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No. 1 School of Technical Training, R.A.F. Halton  
Passing Out of the 83rd Entry - 25th March, 1959

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29 July

Points of interest for reference by the Reviewing Officer

1. Since its foundation as an R.A.F. Apprentice Training School in 1920, No. 1 School of Technical Training has produced over 25,000 trained technicians who have passed into the service. Of this number many achieved distinction including one to reach the rank of Air Marshal, seven Air Vice-Marshals and over 20 Air Commodores. More than 5,000 have been commissioned and many of them have been decorated for service to their country, including the award of the Victoria Cross to an ex-apprentice, together with two George Crosses, 34 D.S.O.s, 2 M.C.s, 246 D.F.C.s, 227 A.F.C.s, 3 G.M.s and over 300 D.F.M.s and A.F.M.s.
2. The aim of Halton is to produce advanced tradesmen of good education and to develop in them such qualities of character - sense of responsibility, leadership and pride of service - as will fit them for a progressive career within the Royal Air Force. In the future, as in the past, the Royal Air Force will hope to obtain from those graduating from Halton a useful number of officers. All graduates must therefore strive to fit themselves for this goal by continuing their studies both in the technical and educational fields after they have left Halton.
3. Under Halton's system of training, ability rises to the surface irrespective of a boy's background.
4. Importance of reliability and integrity when dealing with modern aircraft, missiles and fellow men.
5. Increasing importance of the quality of apprentices for maintaining the high standard of efficiency required in the smaller Air Force which is planned for the future. No other Service or civilian organisation offers such a comprehensive apprenticeship in so short a time as three years. It is recognised as being the very best training a boy can get and many of the key posts in our major industries and in commerce are held by ex-apprentices. Graduation from Halton is recognised by all the relevant Trade Unions as a qualification for Union membership.
6. Although the Halton apprenticeship training is essentially technical, great emphasis is placed on general education, physical fitness and character building.
7. In education every encouragement and facility is given to apprentices to sit the examinations for either the Ordinary National Certificate in Engineering and/or the City and Guilds certificates in various specialisations and/or the General Certificate of Education in a wide range of subjects - according to individuals' abilities and interests. Achievement in these extra-curricular examinations, which has been quite considerable for some years, is now even increasing at a most encouraging rate.
8. Physical Fitness is developed partly by formal instruction in P.T. and partly by sports for which we have some of the finest facilities in the Royal Air Force. The standard of physical fitness has recently been receiving particular attention resulting in an already apparent improvement. Both during their time at Halton and in later service many apprentices have made notable contributions to Command or R.A.F. teams and other individual sporting achievements.



9. Character building is a natural derivative from the general service training, the cultivation of sportsmanship, and the inculcation in the apprentices of a sense of responsibility based on the Halton tradition.

10. Special remarks for benefit of parents.

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