

No. 1 RADIO SCHOOL
ROYAL AIR FORCE



Graduation Parade
of the 97th Entry of
Aircraft Apprentices



Reviewing Officer :

Air Marshal Sir John Grandy,

K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief

Bomber Command



LOCKING

17th December, 1963

The Occasion



To-day's Parade marks the successful completion of their training by Aircraft Apprentices of No. 97 Entry, who joined the Apprentice Wing in January, 1961. The Entry parades with the Wing for the last time before its members pass into the Royal Air Force as qualified tradesmen in the trades of Air Radio Fitter, Ground Radar Fitter or Ground Wireless Fitter.

On the parade, the sequence of which is described overleaf, the Aircraft Apprentices of No. 97 Entry are formed into two flights and the supporting Squadrons comprise Nos. 98, 102, 104 and 105 Entries. In the event of wet weather the parade will be held in No. 3 (T) Block, and No. 97 Entry will form one Squadron of two flights. There will be no supporting flights.

After the final General Salute, the Entry marches off in slow time, while the supporting squadrons present arms in salute.

Corporal Aircraft Apprentice "Hamish McCrackers," our Pony Mascot, who joined the Wing on the 25th November, 1953, is making his 30th appearance on a Graduation Parade.

The Officers and N.C.O.'s of the Wing staff do not take part in the Parade.

Parade State - Dry Weather

Graduating Entry

Parade Commander - - F.S.A.A. PYLE, G. S.
Parade Warrant Officer - - S.A.A. HAYWARD, C. G.

No. 1 Flight Commander - - S.A.A. HANDY, R. B.
No. 2 Flight Commander - - S.A.A. GUY, B. L.

Supporting Squadrons

Supporting Squadrons Commander - S.A.A. BENGREE, N. J.
No. 1 Squadron.
Squadron Commander - - S.A.A. JENKINS, J.
No. 1 Flight Commander - - S.A.A. THIRLWALL, C.
No. 2 Flight Commander - - S.A.A. RAFFERTY, M. R.

No. 2 Squadron.
Squadron Commander - S.A.A. DOREY, V. S.
No. 1 Flight Commander - - S.A.A. PRICE, N. F.
No. 2 Flight Commander - - S.A.A. PALMER, N. R.

No. 1 Radio School Apprentice Band.
Warrant Officer T. D. Williams, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

No. 5 Regional Band,
Flight Lieutenant J. Martindale, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

Parade State - Wet Weather

Parade Commander - - - F.S.A.A. PYLE, G. S.

No. 1 Radio School Apprentice Band.

Sequence of the Parade

1. March On, Supporting Squadrons.

At 1030 hours the two supporting squadrons march on parade and form up in line of squadrons.

No. 5 REGIONAL BAND : "The Thin Red Line."

2. March On, Graduating Entry.

At 1035 hours the Graduating Entry marches on and forms up in line in front of the supporting squadrons.

PIPES : "Scotland the Brave"; "Marie's Wedding."

3. Arrival of the Reviewing Officer.

At 1045 hours the Reviewing Officer arrives at the Saluting Base, accompanied by :-

AIR VICE-MARSHAL B. BALL, C.B., C.B.E., B.A.
(Senior Air Staff Officer, Technical Training Command).

AIR VICE-MARSHAL J. K. ROTHERHAM, C.B., C.B.E., B.A.
(Air Officer Commanding, No. 24 Group)

AIR COMMODORE W. D. DISBREY, C.B.E., A.F.C.
(Commandant, No. 1 Radio School)

Spectators stand whilst the Reviewing Officer is escorted to the Saluting Base.

TRUMPET FANFARE : "Apprentice Wing."

4. General Salute.

The Parade receives the Reviewing Officer with a General Salute.

Spectators remain standing.

No. 5 REGIONAL BAND: "General Salute."

5. Inspection.

The Reviewing Officer inspects the Graduating Entry.

No. 5 REGIONAL BAND : " King William IV."

APPRENTICE WING BAND : " Melody in F."

The Reviewing Officer returns to the Saluting Base.

6. March Past.

The Graduating Entry marches past in quick time.

APPRENTICE WING BAND : " Imperial Echoes."

The Graduating Entry returns and re-forms on the Receiving Base.

No. 5 REGIONAL BAND : "R.A.F. March "; " The Middy."

7. Advance in Review Order.

The Graduating Entry advances in review order, halts and presents arms in a General Salute.

No. 5 REGIONAL BAND :

" The Advance in Review Order "; " General Salute."

Spectators stand.

8. The Graduating Entry Marches off.

The Graduating Entry marches off parade in slow time.

PIPES : " Auld Lang Syne."

The Reviewing Officer leaves the Parade Ground.

9. The Supporting Squadrons March Off.

Under the command of the new N.C.O. Aircraft Apprentices, the Supporting Squadrons march past the spectators and retire from the Parade Ground.

PIPES : " Meeting of the Waters.

No. 5 REGIONAL BAND : " Number Nine."

Prize Giving

Report by the Commandant, No. 1 Radio School.

Presentation of Prizes and Awards by
AIR MARSHAL SIR JOHN GRANDY, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

Address by the Reviewing Officer.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The Prizes

British I.R.E. Prize for Educational Subjects	-	-	A.A. HINSON, N. R.
Royal Aeronautical Society Prize	-	-	F.S.A.A. PYLE, G. S.
Lord Trenchard Memorial Prize	-	-	F.S.A.A. PYLE, G. S.
Air Ministry Prize for Highest Aggregate Marks	-	-	A.A. HINSON, N. R.
Air Ministry Prize for Air Radio Fitter	-	-	A.A. CALLAGHAN, V. D.
Air Ministry Prize for Ground Radar Fitter	-	-	A.A. HINSON, N. R.
Air Ministry Prize for Ground Wireless Fitter	-	-	A.A. ROBINSON, B. J.
Air Ministry Prize for G.S.T.	-	-	F.S.A.A. PYLE, G. S.
Air Ministry Prize for English and General Studies	-	-	L.A.A. TONGE, J. J.
Air Ministry Prize for Best Set Task	-	-	A.A. HINSON, N. R.

Wing Trophies

Victor Ludorum Trophy	-	-	A.A. PEDRICK, G. S.
Wing Championship	-	-	"B" SQUADRON

Wing Colours

The following Apprentices of the 97th Entry have been awarded Wing Colours in the sports shown.

EQUITATION

A.A. Williams, P. T.

RUGBY

F.S.A.A. Pyle, G. S.

SWIMMING

A.A. Farmer, M. J.

BADMINTON

A.A. Pedrick, G. S.

BASKETBALL

S.A.A. Gainey, K. J.
A.A. Richards, R.

CROSS COUNTRY

S.A.A. Stachniczek, G. A.
L.A.A. Watling, D. A.

SQUASH

A.A. Robinson, B. J.

BOXING

C.A.A. Igo, H. W.
A.A. Taylor, N. E.
A.A. Newman, R.D.

FENCING

C.A.A. Norman, P. R. C.
C.A.A. Lodge, S.
L.A.A. Gzella, J. M.

SOCCER

S.A.A. Guy, B.
A.A. Pedrick, G. S.

.22 SHOOTING

A.A. Carter, D. E.

ATHLETICS

L.A.A. Watling, D. A.

WATER POLO

C.A.A. Tait, M. J.

.303 SHOOTING

A.A. Foster, F. J.
A.A. Shores, G. F.
A.A. Hinson, N. R.

HOCKEY

C.A.A. Starr, D. M.
A.A. Lenk, R. R.

A brief history of Aircraft Apprentices Radio Training

In 1922 the first Aircraft Apprentices to be selected for Signals duties entered the Royal Air Force and commenced training at the Electrical and Wireless School. The School was then located at Flowerdown, near Winchester, and was established to train all tradesmen required for the maintenance and operation of Signals equipment. The Aircraft Apprentices were trained as Wireless Operator Mechanics, Electricians and Instrument makers.

In August, 1929, the Electrical and Wireless School moved to Cranwell, and due to war-time expansion became No. 1 Radio School in 1942. Aircraft Apprentices were trained in the trades of wireless operator mechanic, wireless and electrical mechanic and instrument maker. It also trained Boy Entrants in the trades of wireless operator and electrician. In 1950, No. 6 Radio School was formed at Cranwell with responsibility for radio training of Aircraft Apprentices only. On the 1st December, 1952, No. 6 Radio School was disbanded at Cranwell and reformed at Locking as No. 1 Apprentice Wing, No. 1 Radio School.

Early entries of Aircraft Apprentices were trained to operate and maintain all Signals and Electrical Equipment used by the Royal Air Force both in the air and on the ground.

The increasing complexity and wide range of Signals equipment gradually made it necessary to train the Signals Aircraft Apprentice in Signals maintenance duties only, the electrical and operating commitments being assigned to other suitably trained airmen. It later became necessary to train Aircraft Apprentices specifically for Ground or Air Radio maintenance duties. Of the Aircraft Apprentices passing out to-day, 50% have been trained as Air Radio Fitters, the rest as Ground Radar Fitters and Ground Wireless Fitters.

On leaving us for their new units, Apprentices of the 97th Entry will be joining a select band of highly qualified Radio Technicians. Since the first Aircraft Apprentice passed out at Flowerdown in 1925, over 6,000 have successfully completed Signals training and of these over 1,100 have been selected for and granted commissions, several now holding Air rank.

Programme

**Spectators are requested to be seated on the main Parade Ground by
1030 hours.**

Item	Time	Remarks.
1.	1030 hours	Supporting Squadrons advance on to markers.
2.	1035 hours	No. 97 Entry marches on.
3.	1045 hours	The Reviewing Officer and Reception Party arrive on the Parade Ground.
4.		Inspection and March Past of No. 97 Entry.
5.		No. 97 Entry marches off.
6.	1110 hours	The Reviewing Officer leaves the Parade Ground.
7.	1111 hours	The Supporting Squadrons march off.
8.	1115 hours	Coffee is served for staff and guests and for Nos. 97 and 105 Entries apprentices and guests in 3 Area N.A.A.F.I.
9.	1135 hours	Staff and guests proceed to the Assembly Hall in No. 3 Block to be seated by 1150 hours.
10.	1155 hours	The Reviewing Officer arrives in the Assembly Hall in No. 3 Block to receive a report on No. 97 Entry by the Commandant No. 1 Radio School, to present prizes and to address the Apprentices.
11.	1240 hours	Lunch is served for guests of No. 97 and 105 Entries in the N.A.A.F.I.'s.
12.	1310 hours	Lunch is served for the Reviewing Officer, Reception Party and invited guests in the Officers' Mess.
13.	1330 - 1700 hours	Domestic accommodation will be open for inspection by visitors. Squadron and Flight Commanders will be available to meet parents in Squadron Offices.
14.	1330 - 1700 hours	Training Blocks will be open to visitors; instructors will be available to meet parents.

In the event of inclement weather, the Parade will be held in No. 3 Training Block.

Smoking is not permitted in the Assembly Hall.