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The Rimcollian



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





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Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Old
Boys Association of Rashtriya
Indian Military College,
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Cover Photo: A cadet participating in equestrian show during annual reunion at RIMC on 13 March 2016



Chander's Notes

The Rimcollian magazine has grown from strength to strength and it gives us, "the entire team", great pleasure to present another edition. Just keep the funds and the articles pouring, for which I need to thank our treasurer Maj MS Bedi and a lot of other Rimcos, who have walked that extra mile to perk-up the exchequer. There has been a lot of feedback on the magazine and its contents, which shows your interest dear reader and we value your suggestion. For any group to stay connected communication is the very essence, the magazine thus becomes a vehicle in addition to other electronic means to connect "the fraternity".

I specially wish to thank the ladies of the group for their whole hearted support for contributing articles and enriching the contents of this magazine. It brings a much required freshness into the outlook of an all-boys club.

A large number of old boys have written interesting books and we have opened a window for them to showcase their tomes. Do keep us posted and we would keep informing the fraternity. I also wish to state that a lot of Rimcollian achievers deeds need to be published. Please do send the same with your photograph, and years spent at school.

One of the great traditions that are being set is the reunions spree of various batches. This year the class of 56, the course that passed out in 66 and another batch "class of 75" all celebrated their respective reunions. We present you their memories and hope that there are many more such takers. Just keep coming to the home away from home.

Life is full of fun and there are many humorous moments in school so do please send the same as correctly stated "laughter is the best medicine". I still have not heard any new stories of inspiring Rimcos who did not don the uniform, for a series I started called "Beyond Uniform". Do send them.

Before I conclude I must say that I need to share the space on this page with my better half Vibha and dear friend Sidharth. The school junior gives a fantastic layout to the magazine and the lady ensures that we meet often to work on The Rimcollian.

Happy reading

Dehra Dun

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VIVA RIMC

CS THAPA
Brig (Retd)
Pratap 1964-68



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



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I am truly honoured and privileged on being elected as president of the Rimcollian Old Boys Association (ROBA) I would like to convey my gratitude to one and all on the faith reposed in me. I request all the ROBA Working Committee members, Board of Trustees of ROBA Trust, Sub Committee members and Regional Secretaries to continue to assist me in the day to day affairs of ROBA and the alma mater for its smooth functioning.

ROBA has grown, flourished and delivered results only due to the active participation and generous contribution of each one of you. I thank you for this effort and for keeping alive the tradition of excellence that has become our hallmark over the last nine decades

You are aware that we would be celebrating our Centenary in less than six years from now. This would require active participation from the Rimcollian fraternity in all aspects to make the event unique. Be part of the Centenary Celebrations Committee (CCC) to draw an action plan for planning conduct, generation of funds, making of souvenirs and publication of memoirs. Towards this endeavor, I request new and young members to volunteer in order to give a concerted impetus towards the functioning of ROBA.

I also request everyone to contribute towards our bi-annual magazine by sending in articles for making it more interesting reading. After its revival, few years back with the able assistance and guidance of the Editor and ROBA Treasurer we could bring out the magazine regularly with the funding from over 300 Rimcollians with a minimum contributions of Rs 2000/- and more as Life Time Subscription and ads from Corporates. We would do it without advts if all (Rimcollians) send in their Life Time Subscription.

I wish all Rimcollians and their families the very best.

GOD BLESS ALL RIMCOLLIANS ICH DIEN

New Delhi

Date 05 Aug 16

(BS Dhanoa)

Air Marshal
President

Rimcollian Old Boys Association

FROM THE COMMANDANT'S DESK

(Col Vivek Sharma, 1985-91, Pratap)



It is with a great sense of pride and honour that I assume the coveted assignment as 23rd Head and Commandant of our prestigious institution. It has indeed been a dream come true journey.

Most RIMCOLLIANS, while showering their blessings, conveyed "Look after our Alma Mater". All others, who didn't say, surely meant the same and as an Old Boy, I'm on the same side to exactly live upto it. It is an onerous responsibility which has been bestowed upon me and I am conscious of the expectations. I'm privileged to have been chosen to dawn the responsibility. My predecessors have set extremely high standards and left no stone unturned in order to shape the vision and objectives set for the institution. All it leaves me is to take it forward towards greater heights. My sincere gratitude to Colonel(Now Brigadier) Hukum Singh Bainsla, Sena Medal, for steering the institution to glory and leaving with me the affairs in an excellent state. I wish to assure the fraternity that the strategy to play the role may vary as per the current environmental realities, our terminal objectives and the goals will remain the same.

Cadets are heart and soul of this sprawling campus and therefore, remain the prime focus for everyone from Commandant to the last employee. Everyone's soul rests in the nurturing of these young buds to transform them into tomorrow's leader. Our approach remains dedicated to these chosen few, best from the country, to be groomed as individuals who are Physically Robust, Mentally Strong with High Moral and Ethical Fibre. It is here that the entire TEAM of RIMC has a mission assigned to work through tirelessly towards the overall goal. Therefore, a huge responsibility rests with each one of the team ranging from Grounds men, Mess Staff, Physical Training Instructors, Administrative employees and most important, our Academic Faculty Members. All are important functionaries in their own way and as a team we all will to strive for excellence. The Light & Dark Blue flag will continue to shine brighter with glory.

In this CRADLE OF EXCELLENCE, our TEAM shall always strive for excellence in every sphere. Our orientation will remain towards channelizing exorbitant energies and talent of our cadets in pursuing Academic Brilliance, Sporting Wonders and All rounded Personality Development. In so doing, be the natural prime contributors to National Defence Academy and Naval Academy. At the end of five unforgettable precious years at this sacred temple of leadership, as has been the practice for time immemorial, we promise to deliver RIMCOLLIANS dedicated to the nation.

For everyone in our team, especially our Cadets, the mantra is to continue HARDWORK @ FUN with a beaming smile always.

FAREWELL TO COLONEL HS BAINSLA, SM

(Colonel Hukum Singh Bainsla [Ranjit1980-85], handed over the baton of the school to Colonel Vivek Sharma in April 2016 after a very eventful and satisfying tenure. Level headed and with a very mature outlook, Col Bainsla handled challenges at hand with utmost patience and dignity but never losing out on the quotient of firmness. As he moves on promotion we wish him very best of soldiering. *Editor*)



MUSINGS ON FOUNDER'S DAY 2016

By Sidharth Mishra

(This article is excerpted from the article titled *In Defence of Uniform* published in *Millennium Post* penned by the author after visit to his alma mater. Editor)



People in the profession of journalism have various jobs to perform. They are expected to know everything happening around the world and even an attempt to explain that a reporter reports on his or her particular beat could be interpreted as means to cover up personal incompetence. Such professional hazards are greater when the reporter gets exposed to a community whose interaction with media is negligible.

In the older times, when the reader and listeners had limited access to the media, it was easier to hold ground and also one could manage to speak at length on subjects which may not be part of our beat. These, however, are difficult times with tremendous exposure to social media in particular. Everyone believes oneself to be a “know-all” and such people counter every stand which the media generally may have taken, not particularly the media person in question.

I went to a very prestigious military school - Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun - and happen to be its only alumnus who made journalism his full-time profession. It has now been more than 25 years that I have been standing trial for the media taking adversarial position vis-à-vis the people in uniform.

I have never grudged being put on trial year after year when I make the annual pilgrimage to my alma mater for the founder's day and have tried to mitigate the misgiving about the media in my own small way.

I have enjoyed doing this for it is also for me a learning experience, to understand the perception people in that uniform hold about the media. This perception varies from person to person, and the criticism of media ranges from justifiable to utterly despicable. Last year when I wrote a Notebook about how the agitation for One Rank One Pension was



going off tangent, some said it was a sponsored article. Now, there could be nothing more despicable for a journalist to be accused that he wrote a piece for which he was paid.

How does one tell them that rarely do people in the government, irrespective of the political party in power, ever bother to thank a journalist for a favourable article? However, in case of an adverse article, the complaints and phone calls come in plenty.

Never mind, such criticisms should seldom ever bother a journalist. However, there are times when a sensitive pen-pusher finds the criticism justified.

No wonder this March I was pelted with questions about how the media could go to town with the claim that the Army went around raping women in Jammu and Kashmir. I tried explaining to them that it was not the media which made the allegation. It reported the charge levelled

WHAT ADDED TO THE POIGNANCY THIS YEAR WAS THE PRESENCE OF TWO YOUNG WIDOWS, WHOSE HUSBANDS FELL WHILE ON DUTY. THE YOUNGER ONE HELD HER LITTLE SON, BORN POSTHUMOUSLY, LOVINGLY IN HER ARMS. THE SECOND LADY, ALSO AN OFFICER IN THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, SALUTED SMARTLY AS THE LAST BUGLE WAS SOUNDED. THERE WAS ANOTHER YOUNG MAN IN THE CROWD WHO CAME TO PAY HOMAGE TO HIS STEP-FATHER WHO HAD WON SHAURYA CHAKRA WHILE LAYING DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE COUNTRY. HE WAS BORN OF ANOTHER OFFICER WHOM HIS MOTHER HAD MARRIED AFTER THE VALIANT OFFICER'S DEATH



by Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) president Kanhaiya Kumar during the International Women's Day celebration.

"But who has made an icon out of this no-good character, who has spent nine years on the campus doing nothing. JNU has some very cheap education available, delivered by some very "cheap" thinking teachers paid from the taxpayer's hard-earned money," said a greying former General, a view which echoed through the gathering.

"He, for that matter, all those who have an issue with the Indian Army's presence in Jammu and Kashmir should do a week's attachment, if not more, with an infantry battalion on the Line of Control, or a Rashtriya Rifles unit in the hinterland to understand who is the aggressor and who is maintaining restraint," he added. I don't think that there would be any takers for this offer among the ilk of Kanhaiya



THESE ARE RARE STORIES OF VALOUR AND SACRIFICE, WORTH ITS VALUE IN GOLD, WHICH ONE WOULD NEVER GET TO HEAR ON A CAMPUS LIKE THE JNU. BUT THE MORE VISIBLE JNU CROWD SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE THERE BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG MEN PASSING OUT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY EVERY SIX MONTHS, ON WHOM, TOO, JNU BEQUEATHS ITS DEGREE





Kumars, or for that matter even Nivedita Menons.

I, too, criticise the armed forces for several of their acts. But my close interactions with them have repeatedly reiterated the confidence that we are safe as long as the people in that uniform held their ground. Holding the ground doesn't mean only repulsing the enemy on the border but to rise to the call of duty whenever and wherever the nation

demands it. More importantly, they do it with a certain amount of pride in their profession and not just for the pay and perks.

If the likes of Kanhaiya Kumars and Nivedita Menons want evidence to this they should visit the campus of the RIMC on March 13 any year. At sharp 9 am in the morning the school's alumni and their families, who visit the school on the said date for the Founder's Day, join the school

students at the beautiful Martyr's Memorial in paying homage to those who made the supreme sacrifice to uphold the nation's flag. Your reporter has been going to Dehradun religiously every year for past two decades to be part of this ceremony.

What added to the poignancy this year was the presence of two young widows, whose husbands fell while on duty. The younger one held her little son, born posthumously, lovingly in her arms. The second lady, also an officer in the Indian Air Force, saluted smartly as the last bugle was sounded. There was another young man in the crowd who came to pay homage to his step-father who had won Shaurya Chakra while laying down his life for the country. He was born of another officer whom his mother had married after the valiant officer's death.

These are rare stories of valour and sacrifice, worth its value in gold, which one would never get to hear on a campus like the JNU. But the more visible JNU crowd should remember that they are there because of the large number of young men passing out of the National Defence Academy every six months, on whom, too, JNU bequeaths its degree.

(The author is President, Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice and Consulting Editor, *Millennium Post*)

TEEING OFF WITH GOLF ON REUNIONS



H.R.H. Edward,
The Prince of Wales
playing golf
January 01, 1910

Early Morning Golf on 12th March is getting popular. This year too there were around eight four balls and a lot of course mates walked to enjoy the company of their fellow course mates. What spirit I often wondered! Little did I realize that we inherited the golfing spirit from our Founder the Prince of Wales till it was pointed out to me by Rimcollian-author Sidharth Mishra! Therefore gentlemen the spirit of Edward is there among us when we tee-off on the day to commemorate founding of the school. *Editor*



From left to right, the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and the Duke of Windsor (1894 - 1972), Scottish professional golfer Fred Herd (1874 - 1954), and the Prince's brother the Duke of York, later King George VI (1895 - 1952)...



Prince Edward & Prince Regent Japan 1922. Later in the year Edward visited India to inaugurate PWRIMC at Dehradun



The golfers on the morning of 12 March 2016 at FRIMA course



A good well deserved breakfast. Of course scotch eggs were served piping hot

AND THE PWRI MC WAS INAUGURATED

By Col Shailender Arya

The 13th March every year is a special occasion for the school. It was this day, that on 13th March 1922; the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College was inaugurated by the Prince of Wales, and the future King Edward VIII. What were those times like? Were they hey days of the British Empire with golf, polo, shikar and charming parties in leafy cantonment or the restive days of simmering discontent among the Indian masses post the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919? In all probability, life and events at both end of the spectrum went on, quite disconnected from each other and the other world events. Here is a narration to recreate the related and unrelated events in India and across the world in early 1922, and how the tour of the Prince of Wales progressed to Dehradun, and all the historical trivia one can associate with these events.

In 1922, the Earl of Reading was the Viceroy and King George V was the Emperor of India. While the royal tour was proceeding well in 1922, trouble was brewing in India and South Africa. Both countries were linked by colonialism and the non-violent efforts of Mahatma Gandhi, who had left an indelible mark on South African politics. In India, the Non-Cooperation movement was launched on 1st August 1920 after the failure of the British to respond to a letter by Mahatma Gandhi to the Viceroy in June 1920 that spoke about the right recognised “from time immemorial of the subject to refuse to assist a ruler who misrules”. The movement was by and large a success. Many government officials resigned or returned their titles and the schools and colleges were disrupted. The elections were held but only a third of the



WERE THEY HEY DAYS OF THE
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electorate went to the polls. However, in February 1922, a section of the Congress and the Khilafat activists attacked a police station in Chauri Chaura in response to police firing, leading to the death of 22 policemen. Mahatma Gandhi immediately withdrew the Non-Cooperation movement. There was disbelief in a section of the Congress leadership about Gandhi's decision, but his view prevailed.

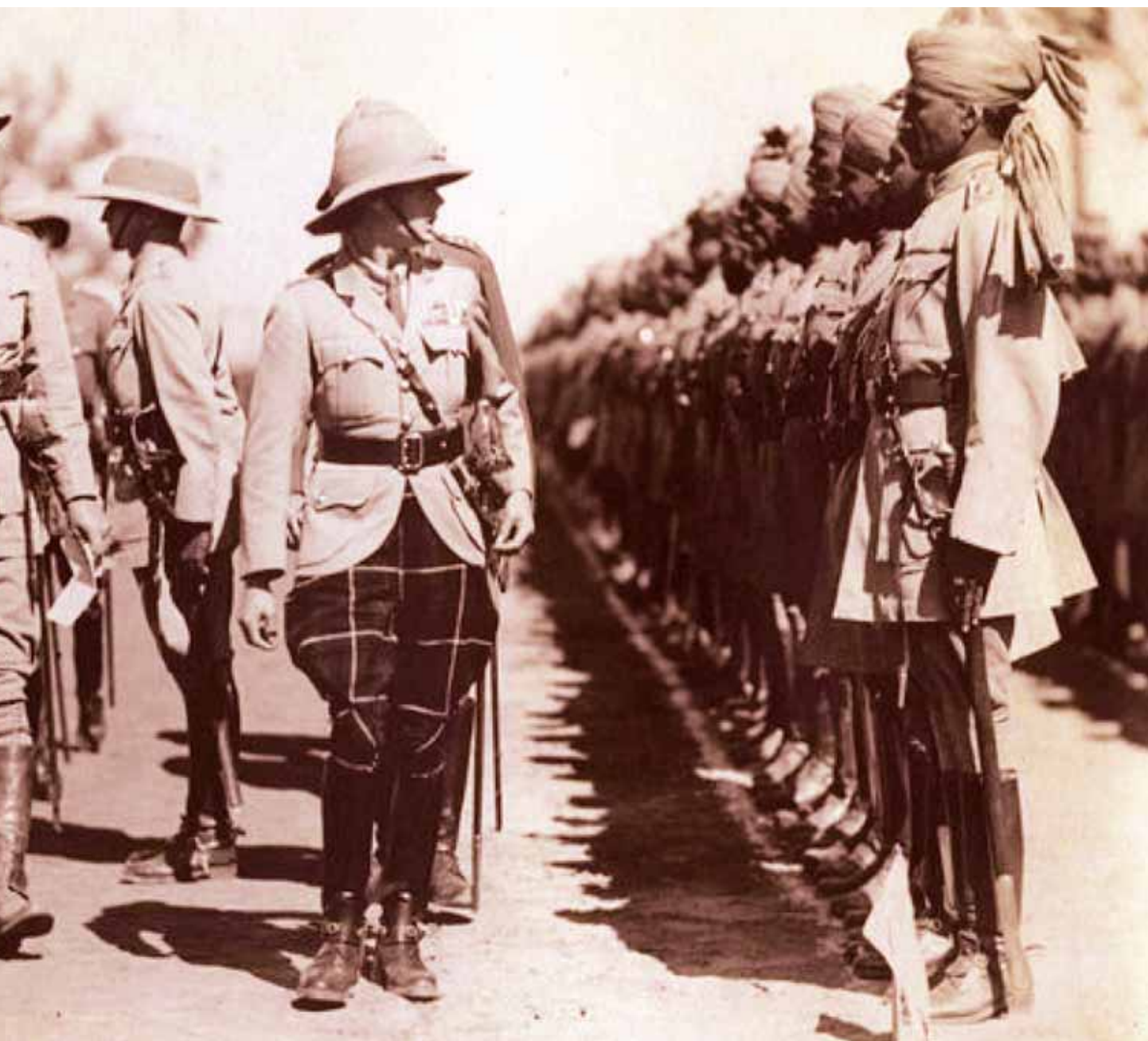
On 6th March 1922, the white miners called for a general strike in South Africa after their employers proposed to open semi-skilled jobs to non-European workers. The same day, the engagement of the wealthy heiress Edwina Ashley to Lord Louis Mountbatten was announced, though the Mountbattens were not really timing their much anticipated engagement to coincide with any strike. Louis Mountbatten was to rise very high in rank and stature later in life, but at that time he had only been promoted to lieutenant in the Royal Navy as late as on 15th April 1920. On the other hand, Edwina was a leading member of London society in the 1920s. Her maternal grandfather died in 1921, leaving her £2 million, and his palatial London town house, Brook House, at a time when her future husband's naval salary was only £610 per annum. In March 1921, Louis Mountbatten was transferred to the battle cruiser HMS Repulse and accompanied the Prince of Wales on a Royal tour of India and Japan. Prince Edward and Mountbatten formed a close friendship during the trip, and he accompanied him to Dehradun as well.

On 10th March 1922, the martial law was declared in Johannesburg in response to incidents of sabotage,



Edward prince of wales



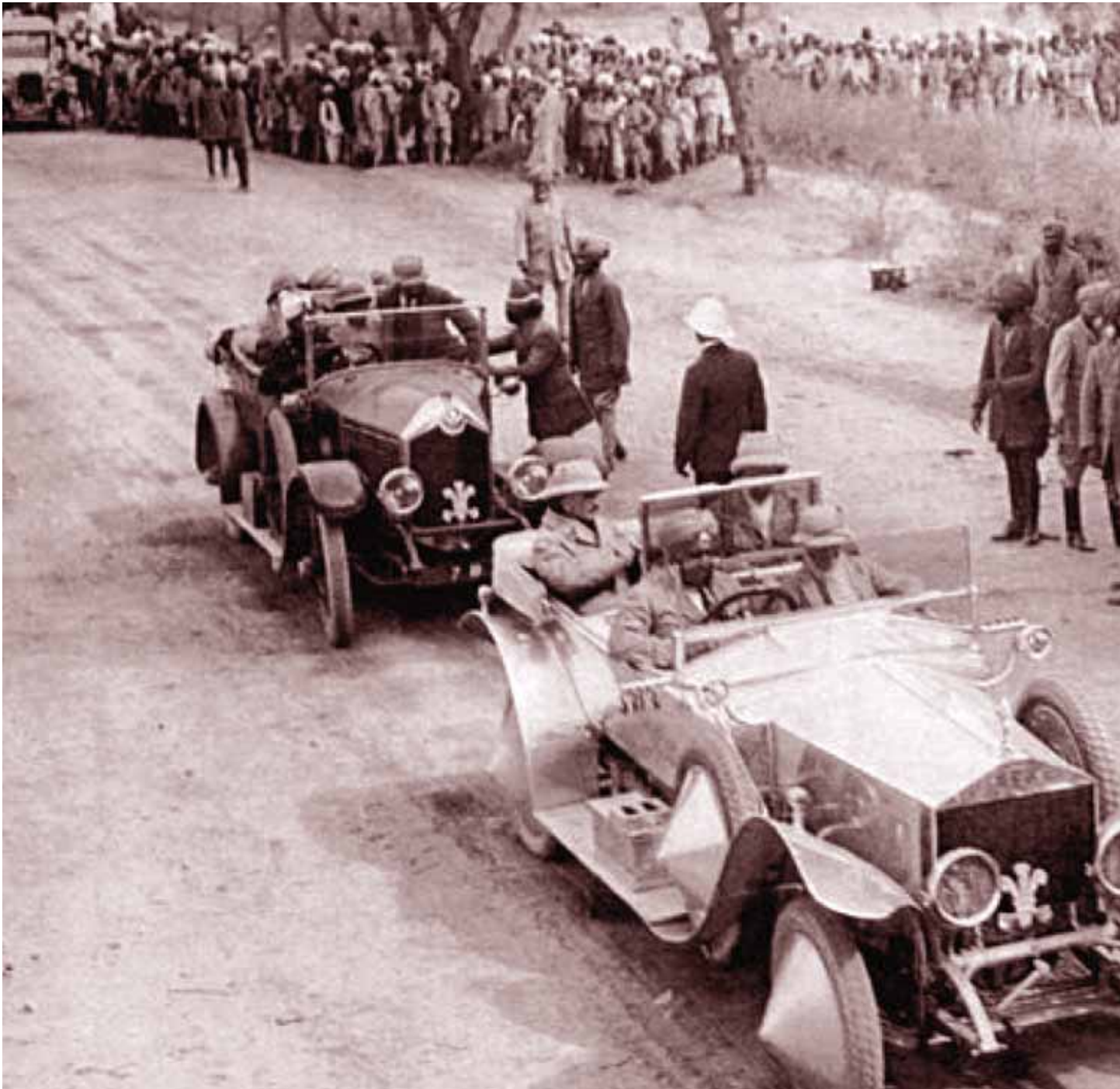


fighting and looting during the miner's strike. On the same day, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested in Bombay on sedition charges. On 11th March 1922, 100 persons were killed in riots in South Africa which erupted as a consequence to the strike. Though events of South Africa were covered in the Indian press, India remained peaceful in spite of the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi. On 12th March 1922, Mahatma Gandhi offered to plead guilty to the charges against him and declined to present any legal

defence. He was tried before Mr Broomfield, ICS, District & Sessions Judge of Ahmedabad, for sedition in respect of two articles, which he had written in his paper Young India.

In this famous trial on 12th March 1922, Mahatma Gandhi said, "I knew that I was playing with fire. I ran the risk; and if I am set free, I would still do the same. I wanted to avoid violence. Non-violence is the first article of my faith. It is the last article of my faith. But I had to make my choice. I had either to submit to

a system which I considered has done an irreparable harm to my country, or incur the risk of the mad fury of my people bursting forth when they understood the truth from my lips. Therefore, the only course open to you, Mr Judge, is, as I am just going to say in my statement, either to resign your post or inflict on me the severest penalty." Judge Broomfield awarded him a sentence of simple imprisonment for six years. However, he eventually served only two years of that term, released in 1924 as he had to



undergo an appendicitis operation. The 12th March 1922 ended with a bullet being fired into the automobile of South African Prime Minister Jan Smuts. He escaped uninjured.

13th March 1922 was a fine crispy Monday in Dehradun, with chill of the receding winters being compensated by adequate sunshine, the brief Indian spring most evident in and around the

Himalayas. Cheerful news was on its way from South Africa where government forces had gained the upper hand against the rebels with a total of 2,200 of them 'captured'. The 'royal college' was inaugurated and the Prince of Wales made a fine speech which has been well recorded for posterity, besides inspiring generations of Rimcollians. On the same day, in the far away Warsaw, delegates

from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland opened a five-day conference to create a defensive league and arbitrate disputes. These were the heady and initial years of the League of Nations which was founded only two years earlier in 1920. On 13th March 1922 itself, the third trial of Fatty Arbuckle began in San Francisco. Roscoe Conkling 'Fatty' Arbuckle was a famous American silent film actor,



IN MARCH 1921, LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE BATTLE CRUISER HMS REPULSE AND ACCOMPANIED THE PRINCE OF WALES ON A ROYAL TOUR OF INDIA AND JAPAN. PRINCE EDWARD AND MOUNTBATTEN FORMED A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP DURING THE TRIP, AND HE ACCOMPANIED HIM TO DEHRADUN AS WELL

British Empire. On 15th March 1922, the British government officially recognised the independence of Egypt under the rule of King Fuad. In the aftermath of the Egyptian Revolution of 1919, the United Kingdom had ended its protectorate over Egypt, and then finally recognised it as a sovereign state. On 15th March 1922, Fuad I issued a decree changing his title from Sultan of Egypt to King of Egypt. Sarwat Pasha became the prime minister of Egypt. However, British influence continued to dominate Egypt's political and economic life. Britain also retained control of the Canal Zone, Sudan and Egypt's external protection.

Meanwhile, a small coup was underway in a corner of Europe. On 3rd March 1922, the fascists staged a coup in Fiume and overthrew the Free State government. On 17th March 1922 Italian troops occupied the free city of Fiume in response to the coup, incorporating the territory under Italian sovereignty. The city of Fiume is now in Croatia and since the end of World War II is known as Rijeka. A corridor to its west connects it to Italy. On this day, the Prince of Wales also sailed from Karachi towards Japan, accompanied by Louis Mountbatten. While Britain, Egypt and India were in the imperial haze, the Japanese waiting for the Prince's arrival at Yokohama and the

comedian, director, and screenwriter of those days. He was accused for the rape and manslaughter of actress Virginia Rappe. After the first two trials, which resulted in hung juries, the third trial which began on 13th March 1922 proved lucky for him. Arbuckle was acquitted and received a formal written statement of apology from the jury.

The Prince of Wales left Dehradun in

the afternoon by train for Gajraula, located between Meerut and Moradabad. On 14th March 1922 while the Prince of Wales was witnessing the Kadir Cup in Gajraula, the South African rebels surrendered in Fordsburg to the government troops after 75 minutes of bombardment. The rebellion finally ended on 16th March 1922. Winds of change were also blowing in other outposts of the

Europeans conducting important meetings or petty coups; across the Atlantic the America was modernising and unleashing the free and enterprising spirit typical of the Americans. Licensed radio stations were opening up across the country, belting out music, interesting commentaries and the local news. On 15th March 1922, KGG in Portland and WSB in Atlanta, the first licensed radio stations in the US states of Oregon and Georgia respectively went on air. The radio soon spread to India and the broadcasting began in July 1923 with programmes by the Radio Club of Bombay and other radio clubs.

The Prince of Wales was on a grand tour of the world from 1919 to 1922. In 1921, the Eastern Tour of this grand world tour had commenced. The HMS Renown departed Portsmouth at sunset on 26th October 1921, with the Prince of Wales on the saluting deck. The ship called at Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Suez and Aden before arriving at Bombay on 17th November 1921. His arrival in Bombay sparked protests. A hartal was called by the nationalists, and resulted in bloodshed and destruction of property by an infuriated mob. From Bombay, he went to Baroda, reaching there on 23th November 1921. The November of 1921 was largely spent with the princely states of Rajputana. He visited Udaipur, Ajmer and Jodhpur; went for shikar, played polo on his polo pony named 'Destiny' and posed for photographs with the moustached princes, stiff British Residents and the hunted (and therefore consequently dead) animals.

In December 1921, he travelled to Bikaner, Bharatpur, Lucknow, Benares and Patna, finally reaching Calcutta on the Christmas Eve. From Calcutta he went to Rangoon and Mandalay in January 1922, and then set sail for Madras where he reached on 13th January 1922. For the short voyage from Calcutta to Burma, and thence back to Madras, he used the Royal Indian Marine troopship Dufferin. He travelled northwards across India and by 5th March 1922 he was at Jamrud in the North West Frontier Province. On 6th March, the tour reached Peshawar, and on 11th March 1922, the Prince was in

Rawalpindi. At Rawalpindi he stayed at the Circuit House as the guest of Lord Rawlinson, the Commander-in-Chief, after whom one of the three sections of PWRIMC was to be named after two days, probably already decided at Rawalpindi. He left Rawalpindi, briefly halted at Kapurthala on 12th March 1922 as the guest of the Maharaja, arriving in time for lunch, and leaving after the State banquet for Dehradun.

The 13th March 1922 was spent in inaugurating the PWRIMC and presenting colours to the Sanawar Royal Military School. In the evening he arrived at Kadir Cup camp, near Gajraula, as the guest of Sir Harcourt Butler, the then Governor of the United Provinces, to see the Kadir cup, the 'blue ribbon' of pig sticking of those days. He witnessed the semi-finals and final of the Kadir cup on the morning of the 15th March 1922, and in the afternoon he competed in the Hog Hunter's (Light Weight) Cup, in which he finished first on a horse named 'Bombay Duck', otherwise the property of Captain West. The royal train left Gajraula on 15th March, and after a dreary journey across the Sind desert, arrived at Karachi on the morning of the 17th March 1922. The Prince's last public function in India was the unveiling of the Baluch War Memorial. In the afternoon he said farewell to his Indian staff, and at 5 o'clock he drove from Government House through cheering crowds to the harbour. An hour later the HMS Renown was under way for the Far East.

This was the first visit of Prince Edward to the Doon Valley. Previously, during the 1905-06 visit of India by the Prince and Princess of Wales, later King George V and Queen Mary, only the then Princess had visited Dehradun and Mussoorie. Incidentally, during this visit in March 1906, she stayed at the cottage home of Major Watson, Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE), the Commandant of the Imperial Cadet Corps, the forerunner to the PWRIMC, in the same campus which is now the RIMC. On his return from Japan to England on 20th June 1922, the Prince of Wales narrowly escaped being

kidnapped. According to military pension's archives declassified in 2014, a plan was hatched by the IRA to kidnap Edward, Prince of Wales at the Cowes Regatta in July 1922 to swap Prince Edward for IRA volunteers held under sentence of death.

Meanwhile, Lord Mountbatten was to return to PWRIMC in 1948, this time as the Governor General of India wherein a delivered a very inspiring address reposing faith in the college and advised the cadets to "never mix politics with soldiering". It was quite a change for him, as during the previous 1922 visit to PWRIMC, Lieutenant the Lord Louis Mountbatten, MVO, Royal Navy was the junior most European officer on the staff of the Prince of Wales, the senior most being the Vice-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey and Sir Godfrey Thomas. The royal tour to India was a major social and diplomatic event; resulting in military parades, presentation of medals, release of special stamps and unveiling of memorials. The three ostrich feathers of the Prince of Wales, which were to become the insignia of PWRIMC, were repeated on a commemorative postmark used exclusively during this tour. The postmark features the legend 'H.R.H. The Prince of Wales' Camp P.O.' at the top, with the Prince of Wales feathers in the top centre, and seven bars on each side. The date and time are at the bottom centre, with a thick bar below. The postmark will be instantly recognised by all Rimcollians and is reproduced here.

The year 1922 was the birth year of PWRIMC. It also marked the beginning of cracks in the British Empire with Egypt gaining independence and the Indian freedom struggle picking up momentum. Incidentally 1922 is also the birth year of many Indian film and creative personalities. Hrishikesh Mukherjee, the famous film director of yesteryears, Dilip Kumar, veteran actor and politician and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, the renowned Hindustani classical singer - all were born in 1922. After valour and wisdom, which the Rimcollians have proved that they have aplenty, maybe it's time to increase our association with creativity, as all things born in 1922.

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DIAMOND JUBILEE OF JOINING RIMC - CLASS OF 1956



The picture with the ladies. L2 R:

Standing: Mr Singh (Old Boy was in School when I was there as the Com. Left some time after I left. Can't recollect his initials.

His father Col SP Singh. Both Pratap). Mr R Mahajan R. Maj Gen AR Raikar S. Col Deepak Das P. Col SP Singh P. Col Bhpendra Singh P. Mou Das clinging to me like a little baby, daughter of Col Das. Cdr AP Bhattacharrya R. Cdr Bind Mohindra R. Lt Gen Y Malhotra P missing (?)



CLASS WITH GEN VN SHARMA



Remembering old times



In the Ante Room

Photo courtesy: Maj Gen SD Chinu Mahanti

Golden Jubilee of Passing Out from RIMC

'BORN TO BATTLE'

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLASS OF 1962-66

Cadet UG Kartha, 341/R/62-66

There is perhaps nothing unusual about the batch of Rimcolians who graduated and were kicked out of Thimayya gate in 1966. They were the same type of Homo-Sapiens and Neanderthals, like those before and after, who marched gleefully in and out of Thimayya gate in their time.

However, the 1966 group perhaps has a distinction. We were hybrid embryo, para as well as subnormal, inducted into RIMC at the height of Nehru's 'Forward Policy' and run-up to the Chinese war in 1962. We were then fed delectable Vit A to Z by Bhatia Sahib, kept frequently upside down 'shoe-racking' in Shivaji by Gestapo veterans JSC & DHP so that testosterone and adrenalin mixes well with Vitamins in the head, not in our gonads, brainwashed using a military manual of PVC winners written by Mr Bhist (Sec Master Ranjit) to be posthumous rather than be famous, taught trench warfare all over the Somme & Flanders of RIMC during 65 war, caned by SP to give us an experience if made POWs, and thereafter sent running to NDA to be in time to fight the 71 war, just as we crossed our teens.

Don't you think this bunch of jokers were born and hybrid for a purpose, perhaps ordained 'Born To Battle (B2B)' in the highest traditions of 'IchDien', to do or die ??'

DK Das and RP Singh did that and are back in RIMC for eternity somewhere inside the war memorial pillar. Eight others who are not KIA are there somewhere near the pillar, perhaps in the moat, unknown and unsung. Anil



THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS
BEING MAJ GEN
NAGENDER, WHO WENT
AND ENROLLED IN
KUMAON RGT IN
DESPERATION AS A
'JAWAN', TO FULFILL HIS
DESTINY TO FIGHT 71
WAR, AS PART OF B2B.
REST OF US ?

Bhalla and late MP Malik, each sacrificed a leg in Paki mine field repeating 'IchDien' over and over again, continuing to battle cheerfully.

There were a few who couldn't join NDA for one reason or the other. But incredible as it may sound, they too wormed their way into the army through the back door. The most illustrious being Maj Gen Nagender, who went and enrolled in Kumaon Rgt in desperation as a 'Jawan', to fulfill his destiny to fight 71 war, as part of B2B. Rest of us ? Well, we were the rascals. We decided that it was better to teach the enemy to do 'IchDien', to do and die for his country, in a life time of battles fought on land, in the air and at sea.

The few who didn't join the services, had the same DNA signature, and soldiered on. Cute little Ashwani joined Police and wound up a very tall and illustrious very cute Governor. Rajan who hated to study, was a vegetarian, got shoe racked less often because he permanently slept on the rack, subsequently went and ate the scotch eggs & Vit A to Z prepared by Prince Of Wales himself standing upside down in the dungeons of Buckingham palace, finally becoming a famed Doctor with same heady mix of testosterone, adrenalin and Vit A to Z. I think he injected 'Sodium Pentothal' to all inmates of Kakul school in Abbottabad who reported sick, to make them confess that they were terrorists like David Coleman. I can go on, if you want me to blow our trumpet some more.

So before the ides of Mar this year, in



BEING A BLOODY
INFANTRY FOUR BALLS
TYPE (GOLF), HE
PURPOSELY HIJACKED MY
JOLLY, HAPPY, GTG OP
ORDER AND DECIDED TO
CONVERT IT TO A
TACTICAL SAND MODEL
EXERCISE WITHOUT
TROOPS (TEWT)

the blink of an eye, 50 yrs went by. 32 of us had grown 66 year old young boys. It was time to celebrate our 50th graduation anniversary, of getting kicked out of Thimayya gate, with wives, widows and adult children of our departed comrades, all heads 51. Mamu with his venerable experience of commanding RIMC for 6 yrs, now with his permanent Rtd HQ adjacent to RIMC, was appointed Joint Service Theatre Commander to arrange 'admbando-bast'. Being a bloody Infantry four balls type (golf), he purposely hijacked my jolly, happy, GTG Op Order and decided to convert it to a tactical sand model exercise without troops (TEWT). His objective was to capture Haji Pir Pass, all over again.

So from 10th to 12th Mar16, the private GTG locale was perfectly sited by Mamu at "Sapwoods & Spa", where we



had to daily do Khukri charges, up and down incredibly steep and slippery mountain slopes, crawl across Double Ditch Cum Bund, shouting 'Aayo Gorkhali' to capture the OP Hill Bar ('bar bar', to get it right), assault Trig Height 205 (my log cabin) to hoist the 'Jhanda'. To add vigour to the military manoeuvre called 'elbow bending exercise', we had 4 Kumaon band belting out 'Josh walagana-wana'. Mamu made sure that the ladies and children fully understood and adapted to the adventure and pangs of Infantry life. Capturing Haji Pir pass cured many of arthritic pains, especially of elbows, that was bent bar bar.

ON 11TH WE WENT TO
 MUSSOORIE TO
 PROMENADE ON MALL
 ROAD, THIS TIME
 SEDATELY HOLDING THE
 HANDS OF LIFELONG
 GRANDMOTHER GFS,
 SINGING FRANK
 SINATRA, 'STRANGERS IN
 THE MORNING,
 EXCHANGING GLANCES'

Most of the ladies reported sick, perhaps from breathing alcohol fumes day and night. Dr Rajan (and his Deputy Dr Maj Vijay, younger brother of late Avtar), treated them with Aspirins and Nitrous oxide (laughing gas). The last that I saw of the ladies, the young old grandmothers, they were giggling like Welham girls at our teen age antics on Haji Pir Pass.

On 10th we had a Jam Session in the 'Senior Ante Room' at IMA (Nizam) emulating Elvis the Pelvis, just as we did at 16. Jamming with 'No 54, House With The Bamboo Door'. On 11th we went to Mussoorie to promenade on Mall road,





this time sedately holding the hands of lifelong grandmother GFs, singing Frank Sinatra, 'Strangers in the morning, exchanging glances'. Afterwards we drank chilled beer and ate gourmet lunch proffered by an NDA course mate Deepak at his 5 star hotel (Amber Vermont) with a delightful panoramic view of entire Gharwal. In the evening, in thick rain, Mamu made us do night attack on OP Hill, with current GOC Subarea as Umpire, where Shakun organised scotch eggs, mutton chops and Topsy pudding, reminding me of Camp Torna in NDA. I was Rumming 'Kolavari -Di', while most were entertaining the last of our RIMC master Mr Chaturvedi, singing 'Single Malt-Teri Pen and Pencil Di'.

On 12th Mar, all 51 collectively did a very sombre private military service at the war memorial, to pay homage to our





ten martyr brothers. After that we joined the regular reunion, to celebrate the pleasures of living. We voluntarily gave back Hajipir, as is customary after every battle.

Anshuman, the accomplished son of late RP (SC posthumous), donated Rs 6 lks to ROBA T to 'sponsor a teacher', with a promise to do further recurring deposits. Perhaps he heard our loud mourns at the AGM, while he was watching the horse show at the Pavilion !! I wish all mothers in India have sons (and daughters) like Anshuman, sponsor a teacher in Rimc, so that the new generations of Rimcolian are more illustrious than the rascals of 66. As I always say with conviction, had it not been for free food, clothing and education at Rimc, I would at best have been an emaciated Marxist bus conductor in the 'Go-Go Nuts' land !!! My 33 brothers probably would have been drivers, or even Naxalites in Dhantewada, led by illustrious Madhu Kumar !!! We owe RIMC.

Special thanks to the incredible efforts by Mamu and his team, Cmdt RIMC and his very joshila team, CO 4 Kumaon and his very smart and jovial boys, the hugs and pats we received from the army of old boys, all of which combined made our day; made us feel 16 all over again. I convey the gratitude of all 51 of us, 'Team 66'.

For the next 75th anniversary, in 2041 aged 90 or 91, perhaps there will still be a few boys and girls left from amongst us, to fight for Hajipir once again. But I can assure you that this band of brothers and family would be doing it again and again annually, standing or sitting, with our GFs, even in Valhalla. Living to 'No 54, House With The Bum-Boo Door'. Not sure whether Elvis would object if we do pelvic thrusts. Shall check and advise when I reach there with a one way ticket !!

Cheers to the youth now in RIMC, may they grow to be hybrid soldiers with guts and glory, repeat IchDien again and again, in every future battle that they will fight, and live to celebrate victory.

God Bless all Rimcolians, young, and not so young.



"We act out things we cannot put into words"

The 'Living Landmarks' at the RIMC are the testimonials and hallmarks of a glorious Institution that has a saga to tell - a vignette of the indomitable spirit of man that leaves behind 'footprints on the sands of time', for the posterity of tread on. Historic Bhagat Hall, Thimayya Auditorium and Som Nath Library three such living Landmarks' eponymous of the three great legends - Lt Gen PS Bhagat, PVSM, VC, Maj SoM Nath Sharma, PVC and Gen KS Thimayya, Padma Vibhushan, DSO.

On 11th August 2016, the entire RIMC Fold joins hands to extend its prayerful wishes to Gen GG Bewoor's wife, Mrs Radhika Bewoor on her 92nd Birthday. It is on Gp Capt AG Bewoor's behest that we waited for this momentous day to share this information with the Rimcollian e-group.

The RIMC Multipurpose Hall, constructed in the year 2006, house to various State and Inter State level sports, curricular and extracurricular activities was also transformed into a 'Living Landmark' and received a new identity as it got christened as 'Bewoor Multipurpose Hall' in the name of the 9th Chief of Army Staff, Gen GG Bewoor, Padma Bhushan, PVSM (Retd). On his Centenary, in the morning of 11 August 2016, a bronze fiber Bust of Gen GG Bewoor, one of the most illustrious alumni of the College, was unveiled at the center of the Multipurpose Hall, by his elder son, Gp Capt AG Bewoor, VM (Retd), in the presence of the Commandant, Col Vivek Sharma, Officers, Faculty Members and the Cadets in the quiet and solemn affair.

The entire structure is the outcome of the perfectly coordinated endeavour on the part of the sculptor, Mr Vivek and the designer, Mr Vineet Madan under the supreme guidance of Mrs Vinita Bewoor & Gp Capt AG Bewoor. The Bust



General GG Bewoor, Padma Bhushan, PVSM

11 Aug 1916 - 24 Oct 1989

Born :Seoni, CP & Berar, Now Madhya Pradesh

RIMC: 1928 - 1935

Commissioned: 1937

Secretary Army Partition Committee in 1947

First Director National Cadet Corps:

Apr 1948 - Jul 1951

GOC-in-C Southern Command during Indo-Pak War of 1971
Southern Command captured 12000 Sqkms of Pakistan Territory

Awarded Padma Bhushan Jan 1972

Chief of Army Staff: Jan 1973 - May 1975

weighing about 20 kg has been placed on a 2 inch plate of special polymer of high density, the same material as the Bust. The Bust, installed on the evening of 09 Aug, was fixed onto the pedestal on 10 Aug, ready to be unveiled on 11 August 2016. On Gp Capt Bewoor's insistence, the size of the pedestal is similar to that of Gen Thimayya's Bust at the Thimayya Auditorium.

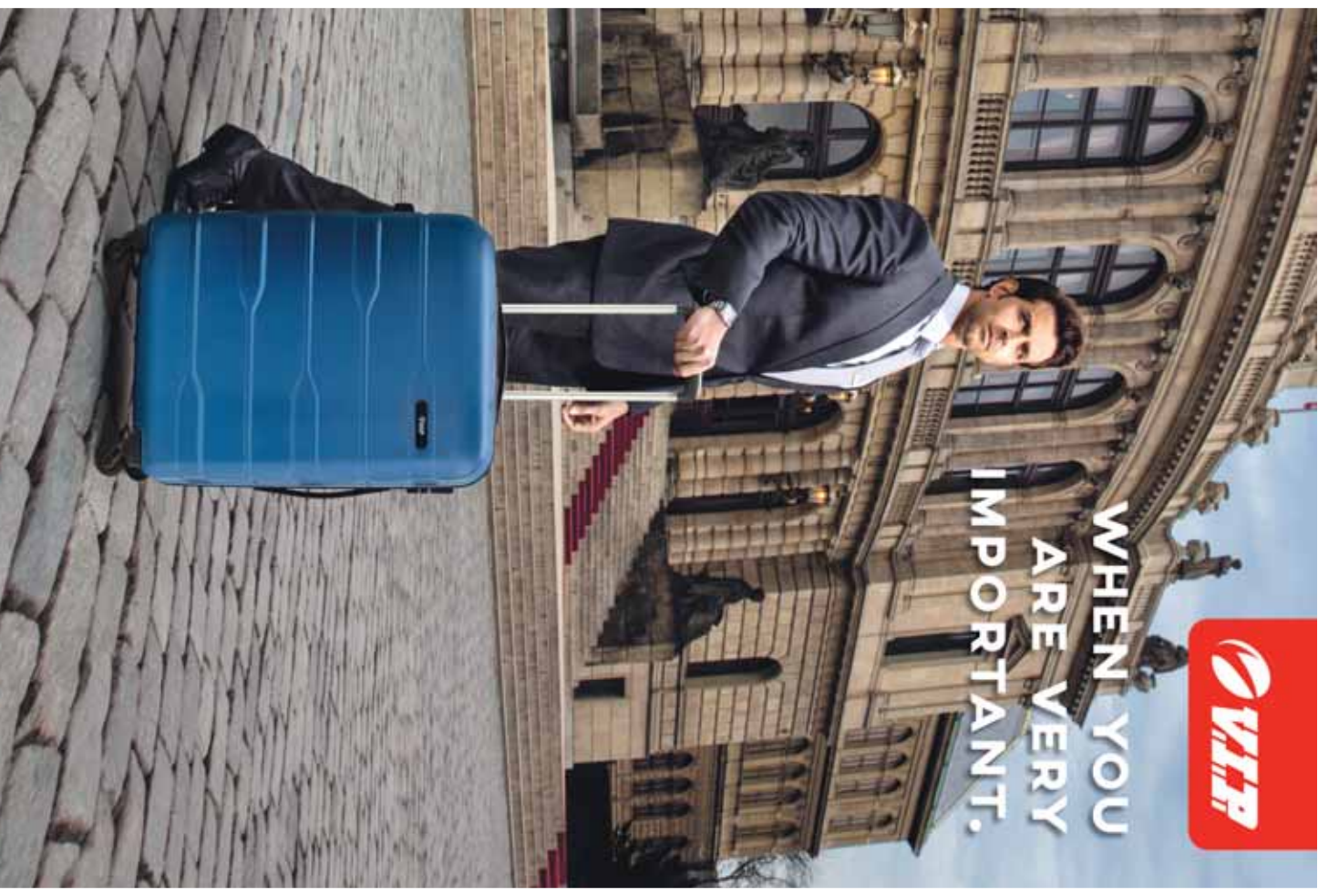
The event concluded with Gp Capt AG Bewoor extending his heartfelt gratitude on behalf of his wife Mrs Vinita Bewoor & his family and Mrs

Radhika Bewoor, to the Commandant and the entire RIMC Fraternity for accepting the Bust. In a brief but poignant eulogy to his illustrious father, he said that he was the first Secretary of ROBA and it was during his tenure that RIMC become Category 'A' Institution.

The Bust, poised on a pedestal of 41 inches height, is a refulgent as was the like and career of this distinguished personality. Etched in the center of the granite pedestal are not mere words but glorious traditions of gallantry that are a way of life at the RIMC.



CAPRESSE



WHEN YOU
ARE VERY
IMPORTANT.

RUBIES OF 2015: GRAND REUNION OF 2016

STRAIGHT TALK FROM A BETTER HALF

By Mrs. Aparna Ananth

W/o A Chandraguptian named Peru

(Though held various appointments, his name is not on any appointments board as he errantly went watching a movie without out pass, a week before passing out. (Sigh!)



The trip into the portals of RIMC always gives you the “HIGHS”!

No! This is not a write up by a die hard Rimcollian but you are surely not going to believe this is a little account of what we experienced this Founders day in March 2016, and that too from someone who way back in 1989 swore never to attend another one of these crazy Reunions!

A band of 17 Rimcollians and 7 little unknown wife’s of some of these gangsters landed up on 12 March. As usual there was that loud and boisterous

pat on the back, hugs, lifts, thumps and bumps! I no longer need to be reminded which nickname went for whom! (yes! Including the ones given for the masters too!)

The evening began even before the day ended. A lavish dinner hosted by Brig. Shivender Singh in the immaculate mess of the his Garhwal battalion pitched in the right momentum to what was to unfold the next two days. But like all Rimcollian get together, soon the banter was nonstop and the volumes of laughter had a nice ring to it. And with a

band playing beautifully, no one knew when the night had become day again!

The events on the Founders days celebrations brought in anecdotes from the Rimcollians which I can vouch for having heard them every time I have met a few of them at other get togethers, but the mirth reliving them never ends! Some of the stories are out right silly, but the Band laughs and we join in! Every Time!

In the previous year’s Rimcollian Founders , we ladies got together and got the Class of 75, a memento made to celebrate their 40 years since joining



“College”! It was a little surprise by us ladies and I know for sure their were a few moist eyes that evening when it was presented to each of them. A few of this class of 75 were meeting literally after 35 years, but even I felt like I had known them from before! Guess they are all from the same breed! Pedigree at that!

This year , after the joyous two days, and at the customary morning farewell breakfast, the Band of 75 , created a history of sorts by being dressed in a T-shirts which read “the class of 75” and Yes! We wife’s sported a T-shirt that proudly claimed “ married to the class of 75” !! The spirit of this band, 18 of them that day in school was a standing example of the what school meant to each one them and even to us outsiders (technically speaking!) there was a lump in the throat standing on the steps leading to the Ante room , proudly cheering the Spirit of RIMC !

The Founders this time did not end there for us! The Gang trudged up to Chakrata where Brig . Kurup hosted this big gang to two days of spectacular events, sights and music and food which was actually a heavy dose of icing on the cake for this year’s Rimcollians! And Iam sure my bonding with the other women





in the group has strengthened and also with the Class of 75!

I never went to a boarding school. But my association with RIMC and the Rimcollians has forged such bonds that sometimes I feel as if I am one of them. I guess the boys do make you feel that way. Their bonding goes beyond just the boys they knew. The College definitely transforms the boy into a Man and a Gentleman at that!

The crazy jokes, the silly pranks, the nicknames, the loud and boisterous talks, the thundering laughter will

continue wherever the Rimcollians meet! Behind all that there is a purpose towards life. The intensity of that approach to life is but a part of the learning that they imbibe in school. Fun, laughter and seriousness towards the task at hand, it is a heady combination and it sure does become more intensified when at RIMC!

To this Rimcollian wife, there have been times when I dreaded the next meet! Old memories of having been forgotten in the hockey field (add to that a true fact that a young Capt that year

even forgot he was then a married man!) come flooding back. But I then smile, and I guess stories with so many others also come in waves, and by the end of it I'm laughing like a silly girl! Thank you for bringing in so much into my life and thank you all letting us enjoy every little thing in life!

Long live the Spirit!

Psst. Plz do let me know the number of the Band of 75 years coming to school next Reunion! I have to plan another surprise for you guys!

MENTORING & LEARNING

DR PC SHARMA

Master at RIMC

01 AUG 1968 TO 28 FEB 1971

Mr P.C. Sharma joined the RIMC, Dehradun, as a Master (Geography), from K. V. No.2, Ambala Cantt, on 01 Aug 1968 and served at the College till 28 Feb 1971. A post-graduate in Geography, he taught Social Studies at the College. He was attached as a Tutor with Chandragupta Section and was also the Officer-in-Charge of the Camera Club for the duration of his stay at the College. He, with his wife and two sons, stayed in Bungalow No 36 (next to the Pavilion), other half of which was shared by Mr LN Thakur.

Mr Sharma was on a temporary appointment at the RIMC, from where he moved to Rashtriya Military School, Chail on permanent appointment through the UPSC. He also went on to obtain a masters degree in Education and subsequently, a Ph. D. in Geography for his research work on 'Morphology of Hilly Towns: A Case Study of Himachal Pradesh'. He later shifted back to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan as Principal and finally retired in July 1998 as the Education Officer from KVS HQ, New Delhi. He is settled at Greater Noida. He carries very fond memories of his time spent at the RIMC, and considers it one of the most enriching phases of his life.

With keen interest in photography and writing, Dr Sharma has also authored a fiction book, 'GHOSTMEN: The Journey of Your Dreams!' published in 2015 by Partridge Publications. He also regularly contributes articles in the Senior Citizens Journal published by



WITH KEEN INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND WRITING, DR SHARMA HAS ALSO AUTHORED A FICTION BOOK, 'GHOSTMEN: THE JOURNEY OF YOUR DREAMS!' PUBLISHED IN 2015 BY PARTRIDGE PUBLICATIONS

Senior Citizens Forum at Greater Noida.

His three sons are working in the corporate sector, eldest Amit Atreya in Tanzania, Gagan Atreya at Noida and youngest, Nitin Atreya in USA. One son, Col Gaurav Atreya is serving in the Corps of Engineers, presently posted as CWE, Dehradun.

SOME SNIPPETS FROM DR PC SHARMA'S TENURE AT RIMC, DEHRADUN



Hike to Chakrata (Dr PC Sharma, OIC Hike, 2nd from Left)
(Mr C.P. Gupta - Maths at Extreme Left)



Rowing with a Cadet in Renuka Lake, 1969



With the College Faculty (Seated 5th from Right)
(Mr BS Rajput - Chem, VK Dwivedi - Eng, Jain - Phy, K Kumar-Hindi, Pandey-Maths,
LN Thakur-Maths, PC Sharma-Geog, Shukla-Eng, RC Chaturvedi-Woodcraft,
GS Bisht (Hindi) - Sec Master and Dr Chakravorty - RMO)



At the Commandant's
House (Dr PC Sharma at
Extreme Left)

ROVING EYE

KERALA TUSKERS CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S 2016

Get Together of the Kochi Chapter

Cdr Vishnu Reddy and Lt Cdr Karthik Parsuraman
(with inputs from other tuskers)

It was early summer in God's Own Country. Cmde N Anil J Joseph (1977-82, Ranjit), the self-driven ROBA Secretary of Kerala Chapter had sounded the clarion which rung like the very familiar bell at the quadrangle of our Alma Mater, announcing the college fall-in. Every Rimcollian residing in and around Kerala knew that it was bonding time where old memories would be relived. It was the time that was most looked forward to by our brethren; the time when there would be mirth of chuckles and laughter on anecdotes, experiences and much leg pulling; when no Rimcollian would miss the opportunity in shouting out the war cry in support of their respective sections against willful taunts by others; when old timers would love to start their tales with "During our days we..." and the youngsters would lend their attentive ears.

On April the third, a bright sunny noon, all tuskers of the Kerala Chapter gathered at the rendezvous point of Birdies and Eagles overlooking the greens of the Katari Bagh Golf Course. The elderly Rimcollians were ushered in along with their families and made to update their particulars and pick up their "I-Slips". Our dashing stallions Lt Cdr RP Singh (1999-2004, C'Gupta) and Lt Arvind Paul (2003-08, C'Gupta) had accomplished a remarkable feat in organising the get-together and taking care of each and every minute detail be it the reception, the souvenirs corner, the goody bags or the accounts under the leadership of Cdr Vishnu Reddy (1994-98, Pratap); all 'Volunteers' in the true fauji tradition - the 'danda' of the secretary. On display, at the Souvenirs/ Goodies corner were Lt Shakti Singh (2003-08, Shivaji) and S LT Mahapatra (2007-11,





Kneeling: Lt Arvind Paul, Lt Shakti Singh, Slt Swaraj Mahapatra, Lt Cdr RP Singh, Lt Col Jagmohan Brar, Cdt Amit Rai, Cmde N Anil J Joseph, Lt Cdr Siddharth Gupta, Lt Cdr Suraj Aiyappa

Sitting: Mrs Hirachna Subramaniam, Mrs Sushan Srekanth, Mrs Priya Singh, Mrs Radhika Rajagopal, Maj Gen P Rajagopal, Mrs Rita Mathew, Mrs Jenny S Joseph, Miss Ann Mary Joseph, Mrs Vani Karthik

Standing: Master Sreevishnu Sreekanth, Cdr Vishnu V Reddy, Cmde Benny Anthony, Cdr Deepak subramaniam, Master Raghav Subramaniam, Mrs Meenakshi Tanwar, Lt Cdr Rohit Tanwar, Cdr Raju Mathew, Mr Balaji Kartha, Cdr CM Varghese, Cdr S Sreekanth, Cdr RP Singh, Lt Cdr Kartik Parsuraman, Cdr Aplesh Moha, Cdr Sumantha Roy, Sqn Ldr Naresh Lingarkar, Miss Angela Joseph

Shivaji) along with a plethora of RIMC insignia, which included books Soaring Pines (Third edition of Camphor Avenue Series), Tales of Crucibles and the Cauldron (Fourth edition), the Regalia, Tie-Scarf-Handkerchief sets and a school track suit, besides copies of 'The Rimcollian' (both Sep 15 & Mar 16 editions). Cdt Amit K Rai of the Naval constructor Wing, being the junior-most Rimcollian present, did seek a lot of 'lift' and privileges, to little avail. Incidentally he has distinction of being the first and the only Rimcollian thus far streamed into the Naval Architecture cadre, and as our secretary quipped, he would 'design' ships without ever sailing onboard them!

The senior-most Old Boy gracing the occasion was Maj Gen Rajagopal (1960-65, Shivaji) alongwith his good lady Mrs Radhika. During his turn at the mike, he highlighted that it was the first time he was the senior-most during a Rimcollian gathering. A position and elevation he may have missed had the Trivandrum Chapter turned up at Kochi. They were also among the first to arrive; prompt on time. Other outstation Rimcollians present included Cmde Benny M Antony



(1974-79, Pratap) from Aluva, Lt Col Jagmohan Brar from Bijapur and Cdr CM Varghese (1981-86, Ranjit) who was mischievously nicknamed 'Chief Minister' by the Secretary. Last but not the least, we even had Mr Balaji Kartha (1969-74, Ranjit) who had gate-crashed from Chennai! A cherishing gate crash indeed. The special effort made by them to come to Kochi was acknowledged in the inaugural address. Seafaring visitors included Cdr Sumanta Roy (1991-95,

Shivaji) and Lt Cdr SuraJ Aiyappa (2001-05, C.Gupta) from INS Shivalik that had entered Kochi for 'Workup' (in simple terms for non naval Rimcollians: it's an inspection/ auditing followed by training and certifying a ship for its role worthiness). The officers from Shivalik promptly obliged to the threat of being 'Worked Up' in a different manner had they managed to bypass the gathering, as the organisers were also amongst the Workup staff! namely Cmde N Anil J

Joseph, Commodore Workup and Cdr Vishnu Reddy, Staff Officer (ND) at the Indian Naval Work Up Team.

After the initial chit-chat, formal proceedings commenced with Cmde Joseph, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, delivering the welcome address. He urged/ directed fellow Rimcollians to enroll in ROBA and to pay the minimum subscription to the ROBA Trust. He also encouraged additional contribution through monthly or yearly remittances via bank for the Trust as also the centenary celebrations. Describing his 'pilgrimage' experience at school during the Reunion 2016, he expressed pleasure of his stay especially the fun and advantages of staying in the dormitory. He appreciated the flawless conduct of events inspite of the Hockey and Cricket getting officially cancelled due to rains. He did say that the 'josh' was such that Hockey was unofficially continued and Football played in lieu of Cricket. Fervent questions on "How could Boxing results be declared before the Finals?" erupted from Lt Cdr Siddarth Gupta (2000-05, Pratap) and Sqn Ldr NareSh Lingarkar (1993-98,

Ranjit). It was revealed, to their utter dismay, that Shivaji Section had been declared victors long before the finals ensued as Shivaji had build a healthy lead in the prelims. This led to a huge cheer by the four Shivajians in the gathering: Maj Gen Rajagopal, Cdr Sreekanth (1979-84), Cdr Sumanta Roy and Cdt Rai. But anyone would ponder as the Secretary, a Ranjitian, humoured why, in spite of the section's inception so many decades ago Shivajians still had to cheer "Who are, who are, who are we?" as if there lingered a doubt! Certainly, a robust case of identity crisis!

The Secretary later called upon every Rimcollian to subscribe for 'The Rimcollian' magazine and spoke of major issues including thoughts like what of cadets not joining the Indian Armed Forces. Mr Balaji cited his own example, mentioning his struggle after graduation, consequent to his higher secondary certificate being rendered ineffectual by many colleges view inadequate percentage. He also spoke on quality of teachers as another key issue but reiterated that one must learn to manage with what we have and train the trainers

to overcome shortfalls. He also disapproved of wanton conduct by Rimcollians that would corrupt and catalyze our younger generation in making impulsive and erroneous decisions. He emphasised on the importance of Rimcollian being a positive influence on the young 'Rimcos' and not to transfer individual misgivings to young impressionable minds. This found vocal support with anecdotes flowing in on such happenings. Finally he stressed upon the significance of Rimcollians rendering support to the school, condemned the acts of Old Boys openly questioning the credibility of ROBA and ROBA Trust, and advocated for a personal resolution rather than publicising on the social media especially as all of us are members of ROBA.

Another significant issue that were deliberated was the entry of Rimcos into NDA without having go through written exam but an SSB and medicals when such a provision already is available for 10+2 tech, NCC cadets, etc. Other issues discussed included: getting RIMC under HQIDS; responsibility of Rimcollians to mentor and groom; and that activities of





ROBA should benefit the school and the cadets. In between, Mr. Balaji, Cdr Raju Mathew and Cmde Benny Anthony regaled us with a lot of anecdotes. Not to miss, young Lt Cdr Siddharth Gupta nearly got blasted by our Secretary on his 'dressing' but was ticked by Cdr Vishnu Reddy. The youngster promptly clarified - 'Just landed in station'.

Then came the introductory part wherein each Rimcollian, amidst his section's cheers, recounted his section, stay at school and current status. On the popular demand of the ladies and the desire of the senior-most Rimcollian, we began with the junior-most. Taking advantage, the ladies started quizzing the young Rimcollians introducing themselves. Coming to the rescue, the Secretary imposed an adhoc charge of a hundred rupees on each question asked to the introducer, to which the ladies rebutted that the 'fine' be paid by the Secretary himself. To our surprise, ladies like Mrs Priya Singh and Mrs Rita Matthew were the most active participants in the quizzing whilst Mrs Jenny Joseph and Mrs Sushan Srikanth very smartly nudged others to question - indeed very knowledgeable questions.

What came into light during our interactions was that Rimcollians of Kerala Chapter from Trivandrum had



Left to Right: Cdr Vishwanathan and Mrs Parvati, Wg Cdr Mohanchands and Mrs Mallika, Brig KVM Nair and Mrs Chitra, Col PSC Nair and Mrs Sudha, Lt Col Satish and Mrs Anandam



celebrated their reunion splendidly on the 31st of March. The Rimcollians who had graced the occasion were Brig KVM Nair and Mrs Chitra Nair, Col PSC Nair and Mrs Sudha Nair, Lt Col Satheesh and Mrs Anandam, Cdr Vishwanathan and Mrs Parvathi and Wg Cdr Mohanchand and Mrs Mallika. We did miss them at Kochi. Since they had indicated their inability to attend at Kochi this time, the reunion was decided over lunch rather



than the traditional dinner.

The intros were followed by a Group photograph and Cake cutting. The cake that was unveiled had the Senior Anteroom with RIMC/ ROBA crest on either side and was embellished with a dazzling blue cream at the background. Maj Gen Rajagopal (senior-most Rimcollian present) and Cdt AmiT Rai (junior-most Rimcollian) did the honours. Scotch eggs for starters were abundant; yet, no one ever missed charging at them! To ensure availability of the exacting standards, the scotch eggs were tried out from two different places - one by the cook at the Workup

POST LUNCH, THE INTERACTIONS CONTINUED AND THOSE IN HURRY LEFT. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BONDING TIME THAT FOLLOWED WERE THE DEV ANAND GET-UP BY COL BRAR AND THE ASTRO-PALMISTRY CONSULTATIONS GIVEN BY CDR SREEKANTH.

organisation (who now is a trained, rather, Worked up Scotch Egg maker) and the other variety (albeit chicken scotch eggs) made available from Red Sauce - a Burger Joint in the city patronised by our Secretary. The lunch was sumptuous and delicious.

Post lunch, the interactions continued and those in hurry left. The highlights of the bonding time that followed were the Dev Anand get-up by Col Brar and the astro-palmistry consultations given by Cdr Sreekanth. Lt Cdr RP Singh abandoned the post lunch sitting as the fear of his would-be becoming a runaway bride crept up his





heart. God save such stalwarts exhibiting so much exuberance to get shackled matrimonially! Lt Cdr RohiT Tanwar (1999-2004, Pratap) and Mrs Meenakshi were the centre of attraction, being the youngest married couple. Cdr Deepak Subramaniam (1989-1994, C'Gupta) and Mrs. Hirachna were busy with energetic Raghav our youngest attendee and a potential Rimco. The afternoon concluded with parting melodies rendered each by Lt Cdr Karthik (1998-2002, C' Gupta) and Mrs VanI Karthik, with a surprise number from Lt Cdr RohiT Tanwar on his better half's behest! Lt Cdr Vishal Sharma (1999-2003 C'Gupta), tasked with the Photo cover, spent most of his time repeating - Cheese, Smile or one more please.

On departure, each Rimcollian took with himself a goody bag that contained a copy of latest "The Rimcollian" magazine, the attendee social list, pieces of the insignia that he purchased; and last but not the least, lots of cherishing



memories and nostalgia of the school, our Alma Mater! Before signing off, the Secretary mooted another get together before the five Rimcollian cadets (Sub Lieutenants), currently out at sea, passed out of First Training Squadron. Cdr Deepak Subramaniam, Commanding

Officer INS Tarangini vociferously vowed to host the next get-together onboard his ship and INS Sudarshini as and when Cdr Alpesh Mohan, also present, took over the helm of the latter.

IchDien!

ROVING EYE

RIMCOLLIAN GET TOGETHER IN PUNE

Col VY Gidh, VSM (Retd), Shivaji, 1967-72

Last year after, banking on the continued hospitality of Col Rajneesh Giri, we had decided that the Pune Rimcollian Get Together in 2016 will be held once again in the Officers' Mess of 2 MAHAR. However on the annual Reunion dates, the unit was committed in the conduct of the Multinational Field Training Exercise of ASEAN Plus countries being conducted in Pune. Therefore another convenient date on a Sunday i.e. 20 March 2016 was fixed for this much awaited event. Moreover, on successful conduct of these strenuous exercises, Col Rajneesh Giri, the Commanding Officer was reportedly in high spirits!

It was a pretty warm Sunday afternoon when we assembled at the Officers Mess with the day temperatures in Pune having touched almost 40 degrees Centigrade. However, Maj Ashish Kumar, the Second-in-Command of the battalion ensured that all arrangements were meticulously done and everyone would enjoy the function. The evident effects of global warming were beaten by a unique combination of ACs, fans and chilled beer. The event witnessed large attendance. In addition to the 55 officers and 80 persons who attended, the special feature this year was the presence of 27 cadets from NDA, it being mid-term break. It was indeed heartening to meet a large number of serving and retired officers from Pune and Navi Mumbai.

Among the veterans and distinguished Rimcollians, we were fortunate to have the Mohite brothers,





Capt HA Mohite, 91 yrs and his younger brother Col SA (Minni) Mohite, 89 yrs, who were both in Kitcheners Section in School in late 1930s. We were also privileged to have Mrs Rajwade and Mrs Joglekar both in their 80's attending, while we missed the presence of Mrs Bewoor, Mrs Purandhare and Mrs Dabir. Among the others present were Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, 1946-49 who was commissioned in 2 MAHAR; Cmde RS Huja, Mr MV Madnani, Col JD Desai, Cdr KS Karandikar, Maj Gen Rajan Aney and Col Kewalramani; who were all in school during 1950s.

We also missed the presence of Gens HM Khanna, Yash Malhotra, Inder Luthra, AR Raikar and SS Jog; Rear Adm PD Sharma, Capt (IN) Paradkar, Gp Cpts AG Bewoor and DC Gupta; and Cols DH Parab and AK Bakshi who were unable to attend. While some had gone to Dehra Dun for the Reunion, others could not make it this time. Capt (IN) Anoop Chauhan made it from Mumbai even though he had just returned from Dehra Dun the previous day. The event was also attended by Maj Gen Balraj Singh who is posted as Chief Engineer, HQ Southern Command. As Commandant, BEG Centre



and Group, we remember the lovely get-togethers he had organized in 2012 and 2013, where he ably assisted by his Deputy, Col Ashish Mitra and the energetic Lt Col BR Satish.

It being warm outside, most Rimcollians preferred the cool comfort inside the Officers Mess. In view of the sheer numbers, the NDA cadets had together in the lawns outside and it was elevating to see many Rimcollians interacting with them. While speaking to

some of the sixth term NDA cadets, the name of DCC Jarkop Doke seemed to sound familiar. When I asked if we had probably met earlier, he proudly mentioned it was when he had visited NDA as a RIMC Class III cadet some years back. I recollected that he belonged to Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh and having served in remote air maintained posts of Siang district in early 1980s, I was familiar with the area. I was reminded of the strange incident of my



meeting Jerkin Gamlin in Along town in December 1982. Seeing a smart young boy wearing the NDA blazer in this remote location, I had walked up to him and we were both surprised to be Rimcollians! Brig Gamlin had done an excellent job while coordinating the Indian Army's rescue effort during Nepal's devastating earthquake last year.

I thought it would be a good idea if some of the NDA cadets interacted with the veterans inside. Col Rajneesh Giri promptly selected the junior most first term Cadet Dhruv Chaudhary, who had the privilege of being introduced first to Capt HA Mohite, followed by others. Meanwhile, Col James Brar realized that it happened to be the birthday of VI term Cadet Tabish Hasan, and he was lucky to be wished by the veterans and the ladies. When the NDA cadets were later conducted around the Officers Mess, it was heartening to see their enthusiasm. They seemed really impressed.

It was a delight for many young Rimcollians to meet the veterans and learn about their days in school. Capt HA Mohite narrated a very interesting incident when they were served 'Chicken Biryani' during lunch time in the Cadets

Mess on Sundays. On one fine Sunday morning, Cadet Mohite decided to make some 'chutney' since it would enhance the taste of the biryani. The ideal place to procure 'pudina' or mint was from Panditji's house. While he was in the process of plucking some leaves, Panditji happened to come outside. Instead of admonishing the young cadet for the wrong act, Panditji probably thinking the boy was hungry, politely asked him "Kyaaapkuch sag aurpurikhaoge?" (Would you like to have some sag and puri?). Pandit Bala Datt Pande was the Religious Teacher in RIMC from 1922 to 1951 and we too remember him when he used to visit school in 1960-70s! He was presented a Special Memento by Gen GG Bewoor in early 1970s for his immense contribution to RIMC. Meeting some of these energetic veterans reminded me of the famous adage "Age is a matter of mind; If you do not mind, it does not matter."

There was a special stall outside where the NDA cadets could help themselves to soft drinks and snacks. Surprisingly after an hour or so most of the cadets declined the same, probably dreaming of the lovely lunch which

would be laid inside! After the usual round of drinks, snacks and bonhomie, we realized it was time for lunch. The menu was similar to what we used to relish in RIMC with Scotch Eggs and fruit Topsy pudding being the highlights. The NDA cadets had their chance to relish the Scotch eggs after the ladies and Rimcollians had helped themselves. When I asked a couple of cadets how they rated the quality of Scotch Eggs, they said it was as good as we got in RIMC. As suspected, Maj Ashish Kumar later confessed that the menu given in the book "Tales of Crucible and Cauldron" had proved very useful in further refining the quality of the Scotch Eggs!

After an enjoyable lunch, everyone was in the right mood to listen to the proceedings. The important achievements of our cadets in school and NDA and of the Old Boys were briefly covered. The news of Shivaji Section again winning the Boxing Cup received the maximum cheers (and jeers too) from the audience. The necessity of all non-members contributing for ROBA and ROBA Trust, requirement of additional funds for ROBA and the option



of contributing for the bi-annual Rimcollian Newsletter were stressed upon. Maj MS Bedi and Brig CS Thapa had kindly ensured that copies of the latest Rimcollian Newsletter were received well in time and the NDA cadets were particularly thrilled to see the same. In addition, the requirement of joining the vibrant Yahoo group opened by late Wg Cdr VG Kumar was also emphasized.

Many Rimcollians had passed away during the past one year. We solemnly remember AVM Keshav Bewoor who was a regular attendee during the Pune Get Togethers after his retirement. His absence will be felt by all of us. The limited copies of "Tales of Crucible and Cauldron", the latest book in the Camphor Avenue series published by Sidharth Mishra were sold as hot cakes. We now look forward to next year's fresh book.

Finally we had our group photograph for which arrangements had been made in the lawns outside. Accommodating over 100 persons within a short time span was a herculean task and the forethought of Maj Ashish Kumar paid dividends. Finally there was a loud cheer for RIMC and 2



Col HA Mohite (Retd) Signing the Visitor's Book

MAHAR. Maj Ashish having cleared the prestigious Staff College Examination, leaves shortly for the salubrious surroundings of Wellington. We wish him all the best and thank Col Rajneesh Giri and his unit for having hoisted such an

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

ROVING EYE

CELEBRATING FOUNDER'S DAY AT HIGH SEAS

MUMBAI RIMCOLLIANS GET-TOGETHER

Capt (IN) Anup Chauhan, Pratap



On a bright April Sunday, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited the 'Maximum City' Bombay in a tryst with historical past. Coincidentally, at the same time interesting series of events were unfolding elsewhere by the bay. A few yards away from the majestic archway, the Gateway of India, were berthed two magnificent warships awaiting the arrival of crème de la crème from one of the finest institutions across the country. The two potent frigates, INS Ganga and Tarkash commanded by Rimcollians,

were poised not to demonstrate their lethality this time but to showcase splendid hospitality to 'Old Boys' and their families.

Manoeuvring through the twists and turns of the vibrant city's maze, the alumni passed through Naval Dockyard's formidable Lion Gate only to be escorted towards the wharf, where the two men-of-war stood against the backdrop of Mumbai's twilight. The guests were mesmerised with the traditional Naval welcome onboard the quarterdeck of the two ships which were berthed alongside,

albeit this was just the beginning. As the celebrations set in motion, young and the veterans blended, sharing their experiences and the good old times. Cheers for each Section at sporadic times energised the venue with untiring spirit of RIMC. It was heartening to see contemporaries reunite after decades. For few of them, it was probably the first time after having passed out from school. The plethora of fields in which old boys had excelled was indicative of the strong building blocks which were forged whilst in school, corroborating the famous



quote, "It is the first few blows on the anvil of life that give the human weapon the set and temper that carry him through life's battles".

After an exhilarating introduction about the mighty warships, the Captains invited the guests for a tour of the ship. The ship's crew looked after the old boys and their families with utmost enthusiasm, ensuring that no crystal was left unfilled and serving them with exquisite delicacies to relish, especially

the priceless Scotch eggs. Given the encouraging strength, group photograph was undoubtedly a daunting task for the photographer who eventually managed to get all of us in a single frame. The fag end of the evening witnessed the vote of thanks by senior Rimcollians acknowledging the unstinting efforts of Old Boys involved in putting up such a spectacular show.

Even though there have been numerous get-togethers in Mumbai in

the past, this occasion onboard two warships would be etched in our hearts with great élan. With elated spirit of camaraderie and pride of belonging to the same elite clan, the old boys and their families parted ways only to reunite soon in the next Chapter of Mumbai Rimcollians Reunion.

Till then, Au Revoir.

ICH DIEN, Viva RIMC!



Two ships ready for Party!!

ROVING EYE

A REUNION BLESSED BY THE UNKNOWN, UNSEEN BUT OMNIPRESENT ALMIGHTY



Dear Rimcollians,

I am reporting about the wonderful Reunion we in the North East of India had on 12 Mar 2016 at Shillong, under the aegis of the AOC-in-C, Eastern Air Command, Air Marshall C Hari Kumar. It was attended by both serving officers, Veterans and their spouses from Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

The Reunion was also the celebration of the prevention, by divine intervention, of a near fatal helicopter mishap with the AOC-in-C, accompanied by his wife and two PSOs traveling in the copter. While in flight, on the return trip, the copter, flying at an altitude of 6000 feet, suddenly lost power with both engines dying mysteriously. Through sheer skill and nerves of steel the pilots stabilized

and controlled the copter as it descended perilously to an altitude of 1000 feet. It was at this point that the engines came back to life, mysteriously yet again, finally enabling them to land safely at Tezpur. They returned to Shillong by fixed wing aircraft, shaken but safe after the ordeal.

We in Assam have a saying 'Rakhe HarI MarEy Kuney' meaning, 'who can



kill the one being protected by God'. Hari and Devika along with the others in the copter were being protected by Hari, the Almighty Himself, for which we the Rimcollian fraternity are eternally grateful.

In a lighter vein, can this incident propel us to name our offspring after the names of our gods and goddesses? But seriously, when he was narrating the story, I felt shivers travel down my spine and my hairs were on edge. As we say in Hindi 'Hamare RaungtE Khare Ho Gaye'.

The second half of the Assamese saying is 'Marey HarI RaakHe Kuney', meaning, 'who can protect the one when God wants him to leave this earth?'

In the tradition of the Air Force, the SASO and PSOs of Eastern Air Command 'bounced' the Command House during the Reunion. After the ritual of cake cutting, for the rebirth, we continued with the screening of the documentary film on RIMC.

The evening was rounded off by dinner, with the delectable Scotch egg and tipsy pudding in great demand. The evening was a celebration of the ideals of the Alma-Mater as well as an occasion to rejoice at the happy ending to an unnerving experience. As they say, all's well that ends well.

Rony Dutta
 Pratap (1963-67)



A Rimcollian appointed consultant in MoD

Despite the brickbats received during the OROP agitation, it's now finally turning out that Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar is ready to keep his promise of "not deciding solely on the advice of the bureaucrats" in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) especially in service matters. In a first, a retired service officer has been appointed as consultant in the Raksha Mantri's office to handle "interaction" between the MoD and service headquarters.

Air Marshal Prasad P Reddy, who retired a few months back as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, would be looking after "coordination between the ministry and the Services, and assisting the defence minister in having a better understanding of Services' matters." The NDA government and Parrikar in particular had a harrowing time last year negotiating with the veterans on the issue of one-rank-one-pension (OROP).

"Despite his best intentions the Minister was not trusted by the agitating soldiers thanks to the lack of belief in the working of the MoD, which is dominated by the bureaucracy. A retired soldier would be able to put forth the issues in the right perspective before the political leadership," said a well-placed source. "For the BJP, the defence personnel are a huge constituency spread across the country. They were steadfast in support to the NDA in the last Lok Sabha polls. However, the bonhomie between the



government and soldiers were marred thanks to a very unfortunate agitation on the issue of OROP. The leadership realized that the government needed a better line of communication with its loyal constituency.

The Air Marshal would have a big role in re-establishing that trust between the soldiers and the government," added the source. Reddy, an ex-test pilot, was handling the tri-services' planning and acquisitions in his last assignment. He is an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College, National Defence Academy and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

(Air Marshal Reddy is former president, ROBA)

APPEAL

FROM THE ROBA SECRETARY

Dear Rimcollians,

1. It is observed with great concern that Members/Rimcollians are not updating their latest particulars with the ROBA Cell at RIMC and Delhi. Therefore, a drive to update the ROBA Directory has begun at RIMC (ROBA Cell).
2. All Rimcollians are therefore, requested to forward their latest following information as per below format to rimcollege@yahoo.com and copy to robaoffice@gmail.com to further update the main ROBA Directory:-
 - (a) Rank and name.
 - (b) Years (from - to) & Section at RIMC.
 - (c) ROBA Membership No.
 - (d) Awards/decorations.
 - (e) Job status.
 - (f) Spouse's name.
 - (g) Permanent address.
 - (h) Correspondence address.
 - (i) Contact Nosie Mobile, landline No of office and residence.
 - (j) Any alternate No and Fax No.
 - (k) Email ID.
 - (l) Photograph.
3. Those who sent in their details already may ignore. Further, it is also requested that any changes occurring in future in the above particulars may kindly be intimated to ROBA Cell, RIMC and Delhi imdt.
4. Names of course mates/relatives or friends who are from the portals of RIMC may please be forwarded for mention in the Roll of Honour.
5. I would like to apprise the Rimcollian brethren about the minimum contributions to be given by the Rimcollians for the betterment of the alma mater, which are enumerated below:-
 - (a) ROBA Membership Fee - Rs 2000/- One time subscription.
 - (b) ROBA Trust - Rs 5000/- Any additional contributions voluntarily
 - (c) Magazine Fund - Rs 2000/- are welcome.
 - (d) Centenary Fund - Rs 25000/-
 - (e) Cadet Contingent fund (for needy cadet) - any amount (as per wish)
6. In view of the above, all Rimcollians are requested to pay their dues. All the above donations are exempted under section 80G of IT. Kindly pass on the information to Rimcollians of your course and those who are living around you.
7. We would be celebrating the Centenary Anniversary in less than six years from now. This would require active participation from all of you to help generate funds and make the event a memorable one for posterity to remember. Towards this endeavour, it is my humble request to please come forward with ideas and funds so that we can commence planning for it.



ICH DIEN

Best Regards

Deepak Ahluwalia
WgCdr
HonySecy

GRATITUDE FROM THE ROBA TREASURER

Dear Rimcollians,

How do I thank all those who have played a grandiose role in not just reviving *The Rimcollian* but turning it into a truly world class publication. While we always had a great editorial team, we lacked the business module to finance our newsletter which has been greatest vehicle for spreading brotherhood among the old boys.

This has been made possible by creating a separate fund for the newsletter publication within the ROBA and we have targeted a corpus of Rs 20 lakh, so that the newsletter remains self-sustainable. The advertisements would continue to add to the corpus. In building up the fund while several Rimcollians have come forward with lifetime donation of Rs 2000/-, stellar role has been played by Vice Admiral Pradip Chatterjee and Air Cmde SK Jayaswal in raising substantive funds. The team of Maj Gen Shammi Sabharwal too has helped to provide the fuel for a long ride. Help has come in individual capacity from Chiranjit Banerjee and Anil Jagtiani. We are grateful to all these gentlemen for their yeoman service.

I must also congratulate the editor Chander Thapa and publisher Sidharth Mishra, who put their heart and soul in conceptualising and designing the magazine. Through Chander's



efforts we have managed to energise many ladies to pen for us, and through Sidharth's network we get the best production value at most competitive rates.

The Rimcollian has helped discover many writers among us and we are increasingly getting to know about the breed of Rimcollian authors. Newsletter is the place where the Rimcollians must showcase their talent.

Thus those who feel proud of holding a copy of *The Rimcollian* and enjoy reading its contents, come forward and contribute to the magazine/newsletter fund. Lifelong happiness at just Rs 2000/-, it's a steal brother, make the contribution.

ICH Dien

Maj MS Bedi, SM (retd)

FREEZE FRAME



An aerial view of the Education Block consisting of classrooms, Bhagat (Convocation) Hall and Somnath Library

CYCLING FOR CENTENARY

What an experience!

(The Cycle Rally showcased the Spirit of RIMC and its extended family. It was a unique endeavour of a diverse group consisting of youth and experienced, the extended family represented by the ladies and children. The greatness lay in the fact that a most diverse group consisting of tri-services, civilians and ladies came together to forge a team and achieve the desired results. This is only possible because of the Rimcollian Spirit -- unity in diversity. Viva RIMC ! Well done. *Editor*)

As a build up to the centenary celebrations for the prestigious school and dedicated to the brave hearts who died in the call of duty during the last year we (around 14 old boys and some Rimcollian wives) did a 320 km 3 day grueling cycle rally from Shimla to RIMC in Dehradun as a curtain raiser.

Waking up in the wee hours of the morning after a late night of wining and dining the previous night, and yes, not to forget the chilly walk from Gaiety theater to the mess. We were flagged off by an old boy who is the ex Governor Nagaland.

Off we went riding at a good speed for a few hours as it was steeply downhill from Shimla to Dagshai on the first day. The wind in our ears deafening us and the adrenaline flowing in the veins.

Stopping every few hours to take some refreshments and an occasional dig at each other. Sustaining minor injuries and managing to move ahead still. Our keen photographer and star rider, while taking a trick shot, also rode right into another bruising both a little. The sight of the truck or our trailing cars was such a relief at such times!

Since one knew how to paddle one got on to the bike like an expert but hey after a few minutes one realized that

Dr. MANVEEN SANDHU



the fancy gears had a lot of use also. The front and rear gears had to be changed often which made the chore of going uphill so much easier! This is technology not some fancy stuff!

The pitstops in Dagshai and Nahan -with the mandatory Karah Prasad at the Gurudwara, were rejuvenating. We were waylaid by one affectionate parent who converted his car into a mobile van and fed us some wonderful snacks.

The ride on the second day from Dagshai to Nahan was draining, thankfully we had the dinner, drinks and Mobizox to pep us up.

At the end of the third day as we cycled through IMA the young boys waited for us eagerly at the Platinum Jubilee Gate. The entire stretch in the school campus was lit up and the boys cheered us in with a warm welcome.

We all contributed to making the trip memorable albeit by taking pictures or taking a toss on the bike, ensuring the safety of the riders by trailing, riding with the painfully slow (at times) lady riders or coping with the star riders.

These few days were like a peep into what these guys must have been doing as boys while in school. All the bickering, fighting, even competing and when someone was low or down all descended on him caring and worrying. In a matter of minutes all were transformed as it were into (multiple) mothers.

Old boys to governors, bureaucrats, successful hoteliers, liquor barons, generals/admirals/air marshals, all turn the clock back at every reunion!

This is what defines RIMC - old boys or young, they are all the same!

What amazing spirit!



CENTENARY RALLY'2016



Ready to Flag off at Shimla



THE ENTHUSIASTS

VIVEK

You made our pilgrimage a thumping success. Your diligence, dedication and determination was instrumental in the smooth execution of the web of planning

The stay at Shimla couldn't have been so comfortable and enjoyable but for you.

Our best wishes love and regards to you and your family. God be with you.



DEEPAK

Thanks for your initiative, resourcefulness and the drive that got the ball rolling. Your commitment to the cause of RIMC and ROBA is worth emulating. Let the passion and the fire in you continue to burn. Thanks also for the beautiful memorabilia in the form of world class cycling gear.

CB SIR AND MRS SHIRIN

Thanks for being a mentor Par Excellence. We admire your cultured and calm commitment to the cause of the College. MrsShirin took care of all of us with motherly concern. Best wishes and regards to both of you



SANDHUS

Your last minute decision to join the team along with Mrs Manveen strengthened the team. Interactions with them during the rally and the school were inspiring. Best wishes and regards.



ROMANTIC RAHUL

Thanks for keeping our Spirits high despite your injuries and discomfort. Wish you had stayed back for the Reunion. Best wishes to you and your business. May it continue to grow from strength to strength.



GRASS

You have become a Role Model for us with your selfless service and gentle demeanor. Thanks for motivating the team members and in the process enriching their lives with the treasured memories and experiences of this rally/expedition. Grateful to you for capturing the emotions and moments of the Rally at the risk of your own safety.

PASSIONATE PREM

The stylish rider! Thanks for taking others down the memory lane and recounting some of the moments of the stint at NDA as cadets. Best wishes to you and your family.



TOUGH TEDDY

You carried out the toughest and thankless job of bringing up the rear with a smile on your face. Not to forget the singing artist in him. A man made for the better things of life. \



BHARAT

You, despite being the Baby of the Team undertook the enormous job of helping Vivek with the accounts and last minute coordination at Shimla. Thanks for sharing your rich experience at Purkul and your valuable service to the team while keeping a low profile throughout.



NAMRATA

We are indebted to you and your parents for the obvious. Your presence, added physical and spiritual beauty to the Team. We wish you and your parents the very best and do convey them our warm regards



COL & MRS MAMGAIN:
Thanks for joining all of us near Paonta and adding more fun and colour to the Rally.

MAJOR BEDI

Thank you for leading us from Paonta Sahib and setting a fine pace that kept the Team Tightly bonded in the last leg.



CHAREEN, NIRMAL, AWASTHI AND RANA

Special thanks to all of you for your expert advice and timely help with the cycling, driving, cheering and caring, in short- multi tasking. We could not have reached Dehra Dun without this support.



AMARJEET

Thanks for the pen pictures that enriched this feature on the rally. Yours is the only pen picture not written by you ! You were a rock for the riders. Filled many gaps in the organization of the event.Calm, serene and always there. By not making your presence felt you made us miss you when you were not around.
God bless.

Pictures, courtesy Grass
Pen Pictures by Amarjeet-with some license by the writer...

THE BLOWS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE ANVIL OF OUR LIVES!!

By Usha Swarup

Let me begin by saying that I am Mightily pleased that my dream of wanting to spend my 50th birthday in RIMC with my tribe of Rimcollians was more than met this Reunion of 2016!!

Now from my thoughts on being a Rimcolliana.....

I was born on 12th March 1966, in the beautiful city of Mysore. Let me fast forward to 24th Apr 1985, when I was in Second year of college. My parents spring a surprise by telling me there is this guy who wants to marry me.

Interesting!....., but has he seen me? 'NO'.... even more interesting!

Later, I come to know, that Flying Officer S R Swarup added up the alphabets in my name which came to 13. Odd and unlucky? Maybe, maybe NOT? Yes, this is the girl I would like to spend the rest of my life with, he decided.

When I voiced my curiosity regarding his certainty, he came the reply, 'If I can lead a thousand men in war, I surely can lead one lady in love'. I was floored.And that was my introduction to Rimcollians, RIMC and what gallantry was all about.

It then occurred to me, being born on 12th March, and my numbers adding up to 13 were no mere coincidence. They are celebrated numbers in RIMC! I was destined to be a Rimcollian wife and a mother of two gallant Rimcollian lads. The rest as they say is history. And that is what this article is all about.

Marriage followed soon, 22nd Nov 1985! The sweep was total. The Rimcollian had conquered me completely. Against parental wishes and



everyone's advice, I said good-bye to studies, college and friends. Staying apart was unimaginable and unbearable. 'Academics', around which my whole life revolved till now, all of a sudden looked like a waste of time. Life it appeared was a big romantic journey and I did not want to miss a single minute of the experience.

The introduction was not too bad. My husband sent me an airticket. I packed my suitcase, said bye to my shocked mom and boarded the flight from Bangalore to Delhi. An excited young girl eager to meet her "winged husband". They say planes fly fast. But this one flew on forever.

The stewardess approached me,

conveyed 'compliments' from the Captain and said I was to wait for my husband at the airport. No surprises there. I thought that was how passengers got treated. I landed at Delhi, my heart fluttering a bit too fast. Emotions uncontrolled. 'And my husband nowhere to be seen'. Let me keep the suspense for now lest the story gets boring.

.....My husband only appeared a week later!

No house, no money, no husband and being taken care of...in Air Force Station, Agra. Lonely but not abandoned. This was a way of life I thought. A brave young wife of a brave 'air warrior' I had to be. He had told me duty was far more important than emotions. When I looked forward to some guidance from my 'Gallant Rimcollian', all I got was, 'Everything you do is fine, just be yourself'. "Some advice" I thought then.

But 30 happy years later as I look back, it turned out the sanest advice a 19-year old newly married girl could have received. And it has stood me in good stead till now.

I promise I had never even seen a 'Sardar' in real life till I met the first- a Rimcollian and that too a Ranjitian! This Sardar's wife even called him 'ranjit' after his section. Wow, I thought, THAT IS pride! From then on, Rimcollians started pouring into my life, from all regions and varied backgrounds.

It is amazing how a few things commonly stand out:-their fraternity, pride for their alma mater, brimming confidence, their capacity to trust, their bankability, their alertness in pre-empting danger, their wisdom in not jumping to take on tasks, their deftness in avoiding jobs, ability to delegate !!Quite a growing list I must say!....Also, what makes them stand apart from the herd is their ability to maintain a low profile in spite of their sharpness and achievements! Let me confess that I wasn't exposed to this trait before, and now, I rate it higher than most of the other usual virtues!

Fast forward to Jan 1987

India was on 'red alert'. My husband was away at some unknown destination. And I was a mother-to be. I remember my husband telling me, he always wanted to have two sons, school them both in RIMC, and look forward to all of us attending reunions together. I could not figure out much of this dream of his. But then, I loved sharing all his dreams blindly for whatever they were worth. I had to shoulder the responsibility of bringing both my young 'Rimcollians' into this world all alone since the dad was away on duty. Duty was beyond mundane emotions,and bravery was romance!

My Rimcollian had groomed me well, ...to meet every challenge that came my way.

"It is the first few blows on the anvil of the life that give the human weapon the set and temper that carry him through life's battles"!!OH YES! The blows had done their job!

Swarup's dreams did come true. We went on to have two sons. The two sons were being groomed from the time they were five plus to follow in their Dad's footsteps. They were taken to College for a few Reunions to get the "feel of RIMC". They loved "the feel". My In laws were all encouraging, waiting for the day to see their grandsons becoming Rimcollians and thereafter, Armed Forces Officers. Our Rimcollian friends were thrilled at our decision and were



The senior Swarup of the family receiving an award ... May be for Hindi debate! Great feat for a South Indian from Mysore!



Ranjitian SR Swarup when he was commissioned into the Indian Air Force... In 1980. The other picture shows two future Rimcollians getting inspired by the IL-76 that Wg Cdr Swarup flew...

instrumental in motivating and parting with tips in abundance! The boys were prepared physically and mentally for what was to come. Horror stories of the College were narrated, punishments discussed, and some front-roll practice given.

Both Aditya and Gautam joined RIMC, not without sincere effort. I can never forget the words of Chandraguptian, Capt. Nirjhar Bhaumik as we entered Thimmaya Gate. Congratulations Ma'am!, Your job of bringing them up is over. The College takes over now!!"

Here, the lad enters a cadet and leaves as a leader!

The boys graduated successfully. But, not without hiccups. Aditya the elder one managed to keep his head above water and Gautam, as is the case with most younger-borns, was on a life jacket most of the time.

They had no great family traditions to live upto. The Dad was no 'medhavi'! He had marched along to the finishing line uneventfully without dent or great intent, a quality that I have greatly come to admire!

I remember vividly when Gautam Swarup came 24th -the last, in his first term exam. The cool dad told him 'Look



Gautam, the debater... and Aditya, the Rider during their College days



When my younger son, Gautam Swarup joined RIMC and Aditya was a VIth Termer



The Rimcollian lined up with the Rimcos for the weath-laying ceremony during Reunion 2012

at the brighter side Gautu, from here on, you can only do better'. This encouragement went a long way in seeing him do 'better' for the rest of his RIMC tenure. I was warned that if I was looking for pure academics, RIMC wasn't the place and I was fine with it. I was looking for the College to groom my boys in life skills and that was happening bigtime!

As I look back, the Senior Swarup in my house graduated with 58%, Aditya Swarup with 59% and Gautam Swarup three years later with 60%. I remember looking at my husband's mark-sheet with such disdain as he reluctantly took me to the Archives! For this Rimcolliana, whose role models were Einstein, Bohr, Ramanujam and the likes; this was a far cry indeed!! But as later events revealed, this was all a subterfuge. The boys have passed every competitive exam they have laid their hands on, and have been successful in all challenges that life has thrown their way till now! The Swarup brothers successfully made it to NDA and passed the SSB, but opted not to be a part of the Armed Forces. Aditya confessed his heart didn't lie in wearing a uniform and Gautam had a medical issue.

Aditya went on to be a Rhodes Scholar. Probably, the only one in the history of Rhodes who was awarded the scholarship with 59% marks. He had to be coaxed to terminate his studies after he added a BA LLB from NALSAR Hyderabad, an LLM and an M Phil from Oxford University next to his name. Gautam followed in the footsteps of his illustrious brother to graduate from NALSAR, Hyderabad with a BA LLB Honours. He is today a practicing tax attorney in Delhi. Now I wonder why they ever say academics are a sore point in RIMC.

When I asked my boys what was the secret of their success, their words ring in my ears, 'One needs to learn how to handle failure mom, only then can he succeed'. RIMC put us through experiences that made us realize this truth!

Watching three Rimcollians at home is like a gripping, predictable movie, however oxymoronic that may sound!

They look alike, think alike, talk the



Flanked by my sons, Shivajian Gautam Swarup and Ranjitian Aditya Swarup



The Rimcollian Lawyers judging a moot Court competition in NALSAR, the Law School they studied...

same language, use the same logic and come to the same conclusions! The conclusions are rarely preceded by a discussion. Peace, calm and silence is the theme of their lives. They have the same friends, drink the same whiskey, rave about the same scotch eggs and have the same holiday plans. Adventure is generally not embraced unless thrust upon them. Arguments are meant to be lost. BUT they are Leaders in every way! In my absence, the three Rimcollians can spend 48 hours together without a discussion other asking than what to order for dinner. Their best friends are Rimcollians, and for them a trip to RIMC is going 'home'.

I remember this particular visit to a book shop in Chennai. My husband spent 40 minutes and finally picked a book, something on Indian history. Two months later I went with my elder son to the same bookshop. He picked the same book after browsing through for an hour. Another few months later, when I went with my younger son to the same shop, there were absolutely no surprises; he picked up the same book. So much for individuality!

Well, it is more than 30 years since RIMC came to be a part of my life. From being a part of my life, it HAS BECOME MY LIFE, MY SPIRIT and MY STYLE. Swarup's dream of attending Reunions together is being fulfilled. Humility abandons me when I say I have achieved one thing - and that is my position as a RIMCOLLIANA. I feel special and honored when introduced as a Rimcollian wife and mother of two Rimcollians. I love hearing the squeals of delight that follow. This pride, pleasure and privilege are difficult to suppress.

This story, the editor briefed me, was about being a Rimcollian wife and Rimcollian mother. But it would be incomplete if I do not mention that hundreds of Rimcollians have touched our lives. They have motivated our children to join RIMC, encouraged them to excel and thereafter, and have shared our pride in their achievements.

A mention of my mother in law who was a brilliant lady, a great writer, and a great human being, a patriot in every sense, is warranted. She was ever proud of the fact that she sent her only son to



The proud Rimcollians with her gallant ones... During the Reunion of 2016



From Cadet Swarup to Capt Swarup

RIMC. Alas she is no more. But I am sure she would revel at the fact, that this once I did beat her to it.... by producing two Rimcollians who are writers too!!

As one journeys along life, if one can be least bruised, if one can be amused by everything that passes by, and if one doesn't lose sight of the destination with a contented smile on his lips, I feel, the initial blows on the anvil of life have done their job well... RIMC has done it for the Swarups!

Long live the spirit of RIMC. May their tribe grow from strength to strength!
(Usha Swarup, wife and mother of two Rimcollians would like to be known as just that. Presently, she is a happy student pursuing Sanskrit and Vedanta.)



HEY, PAPPU CAN BOX

By Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph
112 Course Ranjit Section

Boxing has always had a special place at RIMC and a boxer is revered and honoured like no other. At NDA, a Rimcollian is described as being a good boxer, good in PT, plays Squash, good at outdoors, OK in academics and almost always in that order. Of course this was the description in the 80s. The 70s and earlier may not have been very kind to a Rimcollian as regards academics but even higher attributes were given to his outdoor capabilities and in particular to boxing and PT. The 80s at NDA saw the transition to improvement in academics and in the 90s, there were more all-rounders who excelled in all spheres: extracurricular, academics and

THE 80S AT NDA SAW THE TRANSITION TO IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMICS AND IN THE 90S, THERE WERE MORE ALL-ROUNDERS WHO EXCELLED IN ALL SPHERES: EXTRACURRICULAR, ACADEMICS AND THE TRADITIONAL OUTDOORS. BUT ALMOST ALWAYS A RIMCOLLIAN WAS ASSOCIATED WITH BOXING AT THE NDA

the traditional outdoors. But almost always a Rimcollian was associated with boxing at the NDA. And the weight categories from under 45kgs, 54-57kgs or 57-60kgs was almost 100% Rimcollian dominated with one fighting the other and taking all the medals albeit for different squadrons.

In our time at NDA, we had novices boxing, both in our first and second terms. Those days, NDA Wing for first termers was separate from the main academy. For my novices boxing bout I fought PK Singh (Pushkar Kumar Singh), 112 Chandragupt. Being school types and classmates we fought a 'close guarded bout' throwing a flurry of



punches; thus showing tremendous fury and aggression without actually hurting or damaging. And as we fought at close quarters we escaped the scrutiny of the Divisional Officers and Instructors. Often many get caught 'shamming' or 'playacting' in the novices bout and end up as 'cannon fodder'; providing target practice to more renowned boxers by threat or coercion. PK was an outstanding boxer though he often ended up with 'Well fought Blue but Red is the winner' tag. PK was known for his technical skill and his bête noire most often was Ashok Kumar Aukta, another renowned boxer highly technical, who was often in the running for the Best Boxers tag both at school and NDA. So in this novice's bout it was but natural that I was second best.

The other renowned boxers of my

ADHIR ARORA'S STYLE WAS UNIQUE. TO TEACH US BOXING IN RANJIT SECTION, HE WOULD KEEP HIS HANDS BEHIND HIM AND ASK US TO PUNCH HIM, YET WE COULD NEVER TOUCH HIM. HE WAS LIGHT ON HIS FEET AND HIS DUCKING SKILLS LEGENDARY

time included Sanjeev Khatri in the lowest weight category, highly technical and unmatched all through, absolutely light on his feet and boxing was a fine art with him in the ring. 'Float like a butterfly and sting like a bee' was an appropriate tag for him. Maybe Mohammad Ali borrowed it. Opponents claim he never even blinked when a punch was thrown at him. Then there was Ashok Kumar Aukta, Alok Kacker, Tajinder Singh, Surdip Chand Katoch, Adhir Arora, Ajay Sharma, GRS Reddy, Soumitra Biswas, V Khamo, Atul Rawat, Rajesh Nathawat, Rajeev Negi, J S Bisht, HS Bainsla, Vikramjeet Singh and so on.

Adhir Arora's style was unique. To teach us boxing in Ranjit section, he would keep his hands behind him and ask us to punch him, yet we could never touch him. He was light on his feet and

his ducking skills legendary. Imagine a boxer keeping his hand behind his back and no one able to touch him. We also had Surdip Chand known for his strength; very hard hitting and relentless and always achieving a technical knockout if not a knock out - though he did have worthy opponents. His bouts with Soumitra Biswas from Chandragupt were always technical and thrilling. My own experience in boxing at school was in being a sparring partner to Alok Kacker and Tejinder Singh, two outstanding boxers in Ranjit and in my own weight. I endured umpteen punches from these two and could only grin and bear it. I never got the opportunity to step into the ring courtesy these two pugilists. Come to think of it they competed for the same position in every game I played and they were far better.

Once I was asked if I would increase my weight and fight in a weight category above mine as no one was willing to fight- for fear of a reputed knock out specialist. 'Anything for the section' and I prepared, to put on weight and to practice more, with the hope that I would get that chance to box. After a fortnight of rigorous practice and futile efforts to gain weight; my seniors (Surdip Chand) in Ranjit indicated that as I was too small it would be unfair and a senior took my place as cannon fodder. Thus my boxing dream remained unrealised.

There were plenty of interesting boxers, unique styles and match ups. Adhir Arora and Ajay Sharma's bouts involved lot of ducking and weaving. Pandey with his relentless approach of 'even if you hit me I will continue hitting' was a revelation. This was a unique style that caught on at RIMC for the underdogs. Hitherto, it was always technique, artistry and skill that stole the show in Boxing at school. Now here was Sanjay Pandey ('saa') who with his sheer bravado, raw courage and relentless punching showed that the underdog can stand on his own and take the fight to the other guy and even win. I am sure there were many who manfully absorbed punches for the

section, but to turn the beating and pounding into counter punching, and put the more renowned boxer on the defensive - that was truly inspirational. Rajan Khosla beating Rajeev Bhatia was a major upset. Kaila manfully withstanding Alok Kacker's barrage was another. There are many more stories.

There were many famous boxers on whom 'pantheons' could be written. Legend has it that few RIMCO boxers: Negi, Pathania and Tomar, before our time was so dominating that RIMC was excluded from District Boxing.

After my failure in the novices bout with PK in my first term at NDA. I obviously did not get a chance to box competitively in NDA Wing. I was surprisingly under the scanner of the Div O despite the RIMCO tag or may be it was because athletics and football had started. In my second term novices bout, I was drawn to fight Avadhoot Gade, a gold medallist from NDA wing. When the bout started, I turned in the customary style of a Rimcollian technical boxer with style and skill; when Gade rushed in, throwing a flurry of punches completely catching me off guard and I was knocked down. Yes, knocked down.

'Bloody Rimco' came the muttering from my seconds' corner and from my squadron mates of Echo squadron. I got up not so physically hurt as mentally at these words; brushed myself and readied to continue the bout. From here on it was 'Pandey style'. For every punch that Gade threw I stood my ground and gave two more. I closed in and my punches were near continuous; unconcerned of what hit me but totally focussed on giving back to Gade my course mate. I think Gade was taken aback, for by round 2, I was able to shift between the 'Pandey style' of boxing to the more renowned and stylish Rimcollian style of boxing. And to my surprise at the end of it all I had won! I had beaten a Wing Gold medallist of my course; Hey, Pappu can box!

All the sparring sessions with Kacker and Teji had probably made a boxer out of me. Of course the tips from Adhir Arora and Surdip Chand may have

seeped in. And I even had the cheek to tell PK that maybe I would have won the bout had we fought seriously in our Novices. 'Confidence does that to people'.

The win meant my being selected in the Echo Boxing team and although I never won a medal at NDA I was a consistent semi finalist every time I fought. The highlight being in my V term wherein I lost a close semi final to a very good friend of mine A K Samantra (Brigadier 26 Madras). I lost three judges to two with the two who scored for me giving me a bigger margin of victory. The irony was that he had to give a walkover in the final as his shoulders were all swollen up and he could not lift his hands (He was a good 5-6 inches taller than I and my punches only reached his shoulders).

Later, my confidence grew so much that I, as a young officer, used to spar with the Navy team preparing for Services championship. I could easily stand my own and often questioned as to why Officers were not allowed to box; for if someone with lesser skill like me could stand my own against Services Boxers (and those days the national team was virtually Services and at best one or two from Railways) then the more talented ones could definitely have gone further. I can only imagine where the Khatri's, Kackers and Aukta's could have reached. But Officers non participation in sports like Boxing and Wrestling is a reality for bigger reasons and has to be accepted as so, else the ramifications could turn differently for Service ethos, discipline and chain of command. Boxing for Officers end at the Academy.

The lesson from all this is 'Pappu can box'. For too often in life we may be competing against someone more talented, capable or renowned without realising our own growth and learning in the process; That we too may grown in strength and skill to be a force, may be a factor unknown to us until we actually step out of our comfort zone. In sports as in life, at the end of the day we are actually competing with ourselves; to be better than what we were or are.



THE CHARM OF ATTENDING NDA POP

By Col VY Gidh, VSM (Retd)
967-72, SHIVAJI

Just as a visit to RIMC brings back nostalgic memories of the wonderful five years we spent at our Alma Mater, a trip to the National Defence Academy for all ex-NDAs evokes comparable sentiments. A trip combined with attending the bi-annual Passing Out Ceremony, the most spectacular among the end-of-term events at the Academy, is indeed an icing on the cake. The unique parade held at the Khetarpal Parade Ground comprises of over 1000 participating cadets bidding farewell to their senior colleagues. The haunting strains of 'Auld Lang Syne' and the Adjutant on his charger (horse) accompanies the passing out cadets to the Final Steps called Antim Path before they pass out from portals of this hallowed institution. And if the award winners at the Passing Out Parade (POP) all happen to be from RIMC, one can imagine the sense of pride and exhilaration felt by fellow Rimcollians witnessing the Parade. It was a similar situation when three of us-

Capt(IN) Vijay Naphade, Col Priotosh Deb and self were fortunate to attend the POP of the 129th Course at NDA on 28 November 2015.

It was a misty Saturday morning when hundreds of spectators including parents of cadets of the passing out course gathered at Khetarpal Parade Ground braving cold to witness the parade of cadets who successfully completed the three-year training at NDA. It had rained the previous two days and the temperature had dropped to 12 degrees Celsius, signaling the onset of an early winter. Soon, there was a sense of excitement as the Right Markers of the squadrons marched in smartly in the parade ground, followed by the respective squadrons. The Reviewing Officer, Admiral RK Dhowan, Chief of Naval Staff was received by Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, Commandant NDA. Initially the prevailing fog was an impediment for the spectators as they struggled to witness the parade but as the squadrons smartly marched past the

Quarter Deck, the fog gradually cleared and everyone enjoyed the glorious event.

The most thrilling event for Rimcollians was the Award Ceremony. The President's Gold Medal was won by ACC PK Mohanty for standing first in the order of merit, the Silver Medal by BCC Abhishek Kundlia for standing second and Bronze Medal by ACE Anmol Rawat for standing third. The 'Panther' Squadron bagged the prestigious 'Chiefs of Staff Banner' for being the Champion Squadron. The cadets of Panther Squadron will have the privilege of wearing their lanyard on the right like we do in RIMC, while the Squadron can have the distinction of displaying two cannons and flying the Academy flag.

Like all good things come to an end, the cadets eventually formed up for the grand finale-the marching out from the parade ground. Some first term cadets scrambled up the Mast on the Quarter Deck to bid farewell. As the combined bands played the old favourite 'Auld Lang Syne' and a

sense of nostalgia filled the air, the junior squadrons marched back towards the QM Fort in slow march while the passing out course marched towards the Quarter Deck. The proud parents were seen trying to spot their young one as the passing out cadets approached the Quarter Deck. One could see the satisfaction when a few lucky ones were able to take an odd photograph of their son at the appropriate moment. As the ACC approached the Antim Path and the Adjutant saluted the Chief Guest, in perfect synchronization a fly-past by three Sukhoi30 aircrafts each in VIC formation marked the culmination of the grand event. A total of 338 cadets graduated from the Academy, which included 229 cadets from the Army, 40 from the Navy and 69 from the Air Force. Besides, there were 16 foreign national cadets from friendly countries like Bhutan, Tajikistan, Maldives, Afghanistan, Fiji, Ethiopia and Lesotho.

The VIPs and cadets and parents of the Passing Out Course thereafter moved to the Salaria Square opposite the Sudan Block. We missed the usual Aerobatics of the Surya Kirans this time but the consolation was the 'High Tea' consisting of tasty snacks specially prepared from the NDA bakery. Some officers from the 29th NDA Course had also attended the POP to commemorate 50 years of their passing out from NDA and it was nice to meet Capt (IN) Vijay Paradkar and Gp Capt DC Gupta; and Gp Capt BK Prusti who had come all the way from Orissa. They were thrilled when I informed them that all the three medal winners were Rimcollians. The Rimcollians posted in NDA, Director Training, Capt (IN) Debanshu Rastogi and Cdr AS Siwach in NTT joined me for a photograph with the three Rimcollian medal winners. After the wonderful function, Vijay Naphade who was my Cadet Guardian in Shivaji Section in mid 1960s gladly dropped me home since due to a back injury some weeks back I had been advised not to drive. A fortnight later I sent a DO letter to the three proud parents of the award winners enclosing a copy of our group photograph and one taken during the Award Ceremony. It was nice to receive a Thank You note later from them. The newspaper cuttings of the NDA

POP which appeared prominently in the local English dailies, were sent to RIMC for the information of the Cadets.

The Rimcollian instructors posted in NDA had organized a social at the Golf Hut for our sixth term passing out cadets two days prior to the POP. We were fortunate to also attend the same along with some officers from the CME. Though it was pretty cold that night, the Rimcollian spirit ensured everyone enjoyed the function. It was in 2001 when we had started this unique tradition, kind courtesy the suggestion given by the sixth term Rimcollian cadets. Since they all had been cadets in RIMC during my AO tenure, I could not refuse them. It was nice to see the fine tradition being followed by the Rimcollians posted in the Academy.

This POP reminded me of our course POP in June 1975 which I had been unlucky to miss due to the unfortunate 'bashing incident' during the 48th Course Lima Squadron Social few days before the POP. The ragging had gone out of control and it almost became a 'free for all' event. Yours truly like a good Samaritan had gone to control the mob who were targeting one of the innocent sixth termers. The young crooks turned their wrath upon me and thinking that I had been a good boxer in School and the Academy, I willingly took on the thrashing on his behalf. Most of the sixth termers had hardly slept that night after enduring the agony, while two of them had to be hospitalized at night. Next morning was the Adjutant's Parade which I attended but complained of dizziness thereafter. I was helped to the MH where the doctors admitted me for back injury and severe exhaustion. A pail of gloom descended upon the Academy the next day as we learnt that one of our course mates who had been transferred to the Command Hospital, Pune, had passed away. My parents who arrived from Mumbai after two days were worried to see their son in MH but relieved when he finally managed to pass out a week after the POP.

Like a true soldier I had forgotten this unfortunate episode and our son Varun joined as a cadet in Lima Squadron in June 2000. Later when I got posted as a Battalion Commander in NDA in 2000,

my predecessor who happened to be from our NDA course showed me the book "The History of NDA" written by Prof TN Raina, our revered English teacher. It contained the chapter "The Sad Squadron Social" which mentioned about the unfortunate Lima Squadron Social in June 1975. Having missed out on my own final POP, I made it a point to attend all the POPs in NDA after my retirement. A trip to NDA brings back many pleasant memories of the three eventful years we spent at this premier training institution. The NDA has started a website www.nda.nic.in which gives good coverage of the Academy. After the documentary 'Cradle for Leadership' made by the Films Division in 1974, the NDA had made an excellent movie 'Standard Bearers' in 2002, which is its official movie. The NDA Alumni Association (NDAAA) is a vibrant organization in Pune, which organizes regular events for ex-NDA officers who are its members. These include interaction with the cadets, special passes for the POP and other facilities.

Much seems to have changed at the Academy since we were cadets in early 1970s or even after 2000s when I was posted there. More than 33,000 cadets have passed from this Academy and they have served the Armed Forces of the nation with great pride. The present strength of cadets has gone up to almost 2300 and likely to increase further. There are five battalions now with 'Quebec' and 'Romeo' Squadrons having been raised. The cadets are awarded BA or BSc degrees while passing out. Naval cadets will now receive B Tech degree. The NDA Ball held every end of term is a major attraction today like the Navy Ball. It also becomes a stepping stone for some prospective Femina Miss India Contestants. The tough ragging is a thing of the past. Yet, there is so much that has not changed, and can never change. The ethos, training and the attitude remains the same. Today, when I see the young cadets emerging from the academy, I realise that they are far smarter for their age than we were. Perhaps, it is in keeping with the present generation of human beings. The traditions, nevertheless, continue.

ACC AVINASH CHHETRY
(2008-13, SHIVAJI) - FIRST NDA CADET
FROM NORTHEAST TO WIN
PRESIDENT'S GOLD MEDAL



First time in the history of National Defence Academy (NDA), a cadet from the North East has won the President's Gold Medal



For the first time in the history of National Defence Academy (NDA), a cadet from the North East has won the President's Gold Medal for standing first in the overall order of merit and commanded the Passing Out Parade (POP).

It was a proud occasion for Academy Cadet Captain Avinash Chhetry who is from Tezpur, Assam where he has witnessed the Army's presence and their actions right from his childhood. The son

of a paramilitary officer, he dreamt of joining the Indian Army since he was a child. He completed his schooling from the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military School (RIMS), Dehradun before getting into NDA. Speaking to Sakal Times, an elated Chhetry, said, "It is a proud moment for me and my parents as I have become the first cadet who has commanded the POP and won the gold medal. Since I have completed my studies in a military school,

it was not that difficult for me to adjust to life at the academy." Chhetry said that he would like to join either the Gorkha Rifles or Special Forces of the Indian Army as he wants to engage himself into combat roles in the future. According to Chhetry, the situation in the North East region has now much improved than it was in the past. Upon being asked whether he would like to lead an Army unit in his home state Assam, Chhetry quipped, "Why not?"



DEEPA MALIK CONQUERING AGAINST ALL ODDS

By Boria Majumdar

For Deepa Malik, life has never been able to pose a challenge that could dim her spirit. From getting operated upon when her husband was serving the nation in Kargil and getting 163 stitches between her shoulder blades, she has been a real life inspiration for years now. Having won sporting laurels at the international stage for close to a decade, the only medal missing from her repertoire was the Paralympic one. And at Rio, she has fulfilled her dream.

Deepa has never been daunted by adversity. When told as a 26-year-old that her choice was between paralysis and death, anyone else would have had a meltdown. A budding sportswoman and cricketer for Rajasthan despite suffering paralytic shocks since the age of eight, Deepa, however, faced the impossibility of life head-on. Seven broken vertebrae and frequent MRI scans in the absence of titanium plates could not stop her from taking to throwing the javelin in 2006. Then it became the shot put, the event that has given her Paralympic glory in Rio.

Tasting success at the 2010 Para Asian Games, Deepa aspired to make a mark at the 2012 London Paralympics. However, she wasn't able to make it in the absence of a quota and that only resulted in strengthening her resolve. Rio had to happen. It was in a sense the climax of her journey. Having fought 19 long months to get a license as a rally driver in Maharashtra, Deepa knows how it is to be a para athlete in India. She knew the system wasn't conducive to getting her ready.

But it is never about the system in India, is it! Our athletes win despite the absence of a system. They win because they stand out.

It is absolutely essential to state in this context that our treatment of



Mariyappan, Deepa and Varun and our sensitivity and affection showered on these three super achievers will go a long way to defining us as a 'people'.

Deepa in that sense is an opportunity for each of us. To redeem ourselves and stand up to the test of our own conscience. She is the best story of grit and determination that we can possibly have and is proof that never was it about facilities and infrastructure as it is often

made out to be. It was always about will and the determination to succeed. It was about the fire in the belly and the conviction to make a mark at the biggest state of them all. Finally, it was about the burning desire to make the country proud.

(Deepa Malik is daughter-in-law of Maj Gen Balbir S Malik, Rimcollian from Pratap Section)

Courtesy : India Today

PRANATI RAI PRAKASH: INDIA'S NEXT TOP MODEL

By Vinayak Chakraborty



Patna girl Pranati wanted to be a supermodel since she was nine. On Sunday night she moved a step closer to her dream, winning the second season of India's Next Top Model.

Pranati Rai Prakash--although the surname is only for social media introduction - looks at her victory as more than just about hard work. "Weeks of toiling has borne fruit, but beyond that I realised being here helped me reach a different level mentally. One emerges stronger amid such competition," she says, adding that being a smalltownner has its advantages. "One is not so familiar with fashion growing up in a small town, so naturally it makes you curious. Perhaps modelling would not become my life's love if I grew up with easy access to the job while growing up in a big city. Life in the metro gives you exposure, but smalltownners learn

not to take things for granted."

Although Pranati originally hails from Patna, she grew up all over India since her father was an Armyman. "Wherever we went, there was FTV. Many people shudder at the idea of fashion television. They talk of the kind of clothes girls are shown wearing on the shows. For me, I love all kinds of clothes, which is a reason I chose to become a model," she says.

While parental support was never lacking, Pranati had no one to guide her. "I never knew how to reach here. Neither did my parents, despite being wholly supportive of my dream. Of course, dad would always joke I look average!" she recalls with a grin.

Bollywood plans? "I would like to continue modelling for a couple of years first. I find a similarity between Bollywood and modelling beyond the glamour. Both are about hitting the right expressions. Only, in films you

have to do it at a higher level."

A Miss India finalist in 2015, Pranati was one of the pageant's more popular contestants, having won Miss Fashion Icon, Miss Talented and Miss Beautiful Legs. "Miss India is very different in format. It is more about how you represent your state, how you talk, walk and conduct yourself. India's Next Top Model is about tackling challenges in each round," says Pranati.

She looks up to Priyanka Chopra as a role model in showbiz. "I love her communication skills. She is doing so much work in Bollywood as well as abroad," says Pranati, adding that right now she is in no rush and will "wait for good assignments to come" her way.

(Pranati is daughter of Col Prem Prakash, Ranjit Section (1978). Col Prakash is also a former Administrative Officer and a former Commandant of RIMC)

Courtesy: Mail Today

Wielding the Quill

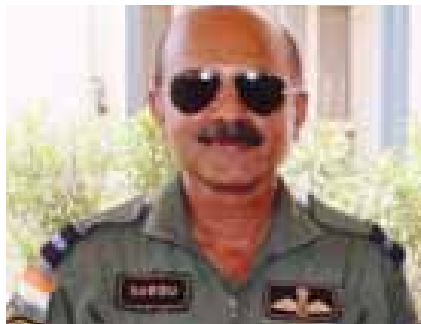
'INDIA'S WARS: A MILITARY HISTORY 1947-1971

By Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam, AVSM, PhD

(Pratap1973-77)

Considering that the history of RIMC and the military history of independent India are like two sides of the same coin, it is only appropriate that a Rimcollian, Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam has written a comprehensive military history that concurrently narrates the story of the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. Let us not forget for one moment, our proud legacy of producing WW II's first Indian Victoria Cross winner, Lt Premindra Singh Bhagat, or independent India's first Param Vir Chakra winner, Major Som Nath Sharma - these are stories we learnt by heart when we were cadets at RIMC.

Published by Harper Collins, a leading publisher, India's Wars: A Military History 1947-1971, may look a tough book to read for cadets, but I am sure that as you flip through the pages, you will feel proud of

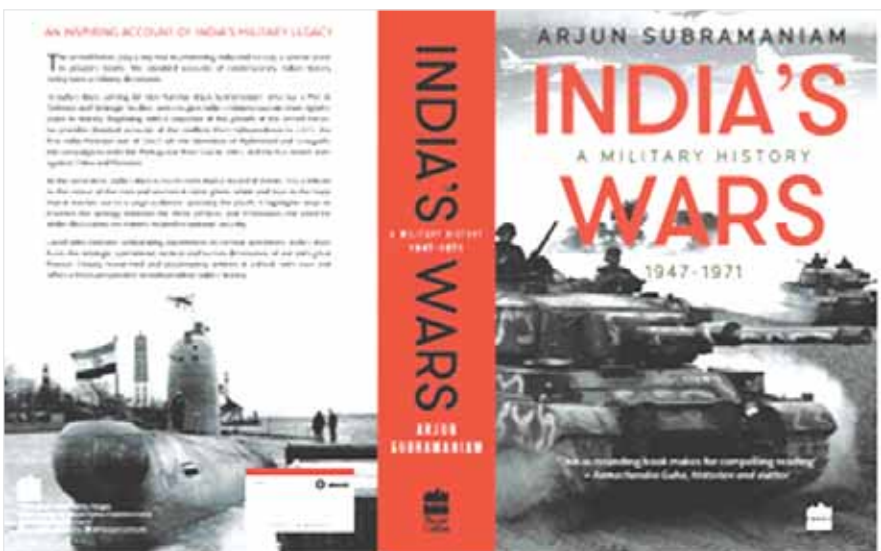


the kind of traditions and ethos of India's modern armed forces and this will only reinvigorate your commitment to become good soldiers, sailors or airmen in the years ahead. The book starts with a personal perspective by the author of his impressions of soldiering, war and conflict during his service career of 34 years. It then looks at the DNA of all three services before dissecting all the conflicts that independent India's armed forces have

fought in from a joint perspective. The book is laced with interesting anecdotes and battle accounts from war heroes and accomplished soldiers, sailors and airmen. Many Rimcollians feature in the book - Bhagat, Bewoor, Candeth, Som Nath Sharma and Patney being among them - look up their dossiers in the library for some early information about them!! Happy Reading.

Reflections at RIMC

Unlike the typical toughie Rimcollian, I was a bit of a 'softie' when I came into school in early 1973. Bullied for much part of my first couple of terms, thank god I was good at something - I was a decent debater, an ok opening batsman for the school cricket team and pretty good at Table Tennis. So I survived. I enjoyed Mr Khan's English classes and I think the seeds of my writing were planted in his classes. History was my favourite subject and I used to spend quite some time browsing through old British history books that had been donated to the library by Mr Catchpole. Mr Singhal, my section master used to tell me that I had potential, but used to point his finger and say, 'what for I don't know.' I think I muddled my way through ten terms; gave my parents a couple of shocks by running away from school and getting caught throwing 'cheating slips' during a crucial exam and almost got relegated by Col Waraich, the Commandant. Almost forty years later I can say that I ain't done too badly - I have flown fast jets, picked up two stars along the way and written a couple of books - and I owe much of it to my alma mater, RIMC.



PARAM VIR CHAKRA

A tribute to 21 Brave Soldiers

By Lt Colonel Kaushik Sircar (Retd)

(Shivaji 1979-83)

- Since Independence 21 Soldiers were awarded the Param Vir Chakra
- 14 were awarded posthumously and 07 were living legends
- As on date three are surviving as under:
 - Honorary Captain Bana Singh, PVC (Retd)
 - Nb Subedar Sanjay Kumar, PVC
 - Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav, PVC

It is the highest military decoration awarded for the highest degree of valor or self sacrifice in the presence of the enemy, similar to British Victoria Cross, US Medal of Honour, or French Legion of Honor or Russian Cross of St George.

It was established on 26th Jan 1950 and was first awarded 03 November 1947 to Major Somnath Sharma, PVC (Posthumously)

The medal was designed by: It was designed by a woman, Mrs. Savitri Khanolkar (Born Eva Yvonne Linda Maday-de-Maros to a Hungarian father and Russian Mother) and was married to Major General V Khanolkar of the Sikh Regiment. She was very highly regarded because of her knowledge on Hindu Mythology. By sheer coincidence the first Param Vir

was awarded to her Daughtetr's brother-in-law Major Somnath Sharma.

The book has been divided under three heads; Those who embraced Death, Those who Kissed Death and What inspired these men for this conspicuous act of bravery and courage. The author has rightly given a brief on all the

operations and the various operational chiefs who handled and planned the wars at that point of time.

The book is indeed very informative and captures the essence of military life and battle account of each of the PVC awardees in a very interesting and lucid manner.

I salute the bravest of the brave and appreciate the author for having written on an extremely significant subject. The summarised wars fought since independence has been collated well and signify the essence of the operations, their associated sacrifices and heroism.

I am sure this book will not only find a place in armed forces units and libraries but would go a long way to motivate the younger generation who shall find it inspiring and fascinating. I also feel that this book should be read all across by entire student fraternity in schools and colleges in the appropriate medium so that our younger generation, the youth and future of this country are well versed with the sacrifices of our soldiers who stood like a rock and braved the environment for a better day for all of us. The book is aptly dedicated to those brave mothers who bear such brave children.

Jai Hind.



Wielding the Quill

ON PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA

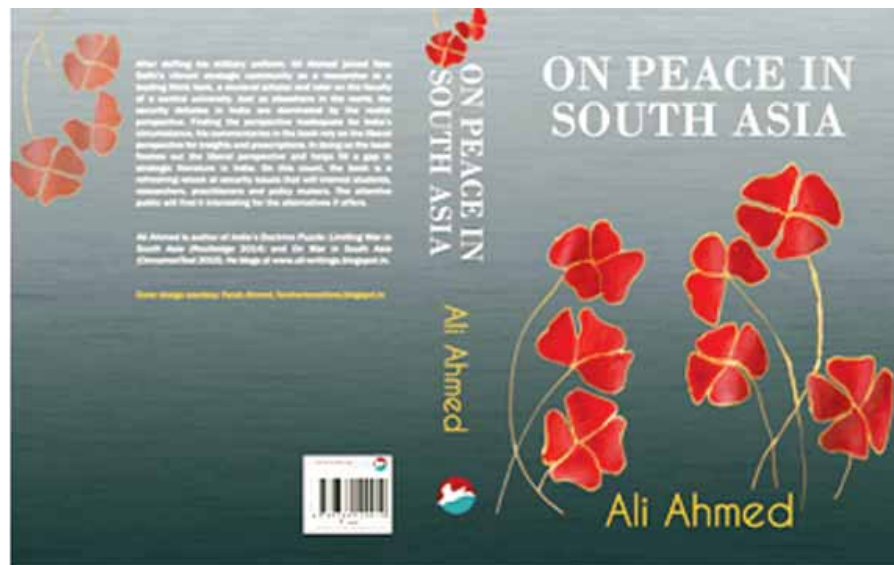
By Col Ali Ahmed (Retd)
(Pratap 1978-82)

Excerpted from Preface

The book is about India's grand strategy and strategy. It covers India's regional, national and internal security issues. It is divided in two parts, with part one comprising the first two levels - regional and national security - and part two dealing with internal security. The articles cover the period since 2008 till 2014. They have been arranged chronologically rather than in themes.

The difference between other books and this one I believe would be in the liberal lens adopted here to view security. Since readers may be more familiar with the realist work in security, this may be a fresh perspective. I hope the book therefore fills what I believe is a gap in security thinking in India.

Since it is an unfamiliar perspective for most, the contents may appear critical at most times of extant policy. The intent has been to highlight shortfalls in policy and strategy as also to suggest fresh lines of action. The idea was to ameliorate problems and provide options for policy makers. Sometimes these have been 'outside the box', but then most security problems are past traditional security 'solutions' and require thinking afresh how to tackle them. The part on national regional and national security covers issues such as India-Pakistan relations, relationship between political aims and military means, strategic ends-ways-means, military location in the national



I HOPE THE BOOK
THEREFORE FILLS
WHAT I BELIEVE IS A
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scheme and strategic culture. The second part concentrates on issues that have figured over the past decade such as use of force in internal security situations, Kashmir, counter insurgency and terrorism. The security problematic of India's largest minority, its Muslims, is also covered in this part.

The major point the book makes is that strengthening the military incessantly has its limitations. There are also foreseeable and unforeseen

dangers. I dwell on this in my other book *On War in South Asia* (w Cinnamon` Teal Publishing, 2015). There is therefore a need to move away from endlessly seeking a 'position of strength' to resolve matters, and relying on the political prong of strategy to wrap up security problems facing India. This will shift much money away from the military means to more significant social and economic problems India faces.

It is for this reason dedicated to India's poor, who cannot wait out their lives in the hope that India comes round to tackling their problems once it becomes a great power. In fact, the book serves to alert that the current road will likely distract India away from the only way ahead: by rescuing its people from want.

Tales of Crucible and Cauldron

A slice of childhood bliss



Revisiting fondest corners of childhood memories, Tales of Crucible and Cauldron explores an interesting gastro-nomic journey at RIMC, writes Tania Ameer

Our idyllic childhood memories are primarily reflective of particularly pertinent incidents, but invariably the fondest are the ones linked to food. While growing up, I was a lanky child who persistently gorged only on cheese parathas. When I look back, I remember each of these meals attached with an exceptionally naughty act of mine. Tales of Crucible and Cauldron - the latest in the series of books chronicles experiences of cadets at Rashtriya Indian Military School (RIMC), encapsulating fond memories they associated with food served at the dining hall. While reading the book, I recalled each of the delightfully gastronomic yet naughty episodes during my childhood.

The book begins with Mahatma Gandhi's wise words: "To the hungry god cannot appear in any other form than bread." On the Camphor Series of books, Brigadier H Dharmarajan notes, "What a wonderful idea! It is so very absorbing, particularly when one can relate to every single word in it. Needles to mention, one invariably homes in onto one's contemporaries. To that extent, your mix of the young and the old is a great blend." In the foreword, Brigadier Chander Singh Thapa pertinently explains, "This book

should not be mistaken to be dealing just with the delicacies of RIMC kitchen. It talks at length about mess matters, how integral to the growth of a child as a gentleman." After the tales narrated by Rimcollians conclude, there are recipes of famous dishes from the RIMC mess coupled with respective photographs. These legendary dishes include: the scotch eggs, mutton shammi kabab, roast chicken, baked vegetable in mayonnaise and jelly with cream.

Editor of the series, Sidharth Mishra in the first story Bison - the behemoth elucidates on aptness of the title, with the RIMC mess being both a - Crucible and Cauldron. "The cadet's mess at the RIMC is not only about serving some very delectable food but also generating many a food for some long-lasting thoughts. It's not just a cauldron where the best stew is brewed but also a crucible where ambassadors of different cultures come together to give rise to new ethos - the idea of being a Rimcollian," writes Mishra. He also explains the significance of the head of the bison, which was presented to the RIMC as a trophy by the 3rd Cavalry in 1936, "This Bison is like a guarding angel, wanting every cadet to be healthy," says Mishra.

Illustrating this very fact, the book's cover which depicts the cadet's mess with the Bison mounted on top, has been designed by Dipti Mishra.

Across the short stories penned by varied RIMC alumnus, the love for 'Scotch eggs' runs like a common thread. This dish seems to be the most desired and coveted item served at the school across batches. Notably, the spirit of sharing and generosity is inculcated at the dining table for these young cadets. Chiranjit Banerjee in 'The Cauldron' mentions, "Barter as a seamless means of trade was taught to us on the mess table. However, Scotch eggs were hardly ever traded unless pancake was the draw. Pancakes were always high on the radar of the carnivorous lot."

In 'Dining and Doings in RIMC', Col Shailendra Arya beautifully describes the benevolence bestowed in the hearts of these youngsters. "... Pudding was also passed to a person or a sporting team as a mark of appreciation. The birthday boy

invariably got a number of puddings, sometimes the entire course (class) passed to him from different tables. Irrespective of the quantity or number of puddings, they were consumed as a once-an-year affair by the smiling birthday boy."

In Beyond scotch eggs, Commodore NAJ Joseph explains the symbiotic relationship between Scotch eggs and RIMC: "Scotch Eggs and RIMC seem to have developed a synonymy of its own and we forget the repertoire that our butlers and cooks have conjured at school."

He also recounts the delectable menu served at the mess, "Breakfast was invariably porridge, eggs, ham, bacon, sausages, bread, butter, jam, rosemilk in our initial terms and hot milk in our later and with cutlets, pancakes, cheese toasts, rolls et for vegetarians."

Arya also notes, "The old vintage of the mess kitchen and the limited quantity of food prepared had lent it a personal taste, typical of a place, never bland and gradually relished by the boys. It was also healthy and adequate, served by dedicated waiters like Billu, Kalidas, Mamraj and Yashpal and supervised by the butler Bachan Singh." The last emotive tale - Mamraj, extra toasts! penned by Mayank Kanungo is about a waiter named Mamraj and how fondly the cadets like Kanungo remembered him. In fact he starts with how Mamraj's death affected him "in an unknown, unexpected way."

Kanungoreminisces "Cheerful. Smiling. And just a happy go lucky man. He (Mamraj) and the other waiters reached out to the homesick kids in their own adoring and admiring way." When he met Mamraj last in 2011, Mamraj didn't recognise him at first but later after he did they "chatted for few minutes didn't speak much, just smiled, as if to please." After he left, they "gave each other a silent appreciative nod and a smile with the implied promise to 'see you again'."

The book then ends with a beautiful line by Kanungo - "Sometimes, nothing is as eloquent as silence."

(The writer is media consultant; courtesy Millennium Post)

"THE CADET'S MESS
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DIFFERENT
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TOGETHER TO GIVE
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS'

ASSOCIATION (ROBA) HELD AT RIMC DEHRADUN ON 13 MAR 2016

1. ROBA Annual General Body meeting was held at RIMC on 13 Mar 2016. The meeting was chaired by Air Mshl BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM, ADC, VCAS and President ROBA and attended by over 250 members of ROBA, the largest gathering in recent times.
2. The President ROBA began his address by welcoming Gen VN Sharma (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, Chairman ROBA Trust, senior Rimcollians, contemporaries and others. He thanked his worthy predecessors for their invaluable contributions to the alma-mater which would help in him focussing on the school and its betterment. He emphasised on the very fact that ROBA and its members are to look after RIMC but not themselves as ROBA is for the school.
3. He praised all the members present for their active participation and generous contributions which are delivering the desired results. He also urged the members to come forward and volunteer to take on the planning of the Centenary Celebrations which is only six years from now. He desired all members to contribute towards the Centenary Celebrations Fund. A lump sum amount of Rs 25,000/-one time may be paid now.
4. Hony Secy ROBA took over from the President ROBA to carry on with the Agenda. A two minutes silence was observed as mark of respect of the following:-
 - (a) Maj Gen TV Manoharan (Retd), VSM, 1946-49, Rawlinsons, passed away on 29 Jun 2015.
 - (b) Mr HS Butalia, 1931-35, Rawlinsons, passed away on 16 Jul 2015.
 - (c) Sqn Ldr Amardeep, 1996-2001, Ch' Gupt, passed away on 09 Aug 2015.
 - (d) Mr Shaolin, S/o Col CRK Singh, passed away on 01 Sep 2015.
 - (e) Dr Arun Mumar Tantry, 1981-85, RANJIT, passed away on 07 Sep 2015.
 - (f) Maj Dhruv Yadav, 1995-2000, PRATAP, (S/o Wg Cdr RajvIr Yadav), passed away on 22 Sep 2015.
 - (g) Mrs Sangeeta Nandan, W/o Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan, passed away on 26 Sep 2015.
 - (h) Lt Cdr MR Sharma passed away on 01 Oct 2015.
 - (j) Mr Dinesh Yadav, 2016-11, SHIVAJI, passed away on 03 Oct 2015.
 - (k) Col YK Gautam, 1985-90, RANJIT, passed away on 01 Oct 2015.
 - (l) Col (Dr) GPS Waraich (AEC) Ex Comdt RIMC passed away on 14 Nov 2015.
 - (m) Smt Bimla Misra M/o Mr Sidharth Mishra and Capt Sanjay Mishra passed away on 02 Dec 2015.
 - (n) AVM KG Bewoor (Retd), AVSM, VM, 1964-69 Shivaji, passed away on 22 Jan 2016
 - (p) Father of Mr DN Thapliyal, Vice Principal RIMC passed away in Jan 2016.
 - (q) Lt Gen Sahibzada Mohd Yakub Khan (Retd), 1932-36, Kitchensers passed away on 26 Jan 2016.
 - (r) Mr Dharendra Singh, 1967-72 Shivaji, passed away on 30 Jan 2016.
 - (s) Maj TAS Bedi (Retd), 1954-58, Pratap, passed away on 28 Feb 2016 at Chandigarh.
 - (t) S/o of Col FDW Fallon passed away on 14 Feb 2016.
 - (u) Mother of Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan passed away on 02 Mar 2016.
 - (v) Maj Gen BD Kale (Retd), 1938-43, Rawlinsons, passed away on 28 Feb 2016.

AGENDA

5. Accounts

- (a) Audited Balance Sheets, as on 31 Mar 15, were presented for perusal and approval of the house. Provisional Balance Sheets and Income & Expenditure statement for the period ending 31 Dec 15 in respect of ROBA were also presented.
 - (b) Passing of accounts for the period ended on 31 Mar 15 was proposed by Rear Adm PD Sharma and seconded by Capt Arvind Kumar.
6. As a kick off to the Centenary Celebrations, Mr Chiranjit Banerjee, non-playing/cycling Captain of the Rimcollian Cycle Rally team, which took off from Shimla on 09th Mar to reach RIMC, Dehradun on 11th Mar 16, introduced his team members to the house to applause and summarised the sequence of events. The team has presented a cheque of Rs 1 lakh to the President ROBA for the Centenary Celebrations.
7. President ROBA requested for a ROBA Trust Presentation. A brief presentation was made by Mr Ajit Singh, the Hony Treasurer & Trustee highlighting the fund position, its investments in government securities as per norms, audit of accounts and utilisation of interest income on salaries, scholarships and award of book prizes to the cadets. He mentioned the deficiency of six masters for the last five years and two masters were hired by ROBA Trust to bring down the on ground deficiency to four masters - it is best that the trust could do! He emphasised the fact that over 81% of the ROBA Trust expenseis made on hiring of masters, scholarships,

- book prizes to Cadets and such other activities which is precisely what an 'educational trust' - the ROBA Trust should be doing.
8. After the presentation, the following queries/interjections were made:-
- (a) Lt Gen Yash Malhotra volunteered to help in arranging Physics/Chemistry/Maths masters from DRDO because of relations he established when he was Commandant, CME for a period of 05 years to overcome the deficiency of masters at RIMC, a gesture that was lauded by the house
- (b) Col Munendra Gupta asked for the names of Trustees of ROBA Trust. The Hony Treasurer read out the names of Trustees and informed that these are available on ROBA Website also. He also asked for volunteers to fill in the vacancies by submitting their candidature to the ROBA office.
- (c) Col Mamgain speaking passionately added that deficiency of Masters at RIMC is perennial and RIMC is bent upon looking at ROBA Trust for necessary assistance in hiring of masters and wondered how long and how much could be done by the Trust. At times, the crop of masters selected and sent by UPSC does not possess the required acumen to maintain the standards and lamented the fact that it can take up to 5 years before a master is selected by the UPSC to fill a vacancy which is a matter of serious concern.
- (d) He expressed his sorrow over the spate of discussions on social media about the College, its alumni and functionaries which are false, have no locus standi and highly uncongenial to the RIMC and what the RIMC ethos is all about which is 'camaraderie' as in no other institution. He urged Rimcollians present to desist from such hue and cry and importantly educate those who are misguided or unaware of the harm they do due to sheer ignorance of facts.
9. Mr Saurabh Redhu, spontaneously offered to do up the ROBA Website make it more user friendly with a brand new contemporary look. He was asked to consult Brig U Dasgupta and Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav who have done some work on the subject.
10. Brig PN Ananthanarayan, Member, Ethics Committee who was requested to report upon in matters of Mr. JS Rajput, informed the house that he interacted with Mr. JS Rajput who it seems has more grouses than can be comprehended. He counselled that he (Mr. Rajput) meet with the Trust or ROBA office bearers to little avail and it looks as if he is bent on following his own destructive course which is also unfortunately inimical to the fraternity.
11. Reacting very strongly, there was a demand from many others from the house to expel him. However, the other sentiment of the august gathering was that we should bring him to our fold and more time was given to a fellow Rimcollian which in true spirit of camaraderie which should be a cohesive force rather than a divisive force.
12. Many of the members present felt that anybody with grievances should come to the fore and meet in person the office bearers rather than remain uninformed or incorrectly guess/assume what is happening.
13. Rear Adm PD Sharma suggested that consider bringing out an e-magazine to avoid printing and postage expenses. Maj MS Bedi, Hony Treasurer, ROBA, informed the house that the ROBA magazine fund has grown to over 12 lacs. This has been through subscription from Rimcollians and majorly through advertisements from corporate houses. E-magazine would nullify income through advertisements. Mr Sidharth Mishra added that the quality and contents of the magazine are being maintained at the highest standard to get advertisements from corporates and added that e-magazine is also made available within two months of circulation of the hard copies. Brig CS Thapa, Hony Editor, The Rimcollian, requested for articles of interest from the members which promotes camaraderie and adds to the good name of the school.
14. Midst rousing ovation, the appointment of President ROBA, Air Marshal BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM, ADC, VCAS, was ratified by the General Body. Following volunteered to join the ROBA Working Committee:-
- (a) Col Vivek Jaiswal.
(b) Col Prem Singh.
(c) Wg Cdr Nitin Kanwar
- (the candidature would be discussed and ratified in the next Meeting)
15. A vote of thanks for services rendered was offered to the outgoing members:-
- (a) Air Mshl PP Reddy (Retd), PVSM, VM, ADC
(b) V/Adm PK Chatterjee (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, NM
(c) Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, SM
(d) Lt Gen Manvendra Singh (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, VSM
(e) Lt Gen A Chakravarthy, AVSM, VSM
- 16 Centenary celebrations. Planning and work on following activities must begin forthwith:
- (a) Mint a coin. Hony Secy ROBA showed the sample of Rs 10/-, Rs 50/- and Rs 100/- to be considered for minting through government channels and at no cost basis.
(b) Release of Stamp and First Day Cover.
(c) Coffee Table Book.
(d) Light and Sound show.
(e) Museum.
(f) Motor-bike & Car Rally.
(g) Mountaineering and Sailing expedition.
(h) Hot Air Ballooning.
17. A vote of thanks was offered to the Comdt RIMC, Staffand Cadets for the excellent conduct of the 94th Founders' Day. The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 1100 hrs.

File : 0010/ROBA/AGM/Mtg

Sd/- x xxxxxxxx
(Deepak Ahluwalia)
Wg Cdr
Hony Secy

Date :27 Apr 16

MINUTES OF THE ROBA WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 06 AUG 16 AT No 2 AIR FORCE OFFICERS' MESS, NARAINA, DELHI CANTT, FROM 1845 HRS ONWARDS.

1. Meeting of the ROBA Working Committee was held on 06th Aug 16 at the No.2 Air Force Officers' Mess, Naraina, Delhi Cantt from 1845 hrs. The meeting was presided over by Air Mshl BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM, ADC, VCAS & President ROBA. The following were present:-
 - (a) Gen VN Sharma (Retd) PVSM, AVSM - Chairman ROBA Trust
 - (b) Lt Gen SS Grewal (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM - In attendance.
 - (c) Lt Gen BS Pawar (Retd), PVSM, AVSM - Member.
 - (d) Lt Gen SK Singh (Retd), PVSM, UYSM, AVSM - Member.
 - (e) Mr SS Sandhu (Retd), IDAS - Member.
 - (f) R/Adm KM Dhir, VSM - In attendance.
 - (g) AVM SN Deshpande - -do-
 - (h) AVM (Dr) Arjun Subramaniam, AVSM - -do-
 - (j) Cmde Adhir Arora, NM - Vice-President (Navy).
 - (k) Maj MS Bedi (Retd), SM - Hony Treasurer.
 - (l) Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav (Retd) VSM - Member.
 - (m) A/Cmde SP Dharkar - In attendance.
 - (n) Brig PN Ananthanarayanan - Member.
 - (o) Brig H Dharmarajan, SM - In attendance.
 - (p) Cdr Anil Jagtiani (Retd) - Member.
 - (q) Gp Capt SN Rahinwal - In attendance.
 - (r) Cdr Manish Sain - AssttSecy (Navy).
 - (s) Cdr AnuraG Bisen - In attendance.
 - (t) Mr SanjiV Tandon - Member.
 - (u) Mr Sidharth Mishra - In attendance.
 - (v) Maj Tanmay Pant - In attendance.
 - (w) Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia - Hony Secy.
2. President ROBA welcomed all the members present. He commended the well-planned and successful conduct of the Reunion 2016, without any financial burden on the College/Regimental Funds. He apprised the members that the visit of the Hon'ble RM and CAS & COSC to the college would do well to RIMC in terms of sanction/approval from MoD in times to come.
3. President ROBA emphasized that participation of each and every Rimcollian is a must towards the successful functioning of the ROBA. He requested younger Rimcollians take a step forward to join the working committee and also volunteer to be part of sub-committees for Centenary Celebrations.
 4. Condolences
 - (a) Maj HS Sahni (Retd), 1958-62, Pratap, passed away on 13 May 16.
 - (b) Mr Kaushal Kumar, Ex-VP of RIMC, passed away on 20 May 16.
 5. Accounts. Provisional account statements for the period ended 31 Mar 16 were tabled for information and perusal of the members. Hony Treasurer asked for queries, if any, on the same. Passing of accounts proposed by Lt Gen Grewal and seconded by Lt Gen Pawar.
 6. Hony Secy informed the members that the following are proposed to be nominated to the ROBA Working Committee:-
 - (a) Air Mshl B Suresh, AVSM, VM
 - (b) AVM (Dr) Arjun Subramaniam, AVSM.
 - (c) R/Adm K M Dhir, VSM as Vice-President (Navy).
 - (d) Maj Gen DA Chaturvedi, SM as Vice-President (Army).
 - (e) Brig Suyash Sharma
 7. Nomination of the above unanimously approved by the ROBA Working Committee which is to be ratified in the AGM to be held on 13 Mar 2017.
 8. Hony Secy ROBA informed the house the Cdr Giriraj Joshi, 1984-90, Shivaji, is likely to be posted to the College in lieu of present Naval Edn Offr. He also stressed on the need to hire a Mathematics master on PRIORITY in place of Shri DN Thapliyal, who is retiring shortly. Gen Sharma said that it will be discussed in the next mtg of the Board of Trustees of ROBA Trust.
 9. Hony Secretary indicated the necessity to formulate Centenary Celebrations Committee (CCC) once again. President ROBA felt that constitution of the said Committee need to be completed by the next AGM as it would enable formation of Sub Committees. Even though, the mega event is about five and half years from now, keeping in view of greater participation guidelines to be drawn for consensus.
 10. He also mentioned that all to contribute towards the Centenary Fund a minimum of Rs 25,000/- within this year as it would be increased by Rs 2,500/- every year and thereafter till Mar 2022.
 11. Maj Tanmay Pant, Adm Offr, RIMC, gave a brief presentation highlighting the activities, progress and hurdles at the College. President ROBA assured the house that matters concerning MoD and Army HQ will personally taken care of him and issues at the Sub Area and Command level to be followed up by Comdt RIMC.
 12. Medicals for Air Fore Cadets to be restarted at AFME, Subroto Park as they reach VIII term/IX term as was in vogue few years back. Lt Gen Grewal informed that during his tenure as AG a standard procedure for medical examinations in respect of RIMC cadets was being followed and done at MH Dehradun. The same is being traced by RIMC.
 13. Adm Offr RIMC requested for increase of salaries of Arts & Craft Master, Arch Clk and ROBA Clk (RIMC). Hony Treasurer mentioned that these were paid from ROBA Trust and need to be discussed in the Trust meeting. However, he recommended that the salary of ROBA Clk at Delhi be raised to Rs 15,000/- per month wef 01 Sep 16, as the last increase was in Apr 15. In addition, he also suggested that a tptalce of Rs 1,000/- per month also be sanctioned, in the interim, till the ring road metro line becomes functional, in view of ROBA office being shifted from Sena Bhavan to West Block-3 RK Puram. The same was accepted and approved by all members present.
 14. There being no other points to discuss, the meeting came to a close at 2015 hrs with the vote of thanks to the chair.

File : 0009/ROBA/Mtg

(Deepak Ahluwalia)

Wg Cdr

Date : 16 Aug 16

Hony Secy ROBA

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The fair ladies who livened up the Reunion 2016 with their presence

FREEZE FRAME



The old boys who gathered in large number to celebrate the Founder's Day 2016. May the tribe grow



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