

Vol VII, Issue-I (Bi-Annual) | July 2013

The Rimcollian

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



RIMC @ 91



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eEdition

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President

Lt Gen SK Singh
 PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, ADC
 Vice Chief of Army Staff
 AHQ, New Delhi - 110010

Secretary

Lt Col Yash Saxena

Treasurer

Maj (Retd) MS Bedi

Honorary Editor

Brig (Retd) CS THAPA
 (Tel.: 07830000818)

LAST POST

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

SER	RANK & NAME	YR AT RIMC	SECTION	DATE.
1.	MAJ GEN AK SAMANTARAY, VSM*	1969-64	SHI	27-MAR-12
2.	COL BISWAJIT BHATTACHARYA	1954-58	PRA	30-APR-12
3.	MR PRAN NATH TALWAR	1938-44	ROB	02-MAY-12
4.	MR SATYENDRA MOHAN SHAHI	1949-53	PRA	18-JUN-12
5.	LT CDR A SATYANARAYAN	1967-72	PRA	JUL-12
6.	WG CDR VIKRAM SINGH	1989-91	CHANDRAGUPT	30 AUG 12.
7	MR TEJ RAM	1936-41	KIT	30 SEP 2012
8.	LT COL DD JAYAL	1933-40	ROB	20-OCT-2012
9.	CDR ARVIND KUMAR SOOD	1949-52	SHI	31-OCT-2012
10.	WG CDR SURINDER KUMAR MEHRA	1945-50	SHI	17-JAN-2013
11.	COL RAJESH KAPOOR	1957-62	RAN	07-FEB-2013
12.	COL ABDUL QAYYUM	1944-48	KIT	09-FEB-2013
13.	BRIG FAQIR MOHD KHAN	1942-47	ROB	10-FEB-2013
14.	BRIG JS CHANDEL	1947-50	KIT	23-MAR-2013
15.	MR A PHANI BHUSHAN	2003-08	RAN	28-APR-2013
16.	COL AN SINHA	1956-59	PRA	06-JUN-2013

Concept & Design

Sriav Creations
 sriavcreations@hotmail.com





editor's box

Funds, Print & Electronic

My sincere apologies to each and every reader for bringing this edition of the Rimcollian late but certain events were beyond my control. The message from the ROBA trust is very clear "No funds for the News Letter", thus the delay. In Fauzi language that is the whites and we generally do not question the whites.

Every cloud has a silver lining thus the delayed Rimcollian gave us time to think. This edition is after the reunion at school and elsewhere, thus will have more content on Rimcollian news. The old boys magazine I feel should be able to connect with each and every Rimcollian what happened in School during reunion, what is the Commandant doing by way of infrastructure and academic content, what is the general gupshup with relation to his peers and other events and above all the AGM minutes are posted to bring all up to date. Thus I feel a magazine after the reunion event gives more scope for updating the fraternity, but has less cerebral content. Do write about the same and do give your feed back, for before or after the reunion. The point at issue is due to paucity of funds we can pull out only one magazine, thus a need to get the maximum.

A large number of you are privately very annoyed about the drive for extra funds for the Rimcollian magazine; some have told me it's a breach of trust. Let me be very honest I too share your anguish; we therefore, need to take a call. One answer is to have an electronic edition of the magazine. I feel that is a waste of effort as it takes all the energy for a print edition, the designer works on it charges the same, and gives respective CD. The print edition is pulled out from the high resolution CD and the electronic edition is connected on the web. The additional cost comes in printing some 45 thousand and around 10 thousand for dispatch. The print edition gives a good feel lasts for posterity and as AnantBewoor said my whole family reads it one by one and we definitely need it. I for one am in favor of the print edition, for reasons of posterity, publicity, a cogent thought, and content being different than available else where, or else, we get enough on the E groups and face book.

As far as funds are concerned we need to take a call separately as every one says I gave so much money than it has was increased to five thousand, now you want two thousand more earlier when Deepak had not gone on the fund spree we got two issues now with improvement in funds we don't get a copy. Most of these issues were cleared in the accounts presentation, but Dear Reader I bring the news don't shoot the messenger, the issue can again be debated de nouveau again, as I feel with improvement in funds why can't 60 thousand be spared. In the meanwhile the Secretary is trying to build an exclusive corpus for media and publication, thus the whole thing requires another debate.

Sit back and enjoy reading the magazine. Happy Reading. Batch of 64 after 50years in shirt and tie same place, our time, same people, and "see you there", on 11th March 2014.

CS THAPA
Brig (Retd)
Pratap 64-69.

Au Revoir

Dear Rimcollians,

I was the longest serving member on the ROBA executive after Gen VN Sharma and Mr Ajit Singh, having been put on the working committee sometime in 1995 at the behest of late Maj Gen Virendra Singh and then adjutant general Lt Gen MM Lakhera. I still recall my first meeting in the conference hall of South Block, overlooking the Raisina Hill.



Every tenure ends, so has my innings as the Editor of The Rimcollian. In these 14 years as Editor of The Rimcollian I brought out 24 issues and brought the magazine a long way from printing it in black and white on map litho paper to the best possible use of technology in printing (including web editions of which unfortunately only few got posted on our redundant website) winning accolades even from our neighbor school's headmaster. But I am happiest when I receive calls from a remote forward post from somebody whom The Rimcollian had managed to reach and motivate. Only the other day a Mrs Roberstson called up as she was cleaning the room of her Rimcollian sons and came across the issue on Mr RC Singhal. The Rimcollian indeed became a big ambassador of our camaraderie and brotherhood.

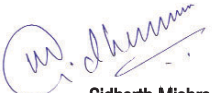
Some may think that this was achieved at great cost but to the contrary, when I prepared the income and expenditure statement of past 14 years as ROBA Editor, I realized that I have given a profit of about Rs 8915.00. In all over these 14 years, payments worth Rs 1126031 (including postage/courier) were made and Rs 1134926.00 received. Of this Rs 526418.00 were raised by me single-handedly procuring advertisements and passing on the royalty and sales proceeds of the projects undertaken by me, for which funding too was organized by me.

The remaining amount came as grant from ROBA Trust though the trustees have decided to renege on their promise of paying Rs 100 per donor per year made at the time of appointing me the editor. If they had kept the promise, the project would have shown a soaring profit graph.

Never mind I consider it as successful innings undertaken at a very young age largely inspired by late Maj Gen Virendra Singh, hugely supported by Gen(s) VN Sharma, NS Malik, Vinay Shankar, Yash Malhotra, KS Rao and Gautam Dutt.

Working for the newsletter I made three great friends in Lt Col Jasbir Khurana, my predecessor, Brig CS Thapa, the new editor and Maj Gen SVP Singh, the platinum jubilee ROBA secretary. I am hugely indebted to my wife Dipti who issue after issue helped me in dispatch, a responsibility I had taken over from ROBA office. I must also thank Vikram, our printer, who suffered delayed payments but seldom complained.

Viva Rimc
Viva Rimcollians


Sidharth Mishra

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



Air Marshal DC Kumaria PVSM AVSM VM VSM ADC
Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Tele : 011-23012579
Fax : 011-23018981

Air Headquarters
Vayu Bhawan
New Delhi – 110 011



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Over the years "Rimcollian" magazine has become the preferred medium to pass on the news and views of ROBA to the larger Rimcollian fraternity. The ROBA continues to be a vibrant body and has worked incessantly to integrate and channelise the combined energy of the Rimcollians towards the betterment of our Alma Mater and help realise the full potential of the enormous talent of our young cadets.

In the present world driven by technology and communications, our education and training has to keep pace if we want to continue producing leaders and winners. We have to put our minds to creating the requisite infrastructure and conducive environment as per the times, so that future Rimcollians always stays ahead of the pack. In this ROBA has a very important role to play by providing the vision and direction as well as funds to supplement our efforts.

As we approach the RIMC centenary, I invite innovative ideas and suggestions from the members to celebrate hundred years of continued dedication and excellence. We hope to have an outline of the activities before the Annual get together at RIMC in Mar 2014. We owe it to our alma mater to strive for the best.

I am confident that the "Rimcollian" with its new editorial team will act as the true cohesive agent to help channelise all our energies in working towards the betterment of the school and espouse the spirit of 'Ich Dien' in letter and spirit.

Godbless and Godspeed.

(DC Kumaria)
Air Marshal
President

Rimcollian Old Boys Association

Date : 07 Jun 13

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल श्रीकृष्ण सिंह, वी वी एस एम, यू वॉर्ड एस एम, ए वी एस एम, ए डी सी
सह सेनाध्यक्ष,

प्रज़िडेन्ट गोरखा ब्रिगेड एवं कर्नल 8 गोरखा राइफल्स

Lt Gen SK Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, ADC

Vice Chief of the Army Staff,

President Gorkha Brigade & Colonel 8 Gorkha Rifles

रक्षा मंत्रालय

एकीकृत मुख्यालय (सेना)

नई दिल्ली - 110011

Integrated HQ of MoD (Army)

New Delhi - 110011



PRESIDENT
GORKHA BRIGADE



COLONEL



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

It is a singular honour the RIMCOLLIAN fraternity has bestowed upon me by electing me President of the Rimcollians Old Boys Association (ROBA), an organisation that started in 1929 as an informal gathering of a few old boys, and which today has transformed into a formidable association of over 1000 members.

The Rashtriya Indian Military College, spread over a campus of 138 acres in Dehradun, is indeed a one-of-its-kind public school. It has been providing, over the years, the best of facilities of education, games, hobbies and extra-curricular activities that one could hope for an impressionable boy of 13. And at the end of five eventful years of training and schooling it turns the impressionable boy into a confident teenager of 17 years, having prepared him to be a future leader. The RIMC, thus, continues with its tradition of providing the finest leadership to the Indian Armed Forces. As a Category 'A' Training Establishment of the Indian Army, the RIMC is a centre for excellence in soldiering.

In all this, I consider the alumni of the RIMC, RIMCOLLIAN, a backbone and strength in keeping alive its traditions of excellence. May I therefore, call upon all RIMCOLLIANS to continue contributing to the glory of their Alma Mater.

VIVA RIMCOLLIANS. ICH DIEN !!!

(SK Singh)
Lieutenant General
President
Rimcollian Old Boys Association

Date : 01 July 2013

The Batch of 63

By Ranjan Dutta

(Who says Rimcollians starts on 12th March it actually starts on 11th each year with a course reunion and the batch of '63 celebrated 50th Anniversary on the 11th of Mar 2013. It was a resounding success with a large attendance and the course worked hard for getting all together. Well done batch of 63 and batch of 64 (My Batch), make sure you land up in large numbers. As per Ashwani Sharma it was "An ineffable evening where I, a non drinker, got drunk on Rimcollian Spirit of unconditional friendship, harmony, and understanding ; and the sweet hangover continues.....Long live the RIMC and the RIMC Spirit."-- Editor)



The batch of 1963 with ladies in front of War Memorial



The batch of 1963 at their bash and the group photo (below)

The past is a pleasurable possession. When we look back, we always remember the good times we had and revel in the past. We also recall the hard times, but always with amusement and nostalgia. Our enmities with our rivals are forgotten; in fact they have become close friends. Above all, we have fond memories of the bygone days and the places and institutions where we grew up, shed our youth and learn't to take our place in the world order of grown ups. It is this nostalgia that compels us to return to the RIMC, year after year, with our families, and what better occasion than the Annual Founder's Day celebrations. I for one make my plans nine months in advance, and no other commitment is allowed to be planned within the extended family which could interfere with my trip to Dehradun. I must admit that this is only a recent phenomenon, having completed my worldly duties and now a free senior citizen.

It was during the Rimcollian meet in 2012 that some of us who had joined the school in 1963 and were attending realized that in 2013 we would be completing 50 years since entering the portals of the school, and that this demanded a spe-



WE DECIDED TO COME A DAY EARLIER TO THE SCHOOL FUNCTIONS AND HAVE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON THE 11TH OF MAR 2013. SOME INITIAL RESPONSIBILITIES WERE ALLOCATED AND THE NEXT 12 MONTHS SAW SOME HARD WORK PUT IN BY AK SHARMA, AK KAPUR, PP AGARWALA, AMONG OTHERS, THAT CULMINATED IN SUCCESS ON 11 MAR THIS YEAR



Some of the ladies married to the old boys of the class of 1963

cial celebration. I think the brainwave hit AK Sharma (our monitor in Class 1), RS Gil, RS Bedi, PP(Debu) Agarwala, GS Salklan, AK Kapur and possibly some more. Those of us present then took it forward, and the projected celebration took shape. We decided to come a day earlier to the School functions and have our 50th Anniversary on the 11th of Mar 2013. Some initial responsibilities were allocated and the next 12 months saw some hard work put in by AK Sharma, AK Kapur, PP Agarwala, among others, that culminated in success on 11 Mar this year.

It was therefor a very satisfying evening on 11 Mar 2013 when 25 of us, most with families in tow, of 1963 batch, met in the lawns of the Infantry Brigade Officers' Mess in Garhi. We were unfortunate to miss some of our mates, a few of whom had tragically expired, and some who could not make it due to pressing problems. Considering that our total strength had been 36 in

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SADLY, MOST OF
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1963, and of those who had already proceeded to the hereafter, percentage of attendance was quite healthy. Here I must make a mention of two persons who, though having joined the RIMC earlier in 1962, expressed their eagerness to join us, AK Mamgain and Arvind Kumar. These two Rimcollians were very close to our batch, and I must express our gratitude to them for making themselves available to join us.

A gathering of this nature could not be complete unless we could interact with our teachers. Sadly, most of them have left for the heavens. However, we were fortunate and blessed by the presence of Mr. LN Thakur, Mr. RN Chaturvedi, and late Mr. RC Singhal's son, and there families. I could not help but be impressed by the memory of Mr. Thakur and Mr. Chaturvedi, who could recollect our misdemeanors of 50 years ago, and also our strengths and achievements, despite their advanced years. Their presence amongst us was the icing on the cake.

THE GOLFING RIMCOLLIANS

The Golfing fraternity too got active and a round of Golf was played on 12th morning while the rest were checking in. Golf can be arranged every year now that the Comdt RIMC is the Golf Secretary of the DSOI and Lt Gen Manvender Singh at IMA with Col VS Negi as the secretary of the IMA course. So those of you keen on a round of Golf details will follow but do indicate your willing ness to have a good breakfast with unending supply of scotch eggs and a round of golf. Remember in life if you don't demand you get nothing.



COLLEGE NEWS



INFRASTRUCTURE

New Cadets' Mess for 233 cadets at RIMC is under progress. It will be ready by Jan 2014. The approved estimated cost of the Mess is Rs 166.03 L.

New Cadets' Mess under Progress

Apart from the above the below mentioned are under progress:-

- (a) Gym for Cadets.
- (b) Underground cabling of Electricity.

GRADUATION CEREMONY



Graduation Ceremony for 173rd Course was held on 30 May 2013. The Chief Guest for the ceremony was Air Mshl DC Kumaria, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM, ADC, Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

UPSC ALL INDIA MERIT LIST

All India Merit List was declared on 07 Jun 2013. A total of 15 Cadets have qualified and Cadet Akash Kumar Yadav stood ninth in All India Merit List.

Cadets of Class V are voluntarily staying back for the entire duration of summer vacations in order to prepare for NDA written exam scheduled on 11 Aug 2013.



ACC JS Suman won the President's Gold Medal at NDA.

Reunion 2013

At the Portals of Memories

By Col HS Bainsla, SM



The opportunity to salute our ever growing legacy arrived on the 13th of March 2013, bringing with it, a dash of nostalgia allied with the essence of the 91st Reunion. It was a moment to get baptized in the revered waters of our past undeterred by the passage of time. This is the spirit that draws the Rimcollians back, year after year-the spirit that has been at work for the past 91 years.

Though the Reunion is a comparatively novel affair, the Founder's Day goes back to the year 1922, the thirteenth day of March. As his Royal

Highness, the Prince of Wales declared the College open. The seeds of unprecedented excellence were sown. The first 'Reunion get-together, on the other hand was agreed on principle in 1953 by the Rimcollian Old Boys Association which had decided to organise the Founder's Day alternately at Dehradun and New Delhi. In 1954, the Founder's Day was celebrated in New Delhi for the first time. The practice was however discontinued soon, as it was not practical. The Founder's Day of 1955 was in one way, a unique affair. The old Boys gave an affectionate and

befitting farewell to the last British Master the legendry, Mr Watson. And this was the beginning of an era that perpetuates - The Reunion Era.

With these thoughts pervading my mind, the 91st Reunion got underway, with the young and old alike, sharing equal exuberance at the mega event. Old sagas were retold and legends recreated as the Rimcollian Fraternity arrived at its Alma Mater. Over 150 Rimcollians from across the country and abroad come together to fondly recall their memories of old school ties at the two-day event.



Old boys at dinner



Tuesday, the 12th of March, commenced with the ROBA Trust Meeting followed by a keenly contested Hockey Match at the Pavilion, played between the Old Boys XI and RIMC XI. The former led by Lt Gen Yash Malhotra, AVSM (Retd) and the latter by Section Commander Akash Yadav. The RIMC XI defeated Old Boys XI by a score of three is to two.

Boxing has been the most coveted sports amongst all other activities and for several decades, Rimcollians have gathered here to witness the grand finale. The cadets, this time too, left no stone unturned to put their best foot forward. Cadet captain Ligang Kobing was adjudged the Best Boxer. In 42-45 kg category, the winner was Cdt Arjun Thakur, in 45-48kg, Cdt Nirbhay Kumar; in 57-60 kg Cadet Captain Ligang Kobing won their respective bouts. Shivaji Section was the overall winner with 29 points, followed by Ranjit Section with 20 Points; Chandragupta Section with 19



Boxing Champions

Points and Pratap Section with 11 Points. Distinguished alumni could be seen cheering spiritedly for their respective sections, Among them were Air Marshal DC Kumaria, PVS, AVSM, VM, VSM, ADC, Gen VN Sharma, PVS, AVSM (Retd), Lt Gen SK Singh, PVS, UYSM, AVSM, Vice Chief of Army Staff and Lt Gen Manvender Singh, AVSM, VSM, Commandant IMA.

The second and final day of the 91st

founder's day witnessed a host of activities and ordeal participation by the old Boys and Cadets. The day began with wreath laying at the War Memorial - the white marble edifice - a memoir that sings a perennial tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for our better tomorrow. Poignancy was at its acme as the choppers from heavens above offered floral tributes with the esteemed dignitaries paying homage.



The Brass and high profile acquaintance





Acrobatic display

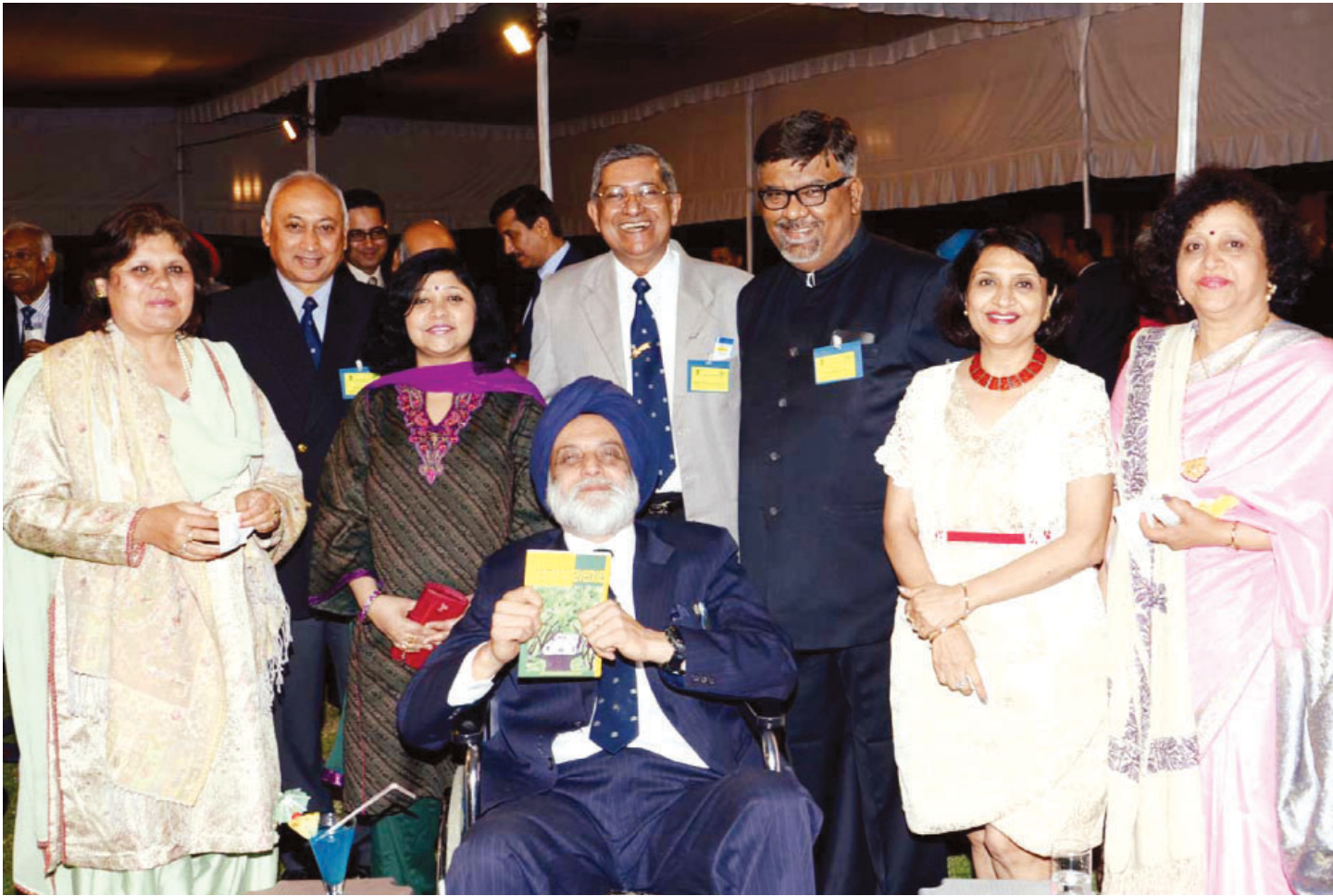
Thrilling moments were in store for those who witnessed the daredevil Horse Show wherein, the young cadets executed some marvelous moves while performing the Cavalier's Salute, Tent Pegging, Triple & Team Tent Pegging, Hanky Picking, Show Jumping and Rescue Relay. Shivaji Section emerged victorious. Cadet Mani Shanker Raj was adjudged the Best Rider and Cadet Amit Kumar Rai bagged the Akshay Chibber Gold Medal for Riding.

The Horse Show was followed by a brilliant gymnastics display that included the Wave Formation, Front Rolls, Pair Rolling, Somersaults through a ring of fire and Pyramid Formation by the cadets which were received amidst thunderous applause.

All eyes turned skyward as the Skydiving Show came next wherein the para jumpers of the Indian Army and Air Force made flawless landings.

The next event was the Cricket Match played between the Old Boys and Cadets in which the Cadets' Team lost by 25 runs. Cadet Prateek Pegu was the highest scorer with 52 runs to his credit. From





The authors and designer of *Camphor Avenue*

the Old Boys' Team, Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia scored the swiftest 26 runs in two overs. Subsequently, Col and Mrs Trikha gave away the M-Trix Scholarship to the children of Group 'C' employees at the RIMC. This scholarship has been instituted in the memory of Late Flt Lt Maheesh Trikha who joined RIMC in 1986 as a Pratapian. Commissioned in 1996, he joined 114 Helicopter Unit in 2001. He became a martyr on 16 August 2002, during 'Operation Meghdoot' at Siachen.

Subsequently, the entitled, *Camphor Avenue*, containing anecdotal exploits of the alumni as young Rimcos, coauthored by Brig Jasbir Singh, Wg Cdr Unni Kartha, Brig CS Thapa and Sidharth Mishra was also released. The book cover has been painted and designed by Dr Dipti Mishra, Sidharth Mishra's better half.

In the evening, the Thimayya Auditorium was abuzz with an

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ENTITLED, CAMPHOR AVENUE, CONTAINING ANECDOTAL EXPLOITS OF THE ALUMNI AS YOUNG RIMCOS, COAUTHORED BY BRIG JASBIR SINGH, WG CDR UNNI KARTHA, BRIG CS THAPA AND SIDHARTH MISHRA WAS ALSO RELEASED. THE BOOK COVER HAS BEEN PAINTED AND DESIGNED BY DR DIPTI MISHRA, SIDHARTH MISHRA'S BETTER HALF

enthralling cultural programme organised by the cadets. The Chief Guest for the evening was Lt Gen SK Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM who felicitated the cadets for their outstanding performance. The President's Gold Medal was bagged by Cadet Harsh Arora (Jan Term) and Cadet Kumar Vikram (July Term). The UN Jha Memorial Gold Medal was won by Cadet Prakhar Khushik (Jan Term) and Cadet Shantanu Mohan (July Term) whereas Cadet Abhyuday Prakash and Cadet Shantanu Mohan won Maj Gireesh Verma Silver Medal for Jan and July Term respectively. Lt Gen MM Lakhera Silver Medal was won by Cadet Prakhar Kaushik, Cadet Suyash Gupta and Cadet Shantanu Mohan whereas Cadet Ramkrishan Sharma and Cadet Suyash Gupta were awarded the Sappers Medal. The Shantiman Silver Medal was won by Cadet Siddharth Das and Cadet Shantanu



Mohan and Lt Cdr RK Sen Memorial Silver Medal was awarded to Chandra Shekhar Panigrahi and Cadet Arjun Thakur. AVM Jaswant Singh Trophy went to Cadet Captain Ligang Kobing, Admiral Madhvendra Singh CNS Trophy was bagged by Cadet Mani Shankar; Maj Gen K Bhagwati Singh Trophy went to Cadet O Nelson Singh; Cadet Tanmoy Kashyap Trophy was bagged by Cadet Amit Kumar Rai; Assam Rifles Trophy went to Pratap Section; Education Cup went to Chandragupta Section, Gen GG Bewoor's Cup was won by Pratap Section; Gen KS Thimayya Shield was won by Shivaji Section and Gen VN Sharma's overall Championship Trophy went to Pratap Section.

Lt Gen SK Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM addressed the gathering and also released the College Magazine, Regalia-2013. Thereafter a very exciting culture show followed.



WHAT'S IN WHAT'S OUT

By **CS Thapa**

(All traditional organizations are dynamic at the core. Here is a satire on our times.)

SCHOOL

WHAT'S OUT: Old Commandant, who lived bachelor

WHAT'S IN: New Commandant with full family in tow

ROBA MANAGING COMMITTEE

■ What's out: Col Handa with Handle bar moustache control on ROBA Trust accounts? What's in: Ajit Singh with vast experience and good under study credentials?

■ What's out: Col Handa as treasurer old boys, What's in: Younger generation control reflected by Bedi.

■ Rimcollian old boys' magazine. What's out: Civilian literate editor Sidharth Mishra, what's in: Fauzis who never used a pen?

■ What's out: Strict fauzi control of managing committee, what's in partial civilian control reflected by Ajit Singh and Bedi, who have served more number of years in civil than in uniform.

■ President ROBA what's come in handle bar army control reflected by S K Singh, what's out ROBA President going Tri Service reflected by Tiny (Air Force) what's waiting Navy in the wings?

■ What's in: presentation and greater

transparency on accounts, what's out finance for printed newsletter, how ironical?

OLD BOYS AFFAIRS

■ What's in ROBA general body meet, horse riding and a cramped 12th & 13th programme, what's out mixing with cadets during Reunion.

■ What's out morals for Rimcollian announced at AGM formation of "Ethics Committee", What's in as per managing committee your morals are low you need an ethics committee to monitor the same.

■ What's out and should remain out serious debate on inclusion of wives for Rimcollian, what's in fiancées attending the same without a debate?

■ What's out Deepak of finance fame announcing at midnight on 13th some Rimcollian have not paid, what's in we enjoyed cutting bounds in school hence want to see how far lady luck smiles on us for enjoying Rimcollian without paying.

■ What's in Golden jubilee of various batches on 11th March what's out some batches having poor attendance (Batch of Jan 64 wake up, it's our chance also in March 2014).

■ What's out "Beyond the Scotch Egg Debate", what stays out beyond the Scotch Egg Debate?

■ What's in new cadets' mess what's out with an old design capacity of 233 what happens to expansion when the strength goes up?

■ What's in heard from grapevine poor attendance for Rimcollian dinner at Delhi on June 8th, what kept people out, Bedi threat to collect Rs 2000 for old boys' magazine.

■ School what's in Lady Teacher what's out the pranks on the teachers of our times.

■ Lastly what's out the lovely ambience of the dorms and mattresses, pillows with furniture of our times, what's in the senior know I want to see what they do?

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (ROBA) HELD AT RIMC DEHRADUN ON 13 MAR 2013

- ROBA Annual General Body meeting was held at RIMC, Dehradun on 13 Mar 2013. The meeting was presided over by Air Mshl DC Kumaria, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM, ADC, and President ROBA and attended by members of ROBA.
- The President ROBA began his welcome address by thanking the VCOAS, DCNS and Comdt IMA for their unflinching support to the cause of RIMC. He also thanked the Comdt RIMC, the staff and cadets for the smooth conduct of the 91st Reunion. Members were reminded and requested to work towards the Centenary Celebrations to be held in Mar 2022.
- Col HN Handa, who had been managing the ROBA and ROBA Trust funds and Mr Sidharth Mishra, Editor of the Rimcollian newsletter, were thanked on behalf of the Rimcollian community for having given their valuable time and effort in bringing up both these areas to the level that they were at today.
- In his address the President, emphasized on the need to uphold the Rimcollian "Code of Conduct" since there had been some incidents in the recent past, where members were found to be transgressing the code. He further apprised the members that an "Ethics Committee" under the Chairmanship of Dr Ghatate had been formed to look into cases of such transgression in the future. After due deliberations the Committee would suggest a course of action. At the end, the Chairman ROBA Trust and Trustees were also thanked for their continued support in school matters.
- The meeting commenced with reading out of condolence message for the departed ROBA members. A two minute silence was observed as mark of respect. (Details in Last Post)
- The Agenda Points were thereafter discussed and decisions given are covered in the succeeding paras.
- Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the last AGM was read out to the House for their approval and approval obtained.
- Mr Ajit Singh, Trustee ROBA Trust, made a presentation educating the house on the aims and objectives of the ROBA and ROBA Trust, how their objectives varied and why, therefore, they were different. The following was covered:
 - (a) The ROBA was registered under the Societies Act, whereas the ROBA Trust was registered under the Trusts Act.
 - (b) Donations received over the years, in building the corpus.
 - (c) Only interest accrued from the Corpus is utilised to meet any expenses. In fact unused interest is ploughed back into the Corpus to enhance the amount.
- The presentation was well received by the members and achieved its aim of clearing any doubts prevailing amongst many Rimcollians about the management of funds under these two heads
- Accounts
 - (a) Audited Balance Sheets, as on 31 March 12, were tabled for perusal and approval of the house. Provisional Balance Sheets and Income & Expenditure statements for the period ending 28 Feb 13 in respect of ROBA and ROBA Trust were also handed over for perusal.
 - (b) Passing of accounts for the period ended on 31 Mar 12 was proposed by Maj (Retd) AK Singh and seconded by Wg Cdr (Retd) G Unni Kartha.
 - (c) A decision was taken on the expenses involved in managing the ROBA office, which was to be shared equally between ROBA and ROBA Trust Funds.
- Chartered Accountant for ROBA and ROBA Trust. Col (Retd) HN Handa informed the house that M/s AK Sethi & Co., New Delhi, has been auditing the accounts on quarterly basis of both the ROBA and ROBA Trust funds. He suggested that the firm be continued with since it was performing well. Col AS Shekhawat proposed that the firm be allowed to continue. Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia seconded the proposal.
- Change of Treasurer - ROBA and ROBA Trust. The Hony Secy ROBA informed the house that Col (Retd) HN Handa, had been manning the post of Hony Treasurer, ROBA and ROBA Trust, for long and was now desirous that he be replaced, owing to his age and health issues. The name of Mr Ajit Singh for the post of Hony Treasurer, ROBA Trust and that of Maj (Retd) MS Bedi for the post of Hony Treasurer, ROBA were proposed by Mr Anand Swaminathan and seconded by Col (Retd) Lalit Kumar Bhatia. Col Handa was thanked by those present for his devotion to the task of overseeing the accounts for so long.
- Change of Hony Editor. The house was also informed of the change in Editorship of the newsletter, "The Rimcollian". Mr. Sidharth Mishra, having shouldered the responsibility since 1998, had made a request to be relieved of this duty. Brig CS Thapa, already a part of the editorial team was requested to take over from Mr Sidharth Mishra. President ROBA thanked Mr Sidharth Mishra for single handedly managing the magazine for such a long time and applauded his enormous contribution.
- Brig CS Thapa, the Editor designate, put forth his views on the funding needed for bringing out the newsletter and the requirement of support staff. Stating clearly that at least Rs 60,000/ were

needed to bring out a single issue of the newsletter, excluding postage/courier charges, he sought the opinion of the house on doing away with the print version altogether and alternately suggested an e-magazine. President ROBA informed the house that funds with ROBA did not permit bi-annual print of the newsletter and for the same reason it's printing in the year 2013 would not take place. Speaking further on the issue, he said that there would only be yearly prints of the magazine which would coincide with the Re-Union celebrations.

● Formation of Sub-Committees. The following compositions of Committees were approved:-

- (a) The Ethics Sub-Committee.
 - (i) Dr NM Ghatate.
 - (ii) Lt Gen (Retd) SS Grewal, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM.
 - (iii) Lt Gen Manvinder Singh, AVSM, VSM.
 - (iv) Air Marshal PP Reddy, VM.
 - (v) Cdr Monish Sain.
- (b) Fund Management Sub-Committee.
 - (i) Lt Gen BS Pawar (Retd) PVSM AVSM.
 - (ii) Mr SS Sandhu, IDAS
 - (iii) Mr Ajit Singh
 - (iv) Col Suyash Sharma
 - (v) Maj (Retd) MS Bedi, SM.
 - (vi) Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia
- (c) Rimcollian Editor Board.
 - (i) Brig (Retd) CS Thapa.
 - (ii) Col (Retd) AK Mangain.
 - (iii) Maj (Retd) YS Meitei.
 - (iv) Col (Retd) Vivek Jaiswal.

● RIMC Centenary Publication. The 'Rimcollian' editorial board was requested by the President to work upon on the Centenary Year Publication. He requested the members present to contribute by sending in articles of interest. It was also decided that the publication was to be self financing without taxing the ROBA and ROBA Trust funds.

● Selection of Masters and Cadets. Col AK Mangain elucidated on the need to improve the selection process of masters and cadets. He brought to focus cases of masters selected by UPSC who were rejected by the College due to

their complete unsuitability and how difficult it was to get rid of them. He suggested that the Army HQ be requested to always involve Commandant RIMC in the selection process.

● As far as selection of Cadets was concerned, he explained that RIMC was probably the only school that saw its boys only, when they came to join the school. He suggested the following:

- (a) Conduct of exams at limited centres; say about five, preferably at a Military Station, supervised by Army Officers.
- (b) Successful candidates to be interviewed at RIMC. The interview to have the Comdt and a senior master as members.
- (c) Medical board of those selected to be done at MH Dehra Dun.
- (d) Constant review of setting of question papers and correction work by RIMC.

● He suggested that the Commandant, RIMC may please pursue the matter with Army HQs and requested senior Rimcollians to have such a system put into effect.

● Merger of ROBA and ROBA Trust Funds. Mr Sidharth Mishra suggested that the ROBA and ROBA Trust funds be merged since both these were working towards a common aim. The President, ROBA reminded the house of the presentation made by Mr Ajit Singh, clearly bringing out how these funds were being utilised for different purposes, that they were registered under different acts of law and therefore, the merger was not possible.

● Mr. Ajit Singh further added, notwithstanding similar aims, funds of a society (ROBA) and a Trust (ROBA Trust) could not be merged and was legally not to be done. If necessary, he said, legal opinion on the issue could be obtained and put up to the President & Chairman ROBA Trust for further deliberation.

● Attendance of NOK of Rimcollians to Re-Unions. The house discussed the issue of allowing NOK of Rimcollians to attend Rimcollian get-togethers and Re-Union and that their

expenses in attending such functions must be borne by ROBA.

The following was discussed/decided:

- (a) The Commandant RIMC, albeit, in a limited manner, after due concurrence of ROBA PRESIDENT, is to extend an invitation to known NOKs, whose updated addresses are available with ROBA office.
- (b) Known acquaintances of such NOKs are to help the ROBA office in updating contact information on such NOKs.
- (c) If state of ROBA funds do not permit bearing of such costs, combined contributions would assist in covering costs.
- (d) It was agreed that once a Rimcollian passes away, his membership automatically passes on to his NOK. It was suggested that it was only natural that such members pay for their attendance at any of such functions like any other Rimcollian. This was not agreed to and widows would continue to enjoy the privilege of Rimcollian hospitality.
- (e) It was also agreed that invitation to such members be sent well in time for them to make travel arrangements and for RIMC to plan their stay at Dehradun.
- Reserving Seats for Sons of Rimcollians at RIMC. The point was discussed and the house was unanimous in maintaining status quo.
- Representation of All States amongst Cadets. Members expressed concern over little or no representation of some states amongst cadets in RIMC. The Commandant assures the house that he would try to ensure the same by having advertisements placed appropriately.
- The meeting came to a close as there were no further points for discussion

Sd/-

(Yash Saxena)

Lt Col

Hony Secy ROBA

File No: 0010/ROBA/AGM/Mtg

Date : Apr 2013

Roving Eye

(Rimcollian news from here and there)

RIMCOLLIAN GET-TOGETHER AT PUNE



The Rimcollians at Pune

The Rimcollian Get-Together held in BEG Centre & Centre, Khadki on 09 March 2013 heralded the Annual Get Together conducted all over the country to celebrate the 91st Founders Day of our Alma Mater. The Get-Together as usual was a grand success with over 60 Rimcollians and 98 persons attending the function, hopefully making it the second largest gathering after the main celebrations in Dehra Dun.

This was possible thanks to the excellent arrangements made by BEG Centre and the efforts put in by Lt Col Satish. We began planning for the grand event from early February onwards. While it was my pleasure to speak to our veterans, other retired officers and the wives of deceased Rimcollians; Satish reminded the younger lot and those in the Cat A establishments.

We were privileged to have Mrs Radhika Bewoor & Mrs Rajwade attending, while we missed the presence of Mrs Joglekar due to health reasons, Mrs Dabir was off to Mumbai and Mrs Nair was away in London. Mrs Nair, wife of Air Cmde NP Nair & now in her 90's has attended regularly till early 2000's.

Among the veterans and distinguished Rimcollians who graced the evening were



Ladies at Pune

Capt Bajl Mohite and Col SA Mohite, who were in Kitcheners Sec in 1930-40's, in their late 80's and recovering from leg injuries, yet entertained us with stories of their times; Cdr RS Huja, 1948-52/Roberts; R Adm PD Sharma, now the Founder President of Rashtriya Life Saving Society(India); Gp Capt AG Bewoor, who narrated some wonderful experiences of our Male operations two decades ago; Capt (IN) VA Paradkar, who motivates boys to join NDA; Col AK Bakshi, the Maharashtra Hockey Team goalkeeper during his NDA days and his younger brother Raj Bakshi, who was in school during late 60's & joined us from Goa enroute to Dehra Dun; the senior brother Cmde Vishra M Naphade,

who had interesting tales from his Andaman tenures; AVM KG Bewoor, Maj Gen Rakesh Nandan, now approved for his next rank and Brig Balraj Singh. We were happy that Mr Rakesh Jaiswal, 1964-68, son of our old Chandragupta Sec Master in 1960's, Mr Virender Sharma, ex Pratap Sec Master in 1980-90's & later ex-Registrar of NDA, and Lt Col JS Brar, ex PRO, Srinagar could also make it.

The presence of many young officers attending courses in DIAT and CME, the Adm Comdt & five Div Offrs from NDA, and four from AF Stn, Lohegaon also added colour to the evening. Though generally most of them enjoined the close proximity of the bar, many old timers

RIMCOLLIAN MEET AT BANGALORE



enjoyed sharing their experiences with this young generation.

We missed the presence of Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, 1946-50/Rawlinson, Lt Gen HM Khanna, Cdr KS Karandikar, Maj Gens Inder Luthra, AR Raikar and Rajan Aney, all in school in 1950's, who regretted due to reasons; while Maj Gen Yash Malhotra, Col Dilip Parab, our illustrious Comdt at the Alma Mater and Wg Cdr RS Das of the famous 1963 batch celebrating their 60th year, decided to attend the Reunion in Dehra Dun.

Thanks to the efforts of Satish & RIMC, the audience enjoyed a slide show presentation from the Comdt's speech of 13 March depicting the achievements of our cadets & Old Boys in various fields. The important aspects, including the fine performance of the Rimcollian cadets in NDA, were explained by Col Gidh, ex Adm Offr. He also later emphasized the necessity of all Rimcollians joining the vibrant Yahoo group opened by Wg Cdr VG Kumar over a decade ago, and the aspect of payment of dues for ROBA/ROBA Trust by the defaulters, list of which has been obtained from RIMC!

Satish had managed to obtain 25 copies of "Camphor Avenue", a book containing excellent stories written by Brig Jasbir, Wg Cdr UnNi Kartha, Brig CS Thapa & Sid Mishra of their school days. The book sold like hot cakes on first come, first serve basis.

The snacks and menu was almost similar to what we relished in RIMC, scotch eggs being the speciality. In the midst of such a lovely evening we suddenly realized that the Group Photo had remained, but by that time the ladies and old timers had

RIMCOLLIAN GET-TOGETHER AT TRIVANDRUM



Sitting Left to Right- Sudha, Parvathi, Suchitra & Mallika
Standing L to R- Rakesh Rai, Satish, Revi, Subash, Madhu & Mohanchand

Gen Siva Shankar & Cdr Viswanathan couldn't join being out of station. However we had a surprise in the form of Sqn Ldr Rakesh Rai (retd) now flying for Air India who joined us being in Tvm.

already moved in for dinner!

Rimcollian Get Togethers irrespective of the locations or the strength are always special. It was a pleasure to learn from our son in UN mission in Lebanon that on 13th, his senior from Shivaji Sec Maj Hari Narayan, has invited him over for celebrations. Learnt from my Manipuri coursemate that one of the Rimcollian Commanding Officer posted in Manipur will be organizing a Get Together later this week, which they all are eagerly looking forward to. I am reminded of my lovely tenure in this "little paradise" in late 1990's, and our recent visit to Imphal in Apr 2012 when the Rimcollians there, serving & retired looked after us so well. I was told that when Cdt Y Romen Singh (now Capt) won the President's Gold

Medal in NDA in 2008, several coaching classes had sprung up for coaching boys for admission to RIMC & NDA!

We all departed with fine memories of a wonderful Get Together, hoping to meet again next year. The list of Rimcollians who attended along with some photos will be uploaded later by Satish.

Col (Retd) Vijay Gidh
Shivaji 1967-72

MUMBAI GET-TOGETHER

Dear Rimcollians,

The Mumbai get together on 24th at AOI Juhu was a very lively one and left us wishing we had more time. We had an

THE KOLKATA REUNION



attendance of apprx 55 including Rimcollians, ladies and children. Sqn Ldr Trivedi was the senior most (1943-48) at school and young Bharat at IIT Powai(2003-2008) was junior most. A few serving in Navy came a long way from Colaba - Cmde Benny Methala, Cdr Saurabj Agarwal, Lt Cdr Gopinath, Cdr Rana V S, Lt Cdr Aman Singh. Col Dhanraj, properly attired in a Rimcollian tie brought some Rimcollian brooches which the ladies picked up immediately. Col Biru Sinha brought all Chandaguptians on stage to stand together and introduce. An on stage introduction session saw active cheering for sections. Mr Suraja Kishore, who attended despite driving down from Pune took the stage for a stand up gig - 'what differentiates Rimcollians from others' being his favourite theme. Lt Col (retd) Nitin Raj Tyagi was busy with arrangements at AOI, catering layout etc.

Josh for RIMC couldn't have been displayed better when Mrs Swarup (wife of Wing Cdr Swarup, a Rimcollian and mother of two Young Rimcollians) bought 2 RIMC brooches for her future daughter in laws. She also said that she would like to see her grand children also join RIMC. Retired and serving officers, corporate bigwigs, entrepreneurs and students all made this gathering very lively. I met some Rimcollians after 15, 20, 23 year gaps and yet it looked as yesterday at school, all barriers of time washed away in one hug. Ladies and children in good numbers gave an additional lift to our school spirit.

An additional piece of information - Sqn Ldr (retd) Trivedi, senior most Rimcollian at Mumbai has a collection of photographs of pre independence era. One in particular has RIMC, not Indian flag flying at school on 15 Aug 1947. He also has many stories of that era. I have now left Mumbai to join IIM Ahmedabad(else would have taken it up personally), may I request some Rimcollian at Mumbai to organize scanning and digitizing those photos for archives and preserving a piece of history and if possible, share it on group.

Looking forward to many more such get together, anywhere.

Viva RIMC
Gaurav Bhandar
(135/Ranjit)

RIMCOLLIAN MEET SOME WHERE IN PUNJAB

The Reunion was organized by Col Anshuman Narang in his unit's officers' Mess. We had a big gathering of 13 officers & eight ladies as compared to last year's gathering. It was heartening to see spirited Rimcollians & their wives driving down from Amritsar, Ludhiana & Tibri to attend the function. As per the precedent set last year Black Label Scotch was available to get the Rimcollians into good spirits. A very sumptuous dinner was laid out including the old boy's favorite Scotch Eggs & the Topsy Pudding. A bottle of Moet & Chandon

bubbly was popped open & a toast drunk to 91 years of School's existence & the Rimcollian Fraternity. We were luck to have a very fine crooner ex one of the Arty Regts belting out some beautiful numbers including the evergreen ' Goree Goree Banke Choree' . As the spirits got high so did the nostalgic talks of school days & the usual inter section rivalry. The event ended with usual bit of advice by the senior most Rimcollian present. Looking fwd to the next Reunion.

The following Rimcollians/ladies attended the Reunion:-

Retired

- Lt Col Daljeet Singh [Rawlinson 1941-47]
- Maj Gen & Mrs Karam Singh [Kitchner-1943-49]
- Maj & Mrs Subash Gupta [Pratap -1960-64]
- Lt Col M.L. Bhagat [Ranjit-1961-65]
- Brig & Mrs B.S. Dhillon [Ranjit-1964-69]

GET-TOGETHER AT PORT BLAIR

It was an honour and a privilege to host Rimcollian get-together at Port Blair on board INS Kumbhir on 16 Mar 13. A small gathering though, the evening was memorable. Following attended:-

- Cdr Ravi Deepak Singh Banga, Chandragupta 1982-87
- Cdr Manish Sain, Chandragupta 1983-1987
- Cdr Sumeet Sinha, Ranjit 1984-89
- Lt Cdr Thomas Tom, Shivaji 1996-2000
- Sqn Ldr AditYa Dutta Roy, Ranjit 1997-2001
- Lt G Francis, Pratap, 1999-2004
- Asst Comd T Vaibhav Mittal, Chandragupta, 2001-06

DREAMS OF PARACHUTING AND SKYDIVING

(Reminiscences of a Regimental officer)

By Capt Shamsheer Singh, VSM (Retd)



You have been taught that, you must sacrifice your life for the country. But hear from me -

You must make the enemy sacrifice his life for his country. - Gen Patton addressing his troops before the D-Day. At the RIMC, my first military school, we were shown a film about the Indian Navy. I was motivated to join the navy and I filled up Navy as my first choice in the UPSC forms for joining the NDA. Then in 1962, a war broke out with China. The newspapers were filled with the actions of the army but were silent about the naval actions. I applied for change of options to army as the first choice. The change of options was accepted and I joined the NDA as an army cadet and subsequently the IMA. At the IMA, we were shown a film about the Allied landings in Normandy during the Second World War, "The Longest Day". A large number of paratroopers were dropped to secure strategic objectives ahead of the main landings. That was real action for me and I decided to opt for Parachute Regiment as the first choice. But when the regimental allocations were announced, neither I got my first choice nor the second or the third. I was commissioned in the 11 Gurkha Rifles on 11 Jun 67. My battalion was in the field area in Sikkim. After the leave I reported to the transit camp at Siliguri for onward move to Sikkim. A 3 tonner of the battalion took me to the unit. I had reached at about noon and I met the adjutant of the battalion in the Officers' mess. After welcoming me, he questioned me about my choice of regiments. I told him the truth. Perhaps it was a mistake because I discovered that a Para Battalion formed part of the same brigade. It was always beating the Gurkha battalion in football. There was a competitive jealousy between the two units. I was motivated and curious about the Gurkhas. I searched the battalion library for books about them. My eyes fell upon few books by John Masters who was a Gurkha officer. His book were full of praise about these

simple soldiers from Nepal. I learnt Nepali from the unit panditji and vowed to visit Nepal. Hardly a year had passed with the 11 GR, when a signal came from the Army HQs, asking for Paravolunteers. This was an opportunity to realize my dream and I volunteered. After passing there quired tests, I was selected. In Mar 69, I earned the coveted Para wings.

In Sep 71, my posting came to the HQ, 50 Independent Para Brigade as GSO (Air). The Brigade Commander was Brig (later Lt Gen) Mathew Thomas, a very inspiring leader. The brigade was located at Howrah. It was allotted the responsibility of setting up and running a training camp for Mukti Bahini, (a BanglaDeshi guerrilla outfit). The organization and co-ordination of the training camp was put under the charge of G (Air) staff. At the same time preparations for war with Pakistan began. The 50 Para Bdewas asked to prepare airborne operations by a Para Bn Gp at Tangail in Bangla Desh (erstwhile East Pakistan). 2 Para was allotted the task, along with other detachments from the brigade. The war was declared on 4 Dec 71. On 7 Dec, the brigade moved to Jessore sector for ground operations. The G (air) staff was left behind to co-ordinate the airborne operations which were fixed for 11 Dec 71. We oversaw preparations of flight manifests, loads on the heavy dropping platforms, setting up of the DZ, RV drills etc. Organising the operation, yet not participating, depressed me.

On 10 Dec the brigade suddenly returned to Calcutta, with orders to move to the western front. I was itching to see action and requested the Bde Comdr to permit me to go for the airborne operation with 2 Para. The Commander asked time for reflection. After a short-while he conveyed through the BM, that I could go with 2 Para. I got together my gear and joined D company of 2 Para, at Calcutta airport the next day. The D company commander was Maj (later Col) MM Kapoor. He gave me the final briefing before the take off. It was most exciting to see a great number of Packets,

Dakotas, Caribous and AN 12 aircraft arrive at the airfield. In addition the air force was already flying fighter and bomber sorties from the same airfield. The atmosphere was like the film of the D Day, only that everything was real and we were the real paratroopers. Around 1500 hours, we began to get airborne. There were about 54 transport aircraft's flying in wave formation and escorted by the fighters. Around 1600 hours, the green light came on and we began to jump with the shrill ringing of the bell compounded by the orders of the PJIs. Once out of the door of the aircraft, it was all quite below the parachute. I looked around. The sky was full of aircraft and the opened parachutes. Looking down for a spot to land, I saw that I was heading to wards corner of a village with few old people staring upwards.

By the nightfall, we had moved to our allotted areas. Hardly had we begun to dig that we heard a convoy of Pakistani vehicles coming on a road with full head lights. The quietness of the night gaveway to the sound of firing of machine guns and other weapons. Direct hit by a rocket grenade put the first vehicle on fire. The battlefield was lighted up now. We could hear voices and see human figures running out into the darkness. There was firing everywhere. After about an hour, it was quite once again. The moon had come up. It was time to take a short nap before the morning. On 12 Dec, just when the sun had come up on the horizon, we heard the noise of a helicopter approaching our positions. The word was passed that the Brigade Commander of the link-up force was coming with our breakfast and lunch. Once the helicopter had landed and left, the information came that a retreating enemy column had been sighted nearing our positions. Reaching the destroyed convoy, they abandoned the vehicles and we could see the movement from our company area. An air strike was called for. The air liaison officer came to our company area to direct the strike. Two MIGs suddenly swooped down, dived with ear deafening sound of their roaring

engines and strafed the ground with their heavy machineguns. As suddenly they had appeared, as suddenly they disappeared into the sky. It became calm and there was no further movement of the enemy.

Within an hour the link up took place and we cheered the advancing troops, wishing them success. I took time to go and meet the CO, Col (later Maj Gen) Pannu. He had taken off from another airfield and was not aware that I had passed under his command. He expressed surprise, but welcomed me to his unit. After the link up, we were left behind. We were the fastest with the air transportation but once on the ground, we had no mobility. The pause helped us to rest and recover our strength. In the meantime we requisitioned local buses through the guerilla commanders and joined the race to Dhaka.

On the morning of 18 Dec 71, D company was in the lead of the advance guard. We were approaching the heights behind which lay Dhaka. A patrol sent out in the morning had been fired

upon and our dead were still lying on the road. We moved past their bodies. On detecting movement in the enemy positions, we went to the ground. We saw a black staff car coming to the enemy positions and suddenly a white flag was hoisted. We were informed that the opposing Pakistani army commander had decided to surrender and we could move into the enemy capital which was still under their military control.

The next day, 19 Dec 71, we witnessed the surrender of 90 000 Pakistani military and civilian personnel, the biggest since the Second World War. It was a moment of pride. Soon 2 Para moved to western front and I rejoined the Bde HQ. With no airborne activity, I was asked to move to Agra to co-ordinate the parachute training courses at the Para Holding Wing. It was during this period of Feb-Mar 72, that I got the Bde library opened and my eyes fell on a book of skydiving. The dreams of skydiving began to fill my mind. In those days a captain's pay was totally inadequate for

going abroad. We had the uniform with coloured ribbons but the pockets below were empty. Total pay of a captain was around 1200 rupees.

Once the Bde returned to Agra, I confided my dreams to friends. One of them gave me the information that every two months an Air Force courier aircraft was going to UK. I neither knew where I could do the skydiving nor how much it cost. I sought out information with the MAs in UK and USA. They sent me a pile of documents. In Jan 73, a Nepal army team came to observe the Para Bde Airborne Exercise. One of the team members was the Chief Instructor of their PTS. I was the liaison officer and confided my project to him. He had been a cadet at the Sandhurst Military Academy. He advised me to go to France for skydiving in the summer months when the weather was much better. But France was totally unknown to me. I had often to liaise with the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment. I asked them for the addresses of parachute manufacturers in France. I wrote to the principal parachute manufacturing company to inform me about skydiving in France and the approximate costs. Promptly came the reply with an address of a skydiving centre near Paris and cost of a course of 15 jumps. But Paris remained too far away for my meager resources.

I confided my project to my Brigade Commander, Brig Thomas. He surprised me with a reply that he will speak to Maj Gen IS Gill, the Col of Para Regt who was soon due to visit the Bde. Gen IS Gill was also the DMT at the Army HQs. He came to Agra in Apr 73 and called me to ascertain about my project. He promised to take up the matter with the Air HQ, and see if I could be carried in the UK courier up to Paris. Within few days, a message came from Gen Gill that there was a UK Courier going every two months and that the Air HQ had no objection to me being carried up to Paris, if authorised by the Min of Defence. The GSO2 (WE), Army HQs was asked to take up the matter of authorisation with the Min of Defence.

On 1 Jun 73, a telephone call followed by a signal summoned me to Delhi, where I was instructed to move my file personally as the next UK courier was scheduled to leave soon, on 6 Jun. Gen Gill had proceeded on leave and Brig Chhibber was officiating as DMT. Up to 4 Jun there was no progress on the file. The time was short and I could board the courier only if sanctioned by the highest authority, the Financial Advisor (FA) of the Min of Defence. I requested Brig Chhibber to take RV with the FA. The RV was fixed at 1400 hours. I formulated the request. Brig Chhibber entered the office of the FA. The meeting was over in 5 minutes and Brig Chhibber came out beaming with the acceptance remarks on the file. I had to just get the letter typed, signed and cyclostyled. During the movement from office to office, I had also applied to the Reserve Bank for release of foreign exchange. As they had never heard of skydiving being studied abroad, they could not grant any foreign exchange. Without choice, I had to empty all my savings and obtain the exchange by unconventional means. On the other hand the French Embassy proved very cooperative and promised to accord the visa as soon as the Min of Defence had approved the air transportation. When I had the letter, the visa was given in 15 minutes. On 5 Jun, I reported to Air HQ for the courier briefing and met the crew.

On 6 Jun 73, with spirits in the sky, I boarded the Super Constellation aircraft of the Air Force. The first halt was Bombay. Next day we flew to Djibouti, a French airbase at the entry of the Red Sea. On 8 Jun we flew to Cairo. At Cairo, I had the opportunity to visit the Pyramids. On 9 Jun we landed at Rome and then continued to Paris. Oh Paris, finally I was there. The dream had become real. The next day, I took the train to La Ferte Gaucher where I was cordially received by the Chief of the Skydiving Centre and allotted the accommodation. After the medical fitness certificate, I was in the aircraft for the first static linejump on 11 Jun 73. But soon I

reached the end of my limited budget. I went to the Chief and told him that due to paucity of my financial resources and with lot of regrets I had to stop to jump. The Chief, after reflection replied in his broken English that he felt privileged to train the first skydiver from India and that jumps and the accommodation will be free for me. I was thrilled. He had filled the gap which the Reserve Bank could not. During the summer of 1973, the weather remained sunny continuously for three months. The CI of the Nepal Army PTS had advised me well about doing skydiving in France. I stayed at the centre upto 31 Aug and was able to do about 85 jumps out of which 75 were the free-fall with exercises of turns, rolls, shoots and loops, using parachutes from a simple to competition canopies.

At the same time, a test parachutist of the French parachute manufacturing company, which had replied to my query, was also doing trial jumps of new parachutes at the same centre. Here commended to his company to gift me a competition parachute styled with the colours of the Indian flag. During those days, a competition parachute easily cost a minimum of, 40000 rupees.

My mind was already dreaming of setting up a skydiving centre in India. At La Ferte Gaucher, I

met Chantal who had earlier visited India as a tourist. She was already an experienced skydiver.

I had few days to spare in Paris before boarding the return courier to India. Having no money to pay a hotel room, I was hoping someone to accommodate me. Chantal came to my rescue, offering me her studio, while she shifted to her parents flat. Everyday she left me by car, at a monument to be visited. I was charmed by her gentleness and began to dream of forming a couple with her.

On return to India, I prepared a report on my training in France which was circulated to all the Para units and the Army HQs. I recommended that the defence personnel should be allowed to go to France for skydiving by the UK Courier. The recommendation was ultimately accepted by the Ministry of Defence and few officers availed the opportunity.

I also wrote down a project for setting up a skydiving institute, which I sent to Gen PP Kumaramanglam, ex-COAS, ex-Commander of 50 Para Bde and then President of Sport Authority of India, and to Mr. JRD Tata, industrialist and pioneer of aviation in India. Very soon, I received affirmative replies from both the personalities. Gen Kumaramanglam enthused the COAS Gen TN Raina, an ex-paratrooper. He accepted to pilot the project in the Chiefs of Staffs Meeting of the Ministry of Defence. I informed my Commander, Brig Thomas of my initiatives and he put Gen IS Gill in the picture. The Chiefs of Staff Meetings were held only once every six months. But slowly and slowly the project made its headway.

At the same time I was pursuing my dream with Chantal. By the end of 1974 she decided to leave France to live with me in India. But marrying a foreigner was no easy task. The decision belonged to the Government and the application for the marriage had to be accompanied by an application to resign from the service. Chantal arrived in Jan 75 with a visa of 3 months and I applied for marriage to the Ministry of Defence. The Army HQs was very slow in its act. Soon Chantal's visa was nearing the expiry. She went to the Foreigners Registration Office in Delhi for the renewal. But there, the attitude was of total refusal. Chantal decided to occupy an armchair in the office and informed the visa officer that she will continue to sit in the office until the visa was renewed. Her resolve moved the visa officer. She was granted extension by one month.

In France I had promised Chantal, a trek to Mount Everest. Now was the moment to fulfill the promise had come. I applied for annual leave of two months and together we trekked up to the base camp of Everest in May-Jun 75. At the end of two months stay in Nepal, Chantal once again got visa for a further stay of three months in India. Gen Kumaramanglam secured the support of Lt Gen KP Candeth, the Director General of Youth Services in the Ministry of Education for the skydiving. Everything

began to move faster now. Gen Candeth requested Gen Raina to summon me to Delhi, so that the project could be given proper shape. I advised Gen Candeth to organise a demonstration of skydiving for the public. He accepted the proposal. For the preparation of the demonstration, it was planned to present the sport on the television. The Door Darshan accepted to show the film "The Masters of the Sky", followed by our interview. The All India Radio also aired our interview. These emissions received positive response from the public.

During the interviews, I had presented myself and Chantal as a skydiving couple, but the journalists preferred to present us as a married couple. All this created a storm between me and the Army HQ which had not yet acted on the marriage application since ten months, much beyond the time limit of four months as per the army rules. We needed a suitable aircraft for the skydiving demonstration. We couldn't find any with the private companies. During our research, we had crossed the signboards of Agricultural Aviation at the Safdarjung Airport. We requested to be received by the Director General Air Commodore (later AVM) Sahni. He had seen our interview on the TV. Having earlier commanded the PTS at Agra, he loved the paratroopers. When we presented our request to him, he opened wide his arms and also his heart. He offered a Beaver aircraft and that too, absolutely free. Three rehearsal jumps were planned the first rehearsal was on the morning of 17 Dec 75. We packed our parachutes near the control tower of the Safdarjung airport. The news spread that something unusual was going to take place. We took off for the rehearsal of first skydiving demonstration. From the sky, Delhi seemed like an immense map. We chose our jumping spot and jumped hand in hand from a height of 2500 meters.

After a free fall of 15 seconds we opened the parachutes. At the second rehearsal jump in the afternoon, we noticed that a big crowd had gathered at the landing spot at the Jodhpur Polo Ground. Just after landing someone put

his arms around me. Hewas Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, a pioneer of ballooning. He asked us to collect our parachutes and follow him. We were ushered in a big hall at the airport where he had gathered the journalists of all the national press of Delhi. We had not planned any press conference. The next day the cover story of all newspapers was the story of the skydiving sport. Much to the chagrin of Army HQs, it was also written was that we were a married skydiving couple. They came searching for me at the control tower but we were in the aircraft and the aircraft was getting airborne.

When we met Gen Candeth before noon on 18 Dec, to tie up the details of the demonstration in the afternoon, I revealed to him that the Army HQs had not yet given us permission for the marriage. Gen Candeth expressed surprise, having read the contrary in the newspapers. He picked up the phone and called the Director General of the Intelligence Bureau to sort out the matter. Gen Raina was the chief guest for the skydiving demonstration. My friend and course-mate Capt(later Lt Gen)Aditya Singh, Adjutant of the PBG, even managed a BBC correspondence to give live commentary. From the aircraft we could see that all around the Safdarjung airport, every available space on the ground or on the roofs of the buildings was jammed with the spectators. Even the buses and carshad come to halt on the road due to crowds. We jumped together from 2500 meters and landed within few meters of the Chief Guest amidst thundering applause of the spectators.

The IB telex machines had functioned well between Delhi and Paris. What was blocked for ten months got cleared in four days. The government permitted us to marry. We went to see the Registrar of Civil Marriages. Due to visa difficulties for Chantal, I requested him to advise the shortest route to a civil marriage. He advised us to marry under the Christian Marriage Act which needed only five days notice, whereas the other laws needed 30 days notice. Chantal was not even a practicing Christian, but a Christian name was

enough. Capt Aditya Singh arranged for the marriage ceremony in the PBG mess. Gen Candeth and Gen Gill signed as witnesses on the marriage certificate. After such media coverage of the skydiving, I got down to organise The Indian Skydiving Federation on the lines of Indian Mountaineering Foundation. It was registered as a society in Mar76. At the same time I kept pursuing the Skydiving Institute project with Army and Air HQs. I also took up the affiliation of the Indian Skydiving Federation with the Aero Club of India for the issue of skydiving licenses all that was new to everyone but there was no dearth of

WE WERE SATISFIED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO POPULARISE THE SKYDIVING WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT. IN MEANTIME MAJ GEN SC SINHA, HAD TAKEN OVER AS THE DMT AT THE ARMY HQS. HE LATER SUCCEEDED GEN GILL, AS COL OF THE PARA REGT. WITH HIS DETERMINED SUPPORT, THE SKYDIVING INSTITUTE WAS APPROVED BY THE CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE AND ADOPTED AS AN ARMY PROJECT

cooperation. The Aero Club of India was pleased to issue me the Indian Parachuting Licence No 1.

Invitations began to come in for the skydiving demonstrations. The first came from IIT, Kanpur for 31 Oct 76. Then, it was the Ordnance Parachute Factory, Kanpur which celebrated its Raising Day on 1 Oct 77 by a skydiving demonstration. The Indian Skydiving Federation joined the Parachute Regiment celebrations by an inaugural demonstration at the parade ground at Agra on 22 Nov 77. Group Captain Nayyar, Aviation Advisor, Haryana, organised a demonstration at Pinjore

(Haryana)in Apr 78. In Oct 78, it was the turn of UP Government to have a demonstration at Lucknow. We were satisfied that we were able to popularise the skydiving with the public and the government. In meantime Maj Gen SC Sinha, had taken over as the DMT at the Army HQs. He later succeeded Gen Gill, as Col of the Para Regt. With his determined support, the Skydiving Institute was approved by the Chiefs of Staff Committee and adopted as an army project. I wrote out the articles of incorporation and registered the Institute with the Registrar of Societies,Lucknow in Feb 79. The Institute had been provided hangers at the Army Air Transport Support School, Agra for the ground training. Air Commodore Sahni offered a Beaver aircraft modified to carry up to six parachutists. We were ready for the first course in April 1979. Chantal, being more experienced in skydiving took over the duties of Chief Instructor. Gen Gill graciously agreed to inaugurate the Institute. The first jumps began on the Parade Ground at Agra Cantt on 23 Apr 79.

My dream for Skydiving Institute in India had been realized. The dream of marrying Chantal had also been realized. We could now soar above the Taj Mahal and look down at the monument of love from the open door of the Beaver aircraft. A total of 3 courses were undertaken before we closed down for the summer. In all about 30students from Army/Navy including 3 women and 4 civilians learnt to skydive. But the pioneering of skydiving needed a lot more than ordinary energy to move individuals and organisations for something new, began to strain me. I concluded that the adventure of life must continue in another form.

Dear reader, I have written this account for you, a warrior and an adventurer, who dares and

dreams. Believe me - dreams can be realised. Ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country. - John. F. Kennedy

(Editor's Note: Captain Shamsheer and Chantal live in France).