Karen Jones
Sharon Griffiths

Due to postings we have had to say goodbye to Jackie Read, Sally Jacklin and Gillian Christie; we hope they will enjoy their new Brownie Packs.

This month the Brownies followed a Treasure Trail around the Station and had to keep their eyes well open to answer a number of questions and collect several items on the way round.

On Friday, 9th May, the Weston Mendip District Church Service was held at Winscombe and was attended by 300 Brownies, Guides and Guiders, including Locking Brownie and Guide Packs.

We are most grateful to the speakers who gave up their spare time to help us gain our World Venture Badge. This entailed covering the four points of the compass and we have learned a great deal about

DENMARK	–	from JAN THOMSEN
AMERICA	–	from Staff Sgt. NORDENHOLD, W.O. HOMBACH and Petty Officer BAUL
INDIA	–	from J. T. PAUL
MALTA	–	from J. T. PORTER
PORTUGAL	–	from Lt. JAIME SILVA

The Brownies did a lot of research about the countries before our speakers came, so that they could ask intelligent questions.

Don't forget our Church Parades on the third Sunday of each month – parents are always most welcome.

Finally, we do hope that parents don't mind if our meetings sometimes finish late. There is always so much to do and time often runs out !



WHERE SHALL WE GO ? – part 2

Now that you have had a chance to look over the immediate vicinity let us go further afield.

We start from Weston-super-Mare and follow the A370 road south. On our way we pass Brent Knoll which stands at 450 ft. When the lands were flooded many years ago this was a refuge and eventually the Romans used the original Iron Age fortress.

Continuing south we reach Bridgwater – a busy town standing on the banks of the river Parrett. Its history extends over many centuries – dating back in fact to the days of William the Conqueror. It came to the fore during the days of the Civil War, when it was a Royalist stronghold. However, it succumbed to the Parliamentary force with little resistance. Bridgwater provided the country with a great leader in the person of Admiral Blake, one of Cromwell's admirals. Less than 50 years later, Bridgwater again figured in the history of Britain when the Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of Charles II, was proclaimed king in the town, but soon was defeated at the Battle of Sedgemoor, three miles south-east of the town. Sedgemoor is a low-lying plain, abundant in peat, which was under water about 10,000 years ago, but now well drained. If we continue south on the A38, we reach Taunton, the county town of Somerset. Here, in 1685 Judge Jeffreys held his Bloody Assizes following the Battle of Sedgemoor. From Taunton we can either travel south to the south coast of England, with its many holiday resorts, or take the road north-west, which runs between the Quantocks and the Brendon Hills, to the north coast of Somerset where we reach Watchet, Dunster and Minehead. At Watchet one can enjoy the beauty of its surrounding alabaster cliffs, intersected with veins of gypsum. Two miles to the south-west we come to Cleeve Abbey, a Cistercian abbey founded towards the end of the 12th century. At Dunster, a few miles farther along the coast towards Minehead – the main attraction is the castle, built in 1080. It was a Royalist stronghold during the Civil War and Charles II stayed there while he was Prince of Wales. The beauty of the castle is said to have inspired a protestant bishop's wife to write the hymn "All things bright and beautiful". Minehead, though now thought of as a holiday resort, made famous by Butlin's Holiday Centre, is in fact a former port and haunt of smugglers. It is more than 1,000 years old and in Saxon times belonged to Lady Godiva's son. The harbour and sea front still have an old-fashioned atmosphere and here tranquility reigns supreme. The part of the town known as Higher Town, built on the side of the beautifully wooded North Hill, has the ancient Parish Church of St. Michael, dating back to 1450. It can be reached by the well-known church steps, which are lined on either side by picturesque thatched cottages. This is the gateway to the Lorna Doone country, for from the top of North Hill the whole of Exmoor stretches out, a tourist attraction in its own right.

Returning to Bridgwater along the A39 we pass Nether Stowey, where Samuel Taylor Coleridge lived in a cottage between 1796 and 1800 and wrote his famous poem "The Ancient Mariner".

Had we continued on the road leading to the south coast from Taunton we could have reached the holiday resorts of Sidmouth, Lyme Regis and Charmouth. Perhaps Sidmouth's claim to fame is that in the year 1819 the then Duke of York brought his daughter there to stay. That daughter eventually became the great Queen Victoria. It was at Lyme Regis that the Duke of Monmouth landed in 1685 only to be defeated shortly afterwards. In the town there is a museum which houses many of the fossils to be found here and along the cliffs at Charmouth, where, in 1811, a 21ft. ichthyosaurus skeleton was unearthed. Just beyond Charmouth is the Golden Cap, the highest cliff in the south of England. On our way back to Locking we could stop at Cricket St. Thomas Wild Life Park, near Chard, which contains a wide variety of animals and birds.

Perhaps the most interesting journey we could make would be to the most famous prehistoric monument in Europe – Stonehenge. To get there one could consider it a pilgrimage stopping en route at other well-known places. Let us follow the road to Cheddar and across the Mendip Hills, where the Romans once mined lead, to the city of Wells. It is a cathedral town dating back to Saxon and Norman times when cathedrals existed here. The present building is a Gothic masterpiece built in the 13th century. The moated Bishop's Palace dates back to the 14th century. Here the swans and other birds are an attraction for the youngsters who come here. It is impossible to write about the magnificence of such a building, and so one must go there one self to marvel at the structure. In the town there is also a museum, housing Mendip cave finds, samplers and local relics. Some of these cave finds may have come from Wookey Hole – 2 miles north-west of Wells. The river Axe flows through three floodlit chambers where Stone Age hunters lived. Many legends abound about this place, most famous of all being about the Witch of Wookey. A short distance from here is Ebbor Gorge, which has two nature trails and is a nature reserve, given to the National Trust in memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

If we continue our "Pilgrimage" and travel 5 miles south-west, we reach Glastonbury. It is still a place of pilgrimage today, as it was 2,000 years ago. It is a place full of mystery, myth and legend, intermingled with fact. All this started with Glastonbury Tor – a 520 ft. high mound one mile east of the town. At one time Glastonbury was a lake village and when the floods came the Iron Age people climbed the Tor to safety. Here, under the waters of a spring, legend says that Joseph of Arimathea buried the chalice or Holy Grail used at the Last Supper. On top of this hill is the ruin of a 14th century tower, built on the site of an ancient chapel of St. Michael. At Wirral Hill, Joseph is said to have leant upon his staff which took root and produced the world-famous winter-flowering thorn. Having settled down here, Joseph and his followers built a church believed to be the first Christian place of worship in this country. Glastonbury is considered to be the burial place of Saint Patrick, Saint Dunstan and several Saxon kings. It is here also, at the abbey, that the legendary (or, depending on your belief,) factual, King Arthur and his Queen Guinevere are said to have been re-buried; for this is their Avalon.

Leaving the romantic Glastonbury behind, we head eastwards for the Salisbury Plain. We pass Shepton Mallet, where wives used to be sold around the market cross, and Frome, which has a street with half-timbered houses, overhanging first floors, bow-windowed shops and a stream running down the middle. Four miles south-east we come to Longleat House, which is one of the Stately Homes of England, the gardens of which were laid out in the 18th century by Capability Brown. In the grounds of Longleat is the Safari Park, a must for the children's enjoyment. We proceed through Warminster towards Amesbury, stopping 2 miles short of the town. We have reached Stonehenge !!

Recent evidence indicates that Stonehenge was a sophisticated and brilliantly conceived astronomical observatory used by three different groups of people over a period of 400 years, beginning around 1900 B.C. The first stage was when the ditch and bank were constructed encircling a large space 100 yards in diameter. Only one of these stones exists today. The second stage was 200 years later when eighty bluestones from Pembrokeshire were brought by raft along the Bristol Channel and then dragged overland to make a double circle. The final stage was built of sarsen stones from the Marlborough Downs. These final stones formed the present lintelled circles and horse-shoes. Unfortunately in the Middle Ages, farmers started taking the stones, so now most of the circles are incomplete. Many people believe that the Druids had a lot to do with the building of Stonehenge, but they arrived in Britain many years after it was built.

Keeping ourselves in the same frame of mind, we can journey northwards from Amesbury following the A345 to Marlborough where Arthur's wizard, Merlin, is said to be buried, and then west to Avebury. Here the great earthwork and stone circles form the centre of a unique group of early prehistoric monuments in north Wiltshire. Tranquility is the keynote here as one wanders among the rolling green avenues. So vast are these earthworks that the village of Avebury is contained within them. Results of excavation here, including pottery and skeletons, are preserved in the Alexander Keillor Museum, reached through the churchyard. Time and space do not permit me to enthuse over the other ancient earthworks at Windmill Hill, West Kennet, Long Barrow and the pyramid shaped Silbury Hill.

We now head back to Locking along the A4 passing Calne, Bradford on Avon with its famous Tithe Barn and St. Laurence Church — a rare example of an Anglo-Saxon church, and Bath. So great is this city that it requires a special visit to itself.

In the next edition of 'Circuit', it is hoped to print our visit to Bath and still more interesting places that can be easily reached from Locking, in particular some that will be of special interest to our younger readers.

ARLENE CHRISTIE



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