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The Rimcollian

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

COVER STORY

**RIMCOLLIANS
ARE A CLASS APART**



LAST POST

RANK & NAME	Yr at RIMC	Section	Date
COL LORD VISCOUNT JOHN D SLIM OBE DL	1942-44	WAV	10-Feb-19
COL BK SINHA	1965-69	CHA	19-Mar-19
MAJ VIKAS SINGH	2002-06	PRA	13-Apr-19
MAJ GEN KARAM SINGH, PVSM,SM	1943-46	KIT	2-May-19
GC AMUL RAWAL	2011-15	PRA	7-May-19
MR NAVIN MALHOTRA	1960-65	PRA	21-Jun-19



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Time for veterans to wield a pen



Air Marshal Prasad P Reddy

Dear Rimcollians,

My unfounded apprehensions which had taken root when I volunteered for the onerous task of Chief editor of this magazine evaporated, as I quickly skimmed through the first cut draft of Sep 19 issue put together by Shailender Arya. My editorial team has taken to the job like fish to water, motivating Rimcollians to generate content of much interest and quality. Their enthusiasm has increased the readership apart from providing a forum for the old boys to come out with their achievements, enabling us to get to know many of them personally and to learn from their experiences. The magazine has something of interest to all of us, such as historical perspectives as well as events and achievements of our Alma Mater. I think we have also been able to motivate Rimcollians to have more get-togethers through "Roving eye", which contributes to bonding and brotherhood.

Chairman COSC and CAS Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa is retiring On 30 Sep 19 and what better narrative could we have for the Cover Story, than his journey of half a century from Garhi cantonment to the highest post in the Defence forces. I want to particularly highlight his contribution to the Kargil Ops. I and my team wish him greater heights and success in his future endeavours.

Many Rimcollians had passed away during the last six months including Lord Viscount John Slim (1942-44, Wavell) who passed away in London on 12 January this year. He had visited RIMC during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in March 1997, and was a regular attendee during the Rimcollian Get Together in London every year. In fact he hosted all London based Rimcollians at the House of Lords while I was there as Air Attache. May their souls rest in peace.

Ich Dien

15 August 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P Reddy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single blue stroke.

Air Marshal Prasad P Reddy (retd)

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



President ROBA

एयर चीफ मार्शल बी एस धनोआ
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On the eve of my superannuation from the IAF and relinquishing the appointment of President ROBA, I take this opportunity to thank all the Rimcollians for their wholehearted support to ROBA and the office bearers for fostering affinity and camaraderie across the fraternity. It was been a rich experience and a privilege to be so closely associated with the Alma Mater.


I am delighted to inform you that our alumnus, Lt Akshat Raj was awarded the coveted 'Sword of Honour' and Bronze medal during the IMA POP in June 2019. It is also heartening to note that BCA Divyam Dwivedi was awarded the President's Silver Medal during the Passing Out of the 136th NDA Course in May 2019. The rich legacy continues, wherein 7 out of 12 Academy appointments at NDA were ex-RIMC. It reminiscences our good old days and also makes us proud of our younger generation upholding the College Motto – "The Cradle of Leadership".

We are on the verge of celebrating our Centennial Celebrations in the year 2022. To commemorate the occasion, I urge the Rimcollian fraternity to assist ROBA office bearers and the Centenary Sub Committees to make this mega event a grand success. Your generous contributions would go a long way in making the celebration memorable and also strengthening the old boys society of RIMC.

I wish you and your families good health and success in all the future endeavours. May the Almighty's blessings shower happiness and success to our fraternity.

Jai Hind!

05 August 2019


Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Air Staff

FROM ROBA SECRETARY'S DESK

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The 97th Founder's Day Function and the alumni meet was held at the school on March 12-14, 2019 with the usual accolade and enthusiasm. This was also a reminder that we are just three years away from the centenary celebrations of the founding of our alma mater. The bar for these celebrations have been set pretty high by our predecessors who were at the helm during the organization of the Platinum Jubilee in 1997, the Diamond Jubilee in 1982 and the Golden Jubilee in 1972.

As I had mentioned in my note earlier this year, the biggest challenge is to raise the finances to meet the requirements of a big budget mega event. We started the process of collecting subscriptions for the centenary celebrations few years back. The early donors have enjoyed the early bird discount. In our previous communications we have explained in details how your subscription is going to contribute to meeting the expenditure during the 2022 celebrations.

Your donation towards the centenary funds and also towards the Membership Fee (Rs 3000), Magazine Fund (Rs 2000) and ROBA Trust (Rs 5000) entitles you for a tax rebate under Rule 80G of the Income Tax Act. Our gratitude to Lt Gen BS Negi, Mr Naveen Jindal, Mrs Ritu Chhabria, Mr Kishore K. Shahani, Mr MS Chikkara, Wg Cdr SR Swarup, Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav and Mr LN Thakur for their munificence towards the betterment of RIMC.

I must compliment the editorial committee led by Air Marshal PP Reddy for taking forward the production of the newsletter from where late Brig CS Thapa left. Under his stewardship, the annual calendars have also shaped up very well. His team has now planned centenary publications. I must also thank the advertisers and supporters of editorial endeavours.

Looking Forward To Your Continued Patronage.

*Pray for the tribe to grow healthy, prosperous
& happy always.*

Warm regards.

ICH-DIEN

*affly yours,
Abhinav*

Connecting Dots of Reminiscences

— COL VIVEK SHARMA, 1985-91 (PRATAP), Commandant, RIMC



I started riding as a hobby in my class 1A in 2001 and soon it became a passion and a part of my life, finally leading to a silver medal in Asian Games. When I started riding, we had 18 horses in the college, mainly for riding, and we used to go to IMA for learning showjumping, as different horses are required for riding, show jumping and polo.

The fervour of our Founder's Day is unparalleled as it overwhelms everyone on the Campus with a zeal to connect

dots of nostalgia, placing each spirit on a 'new high'. And truly, it was a 'new high' as Air Warriors Drill Team displayed an unprecedented and stunning show of coordination, skill and stamina to the ten schools of the Doon Valley on 12 March and ACM along with the Old Boys on the 13th morning at the Drill Ground and The Pavilion. Post lunch, on the 12th, the RIMC Equestrian Team showcased some amazing riding skills at a new venue, ushering in aura of freshness. Hockey

match between the Rimcos and the Rimcollians followed, in which, the Rimcollians stood victorious by 6 - 5 in a very tough fought match. The match was drawn at 1 - 1, but in the penalty shootout, the Rimcollians took the lead. The eve of the Reunion was a raging one as the impassioned Rimcollians, their families, officers and the cadets conjoined to spur their section boxer on, who was giving his all out in the ring for the Section's sake.



THE REUNION 2019



It all happened on the 9th and 10th of March at the Boxing Ring, when 23 bouts took place in 13 Categories. Maj Gen Bhaskar Kalita, GOC Sub Area, Uttarakhand, graced the occasion with his presence on 10 May, along with the principals of renowned Schools of the Doon Valley. He awarded the cadets for

their exceptional and extraordinary performance in the academic and co-curricular Activities. The finals were graced by the presence of Gen VN Sharma and many other Rimcollian officers who had been 'Great Cheer Leaders' for their respective sections. Third position was shared by Pratap and

Chandragupta sections with 19 points. The second position was bagged by Shivaji Section with 22 points. The trophy was won by Ranjit Section with 27 points. Cdt Sec Com Raghvendra Singh was conferred with the Best Boxer title and Cdt Sec Com Shashwat Sharma was declared the Best Loser.



The 13th of March took off on a solemn note when heads bowed to place wreaths at the White Marble Edifice, on which are engraved the names of our brave hearts. A befitting mark of respect and special tribute, formed by the Guard of Honour, was presented to the Chief Guest, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, PVS, AVSM, YSM, VM, ADC, by smartly uniformed Cadets. The ROBA Meeting at Bhagat Hall and al fresco Group Photograph followed. Midst animated buzz, the action shifted to the Cricket Grounds where the match ended with an easy win for the Rimcos. The befitting finale came in the form of an exquisite and bewitching Hobby Display and a rocking Cultural Evening.

Booming success of this endeavour



is attributed to the TEAM RIMC. Ink might fail to encapsulate the intangible essence of this 'Juggernaut' of an event,

but surely, at the cost of being accused of plagiarism, we'll say...."MUCH CAN HAPPEN OVER REUNION." ■

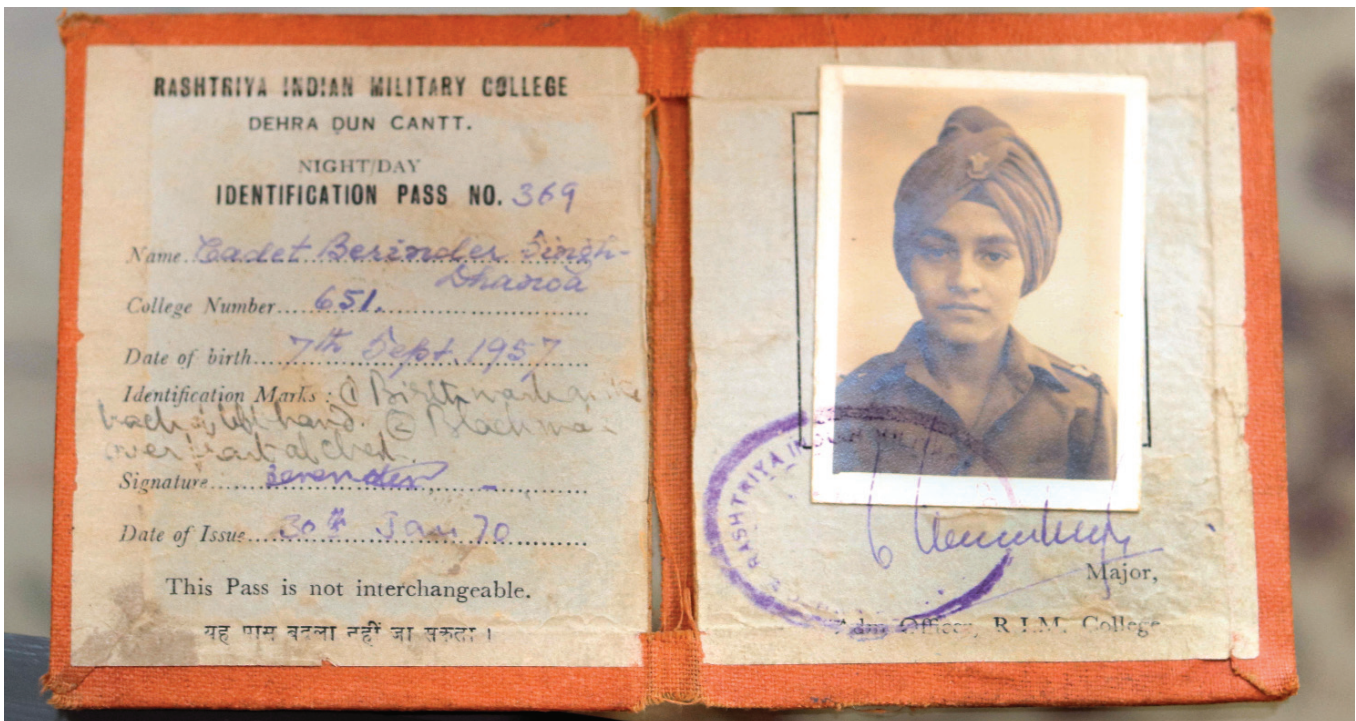


RIMCOLLIANS ARE A CLASS APART

Interviewing Air Chief Marshal **BS DHANOA** is both a challenge and a delightful exercise even for a veteran journalist, writes **SIDHARTH MISHRA**



Photo: Naveen Sharma



The Identity Card Issued To Cadet BS Dhanoa On Joining The School In August 1969

Photo: Naveen Sharma

NEW DELHI, JULY 21: It's a Monsoon Sunday noon, the weather is muggy. Akbar Road, which houses the Air House, is facing a lockdown as former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's body has been brought to the Congress headquarters at 24 Akbar Road for 'darshan'. But for a Rimcollian, the visit to ROBA president's house means all security clearances. Even as members of parliament, senior leaders and officials got down from their vehicles and started to walk, this visitor to 23 Akbar Road had an escort waiting and I felt very proud as my vehicle went beyond the barricade.

In my quarter of a century long career as pen-pusher, which has even included interviewing the Prime Minister and foreign heads of states, there are two very proud moments. First when I, still a junior professional, managed a scoop interviewing Gen S Padmanabhan, then Chief of Army Staff, around the turn of the century and now Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, getting ready to hang his spurs in another two months.

There were three of us - PP Reddy, Hari Kumar and Self, who as young flying officers had attended the Diamond Jubilee in 1982. Hope we all will be there together to attend the centenary

"I am visiting RIMC on August 8th to celebrate 50 years of donning the uniform," says Chief of Air Staff (CAS) as he gets up with a childlike enthusiasm goes to his study and comes back with his school identity card. "I am gifting it to the school, it was issued to me in August term 1969 and I retire in August term 2019," says the CAS, who is also the school alumni association president, settling back in his chair in the sprawling main drawing room of the expansive Air House. "This 100-year-old bungalow has a history and it had to be a Rimcollian to record it," chuckles the CAS referring to Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam's book.

"There were three of us - PP Reddy, Hari Kumar and Self, who as young flying officers had attended the Diamond Jubilee in 1982. Hope we all will be there together to attend the centenary," says the CAS referring to his contemporaries from the school, both now retired Air Marshals, who rose to become commanders-in-chief. Talk to him about about RIMC and Rimcollians, it's just admiration and affections which he has to share.



Air Marshal and Mrs Hari Kumar with Air Chief Marshal and Mrs BS Dhanoa

“Professionally I was much influenced by Air Marshal Vinod Patney, an excellent professional and strategist,” says the CAS mentioning about veteran Rimcollian, who retired as Vice-Chief and commanded the crucial Western Air Command during the Kargil operation. “Was it a coincidence that we had a Rimcollian commanding the WAC when Balakote happened,” he says with a smile referring to Air Marshal Hari Kumar, who retired earlier this year.

When asked about his role in Kargil, “what has it got to do with RIMC,” he questions. When told that the Editor of The Rimcollian, Air Marshal Reddy wants it that way, he opens up. “I was commanding the 17th Squadron. Initially we were in photo reconnaissance role, between May 21-

It was however post-Kargil that as part of Air Marshal Patney’s team that he contributed substantially to building the IAF knowledge bank about the enemy territory. Recalling the Kargil operations, the Air Chief says, India was “taken by surprise”

May 27. We lost two aircrafts and a chopper, which changed our role to bombing, including night bombing. We must have done well as we all got decorated,” he recalls without much fuss.

Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa, a Wing Commander at the time of India’s most recent war with Pakistan, flew repeated MiG-21 sorties, destroying Pakistani supply dumps and logistics facilities along the Line of Control (LoC).

It was however post-Kargil that as part of Air Marshal Patney’s team that he contributed substantially to building the IAF knowledge bank about the enemy territory. Recalling the Kargil operations, the Air Chief says, India was “taken by surprise.”

A quantum jump in surveillance capabilities of the IAF makes that



Air Marshals Vinod Patney and DC Kumaria, both former Vice-Chiefs of Air Staff

“impossible” today, he adds. Satellite imagery is accurate to the metre, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) with geolocating capabilities and other reconnaissance and surveillance systems have changed the game, he says.

During the Kargil war, India had “low-level tactical photography capability,” the satellites then did not have “required resolution” and India did not have “digital imagery” capabilities, he explained. All though he doesn’t mention it but one can see satisfaction writ large on his face when asked if the hard work then at knowledge building helped in Balakote operations.

He insists that we return to talking about RIMC and is quick to recall his mentors at the school, Mr K Kumar, his section master, Mr GS Pandey, the maths teacher and Mr VG Nene, the physics teacher. “Mr Pandey was a unique teacher. He once said in the class, Dhanoa doesn’t find maths interesting, let’s make maths interesting for Dhanoa. And in doing so, he would start his teaching of trigonometry reciting Chandra Bardai’s famous lines for Prithviraj Chauhan -*Chaar Baans, Chaubis Haanth, Angul Asth Praman, Te Upar Sultan Hain, Mat Chuke Chauhan*. It explained for us the concepts of cos theta and sin theta. Thereafter, I never scored less than distinction marks in maths,” he recalls.

Among his seniors at the school, he has most fond memories of MB Saxena (who retired as Colonel). “If he undertook a responsibility, he delivered without thinking of the consequence,” said the CAS. “I have kept in close touch with Air Chief Marshal (retd) NC Suri, who call me by my first name Birinder,” says the Air Chief.

Can there be a Rimcollian story without inputs on cutting bounds? “That’s true. There are several stories in the life of a Rimcollian cutting bounds. Would narrate some on another day,” says the ACM with whole-hearted laughter.

On a more serious note, he says, “RIMC gives you that confidence to

COVER STORY

The Chief says, 'RIMC makes somebody from a nobody.' He enjoys reading RIMC related literature including the Camphor books, and is quick to point out the details

overcome most insurmountable situation. RIMC gives you the foundation, thereafter its for us to build on it or fritter it away." Saying that the training at the RIMC was like the coaching cricketer Shane Warne gave to the Royal Rajasthan team, which won the first edition of Indian Premier League. "It was a team of nobodies, which he turned into a winning squad. Similarly, RIMC makes somebody from a nobody, it gives you the mental toughness," he says. "All my life I have been greatly inspired by the story of *Seabiscuit*, the racing horse which became a symbol of hope for Americans during Great Depression," he adds.

Picking threads from his reference to *Seabiscuit*, one asks if movies interest him. He takes us to his study and shows the largest ever collection of war movies which an individual may possess, at least that's what I have seen.

"Films have greatly helped me understand war histories of various nations," he adds as goes to explain the story behind several of the films from his collection.

"I enjoy reading RIMC related literature," he says and is quick to point out that the letter box painting on the cover of *Epistle* (the latest in the Camphor series) doesn't show the brass knob at the top. His anecdotes about travelling finds a similar echo as in the write-ups of an earlier edition of Camphor series, *Journey Chronicles*.

In his study the mementos related to school find a place of prominence and in his bar, the gifts from various Air Force units. He takes to explaining the functions





Photo: Naveen Sharma



The Chief Explaining the Functioning of a MiG Joystick, Which Finds a Place of Prominence in His Bar

Photo: Naveen Sharma

of a MiG joystick placed carefully at his bar table. To somebody, who was not even part of aeromodelling club at the school, it all sounds so Latin but the joy of storyteller could not be missed.

On his retirement plans, he says that he would live at his home in Mohali, which was now getting ready to accommodate all the memorabilia from five decades in uniform; but before that he says he has to live each of the day to the fullest. "I had hurt my knee playing hockey with the troops. Fortunately, I have got my category back and I am back to flying," he says with such joy as would a beginner have at making his first sortie.

It's been two hours since he arrived in the drawing room showing off his Rimcollian tie. Time has come to take leave. He comes to the portico to see us off. One again feels proud about the fact that it's only a Rimcollian who can remain so



The Wall of Memories In Chief's Study

Photo: Naveen Sharma

humble even at such a high position. ■
(The author was in Ranjit Section

from 1979-83, and writing on Rimcollian matters a passion with him)

RIMCOLLIAN PILOT CHRONICLES 1000 LANDINGS AND MORE

Gp Capt Sandeep Singh Chhabra, a Rimcollian, has successfully completed 1,000 incident free landings at Leh/Thoise in IL-76MD aircraft on 30 April 2019. Group Captain Sandeep Singh Chhabra hails from Dehra Dun. He is an alumnus of RIMC, Dehra Dun and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the transport stream of Indian Air Force on 13 Jun 92. After commissioning, he initially flew the AN-32 in the narrow valleys and advanced landing grounds of the North-East and Uttarakhand hills primarily towards TSR (Para-drop and Landing roles). Subsequently, he has flown the prestigious IL-78 Mid Air Refuellers and presently, he is posted to an IL-78 squadron. During this tenure, the officer has flown extensively in support of the Army in the Northern Sector primarily at Leh/Thoise airfields. These airfields are located at elevations above 10,000 feet, surrounded by treacherous terrain and are considered to be amongst the most challenging airfields for IL-76 class of aircraft in the world. He is amongst a handful of pilots who are cleared for operations to both these airfields by night, which by any standard is the most challenging role for IL-76 class of aircraft. His contribution has been immense and consistent in supporting the armed forces deployed in the



Indian Air Force @I... · 6m
#Congratulations : On 30 Apr 2019, Gp Capt SS Chhabra achieved a milestone by executing 1000 incident free landings on IL-76MD aircraft at Leh/Thoise. His contribution has been immense & consistent in supporting the armed forces deployed in the Northern Frontiers.

More on: FB/IAF



Northern Frontiers of our nation. The officer has over 8500 hours of total service flying experience, of which 5000 hours are on IL-76/78 aircraft.

Gp Capt Chhabra is highly popular among the Rimcollians, particularly those who are posted in Ladakh. When the IAF tweeted about his contributions in early May 2019, a number of Rimcollians shared their personal experiences and the generous help they have received from him. Some flew for the wedding, while others made it for a connecting flight from Delhi to London, just in time, all courtesy Gp Capt Chhabra. ■



Brotherhood Vibrations Across the Globe

Spring is the nature's messenger of liveliness and we Rimcollians celebrate it most vigorously. No other school alumni celebrates their Founder's Day across the globe with the sincerity and spirit which the Rimcollian community does. -- Editor

PUNE RIMCOLLIAN GET TOGETHER, 2019

— Col **VIJAY GIDH**, VSM (Retd)

The Pune Reunion was organised during lunch on Sunday, 17 March 2019 at the RSI Pune. We were fortunate that Maj Gen DJ Singh just got posted to HQ Southern Command and he along with Col Priotosh Deb (Retd), did all the organizing. We had a great gathering of 43 officers and 30 ladies along with 18 cadets from NDA, it being mid-term break.

The lovely Rimcollian Calendar, 2019 is themed on senior Rimcollians who had distinguished themselves during World War II. Maj Gen Madhavrao Ganpatrao Rajwade (1934-40, Rawlinson), then a Lieutenant, was awarded the coveted Military Cross during the Burma Campaign, 1944-45. The Rimcollian fraternity in Pune is extremely privileged that Mrs Saroj Rajwade attends the Reunion every year, including this year. She was presented with a set of wall and desk calendars on behalf of ROBA on this occasion.

Among the veterans and distinguished Rimcollians, we were fortunate to have the elder of the Mohite brothers, Capt HA Mohite (1936-42, Kitcheners) and Maj Gen PD Sherlekar (1946-49, Rawlinson). Mrs Purandhare, wife of Late Col NR Purandhare (1946-48, Roberts) also graced the occasion. We missed the presence of Mrs Bewoor and Joglekar who would regularly attend until some years back.

Among the other senior Rimcollians present were Lt Col JD Desai, Cdr KS Karandikar, Gp Capt AG Bewoor, Maj Gen AR Raikar, Wg Cdr DC Gupta, Capt (IN) VA Paradkar, Col DH Parab and Cmde Vishram Naphade. We missed Cmde RS Huja, Gens Yash Malhotra & Inder Luthra, Rear Adm PD Sharma



NDA Officers and Cadets with Col VY Gidh



Capt Mohite, Maj Gen Sherlekar with Col Gidh and NDA cadets

who were unable to attend due to prior commitments. We were glad that Col Rakesh Nair, SM who is posted as a Directing Staff in Staff College could attend the Reunion. He filled us up with the latest news from Wellington. It was nice to see the Rimcollian officers posted as instructors in NDA attend in full strength except for Sqn Ldr Kumar Gaurav who was away with the NDA Squash Team for the Bakshi Cup.

Before lunch, important achievements of our cadets in school

and NDA and of the Old Boys were briefly covered. All Rimcollians were also requested to forward their Achievements Profile to RIMC for keeping the same in their Dossier maintained in Archives. The highlights of RIMC Centenary Celebrations in March 2022 were briefed and the necessity of all non-members contributing for ROBA, ROBA Trust and Centenary Fund were stressed upon. The fact that the ROBA directory and personal profile of Rimcollians is being updated and all present were requested to forward their details to Wg Cdr V S Pundir / ROBA

The menu for the lunch which included Scotch Eggs and Topsy Pudding was delicious and relished by all, specially the NDA cadets. Finally there was a loud cheer for RIMC and the customary group photograph. Like all good things have to come to an end, we departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time spent, looking forward to the next meet planned in Pune in September or October 2019. ■

97th FOUNDER'S DAY REUNION @ BANGALORE

— Wg Cdr **MAYANK KANUNGO**



Maj Pratap Pundir displaying the RIMC video to the gathering

The 23rd of March this year witnessed the highest turn out of Rimcollians and their wives (who have of late come to be known as Rimcollianias) in Bangalore in many years. The robust attendance (75 heads), bolstered by the Old Boys' love for their alma mater and the all-pervasive desire to relive the time gone by with friends and peers, was effectively aided by technology with WhatsApp, Facebook, and Google maps. Ola/Uber also came to the rescue of the many traffic stricken and information hungry Bangaloreans who couldn't perhaps make it to the earlier events due to lack of timely (read as digital) intimation or mode of suitable transport.

As a famous saying at NDA went, 'Ignorance of orders is not an excuse'; a somewhat similar atmosphere was created for the regimented brains of the Rimcollians. The date, 23 March 19, was decided on the Bangalore chapter's WhatsApp group (through a show of hands - yes that emoji!) and repeated reminders were sent that would make a loan/EMI recovery agent blush. If you are a Rimcollian living in Bangalore and wondering what is this WhatsApp group then you are missing out on life. Perhaps the most raucous and vibrant of any WhatsApp group that I'm a part of, this group takes the cake for being the most communicative as well.



The senior most Rimcollian at the meet, Brig Vijay Kumar, arrives

The Bangalore chapter's Whatsapp group sees gentlemen who were in the school in the 50's and gents who were there as recently as the 2010s interact with each other with the same gusto and familiarity that you would not notice the age or the era difference between them at all. It is of course thanks to the unique Rimcollian mould that has shaped each and every one of us and chiselled our minds in this perfect hue of camaraderie.

This year's reunion was organised at the ASC Centre and College's Eklavya Officers' Mess. We took full advantage of one of our youngsters, Maj Pratap Singh Pundir (Ex Shivaji incidentally) posted at

the Centre and who gladly (and efficiently, if I may add) organised the get together. The Eklavya Mess is a slice of paradise hidden within another oasis called the ASC centre in the heart of Bangalore city. The mess was well decked up, with light and sound and a Jazz band to enliven the evening. We also managed to get the RIMC Commandants' 13th March presentation (which Col Vivek was so graciously helpful in sending over to me on email) to display to the audience, specially the ladies.

The event was attended by Rimcollians from all walks of life, with faujis as the usual suspects ranging from Generals and Air Marshals to trainee Flying officers from Yelahanka Airbase. Yet there were many more captains of the Civvy Street, ranging from bankers to tech pros to start up founders. It was a veritable mix of people, succeeding in all walks of life, a testimony to the overall development of each cadet that RIMC delivers. I also see this as a tribute to the school in the overall process of nation building. During the presentation, Maj Pundir revealed a celebrity who was amongst us and chatting away like a normal human being, the Asiad Silver medallist Maj Ashish Malik.

As the alcohol flowed and the snacks kept pace, the subtle chats grew into boisterous laughter as most of us lost track of the time (and wives!), till someone reminded the gathering that there was dinner too. Alongside the delectable Indian fare, Scotch eggs and Topsy pudding proved to be the coup de grâce of the food spread. The smarter of the lot charged (a Rimcollian legacy trait) at them first. Those who had stuck to the bar quaffing more drinks and getting tipsy somewhat disoriented in the process, lost out on the real Topsy (the pudding) which was simply fantastic. The get together got over around midnight and we all were so ginned up that none of us remembered to click the mandatory group photo of this colossal attendance. For those complaining, rest assured this is only a start, there will be many events and photo ops in the future. ■



Asiad medallist Maj Ashish Malik flanked by Mr Chiranjit & Mrs Shirin Banerjee

2019 FOUNDER'S DAY IN SECUNDERABAD

— Wg Cdr **UNNI KARTHA**

Interwoven between the pages of the Kumaon regimental history (by Brig Jasbir, R/62-66) and White Mughals (by William Dalrymple), lies the deep connection of Secunderabad with PWRIMC / Rimcollians, albeit from 1925. The story of Secunderabad itself starts with Iskandar (Salabat Khan), prince of Berar, whose Cavalry Regiment protected Nizam Ali Khan (Asaf Jah II) of Hyderabad, the largest and wealthiest of all Kingdoms in India, with the astute Prime Minister Wazir-e-Ali Aristu Jha, British Resident manipulator Kirkpatrick, and the French instigator and manipulator of both Nizam as well as Iskandar's army Monsieur Raymond. Salabat's Regiment then did an OROP / NFU type agitation, siege of Chowmahalla Palace, when Aristu managed to persuade the Regiment to move out from the city, across the Musi river, to sparse jungle at a safe distance north of the city, what has now grown to

be Secunderabad cantonment, originally Iskandrabad. The occupation and expansion of Secunderabad, by army of East India Company, came about in 1798 when the Governor General Richard Wellesley (who also made Waterloo of Napoleon Bonaparte later in 1815) collected and led to south an Indian army, Native Light Infantry interspersed with Battalions from Regiment of 'Queens Foot' (Red Coats), Native Artillery, Cavalry and Sappers, commanded by Englishmen, for disbanding Salabat Khan's Regiment, under command of Frenchman Raymond, when Tipu Sultan signed a treaty with France, facilitated by Raymond. Wellesley then went further south to enslave the Wadiyar of Mysore and finally defeated Tipu too, in 1799.

Wellesley's campaign with an army of about 13,000 men, 7,000 horses, about 100 odd elephants to drag siege guns, mountain of gun powder and cannon

balls, 20000 bullocks to cart the baggage train, with retinue of servants of all and sundry, camp followersall of it required massive forward dumping, unimaginable amount of war material, water and provisions for not only troops and retinue, but also animal feed, by the Army Supply & Transport Corps (raised 1760) and Army Ordnance Corps (raised 1775), both with massive depots in Iskanderbad cantonment. The earliest of PWRIMC association with Secunderabad starts with several names on the marble slabs outside senior ante room, those who served with '19 Hyderabad Regiment' from around 1925, which also had Lt Winston Churchill (later PM during WW-II) as a Company Commander. Several illustrious Rimcollians also played stellar roles in annexation of Hyderabad - Operation Polo in Sep 1948.

One amongst the most magnificent and verdant edifices of the colonial past in

Secunderabad is the AOC Centre Officer's mess, currently under command of Brig Jeewanjyot Singh Bhinder (Ranjit/79-84). JSB magnanimously hosted the 'Founder's Day' dinner on 13 March 19, for tri-service serving and veteran Rimcollian community in and around Secunderabad, on behalf of Lt Gen KS Rao, the current president of ROBA (Hyderabad Chapter). A group photo is attached.

The outdoor party on the verdant lawns of AOC Centre mess, surrounded by serenading flowers, was extraordinarily joyous, with a band, dancing, chatting when not elbow bending copious single

malt whisky. A cake was cut by the youngest, Lt Tabish Hasan, Ranjit /08-12 (4 JAK LD), to honour the Hyderabad batch of 1959, who were baptized as lifelong Rimcollians 60 years ago (KS Rao, KV Subbu, Gossain and Ranga - Balagopal the Vice President was missing in action, on a visit to his 'Pind' in Kerala). It was followed by a sit down gourmet's western menu dinner with Thople's scotch eggs to make Prince of Wales and his consort 'Diana-Dia Camel-Lia' very envious (Thople was the 'maitre de' of RIMC mess in our time). If we could have organised a boxing bout between Cadet MM Zaki (Brig, P/55-60)

and Cadet Rajendra Singh (Maj Gen, R/58-62), two of our senior old boys, Ranjit would have won the boxing trophy even in Secunderabad too, Ranjit is in majority !!!!! Around 25 odd Rimcollians were absent, perhaps due to an epidemic of lethargy and personal commitments. Gen KSR will see to it that they are quarantined c/o Matron with moustache, given enema and made to do PT under Sub Nimbu, who fondly remain the bastions of our life in RIMC.

'Ich Dien', bon vivant l'esprit de corps, de les Rimcollians du Iskanderabad. ■ Cheers, Hic,.... Unni



THE GUWAHATI GET-TOGETHER



The Guwahati get-together was held at the residence of Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin in Narangi, Guwahati on 30 June 2019. Another get-together was also held at the residence of Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri at Rangia with the visiting Class VA Cadets of RIMC.

L to R. Maj Gen Sanjeev Khatri, Lt Gen CP Mohanty, Mr Ranjan Dutta, Col RTC Gohain, Col WJK Singh, Mr Das, Maj Gen Jarken Gamlin, Col Dibyajoti Bhattacharya, Col Vaibhav Agarwal, Brig Mohit Gandhi, and Mr Ziaul Hussain.

Sitting. Mrs Agarwal, Mrs RTC Gohain, Mrs Dutta, Mrs Bhattacharya, Mrs Gamlin, Mrs WJK and Mrs Das.

THE NEW YORK GET-TOGETHER

— MR ARJUN ISRANI, 1955-57



Second row, Standing. Mrs Abhishek Tiwari, baby Tiwari, Abhishek Tiwari, Mr Arjun Israni who came from California, Mrs Arvind, Col Arvind who came from Dallas, Texas, Lt Gen MA Gurbaxani, Mrs Raghavendran, Mrs Gurbaxani, Air Marshal Raghavendran, the senior-most Rimcollian from 1942-47 Roberts, Major Jawahar Thota & Mrs Thota, who came from Massachusetts.

Front row, Mr Sudhakar from New Jersey, Ms Yasmin daughter of Mr Ziaul Hussain, Ranjit Kollu who came from Boston, Kunal Rai, Vikram Rao and Ajay Binai who came from Houston, Texas.

A Rimcollian get-together was held in New York, USA on 23 June 2019. The get-together had many Rimcollians driving down from the nearby cities to make it. The complete crowd, consisting of Rimcollians from diverse backgrounds, converged at Mr Mahender Chhikara's restaurant in Port Washington, Long Island. It was a wonderful reunion, meeting Rimcollians from diverse fields of life, all in a distant land, yet connected by a common thread and bond. In this get-together, Lt General MA Gurbaxani announced donation of Rs. One lakh per month for one year from Mahendar Chhikara for ROBA Trust! Way to go Mahender! ■



THE REUNION AT LEH: 13 JULY 2019

Ladakh conjures up images of a high altitude desert, Lamas in hilltop monasteries and sweeping vistas. It also borders both Pakistan and China, thus making it important from a military point of view. Consequently, the military footprint is quite high.

Within Ladakh, Leh is the nodal city in the sector due to its airfield and all those deployed in the sector use this as a transit base. Luckily there were a few Rimcollians who were visiting Ladakh and they also attended this get-together. This get together was in fact long

overdue and one of the high points during the get together was the discussion on conducting a hike for RIMC cadets to Leh. Such get-togethers on regular basis serves as the lifeblood in the bonds fomented in the Rajwada Camp ■



Standing L-R; Lt Col Srinivas, Lt Col Prem Singh, Brig Vijay, Brig Arindam Saha, Col Rajeev Kapoor, Col Rahul Pathak, Col Vishal Singh & Col Akash Karwal

Sitting L - R; Capt Shantanu, Sqn Ldr Nishant Mangain, Maj Roland Singh, Maj Subeg Singh, Mr Nitesh Sharma, Maj Vijay Rajan & Capt Gill

FROM FRONT ROLLS TO HIGH FINANCE

— VIKRAM RAO, 1520/R, 131st Course

While going through the well-conceived ROBA Calendar of 2019, it was very heartening to read about the achievements of our senior Rimcollians who had distinguished themselves during the World War II (WW II) 1939-45. The recount of some of their exploits during the Italian campaign 1943-45 brought back many pleasant memories of our visit to the Italian battlefields in May 2013. I had retired from the Army some years back and our son (a Rimcollian again) who had joined my Battalion, 14 PUNJAB (NABHA AKAL), was posted to a UN Peacekeeping mission in Lebanon. So the family decided to visit Europe. We commenced our visit from Italy, where our unit had fought with distinction during World War II.

Mid-October 2018 - I was in the middle of what would eventually become a 30-day 24-hour non-stop battle. No I am not referring to what many Rimcollians experience on the frontline. In fact, I was in relatively comfortable surroundings - high up on the 42nd floor of a shiny skyscraper in mid-town Manhattan, New York. Yet, I was extremely uncomfortable having barely slept for the past 15 days and without an end in sight to the sheer mountain of work we needed to conquer. We - a small team of nine - were in the throes of the largest merger we had ever worked on and one that would become the largest software acquisition in history. We were about to sell Red Hat to IBM for \$34 billion!

While comparing high finance to the battlefield may be a stretch, I firmly believe that success in either endeavor requires many similar attributes, many of which can be traced back to my early upbringing and, in particular, at RIMC.

My father was a Commander in the Indian Navy and from a very young age I



was inculcated with a number of core values including discipline, work ethic and respect for others. As was common in the Navy then, our family moved every three or four years to different locations. We spent a number of years in Vizag, Bombay, Secunderabad and even Vladivostok - a small but highly strategic port in Russia (then U.S.S.R) on the border of North Korea. While these moves were never easy, they created a sense of adventure and the need to very quickly adapt to the new environment, make new friends and integrate into the new culture.

My father was a submariner and loved

his job. His passion for the services was infectious and he had heard great things about the school from his Rimcollian friends in the Navy. It was thus decided that I should apply for a seat at RIMC from the state of Maharashtra. I still fondly remember the day the results of the school entrance examination were announced, and I had been selected to join.

While I had become accustomed to a life of movement as a “Navy brat”, I was definitely not prepared for the first few days and months, miles away from home and in a uniquely different environment. As we slowly got to know our classmates

and seniors, I became acutely aware of how different each individual's background was. My ability to rapidly adapt to new environments became all the more critical in helping me overcome my initial anxiety. Life at RIMC over the next few months and years quickly became an adventure and one that honed deep bonds with schoolmates that continue to this day.

I had always been one of the shortest and skinniest kids in my class at RIMC. That did not preclude me from constantly striving to push myself to achieve the best I could. Over the years, I proved my mettle in high jump (ironically), swimming and boxing (to my mother's horror). At RIMC, I also discovered a passion for squash, a sport that I continue to pursue. I also developed a love for the outdoors thanks to the many hiking trips organized by the school. I still remember a class trek to the town of Kaddukhal - an ~50 kilometer path through the beautiful Garhwal scenery. In retrospect, many of these activities and passions would have been hard to pursue or develop outside of RIMC and which have shaped my love for active adventure to this day.

Unfortunately, my time at RIMC ended prematurely as I had to leave after my Xth Board Exams for personal reasons. Leaving my brotherhood at RIMC and once again having to adapt to life on the outside was challenging. Furthermore, I now had to very quickly identify a new career path since I was no longer going to join the armed forces. I had never been at the top of my class in RIMC but quickly realized that I needed to push myself hard in academics in order to succeed in civvy street. I boldly (or maybe foolishly) decided to try for the IITs. I was determined to succeed at this new endeavor and applied two of the core skills learned at RIMC - discipline and endurance - to achieve my goal. Fortunately, my efforts paid off and I joined IIT, Bombay to study Electrical Engineering.

Anyone who has seen the movie "3 Idiots" will have a good sense of how I felt for the first few months at IIT (Hint: I was not Aamir and there was no Kareena). Any perceptions of intellectual superiority that one may have developed during their high school years are rapidly dispelled within a

few weeks at IIT - both by the brilliant professors, who seemed to genuinely enjoy confounding their students with increasingly complex theories; and by one's classmates, who are all as smart or smarter than you. What quickly became apparent at IIT was that there were largely two categories of students - those that prioritized academics above all else and those that desired an all-round development. Given my experience at RIMC, I unsurprisingly fell in the latter camp. I actively participated in various sports both for inter-hostel and inter-IIT championships. Before long, it was time to move on to my next adventure. I took a tried and tested path in those days and decided to move to the US to pursue higher studies.

One of my earliest recollections as a newcomer to the US was the day I at the North Carolina State University campus. I was attempting to purchase some food at a local KFC when I realized that although the person behind the counter and I were both speaking English, neither one of us could understand what the other was saying! It dawned on me that living and thriving in the US would require a far greater level of adaptation that I had ever faced before. This was also the first time that I had to become fiscally responsible - I was on a mission to secure financial aid to minimize the burden on my family. With some hustle, I managed to get a scholarship and settled to life on campus in the US. I graduated in two years and moved to Silicon Valley to take up my first job at Sun Microsystems, one of the leading companies during the dot com boom.

Life in San Francisco during the late 1990s was exciting - a time of rapid innovation with dozens of start-ups being created every day (and dying every day). At many a restaurant, you could overhear people brainstorming ideas or pitching investors on paper napkins. Alas the good times didn't last long as the dot com crash hit in 2001. I managed to survive and even thrive at Sun Microsystems despite the bust in the economy. My time at RIMC though had primed me to seek adventure in life and I was already making plans for a significant change in my career path.

I decided to move to New York City to

complete my MBA from Columbia University and to pursue a career in Finance. The change was simultaneously exhilarating and challenging. Here I was once again with a group of highly talented, ambitious students from around the world and competing head-on with them for the few prized jobs in investment banking. My background was not exactly a perfect match for this job (no Finance experience) but I was very driven to break into the industry. Through sheer hard work and persistence, I managed to secure a coveted role as an "associate" within the investment-banking department at UBS, a leading Swiss bank.

For those unfamiliar with this profession, investment banking is the business of advising corporations and private equity funds on mergers & acquisitions, raising equity and debt capital and everything in between. Bankers typically get called on when the stakes (financial or otherwise) are high and work directly with CEOs and Boards of Directors. My first few months at UBS gave me a glimpse of how life must've been for my Rimcollian classmates as first-termers at NDA - endless nights, sleep deprivation, intense pressure, seniors constantly yelling orders at you, etc. As I started to learn the ropes, it became apparent to me that success in this business depended not simply on having the necessary financial smarts, but also on having a well-rounded set of "soft" skills including incredible endurance, the ability to think very fast on one's feet, a penchant for taking action, self-confidence and team spirit.

I have had the good fortune of having had an exciting, intellectually stimulating and fun experience over the past twelve years in this industry. I am now a Managing Director at Guggenheim Partners, a leading investment bank in New York. In retrospect, as I think about my career path within the investment banking industry and the winding road that led me here, I am convinced that the foundational life skills I had learned as a young boy at home and especially as a young cadet at RIMC, were critical in guiding my actions and in ensuring success. ■

DEBATING THAT SOWED THE SEEDS OF ADVERTISING

— **SURAJA KISHORE**, Shivaji, 1985/1990 - 126th Course

Suraja Kishore appointed CEO of BBDO India' was the headline news on 21st May 2019. (BBDO is a worldwide advertising agency network, with its headquarters in New York City, present in over 81 countries). Message from friends, fraternity and family congratulating me and feeling proud of me has not yet dried up. But behind this headline is a long and exciting journey that I have undertaken. So, writing this note is a great opportunity for me to reflect on my hits and misses and identify what made it work for me.

I have vivid memories of my early childhood days, when my family would make an annual trip to Dumraon- a small town located one station away from better known Buxar, in Bihar. I would alight from the train and run straight to the railway ticket booking office to meet my grandfather who used to work there.

My grandfather would lift me like his prized trophy, hand me a box of sonpapdi (which remains my favourite sweet till date). He would attend to passengers on the counter wanting to buy tickets to different places. Each time a customer asked for a ticket he would exhort me to spell the word correctly. I remember a person asking a ticket to Howrah and my grandfather who I used to fondly call 'baba', immediately asked me spell that word.

Each time I spelt a word correctly, two other colleagues of my grandfather, attending their respective booking counters would clap together and I would feel like the national Spelling Bee champion (I knew this feeling then but didn't know that something like Spell Bee even existed).



Suraja Kishore as CEO



Niket Karan

Every time I have walked on stage to receive an award or made it to the podium, I have looked up and said, “this one is for your baba.”

Education was priority number one for my parents. I realise for most middle-class parents of my generation; education was the only way to ensure escape velocity out of mundane middle-class existence. My mother had decided that I must be packed off to a boarding school for she realised that there are very limited or no options when it comes to school that could shape me in the desired way.

Thus, started a year of writing entrance exams to various boarding schools including that of RIMC. Five of us were called to Ranchi cantonment for the medical test. Within a month everyone got a letter confirming admission and date of joining, but I was parked in the waiting list. Finally, we did receive a telegram from RIMC that read- ‘Master Suraja Kishore selected in lieu of Master Mathai Philipose declared medically unfit.’ This telegram changed my life forever.

I joined RIMC in 1985, 126th course. The excitement and joy of going to a boarding school and escaping my rather strict and disciplinarian parents

was soon dampened by the tough and rigorous routine that one had to undergo at RIMC. From struggling to eat with a fork and knife to surviving physical training, from getting used to wearing a uniform for everything to acclimatising oneself to the chilling winter of Dehradun, the first six months of RIMC was extremely rough for me. I wrote weekly long letters reeking of homesickness, running longer than 10 pages to my parents. I sucked at sports, sweated my way through physical training and felt like a loser in comparison to my batch-mates who were killing it in boxing, cricket and PT.

I did find some joy in cross country since it did not require any skill; all that it needed was stamina to go on and on, and I pushed myself harder.

And then one day the entire Shivaji section was called to decide on cadets who would represent the house in intersection debating competition. I remember writing my speech, rehearsing it almost over 100 times and then going on stage and delivering a great performance against the motion and bagging the third prize for it. This experience and the consequent recognition changed my idea of

winning and losing. It made me believe that everyone is good at something and not everyone is good at everything, this belief has helped me live fully from my position of strength.

Another big realisation dawned on me that day that I am good at articulating a logical argument and delivering it in the most magical manner. In hindsight this realisation played a big role in my journey through various roles I played in advertising over the last two decades. Along with this I also imbibed a few basic tenets at school that till date subconsciously steer my actions and interactions with the media world that I live in. Lead from the front; don’t ask others to do what you cannot; do the right thing no matter how difficult it is; have conviction in whatever you have to say and try harder always, these are a few of the priceless gems that I acquired at RIMC that have led me to being who I am.

Theatre, debates and stand-up comedy became my claim to fame at RIMC. This awakening of creative genes within me made me happy and I started developing this further over the years. Not making the cut to NDA came to me as a blessing in disguise. I joined Hindu



Suraja Kishore in RIMC

College, Delhi for my graduation. Soon my world was vastly different from the one I had spent my growing years in. Most of my peers at college had never heard of RIMC as a school, so every time someone asked me which school did I come from, I would very happily rattle the entire royal history of our school.

Folks in college would listen with respect and accept that I did come from a school that's a best kept secret. I studied History (Hons) at Hindu, but it is theatre that was I most occupied with. Imtiaz Ali who now is an established film director had started a theatre group in college, Ibtida. We performed quite a few plays and even

held ticketed shows at Mandi House, Delhi. Interestingly, when we were on a tour with our first play to Dehradun, I called on then Commandant Col. Parab and Mrs Gita Parab and they were kind enough to let us perform at a very short notice (in RIMC) and our performance was applauded by the cadets, faculty and staff. I have fond memories of coming over to RIMC with the theatre group and still remember a very warm welcome that we got from Col. Parab and Mrs. Parab. My theatre group left the campus absolutely impressed.

Adapting short stories to plays, writing songs and performing on stage further got me considering a creative profession. I dived into my childhood

dreams of being part of Bollywood or the Television industry because those days there weren't as many avenues in the creative field as we have today. My general knowledge told me if I wanted to build a career in films or TV then I must get to Mumbai (then it was called Bombay) and it remains- the city of dreams till date. I graduated from Hindu and found myself at crossroads. Full time theatre was ruled out since I count not afford it, hence I considered Mass Communication or Sociology.

I ended up in Mumbai at TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) for my Masters. TISS is a fabulous institution. Its sociological perspective and cultural depth have groomed me very significantly to advance my career. Most marketing and advertising people have a good sense of business, but it's deep sense of society & culture and my ability to identify and interpret socio-cultural dynamics behind economic pattern and human behaviour that became my edge in business of branding. Brands are built on insights that reveals why people do what they do and all that I acquired at TISS in a way remains my operating software to decode insights.

After my graduation from TISS I joined advertising as a copywriter with Leo Burnett in Mumbai. Satellite TV was emerging as a sought-after media and television commercials (TVC) became a thing. But not many had the craft and skill to write a TVC, everything fell in place for me- my ability to write, imagine and have insights into people made me thrive. I was soon winning appreciation and gaining recognition of peers, clients and my bosses. A few years later I found myself seeking a campus-life again and got attracted to the proposition of being a full-time faculty at MICA - India's first school of ideas (Mudra Institute of Communication, Ahmedabad). MICA had a library that was pure bliss and a total delight for me since I was hungry for knowing how brands are built and how advertising works.

At a very young age I conceived and executed India's first creative programme-CCA with specialisation in

Copywriting & Art Direction at MICA (Mudra Institute of Communication, Ahmedabad) in collaboration with National Institute of Design. The proverbial best way of learning is teaching came true for me. I benefited immensely from my academic stint and I was ready to get back to the Industry. But this time I wanted to do what I felt I had become good at and had discovered a knack for - consumer insights and strategy. Thus, started my journey into Strategic Brand Planning at Mudra DDB and followed by a very fulfilling stint with Lowe Lintas, Mumbai.

It is at Lintas that I came into my own. I was at the helm of some of the most memorable campaigns like 'What an Idea, Sirji' for Idea Cellular and 'Tata Tea- Jaago Re'. It was hard work and midnight slogging to get here. The business of marrying creativity with commerce is not an easy one. There is no factory, no machines - all we have is our imagination and thoughts. To be able to solve brand and business problems on a daily basis requires a fertile mind and needs huge capacity for handling stress in a positive way. There is a saying that advertising takes more than it gives. Erratic hours, unreasonable deadlines and limited talent are characteristic of this profession. Thankfully I love this business and being able to solve problems is something that I thrive on. Connecting unrelated dots and disparate concepts is what creativity is all about. My eclectic reading habits, keen observation of life around me and ability to interpret what people feel but can't articulate, has become my strong suite. I was recognised in an international conference to be one of the fastest achievers across APAC offices of Lowe Lintas. Awards and recognition on our journey works like reinforcement of what you believe in and who you want to be.

The clear ascent up the corporate ad-world ladder began with Publicis Worldwide as National Strategic Planning Director. This position demanded of me to shift gears from just being a doer to be an evangelist and a leader. Managing

teams and brands across offices and partnering business was the key definition of the role. A closer view of business made me realise that it is our sphere of influence that creates our sphere of impact. And early on in life I had learned that if you want to be successful ensure your canvas is big.

I was at the helm of some of the most memorable campaigns like 'What an Idea, Sirji' for Idea Cellular and 'Tata Tea- Jaago Re'. It was hard work and midnight slogging to get here. The business of marrying creativity with commerce is not an easy one. There is no factory, no machines - all we have is our imagination and thoughts

This made me move to a bigger canvas at McCann Worldgroup where I witnessed my transformation from being a leader of a domain to growing into a change agent to fuse the business and culture of an organisation. I joined McCann as head of strategy but soon was handpicked to steer business and P&L(Profit & loss) of Mumbai office for McCann Erickson.

Over the years I have been able to build an enviable reputation in brand management, developing creative strategies, building partnerships and in establishing effective approaches to growing business. I have worked with major clients like Nestle, Unilever, Marico, P&G, Godrej, Tata Group, Idea Cellular and Citibank to name just a few. And on the way my work has been recognised and awarded many a times

at Effie's and WARC in India and at APAC. (reputed awards in advertising and marketing industry).

All through the journey I have been very mindful of changes that have been happening. This has kept me on my toes. I have never been complacent with my experience. I still get that motivating nervous feeling of how I can crack a problem, this feeling of being a starter each time keeps me young and fresh at work. With the heart of a start-up and mind of an expert I am navigating the next phase of my career.

The belief that brands and business is more about share of the future in coming times than share of the market has helped me win the mandate of CEO- BBDO, India. BBDO has been reputed for campaigns that have become part of popular culture in an evocative manner. Be it 'share the load' for Ariel detergent, 'Touch the pickle' for Whisper, I am proud to be leading the reins of BBDO India as it primes for it's next phase of growth. I look forward to starting afresh and building teams, culture and business in ways that's future-shaping.

The higher up you climb the corporate ladder, more demanding it gets for you to manage your time, your health and your personal life. I think the foundation that RIMC builds equips us with emotional intelligence that has hardly been spoken about. Being an institution that's focussed on defence, we often take for granted the mental tenacity and interpersonal skills that our alma mater grooms us with.

All along the journey I don't forget to maximise what life has to offer, a long-distance runner (have run four full Mumbai marathons) I find running meditational and calming for the soul. And my love for life, music, movies and food helps me remain spirited along the way. Certainly, the young lad who used to find running to the booking office of railway station to being the CEO, has come a long way. And at this juncture my goal post has moved further. I wish to fill life with more love, creativity and laughter as I achieve more sphere of influence. ■



RIMCOLLIANS IN DELHI HORSE SHOW

The Delhi Horse Show is the largest, most prestigious and popular Horse Show in the country. It has been in existence since the early part of 20th century. Pre independence, it was the most important equestrian event which attracted all equine enthusiasts to descend to Delhi from all parts of the country. After Independence, the tradition continued and it remained India's premier Horse Show. It was discontinued for few years since 1979 and was revived in 1986 under the aegis of the President's Estate Polo Club. Now the show is conducted by the Army Polo & Riding Centre at the Army Equestrian Centre, New Delhi.

This year, the ten days Delhi Horse Show was conducted in March-April 2019, culminating on 07 April 2019. A large number of Rimcollians participated in the Horse Show, reflecting the popularity of horse riding in RIMC. These Rimcollians were part of the NDA team as well as a smaller team of young RIMC cadets from the RIMC. The show had events ranging from the more serious Dressage and Show



Rimcollians as part of NDA Team in Delhi Horse Show

Jumping events for India's top riders to a few fun gymkhana events. Three RIMC cadets participated in the show and won six medals in various events. Further, a total of 55 medals were won by the NDA team out of which 32 medals won by Rimcollians. The

Rimcollian medal winners are:

1. DCC Omkar Dalvi - 13 medals.
2. Cdt Hritvick Patiyal - 4 medals.
3. Cdt Kapil - 3 medals.
4. Cdt Anmol Chadla - 4 medals.
5. Cdt Jagdeep Narayan - 8 medal

FROM THE LOFTY LINEAGE

— Col **VIVEK SHARMA**, Commandant, RIMC

My journey at the 138 acres of verdant, hallowed expanse, deified by the sacrifices and service of our revered Alumni, has been replete with a mélange of experiences, assisting me in undertaking the noble incumbency of 'Nation Building'. What we are today is entrenched in our past that resonates with Gallantry and Wisdom - the virtues that define the way of life at the RIMC. Our refulgent and illustrious Rimcollians stand as torch bearers, lighting up the way for our 'Scholar Warriors' to follow. These 'TRAILBLAZERS' have lit the firmament with embers of their values and character, marking on the sands of the RIMC hourglass. Undoubtedly, quantifying the stellar successes of our stalwarts is a pipe dream. Nevertheless, I can't help but share this saga of valour and gallantry of a glorious genealogy, which is a humbling, inspiring and evolving experience. I exhort you to turn back with me, the folds of history writ large and clear in gold for the sake of our posterity to embrace - a cult delineated through extraordinary qualities of leadership and an invincible spirit.

Adulations to this ancestral spirit that dwells in Rimcollian, Air Commodore, Satwant Singh VM (G), VSM. Born on 10 December 1935, he was educated at St George's College, Mussoorie and at Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, now known as RIMC, as a part of Shivaji Section. An astute Cadet, he was appointed NCO, later on to be appointed in as the Section Commander of Pratap Section. He joined JSW as an Air Force Cadet and was commissioned in the Air Force on 8 October 1955 as a Fighter Pilot. During his 34 years of service, he served the country with loyalty, devotion and dedication. He was among the 10 pilots who were selected to undergo training on Hunter Aircrafts in England. After flying Hunters, he was posted to Aircraft and Armament Testing Unit at Kanpur, which carried out trials on GNAT Aircrafts. He flew the GNAT



for 11 years and commanded No.23 GNAT Squadron which was awarded the President Standards. He participated in both the Wars against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, respectively. During the 1971 War, he led 20 Combat Missions successfully and was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry). He commanded three Air Force Stations which is very rare. One of the Bases was adjudged The Best in the Western Air Command. He was awarded VishishtSeva Medal by the President of India for distinguished services. As a GpCapt, he was responsible for inducting MIGs at Uterlai. He retired from the service on 31 December 1989. On his retirement, the Vice Chief of the Air Force appreciated thus, "You may recall that our association and friendship really goes back to our memorable days at PWRIMC, Dehradun more than 40 years ago. This, by any standards, is an extremely long period in one's life span. Throughout this period, I have observed you not only as an excellent professional but also a dedicated and loyal citizen of this

country."

His elder brother, Lt Col Balwant Singh too studied at RIMC and joined JSW in 1949. He joined the Indian Military Academy to be commissioned on 12 December 1952. He commanded 17th Punjab from 1965 to 1967 and was also ADC to the Governor of Rajasthan from 1960 to 1961. He retired on 1 January 1983. Their youngest sibling, Lt Col GS Kilawala, joined NDA in 1958 to be commissioned on 10 June 1962 in Army Ordnance Corps and retired on 1 January 1995.

These eminent ascendants have received the legacy of the indomitable spirit from their father, Lt Arjan Singh, who also studied for a brief period at the RIMC in Kitchener Section. Lt Arjan Singh was commissioned as AIRO in SIGNALS, on 1 August 1951. He was commissioned again on 15 May 1941 and finally transferred to 5th Battalion of 2nd Punjab Regt. He blazed the path for his successors by essentially following in his father's footsteps - Subedar Major (Hony Lt) Bhagwan Singh, MC, OBE, Bahadar.

Subedar Major Bhagwan Singh was born in 1881. His father, Sardar Kishan Singh was a Landlord, a well-known wealthy figure belonging to village, Rani Pur, Tahsil Phagwara, District Kapurthala. Sardar Kishan had a good rapport and correlation with British setup and helped to recruit a large number of soldiers during World War I. His eldest son, Bhagwan Singh was fascinated and motivated on seeing British Officers and Soldiers paying respect to his father.

Sub Maj (Hony Lt) Bhagwan Singh was given direct Viceroy Commission in 1903 as Jemadar. He became Subedar in 1913 and Sub Maj in 1918. He was posted to 2nd Battalion 124th Baluchistan Infantry which formed part of the 8th Infantry Brigade of the 10th Indian Infantry Group. He was awarded the Military Cross in the

battle of Tekrit in Mesopotamia on the night of 17/18th April 1916 while serving with 47th Sikhs Battalion holding the acting rank of Subedar Major. He continuously served for five years in World War I from June 1915 to August 1920. He served in France Mesopotamia, Persia, Palestine and Egypt. He was Mentioned in Dispatches. He was a loyal, devoted and a gallant Officer.

In recognition of distinguished service, he was honoured with grant of 'Bahadar' and Jagir at Village Chak No. 2/1L, Post Office Rinala Khurd Tahsil

Ukara, District Montgomery. He was awarded a Citation of Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his Company Commander was wounded early in an engagement, he took command and led the Company with great courage and skill, setting a most inspiring example to the men. Later, when the Adjutant and the Subedar Major became casualties, he carried out their duties in addition to commanding his Company and rendered invaluable assistance during the ensuing night. He served for 19 years from 1903 to 31 May

1922. He died on 21st Feb at Mayo Hospital Lahore at the age of 45 years.

These three generations of inherited leadership forged their own path and stand out as shining examples and epitomes of gentility and grace. These luminaries extraordinaire have drawn strength from each other, but above all, their treads through the revered portals of RIMC have helped them perpetuate this legacy of excellence with Pride and Honour. The predecessors handed down the invaluable lessons to their successors to propel them from 'Cradle of

THE RIMCOLLIAN SPIRIT

— Col VIVEK SINGH

I have always been wondering as to what is this "Spirit" we always talk and share about. This term has been most confusing for me because when I joined NDA, (with my good luck I joined the Hunter squadron which was famous for being disbanded a number of times due to its notorious activities). I met some Rimcollian seniors who in school were most notorious and here too they were making their presence felt amongst my course. In contrast to this, I observed that a variety of schools who had sent a large number of their students to NDA were being pampered by their seniors who had passed out from the same school, in their respective squadrons. Whereas, The Rimcollian seniors were not so open about it. So it always made me wonder, as to why was one denied this privileged treatment!! As we progressed, one learnt to work the harder way and got the due respect and privileges for own efforts and achievements. The interaction between the school mates reduced immensely - being placed in different squadrons and with no time to meet due to an extremely hectic daily routine, unless one was in the same class or Squadron. However, each term one of the senior old boy would organise a small get together at the cafeteria which would be a great occasion to meet, exchange our notes and relish our bonding once again.



After NDA, one left to join our respective academies for commissioning training, getting further separated and making the interaction amongst us more difficult. Subsequently, on commissioning and joining our regiments or ships or squadrons, the routine and future engagements made it even more difficult to keep in touch. This has changed considerably in the age of internet or WhatsApp, etc. I, somehow remain outdated still. Recently, when I was in the NCR on a personal visit, I learnt that a Rimcollian get together was being

organised in Delhi. It had been a very long time since I attended last one and so I took this opportunity and decided to attend the Sunday afternoon Rimcollian meet at Delhi, organised by one of the most enthusiastic and motivated team members. It was such a great feeling to just walking, pay the dues and join the party, which had the usual spirited old boys and of course the Air Chief. One felt so light and joyful to meet some of the old mates both seniors and juniors at college, as well as the other much older and younger lot. The bar and the snacks kept pouring in and one kept on

meeting and chatting. Time just flew and as we began to eat our lunch, one realised it was already past 3 pm; still there was a lot to share but time was not on our side. There were ladies who were equally enthusiastic to be at this event and were intensely involved in this soothing atmosphere. Though the gathering was small compared to the numbers posted in station, it was certainly fun and exciting.

We departed at about 4 pm and while on my way back enjoying the metro ride,

I had enough time to ponder as well as to let the gallons of beer settle down. I was pondering on how the afternoon had passed with such a peaceful feeling when I realised that this is it, "The Spirit"; the excitement of being part of the great fraternity, the happy feeling to meet old friends both seniors and juniors, celebrating their achievements and complementing them, getting to know that so many of us are doing great and good, feeling proud for all the good

things and many more such intense emotions.

"Let us not shy, let us be bold, let there be no shame and let us hold the fame.

Let us carry this great spirit with courage and dignity, let our glory burn like an eternal flame.

Let us be proud and shun away any doubt, let us care for we are rare.

Let there be happiness, let there be pride, and let us make this Spirit to rise and fly high". ■

THE TIPSY PUDDING

— Wg Cdr **UNNI KARTHA**

This is not a story, but a recipe, as old as Major Bhatia, the 'King of Good' times in 1962 when I was a silly vegetarian, 12 years old brat in RIMC.

'Eat my son, you bastard', Bhatia Sir counselled. 'Enjoy, then go do it and die'..I immediately became Non Veg because how much potato could one eat, even if it is served lying naked in a bed of cream?

I also imbibed a taste for good things. I did it too, mind you, but didn't die..... I lived to eat. There is a big difference between 'eat to live' and 'live to eat', therein lies the ethos of 'King of Good Times'.

There is no fantasy food that I crave more than Scotch Eggs and Topsy Pudding. The former requires elaborate tactical simulator training. But the latter, 'Mama Mia', you can adlib, it is the key to open the heart and legs, make a man a subservient mule.

Going on 70, as an out of control diabetic, I get wet dreams and get up at 2 O'clock at night, craving for tippy pudding. So I go raid the fridge surreptitiously like a Commando, search and cordon at Bad-Gaon in 'cash-mir'.

Portions for two. Making time 5 minutes.

1. Look for two slices of cake, if no cake, any cake, two slices of bread will suffice. Apply a liberal coat of any jam. It doesn't matter which bread, black, white or brown, like Michael Jackson, or which side you apply Jam. Your ACR is not being written at 0200 hrs. Mash the ruddy cake / bread and jam with a fork in a bowl. Do it with vengeance, like Balakot strike with PGM.
2. I scramble around for biscuits, any bloody bis-cut, doesn't matter. But you need biscuits, at least 6 to 8. Coarsely crush with hands and add it to the mish-mash above. That is the crunchy-munchy thing.
3. Add three teaspoons of sugar. If you have powdered sugar, 2 spoons. The normal crystal sugar is best. I love the crunchy-munchy stuff.
4. I look for any kind of fruit to add, small 1 cm, 3 pieces. Avoid Guwawa, it is Deshi. This is an Angrezy Pudding. If no fruit in the bloody fridge, I opt for 2" each of carrot and cucumber, cut to 1 cm, 3 pieces. At 0200, it does not matter, it tastes the same as fruits, and makes it taste suave with chutzpa, like Putin's Ma Ki salad pudding during Russian revolution.



5. I look for fresh cream. If no cream, powder milk, or cold fresh milk will suffice. Just a few spoons to douse the ruddy stuff in the bowl. Do not drown the things in the bowl - you don't want to call the diving team from the Navy at 0200. They are quite deadly, the Marcos, keep away from them.
6. Now the coup de main. You need 2 Large Rum. If you don't have rum, try whisky or Vodka. Gin and wine absolutely No No. You don't want to sound like Frank Sinatra at 0200, sing 'strangers in the night', which makes you sound like a thief.
7. Shake the fork in the goo, but not like Pakis Jihad, just tenderly, just enough to mix the mish-mash.
8. Put the damn thing into 2 wine glasses. Top it with cherry if you can find it. Not an issue if you can't find cherries. Topsy pudding is not meant for dismembering or deflowering. You are trying to make pudding, damn it.
9. Add a dollop of vanilla ice cream in each glass. 'Phoke It', if there is no ice cream, it is 2 o'clock at night bloody man.
10. This is a recipe for 2. So, go wake up the girl in bed and insist that she share the pudding with you. Love is about sharing Topsy pudding at 2 o'clock at night.
11. Use fingers as spoons and lick each other's fingers. By jove, it is adventure, the licky-lick I mean.

Cheers, I just had tippy pudding with carrots and cucumber; it tasted very nutty;

A VISIT TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF IMPHAL

— Col **VY GIDH**, VSM (Retd)



Paying homage at the Indian Army Cemetery

The ROBA Calendar of 2019 was themed on senior Rimcollians who distinguished themselves during the World War II (WW II) 1939-45. The recount of some of their exploits brought back many pleasant memories of our visit to Manipur to participate in some of the events during the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of The Battle of Imphal in 2014.

Paying homage at the Indian Army Cemetery

This year happens to be the 75th Anniversary of The Battle of Imphal and Kohima. It was 75 years ago that Manipur and Nagaland were witness to an epic battle between the British-led Allies and the Japanese and the Indian National Army (INA). In April 2013, the Battle of Imphal and The Battle of Kohima were voted as ‘Britain’s Greatest Battles’ in a contest conducted by Britain’s National Army Museum in London, beating Normandy and even the Battle of Trafalgar. The result

surprised the English who thought Waterloo was their greatest feat. Field Marshal WJ Slim, Commander of the British 14th Army during the battles, was voted as the best British general of all time with Duke of Wellington, they were both schooled in warfare in India.

70th Anniversary Commemorations

During the 70th Anniversary Commemorations of the Battle of Imphal held in 2014, a series of guided tours focused on the Battle of Imphal were conducted; it was a first-of-its-kind of war tourism in India. Mr Salam Sarat Singh, my Imphal-based senior in RIMC and myself attended some of these tours; it was a unique experience!

The most popular Battle of Imphal Tour included the Second World War era airfield - Koirenge; the two War Cemeteries (Imphal Indian Army and the Imphal War Cemetery), which commemorates the memories of the

Indian and British soldiers who died during the War; battlefield visits around Imphal and the colonial era Gen Slim’s Cottage, which is now a heritage property in Kangla Fort Complex. It was once the headquarters of the British 14th Army Commander from where he planned and initially fought the Burma Campaign.

The Battles of Imphal and Kohima

The Battles of Imphal and Kohima pitted 1,20,000 British-led Allies against 70,000 Japanese and 7000 INA soldiers in some of the bitterest fighting seen during the Second World War. “Fought between 07 March and 18 July 1944, the Battles of Imphal and Kohima were the turning point of one of the most gruelling campaigns of the Second World War. The decisive Japanese defeat in Northeast India became the springboard for the Fourteenth Army’s subsequent re-conquest of Burma”: National Army Museum, London.

The two battles were the result of the

1944 U-Go Offensive of the Japanese 15th Army under Lt Gen Renya Mutaguchi. The plan was to conquer India and use it as a launch pad of future Japanese military campaigns. It initially involved the capture of Imphal, cut off the key Imphal-Kohima-Dimapur road and prevent any British invasion of Myanmar (now Burma), which Japan had controlled since 1942. During the battle, 70,000 Japanese soldiers marched to Manipur to fight the Allied forces. Imphal, which was heavily invested by the Japanese 15th Army, was defended by the IV Corps of the British Fourteenth Army.

While 16,000 on the Allies side were either killed or wounded at Imphal-Kohima, 12,000 of them died during the Battle of Imphal. An estimated 30,000 Japanese soldiers died due to fighting or disease in the simultaneous battles of Imphal and Kohima, and on the retreat back to Burma. Soldiers carried the injured back towards the Chindwin River. Those who could not be carried were left behind. The fingers of many of the dead were cut to be cremated back home. It was the greatest defeat on land in Japan's history and the vast majority of casualties occurred during the Battle of Imphal. Among the 7000 INA men who accompanied the Japanese till Moirang, about 400 were killed in the battle, while 1500 died of disease and starvation during their withdrawal towards Burma. Till this day skeletons presumed to belong to the dead soldiers are found in Manipur.

The British military historian Dr Robert Lyman who played a prominent role in preparing the case for the Battle of Imphal and Kohima, notes that Imphal-Kohima was one of the four turning-point battles of the Second World War; the Battles at Stalingrad, El Alamein, and in the Pacific between the US and Japanese navies were the other three. The Victoria Cross (VC), the highest British military decoration for bravery, was awarded to five personnel during the Battle of Imphal and two during the Battle of Kohima.

Events During the Commemorations

The commemoration of the prominent battles started with the 'Battle of Sangshak'



3 CARBINIERS had the old RIMC crest with Peacock Feathers and Ich Dien

on 26th March, where troops from 152 Para Bn with 4/5 Maratha held the garrison against a strong Japanese force. While 152 Para Bn later fell back to the Imphal plains, 4/5 Maratha (now 4 Maratha LI) was ordered to hold the defences around Sangshak. The delay imposed by the battalion on the advance of the Japanese Army enabled the Allies to land forces by air at Imphal and reinforce Kohima by land, thereby saving the fall of these two important locations. The first battle fought on Indian soil from 21-26 March 1944, it was a prelude to the famous battles of Kohima and Imphal.

The next was the 'Start of Imphal Siege' at Kangla Tongbi on 7th April, where the Japanese forces planned to capture the large supply depot. A handful of non-combatants of mostly Ordnance soldiers belonging to the Advance Ordnance Depot led by Maj Boyd repulsed a series of attacks of the Japanese forces before troops from the erstwhile 14 Punjab and 9 Jat Regiments could arrive. This epic stand enabled the Allies sufficient time in moving back 4000 tons of war-like stores. The Depot was selected to accompany the British Commonwealth Occupation Force to Japan after the war. Today KanglaTongbi War Memorial is a revered shrine visited

by all. A tradition still followed by all young AOC officers is that upon commissioning they first visit the memorial at KanglaTongbi. The DG Ordnance Services and Senior Colonel Commandant along with WW II veterans and their families from Britain and Japan laid a wreath on 7th April.

The 'Battle of Nungsigum' was commemorated on 13th April, where Jemadar Abdul Hafiz of 9 Jat Regiment had won the first VC on Indian soil at Runaway Hill on 6th April 1944. This 1000 feet massif located North East of Imphal town which dominated several road junctions and the vital Koirenge airstrip, was recaptured by the Allies on 13th April after its fall to the Japanese forces.

On 14th April, the INA day was commemorated at Moirang, 45 kms from Imphal, where the INA Memorial and Museum is now located. It was on 14 April 1944 that the INA forces led by Col Shaukat Ali Malik of INA had unfurled the Indian flag for the first time on Indian soil at Moirang; the flag - green, white and saffron, stamped with Bose's leaping tiger. The INA Memorial is a replica of the original commemorating the "Unknown Warrior" of the INA, which was unveiled by Bose in Singapore in July 1945. After



With Mr Salam Sarat Singh, Rimcollian at the INA Museum

British forces ended the Japanese occupation of Singapore later that year, the memorial was razed on the orders of Lord Louis Mountbatten, then the Allied commander for Southeast Asia.

The other battles commemorated were the ‘Battle of Tengnoupal’ near the Indo-Myanmar border on 19th May; ‘MaibamLokpaching’ (Red Hill) on the Tiddim Road on 29th May, where Sergeant Hanson Victor Turner of West Yorkshire Regiment and RfnGanju Lama of 7th Gurkha Rifles won their VCs at Ningthoukhong on the Tiddim Road; and ‘Silchar-Bishenpur Track’ on 25th June, where Naik Agansing Rai and Sub Netra Bahadur Thapa of 5th Gurkha Rifles won their VCs on 26th June 1944. Some old Manipuri elders who had witnessed these battles as children, also narrated their experiences at many locations.

Since our Battalion, 14 Punjab (Nabha Akal) had served in Manipur during late 1990s’ while insurgency was at its peak, we have very fond memories of our two years tenure in the Imphal Valley. MaibamLokpaching (Red Hill or Point 2926) was located in the unit area and I proudly recollect meeting the late Rimcollian Viscount Slim (Col John Douglas Slim), son of the famous Field Marshal in April 1998, when he visited Imphal with a British delegation comprising of 50 war veterans of the 14th Army and wards and sons of men

killed in the War. The Viscount’s son, Dr Hugo Slim was also among the group. Maibam Lokpaching was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles involving hand to hand combat fought on the hillock code named Red Hill, adjacent to the Imphal-Tiddim Road. Fought in the last phase of the Imphal Campaign in May 1944, this battle turned the tide of the war in favour of the Allies. Red Hill was later Gen Slim’s Tactical Headquarters during the initial stages of the Burma Campaign.

The Japanese War Veterans had constructed ‘India Peace Memorial’ at the bottom of Red Hill in 1977 in memory of the Japanese martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the battle. At Sangshak, 84 year local YA Shishak proudly showed us his museum set up at home. The Sangshak War Memorial honouring the valour and sacrifice of the martyrs of 152 Para Bn, 4/5 Maratha and locals of Sangshak village was made many years back, while the Japanese have recently constructed a War Memorial in honour of their martyrs who died during this battle.

Importance of the Battles

The Battle of Imphal also highlights the importance of the air battle. No 1 Squadron (Sqn), IAF played a crucial role in support of the Allies during the land battle. The squadron spent almost 14 months of intense, sustained action,

flying a record 4813 sorties totalling 7219 hours over 14 months, an average of 343 sorties and 516 hours per month. In addition to bringing in reinforcements and supplies, evacuating casualties; the squadron provided close air support to the troops on the ground. By the time they were relieved by No 7 Sqn in March 1945, it had earned nine Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFCs) and 1 MBE, the most that any of the nine Sqns in the IAF had achieved till then. The first of the DFC went to Sqn Ldr Arjan Singh, the CO who later became Marshal of the IAF.

Two young Rimcollian pilots from No 1 Sqn distinguished themselves during the Battle of Imphal. Flying Officer Khemendra Nath Kak lost his life during one of the operations and was decorated with DFC. Flying Officer (later Air Commodore) Narayan Khanderao ‘Nanu’ Shitoley flew over 300 hours on operations in eight months, getting him the DFC.

Dr Slim says, “The India/Burma Campaign was long known as the ‘Forgotten Army’ in the UK. In the British popular image, the greatest battles and heroes were all in Europe. Scholars the world over are recognizing the significance of the Campaign as the beginning of modern integrated mobile warfare (air supply etc) and a model of defensive and offensive warfare. The Campaign is now taught in the UK and US military academies. Imphal is now recognized as the longest battle of WW II and the combination of so many different nationalities in the XIV Army makes it an important example of what today is called diversity.”

It was for the first time that the Indian Army fought a foreigner invader on Indian soil.

The Indian Army during the World Wars

During the First World War, 1.3 million Indian soldiers played a major role in the fighting in European, Mediterranean and Middle East theatres. They won 11 Victoria Crosses, while 74,000 soldiers died and 66,000 were wounded. 2014 also happens to be the Centenary year of First World War.

During the Second World War, the Indian Army began the war in 1939 numbering just 2,00,000 men. However by the end of the war, it became the largest volunteer Army in history, rising to over 2.5 million men. It fought gallantly in North Africa, Middle East and Italy, though a major force was committed to fighting the Japanese Army. Their valour and grit was recognized with the award of 31 VCs. These campaigns cost over 36,000 lives, whilst 34,354 were wounded and 67,340 became Prisoners of War.

A special mention must be made of Maj Gen Madhavrao Ganpatrao Rajwade (Rawlinson, 1933-38) who was awarded the coveted Military Cross during the Burma Campaign.

During the battle for the bridgehead across the Shweli River at Myitson in Northern Burma in February 1945, Lt Rajwade distinguished himself by his personal bravery and powers of leadership. At the first attempt to cross, he led the first wave of boats over the river. On the South bank, he collected and re-organised all boat crews for the return trips, after collecting all casualties in spite of enemy sniping and shelling. When he heard a wounded man shouting from a position 200 yards downstream, with another sapper he crawled about and brought back a British officer and a RA signaller, both wounded; thereby saving their lives. In the middle of the battle, he took his flotilla across the river to deliver much-needed ammunition to troops on the far side. Later when ordered to evacuate the position, he organised a smoke screen to cover the evacuation of casualties, paying no heed to enemy fire and shelling.

The fine example of leadership and determination shown by 2/Lt MG Rajwade, Madras Engineering Group earned him a well-deserved Military Cross, which was presented by Field Marshal Auchinleck.

Role of the INA

WW II also hastened the process of Indian Independence. The INA was involved in the Battle of Imphal on the side of the Japanese in two ways; through the



The Museum of Mr Shishak at Sangshak

deployment of the 1st INA Division consisting of some 6000 men and through INA Special Groups of several hundred who were attached to each of the Japanese divisions. Imphal was the moment the INA had created and waiting for - to try and liberate India from British rule.

A large number of officers from the Indian Army including Rimcollians joined INA after it was clear that the sole aim of INA was to make the British quit India. In addition to Brig NS 'Tony' Bhagat (first course IMA), several Rimcollians including Gen (INA) Shahnawaz Khan, Niranjana Singh Gill, Taj Mohammed Khanzada and Inayatullah Hasan played an important role in the movement.

The 1st Guerilla Brigade of the INA was under the command of Gen (INA) Shahnawaz. By the beginning of January 1944, it had reached Rangoon, where two battalions remained to guard the border between Burma and India. The third battalion advanced into India and took part in the Battles of Imphal and Kohima. Later the INA trials at Red Fort made Shahnawaz a legend.

It was very heartening to see four INA veterans, in the 90 - 95 age group, participating in the Republic Day Parade in January 2019. This was after President Ram Nath Kovind became the first

President to visit the INA Memorial at Moirang in November 2017. Incidentally, the 'Jai Hind' adopted as a military salutation by the Armed Forces some years back was originally a slogan used by the INA!

Conclusion

The visit to Imphal for the 70th Anniversary was enriching, given this was the first-of-its-kind of war tourism in India. The Battle of Kohima took place between 04 April to 22 June 1944 and marked the limit of the Japanese advance into India. I am reminded of the famous words enshrined in the Kohima War Cemetery which we would often visit while posted in Nagaland.

*When you go home,
Tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.*

Manipur and Nagaland have great potential for tourism. The successful culmination of the 70th Anniversary Commemorations in Imphal shows that War Tourism is one area where these states can focus on. War Tourism would not only help in curbing insurgency by providing all round development in the region, it would also assist in promotion of India's 'Look East Policy'. ■

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE WITH OUR OLDEST OLD BOY

(Col FDW Fallon is the oldest surviving Rimcollian at 94 years of age, and is presently settled in Melbourne, Australia. He was in RIMC from 1936 to 1942, and was later commissioned into the Probyns Horse in 1944 after training at OTS Mhow and at Ahmednagar. In the World War II, he was injured in Burma and was evacuated to Silchar in 1945. After being wounded in an ambush and evacuated, he was transferred to 610 Company ASC in Quetta wherein he received permanent commission on 10 March 1945. Maj Samir Srivastava, Chandragupta, 1976-80, got in touch with him in Australia, and interviewed him for the newsletter. He has also presented Col Fallon with a copy of The Rimcollian Newsletter.)

What do the initials FDW stand for?

FDW stands for: Francis (my maternal grandfather); Dennis (my name); Willoughby (my paternal great grand father's name; we have been carrying this name through generations). And Fallon is my surname. My great grandfather was sent from England to India by the British East India company. His brief was to ensure that the Nizam of Hyderabad does not change his allegiance from the British to other colonial powers who were trying to get a foothold in India.

Tell us a little about your childhood.

I was born on 2 Sep 1925. We were six of us, two brothers and four sisters. I was the eldest son and spent my childhood in Hyderabad. We were a privileged family. I was thoroughly pampered and spoilt.

Where are your siblings now?

My younger brother joined the EME in the British Army and passed away some years ago. One of my sisters has passed away. Two sisters are here in Australia. And one sister runs her own school in Shillong.

What made you join the RIMC?

In 1936 the Nizam of Hyderabad announced two scholarships for the



Col Fallon in RIMC in 1952

residents of Hyderabad. My father decided that I ought to go.

What was the admission process like?

Six of us had applied. Finally, two of us, Ali El Adroos and I joined. Ali El Adroos was the son of Maj Gen Syed Ahmed El Adroos, Hyderabad army's Commander-in-Chief. We were interviewed, or rather grilled, by three officials. The local garrison commander, the C-in-C Hyderabad, and the senior most resident British official. I forget the civilian officer's name and title.

What are your abiding memories of your days at the RIMC?

Our routine was dictated by the siren. I remember the tyranny of the siren. I also remember being very nervous when I first met the Principal, Mr. JGC Scott. We never could figure out where he hid his cane. We were about 120 of us, 40 cadets to a section. I was in Rawlinson section. The junior dormitory commander was Rab Nawaz Khan. He looked after us. Once every week we had to open our cupboards and stand by our bed. The Section Master and Section Commander would thoroughly inspect us.

I was then the only Christian cadet in the College. After Roll call others would get to visit their Mandir and Masjid and I would get my own reading time.

The teaching staff, particularly the Section Masters, played a major role. The bearers would know all our secrets. They also helped senior cadets get cigarettes. Hakim Singh Khambo was the contractor who took care of all provisions. The food on the campus was excellent.

I was very good in hockey, squash and cricket. I captained the cricket team. Mr Catchpole was the coach. Doon School had just been established. We used to hammer them in all sporting contests. We did not enjoy going to the Doon School, our rival, to write our Senior Cambridge exams. We had to submit two copies of our exam manuscripts because one copy had to be sent to England. We used to insert a carbon paper to make two copies. I remember being nervous about inserting the carbon paper correctly.



Col and Mrs Fallon on their wedding in 1951

I distinctly remember walking down towards the mess in 1939 when some senior cadets shouted in Hindi that Britain had declared war on Germany. We were discouraged from speaking in Hindi. Somehow the cadets figured out that this would mean less training for them and that their commission dates would be brought forward. This is exactly what happened.

Did you find yourself well equipped to complete your training and take on the challenges as a young commissioned officer during the War?

Thanks to the RIMC, I felt more than well prepared. Knowing that you will ask me about my war time experiences, I have jotted down everything that came to my mind. Hope you can read what I have written (Col Fallon handed over eight legibly written pages from his note pad. These I have passed on to our Editor).

Did you remain in touch with Rimcollians and the College after getting commissioned?

Oh yes! It was a small army in the 1950s and 60s. Almost every station I got posted to would have Rimcollians. The

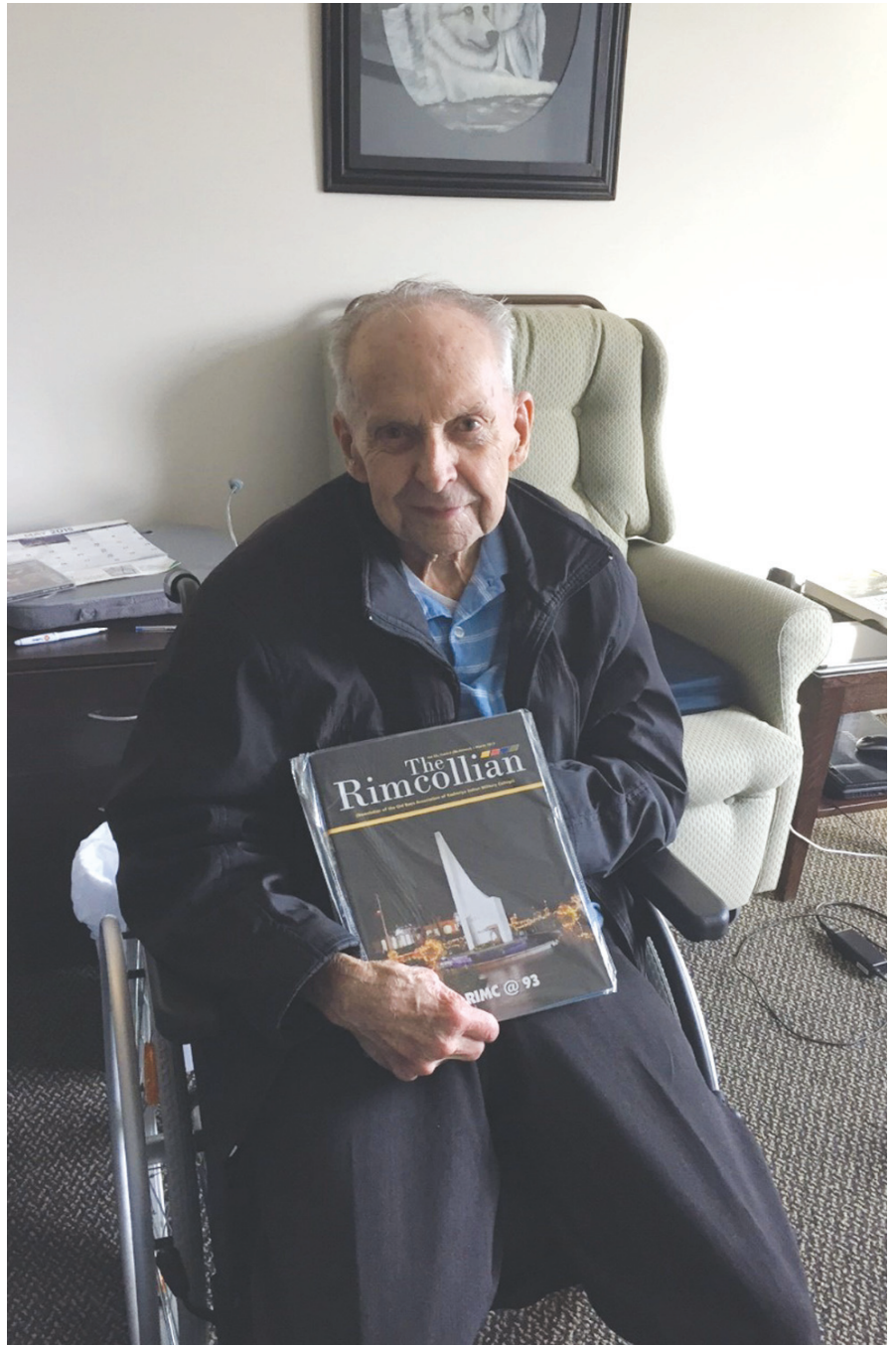
INTERVIEW

best part was that not only did we as old boys get along as long lost brothers, but our wives also invariably got along very well. Whenever I needed a favour of any kind all I had to do was reach out to a Rimcollian. I remember being petrified on being told that there was a message for me from the Army HQ. This was in 1951. I wondered if I had made some blunder that I was unaware of. I was informed that I stood posted with immediate effect as Adjutant to the RIMC. This suited me just fine as I was newly married.

What was your time like as Adjutant of the College?

On reaching the RIMC, I was to learn that Mr. Catchpole had requested General Thimayya to send him an old boy as an adjutant who was good in cricket. Mr. Catchpole gave me complete authority to enforce discipline and produce a good cricket team to take on Doon School. I was struck by how little had changed from my time. Some of the rogues would still come to the boilers behind the bathrooms to smoke and I would lie there in wait to ambush them. Knowing that some incorrigible ones will continue smoking no matter what and because I did not like to see cigarette butts everywhere, I got someone to place make-shift outdoor ashtrays behind the bathrooms on the quiet.

My evening rounds in the dorms were always eventful. The one thing that I did not like was the sobbing sounds from under the blankets that I would hear in the junior dormitory. It took the homesick youngsters some time to adjust to College life. I would often discuss this with my wife, Yvonne -- may her soul rest in peace. I think this is the only reason why I did not end up sending my son to the RIMC. I probably should have...The junior cadets matured to mischief making within a year. Once when I was watching a movie, I noticed some familiar faces during the interval. Yvonne prevented me from interrupting their movie. My time at the RIMC though got abruptly interrupted when in 1953, I again got a message from the Army HQ. This time I was to accompany General KS Thimayya as his



Col and Mrs Fallon on their wedding in 1951

staff officer to Korea. Gen Timmy had been appointed as the Chair of the Repatriation Commission. The commission's task was to decide on the fate of the prisoners of war. They all had their own reasons to choose a particular country to go to. Some of the stories were heart rending. (For those interested in learning more, please Google: "India's role in ending the Korean war." The result will

take you to a 03 May 2018 article in The Hindu written by Jairam Ramesh).

What would you like to say to Rimcollians?

I want to wish all Old Boys the very best in whatever they are doing. You have it in you to succeed. To the cadets at the RIMC: Once you pass out, never forget that you are a Rimcollian. ■

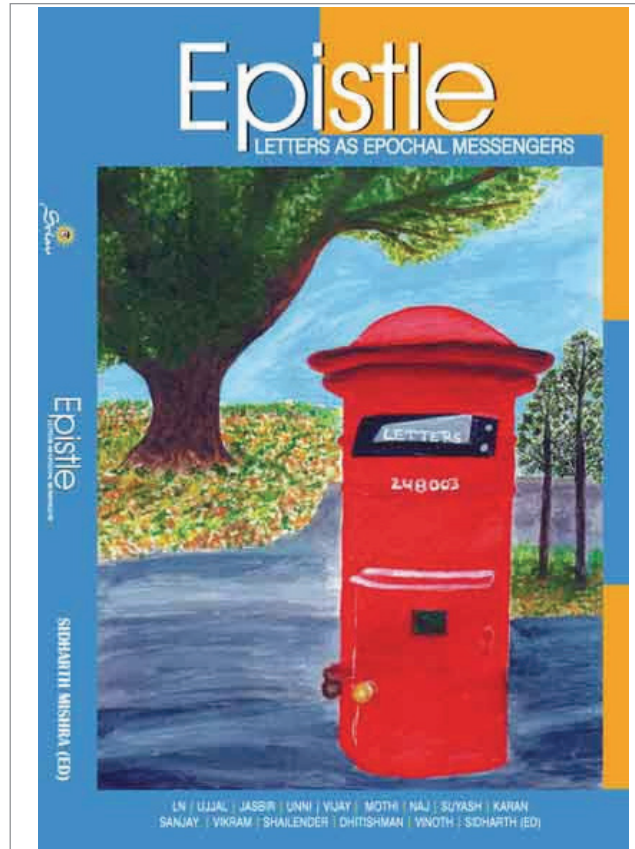
Letters As Epochal Messengers

— Col **SHAILENDER ARYA**, Shivaji 1990-94

The number seven is often considered lucky. Commencing from the ‘Camphor Avenue’ book in 2013 to the ‘Pavilion’ in 2018, the ‘Epistle’ is the seventh book in the Camphor series, published in 2019. It is lucky in the manner that its content and circulation has been constantly increasing over the years, and now the goal of ten books, culminating in a book in 2022, the centennial year of RIMC looks much feasible, a progression from the tentative initial days.

The theme of the book is letters as epochal messengers to and from the RIMC. Epistle is a message, a communication or a missive, somehow closely related with a letter than an electronic communication. As mentioned by the editor, the public schools have long upheld the tradition of writing as it is considered the key to good communication and for recording the life’s eternal march. No wonder the book provides a unique glimpse of the letters, and inter alia, the life in the era in which the letters were written. Before moving ahead, a small disclaimer; I am one of the contributing author, and may lavish more praises on my own piece than otherwise warranted, but then you have been forewarned.

The book has been dedicated to the memory of Brig Chander Singh Thapa, who had been a great support for the Project Camphor. We lost him suddenly, just before the 2018 Reunion, and his involvement with the book, and all things RIMC, shall be sorely missed.



Title: **EPISTLE**

Pages: 120

Price: ₹600 (₹350 @ RIMC)

Published: SRIAV

sriavcreations@hotmail.com

The Epistle has writers spread over half a century. The book begins with an article by Mr LN Thakur, and is sequenced in an older-to-younger generation format with the letters completely dominating the first half, the phone appears in middle of the book, and generally kills the letter writing in RIMC by early 2000s, though the winner is nostalgia, and all things postal. It is also interspersed with some interesting photos of letters

and postage stamps over the years.

The book begins with a note titled ‘Let’s Light Some Camphor’ by the editor, Mr Sidharth Mishra, in which he briefly chronicles the journey of the Camphor series, and a word about the letters which have been precious in our journey through RIMC. As mentioned, Mr LN Thakur, who joined the RIMC in July 1965, and taught Mathematics, has the honour of having the first chapter, titled ‘A Letter for a Student’. This letter is in memory of his student Brig Chander Singh Thapa and his sporting achievements. He also recalls their life-long association, and his meetings with him later in Dehradun. Mr LN Thakur poignantly concludes his narration stating that he would live through his life with the hope that Chander would come back someday.

Brig Ujjal Dasgupta is next, writing about his time in school from 1958 onwards, in his chapter titled ‘Despite Changing Times. Letter Writing Must Survive’. The chapter is full of interesting anecdotes about letters, and the currency to buy the postage, which was changing to a new metric system. He writes fondly about his course mates, and the letters received by them from their respective parents, each with a distinctive style.

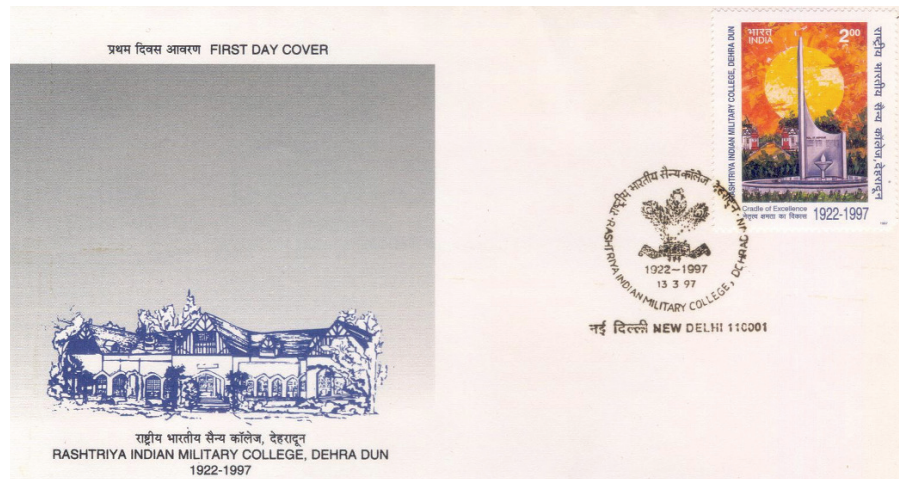
Brig Jasbir Singh commences his narration with the old letter box near the Pratap Section, and then goes on to

BOOK REVIEW

tell a story about Mr Zafar Alam, the Nawab of Rampur, during the March 1963 Reunion. The chapter is aptly titled 'The Letter Box: Standing Witness'. He also has an interesting story about a well-planned raid on the College Bakery. This is followed by an interesting and humour-laden chapter titled 'What is up, what is up' by Wg Cdr Unni Kartha, who has over the years become a master storyteller, and whose anecdotes fill the various WhatsApp groups. In 'What is up, what is up' he writes about the letters from his father, who wrote very comprehensive, proper and regular letters in an Inland Letter, and expected, rather insisted on a reciprocation by means of equally exhaustive letters. Needless to say, such reciprocation was not in nature of then Cadet Unni Kartha, never mind its consequences.

The next chapter is by Col Vijay Y Gidh, and is titled 'Letters from Pin code 248003' and beyond'. He covers a wide spectrum, starting from his initial days when he left Bombay and joined RIMC, the various events about which they wrote home, reminisces about letter writing and telegrams from far-off places in NEFA, his pen pals in school, and the unique tradition of sending Diwali cards to war heroes after the 1965 War. 248003 is of course the familiar Pin code of the Dehradun Cantonment. Brig Mothi George Jacob in his chapter, 'P&T may be dead, but long live the letters', writes about letters and telegrams, particularly related to the long train journey from Kerala to Dehradun, the complexities of planning adequate postage for the entire term, and the crucial management issues concerning the contents of the letter.

Commodore N Anil Jose Jacob has a rather gloomy heading titled 'Death of the letter', as letters played a key role in the life of that era but have now ceased to do so. He also tried to write letters in self-taught Malayalam, though it was his mother tongue, to his cousins, apart from inserting a paragraph in Malayalam to his parents. He describes



his friends with whom he used to correspond very regularly by means of lengthy letters, and briefly, where the life has taken them. 'Chewing the Honeyed Cud' is the next chapter by Brig Suyash Sharma. He describes the battles of letter writing learnt in the dormitories and the classes of RIMC, and subsequently honed over the years, particularly when staying away from the loved ones.

Karan Bamba in his 'Letters,Nah, not just letters' in his narration connects the letters to the art of giving, to creativity, to the art of being tough, and to the art of letter writing itself. His chapter also has some management tips - relating letters to the various facets of skill development like taking initiative, punctuality, observations and negotiations. Col Sanjay Kannothe is next with the chapter titled 'Well and wish to hear the same from you', a typical opening sentence in most of his letters, and now emails. He takes us to the Garhi Post office, the rituals of letter writing, and surprises us by remembering the postal addresses of most of his course mates.

The next chapter is by Col Shailender Arya, titled 'A Decade Starting in Ink; Ending in Technology' in which he takes us through the journey in RIMC by means of letters. He commences with a narration about his grandfather receiving letters in Basra, Iraq during World War I, and the simple joys of letter writing, and of even simpler days. He writes about the

pecking order of letters, the travails of finding a pen pal, and the joys of receiving a letter, though in his later years telephone calls had begun to make a weekend entry in RIMC.

Col Vikram Kadian's chapter titled 'Royal Blue' is an excellent research into the letter writing from the archives of RIMC. He has taken out interesting excerpts from the letters written to the college and preserved in the archives, commencing with his maternal grandfather writing to Mr EJ Watson for extra ration of milk and butter. There are letters on royal blue paper from the Princess Abida Sultan of Bhopal towards her ward Shahryar Khan, and letters from Col AN Sharma of the Army Medical Corps, father of Rimcollians Gen VN Sharma and Maj Somnath Sharma, PVC. One letter addressed to the college enquired details regarding stay of cadets in Delhi during the competitive examinations. A detailed reply from the Adjutant points to the Swiss Hotel in Delhi, a very posh hotel in the Civil Lines. Another letter informs the guardians of Cadet Gul Hassan that a princely sum of Rupees ¼ has been debited to their account as the Cadet ordered a car at the hotel but left by the time the car had arrived.

Wg Cdr Dhitishman Hazarika in his chapter titled 'Postcards, Inlands and Stamps' writes about his times and the changes they witnessed in the means of communication. He writes about his father and his word processor, and how his father regularly wrote a typewritten

letter to him. He also confesses being a prolific letter writer to the fairer sex, often on behalf his course mates. The telephone booth makes an entry, stays for a long time, and is later replaced by mobiles.

Sqn Ldr K Vinoth Vanya writes about letters, the books read, and the transition to STD calls, and later to internet in his chapter titled 'Room with a Telephone'. A STD booth opened in the school and initially functioned only on the weekends. Emails were sent by cadets to their parent during the Sunday leave-outs to Capri Trade Centre in Dehradun. The book is concluded by the editor, Mr Sidharth Mishra with the chapter titled

'Attempt at Philately'. This chapter lists out, with photographs, the various stamps and the First Day Covers associated with RIMC. There is Platinum Jubilee stamp, various stamps of Gen KS Thimayya, stamps on Maj Somnath Sharma, stamp on Gen Shah Nawaz Khan of INA, stamp on Hugh Catchpole, stamp on Air Marshal Nur Khan and the stamp on Trishna Sailing Expedition. It marks an apt conclusion to a book on letters, as invariably all of them bore postal stamps.

Letters take us back to the days when we were freer with pens and expressions. The advent of computers is

now stereotyping the language. Once I wrote the word 'fairer sex' in the paragraph about Dhitishman Hazarika's chapter, the MS Word repeatedly pointed out "Gender specific language, consider revising". A letter would not have done that. The theme of the book remain close to the heart of Rimcollians and most of them instantly connect. The book makes an easy and nostalgic reading, emerging as a chronicle of the changed times, as illustrated by means of letters, and the associated stories. A very meaningful addition to our libraries and personal collections. ■

MORE ON LETTERS & EPISTLE FROM A DOONITE

— Lt Col **GAURAV HAMAL**, Shivaji, 1990-95, Adm Officer, RIMC

This year's topic for the Camphor series book was 'letters' which I am sure is an evocative topic for many of us who grew up far from home. As usual, I missed the deadline for contributing in the book, but immensely enjoyed reading it. Having read the book, a flood of memories came rushing, which I decided to pen down for the newsletter.

Anyways, back to the RIMC days in a near authoritarian, quasi military, all boys public school in the pre-internet, pre-cell phone revolution era. In such a setup, where cut and dried discipline reigned supreme and stoicism and a British stiff upper lip was the norm rather than the exception, letters remained our emotional link to the outside world. They weren't only the carriers of news but were also harbingers of joy (and sometimes sadness), brought hope and cheer and surely were the one thing that stood very high in the order of preference after food and sleep! Every day, during lunch eager eyes cast furtive glances outside, scanning for the Cadet Adjutant returning from college office after orders and bringing with him the day's quota of cadets' letters which were cherished and

read and re-read over and over again. Once a bunch of letters were received, they were sent over to the section commanders' tables while the lunch was still on and were further distributed to the intended recipient(s). Decorum demanded that one couldn't open his letters and read them on the lunch table, and the wait for the lunch to get over so that one could discover the contents was often excruciating! The smiles on the young faces was often a clear giveaway as to who had received a letter that day.

With letters was associated this business of puddings too. Tradition demanded that the deliverer of the letter be rewarded with the day's pudding by the recipient of the letter. As a consequence, some Smart Alecs, held on to a letter and only gave it to the recipient on a day when the pudding of the day was especially delectable, like Coffee with Cream or Pastry!

The outer visage of the letters often gave away its insides. The regular, 'sarkaari', one-rupee yellow envelope or the light blue inland letter often meant that the letter was from parents, while a colourful, larger envelope hinted at a letter or a greeting card from a lady friend! There was often a deluge of

greeting cards in the vicinity of one's birthday, and this was the rare case when the recipient of the letter - the birthday boy, was passed on puddings from tables as far as the senior ante-room alcove! At such times, it paid to be friends with the intended recipient of all those puddings, because the birthday boy couldn't possibly be expected to finish of all those all by himself!

Sometimes letters brought about unintended mortification too. Back in the day when we had just joined the school, seniors cadets often recounted with mirth an anecdote from a few years back where this cadet whose parents were spiritually inclined, used to regularly receive in his mail a religious journal! Boys will be boys, and will not let go of any opportunity to rib or ridicule, and the poor chap often found his leg being pulled on the receipt of yet another copy of spiritual instruction!

The letter once read, especially if it was from a girl, ceased to be private. Termers often pried out juicy details of the letter from the recipient, or, if he was reluctant to share them, spirited the letter away by hook or by crook and spared no turn in ribbing him, often with ribald similes bordering on the edge of

decency! Also, there was this viral wave of ‘pen friends’. There was this small company in Delhi or someplace, which you registered with and for a small fee, it connected you with a pen friend from far and away. The registration form gave you the choice of whether one wanted to choose a domestic or foreign pen friend. One could even specify the gender! Needless to say, many found themselves receiving letters from abroad, and felt quite smug about it! It had its unintended, if hilarious episodes too! One Sikh termer of ours registered with the company requesting for a female, domestic pen friend. The company carried out its due diligence and provided a name and address of a girl of similar age from north India. Imagine the surprise of the burly Sikh, who was already sprouting a moustache and wisps of a beard, when the first letter he received started with the salutation “Dear Jaspreet Didi”. Suffice it to say, the termers never let him forget this episode and still rib him mercilessly even after twenty-five years

The locals often fared quite poorly in this whole business of receiving letters! They hardly got any letters, with the exception of greeting cards on birthdays. And the double whammy was that being locals, they had to remain within the confines of the College Boundaries and could not sneak away (though there were exceptions galore to this rule, with one cadet being caught in Garhi and nick-named ‘Garhi-Man’ by then Capt Sameer Srivastava!).

The one thing that amused me that some cadets received letters (presumably from parents or relatives) written in the vernacular of their state. This was our first exposure to scripts like Oriya, Gurmukhi and Urdu, and opened our eyes to that fact that India truly had a wide and eclectic panorama of languages and dialects (22 Languages, 13 Scripts and 720 Dialects at the last count) and helped us accept the fact that despite linguistic and other diversities, we were essentially all the same. This was indeed an important lesson in life that was to hold us in good stead for the remainder of our lives and careers.



Post Office, Garhi Cantt

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Writing letters helped us with our penmanship too. Serial letter writers (yes, there was tribe of this variety too) were often very good with prose and did sufficiently well in English. In fact those with a handicap in English often had them help compose letters to their own ‘pen friends’. All said and done, letters not only brought news - both good and bad but were also the carriers of mirth, joy, and a whole lot of other emotions. They provided us with that much needed emotional connect with outside world and in retrospect I’d not be too inaccurate if I said that they made us better humans. ■

NDA PASSING-OUT PARADE MAY 2019

— TEAM ROBAMAG



The Rimcollians in NDA POP

In the Passing-out Parade of NDA in May 2019, a Rimcollian, BCA Divyam Dwivedi was awarded the President's Silver Medal during the Passing Out of the 136th Course in NDA today. The CAS was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

Divyam's elder brother, ACC Sanyam Dwivedi had earlier won the President's Silver Medal during the POP in May 2017. The group photograph was then published in the Rimcollian Newsletter, September 2017. Divyam was the Cadet Capt while in RIMC. His photograph appears on the cover of the Rimcollian Calendar, 2018 which he was not even aware of, therefore he was presented with a 2018 Calendar on behalf of ROBA.

Brig HS Bainsla, a Rimcollian and Ex Commandant RIMC was also present for the POP with his the family. They had



A Rimcollian awarding another: BCA Divyam Dwivedi being awarded President's Silver Medal by the CAS

come for their son's POP. All the present Rimcollians had a group photograph

with the CAS. Cmde Amol Sabnis & family also joined for the same.

IMA PASSING OUT PARADE JUNE 2019

— TEAM RIMC



In the Passing-Out Parade of IMA, Dehradun in June 2019, a Rimcollian Lt Akshat Raj, Pratap, was awarded the prestigious Sword of Honour and the President's Bronze Medal. The young Rimcollian has been commissioned in 8 GARHWAL RIFLES. He was earlier awarded President's Gold Medal at RIMC and NDA as well.

Rimcollians have been consistently winning the Sword of Honour at the IMA. In fact, the Rimcollians have won six Sword of Honour in the last four years. The details are as under:-

- Dec 2015 - Lt Lalit Thapliyal
- Dec 2016 - Lt Pratyush Mohanty

- Jun 2017 - Lt Avinash Chetty
- Dec 2017 - Lt Chandrakant
- Dec 2018 - Lt Arjun
- Jun 2019 - Lt Akshat Raj

Many sports awards were also won by the Rimcollians. They include Blazer in PT for Lt Sohail Islam and Half Blue in Hockey for Lt Akshat Raj.

Details of the arms allotted to seven Rimcollian GCs who passed out from IMA are as under:-

- Lt Akshat Raj- 8 Garh Rif
- Lt Abdul Muzeeb- 19 Garh Rif
- Lt Sohail Islam- 4 Engrs
- Lt Sai Ganesh- 68 Engrs
- Lt Ayush Rawat- 63 Armd
- Lt Mukul Kumar- 70 Engrs
- Lt Debang Das- 25 Raj Rif



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