

A History of the OTC and CCF at Lancaster Royal Grammar School



By John Fidler

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The OTC: Formation and Training - 1914 to 1918

There are references to the existence at Lancaster of a Cadet Volunteer Battalion in the early nineteenth century, and we know that the unit was seventy strong in 1861, when a silver bugle was presented by Mrs Lee, wife of the Headmaster. The real point of origin for what is now the Combined Cadet Force came in 1914, when official War Office approval was given for the formation of a Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps. An earlier application had been rejected amid some controversy, but after diplomatic activity behind the scenes, the new Headmaster, Dr J H Shackleton-Bailey achieved his goal. His own public school background and his period of service as chaplain and instructor in the Royal Navy inclined him to regard the OTC as a very desirable adjunct to the School. A paper read by Mr W R W Deed, a master at the School and an officer in the TA, was read to the Whewell Society in January 1914, outlining the training involved.

The first application for the formation of a contingent was refused by the War Office, and "The Lancastrian" records that "Generals French and Ewart handed in their resignations, and that of Colonel Seeley soon followed". The application was then re-submitted, and this time was approved. The new Contingent, 60 strong, and with a waiting list of junior pupils, began to parade for drill on Wednesday afternoons which were "secured from games" for that purpose, and soon a drill squad was formed from potential recruits. There were exercises on the Town Moor, "with a return to the strains of 'Tipperary' and other martial airs", and the Contingent led the Mayor's procession on Mayor's Sunday in May of 1914, "through an appalling rainstorm".

All too soon, however, war games turned into grim reality in August of 1914, and the new Contingent suddenly had a new raison d'être. The first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant W R W Deed left for active service with the King's Own, sending back letters from the trenches with news especially of Old Lancastrians serving with him. Some of these were senior boys who had briefly served in the OTC during its first summer term before entering the forces on the outbreak of war among the half million volunteers in August. One of them, Private F Eltoft, was in Deed's company, but was killed in action in April. A Housemaster, Mr W Balshaw, who had served with the Manchester University OTC was a prime mover in the new unit, but was soon commissioned into the 2nd Manchesters. He was posted as missing in action in November 1914, was first thought to be a prisoner of war, but was later presumed dead. Three of the first cadets, SK Bates, AF Metcalfe and EH Keir were also commissioned in the autumn of 1914. As CO, Deed was succeeded briefly by Lieutenant S A Pakeman until he too entered the King's Own, and then in 1915 Lieutenant (later Captain) C H Tuck took over, remaining in command until 1924, with the assistance of Lt WR Phillips and Sergeant Suthers.

Musketry training began in 1915, with the cadets using the King's Own range at Bowerham Barracks (later St Martin's College and now the Lancaster Campus of the University of Cumbria). In that year they underwent their first Annual Inspection, by Colonel Duffin of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, the formal parade being followed by a demonstration of a section attack. For their subsequent Field Day in October they went "on manoeuvres" near Garstang, in conjunction with Rossall and Stonyhurst, and new Signalling and Scouting sections were formed. Photographs of the period show the cadets wearing service dress tunics, breeches and puttees and a cap with a badge depicting a Lancaster rose enclosed in a laurel wreath. A red diamond worn on the sleeve indicated proficiency. The Orderly Room and Armoury were housed in the cellars under School House until 1919, when the purchase of Gardyner House enabled the Orderly Room to be re-located there.

By 1917 the Contingent had been re-equipped with Lee-Enfield .303 service rifles to replace the drill weapons used so far and the consequence of this was the building of an open-air range on the Old Field. Despite the earth banking at the butts and the use of railway sleepers to mask the sides, this was far below modern safety standards. Once there were trained instructors available, a regular musketry course was provided, with a field firing exercise in Quernmore Park, when cadets were required to identify silhouette targets and give appropriate fire orders. Field Day manoeuvres became increasingly ambitious, involving in one case attacks on prepared positions in Knots Wood and Quernmore Park, and on another occasion an attack, using fixed bayonets, in the Quernmore valley. Bayonet work had become part of the training and by 1918 the Contingent was practising trench attacks, though their summer camp was cancelled owing to the widespread epidemic of Spanish flu.

The real war was increasingly impinging upon the Lancaster scene with the publication of casualty lists. Among the earliest of those killed in action was Lieutenant S K Bates of the King's Own, a prefect in July 1914, and one of the first cadets when the OTC was established. When commissioned, he was the youngest officer in the army, and his death in March 1915, when he was still some way short of his 18th birthday, was the first of many such tragedies. Another of his year was Lieutenant E H Keir, who was also commissioned into the King's Own, with whom he served until 1917. He then transferred into the Royal Flying Corps, and was killed in action in the same year. The letter of condolence from his Commanding Officer was published in "The Lancastrian", and has the added interest that it was written and signed by Major Charles Portal, who was to become Chief of the Air Staff during the second world war. A prize in memory of Keir was instituted by his parents in 1919, and is still awarded annually on Speech Day. A memorial service was held in Christ Church on All Saints' Day 1917, when 47 who were then known to have died were commemorated. They included J Dixon, who had been School porter until August 1914, when he volunteered for the King's Own, as a private, and was killed on the western front in May 1915.

Leavers continued to go direct from the Sixth Form into the services as the war continued - in 1917 the Head of School, N C Gornall went to train as an officer in the Royal Engineers while J Thompson became a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service, reflecting the much wider range of service involvements. Tragically Gornall was killed in March 1918, within a month of his arrival on the Western Front. He was another of the 75 OLs killed in the war, many of them young enough to have served with the OTC in its first four years. Among those decorated for gallantry were the former Contingent Commander Lieutenant (later Captain) S A Pakeman who was awarded the Military Cross, and former cadet, Gunner J L Escolme, awarded the Military Medal. In addition to Deed and Pakemen, members of staff who served in the war included Major HP Gough, Lieutenants BH Binks (2nd Manchesters), W Balshaw (11 King's Own), CK Dove (RGA), WR Phillips (RGA) Gunner G Gilleland (RGA). Major Gough and Lieutenants Balshaw and Binks were among those killed.

Between the Wars : 1919 to 1939

After Armistice Day in November 1914 there was, understandably “a noticeable decrease in the number of drills per week” and the influenza epidemic led to the cancellation of the summer camp and of the Michaelmas Term Field Day. Nevertheless there was no thought of the Contingent being disbanded - rather there was a return to the original objective, the expansion of the range of extra-curricular activities, which remains the main purpose today.

The numbers on the waiting list to join the Contingent had increased substantially in 1919, and cadet numbers reached 100 in 1920. This was regarded as a very healthy sign for the future of the Corps, which now began to hold regular shooting competitions. A memento of the war was a German machine gun, presented by the War Office as a token of the numbers of volunteers from the OTC during the war. This stood in the yard in front of Lee House throughout the 1920s. Despite the continuation of basic training in School and on Field Days, the Annual Camp for 1919 again had to be cancelled, this time because of “trouble in the Yorkshire coal mines”.

At its Annual Inspection that year, the Contingent was reviewed by General Sir Archibald Hunter, Colonel of the King’s Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, who later also presented the prizes on Speech Day. General Hunter gave a large silver trophy, a gift he had received from the Ameer of Afghanistan, for inter-platoon competition. Field Day was another occasion for large scale manoeuvres, organised at Knowsley by Western Command and involving Stonyhurst, Rossall, Liverpool College and Bury GS. This became the regular pattern for Field Days in the 1920s, often also involving members of regular or TA units, with over 1,500 participants in the 1924 exercise near Halton. Annual Camp each summer was held at a training unit, usually under canvas, and with a programme exclusively military in content, including route marches and sentry duty. Camps were held regularly, at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain, Strensall near York and Aldershot. In 1924 the camp was near Hawick, in a former POW camp whose wooden buildings were used for cookhouses, dining rooms and ablutions, though the cadets lived in tents as usual. The neighbouring lines were occupied by an unnamed Scottish contingent whose bagpipes drew unfavourable comment, as did the weather. At the camp at Tidworth in 1925 four cadets flew, though the aircraft type is not recorded and the following year another flew “in an RAF battleplane”. The numbers in the Contingent rose rapidly in the early 20s with a third platoon formed in 1921 and a fourth in 1924. Captain C H Tuck relinquished command of the Contingent after nine years, to be replaced briefly by Captain A F H Neale and then by Captain R E English who was Contingent Commander from 1925 to 1931.

In 1924 thirty SMLE rifles “as used on active service” arrived to re-equip the Armoury. Shooting was a major feature in OTC activities throughout the inter-war years, both on open ranges and in the School’s own miniature range. The open-air range on the Old Field was replaced in 1922 by a wooden shed beside the northern wall of the field. It was formally opened on Empire Day 1923 with the Mayor taking the salute at a parade of the whole Contingent and then firing the first shot and scoring a “bull”. The rather unsightly building continued in use until 1936, when it collapsed in a gale and was replaced by the present brick building. Sergeant Suthers, late of the King’s Own joined the staff as Drill master, the term “drill” in the 1920s meaning physical training on very formal lines involving fitness exercises. Suthers also taught the OTC military drill as well as running the shooting teams.



There were regular competitions within the Contingent and in 1920 two teams were entered for the Empire Challenge Shield, both scoring well, and the A team, placed 9th of the British teams, won a prize of £2! The following year teams were entered for the “Country Life” competition for .22 shooting, with second place being achieved. This was the start of a notable run of success in this competition, with second place again in 1922, 1929 and 1930 and wins in 1923 and 1927. On these two occasions not only was the trophy held for a year, but also a .303 SMLE rifle was presented, the second sleeved to make it .22 calibre. These eventually were to prove a serious embarrassment to the author when he was Contingent Commander. They were privately-owned weapons, but were kept in the Armoury with the others, subject to the same security checks. New measures to tighten the security at private shooting clubs eventually led to a Catch 22 situation - we were required to have a firearms certificate for them, but as they were not used, it was not possible to obtain one, and the weapons could not be sold without the unobtainable certificate. The dilemma was eventually resolved by presenting both weapons (and two brass Very pistols, also of First World War vintage) to the King’s Own Regimental Museum. The “Country Life” medals which have been donated by (among others) K S Himsworth, later Chairman of Governors and W G Eaton, also later a Governor, have caused no equivalent headaches, and are on display in School House.

The availability of the King’s Own range gave opportunities for outdoor practice, as well as further expert tuition from regular instructors. In 1923 two .22 rifles were bought out of tuckshop profits for the juniors in the OTC, with a silver cup for the best shot. The Colonel Mitchell Challenge cup was won in that year, and in the Imperial Challenge Shield the five teams were all placed in the top 15 UK results, with the A team in first place. In 1925 a shooting team went to Bisley to compete in the Ashburton Shield in what was to become an annual venture. In 1935, the Cadet Pairs Trophy was won by Cadets H C Ablett and H C Bramley with a score of 125 out of a possible 140. In 1929 the team went to Altcar to contest the Derby Cup for the first time, tied with Liverpool College but lost on the score at 500 yards which was taken as the tie-breaker. They were second again in 1930, but won four years in succession from 1936-39, after which the cup was not seen at LRGS until 1996.



Altcar 1930

A band was formed in 1924 with the purchase of drums, bugles and fifes, and a qualified instructor was found in the following year, enabling it to lead the cadets to training, including the march to the open range at Cragbank for shooting practice. An Orderly Bugler attended all company parades and the whole band also met the victorious Cadet pair on its return from Bisley.

The completion of the New Building in 1929 saw the OTC provide a Guard of Honour for the formal opening, and enabled a move into new premises. This included substantial storage areas as well as a much more secure weapon store, and the "tunnel" under the foundations was for a while used as a .22 range. The original Orderly Room under the then Reading Room was retained, and subsequently was used to store the band equipment. In 1931 Captain RE English handed over command to Captain A Huck, who was in charge until 1936, when he was succeeded by Captain J G Hall. During the 1930s numbers began to fall steadily, and activity began to diminish (though standards were maintained as is shown by a series of excellent Annual Inspection reports). This was part of a general malaise in the OTC at large - a number of Contingents closed in this decade, in part because of an increasing anti-war feeling, which manifested itself also in the policy of appeasement. There were no camps anywhere in the country in 1931, because of an outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis, nor in 1932 nor, because of drought, in 1934. "The Lancastrian" records a fall in strength each year from 1930 to 1934 before a recovery set in. There were over 100 cadets again in that year, and by 1939 a fifth platoon was formed. By then, once again, the work of the Contingent "had assumed a new significance".

The Period of the Second World War: 1939 to 1945

Despite - or because of - the outbreak of war, routine training in the OTC followed its usual pattern, though with some obvious restrictions. Officers, including Captain Huck and Lieutenant Buxton left to join or rejoin the services, camps became impracticable, and the War Office had neither the staff nor the time to conduct formal inspections of cadet units. Rifles were also at a premium - the Armoury was cleared in early 1940 to provide weapons for the newly-formed Local Defence Volunteers, soon to be renamed the Home Guard. A suggestion that the older cadets should form a platoon of this organisation was rejected, but the Contingent Commander, Captain J G Hall was OC of the Company based in the Gregson Institute in Moor Lane. Dummy wooden rifles were used for drill purposes, and as ammunition was in very short supply and Sergeant Suthers was engaged in giving weapon training to the police and fire brigade, shooting at LRGS was very much neglected. Some NCOs were able to attend weapon training courses at Altcar, firing rifle, revolver and Bren gun, and training in signals also began. Field Day training continued, with the added realistic touch that gas masks were now added to the equipment carried by the cadets.

The OTC was renamed Junior Training Corps in 1941, and the forage cap was introduced in place of the service dress cap worn hitherto. In 1942 there came the adoption of battledress uniforms, with a new JTC shoulder flash and cap badge. At this point, Captain J G Hall was succeeded as Contingent Commander by Captain R D McLellan who handed over in 1944 to Major R W Shaw.

Also in 1941 the Corps was augmented by the formation of a Flight of the new Air Training Corps. This was at the initiative of a group of senior NCOs of the former OTC, and the Headmaster, Mr R R Timberlake acceded to the request, and arranged for the new unit to be a Detached Flight of the new 345 (City of Lancaster) Squadron ATC. There were 43 cadets initially and the NCOs organised five parades each week, taking in Navigation and Morse as well as drill and weapon training, and visits were made to the Rigging Shops at Morecambe, where Hurricanes, Spitfires and Blenheims were being fitted out. One of the first three NCOs, G C Lamb left in the summer of 1941 to join the RAF and train as a pilot. At that time the arrival on the staff of Mr G H T Leachman gave the ATC its first officer and the unit doubled in size by the end of its first year, at the same time as former OTC cadets in the RAF were recorded as winning the DFC and DFM. By 1944 the ATC was enjoying camps at RAF airfields "near Carlisle" and later at Woodvale near Southport where cadets have since enjoyed air experience flying. The first flights for ATC cadets at LRGS were in Blackburn Bothas and Avro Ansons in 1942 "at a Northern aerodrome", and the construction of a glider was being contemplated. Visits were also made to aircraft factories, including one building the new Lancaster bombers.

The CCF in the Post War years: 1945 to 1962

Once peace had returned to the world in 1945, the newly-named JTC and its ATC partner continued to provide pre-service training in the era of National Service, when all able-bodied males between 18 and 26 were required to fulfil a two year period under training with one of the three services. For those with a cadet background, the transition to service life after school at 18 (or later for those deferred for university courses or apprenticeships) was easier in that Certificate A gave entry to the army and access to the War Office Selection Board and the possibility of a commission. They were also familiar with some aspects of the life, at the very least with basic drill, and the mysteries of "bulling" their boots. John Andrew (OL 1946-53) recalls that these were lasting benefits of his years in the CCF, and he was commissioned into the RASC. This experienced I lacked - I had been in my church Scout troop, and when I started officer cadet training in the RAF in 1956, all but one of my squadron had been senior NCOs in the ATC or CCF, and they started with these advantages. Dr Malcolm Fox (OL 1951-58) found

that national service was coming to an end at the time when he had to register, but he does recall the detachments of young national servicemen parading through Lancaster from their depot at Bowerham Barracks to the Castle station, en route for the war in Korea. Both recall the tented camps at places like Catterick and Kimmel Park., often in muddy conditions.

The JTC continued with its pattern of training, with open range shooting on the range at Crag Bank being a welcome addition to the .22 shooting in the School range. New .303 rifles, Bren and Sten guns quickly became available, but at this point came also the retirement of Sergeant Suthers. The King's Own was able to devote more time and energy to cadet training, running courses for cadet NCOs, while others attended PT courses at Aldershot and Chester, and RAC courses. Field Day training was again under way, and Annual Inspections and camps resumed the pre-war pattern from 1948. Competition shooting soon began again, and numbers continued to be high, at just under 200.

The ATC also continued in its established pattern of training, with a visit to RNAS Stretton when all cadets flew over Liverpool and the Mersey and to RAF Woodvale, and cadets attended NCO training courses at RAF Halton, the Apprentices' School in Buckinghamshire. Two members of staff who left in July 1947 and a third who followed them in December of that year to take up new appointments elsewhere, had been officers in the ATC, and it seems that the flight ceased to exist at this point for want of staff. Thereafter, until 1964, members of the School who wished to have this form of training had to join the parent City of Lancaster Squadron .

In 1948 the three school-based cadet organisations, the JTC, ATC and Sea Cadet Corps were merged into the Combined Cadet Force; it is decidedly incongruous that this change should come about just at the time when LRGS lost its own ATC unit, so that the new CCF comprised an army section only for the next sixteen years. There was also a succession of Contingent Commanders around this time with fairly short tenure of office. Major R W Shaw relinquished command in 1948 after four years to be succeeded by Major A Huck who served a further three years in his second period as OC, and then by Major OH Dickenson (OL) who also had four years in command. There were six officers in all on strength in 1948 with 180 cadets when the CCF was inaugurated.

In 1949 there arrived on the staff G R Robinson who was commissioned into the CCF which he continued to serve for 33 years; he took over as Contingent Commander in 1956 and was in command for an unrivalled span of 26 years, ending when he became Third Master in December 1982. Major Huck also continued to serve under him until 1964, when he was appointed Second Master - his service totalled 31 years with eight years in his two periods in command. He was honoured with the award of the OBE in 1952, and both officers were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after completing twenty years service. In 1950 it is recorded that a CCF party visited Germany, still devastated after the destruction of the war, and five visits were made to BAOR units in the next decade. The annual camp in 1950 was at Catterick, and was attended by sixty LRGS Cadets. They were part of a camp of 3,000 housed in bell tents, who enjoyed seeing service displays including Centurion tanks, armoured cars and the motor cycle teams of the Royal Signals. The RAF was also on display with fly pasts by jet fighters and bombers, static displays and the drill team of the RAF Regiment.

Subsequent annual camps over the next decade had a much greater element of military training, with fewer displays. There were over 100 LRGS cadets in camp at Kimmel Park near Rhyl in 1952 (the strength then being 225), so that the four platoons were able to carry out a Company attack as the climax to the weeks training. This became the regular pattern for camps for the next few years, with the locations including Catterick, Colchester, Castlemartin and Pirbright.

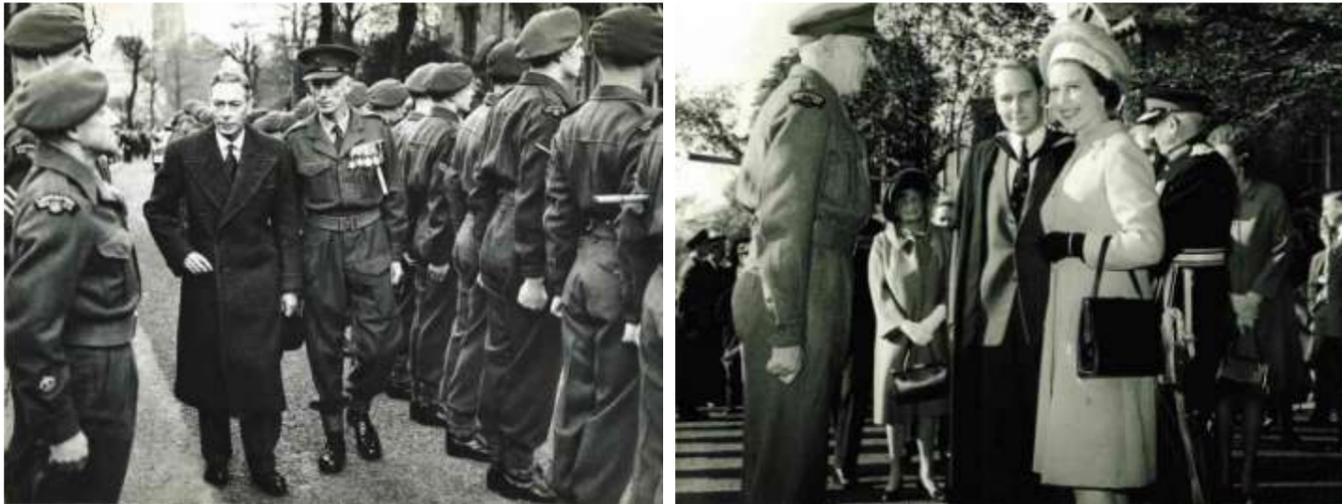
Shooting began to develop again, and in 1954 the shooting VIII went to Bisley for the first time since 1939. The acquisition of Parker-Hale "twin zero" sights improved the .22 performances to the extent that the North West small-bore competition, open to 21 school Contingents, was won in 1961, and the team which went to Bisley that year secured fourth place in the Cottesloe Vase. This was all under the supervision first of Captain H Melinsky and then of Captain W J Osborne, a former Royal Artillery officer, whose retirement from ill-health in 1968 left a gap which has never really been filled. The Annual Inspection in 1951 was carried out by Colonel G E C Rossall, the first Old Lancastrian to do this duty. By then the Signals Platoon had been re-formed, under Lt (later Captain) J Young, a new RE troop was established, with a regular engineer officer coming from Halton Camp for the training, and an NCO cadre was formed which established an assault course in the Dell, behind Gardyner House. A wider range of specialist courses became available at the new Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park in Surrey, including the popular and effective Cadet Leadership courses, and Special Flying Awards (for army section cadets) were won by PT Baker, B Hyde and M Grosse. John Andrew recalls attending a course at Kimmel Park, "where we were taught to drive in wooden mock-up cabs in a classroom, double de-clutching by numbers".



LRGS Shooting Team 1957

The Contingent has on several occasions featured during Royal visits to Lancaster. In 1927 OTC cadets had lined the streets for the visit of the Prince of Wales and in 1951 a CCF Guard of Honour greeted King George VI and Queen Elizabeth when they visited the School on the

hundredth anniversary of the granting of the Royal title. Derek Carruthers recalls that the King stopped in front of him and Brian Whittle and asked "Do you have to buy your own boots?" A similar Guard of Honour was mounted for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in 1969, marking the Quincentenary celebrations, and cadets again lined the streets in 1977 for the Queen's Silver Jubilee visit to the city. Four cadets had gone to London for similar duties at the Victoria Memorial for the coronation in 1953.



King George VI with Lt Col Huck in 1951; HM The Queen in 1969

The Corps of Drums would beat Retreat at the Annual Inspection each May, when the entire Contingent was drawn up on the Old Field for a formal inspection by a senior officer of the regular army, before commencing its Field Day training which he would also visit as well as inspecting the Armoury. The Band was also much in demand for local events, often leading the Remembrance Day parade or the Mayor's Sunday procession, as well as appearing at the Lancaster athletics sports. Successive Drum Majors or Bandmasters of 5th (TA) Battalion of the King's Own gave invaluable assistance in their training, and a high standard of playing and marching was regularly achieved.

A Defence White Paper in 1957 indicated that National Service was to be phased out; the last entrants being enlisted in 1960. This altered what had been the main function of the CCF since its inauguration; for the future there was to be a greater emphasis on leadership, with a greater variety of training. The first steps at Lancaster were taken in the following year with the formation of an Expedition Platoon which took the newly-instituted Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as its target. Cadets entered this unit, led by Lt C N Dimond, after completing Proficiency, instead of going into Cadre or Signals, and began with the Silver Award. Expedition camps in the Lake District together with training in First Aid and Civil Defence and the harvest of Silver Awards began in 1959, with the first Gold Award achieved in 1961.

These developments had the staunch support of the Headmaster, Mr R R Timberlake, who was an unvarying advocate of the value of the CCF, both during the period of the war and of National Service and also in these later years. On his retirement in 1961, he was replaced by Mr J L Spencer, who had seen service in the war as a Captain in the Essex Regiment, and who had been serving in the CCF at Haileybury where he had been shooting officer, so that keen backing for the Contingent Commander continued into the next phase of the CCF's history.

A Tri-Service Contingent: 1962 to 1970

Since the demise of the ATC unit in 1947, the Contingent had had only an army section. In 1962, though, there came the decision to form a Royal Air Force section under Pilot Officer J W Fidler.

"I had done my National Service in the RAF, and had applied for aircrew training as a navigator. After officer cadet training at RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey, I was commissioned in January 1957, and was sent to Canada for aircrew training at RCAF Winnipeg (the RCAF was training aircrew as part of its NATO commitment). I then joined the University Air Squadron when I went up to Oxford, learning to fly the Chipmunk trainer, and taking a wry satisfaction in wearing the wrong brevet on my flying overall. The CCF was the natural continuation after I joined LRGS, though John Spencer did say that he "did not want it to be a soft option, a sentiment which I did not entirely understand until I encountered the RAF section from his previous school at a camp".

The application took about eighteen months to gain approval, and it was in May 1964 that the formation of a new section was sanctioned, and a small cadre of experienced NCOs from the Army Section began training in order to be ready for the first intake of cadets in Michaelmas Term. These, twenty in number, had all achieved Army Proficiency, and were selected from a very large number of applicants, eager to participate in a new venture. The first air experience flights in the Chipmunk trainer aircraft of 10 Air Experience Flight at RAF Woodvale soon followed, and the first camp was held at RAF Coltishall in Norfolk in March 1965. As this was the Operational Conversion Unit for training pilots on the Lightning, then the RAF's main front line fighter, the cadets felt very much at the "sharp end" of service life. They were also given a glimpse both into the past and into the future, visiting the Battle of Britain aircraft collection and seeing the prototype vertical take-off aircraft the Kestrel (later in service as the Harrier) in its trials at RAF West Raynham.

Subsequent camps in the early years were at the maritime reconnaissance base at Kinloss, at Central Flying School, at Chivenor and Valley. Here some cadets were able to fly in unit aircraft, so that log books recorded flights in Shackleton, Jet Provost, Varsity, Hunter and Gnat aircraft as well as the Whirlwind helicopter. At a camp at Luqa in Malta in 1970 they flew in a Canberra T4, and by then groups had visited the RAF in Germany on three occasions. Places at RAF Germany camps were allocated to sections on a three-year rota, with as many as six or eight vacancies allocated to LRGS. At Gutersloh in 1968, Sgt A Walker volunteered to be dressed in a dog-proof suit and be arrested by a ravening German Shepherd police dog, an act of heroism which earned his promotion to Flt.Sgt. Each year a party of Air Cadets from the UK takes part in the International Air Cadet Exchange. As there are only twelve places for the CCF competition for selection is keen, but LRGS has had far more than its share, beginning with Under Officer P R Cooper in 1968.

Individual cadets were given the opportunity to attend week-long Gliding courses, learning to fly to solo standard and 24 cadets had achieved their gliding "wings" by 1970. In the same period there was a regular harvest of Flying Scholarships, with a total of 11, including four in each of the years 1968 and 1969. A particular highlight was the visit of the entire section - by now 70 strong - to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire for a Field Day visit in 1970, flying down in two Hercules transports, and being met by the Station Commander, Air Commodore G C Lamb (OL) who as a cadet sergeant in 1941 had been prominent in the establishment of the Air Training Corps unit.

Meanwhile the Army section continued to flourish. There was a succession of very good camps, notably at Cultybraggan in Perthshire. First visited in 1958, this former prisoner of war camp was well placed for the new style of camp, with extensive training areas for military training, and good hill-walking country. Pony-trekking in the Strathyre Forest and watermanship and canoeing on Loch Earn were popular innovations. The newly-formed Cadet Training Teams and Army Youth teams played an increasingly prominent role in these camps, giving instruction in Signals and Advanced Weapons and abseiling, though the basic programming remained the responsibility of the Contingent.

The camp has often featured in TV programmes, as it retains much of the atmosphere of its PoW origins, with four lines of nissen huts as accommodation blocks. It also was the location of several incidents, including a night exercise on the Tigh-na-Blair moors training area which ended with us missing a senior NCO. He had a taste for the compo processed cheese, and had concealed himself in the bracken with a tin of it and had fallen asleep. It took the firing of blanks and of Very flares to arouse him. Other incidents featured George Lamb (nephew of the Air Vice Marshal).

Lt John Mott had fallen and broken an ankle, and the heartless George collected from our packed lunches, eaten at the summit of Ben Vorlick, the wrappers from Cadbury's Dairy Milk, sending them off for a CDM medal for our casualty, who was as little amused as Queen Victoria. On another occasion George had just reached the head of the queue in the huge dining tent, when a cadet, immaculate in battledress with knife-edge pleats and a swagger stick, pushed in ahead of him. "There's a queue" George pointed out. "What do you think that means?" replied the other. George carefully inspected the white band which denoted a Cadet Under Officer, and replied "Same as that", indicating the white stripe in his ancient denim overalls. "We queue too", he added

Throughout the 50s and 60s, cadets continued to wear the old battledress, with webbing belts, gaiters and boots. As the 70s arrived, a more modern dress of "woolly pully" and lightweight trousers (and puttees for the army section) was adopted, though the old style shirts remained. Cadet Sergeant Jim Storr (later a lieutenant colonel and then a professor of War Studies) recalls the scratchy khaki shirts. The RAF cadets had poplin shirts - but with separate collars, which required the obsolete collar studs begged from fathers or grandfathers. It was many years before the army cadets were sporting DPM combat kit as the regular work uniform.

Jim Storr recalls a high spot in the shape of the two week UK Land Forces Cadet Leadership course at the Stamford Training area. "We did a huge amount of military training, rode motorcycles, paddled assault boats and spent hours on the assault course. At the next camp, Captain Ward nominated me to take charge of the section attack team: in this I mistakenly chose a left flanking attack - not what was expected". He was the youngest of three brothers - Storr Ma, Mi and Ter in those days.

Other annual camps in this era were at Pirbright, Brecon, Ramsey (IoM), Sennybridge, Proteus (Nottingham) and Okehampton, on Exmoor. One camp stands out for quite different reasons; in 1968 the section visited Magilligan on the North Antrim coast. Security - particularly of weapons - was understandably stringent, and this turned out to be the last year in which cadet camps were held in Northern Ireland. Magilligan subsequently had a sterner role as a detention centre - and the LRGS personnel could understand the complaints of the IRA detainees about the living conditions, which included earth closets.

A visit to the affiliated regiment, 1 King's Own Border Regiment at their base in Wuppertal in West Germany was held in the Easter holiday of 1963 and included open range firing on the NATO range at Sennelager, using Bren, Sten and the new SLR rifles.

Arduous Training camps from 1962 were regularly based at Dering Lines in Brecon, a training camp for the Parachute Regiment, with fell-walking and camping in the Brecon Beacons and pony-trekking in the Black Mountains. From 1965 these involved cadets from the RAF Section as well as the Army Section, and at Easter the weather often made the camps arduous in fact as well as in name. Two cadets completed their D of E Gold Award journeys and five more the Silver Award in snow during the 1966 camp. Orienteering became another popular venture, with a large scale map of the Knots Wood area being prepared by a cadet for use in Field Day training. As a result of the incorporation of such activities into the general pattern of training, the Expedition Platoon ceased to exist in 1969, after the retirement of Lt Dimond.

The Corps of Drums continued to thrive, beating Retreat at the annual inspections each May, with fine displays of drill as well as musicianship. The experienced players taught the younger boys, and first Drum Major Robinson and then Mr Anstey, the TA Bandmaster, came in to add their expertise. The band also made appearances on Remembrance Sunday, on Mayor's Sunday and later led the Scout St George's Day parades. It gave popular performances at Dolphinlee Old Folks' Home, and at the annual Dolphinholme village sports.

In open range shooting the VIII had regular matches against Sedbergh and Rossall, held at Altcar or Crag Bank ranges, and went each year to Bisley for the Ashburton Shield in the Schools' meeting. 44th/102 A number of individuals, including PB Clark & DH Parker** were placed in the leading hundred shots, winning a badge for this. Small-bore (.22) shooting, in addition to the Empire test, involved postal matches against other schools as well as the Country Life competition (26/153) The School range was re-roofed in 1963, but remained a source of recurrent problems thereafter. The RAF Section entered a team each year in the Assegai Trophy competition, their best place being 5th in 1967.

One organisational change came about in 1967 when, as a consequence of the ending of Saturday morning school, CCF training moved to Tuesdays at 3.30. This proved entirely beneficial, with extended time available, and there was virtually no change in the numbers in the Contingent. New premises also became available, with the RAF section gaining the old Hut Y as its HQ.

The Watermanship Section which was established in 1969 was in fact an embryonic Royal Navy Section, and formal approval for such a unit was given in the following year, with Sub-Lieutenants K A Starling and M P G Gibson in charge. This completed the Contingent as a complete CCF unit, and the new section proved vastly popular and was immediately over-subscribed. The construction, from kits, of two Mirror dinghies was the main task for the first winter, and by April the section was able to get afloat on the Lune. Two more Mirrors were built in the following

winter, another was provided by the Navy, and a parent donated a Naiad to form the nucleus of a flotilla to which the Navy also supplied an RNSA dinghy. Facilities for storage of boats and other equipment at Halton Camp were available, and soon a minibus loading up with cadets outside Lee House after School on Tuesdays became a familiar sight.

As well as its basic training in seamanship, the RN section was able to get sea-time in the Clyde and cadets were eligible for a wide variety of training courses during the Easter and Summer holidays. Courses especially popular involved Dinghy sailing, power-boating, gunnery, naval aviation and electrical engineering, while there were also general camps at Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. Annual Inspections now began to feature the arrival of the Inspecting Officer by helicopter, the first instance being in 1967, when the Station Commander at RAF Ternhill, then the RAF's helicopter training school, arrived in a Westland Whirlwind, being flagged down by the senior cadet of the RAF Section. When Sub-Lieutenant Starling left for a new post at Sedbergh (where he started a Naval Section in a traditionally army-only contingent) Sub-Lt Gibson took over command.

The Three Sections: 1971 to 1982

While some training was common to all sections, the pattern of training at LRGS has always been based on three separate sections, on the assumption that the cadets have opted for Naval, Army or RAF training, and that the three sections should have a distinct identity. There has never been the "common" first year found in many contingents, in which all cadets wear army uniform and undergo basically military training. Instead they wear from the start the uniform of the service of their choice, and begin with training distinctive of that service. Drill, weapon training and shooting, together with adventure training, camping and orienteering have all featured in the syllabus, as well as service-based training. Orienteering was often held in Knots Wood, a special map having been drawn by AT Carstairs, an NCO in the RAF Section. Teams competed in external competitions, including the 1971 North Western Championships at Tarn Hows.

Adventure training camps were held from 1972 in South Wales, based on the Dering Lines camp at Brecon, and involving walking and camping in the Brecon Beacons, ending with two days of pony-trekking. Subsequent camps led by Lt WJ Jennison, were in increasingly difficult terrain in Arran, Snowdonia, Mull and Skye. A new format was introduced in 1981, when training was based on the Hammerbank Outdoor Pursuits Centre at Windermere, with two days each of sailing and canoeing, followed by a two-day expedition in the fells. A day's caving was added in 1982.

From 1971 it was no longer obligatory for the whole Contingent to parade for Annual Inspection. This had always taken up an inordinate amount of training time in practice. Instead a Guard of Honour appropriate to the service of the Inspecting Officer paraded on the Upper Courts, with the Corps of Drums beating "Retreat" as before, and once this reduced ceremonial was over, the sections were seen at a normal Field Day's training.

In 1970 the new RN section had its headquarters in the former Signals store in the Bay View Cottages, the signals section moving into the Armoury, into the space vacated by the RAF Section, which had been allocated Hut Y. A small office for the Contingent Commander was created in the clothing store. Also in that year a joint services camp was held at RAF Luqa in Malta, under the command of now Lieutenant Colonel GR Robinson, was a great success.



Lt Col Robinson inspecting CCF Guard of Honour on his retirement

RAF section cadets flew in the T4 Canberra and in the Shackleton maritime reconnaissance aircraft, while there were visits to the Navy at HMS Fort St Angelo (including a boat trip around the Grand Harbour of Valetta) and to the RAF marine craft unit at Marsaslokk. This was followed by a six day camp on the north coast of Gozo, where we learnt the skills of improving Compo rations from our accompanying Flight Sergeant of the RAF Regiment. The Regiment lives on Compo for weeks at a time when in the field, so that ways of varying the diet are essential. We were forty strong, so used four of the 10-man packs each day. A bottle of Gozitan white wine, at 1/5 per bottle (7p) did wonders for the Irish stew, as did a bottle of red for the beef equivalent. The reconstituted mashed potato was made into little patties, and fried along with the beefburgers, while the breakfast sausage and beans received special treatment. The sausages were carefully rinsed, dried and grilled, as a welcome variation. And bouquets garnis are the most versatile and portable of herbs.

It is appropriate from this point to review the three sections separately.

The Royal Navy Section

From its modest beginnings, the Section had 40 cadets in 1973, and its flotilla of small boats quickly increased to seven craft. Regular sailing camps, held initially on Coniston Water and later at the quieter southern end of Windermere, gave greater scope than was possible on the restricted waters of the Lune. New boats included a naval RNSA, two Enterprise dinghies, a GP14, a Flying Dutchman and a Viking powered safety boat. Cruiser sailing was added to the range, with the use of *Scheherezade* belonging to the OC Section, who very confidently allowed cadets and colleagues alike to sail her.

At the other end of the scale, sea time became available aboard such vessels as the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal*, the nuclear submarine *Dreadnought* (including time spent submerged) and the frigates *Scylla* and *Phoebe*, to which the Section was affiliated. Cadets also crewed motor fishing vessels in the Clyde estuary, put to sea aboard minesweepers based at Rosyth, and one fortunate individual flew out to Gibraltar aboard a Hercules of the Royal Air Force to be given passage back to Portsmouth aboard the frigate *Tenby*, while another crewed aboard *TS Royalist* in 1976 and 1977. Three were given sea time aboard the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal*, while the introduction of Staff College Sea Days extended these opportunities with sea time aboard Royal Fleet Auxiliaries during training exercises. In 1979 the section's first Cadet Coxswain, RR Cuthbert was awarded a RN Flying Scholarship while in 1980 L/S Morgan was awarded a Royal Marines scholarship.— again a first. On several field days the section made use of the rifle range at Halton, and in the winter boat maintenance, and the building of a canoe (from a kit) and a go-kart (from scraps). On other occasions there were overnight camps at Littledale or Silverdale, often featuring overnight exercises.

The Army Section

The appointment of Captain HWO Kennon (an OL and former Cadet Sergeant in the CCF) as OC Army Section enabled Colonel Robinson to concentrate on the Contingent administration heralded a period of great success, and a series of very good camps. Cultybraggan in Perthshire (a former POW camp with Nissen huts for accommodation) and Jurby in the Isle of Man were the venues on four occasions each, with others as far apart as Okehampton on the edge of Dartmoor, Sennybridge in South Wales and Penhale in Cornwall. The increasing participation of the Cadet Training Teams led to a vast improvement in the quality of the military training, so that three day schemes involving bivouacking, recce patrols and section attacks while living on "compo" rations became a regular feature of camps. For some years the Army Youth teams added canoeing, abseiling and rock climbing to the programme. The boats of the Navy section added a new dimension to the training at Cultybraggan and Jurby where they were based on Loch Earn and Peel harbour respectively. Separate camps at Weir Quay on the Tamar estuary and at Oxwich on the Gower peninsula served Okehampton and Sennybridge. Canoeing, involving capsizing drills in the swimming pool, and rock climbing also featured in the weekly parades, while the Signals Section enjoyed a renaissance under Lt NKD Ward, though at first it still had to contend with obsolete and unreliable equipment. It resumed activities on the national signals "net" and linked up the various CCF premises by field telephones. Eventually the section was re-equipped with modern "Clansman" transmitter/receivers. A REME section was also established, and its attention was principally focussed on an old 2-litre Landrover engine kept in the former Scout hut where it was repeatedly stripped down and reassembled. Subsequently an old Reliant three-wheeler was rebuilt, again under the direction of Mr JE Bentham.

In 1974 the section had over 100 members, some of whom were able to participate in a camp in Germany, organised by OL Captain Alex Birtwistle of 1 Queen's Lancashire regiment, based at Osnabruck. The start of the other camp that year, in Okehampton, coincided with the arrival in the area of a Fleet Air Arm training squadron of Wessex helicopters in which the cadets had familiarisation flights, culminating in a whole-day exercise involving trekking across Dartmoor to a predetermined rendezvous where they embarked and were flown across the moor, dropped off and repeated the process several times before being flown into their bivouac site. Here they camped overnight and were then airlifted back to base the following morning.

Inter-unit competitions became a feature of the annual camps, with the section winning the "march and shoot at Sennybridge in 1977 and the section attack at Jurby in 1980. The first Germany visit for many years was arranged by a former cadet, Major (later Colonel) NJ Holland who was at the time OC 14 Field Workshops REME in Berlin.

The section lost its OC, Captain HWO Kennon in 1973 when he left for a new appointment at Framlingham College, to be succeeded by Captain NKD Ward. He too left, to begin training as a lawyer, in 1977, and Captain W Jennison soon followed him, leading to one of the crises in staffing which were to be a feature of the section at this time.

The Royal Air Force Section

By now well established, the section continued to thrive in the 70s. An excellent field day in 1971 saw the entire section, by now 65 strong, flown in two Hercules aircraft from Woodvale to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire at the invitation of the Station Commander, Air Commodore GC Lamb (OL). Here they visited the flight simulators, the electronic section and the Army's Air Dispatch Team of the Royal Corps of Transport. The strength of the section reached 70 in 1973. Sgt A Bramhall was awarded an overseas flight to Malta in a Britannia of Transport Command in 1974, when he, together with Flt Sgt A Riley and Cpl M Barton all secured Flying Scholarships.

The annual camps were the highlights, with a camp at an operational station in the UK every Easter and places at a camp in Germany every third year. These were at Gutersloh (1971 and 1974), Bruggen (1977), and Laarbruch (1980). Exceptionally, an additional camp was held at the RAF College, Cranwell in 1978, when the RAF cadets won the inter-school competition, to add to an already impressive collection of station plaques. Flying at these camps was in Dominie, Varsity, Hercules, Andover, VC10, Nimrod and Canberra aircraft as well as in Whirlwind, Wessex and Sioux helicopters. A feature of the 1976 camp at St Mawgan was the arrival of Air Vice Marshal GC Lamb (OL) who was by then Chief of Staff of 18 (Maritime) Group. He flew in a Devon of 32 Squadron from RAF Hendon to visit the LRGs cadets, bringing with him the Headmaster, Mr AM Joyce. One feature of the camp was a visit to the Marine Craft Unit HQ at RAF Mountbatten, where the cadets were out in one of the boats for a grandstand view of the aircraft carrier HMS *Ocean* which came in to pay off, with her ship's company lining the rails, the Royal Marine band playing on the quarterdeck, and her Wessex helicopters flying overhead..

A Taceval war exercise disrupted the 1977 camp at the Vulcan base at Waddington, with cadets living under operational conditions. In that year the section was strengthened by the arrival of Flight Lieutenant RJ Warren, who had taken up the post of head of mathematics at Ripley St Thomas School. For twenty years he had served as a navigator in the RAF: now for the next twenty he was to give LRGS the benefit of his experience. A new inter-section trophy for competition among the RAF sections of north west schools was inaugurated in 1976 and was won in each of the first two years by LRGS, and, after being runners-up twice was regained in 1981. In that year the cadets also won the aircraft recognition trophy and in 1982 the drill trophy.

A revised training syllabus was introduced and it was decided that the Musgrave Trophy, presented originally for open-range full-bore shooting should be awarded to the cadets with the best overall record during the three-year course. A handsome silver cup, with a Spitfire on the lid, it had been presented in memory of an OL killed in an air crash in 1939. The first winner was Cadet Michael Barton, whose elder brother Philip was then senior cadet, and whose younger brother had just joined the section. At Speech Day in November 2012, the prizes were presented by Michael, by then Chief Constable of Durham, who found the trophy at his place at the lunch table. By then we had discovered that Pilot Officer Musgrave had never flown a Spitfire, but had died at the controls of a Whitley bomber on a training flight over Oxfordshire..

Other cadets flew as crew members on the new Transport Command overseas flight programme to Gibraltar, Cyprus, Malta or Germany. Two more gained selection for the coveted International Air Cadet Exchange, visiting the USA. The new Javelin trophy, awarded to the smartest section in the NW region, was instituted in 1976 and was won by LRGS in each of the first two years. Runners-up in 1978, it was regained in 1979 and was retained every year thereafter.

The 1979 camp at RAF Cosford was notable for an athletics match on what was then the country's only indoor track and a visit to the extensive Aerospace Museum, which houses many unusual and experimental aircraft, while the camp at Abingdon in the following year included the first visit to the RAF Museum at Hendon, while the programme at RAF Benson in 1980 included a visit to the Duxford aircraft collection of the Imperial War Museum.

Under New Management: 1983 to 1997

At the end of Michaelmas Term 1982, the Contingent Commander for the previous twenty six years handed over command to his deputy, Squadron Leader JW Fidler who, with over 20 years of commissioned service, took over in the rank of Wing Commander. The OC Royal Navy Section Lt MPG Gibson was promoted Lieutenant Commander as 2 i/o, while Flight Lieutenant GC Porter became OC RAF Section. Captain WD Jennison, OC Army Section left to take up a new appointment, leading to a series of staffing crises over the next decade.

The completion of work in the Armoury and the indoor range meant that weapons, which had been inconveniently stored in the local TA HQ for the past year could be reclaimed, and that .22 shooting could begin again in the indoor range after an interval of three years. This was not to last – the range was closed again in 1984 for modifications, and again in the following year when new health and safety regulations caused problems with lead pollution. Finally, in a gale in 1989 the entire roof blew off, landing in the adjacent Quernmore Road. It was not until 1990 that a repaired and refurbished range was back in use. As the range was owned and managed by TAVRA, the Contingent had to wait until money became available in its budget.

These interruptions to training and practice posed major problems, but with the support of the newly-formed OL Shooting Club, and the expert tuition of Mr TG Wilson (OL) there were some redeeming successes. The County of Lancaster Rifle Association schools' meetings at Altcar were the scene of most of these. The Contingent entered the competition for the first time in many years, winning the Cadet Pairs trophy on four occasions from 1988-93. Then in 1995 the Derby Cup for fours, the Pairs trophy and the individual cup were all won on a memorable day. Emboldened by this success, the eight went to Bisley in 1996, acquitting themselves very well. Teams also competed in the .22 competitions staged by NW TAVRA, the Loyals Cup (open) and the Home Guard Cup (U.16). The latter trophy was won by the cadets of B Flight RAF Section in 1993, and retained in 1994, with the individual trophy also won on both occasions.

The band continued to play at what was now the Biennial Review, regularly led the Scout St George's Day parade, and occasionally the Remembrance Sunday parade if the band of the King's Own was unavailable. It was a popular feature of the annual Dolphinholme Sports and played for the residents of Dolphinlee Old People's Home. However these few opportunities for public performance, added to increasing demands on the boys' time led to a waning of interest, and the band passed into history by the end of the decade – a phenomenon widely experienced in other contingents at this time.



The CCF band

The appointment of a School Staff Instructor in 1986 was a great boon, not least to the Contingent Commander who was relieved of many burdensome and time-consuming duties in stores administration. Staff Sergeant Joe Keighley had been a storeman in the RAOC, and for four years gave valuable service.

In 1992 there began the practice of staging a presentation in the first week of Michaelmas term to the new third forms. Cadets from each section described their experiences in the CCF and this, coupled with a trial membership for the first term led to an improvement in recruiting figures, especially in the Army section whose size had diminished.

From 1984, adventure training was based on the Birmingham University Outdoor Pursuit Centre on Coniston Water. The RN section boats and their qualified instructors, together with the support of the Cadet Training Team enabled a programme of sailing, orienteering, fell walking and camping. Increasingly stringent regulations about outdoor pursuits meant that, whatever their experience, leaders required a Mountain Leadership Certificate the acquisition of which took a great deal of effort over at least a year. Many officers, heavily committed to their teaching as well as extra-curricular activities simply could not spare the time. The re-establishment of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme within the School was now run in partnership with the CCF, using the contingent kit, and attracting significant numbers of CCF cadets at all three levels.



2013 Cadet orienteering champions

The Royal Navy Section

The section continued to be very popular, with more applicants than it could really manage, and its strength remained at about forty for several years. It now had a flotilla of some seven sailing craft, and replaced the aging Flying Dutchman by a Fireball dinghy. Four windsurfers, and then a Bosun dinghy were acquired, and later five Toppers in a joint purchase with the Sailing Club. In addition to their usual training, cadets began to benefit from the Navy's introduction of annual sea days at Portsmouth, air days at Portland or Yeovilton, mine countermeasures days at Rosyth and submarine days, all of which enabled them to see the Royal Navy at work. Good liaison with our affiliated ships meant sea time for a select few, first aboard the frigate HMS *Phoebe* and later the destroyer HMS *Manchester*. In 1991 the launch of the new Type 23 frigate HMS *Lancaster* heralded the start of a new and fruitful relationship. The Contingent Commander and six cadets were invited to the launch by the Queen (as Duke of Lancaster) and later he and his wife were present at the impressive Commissioning (again by the Queen) at Devonport. Her first captain made a reciprocal visit to LRGS on Founders' Day in 1992. The ship gave passage to cadets from Fleetwood to Liverpool that summer, and in the following year two more, who had been in Plymouth on RN courses returned home aboard, taking part in gunnery exercise in the Irish Sea en route. Three more were privileged to be on board during a task force exercise in the Channel in 1997. Out of the sailing season Scuba diving training courses in the School swimming pool and first aid courses helped to vary the pattern of training, while summer sailing camps at Stock Park on Windermere gave scope for training in more advanced sailing skills. The acquisition of sailboards expanded the range of waterborne activities – and necessitated the purchase of wetsuits.

The retirement of Lt Cdr MPG Gibson came in 1989, after twenty years of service (though he characteristically continued to give yeoman service in support) but Lt Cdr Scrivener RNR travelled each week from Fleetwood to supervise training. The arrival of Sub Lieutenant M Ridley Thomas in 1990 put the section on an even keel once again, with increasing numbers of cadets qualifying in dinghy sailing and powerboating. On his departure we were again fortunate in gaining the services of Sub Lt JP Jago, whose IT skills led to a good deal of winter training using computers. Another innovation was a survival course at Fleetwood, which included being "dunked" in the helicopter simulator. The availability of the University Royal Naval Unit craft at Liverpool gave opportunities to learn practical seamanship skills.

The Army Section

After the uncertainties of 1983-5, when the section was successfully run as something of a holding operation, relying on excellent cadet NCOs and a good deal of support from the CTT and the TA, stability returned with the arrival of an experienced officer, Captain A Hickman, in 1985, and the commissioning of two new subalterns. A very good series of camps included fairly regular visits to the local training areas at Warcop near Appleby, which were also used for field day training and open range firing. Again there was a string of competition successes, including the Assault Course at Warcop in 1984, the Commandant's Cup at Okehampton in 1987, the Battle Initiative plaque at Warcop in 1988, and the March and Shoot at Wathgill in 1991 and again in 1997.

Attachment camps were held at Colchester in 1985, and at Paderborn in Germany in 1986, the latter by invitation of Major Alex Birtwistle (OL) of 1 QLR and with the active support of Major David James, another OL. Another visit to 1QLR came in 1993, when the last opportunity for an attachment to a British unit in Berlin was eagerly taken.

Army section cadets began regular participation in the NW District Skill-at-Arms competition at Altcar range each May, and in the Welbeck College Cadet Training weekends which gave opportunities for shooting, orienteering, watermanship, Initiative tests and raft-building: normally one senior and one junior team were entered. Regular signals courses enabled cadets to classify on the new Clansman sets which were issued in 1984, giving for the first time a really modern and reliable system to replace a succession of obsolescent equipment. In 1988 there arrived the new cadet GP rifle, a single-shot version of the army's SA 80 weapon, firing 5.56 calibre ammunition. The construction of a 30 metre range at Halton camp meant that cadets were able to get in some open range full-bore shooting both on field days and during regular Tuesday afternoon parades. A climbing wall and an assault course were also new developments at Halton, making it an attractive prospect for the Michaelmas term field days.

An increasing number of cadets began to attend both the Cadet Leadership courses at the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park during the summer, and also the demanding UKLF Leadership course at Easter. After ten years in charge of the Army Section, Captain Hickman handed over in 1994 to Captain Workman, who was fortunate to find that two newcomers to the staff held TA commissions. This enabled the Army section to continue its work unchecked, and when Captain Workman left LRGS on promotion in 1997, Lieutenant Richmond took over the post.

Royal Air Force section

A feature of camps from 1983 was the increasing availability of attachments of half or whole day duration to service sections to give "hands-on" experience in place of the more passive visits. This was an immense improvement, and the range of opportunities included work in the air traffic control tower, armoury, aircraft and MT servicing, police, fire, electronics and survival equipment sections.

Flying at camps was available in the AER Chipmunks, but there was also air experience in VC 10, Andover, Jet Provost, Jetstream, Dominie, Hercules and Nimrod aircraft and in Wessex, Gazelle, Chinook and Sea King helicopters. From 1983 also there were regular summer camps for cadets unable to gain places on the main Easter camps, with often as many as eight or ten extra places. At one of these, held at Boscombe Down, the cadets had all the flying they could have hoped for, including a flight in the one remaining Comet II.

On three occasions at camps, cadets were asked to act as casualties in large scale exercises. The best of these was at Lyneham, where some cadets were made up as very realistic casualties, and others cast as frightened schoolchildren as part of an evacuation exercise for the RAuxF aeromedical squadron based there. The day ended with them all being airlifted out of a putative Bosnia and flown back to a real UK in one of the unit's Hercules aircraft.

Cadets continued to visit Germany, but there were also places to be had at joint-services camps in Gibraltar, and at RAF camps at Akrotiri in Cyprus, which were eagerly sought. An additional bonus came through the good offices of another OL, RW Taylor, now a flight commander at Fittingly, where he was able to arrange visits and flights in their Jetstream aircraft. When he moved on to 32 (The Royal) Squadron at Northolt, the same arrangement held, with a three day stay. Here cadets flew in the squadron's Andover and HS 125 aircraft, and in Gazelle and Twin Squirrel helicopters, along with visits to the RAF Museum at Hendon.

The Javelin Trophy for the best CCF/RAF section in the north west was regained in 1983 (a fourth win in eight years), retained in 1994, and from 1988 it had an uninterrupted ten year stay in the new cadet HQ, so that cadets began to regard it as a permanent fixture. For internal competition a new trophy was acquired in 1990, when a blackened silver cup was found in the cellars of Lee House. On cleaning it was found to be engraved with the ATC badge and the inscription "The Jacques Cup". It had been presented in 1944 by the parents of an NCO in the old ATC Flight, and it became the Recruits' Trophy, presented for the first time on Speech Day, appropriately enough by Air Vice Marshal Lamb, himself a cadet in that unit. A team from the section represented the NW region in the national Air Squadron Trophy, being placed fourth, second and third in the first three years.

The gliding schools were now re-equipped with the new Vigilant and Viking gliders, and a programme of air experience gliding or all was instituted. In addition, selected cadets were able to qualify for the Air Cadet gliding badge once they had gone solo, - a total of 25 in all, while 20 gained Flying Scholarships and four more were selected for the International Air Cadet Exchange. In 1997, two senior cadets who had followed their gliding training by serving as staff cadets at 635 Gliding School actually qualified as glider pilot instructors, and themselves flew some of the junior cadets on their air experience flights. In addition one cadet qualified for the Air Cadet Navigator badge - curiously the only one to date, given that two of the officers wore the Navigator brevet. Others went in threes or fours each year to the Cadet Leadership course at Frimley Park or at RAF Hereford.

An innovation was the organisation of overnight camps at the Scout campsite at Littledale. A dozen or more cadets would walk out by the back road after school on a Friday afternoon, the kit being ferried out by minibus. After pitching camp and cooking an evening meal there was a night exercise, and the cadets returned to school by lunchtime on Saturday, many of them having games commitments. One spin-off from the Luqa camp of 1970 was in the way we approached the cooking of the "compo" rations. We had a regular Flight Sergeant from the RAF Regiment attached to us for the ten day camp on Gozo: the Regiment lives on compo in the field and has devised ways of improving the basic rations. The addition of a bottle of Gozitan red wine (at 1/5 - about 7p - a bottle) did wonders for the beef stew for the 40 officers and cadets, with white wine similarly improving the Irish stew. Breakfast was usually sausages and beans, but we were taught to remove, rise and grill the sausages separately - a huge improvement. Similarly the reconstituted mashed potato could be made into patties and fried. And we thereafter always had a pack of herbs and spices to help the improvements.

One problem arose when the old, 1945-vintage ex-army hut which had served as the section HQ was condemned as unsafe and then demolished. After an uncomfortable two years of cramped exile in the Division Room, a new prefabricated building arrived on four low-loaders and was swung into position by a mighty crane, to provide a new HQ with an office, store and training room.

The latest phase – towards the centenary

Staffing

The retirement of Wing Commander JW Fidler came in October 1997: with 35 years of service he has been the longest-serving officer in the Contingent. The School was fortunate to secure an experienced officer to succeed him. Major N Thorn (promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1999) had previously commanded contingents at the Judd School and at Bromsgrove. A new SSI was appointed soon afterwards. WO1 M Meighan had served in the RAOC, later the Royal Logistics Corps, and he became a key figure in the Contingent's administration and training. After his departure in 1999, WO1 G Simpson, late of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment took his place.

A former cadet, Brigadier AF Birtwistle, who was awarded the CBE for his work in containing the 2001 foot and mouth disease epidemic in the north west became the Contingent's first Honorary Colonel. He was succeeded in 2002 by Mr T Halliwell, Principal of Welbeck College and a former member of staff at LRGS (where he had re-established the School Scout Troop). He has presented a shield for the most improved cadet.

The presentation of a memorial sword (in 2005) commemorates a former LRGS cadet, Giles Oglesby-Wellings, who was tragically killed in a climbing accident. It will be awarded annually to the cadet (not in his final year) who shows outstanding dedication, initiative and smartness.

In 2010, to replace Colonel Thorn, it was decided to make an outside appointment, and Flight Lieutenant Andrew Parker was appointed. A Tornado navigator, his last tour in the RAF had been with the Initial Officer Training unit at the RAF College, Cranwell. He took up the role of Contingent Commander in the rank of Squadron Leader.

Orienteering has featured in the Contingent's training for decades, but in recent years there has been great success in the competitive field, with the National CCF Championship being won on three occasions.

Royal Navy section

Sea time is the real priority and cadets have enjoyed being aboard HMS *Lancaster*, particularly during a Staff College Sea Day in 1997. A visit to the ship and to the naval base at Portsmouth was made in 2002 during the Queen's review of the armed forces in her golden jubilee year, and again in 2005, the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. There was also sea-time during the annual Mine Countermeasures days, and aboard HMS *Biter* a fast patrol boat serving with university RN units in the north west. Innovations have included diving with the Sub-Aqua club in the School pool, and the use of the new bridge simulator at Fleetwood Nautical college to give experience of command. Visits to Morecambe lifeboat station and sea time aboard HMS *Charger*, the University RNU vessel based in Liverpool have varied the pattern of training for the Naval Proficiency badge.



HMS Charger



Royal Navy Participation Award to female cadet 2014

There have been the usual sailing camps during the summer, while in 1999 the section entered boats in the North East CCF sailing regatta at Grassholme Reservoir in Northumberland, coming first in the Topper class and second in the Bosun class and in the overall competition. An inaugural NW regatta in the Menai Straits was organised by the section, and proved a great success. The section had, in 2002 three Bosuns, eight Toppers and one Laser dinghy. These, together with the boats from the other schools in the north-west with RN sections, have been pooled for common use, and are now held at Southport.

The wide variety of courses available has meant that RN cadets have experienced sailing, windsurfing, naval warfare, diving, submarine training as well as climbing and expedition courses with the Royal Marines

In 2014 the section has 27 cadets, with ten girls from LGGs among them.

Army section

Under the command of Captain DR Rowe (promoted Major in 2003), numbers have increased significantly, from 40 in 1997 to 60 the following year to 90 in 2002 and membership now stands at 70. The section has adopted the brown beret of the King's Own Border Regiment (now absorbed into the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment), with the school badge now in gilt. The usual weekly training and termly field days have been varied with visits to the All Arms firepower demonstrations at Warminster and a visit to the Queen's Lancashire Regiment base at Catterick.

The annual Cadet Skill-at-Arms competition at Altcar has brought regular successes, with wins in the LSW machine gun shoot (1998 and 1999). Teams have continued to participate in the Cadet Skills competition at Welbeck College, where the Principal is now Mr T Halliwell, a former member of staff at LRGS (where n he was not in the CCF, but re-formed the boarders' Scout Troop.). Similar contests at Halton Camp involved cadets from local units of the Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet force and Air Training Corps became an annual event. In 2002 the section won the district .22 shooting competition, the Home Guard Cup (won previously by the RAF section in 1993 and 1994).

The major success in this era was at the annual Brigade Skill-at-Arms competition, generally monopolised by Sedbergh. In 2009 the section had a virtual clean sweep, winning the falling plate, deliberate shoot and marling competitions and being runners-up in the Montgomery of Alamein competition and the individual marling shoot (RQMS Felix Hart). This of course added up to a convincing first place in the overall contest.

Camp competitions won have included orienteering (Nesscliff 1998), March & Shoot (Warcop 2003) and Command Tasks (Wathgill 2006). At Wathgill in 2008, three competitions out of four were won – the March & Shoot, Assault course and Orienteering. Other camps have included Leek, S Martin's Plain, Wathgill, and Penhale, with "self-help" camps at Swynnerton, Kirkudbright Mereworth, Crowborough, Garelochhead and Barry Buddon.

A weekend of joint manoeuvres with Charterhouse at Aldershot was arranged by Captain Tasos Adonis, formerly with LRGS, and was much enjoyed by the cadets taking part.

As well as the Cadet Leadership courses at Frimley Park, places on the demanding six week long courses at Whitehorse and Banff in Canada have been gained over the years by three cadets. In 2012 Cpl F Jones was selected for the battlefield camp in the Republic of South Africa, a demanding expedition in wild country. Others have attended signals, electronics, PT, and catering courses. The section currently has 80 cadets.



Sealand Ranges Army Field Day 2011

Royal Air Force section

Flight Lieutenant Porter resumed command of the section in 1997, but retired in 1999 after 28 years of service, for which he had been awarded the Cadet Forces Medal. With almost 70 cadets, the section continued to enjoy much success, including winning the NW Drill competition once again in 1998. Camps, and the opportunity for flying which they offer, are always the highlight of each year's activities, but the number of places allocated have now fallen abruptly. The closure of RAF stations, and the cramming of units onto those remaining, have meant that fewer stations can offer places to fewer cadets. Nevertheless some excellent camps have been held, including St Athan in South Wales where the servicing of operational aircraft is carried out, the Jaguar base at Coltishall, the Tornado base at Coningsby (also home to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight), Cosford, Henlow, Honington, Cottesmore, Valley, Halton, and High Wycombe. 2011 also saw a visit to the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, with spectacular static and flying displays of aircraft from the Spitfire to the Typhoon. The regular camps in Germany every third year came to an end with the closure of the four RAF station there, the last taking place in 1998. An innovation was the first RAF camp in Northern Ireland, at Aldergrove in 2012. The team entered for the Welbeck Challenge in 2012 included RAF as well as Army section cadets.



Royal Air Force Section 2004 and 2009

Air experience flying took place in the Bulldog trainers of 10 AEF at RAF Woodvale as well as at camp, the Bulldog being replaced by the Grob Tutor in 2000. Serious problems grounded these aircraft in 2012, but the problem has been resolved, and air experience flying has been reinstated. As well as gliding experience, solo gliding badges were won by 15 more cadets, bringing the total to over 160. While others regularly attended the Cadet Leadership courses each year. Five more Flying Scholarships were secured to bring the total to an impressive 49 since 1965. Success in the Air Squadron Trophy led to visits to the RAF College at Cranwell in 1998, with flying in a number of historic aircraft including the DH89 Dragon Rapide and the DH Tiger Moth. Individual cadets have won De Havilland Medals for their achievements.

While there had been occasional LGGs member of the section in the 1990s (girls contemplating a career in the service), there was a sudden influx in 2011 with no fewer than 44 entrants. This necessitated the commissioning of a woman officer, with Pilot Officer Carol Haywood filling the bill. The numbers in 2014 are 60, including 12 girls.

Adventure Training

Inter-section adventure training camps have included Bettws-y-Coed, Galloway. Castlemartin, Arran

CONTINGENT COMMANDERS

1914 Lieutenant WRW Deed
 1914 Lieutenant SA Pakenham
 1915 Lieutenant CH Tuck (Capt 1920)
 1924 Captain AFH Neale
 1925 Captain RE English
 1931 Captain A Huck
 1936 Captain JG Hall
 1943 Captain RD McLellan
 1944 Major RW Shaw
 1949 Lieutenant Colonel A Huck (OBE 1952)
 1952 Major OH Dickinson
 1956 Major GR Robinson (Lieutenant Colonel 1970)
 1982 Wing Commander JW Fidler
 1997 Major N Thorn (Lieutenant Colonel 1999)
 2010 Squadron Leader A Parker

Contingent officers:

1914	Lt WRW Deed	CC	Left to join 5 King's Own on the western front 1914
1914	Lt SA Pakenham	CC	Left for active service. 1915. Promoted Captain : awarded MC 1918
1915	2/Lt CH Tuck		Lt 1917: CC as Captain 1920-24 Left 1927
1915	2/Lt WR Phillips		Lt 1917 : Left for active service 1918 with Royal Garrison Artillery.
1917	2/Lt G Wozencroft		Lt 1919 Left 1920
1920	Lt RE English		2i/c 1920 CC, as Captain 1925-31 Resigned commission, but at LRGS to 1949
1924	Captain AFH Neale		CC to 1925
1925	2/Lt ZE Kingdom		Left 1926 to take up a post at Cheltenham College
1926	2/Lt Haines		Lt 1928 Left OTC 1931 Left LRGS 1935 to be HoD at Henry Mellish, Nottingham
1927	2/Lt A Huck		Lt 1929 CC as Captain 1931-6, and as Lt Col 1949-52 Reverted to Major & served to 1964.
1933	2/Lt JG Hall		Lt 1935 CC 1936 as Captain to 1943
1935	F/) A Monkman		Left to join RAF 1943, returning 1946 and left again to be HMI 1947
1936	2/Lt CR Buxton		Lt 1938 To active service with KORR 1940
1940	2/Lt LA Hopkins		Lt 42 Left 1944 to be HM QEGS Gainsborough
1943	RW Shaw		2/Lt : CC as Major 1944-49 Left 1951 to be HM Eastbourne GS
1941	2/Lt McLellan		JTC to 1944 CC 1943 as Captain
1941	P/O GHT Leachman		ATC F/O 1943 & OC Left 1950 to Coventry School
1942	P/O CAA Jukes		ATC F/O 1944 Left 1947
1944	2/Lt Eastwood		JTC : Lt 1946 Left 1947
1944	P/O JR Files		ATC Not active after 1947, but at LRGS until 1966
1945	2/Lt GE Le Messurier		JTC : Lt 1947 : Capt 1952 Left 1959
1946	Major OH Dickenson		CC as Major 1952-56 TD 1954 Left 1956 to be HM of Royal School, Wolverhampton
1946	2/Lt AG Ingall		Lt 48 Left 19549 to post at Warwick School
1947	2/Lt JB Winnerah		(OL) Lt 1949 left 1950
1948	2/Lt IG Miller		Lt 1950 Left for post at Rugby School
1948	2/Lt JV Barnett		Lt 1950 Left 1952
1949	2/Lt GR Robinson		Lt 1951 CC as Major 1956 (Lt Col 1970) to 1982:
1950	2/Lt J Young		OC Signals section as Lt 1951 and as Captain 1954 to 1967
1951	2/Lt JA Jerman		Lt 1953 : left 1955
1952	2/Lt MAH Melinsky		Lt 1952. Shooting Officer (Capt 1956) Left for Ordination training.1957
1954	Sub-Lt MJ Kemp		(Lt 1956) Left to be HM, City of London Freeman's School 1964
1955	2/Lt H Jones		Lt 1957 Left 1959
1956	Lt WJ Osborne		Shooting Officer as Captain 1957 to 1968
1957	2/Lt CN Dimond		Expedition Platoon to 1967

1958 2/Lt EM Andrews Lt 1960 To university lectureship in Australia 1961
1960 2/Lt G Kendall Left for HoD post 1961
1962 Plt Off JW Fidler OC RAF Section 1964-82 as Flt Lt. 2i/c Contingent 1974 to 1982 as Sqn Ldr.
CC 1982-97 as Wg Cdr
1963 2/Lt HWO Kennon (OL – former Cdt Sgt) Lt 1965 OC Army section as Captain. 1970-74
Transferred to Framlingham College CCF eventually as CC in the rank of Lt Col
1964 2Lt JRM Mott Army section. . Resigned commission 1967
1965 Plt Off PE Lazenby 2i/c RAF section to 1970 (Fg Off 1967)
1969 Sub Lt KA Starling OC RN Section to 1972
1969 Sub Lt MPG Gibson 2i/c RN section OC 1972-7 & 79- 89 as Lt . 2i/c Contingent 1983 (as Lt Cdr) to 1989
1970 Plt Off GC Porter 2i/c RAF section to 1982 as Fg Off, then OC section 1982- 1989 and 1997- 99 as Flt Lt
1971 2/Lt NKD Ward Lt 1971. OC section as Captain 1974 Left LRGS 1978.
1972 SubLt AJ Barratt 2 i/c RN section : OC, as Lt 1977 Resigned commission 1979
1972 2/Lt WD Jennison Army section. Lt 1974 (i/c Adventure training) OC section as Captain 1978-85
1974 Sub Lt P Sutcliffe (OL) RN Section
1977 Fg Off RJ Warren ex-RAF Navigator OC section 1989 to 1997 as Flt Lt.
1977 2/Lt A Newton Army section to 1978
1977 2/Lt S Dickinson Army section to 1978
1979 2/Lt JJ Hartley Army section to 1984
1979 2/Lt RE Turner Army section OC summer 1984, then resigned commission
1984 Capt. James OC Army section to 1985 moved to new post at Stowe
1984 2/Lt J Carpenter Army section to 1985 To new post at Glenalmond
1983 SubLt I Whitehouse RN Section
1984 Capt A Hickman OC Army section to 1994. Had already held a TA commission at Portsmouth GS and an RNVR commission at Read's
School. Came to LRGS as Lt RNVR & renewed TA link.
1984 2/Lt C Workman Army section Lt 1986 OC 1994-7 as Captain Left for HoD post at Wirral GS
1990 Sub Lt M Ridley Thomas OC RN Section to 1994
1994 Lt CD Richmond Army section to 1997, then transferred to Ellesmere College
1994 2/Lt DR Rowe Army section OC section 1997 as Captain. 2i/c Contingent 2003 as Major
1994 SubLt JP Jago OC RN Section
1994 Sub Lt M Haughton RN section
1997 Major N Thorn CC to 2010 (Lt Col 1999)
1999 2/Lt T Aidonis Army section to 2000 Transferred to Fettes College
1999 Plt Off SA Andrews OC RAF section to 2003
1999 Plt Off A MacDonald RAF section Fg Off 2001 OC section as Flt Lt
2002 Flt Lt A Humble OC RAF section to 2004
2004 Flt Lt D Rouse OC RAF section 2004-
2007 2/Lt J Viney Army section to 2008
2008 Plt Off J Hurrell RAF section
2010 Plt Off C Heywood RAF section

Since 2000, the Contingent has been short of officers serving on the LRGS teaching staff. Assistance, usually for periods of one or two years, has been received with gratitude, from the following:

Major D Oak, Sub Lieutenants R Anderson and R Houghton, Captains Storey and Lts D Channing, Wright & E Davies, 2/Lts Coleman, Atkinson and Rea and Plt Off Sweeney

Former cadets, now at University have also given invaluable assistance.

School Staff Instructors

Sgt Suthers had served with KORR 1903-1916, when he was invalided out of the Army.
He served as Sergeant Instructor in drill and shooting until 1947. He died in 1962

Staff Sergeant J Keighley (ex RASC, now Royal Logistics Corps) was SSI / Storeman 1990-94

Regular SSIs have been WO1 M Meighan (1999-2000) , WO1 G Simpson (2000-2007) WO1 P Lambson (2007- and RSM Routledge.

Flying Scholarship winners :

1966 Flt Sgt DH Parker
1967 Sgts PR Cooper (later Sqn Ldr) and G Jones (later Air Vice Marshal, Engineering Branch)
1968 Sgt A Walker (later Flt Lt), Cpls GB Dickens (later Sqn Ldr), TR Ayliffe & LJF Barnes (later Gp Capt))
1969 Cpls AJ Moore (later Capt BEA) , DW Ruddick, PB Jervis & SP Smith
1972 Sgts (later Flt Lts) JB Middleton & RA Sloan
1973 Sgt MG Taylor
1974 Flt Sgt A Riley, Sgts PR Bramhall & M Barton
1976 CWO (Later Sqn Ldr) RW Taylor
1977 Sgt RJ Warren
1979 Sgt LM Isaacs, Cpl AA Pennington

1981 Sgt (later Flt Lt) MR Heaton
 1982 Cpl GR Whitfield
 1985 Sgt DR McSporrán, Cpls AD Evans & RM Nicholson
 1986 Flt Sgt BR Lewis & Sgt MJ Jones
 1989 Flt Sgt MJ Johnson
 1990 Flt Sgt RD Evans
 1991 Flt Sgts AL McVean & JM Hynes. Cpl NJ Maguire
 1993 Flt Sgts O Hughes & M Telfer, Sgts PL Crossley & TC Meekings
 1994 Sgt DS Ellison (Air Cadet Pilot Navigator Scholarship)
 1995 Flt Sgts JR Birtwistle & Sgts M Thoms AM Jefferson & TP Humpage
 1996 Cpls SM Pearson, NJA Ross & NC Beeston
 1999 Sgt IF Rushton, Cpl GI Lund
 2000 Sgts D Curnow & D Large

International Air Cadet Exchange :

1968 Flt Sgt P Cooper (later Sqn Ldr : 5 Sqn Flight Commander on Lightnings at RAF Binbrook)
 1969 Sgt LJF Barnes (later Group Captain, RAF Regiment)
 1975 CWO A Riley
 1978 Flt Sgt LH Smith
 1982 Flt Sgt MR Heaton (later Flt Lt, Tornado 3)
 1990 Flt Sgt M Jump
 1992 Sgt AL McVean
 1994 Flt Sgt OG Hughes
 1997 CWO SM Pearson
 1998 Flt Sgt MC Williams
 2001 CWO D Large

Selected for the Banff/Whitehorse cadets exchanges to Canada (Army section)

1998 Sgt Baker & Cpl Fell
 1999 Cpl Williams
 2000 Cdt Hardacre
 2002 L/Cpl. R Hold
 2003 Sgt M Devlin, Cdt Kirkland
 2004 Cpl C Walmsley, L/Cpl A Gardner

Winners of the Oglesby- Wellings Sword :

2011 Sgt T Rees
 2012 Sgt O Taylor
 2013 Sgt G Oliver (RAF)

Contingent trophies



Michael Barton (centre) receiving RAF Proficiency Trophy

The oldest trophy is the rosebowl presented to Lieutenant General Sir Archibald Anderson (Colonel of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment) by the Ameer of Afghanistan: he gave it to the Contingent in 1919, and it was competed for by the platoons of the then OTC until 1944, since

when it has remained in a display cabinet. A proposal to revive it as an inter-section trophy, with contest in those disciplines common to all three sections (drill, shooting and orienteering) did not attract the support of the section commanders.

The Musgrave Trophy was presented to the OTC in memory of Pilot Officer J Musgrave, killed in an air crash in 1939. He had been a prominent member of the very successful shooting teams of the late 1930s and the cup was used as an open range shooting trophy until 1972, when, with the retirement of Captain Osborne, this activity ceased. It then became the Proficiency Trophy for the RAF section, but its use was discontinued after 1997. It made a public appearance in 2012, when the first RAF winner, then Cadet Michael Barton, now Chief Constable of Durham, presented the prizes at Speech Day. He found the trophy gracing the lunch table after the event. It has been reintroduced as the RAF CO's Award, the first winner being Cadet Flt Sgt P Compton.

The Jacques Cup was presented to the School flight of the ATC in 1942, but fell into disuse after the closure of that flight. It was rediscovered in 1990 and was used as the Recruits trophy for the RAF section until 1997. It has become the Junior Potential Award since 2012 when it was won by L/S A Titterington.

The Halliwell Trophy was presented initially as a prize for the Most Improved Cadet, but is now the runner-up trophy for the Sword.

In 1974 two former cadets won service honours. Flying Officer J Knight won the Sword of Honour at the Royal Air Force Technical College, Henlow, while Flying Officer J Brindley won the trophy for the best Engineering Branch entrant at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell.

*J W Fidler
September 2014*