

Vol VIII, Issue-I (Bi-Annual) | July 2014

The Rimcollian

(Newsletter of the Old Boys Association of Rashtriya Indian Military College)





Chander's Notes

I welcome all of you to the print edition of the Rimcollian magazine after a lapse of nearly two years. Let's all put our hands together and give a huge round of applause to our treasurer M S Bedi without whose untiring efforts it would not be possible to raise funds for the print edition of this magazine. I wish to thank all those who worked unselfishly behind the scenes putting service before self to get us advertisements which are the bedrock for any publication of this nature.

I also wish to thank our sponsors for their advertisements as without them it would not be possible to print this magazine. Economic prosperity is the order of the day for the Indian nation and closer home for the defence forces as well. There has been a sea change in the attitude of the nation regarding matters finance and yet we could not raise enough money for this magazine, nor did the magazine go so low in our priorities that in an age of economic abundance we forgot about the same. It is here that Bedi's belief that the magazine was required and your active support of each and every contributor that we go into print again, better late than never.

Besides the usual bill of fare news and updates this unique magazine which has a singular distinction of being the only of its type regarding alumni, the intention is that each and every one of you feels proud enough to display the same as a token of admiration to your better halves, children and friends. The school being pan Indian and a government institution needs to indirectly send a message nationally to all, through its committed readers in the old boys and through distribution of this show piece magazine to various schools, so as, to bring forth the best for the school entrance examination.

It will be the endeavor to print a teachers story we have one in this edition "Storming the male bastion", a write up about the changes and interaction with the cadets "The kanats are down", as also a small section on the civilian old boys and their achievements, "Beyond Uniform". In fact I am looking for a lot of contribution on beyond uniform section and news of masters, do send the same direct to me and not on the school net as it loses its flavor and uniqueness once on the net and reproduced in the magazine.

To all of you happy readers without borrowing the magazine, if you have got it directly implies you have contributed for the same, if not please do purchase the same whenever displayed as we need your small support in the form of economic help to get the magazine going when nationally "good times have come", so says the Indian Prime Minister, so do loosen your purse strings for a good cause. In the end my heartiest congratulations to the Commandant and his team for tweaking the programme on 13th by combing the horse show and cricket match and permitting the cadets to mix with us for meals giving the alumni time to interact with the cadets, thus prompting the article "the kanats are down", and I dare say now that they are down it is upon each and every one of us to ensure that they stay down.

So the next time you visit school mix with the cadets more heartily and build their social skills, as well, most of us desired that but red tape kept us away. We have had our share of losses as well the biggest being VGK the founder of our 'E Groups', and here sir is for your honour for connecting us in an immortal way. Lastly I wish to thank Sidharth Mishra. As school senior I have ensured that Sidharth, despite having retired as Rimcollian Editor, has been kept busy and he has ensured the timely production of the quality product which you have in your hands.

ICH Dien

CS THAPA
Brig (Retd)
Pratap 64-69.





Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Old
Boys Association of Rashtriya
Indian Military College,
Dehradun
Vol. VIII, No 1 (July 2014)
RNI No. DELENG/2005/15400

Contents

The Batch of 64 **4-6** Batch of January 1974 **7-9**
— 105th COURSE

Batch of January 1970 (Passing Out in Dec 1974)	10-11
123rd Course - Stronger by diversity	12-13
Your School, For You	16-17
A rendezvous with Prince of Wales	18
The Kanats are down	19
Storming the male bastion On being a lady teacher in an 'all-boys' school	20
March is on you here again	23-24
Beyond Uniform	25-27
Knights in shining armour	28-29
Homecoming 2014	30-40
Roving Eye	41-43
Last Post	44

President

Vice Admiral PK CHATTERJEE,
PVSM, AVSM, NM
C-in-C, Andaman & Nicobar

Secretary

Col YASH SAXENA

Treasurer

Maj (Retd) MS BEDI, SM
(Tel.: 981000222)
E-mail: msbedi@psbedi.com

Honorary Editor

Brig (Retd) CS THAPA
(Tel.: 07830000818)
gorkha4821@hotmail.com

Published and Printed by:

SIDHARTH MISHRA
on behalf of Rimcollians Old
Boys Association (ROBA), Room
NO 437 A, Wing "B" Sena
Bhawan, New Delhi 110001
Tel. No.: 011-32904426
email: robaoffice@gmail.com

Concept & Design

Sriav Creations
designershan4u@gmail.com

Printed at

Om Printers

Cover photo

Cadets at Boxing Matches
on 12 March 2014

LAST POST

The Rimcollian Fraternity pays its tribute to those who are not with us and will always be missed.

SER	RANK & NAME	YR AT RIMC	SECTION	DATE.
1.	COL AN SINHA	1956-59	PRA	6-JUN-13
2.	COL JAYANTA CHANDA	1953-57	PRA	11-JUN-13
3.	MAJ JAI SINGH (GILL)	1930-37	ROB	27-JUN-13
4.	MR BERJESH KUMAR GOYAL	1961-62	PRA	10-AUG-13
5.	CAPT JK SENGUPTA	1953-57	RAN	31-AUG-13
6.	LT COL KESHAV CHAND ANAND	1935-41	RAW	3-NOV-13
7.	LT COL BEJOY CHARAN SARMA	1954-58	RAN	12-NOV-13
8.	AIR MSHL PK DEY, PVSM, AVSM	1948-52	RAN	10-JAN-14
9.	COL NP CHOUDHARY	1958-62	PRA	10-JAN-14
10.	WG CDR VG KUMAR	1957-61	SHI	11-JAN-14
11.	MR REUEL RUSSELL MORDECAI	1995-98	PRA	8-APR-14
12.	LT COL SK DHAR, VSM	1936-44	ROB	21-MAY-14



Dedicated to Wing Commander VG Kumar



The Journey on Earth is finite and God reminds us about the same in his many ways. This year the old boys community has had a fair share of losses, but the one person who touched the hearts of many Rimcollians was no other than Wing Commander V G Kumar, the founder of the 'E Groups' established in 1999 which connects the old boys. It was his vision that he started the group which has now become the spinal cord of all activity regarding staying connected. The pouring of grief was unimaginable the net was full for at least one week, showing the many facets of his vast personality. In our simple way we dedicate this print edition to his memory, and 'sir' wherever, you are 'God be with you'. We the Rimcollian community also pay our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Kumar and all her family and extended family members, if he could touch our lives so far away so intimately, than closer home he will be missed more, God bless you all and give you the strength to accept this irreparable loss, we know how difficult it is when a person leaves for his heavenly abode, the net still misses him.

Editor

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



It was a singular privilege bestowed upon me by the RIMCOLLIAN fraternity in Dec 2013, by giving me the onerous responsibility of steering the ROBA as its President. The school's long history, hoary traditions, fierce loyalty and the passions of the old boys, all, make it a tall order and I shall endeavour my utmost to measure up to. I am most profoundly reminded and guided of our motto ICH DIEN!

The Rimcollians have once again proved that they are second to none by bagging all the three medals in the recently concluded POP at NDA. The fact that our cadets have been achieving this feat with an amazing regularity proves that the institution is in excellent hands and the Commandant and his staff deserve our heartiest congratulations and gratitude for consistently maintaining the high standards.

ROBA has grown, flourished and delivered results only due to active and meaningful participation of its members. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for keeping alive the tradition of excellence that has become our hallmark over the years. We have several challenges, the foremost being the centenary, due in eight years. It would require all hands to pull together so that we can make the event a grand success that our institution so truly deserves. In this regard, I would urge the Rimcollians to consider setting up a monthly ECS contribution to ROBA account. The appeal describing the procedure and the blank ECS form are available in the magazine.

We have made beginnings, however small, but in the right direction. For the first time, during Reunion 2014, due to fiscal prudence and better monitoring, we had an excess of income over expenditure and managed to bear the expenditure for the event. We have also proactively taken up the issue of deficient Masters in School and as an interim measure, one Service instructor each from the Army, Navy and Air Force, has been posted to the school. The anomaly on scale of ration for our cadets as compared to Sainik School boys has also been taken up for resolution. We are at the initials of a few reforms which would usher more synergy in our fraternity from all walks of life.

My compliments to the ROBA treasurer Maj (retd) MS Bedi for having worked hard and generating funds for reviving a self-sustaining Rimcollian magazine in association with Brigadier (Retd) CS Thapa, the new editor. In closing I thank all Rimcollians for their cooperation and acknowledge their solidarity which is our greatest strength.

Viva RIMC
Viva Rimcollians
(Vice Admiral Pradip K Chatterjee)

The Batch of 64

By Brig CS Thapa (Retd)

(Every story has a new twist and the stories that are now doing the rounds are an endless spate of reunions every year, which have a snowballing impact on the school attendance of the alumni which this year was a near 228, compared to the old figure of less than a hundred. Thus there were reunions of all types, the batch of '64 including some of '65 celebrated 50 years of joining school, two batches of '74 celebrated 40 years of joining school, and also 123 course recalled thirty years on joining school. Take your pick the alma mater is always there, it is best to celebrate the reunion in a gang and relive the past; it is the best medicine to stay young. Editor)



Sanjiv Tandon, PS Gurung, CS Thapa, BS Dhillon, AG Bewoor, R Jaiswal, KC Cherian, MS Bedi, BK Sinha, RK Manucha, YS Das, S Wangdi, JS Mann, YS Rawat, UN Chitnavis, SS Singh, R Bakshi, DC Kumaria, CRK Singh and JP Mondle.

(Ladies) Tripti Srivastava, Mrs Cherian **(standing)**, Mrs Jaiswal, Vibha Thapa, Kusum Rawat, Sukhi Dhillon, Mrs JS Mann, Sagari Das, Mrs BK Sinha, Mrs UN Chitnavis, Chitra Nagesh, Renuka Gurung, Ratna Manucha, Vaneeta Kumaria **(standing)** and Deborah Mondle.

Photo by Ms S Wangdi



(Above) Batch of 64 Ladies with Mrs Sarla Thakur, wife of our master Mr LN Thakur and (Below) some of us watching the cricket match on 13 March 2014

It all started as usual with the gang of three, Gurrung, Bedi and Tandon. There was the usual flurry of emails and a lot of guys yelling and shouting that a get to gather was mandatory. Manucha was the master of ceremonies here at Dehra Doon and Bedi became the chief coordinator. It took a herculean effort to get all on board but some still missed the boat, some could not come on board for domestic compulsions, some had medical problems, but finally 25 out

of the promised 28 did land up. Could we have done better of course why not and some who came first time with their ladies stated “we better have such reunions again, how about one every three years”. Guys are you listening it is your wives speaking, so jingle out the wallets, loosen the purse strings and get set for celebrating your passing out all over again. A great show indeed superbly timed with Mr. L N Thakur arrival for lunch on 12th March.

We celebrated for two days all pot-bellied guys back slapping and hugging one another, shouting and yelling at various railway stations and where ever they met, at times with embarrassed wives wondering where the kid in this guy had vanished after years of marriage. What was heartening that Mrs.Nagesh and Mrs. Srivastva also joined us. Notable who joined after a long time were J P Monde and wife who came after a hiatus and Wangdi’s.



Back Row (L to R) Kumaria, Baksi, Jaiswal, Thapa, Bedi, Manucha, Mr LN Thakur, Sinha, YS Dass, Dhillon, Chitnavis, Bewoor, Wangdi, A Kumar, SS Singh.
Front (L To R) Mann, Mondle (sitting), CRK Singh, Tandon, YS Rawat, RS Rathee, Cherian, Gurung.

The first day was a visit to Mussoorie and boy it had rained so everyone rushed back to the warm confines of Hotel J P Manor. The lunch was well organized there were games for the ladies as well who took the high spirits and bonhomie well as the spirits soared and all poised for the photograph that appears below “freezing” in the cold. It was a late drive back a quiet evening on 11th and 12th March found all of us at Gurung guest at a hotel popular being the place where the Indian cricket team captain Dhoni got married. Gurung had laid it out really well and sang more than a dozen old numbers. The music was old hits and very reflective, the company nostalgic, the ambiance superb and soon it was time that the much spoken about reunion of the course got over only to join the main event at school by late evening.



Batch of 64 “Own Up how many had moist eyes after this parting photograph”. Most were happy on joining school at eleven, 50 years ago, why are parting sorrowful now?

When we came home - the get together of 105th Course

By Col Prem Prakash, SM



105th Course

Around middle of last year I and VN Jain met over a cup of coffee at the latter's residence when we realized that our course was completing 40 years of joining RIMC in Jan 2014 and it will be a great idea to have a get together at RIMC in March 2014. Probably VN Jain had discussions on this issue earlier also with some other friends. Now it was stamped and fixed.

The event management machine button was pressed and things were set in motion. The most important issue was to get everyone on board and

communicate with all. Some homework had been done by VN and he had prepared a list of most of the course-mates. A few which were left got prepared with the help of Mr Vipin Khanduric, ROBA clerk at RIMC. Of the 29 who joined, five left in the initial 2-3 terms and were therefore impossible to locate after all these years.

Of the remaining 24, two of them are sadly not amongst us. The balance 22 were all located and brought onboard. However due to prior official commitments or reasons of their current

location seven of them could not make it to school. Thus 15 of us or 70 percent of the original class did turn up. All modes of communication including telephone, email, facebook, whatsapp etc. were explored to get in touch with everyone.

Mails and calls started flowing in providing relief and confidence that get together is indeed going to happen. Efforts of VN must be extolled especially in the manner in which he was able to locate a dear member of Chandragupta section, SP Jalit, after 35 long yrs as he



105th Course at dinner on 11th (notice the cake)

was totally disconnected. It was indeed magnanimous of Jalit and his family to have finally attended the ceremony despite some infirmity. On the flip side SK Singh was traced with great difficulty at Shillong but could not attend the function.

Most of the friends were connected and now it was to be decided about various activities that course-mates would participate in. I mailed some suggestions but only a few responded and not much was decided initially. Amongst a few course-mates it was decided that some impromptu decisions would be taken. Also, all were informed that they should come prepared with their bags full and carry all their ATM cards. This suggestion came in handy to all! Of course ROBA and Trust were also the beneficiary of this get together!

The celebrations were set in motion with dinner at an officers' mess on night of 11 Mar 14. Shivi (Brigadier Shivendra



105th Course with Mr LN Thakur

Singh) deserves the credit for getting us together for a lovely dance cum dinner. Smita (Mrs Zia) made her presence felt through her delicious cake. Jalit and his daughters enjoyed themselves to the hilt. They relished a totally different environment. 12th Mar was the first day of official function.

Everyone enjoyed mixing with cadets, driving around the campus, witnessing

hockey and boxing match. Dinner with guests from outside and within was the right time to re-connect and cherish nostalgia. Next day began with traditional reunion breakfast which was much awaited by many, especially who were attending after many yrs. The war memorial brought back somber moments and all were flashing their cameras. It was a chance to play first term cadet and a casual photo was perfectly timed. Breaking rules is Rimcollians' forte and was found manifest in passing through the drill square along with ladies and stopping by for a photograph en-route to pavilion.

The gifted treasure of pavilion witnessed a number of activities including group photo of course-mates with Mr LN Thakur and Group IV employees amidst over flowing beer mugs. Evening was made memorable with the cultural programme and aptly closed with dance and ROBA dinner. We



105th course and their families with college *karamcharis*

thank all. The parting on 14th Mar was a little painful but this meeting after a long gap could add those many years I am sure. Let it be a beginning for eternal get together. All left with a promise to make it to school more often. Au revoir!

**Course-mates who attended
the Re-union**

- Sunil Kapoor — Pratap Single
- Sanjeev Nakra — Shivaji Family
- JS Thakur — Shivaji Single
- MG Jacob — Chandragupta Single
- SP Jalit — Chandragupta Family
- Sanyog Jain — Pratap Single
- Shivender Singh — Pratap Single
- SK Laskar — Pratap Family
- GDS Kochar — Pratap Family
- VN Jain Shivaji Family
- Ziaul Hussain — Ranjit Family
- Jarken Gamlin — Pratap Single
- Prem Prakash — Ranjit Family
- Vijay Bhagat — Pratap Family
- Sanjay Verma — Ranjit Family



105th Course back in Class

**Course-mates who did/could
not attend the Re-union**

- Harish Sadasivan (busy with business)
- IDS Huja (No whereabouts)
- RK Huria (settled abroad)
- AK Kochar (settled abroad)
- VK Pandit (drop out at last min)
- Deepak Gosain (No more with us)
- PP Datta (No whereabouts)
- Banibrata Chandra (No whereabouts)
- Gajendra Prasad (busy with insp)
- Nitin Vaidya (No whereabouts)
- Gaurav Chandra (No whereabouts)
- SK Singh (located with great difficulty but could not attend)
- TS Haque (settled abroad)
- LIK Singh (No more with us)

Batch of January 1970

(Passed Out in Dec 1974)

By Capt (IN) Benjamin Charles (retd)



Gang Of Five with Cadets on the morning of 13 March 2014

The campaign was started on e-group, 'Say Yes to 2014' was the relentless year long call to the batch that passed out in Dec 1974 to attend this year's reunion en masse. The format was to send your wife on a holiday, come stag, stay in the dorms and relive one's cadet days. Finally five guys Girish Gujjala, Mayank Malik, Benjamin Charles, Sunil Bhatia and Anil Sharma (our host in Doon) bit the bait, whilst life and work kept the rest busy- like our

lone serving warrior (General Balwant Singh Negi), corporate honchos (Bombay boys Ajay Oka, Maltesh Patil), the Hubli businessman (Naresh Shah), flyboys with their Raybans (Anup Prasad, Anup Ghosh), Captain Sea Dog (Konsam Roben Singh), guys far flung across the mighty oceans (Sandip Mukherjee, Pradeep Bhardwaj) and the one waiting for 2022 to attend the centenary with a walking stick (Balaji Kartha). We also missed Kuki Syal, HS Pathania, Paritosh Deb and

untraceable VK Aggarwal, Ashok Kumar, PG Rongmei, AK Gupta, Pradeep Yadav, Harinder Singh and AK Bishnoi. MS Sodhi and NI Singh are no longer in our midst; may their souls rest in peace. That more or less sums up the batch.

Roll call after 40 years was held on 11th morning at Anil Sharma's home with some emotional paunch hugging, inspection of receding hairlines, followed by a chanabhatura lunch at Moti Mahal at 50 times 1970's price, and



At Mussoorie

off we headed to Mussoorie on an overnight hike, just that the footslogging was replaced by wheels this time. A walk along the Mall Road from Picture Palace to the Library brought time to a standstill and opened floodgates of memories of us kids in the snow. The surprise showers, 3 degree temperature and wind chill saw us scurrying to the good old Sylverton Hotel (remember?) to be comforted by the warmth of both the heater and scotch, whilst memories, anecdotes and reflections of life at RIMC flowed late into the night. Morning tea was enjoyed in the company of naughty monkeys who kept eyeing the fruit basket in the rooms and breathtaking views of the Doon valley between clouds that wafted across our eyes.

Back to School on the 12th, we immersed ourselves in all the activities, fun and frolic of the Rimcollian Reunion. All our misgivings of bed bugs, sagging mattresses and cold baths were put to rest and we had a most enjoyable stay in the dorm. The dorm and mess bearers served us admirably and it is guys like them and the bent old man Benny in his buffalo driven coal laden cart firing up our outdoor boilers on a freezing winter



At the Old Boys Dinner in Cadets Mess on 13 March 2014

**A WALK ALONG THE MALL
ROAD FROM PICTURE
PALACE TO THE LIBRARY
BROUGHT TIME TO A
STANDSTILL AND OPENED
FLOODGATES OF MEMORIES
OF US KIDS IN THE SNOW**

morning that made our life comfortable. Interacting with the cadets was the high point of our stay, and we learnt how much life of a cadet had changed for the better in the last forty years as the evergreen qualities and spirit of a Rimcollian lives on.

Let's hope it is au revoir and not goodbye, dear friends.

I23rd Course - Stronger by diversity

By Captain (IN) Peush Pawsey, I296/C

31 July 1983 is etched into our collective memories as the day when we entered through the hallowed Thimmaya Gate, unaware of what lay ahead but, nevertheless excited, enthusiastic, apprehensive, confident and basically a mixed bag of feelings.

30 years down the lane, the memory was as fresh as ever ...and the pangs of separation from our brothers in arms or “termers” even stronger...We resolved to renew our bonds and reconnect. It took us more than a year to plan our gathering and when we met it was as if we had never parted, for by now we had a global convergence with colleagues come from all corners of the globe!! Ours was a unique course indeed. With 40 of us joining the school...forming part of two classes due to double promotion of 16 of us to make up for a missing senior term...to staying for 4 and a half to six years (none for 5 years) in school for no fault of ours ...Last ones to join NDA after 11th ...first ones to study till class 12th at RIMC...Class VA for three terms...Indeed we were ‘unique’!

Our diversity in school and the post-graduation careers became our strength as our course branched into the traditional echelons of the armed forces and some of us took the non-traditional path into entrepreneurship, academia and corporate citizenship. The bonding remained strong as ever for nothing could bind us more than reminiscence from the sumptuous breakfast served under ‘Butler Bacchan Singh’ trading our ‘half for half’ or ‘half for full’, maybe our first



Amar, Manish, Peush, Diwan, Santosh, Sandeep, Anubhav, Chatterjee and Kumar Ranjay with their better halves

negotiation 101 lessons. However, the desire to connect was not just for rekindling the glory days but, to acknowledge publicly our success to the learnings and teachings from “Rajwada Camp” and this drove a deeper hunger in facilitating how we could ‘give back’ to the school as a collective body.

The opportunity to pick a milestone year - ‘25 years’ post-graduation’ was a good binding factor and was kicked off to rally the folks in India first which naturally appealed to the few in Europe and North America. What resulted was an explosion of emotion on social media (FB, Whatsapp), email and calls from all across the globe to do our homework and arithmetic and come together with an articulate goal on how

Our course presented a silver trophy to RIMC for an inter section event during the Annual Awards



123rd Course with ROBA President Vice Admiral PK Chatterjee



123rd Course at the Old Boys Dinner in Cadets Mess on 13 March 2014

best to make IMPACT as a course. The following was the agreed charter:-

- (a) Ensure 100% membership of ROBA.
- (b) Ensure 100% contribution to ROBA Trust.
- (c) Gift a legacy to school to be remembered by.
- (d) Set up a fund to assist school in their ventures.
- (e) Meet up on 13th March 2014 in Senior Ante Room.

The process of going about was as invigorating as the outcome. Non-members were spoken to, contributions invited, extra contribution as a course was finalized and finally an outcome that we all feel proud of. It was a matter of pride for our course in particular and the entire Rimcollians fraternity in general that we did succeed in achieving the aims set by the course. On the morning of 13th March 2014, at the annual Rimcollians AGM, we were proud to declare that all our old boys had 100% compliance for ROBA membership and Trust. Our course presented a silver trophy to RIMC for an inter section event during the Annual Awards. We proudly presented our course initiative and endeavour in the august gathering as IMPACT for others to emulate. We garnered a modest fund generated by generous and spontaneous contribution of our course mates which will be at disposal of ROBA to peruse their initiatives.

What we did is not extra ordinary



123rd Course arriving from across the globe for the get-together

by the quantum of efforts. We are sanguine of the fact the Rimcollians in their individual capacities have contributed immensely to the alma mater in terms of time, energy and resources. But what we did is unique for we did it as a course. We managed to get majority onboard towards the effort and collectively contributed consciously for the place which is still held at highest esteem in our lives....RIMC. It is most heartening to note that our small endeavour has motivated other courses to follow suit and we hope they shall put in all efforts to provide for the needs of the school.

It was great connecting with childhood friends, met some after decades, meeting each other's spouses, compared our waistlines, receiving hairlines, kids performances etc.

And soon reverted to reminiscing hundreds of amazing episodes of dorms..kitrooms...quadrangle..anteroom ms..AOs...seniors...juniors..waiters who were our surrogate guardians ...dorm bearers...unseen ghosts...drill saabs...PT ustaads...of winning and losing.. of rejoicing and crying...basically celebrating those wonderful years spent with the Rimcollian family.

With Best Compliments from



Prestige
GROUP

Add Prestige to your life

Prestige Estates Projects Ltd.,

‘The Falcon House’, No.1, Main Guard Cross Road,
Bangalore — 560 001.

www.prestigeconstructions.com

With Best Compliments from



H.L. Kapoor Financial Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

(REGISTERED WITH SEBI & AMFI & MEMBER OF DELHI STOCK EXCHANGE)

Telephone : 26920530 , 26322545 , 26843545

E - Mail : rajivkap@airtelmail.in

Website : www.hlkapoor.com



Your School, For You

By Col Hukum Singh Bainsla, SM (Ranjit 1980-84) Commandant

It is always heartening to report on the College affairs especially when you are confident that it will be keenly read. I write to share with you our happiness and anxieties in the fascinating process of a child's (Rimco) development. Also having spent a year as the Commandant, it's time to take stock of our achievements and slippages. Overall it has been a very satisfactory year. The College witnessed a whole range of activities of academic, sports and co-curricular nature. The boys have done exceedingly well in all spheres and left their mark both within and outside Dehradun.

The cadets continued their winning ways at topping the NDA All India Entrance merit list. Cadet Amit Kumar Rai was All India Topper in Dec 14 and Cadet Chitiz Panwar was All India Topper in May 2014. A total of four and two cadets figured in first ten. A total of six cadets figured in the All India first 25 in the results declared in May 14. May we continue the winning spree? One of our main focus areas this year was hobbies and build up soft skills in the cadets. Towards this end, a revamp of all hobbies was done. A wide variety of hobbies, ranging from Golf and Young Newton's to Horse Riding and

Photography were offered to choose from. Precision shooting, a unique and very costly sport is available to cadets and has been taken up enthusiastically by them. Many other hobbies, like journalism, encourage students to be creative. Recently we introduced "Debating" as a Hobby and Aero-modeling was re-introduced. The skill of the cadets in this very important activity was show-cased during the Founders day 2014. A work shop on development of Soft Skills was conducted in the month of February 2014. A workshop on creative writing was organized for the Cadets. It was a two-day event conducted by



prominent personalities. The idea was to initiate the boys into the world of creativity. In the month of Dec 2013 we were indeed privileged to send 35 cadets on a naval cruise (thanks to our senior Rimcollians in the Navy). The cadets sailed out from Vikshapatnam and visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Cadets are regularly sent on adventure courses and trips. Ten cadets qualified in the Adventure Training Course held at NIM, Uttarkashi from 04 Dec to 18 Dec 13. Eleven Cadets qualified in the Adventure Training Course held at HMI, Darjeeling from 20 Dec 2013 to 03 Jan 2014. Sports have always been an area of strength and it continues to be so. Three cadets participated in the 57th National School Games Rifle Shooting Championship at New Delhi in Dec 2013. In the 10th Gen JJ Shooting Championship at Mhow held in Jan 14, RIMC Cadets won the Gold Medal in 10 Mtr Air Rifle Mens Category and RIMC stood at 4th position in overall championship out of eight teams. In the IPSC equestrian Championship in Feb 2014, RIMC Cadets won one Bronze Medal and were placed fourth. In IPSC Shooting Competition held at Daly College, Indore in Apr 2014, RIMC Cadets won 02 Gold, 05 Silver and 07 Bronze Medals. In 9th Khandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament our team lost in the semi finals of the tournament. In Inter School Swimming Competition at St George's College, Mussoorie, RIMC Cadets won 01 Gold and 01 Bronze

IN DISTT JUNIOR ATHLETICS MEET-2014 AT MAHARANA PRATAP SPORTS COLLEGE, DEHRADUN ON 06 APR 2014, 18 CADETS PARTICIPATED AND WON 05 GOLD, 04 SILVER & 05 BRONZE MEDALS AND U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP

Medal. In Delhi Horse Show at Army Polo and Riding Club Delhi Cantt from 30 Mar to 06 Apr 2014, eight Cadets participated in the Horse Show and Cdt Harsh Rana won Gold Medal in DHS Children Jumping Gp-1, Cdt Dhruv Singh won Silver Medal in YR & Junior Jumping Puissance and Cdt Anmol won Bronze Medal in Children Jumping Top Score Gp-1. In Inter School Hockey Tournament at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie in Apr 2014, College team participated and lost in the finals of the Tournament. In Inter School Chess tournament at St George's College, Mussoorie in May 2014, RIMC Cadets secured 3rd posn in the competition. In District Basketball competition at Welham Boys School, Dehradun in May 2014, College U-14 team participated in the competition. In Dist Junior Athletics Meet-2014 at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun on 06

Apr 2014, 18 Cadets participated and won 05 Gold, 04 Silver & 05 Bronze medals and U-16 Championship. We have participated in other areas and are doing equally well.

International Wild Life Day and Bird watching day was organised by Wild Life organization at Asan Barrage, Dehradun on 02 Feb 2014. 18 Cadets witnessed the Bird watching day. Padmashree Pandit Viswamohan Bhatt enthralled the cadets by playing the Mohan Veena in Apr 2014 at the college auditorium. A completion which judges the creative talents of the children called the "Izhar -E-Hunar" was held at Hoptown School on

11 Apr 2014. 38 Cadets participated in the competition. RIMC stood in 2nd Posn.

Educational/motivational visits were organised on 31 Jan 2014 to important military/civil establishments located in Dehradun ie IMA, NHO, FRI, NIVH, IRDE, Wadia Institute, DEAL, Graphic Era, Wild Life Institute, Ramkrishan Mission, IIP and Survey General Office. It was a great learning experience besides a day out for the cadets.

I would also like to put on record our sincere thanks to the entire Rimcollian fraternity, especially those who joined us for the Founder's day 2014 celebrations. The event witnessed a large gathering this year. It is their presence with spouse and children that makes it interesting and enjoyable. I would also request all Rimcollians to come forward and support the College in whatever manner they can.

Au Revoir Long Live RIMC

A RENDEZVOUS WITH PRINCE OF WALES



Prince Charles interacting with Cadets at Indian Military Academy

On 07 November 2014, a batch of 50 fortunate cadets had an interesting and memorable interaction with Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales. Having not been successful in getting the Royal couple to the college premises due to his hectic schedule, the second best option of meeting him in the majestic Indian Military Academy fructified.

The cadets were overjoyed to meet him. They shared their joys and fun of being in a boarding school. He narrated a few instances of his school days to the boys and jokingly asked the Commandant... "Do you allow them to jump the campus wall?" The visiting dignitary was briefed about the College history and activities by the Commandant. He appreciated the good work and yeomen service being done for the Indian Armed Forces by the College.

The Royal couple were presented a specially designed memento. The memento carried the photograph and the maiden



The Royal couple were presented a specially designed memento

speech made by King Edward the Eighth during the founding day of the College. To which he commented - "I am glad you are still preserving the rich history and tradition".

It was indeed a historical and memorable event for the College, especially for the boys who had the good fortune of interacting with His Highness Prince Charles.

The Kanats are down

ReunionMusings/Sidharth Mishra/ 15 March 2014

Back from Dehradun and waiting in my office to give shape to the blabber of Modi, Kejri, Rahul and et al. Even as I wait, the happiness of being at the school for the reunion is coming rushing back to me. As usual we snored in symphony at night but Rajesh Kumar (aviator; 71-76) was replaced by Capt Arvind Kumar as the lead snorer. I was christened as 'night watchman' for my feeble snoring. ROBA's traceless secretary Yash Saxenawas most visible as he insisted on sleeping in the cricket pajama suits which the old boys' team wears during the customary match. Having not done much in the oval, what he planned doing by going to bed in cricket pajamas is best left to imagination.

The 13th lunch was grand complete with cold cuts, so was the old boys dinner. But the best was the dinner on the night of 12th. The commandant decided to bring down the kanats (the thick curtains) between the dormitories and quadrangle and asked the cadets to interact with the old boys. And what invigorating experience it was for each one of us to have our chance at moral lecture. But you bet it, the youngsters had their revenge, emptying every bowl forcing the catering staff to steam rice and stew chicken curry late into the night. Personally for me the twinkle in their eyes while talking to us was most satisfying. I had mentioned in this forum last year (dry reunion) how disgusting I found the prying eyes ogling at us from behind the high kanats.

Hukum, the commandant, I am told, made quite a preparation for this interaction. He told the cadets in the assembly that he was allowing interaction and the bar would be open and they were not to be seen near the bar. I am so happy they kept the faith their commandant reposed in them. This reunion we did not hear of any act could be a 'slur' on our reputation.

P.s. Also pasted is my last year's musing



DRY REUNION

Reunion Musings/Sidharth Mishra/ 06 March 2013

Despite free flow of liquor, thanks to several now joining the trade, the reunion at the school is becoming absolutely dry. The scope of interaction with the cadets is just not there with the poor 220/250 souls rushing from one event to another to 'entertain' the visiting old boys and made to live on packed breakfasts and other meals.

With sound boxes blaring away Honey Singh type tunes in middle ante-room, the chance of having a sombre conversation just not there. The last I recall having a jig on 'Gore, gore, banke chore...' was at the turn of the Millennium. Not seen any old boy in last several years entertaining cadets in the band's canopy, which was pretty usual in our time. In 1982, the school band led by Banerjee, Vats and others outplayed all orchestra the Diamond Jubilee night.

The teachers tuck themselves in a cosy corner having their gulp, the old

boys at their boisterous best seldom give a thought for the eyes prying from behind the glass-panes half-blinded by the shamiana-kanat. Probably the meaning 'reunion' remains only in word and has outlived its spirit (as in spiritual and not St OM type).

Why do then incorrigibles like us visit Dehradun year-after-year? Its win-win, great food, drink (which I hardly), accommodation, ambiance, free travel (those eligible/managing to avail) and the old-habit refusing to die, all coming at virtually no cost. The hospitality would satisfy any bridegroom's baratis.

Alas! I write this with realisation that it could instigate another haw-haw type discussion and expect not many who matter to take notice of it.

(I am grateful to ROBA president, treasurer and commandant for having taken a note of the aforementioned mail and introduced much necessary reforms. Sidharth Mishra)

Legendary House Master
MR LN Thakur with his
pupils at the re-union



Mr CS Vishwakarma
(Left) retired as
Vice Principal
on 30 June 2014
handing over
charge to
Mr DN Thapliyal



Storming the male bastion

On being a lady teacher in an ‘all-boys’ school

By Ruchi Pradhan Datta

(Editor’s Note: The school has a few lady teachers now and it’s time to hear their point of view)

As goes a popular adage, (and definitely my favourite one), “When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going” and being a ‘Lady Master’ at the famed RIMC, one is certainly tough, physically and mentally. For working amidst and with a bunch of hearty, energetic, exuberant and might I add ‘smart-alec’ young lads, requires oodles of toughness, if nothing else.

Matching steps with these ‘little toy soldiers’ bustling with boundless energy, even the most laidback and reticent amidst our ilk are forced to buckle up and match each wackiness of these ‘imps’ with one of our own. However, let not my opening lines mislead any-one reading this piece for it might seem that working here is an uphill task. Quite the contrary! For once you clear your mind of all gender biases and strike a rapport with these boys, adjusting within the male dominated environment comes easily. The male masters are more or less accommodating, (though they might whisper beneath their breath, once in a while) and even the uniformed



Administration is courteous enough as long as you do not expect unnecessary liberties as an excuse for your gender.

Nevertheless, the true rewards are the boys (the cadets as it were). Though against protocol, I always prefer to address them as boys, rather than cadets as it lends them a unique endearing quality. Though I’m sure many

Rimcollians would disagree! Also being the few women on the campus, the chivalry extended to us in times of need is also remarkable. A trait that I have witnessed several times on the various trips that I have taken to far off places like Assam, Nainital etc. as Debating OIC. I can never forget the charming and oh - so - touching sight of dear Vikram, Akshay, Rishav and Taral forming a cordon around me at the Delhi Metro Station on one such trip or Vikram not letting me lift even the lightest of bags during the journeys. These are memories that I will always cherish.

Also having organised four Hugh Catchpole Inter School Debates, thus far, the superb initiative and sense of responsibility that my Core Team has always exhibited made conducting these events all that much easier. Finally, to conclude though RIMC is not a place for the feeble hearted, once the initial hiccups are overcome and the preconceived cobwebs cleared, there couldn’t be a more rewarding place for a lady to work.

With Best Compliments from

Pramod Suppliers

Suppliers of: Pulses, Cereals, Flour & Masala to
Industrial Canteen & Hospitals Government
Contractors & General Suppliers

Tel.: 2506 5818 / 2346 2544. Resi.: 2513 4545

Telefax: 2506 5777 Mobile: 9820134955

E-mail: pramodsuppliers@mtnl.net.in

BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM



R.C.ENTERPRISES

Plot No.35, Prasanthi Nagar, Pedawaltair,
Visakhapatnam- 530017

Authorised Dealers for M/s. Best & Crompton Engg.Ltd.
For the Sales & Service of Pumps & Pump Spares

With Best Compliments from



Rupal
SYNDICATES

26/104, Sati Krupa Shopping Centre, Garodia Nagar,
Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai - 400 077
Tel: 2506 3333 Telefax: 2506 5777
E-mail: milaayu@mtnl.net.in



Enriching Lives

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

TRADE LINKS

*Only Authorised Dealer for Kirloskar Pneumatic Co. Ltd.
for Spares & Service for Andhra Pradesh*

Head office

28/29, D-Block
Madhuban Complex
Teofila Braga Road,
Post Caranzalem
Panaji, Goa – 403 002
Phone: 0832 – 2223887 / 2229773
Fax: 0832 - 2431958
E-mail : tsqoa@gmail.com

Regional office

5-4-76/3,4,5, 1st Floor
Opp. TVS Honda Showroom
M.G.Road, Ranigunj
Secunderabad – 500 003
Andhra Pradesh
Phone: 040 – 27535171 / 27533677
Fax : 040 - 27538898
E-mail : hydtl@hotmail.com

Branch office - Visakhapatnam

Phone : 0891 - 2739701
Fax : 0891 - 2739701
E-mail : tvizag@yahoo.com

March is on you here again

By **Ratna Manucha**



(Editor's Note: Ratna is married to Col RK Manucha, 1964-69/Pratap

Come January and the phone starts ringing hectically all over again each year. I hear Raj's loud, boisterous laughter, which incidentally is reserved only for RIMCO friends and I know that it has to be Appi Bedi, Gompu Gururung, or Sanjeev Tandon on the other end of the line. My surly husband actually begins to smile as the run up to the "great day", draws closer. Blazers are taken out, buttons polished, shirts matched! To top it all, last year, I actually heard Raj telling a few local friends that he would be totally preoccupied and unavailable from 12th to 14th March as his friends would be coming from all over India for his Scholl's reunion. Everything is put on hold for these three days and tasks are sorted out into slots of before the 12th of March or after the 14th of March!

By February the phone calls get more frequent, the duration longer.

I WANT TO SHOUT, BUT BITE MY TONGUE INSTEAD. ANY FIRST TIME LISTENER WOULD THINK THESE 'BOYS' ARE MEETING AFTER AN INORDINATE LONG TIME. THE OUT OF TOWNERS' BRIBE AND CAJOLE THEIR RESPECTIVE WIVES TO ACCOMPANY THEM TO DOON, "ITWILL BE GOOD FUN, THE WEATHER OF COURSE IS LOVELY, AND THE STANDARD ONE LINER YOU CAN STOCK UP ENOUGH KWALITY TOFFEES AND PISTA BISCUITS"!

Plans are discussed, RV point fixed. For the life of me, I cannot understand "why they do the same thing every year"? It's the same as last year! I want to shout, but bite my tongue instead. Any first time listener would think these 'boys' are meeting after an inordinate long time. The out of towners' bribe and cajole their respective wives to accompany them to Doon, "Itwill be good fun, the weather of course is lovely, and the standard one liner you can stock up enough Kwality toffees and Pista biscuits"! To us local wives just tag along lady with resignation writ large on the face.

The great day draws as we enter the hallowed portals of the RIMC, the back slapping and bonhomie begins in right earnest. As the 'boys' reminisce over old times, the wives stand around, casting furtive glances to see if they can spot a known face and slink off. By now most



Ladies enjoying a game of Tambola at Commandant's residence on 13th morning

of us are aware that we won't be missed- the husbands will only come when it's time to go home! Here you may wonder why the wife wants to 'slink off'. You see if she stays long enough she is sure to be introduced to either an old house master or an old house-mate who will then regale her with the same old stories of how naughty her husband was. (This entire she has heard a trillion times). Hence, it is imperative she makes good her escape while she can. On such occasions with a polite smile and a very attentive look in my eyes, I find myself completing these stories in my head!

During the old boys reunion there are a few must Do's for the uninitiated, here goes:-

- The old 'boys' (some of whom are grandfathers by now) must behave like excited little school boys all over again. For me, their appetite miraculously increases, the food is

great. It is imperative that they get up early two morning in a row to dutifully gorge on mounds of scotch eggs and bacon- cholesterol be damned! Also, it is given understood and accepted as a practice that packed breakfast for the wife who is still lazing around in bed is very much in order, so make sure your husband performs his duty without any excuses.

- The boxing match must be sat through, all the while cheering for one's section and talking about the days past when their section won.
- Old dossiers have to be poured over again year after year to find one's name and proudly point it out to one's wife (whether she fawns over it or looks away disinterestedly is directly proportionally to the number of years she has been married to the 'boy' in question). Someone please tell the poor souls

"dossiers are records found religiously at the same place in the same order every year". The young newly married girls seem to be in throes of rapture on spotting their knights shining armour name in the yellow pages. I will ask you again - twenty years down the line - how exciting was THAT -sister!

By then the flip side, 'Rimcollian warmth', love and feeling of belonging does percolate down to the wives and even though I am too proud to admit it, I too feel a glimmer of excitement on meeting the old Rimcollians each March, especially Appi, Gompu, Sanjeev and Jaggu Sinha, who are now like brothers I never had.

March in Doon is good fun. But I am going to say it loud? Oh no, not me! The grumbles and groans by a 'Rimco wife', come March, are part of the deal and go with the territory and who am I to break the mould?!

BEYOND UNIFORM

(Editor's Note: The Rimcollian fraternity is one where gallantry is a tradition and excellence an epitome. The average Rimcollian has umbilical links with the defence services yet due to medical reasons, and the hand of destiny some are not able to realize their childhood dreams. Our colleagues in civvies have left footprints worth emulating it's time to celebrate their achievements. We Rimcollian have a large number from the leading business schools of the country a directory is required in America, those who have joined the administrative services have done us proud, it is time we the majority defence community celebrate and cherish their achievements. I intend to bring forth their point of view as leadership is the essence of the school and the fact that it works across the board in business or other models should make us proud. I have two responses and look forward to others regarding their transitions)



ADITYA SWARUP

(Second generation Rimcollian and a Rhodes Scholar)

It gives me immense pleasure to be able to address you today. When I joined RIMC in 1999, I recollect having read a letter written by a fellow Rimcollian thanking the school and the community for where he stood at the time - a student at one of the world's premier universities. I did hope then that someday I too would be invited to write such a piece (uncertain of my future of course). It is now 11 years since I graduated from school, during which time I have obtained a law degree, on a Rhodes scholarship, two further masters' courses from Oxford. The gratitude I owe people is long overdue, so let me take this opportunity to express it firstly to my immediate family (my father and brother both Rimcollian and my mother who had to deal with the three of us);

secondly to the school, and last, but not the least, to the alma mater, for helping me having achieved where I stand today. Today, I stand confident of taking on what life has to throw at me, which confidence I attribute mainly to the first few blows I received during my halcyon days. To quote Randy Pausch from his "Last Lecture" - "an experience is often the most valuable thing you have to offer". My five year education at RIMC is abounding with experiences that have served me well in life, and it is these experiences that have given me an edge over my peers. In fact, while applying for the Rhodes scholarship, I do not at any point recollect having to work towards meeting the scholarship criteria for sports, co-circulars, public service or leadership - my candidacy just neatly

slid in. I had a fascinating story to tell about my five years at school, which the panel wanted to hear. Those who knew me at school would be rather confounded by this. Even I am to be honest. I was one of the few cadets who never cleared the third class PT test and at best, remained a bench warmer in cricket, football and hockey. I somehow managed to stay in the top-half of my class in academics and stuck to being middle dorm NCO in my final years. By all standards then, I was an ordinary cadet. Over time, I have introspected and wondered as to what were these few blows in my life that the then Prince of Wales spoke about in 1922? Some answers are revealed in this letter.

It is not just the experience that mattered though. For the few of us who

don't join the forces, life outside was and is extremely challenging. There is this common feeling that we need to prove ourselves and "do our bit" for the fraternity. With the kind of marks we used to get in our board exams (59.8% in my case), this seemed a rather daunting task. I took a year and a half off after school only to decide what I wanted to do with my life. I then entered law school hoping to become a lawyer without any family background in law. In this decision, I received the unwavering support of my parents and Rimcollians who have been around and guided me all throughout my life. The list, though not exhaustive, includes Mr. Zia-ul-Hussain, Mr. Barman, Capt. Bhowmick, Col. Mamgain and my course-mates. I recollect once receiving a call from Mr. Akash Mahopatra (A Rimcollian and a lawyer) asking me about my future plans and it is his advice that I have duly considered till today.

While I did enjoy this support, it was also the spirit (or "josh") that gave me the necessary set and temper to deal with any challenges faced. We all experienced this in varied forms while at RIMC; "team spirit" while playing sports or getting punished together, a "never give up" spirit including while running the last kilometer in cross-country even when the body had

I WOULD LIKE TO END THIS LETTER BY THANKING YOU ALL FOR WHERE I STAND TODAY, AND FOR WHEREVER I MAY BE IN THE FUTURE. I FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE ENJOYED MY MOST CHERISHED MOMENTS AND EXPERIENCES DURING MY FORMATIVE YEARS AT RIMC.

physically given up and a "fight against all odds" spirit. In respect of the last one, I still remember choosing to stand up to face a national boxer (Manjeet Kataria, who sadly is now not amongst us) and ultimately getting knocked out by him in the first round. In more ways than one, this idea echoes Al Pacino's speech in "Scent of a woman" when he addresses the gathering at the boarding school. The experiences at RIMC, support and inculcation of a "spirit" are what I believe helped me tremendously after RIMC, and continue

to do so. Looking back, perhaps the one thing I could've done better while at RIMC was to read a little more. For a guy who had only read Famous Fives and Hardy Boys and had not even been introduced to Shakespeare while in RIMC, law school and the outside world was an abyss. I then tried to inculcate a reading habit starting with the BBC Book List challenge of the top 100 books. While I still have read only 42 of them (amongst a lot many others), I believe reading gave me a new outlook to life. However, it would have been good to start a little earlier while at school.

It feels impossible to sum up as to how much of who I am I owe to the school, and I mean this in a good way. My collection of memories is too vast, and the spirit of the school so deeply and complexly ingrained for me to explain, and it is with this in mind that I intend to keep this short. I would like to end this letter by thanking you all for where I stand today, and for wherever I may be in the future. I feel fortunate to have enjoyed my most cherished moments and experiences during my formative years at RIMC. I carry with me long-standing friendships forged during those years, and a sense of pride, dignity, and belonging. I could not have asked for more.

CHIRANJIT BANERJEE

How I made my transition

All that I had to show for my academic track record when I quit NDA in my third term was the "RIMC Diploma" signed not by the Controller of Examinations or the Registrar of any nationally recognized educational board but by the right royal RIMC Commandant, who for us, was almost as omnipotent as God. At 17 when I chose not to continue a life in uniform, it had not occurred to me that this obscure piece of paper would not go any great distance in the ruthless world of academics where one was

competing with students who brandished regular certificates from ICSE, CBSE and state boards.

My father had serious misgivings about my chances in breaking into a structured educational environment (waving the RIMC Diploma) and suggested that I try FTII instead! But his disappointment at my walking away from an assured career (that RIMC virtually provided) was soon to make way for an extreme sense of urgency to have me admitted in a storied college lest I turned into a loose cannon in

Naxalite infested Kolkata. I distinctly remember my father escorting to me to the Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University, who would have granted him an appointment after umpteen attempts, to plead my case.

The VC had not heard of RIMC and neither seen the RIMC Diploma in his distinguished career and made some inappropriate remarks about my father's choice of RIMC which stemmed from his inadequate knowledge of the school. I had had enough of his patronizing attitude of

the VC and stepped up to the occasion (at the risk of being summarily shown the door) by vocalizing what RIMC was all about to the venerable VC in about two tumultuous minutes. Sermon delivered, I shut my eyes waiting for the moment of reckoning. I was actually found suitable for higher education at Calcutta University!

I am dwelling on this life changing event as I might have been denied formal higher education were it not for my father's resilience and my chutzpah - a trait that was instilled in me, without even my realizing it, in Rajwada Camp where the inter section debates and later, the inter school debates drew out my articulation skills in a manner that still amazes me. I would also attribute my ability to cogently stand my ground (at most times) to the animated informal debates straddling a spectrum that was wider than the rainbow, which was a feature of our dormitory life in RIMC. To get a foot into the door in the rabidly competitive world outside the armed forces, you have to make a mark in a minute or be passed over like a decomposing commodity. Fortunately, I was armed with this rare skill when I left the historic Thimaya Gate for the last time as a cadet in December, 1972.

By no means have I been a stellar success in whatever I set out to do as a civilian. Many have wondered why I chose not to be a professional journalist (people generally believe that I have a certain felicity with the English language) but the crumbs that this profession doled out in the late 70s right up to the early 90s could not sustain a chain smoker and a frequent tippler. Almost by default, I found myself in SBI in what was my first full time job. It was the first competitive examination that I wrote and the results appeared sooner than the others. In hindsight, the selection examination (which was a close second



to the IAS in its degree of difficulty in the 70s) was not too daunting as I was a well-honed product of Mr. R C Singhal's tutorial stable. "Skip the tough ones and attack the easier ones" (Mr Singhal's mantra), was ingrained in me and has helped me negotiate many tricky bends in life. I am speaking for many Rimcollians when I say this.

Some of you would be wondering why games have not featured in this memoir yet. Frankly, other than golf no other sport won you brownie points as a banker that I was to become in what constituted the first lap of my career. On the job, the key success factors included an innate sense of numbers and a natural or cultivated ability to weave dreams for both credulous and astute prospects. This was especially true in the hyper aggressive foreign banks that I worked for soon after. The early initiation into the art of "conjuring up stories" when accosted by a stern and vigilant senior in school was a clear differentiator that I had

over many of my peers. Prospective clients somehow listened to and more often than not, acted on what Geoff Boycott would call "roobbish" that I vended liberally.

The capital markets were no different. Dream merchants were in demand and I was one of the early movers into this space when the stock markets were liberalized in 1991 and the "dhoti" was no longer de rigueur on Dalal Street. SEBI had virtually freed up pricing which led to a rash of new issues, most of them sold on sheer hype. The other advantage that I enjoyed over less "spirited" contemporaries was the knacks to survive a long night of alcohol induced excesses with colleagues and clients and yet crack out a near perfect power point the next day. The extended punishment nights at RIMC followed by PT at dawn had adequately prepared me for such punishing schedules that I was to experience as an investment banker. This skill may sound a bit perverse to some but that's how life is for a high stakes client facing guy!

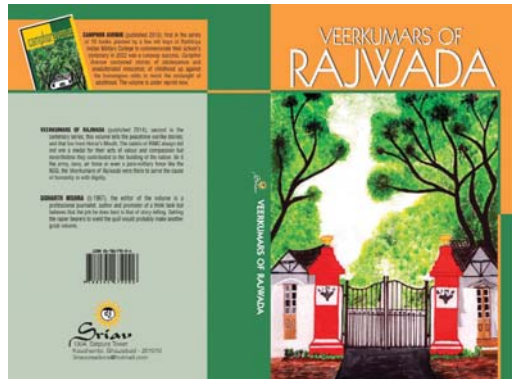
It's another thing that like some Cadet Captains whose senses took leave due to their elevation, I bet my last shirt on some potential multi baggers and lost everything on my back when I was barely 40. Thereafter, I have had to reinvent myself and build a practice that did not consume as much capital as it did intellect - head hunting. It has been an excruciating yet educative exercise to hone a whole new career in mid-life and I will credit my perseverance to the RIMC upbringing where "NO" was hardly ever taken for an answer.

Mine is certainly not the perfect fable that you might have imagined upfront. I have seen my fair share of ups and downs but have retained my sanity thanks to the Rimcollian streak of "never say die". A survivor is how my oldest friends allude to me.

VEERKUMARS OF RAJWADA

This book has been made possible from sheer encouragement I continue to draw from our brilliant contributors especially Unni Kartha, Jasbir Singh and Chander Thapa. The team has now been joined by Dr Sabina Pillai, who teaches English at Delhi University and more importantly is married to a Veerkumar - Ravi Pillai. I shall ever remain grateful to my wife Dipti for her enjoyment in drawing cover depicting the gateway to Rajwada - the Thimaya Gate. Here in goes a review of the tome.

Sidharth Mishra



Knights in shining armour

'Veerkumars of Rajwada' takes us deep into the mind and body of soldiers, who nonchalantly and without much fuss recall extra-ordinary situations which the nation faced, writes **Tania Ameer Khan**

A collection of extraordinary short stories from the alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) - 'Veerkumars of Rajwada' - is an spectacularly engaging book. Right in the beginning, the volume editor Sidharth Mishra, a well-known journalist, gives us a sneak preview of what lies ahead. Elucidating the aptness of the title Mishra informs that with the Indianisation of the hoary military school in 1960s as a Hindi equivalent the students, who were earlier known as cadets, were rechristened as veerkumars, similar to kumars who were disciples at legendary Guru Dronacharya's ashram. Also 'to old timers in Dehradun, the campus which hosts RIMC is Rajwada Camp,' writes Mishra.

There is also a belief that Dronacharya had an ashram in Doon valley somewhere near where Rajwada is located. The tales encapsulate outstanding bravado in line of duty by the pass-outs -- the veerkumars-- from RIMC. The cover of the book is

breath-taking capturing the hallowed portals through which the students reared at Royal (now Rashtriya) Indian Military College pass.

I must confess, being an Air Force brat I have always been very excited to pick such books as I compare them with the tales of gut and gumption, to the ones my father Group Captain (ret'd) Ali Ameer had narrated to me as a child. Each of these stories was heart-wrenching tales of courage and valour from all the three arms of the military - army, navy and air force as well as other security forces. Every time I started reading a new story in the book I recounted my dad - a fighter and transport pilot - smoothly walking out of his hanger in Kanpur, looking smashingly stunning after he had completed his sortie for the day.

One of the stories which I particularly liked is 'Salaam Mumbai' written by Major General Abhaya Kumar Gupta. In this he presents an thrilling real-life account of how the National Security Guard

(NSG) managed to intervene and take under control the situation during the Mumbai attack in 26/11. In 2008, Gupta was on the verge to retire as an Inspector General of Operations (IG OPS) of NSG, when the call of duty came. He recounts the role the NSG courageously essayed during these attacks. Interestingly despite the chaotic and terrorising situation which was prevalent, Gupta writes that when he met the Mumbai police officials, they didn't come out as being very supportive even in the hour of the crisis. Gupta describes the tragic situation and it was brought under control by the NSG working in tandem with other security forces. The helicopter drop at Nariman House and Operations at Taj and Oberoi Hotel offer a chilling account of the horrifying day that went down in India's history as of the worst terror strikes.

Next in line, Group Captain Anant Gopal Bewoor offers a very interesting read in - 'Hudia... All clear to land'. Recounting 1988, a coup had hit



Maldives, Bewoor recalls how the entire operation to transport paratroopers was planned and executed. How the Indian Air Force pilots managed to land on the runaway on the Hullhule island is very interestingly penned. ‘Sagar se Sagarmatha’ written by Commander Abhishek Kankan is a chilling tale of how the first Indian navy team managed to victoriously climb Mount Everest. Constantly evading the fear of death looming over as a wretched shadow, Kankan and his team manages to overpower their fear and achieve success.

In a beautifully written emotive tale - ‘When Yusuf crossed the line’, Brigadier Jasbir Singh narrates the story of a young Pakistani lad who had unknowingly crossed the border into the Indian territory. The entire idea of a waging war between India and Pakistan is questioned, at a time when a young innocent boy crosses over and how his fate shapes up finally. This story is a must-read for all as it questions the insanity of war through the symbolic metaphor of Yusuf. Following next is Commodore UN Chitnavis intriguing story - Diving Deep to escape fireworks about a submarine on a stealth mission.

After this the book goes on a roll, Brigadier CS Thapa in ‘The Lone, Unknown Tamil in Sri Lanka’ has woven intricately the tale of Indian army’s intervention during crisis struck Sri Lanka in 1986-87. Thapa writes emotively engaging the reader with facts and events, which are interestingly interspersed. Captivatingly penned this story leaves one stunned at the extent of risk a soldier takes



while performing his duties on the field. Again a must-read in this collection.

Another well-written piece is the next story in line - ‘Kartooos... let’s go save the PM’, written by Wing Commander UG Kartha who gives a thrilling account of the crash of then prime minister Morarji Desai’s plane in November 1977 and the rescue done by IAF pilots. Beautifully presented this story intermixes the challenges a pilot faces in a tricky terrain and adverse weather conditions. The collection is lastly sealed by the ‘Worshipping Kedarnath at 0.8 March’

The narrative technique adopted by each writer is in first person, which makes the reader experience and feel each of the adverse situations in varied terrains the writers have encountered in their career. I must laud the effort of these contributors, as each of their stories offer a unique tale of real-life tumultuous situations and how each of them managed to conquer it. Lucidly and beautifully interspersing the human angle in each of these stories makes each of them readable yet highly enjoyable. (Courtesy Millennium Post)

**THE NARRATIVE
TECHNIQUE ADOPTED BY
EACH WRITER IS IN FIRST
PERSON, WHICH MAKES
THE READER EXPERIENCE
AND FEEL EACH OF THE
ADVERSE SITUATIONS**



HOMECOMING 2014

(Editor's Note: It was a great reunion with more than 228 old boys gathering to wish our school a very Happy Founder's Day. Everything was good with such warmth from the hosts - the staff and cadets; and weather god smiling through. Let the pictures speak.)

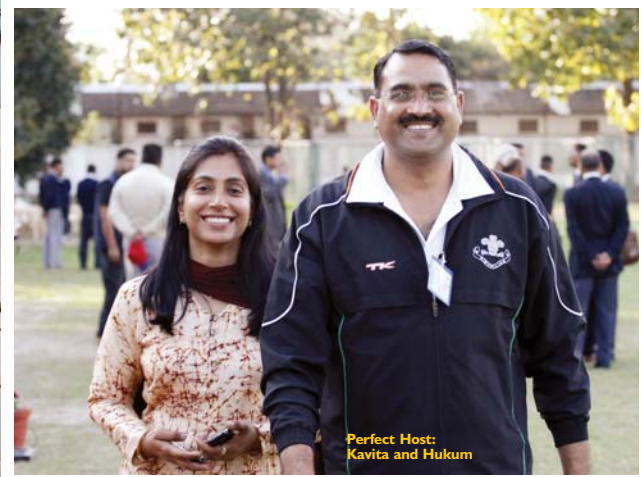




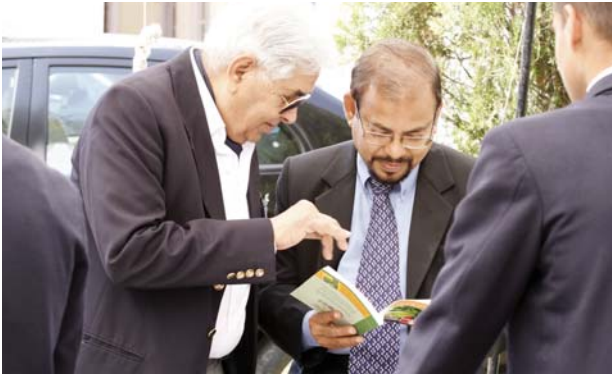






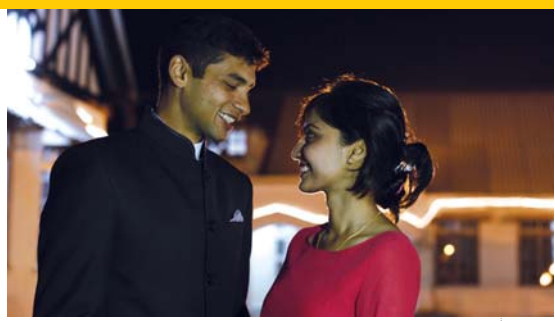


Perfect Host:
Kavita and Hukum











Roving Eye

(Editor's Note: The column roving eye is a bird view of events that took place all over the nation and abroad at England and United States. Due to space constraints very few are being presented Pune because it is our mirror, around 90 to 100 cadets are always at NDA and in their achievements reflects our pride, and off beat places have been highlighted to show case our diversity)

GET-TOGETHER AT PUNE

The Rimcollians get together in Pune was held in HQ Pune Sub Area Officers Mess on 16 March 2014. It was decided to hold the event on a Sunday morning, it being more convenient for the veterans as well as the serving officers attending various courses of instructions.

It was very heartening when Maj Gen Khurshed Balsara, got posted to HQ Southern Command in early March, just in time for Rimcollians. He gladly agreed to take on the responsibility and almost single handed organized the grand function. We are all grateful!

The Get Together as usual was a grand success with almost 60 officers and 90 persons attending, making it again the second largest gathering after the main ceremony in Dehra Dun. Rimcollians Get Together held irrespective of the locations and numbers are always special; with news coming in of the celebrations all over the country and abroad, the one held in the UK being unique since Lord Slim attends at times.

We were privileged that Mrs. Bewoor and Mrs. Rajwade graced the occasion, while we missed the presence of Mrs. Joglekar, Nair, Dabir and Purandhare. Gens Bewoors and Rajwade were both Cadet Captains if I recollect and excellent sportsmen. Playing for the Rimcollians Cricket team along with Gen Jat Verma, the Old Boys were a force to reckon with for our cadets team in the 1970's. Among the veterans and distinguished Rimcollians, we were fortunate to have

Capt Bajl Mohite and Col SA Mohite, who were in Kitcheners Sec in 1930-40's, and though in their late 80's, always make it a point to attend; Maj Gen Sherlekar and Cmde RS Hujia who were in 1940's, Rear Adm PD Sharma and Cdr Karandikar.

Then there were officers posted in Pune, those attending courses, our spirited Air Warriors and Lt Col WJK Singh, the MCO. It was nice to see Air Force and Naval officers also attending the TSOC in MILT, Girinagar apart from the Army ones.

We missed the presence of Lt Gens HM Khanna, Maj Gens Inder Luthra, AR Raikar and Rajan Aney, Group Captain. AG Bewoor, Col DH Parab, our illustrious Commandant at the Alma Mater and Col AK Bakshi, the Maharashtra Hockey Team goalkeeper during his NDA days; all in school in 1950's. Lt Gen Yash Malhotra, Cmde Vishram Naphade and Captain (IN) S Wangdi attended the Reunion in Dehra Dun this time but were unable to make it. Captain (IN) VA Paradkar, Air Mshl KG Bewoor, our Section Commander and Cadet Captain; Mr Rakesh Jaiswal, son of our old Chandragupta Section Master and self also went to school this time; however we managed to return just in time for the Pune function. Since both my Cadet Guardian, Captain (IN) Vijay Naphade and Cadet Ward, Gen Khurshed in Shivaji Section were present in Pune, I had to make it!

Satish had again managed to obtain 25 copies of "Veerkumars of Rajwada",

the next version of the Camphor Avenue published last year. They sold like hot cakes. I circulated a few RIMC Chronicles which I had brought from Dehra Dun.

Everyone was thrilled when Captain SaI Anvesh, the lone Div Offr posted at NDA informed us that 10 NDA cadets including the ACC, a BCC and BCA would be also attending this time, it being a fine Sunday morning. We decided to wait for them before beginning the main proceedings of the day. However, there was no trace of our young stalwarts till 1 pm. Since I had been fortunate to attend the grand event in RIMC this year and being an-ex Adm Offr, Gen Khurshed requested me begin the proceedings of the day. Important aspects of the Comdt's speech of 13 March depicting the achievements of our cadets and Old Boys in various fields were covered. Shivaji Sec winning the Boxing Cup after an exciting last bout finish and Pratap winning the Overall Championship was also mentioned amidst cheers and jeers from the audience. Points highlighted during the ROBA Meeting regarding all Rimcollians contributing for ROBA/ROBA Trust and the necessity of everyone joining the vibrant Yahoo group opened by our dear late Wg Cdr VG Kumar was also emphasized.

It was during the proceedings that five NDA cadets quietly managed to sneak in. This reminded me of an interesting incident in early 2000's when I was posted as a Battalion Commander in NDA and RIMC Class III cadets were visiting Pune during the midterm break. Gen

Padmanabhan, the Army Commander had invited them once for Tea. Everyone was eagerly waiting for the cadets who had got delayed due to the Pune traffic. When they finally arrived 20 odd minutes late, seeing the tense atmosphere around, Gen Paddy joking mentioned that only two categories of persons could make an Army Cdr wait, one was the Army Chief and the other were our dear RIMC cadets. Everyone burst out laughing, the situation was relaxed and the cadets enjoyed themselves. On the 16th when I narrated this incident to the audience, suddenly one young Rimcollian proudly exclaimed that he was among the young RIMC cadets then!

We had our group photograph followed by a sumptuous Lunch with the menu similar to what we used to relish in RIMC. The Scotch eggs and Fruit Tippy pudding were almost the same standard, thanks to the efforts of Gen & Mrs. Balsara.

Like all good things have to end, we departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time spent, hoping to meet more often in Pune rather than the customary 13th March every year.

**Col (Retd) Vijay Gidh
Thiruvanthapuram**



It was a small get together of Rimcollians settled in Trivandrum as under that got together on 13 Mar to celebrate our Founder's Day at Hotel Horizon, one if the prestigious hotel of Trivandrum :-

- Col Subash Nair (retd) & Sudha
- Wg Cdr Mohanchand (retd) & Mallika
- Lt Col Satish Kumar (retd) & Anandam
- Flg Offr Ravi (retd) & Parvathy

GET-TOGETHER AT GOA

Benjamin Charles informs us that he has been active the list consists of

- Cdr (Retd) Rajendra Bakshi (Ranjit/C' Gupta, 1963-67),
- Mr. Hage Khoda, IAS (C' Gupta, 1968-73)
- Mr. Hage Batt, IAS (C' Gupta, 1969-73)
- Cdr (Retd) Benjamin Charles (C' Gupta, 1970-74)
- Col (Retd) Maltesh Patil (Pratap, 1970-74)
(on holiday at Goa)
- Cmde AK Aukta (Shivaji, 1977-82)
- Capt GS Dhillon (Ranjit, 1977-82)
- Cdr P Nitin (C' Gupta, 1986-91)
- Cdr Ramakrishna (C' Gupta, 1986-91)
- Lt Cdr HK Singh (C' Gupta, 1998-02)
- Lt Anvesh Murthy (Ranjit, 1999-03)

GET-TOGETHER AT BHOPAL



Bhopal Get-together

MUMBAI GET-TOGETHER 29 SEPT 2013

There was a lovely get to gather on 29 Sept 2013 with 33 cadets in attendance. It was very well attended.

Besides these there were get-togethers all over the nation and in London and America where a large number of Rimcollians have found their lives call.

P R O M O T I O N S

APPOINTED

Vice Admiral PK Chatterjee, PVSM, AVSM, NM (67-72) C-in-C Andaman and Nicobar Island

Air Vice Marshal to Air Mshl

Air Mshl PP Reddy, VM (1968-73, Shi)

Maj Gen to Lt Gen

Lt Gen RakeshNandan, SM (1968-72, Shi)

Lt Gen A Chakravarty, VSM (1968-72, Pra)

Brig to Maj Gen

Maj Gen Balraj Singh (1972-76, Cha)

Maj Gen ST Upasani, SM, VSM (1972-77, Cha)

Col to Brig

Brig H Dharmarajan, SM (1978-82, Cha)

Capt (IN) to Cmde

Cmde Saurav Deb (1979-83, SHI)

Cdr to Capt (IN)

Capt (IN) PeushPawsey (1983-87, Cha)

APPROVED

Maj Gen BS Negi, YSM, SM, VSM** (1970-74, Cha)

Col to Brig

Col A Kaushik (1980-81, CHA)

Col CS Dewgun (1980-84, CHA)

Col HS Jaggi (1980-84, CHA)

Col ZA Minwalla (1981-85, CHA)

Col Roveen (1981-85, PRA)

Lt Col to Col

Lt Col Rahul Kumar Pathak (1989-90, Cha)

AWARDS TO RIMCOLLIANS

PVSM

Vice Admiral PK Chatterjee,
PVSM, AVSM, NM (1967-72, Pra)

AVSM

Lt Gen Sunil S Jog, AVSM, SM, VSM (1966-71, Ran)

Air Cmde SP Dharkar, AVSM, VM (1976-81, Shi)

SM (Gallantry)

Lt Col Rajneesh Giri (1990-93, Cha)

Bar to SM

Brig Sanjay Singh, SM, VSM (1976-81, Pra)

SM (Distinguished)

Col Kaushik Mukherjee, SM (1983-089, Cha)

Col Manu Tewari, SM (1985-91, Pra)

VSM

Cmde NAJ Joseph, VSM (1977-82, RAN)

Brig SanjeevKhatri, VSM (1977-81, SHI)

Captain (IN) AmolSabnis, VSM (1978-83, SHI)

GpCaptPalvinder Singh (1975-80, CHA)

C O U R S E S

NDC

Brig PNA Narayanan (1975-79, CHA)

Brig Sanjay Singh, SM*, VSM (1876-81, PRA)

Air Cmde KS Reddy (1975-79, SHI)

Cmde NAJ Joseph (1977-82, RAN)

IN MEMORIAM

Jojo Sengupta

I learned about the recent death of one of our great countrymen. His name is Captain (Retd) Jayanta Kumar Sengupta, and Jojo to many others. Perhaps, shorter than others, he used to be called Chhotu or Shorty by his friends. He was schooled at RIMC where he was already a legend as a boy. Good both at the field and in the classroom he was so outstanding that he was the top of the 22nd course at both the NDA where he got the Gold Medal and then at IMA where he received the Sword of Honour and the Gold Medal of the 31st course. Every serviceman is aware of the meaning of such consistency in accomplishments of a young man and what the future usually portends for him.

He was commissioned into the 16 CAV in 1962, where he received the Silver Centurion Award as a young officer. The Indo-Pak War broke out in Sep 1965 and young 2/Lt Sengupta joined his Regiment in a fierce battle with the Pakistani Army in the Sialkot sector. Hardy and brave, the young tank troop leader had taken a well concealed position in the sugarcane fields, standing out of the cupola to observe the enemy clearly with binoculars and accompanied by a gunner officer he was bringing down devastating artillery fire on the enemy. Suddenly an armour piercing shot from the enemy's tank hit the front of the turret of his tank. The splinters penetrated his eyes, fractured his upper arm and ripped up his face. He was completely blind in both eyes.

Consequent to his discharge from the Army as a result of his Battle injury, Captain Sengupta set up and successfully managed his own business an LPG dealership of Indian Oil in Siliguri, W.B. as well as a distributorship of Tata Oil Mills. He has won the best distributor award from Indian Oil on several

occasions. His business now provides employment to more than 40 people in Siliguri. Having overcome the challenges imposed by his disability, Captain Sengupta wanted to reach out to other persons with disabilities. Aspiring to change the quality of life of underprivileged persons with disabilities in North Bengal, he founded the

of more than 145 children with various types of disabilities. In the same year, a Community Based Rehabilitation project was also initiated for persons with disabilities across 700 villages in North Bengal. With Captain Sengupta's initiative, NBCD has been appointed as the State Nodal Agency Partner of National Trust during the year 2008 and entrusted with the responsibility of promoting the policies and programs of National Trust across the region. As a result of Capt. Sengupta's efforts, National Trust granted NBCD the "Project Capable" a pilot project to enable disabled people to form Self Help Groups to earn a livelihood through micro credit and enterprise as well as to collectively advocate for their rights. Through Captain Sengupta's vision, commitment, passion and leadership, NBCD which began as a small organization, has been able to achieve the above milestones. NBCD now reaches out to more than 3000 persons with disabilities in North Bengal.

From the members of the Vidya Valley School he founded the following was revealed.

"Jojo succumbed to cancer after a ten month battle with cancer. It was a hard battle and ugly to see. Till the end his mind remained sharp and alert. We are certain that he is watching over us. We will have to strive for perfection because Jojo will not accept anything else. "Jojo's perfect record, his humility, his wit and humour attracted people like a magnet. Friends of fifty years ago remain friends even today. So many others who have met him are unable to explain what attracts everyone to Jojo. Most probably it was his genuineness.

I could go on and on writing of Jojo. "The writer continued".

—Abhijit Bhattacharjee (P/ 1982-86)

JOJO SUCCUMBED TO
CANCER AFTER A TEN
MONTH BATTLE WITH
THE DISEASE. IT WAS A
HARD BATTLE AND
UGLY TO SEE. TILL THE
END HIS MIND
REMAINED SHARP AND
ALERT. WE ARE
CERTAIN THAT HE IS
WATCHING OVER US.
WE WILL HAVE TO
STRIVE FOR
PERFECTION BECAUSE
JOJO WILL NOT ACCEPT
ANYTHING ELSE

North Bengal Council for the Disabled in the year of 1990 along with few like-minded people.

Under his leadership, in 1998, NBCD established the Prerana Educational Centre, across disability rehabilitation cum training institute now catering to the educational needs

(Notice the scale of devastation
and the inaccessibility)

Ethos of Forces: Uttarakhand Disaster a test case

By Brigadier CS Thapa (Retd)

Our hearts go out to all those who lost their lives while providing relief but the rotors did not stop till the last man was got out, showing the spirit of an old writing at Kohima war cemetery maintained by Commonwealth Graves Commission-- when you go home tell them of us for your tomorrow we gave our today. *Several Rimcollians expectedly joined the Herculean rescue operation in Uttarakhand last year. This article is dedicated to the Rimcollian spirit of Bal-Vivek , that is strength with wisdom*

The state of Uttarakhand faced unprecedented devastation from cloudbursts which occurred on 15th/ 16th June' 2013 and heavy rainfall thereafter. In June the average monthly rainfall in this region is around 328mm but till 27 June 13 it was nearly 3.9 times more. The scale of destruction had left the state in desolation. The official figure is 5000 dead with bodies still being discovered till date. The state had to resort to mass cremations. 154 bridges have been destroyed, 1520 Km of road destroyed and nearly upwards of 2232 houses destroyed. In such a scale with upwards of 1, 04,095 people stranded the Army India's last hope had to be called in. The Army reacted quickly deployed troops; exact figures are

not available due reasons of security but it is estimated that initially 5000 or more troops were deployed. Thereafter, based on requirement the strength went up to around 8000 to 8500 troops. With more resources being asked in the form of support for engineering tasks, such as, construction of bridges and repair to roads the strength will only go up. The Air Force and Army Aviation nearly 40 helicopters, civil aviation nearly a dozen or less helicopters, ITBP sizeable manpower one battalion initially built up to two battalions or two thousand men and this may go up to around three thousand men or three battalions'. The NDMA around 300(Three Hundred Only), initially and now one can gather a figure of around a

thousand troops, that too on the plus side. One of the things that this tragedy showed how top heavy this special organisation which was created for disaster is, even if that figure of thousand is disputed it clearly shows a trend that the force specifically created for disaster relied on the Army for assistance, there deployment should have been upwards of ten thousand.

The Indian state deploys the forces when ever the chips are down. The forces too deliver, but whereas, the forces understand the concept of the civilian supremacy the Indian state has paid scant attention to the ethos of the forces. The ethos of the forces of service before self, leadership from the front, mission

accomplishment at all costs, of transparency they have been under acute national media scrutiny with all the top guns of the media beaming live and in fifteen days not a blemish on the forces, speaks volumes of their ethos. The force too shy away from presenting their case as they feel mission accomplishment is their single greatest aim. This has led to a wide gap and the soldiers' ethos of a three hundred old organisation is brushed under the carpet of babudom. In 2012 a large number of us retired veterans took part in a seminar organized by Uttarakhand Sub Area Head Quarters on the role of the Army in the floods of 2011. It seems no lessons were learnt by the civil administration. The civil administration slept over the findings of the seminar and today relies, solely on the Army and the Para military Forces for disaster management as that is the ground reality so visible today.

Most of us are acquainted with the functioning of the forces treat the Area and Sub Area as rest and recuperation centers after a strenuous tenure, but in this case the Area Headquarters first showed the nature of true leadership from the front and sent a clear message of business by mobilizing from Bareilly on 17th June and reaching here at Doon on 18th June. While doing that it also passed cryptic orders to various commanding officers to shake out thus one commanding officer after an aerial recon on 17th when the civil administration was still not fully aware of the scale of devastation was told to establish communication and be fully functional at Kedarnath by 18th June and talk to me from there. The first person to reach there was commanding officers of a unit, while the counter parts in the civil administration were being evacuated out. Once that was done the message was clear headquarter or the functional part from Dehra Doon Sub Area shifted to the mountains above. At a critical time four flag officers were available at dangerous places in the mountains of Garhwal where civil administration ceases to exist thus no time was wasted and the job done with the decision maker available at the spot. The best example of leadership from the front was provided by the Army



Commander in person walking with the stranded persons on 26 June how many leaders walk their talk.

One of the things of the forces is part recording of events but full consolidation of lessons learnt. The forces will merely treat this as a part of duty and the collective history of this great achievement will be written piece meal in various regimental war dairies as that is our ethos whereas, this finding its place due to the sheer audacity of the nature of relief will go unrecorded such is our ethos. Till 27 June the relief effort was 1820 sorties, 15311 evacuated by air and nearly 1,05,000 evacuated by air and land. Its time Dehra Doon Sub Area records this collectively for posterity and not lessons learnt alone. The forces need to present their case before the nation than only will it inspire young men to join the forces. The forces too maintain a stoic silence, as that is their ethos, service before self.

The forces have a commitment to the task at hand, the fierce single minded obsession to accomplish the mission even at the peril of one's life. The details that the Army goes into are painstakingly worth the eye for detail. Every contingency is planned for troops briefed events rehearsed and special troops earmarked. In this case people were stranded at inaccessible places and special troops were sent. As an organisation the Army mitigated the risks

such that the person was being rescued were not put at risk. Self containment is another requirement for the forces. Each time there is a flood or a disaster when all else are coming out the soldier is going in. Who looks after his sustenance, he does himself and the fact that he is organized such, thus when the others pull out the soldier steps in, his organization permits him. The ability of a soldier or rather the freedom that the organization gives by being self contained enhances efficiency, as he is now free to devote all his energies to the task at hand. Most soldiers have also been warned that they need to be patient with the people they are assisting as these people are at the end of their tether.

Locating people stranded at various places needed to be done early. In addition to locating them by helicopters it also sent a lot of youngsters on foot patrols to locate pilgrims. It built up bases up ahead to ensure that the choppers spend more time on doing the job at hand and less on commuting up and down. It is running hospitals and with the border roads is ensuring that the road axis clears up earliest. The forces are deployed in large number and the command and control as also coordination remains a vexed problem with the civilian administration trying to keep a hold on every thing yet unable to deliver. Is all hunky dory not really so, the Army too is responsible for

(Locating and Rescuing
People stranded all over
was a Herculean task)



poor infrastructure in the border areas, we as an organization should have yelled blue murder long ago.

The ability to do multitasking with out affecting the main missions shows the solid foundation that the Army is organized on. Today a web site assists in finding missing people, its doctors provide medical aid, its units double up as bases sheltering pilgrims, its light helicopters assist in dropping supplies and the Army seamlessly goes about the main task of rescuing stranded pilgrims in a viable time frame. This sends a clear strategic message to those having nefarious designs because of the poor infrastructure in our border areas that the collective will of its citizens will prevail and the situation stabilized.

The value system also provides inputs for the development of ethos. The Army has inputs from two diverse value systems the Western and the Indian value system. Western value system is based on biblical faith, wherein mercy, obedience, compassion and focus are on actions, their consequences, and religiously the concept of heaven and hell. The officer class followed this value system and under mined the Indian Value System based on our ingrained beliefs of Dharma and A dharma. The Indian value system is based on selfless duty, humility, and self-control, live and let live attitude on the whole collectively good for the

larger community. Values are the soul of the armed forces which has to manage violence. The national value system is based on tradition and Arjuna hesitation to fight is based on his value system. Arjuna's choice is between two subsets of his particular Dharma, his 'Kula Dharma' and his 'Varna Dharma'. His 'Kula Dharma', dictates that one does not injure one's family. His 'Varna Dharma' however, requires him to kill whoever may be his foe in battle. Which Dharma is the more pressing? Whatever decision he makes, he must violate one or the other duty. His challenge is to determine which the most compelling Dharma for his situation.

Universally all cultures feed their young on stories of the culture's foundational myths, but this is perhaps more true of Hindu culture than many others. Hindu children are raised on the bounty of nutriment gained from their epics, and it is from these that they first learn how to orient themselves morally to their world. This is the reason for the continuing currency and relevance of the Hindu epics, which have survived and thrived through the millennia, even where their cognates in other cultures have succumbed to historical erosion and retain only minimal cultural value. These epics form the core vocabulary of every artistic arena in Hinduism, and indeed,

of the larger cultural landscape of South and Southeast Asia. Moral instruction is gleaned through constant exposure to them in various idioms. Ultimately, one aspires not simply to emulation of epic characters, but to an active re-creation or grafting of the epic, thus the Army Value system will have to have a strong epic influence. Thus what does the military ethos as applicable for India emerge?

The nation expects its soldiers to have the following in built in his ethos:-

- Respect for all religions.
- Secular credentials.
- Discipline (obedience and loyalty)
- Integrity (honesty and justice)
- Service before Self.

The nation needs to under stand the ethos of the soldier to get the best out of him and deep trust in his democratic credentials and the secular mind set of the soldier need to be understood by all. Mostof us as soldiers have managed troops is all hunky dory, not really so, prolonged deployment brings its own sets of problems and it justneeds one bad incident the press will only be doing its job by reporting it. The nation needs to understand between the working ethos of the forces and an odd event; the forces have seen a lot of negative attention due to bad events which are different than ethos.

EXPANSION PLAN

Hon'ble RM has accorded 'In Principal Approval' for incr in designed capacity of RIMC from 250 to 350. Detailed draft road map has been sent to MT-6 on 17 May 2014.

S No	Nomenclature	Year	Remarks
1.	Increase of str	2017 to 2021	The transition from 250 to 350 will be spread over five years. The expn would be sustained at a rate of ten additional cdt's per term ie 20 additional cdt's only year from 2017 to 2021. Will get delayed if delay in creation of infrastructure.
2.	Addition of Defence Land	2014-15	Approx 20 acres land to be added to college campus for siting of residential quarters.
3.	Infrastructure	2014 to 2016	Creation of Infrastructure is reqd to be completed by 2016.
4.	Drawing PE & PET	2014	New PE to be approved holistically during 2014-15.

STATE OF MASTERS AT RIMC

1. RIMC is auth five Section Masters (CGO Gp 'A') and 15 Masters (CGO Gp 'A') for teaching the entire curriculum of academic subjects. The number of teachers in each subject is based on the workload of each subject as specified by the CBSE. RIMC is facing acute shortage (40%) of Masters as is evident from the figures that there are only 12 permanent Masters at present against the authorized strength of 20. This critical situation of academic staff, which is the backbone of an educational institution, needs correction. The present state of masters is as under:-

S. No	Post	Auth	Held	Defi	Engaged on contract basis
(a)	Section Masters	05	02	03	01
(b)	Masters	15	10	05	05
	Total	20	13	07	06#

2. One vac of section master occurred on 01 Jun 2014 due to retirement of Shri CS Vishwakarma. To fill up this vac, DPC papers are being sent to GS/MT.

3. Requisitions for filling up five posts of master through direct recruitment have been fwd to GS/MT-7.

Out of seven vacant posts, sanction for engagement of civilian academic officers (01 Section Masters & 05 Masters) for the period of six months (Upto 30 Jun 14) has been accorded and likely to be extended further.



EMPOWERING THE INDIAN NAVY



Mazagon Dock Limited

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Dockyard Road, Mazagon, Mumbai 400 010, India.
Website: www.mazagondock.gov.in

Deliver Quality Ships on Time



With Best Compliments

from

