

Vol VI, Issue-II (Bi-Annual) | October 2012

# The Rimcollian

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



**RIMC @ 90**



## The Father

Many years ago while travelling home for vacation I had laid my hands on a novella being sold cheap at the Soviet Cultural Centre (now Russian Centre on Feroze Shah Road) in New Delhi. If I recall correctly it was titled *The Father* or was it *The Man*? It was story of a farmer (was he named Mikhail?) drafted into the Soviet army right at the beginning of World War II. While leaving home he realised he was going to miss his 13-year-old son most, who had started to grow into a man. He told his son that he was leaving behind the family and the farmland under his care.

Years passed and the letters from home kept him assured that his son was doing well. Towards the end of the war as his unit made inroads into Germany, he received a note from his son that he too has been enrolled and his unit too was moving into Germany. Both the father and the son kept a check on the movement of the other's unit and they were soon to realise that they would converge into Berlin at the same time -- May 9, the Victory Day. Excitement grew at both the ends. More so with the father - to see his little child as grown up man in officer's uniform.

The day of meeting finally arrived. The CO of father's unit contacted the son's unit and arranged a vehicle to take Mikhail through the ravaged roads of Berlin to the other end of the city. The cockles of father's heart swelled with pride and anxiety at the prospect of meeting his son. Braving sniper fire and occasional shelling Mikhail finally arrived at the son's unit. The sentry at the gate told him that the whole unit was waiting for him.

Excited he approached the quarter guard where the grim-looking CO stood. 'We were waiting for you so that you could meet your son before the truck left,' said the CO pointing towards the truck. As Mikhail approached the truck he saw a coffin kept on the ground. There rested a strapping young man at peace with himself. 'He was felled by a sniper bullet this morning while he was with his battery,' said the CO matter of factly. The Father caressed the young man's face before the lid was put and the coffin kept in the truck. Mikhail did not allow tears, which must have swelled into his eyes to drop out.

Many years later, the memories of *The Father* came rushing back to me on 22 August mid noon as I helplessly, so did many others, watched Prabhat, his wife, his parents and the younger son bid good bye to the teenager at Lodhi colony crematorium. Prabhat and his wife, despite being devastated by the irreparable loss, stood ground

as bravely as they must have fought the debilitating illness of their loving son during the past three years.

Prabhat was about four years junior to me in the school, in my section. My memories of him are those of an unassuming young lad, who was good at both academics and sports. Under leadership of Deepak Ahluwalia, these guys had made Ranjit section junior teams quite unbeatable specially in football, where Prabhat played right out. If my memory serves me right, he also was a good debator.

After leaving school I lost track of most of these fellows. Many years later I was to hear Prabhat's shriek in the cyber world asking for advise for the treatment of his son who was diagnosed with a not much known disease of the intestine. Thereafter he shifted to Delhi and we were back in touch. Last reunion he was in Dehradun with his complete family. I complained to his wife that her husband at times doesn't revert quickly to the phone calls. She apologised and said that may be at times their son's illness keeps him preoccupied.

His obligations at home made him several times give-up his charge of secretary ROBA. But this would remain only a formal decision as it would keep coming back to him as the incumbents left frequently to take up their assignments. Despite not holding the charge formally, he executed the planning of both the last ROBA meeting and get-together on 19 August with great exquisiteness without giving a hint that his wife was holding forte for him in the hospital.

I have been to Lodhi colony crematorium earlier too including to cover the mass cremation of the victims of Uphaar tragedy. But I was never before overcome with the kind of grief and angst which gripped me 22 August. How can you see the chirpy young boy from school burdened with such agony?

Some have applauded Prabhat's dedication to the Rimcollian spirit and cause. But for me Prabhat you and your wife have raised the bar for being a true dutiful and loving father and mother.

God Bless you and give the child peace.

(Sidharth Mishra)

Oct 1, 2012

ps. Sidharth sir,

Sir, my child fought smilingly and never allowed his illness come in the way of anything at all. He would be unhappy if I had to miss out something because of his frequent hospitalisation. So sir, all that I did was to keep my child happy. He has brought me cheers even in his death.

Best regards,  
Prabhat



### Chander's Note

The joke between Sidharth and me is that the edition will roll out in time is because, "a tail is wagging the dog". Twice a year all going well the issue is bound to reach you, the inside story over a drink for those who are keen. This issue as usual covers some of our masters, articles by you the community your thoughts and your deeds.

One of the burning issues is the debate, "Beyond the Scotch Eggs". Most of us like to stay silent and the silent majority knows the most yet chooses to keep quiet. It has the approach of "been there, done it, seen it all, and heard enough of it". The issue is too important to keep silent about as it affects our Alma Mater.

There are compelling arguments on both sides of the debate but perform or perish, thus reinvent or perish is what the compelling argument seems to be. Most look at quality and wish to retain the exclusiveness, while some others say the school needs to reinvent. The point at issue is what is wrong with "status quo" the answer it has got us that far and we need to go further.

There are essentially two types of human beings those who find every thing wrong and wish to change every thing and those who accept what is going on and may agree to moderate change. One must remember the former is responsible for change and progress while the latter is responsible for humanity. In an informed debate all sides balance out, and the compelling reasons for increase in strength may just be the start point.

We also wish to thank all those who are going great guns in raising funds, needless to say there are many behind the scene and wish them all the best.

"GOD SPEED", TILL WE MEET AGAIN SAME TIME, SAME PLACE, SAME DAY.

Brigadier (retd) CS Thapa  
Pratap (64-69)



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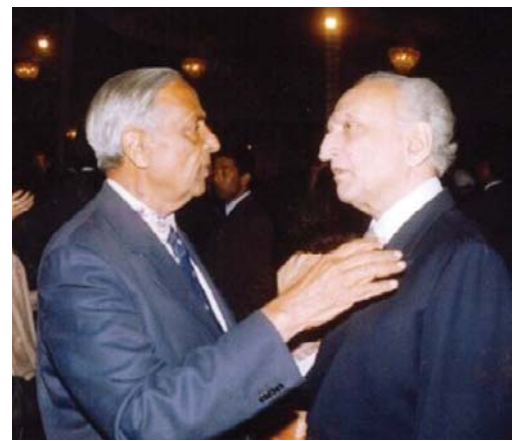
**Cover photo**  
 Mangesh Kumar



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## APPOINTMENT

Air Mshl DC Kumaria, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM .....Vice Chief of Air Staff (1965-68, PRA)  
 Vice Admiral PK Chatterjee, AVSM, NM .....Dy Chief of Naval Staff (1967-72, PRA)

## PROMOTIONS

### Rear Admiral to Vice Admiral

Vice Admiral BK Verma, AVSM .....(1971-75, RAN)

### GpCapt to Air Cmde

Air Cmde KS Reddy .....(1975-79, SHI)

Air Cmde N Tiwari, VM ..... (1977-82, CHA)

### Colonel to Brigadier

Brig Sanjeev Khatri .....(1977-81, SHI)

Brig Adosh Kumar .....(1977-82, PRA)

### Wing Commander to Group Captain

Gp CaptPrabhat Kumar .....(1982-87, RAN)

## APPROVED FOR PROMOTION

### Lt Col to Col

Lt Col Mandeep Grewal, VSM .....(1984-90, CHA)

Lt Col Anshuman Narang .....(1987-93, RAN)

Lt Col Dhiraj Ramanand .....(1987-93, RAN)

Lt Col Sanjay Kannoth .....(1987-93, RAN)

## AWARDS

### Saurya Chakra (SC)

Maj Himanshu Panwar .....(1991-95, RAN) MARATHA LI

### INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY - POP (Jun 2012)

BUO Sandeep Kumar Yadav .....President's Silver Medal



## Felicitation

Rimcollians rule the roost yet again, in the recently held DEFENCE INVESTITURE CEREMONY AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN at New Delhi four Rimcollians were conferred with Distinguished service and Gallantry awards by the President .

1. LT GEN SK SINGH , UYSM, AVSM with PVSM.
2. AIR MARSHAL DC KUMARIA, AVSM ,VM ,VSM with PVSM.
- 3 REAR ADMIRAL BK VERMA with AVSM. (HEARTIEST CONRATS FOR PROMOTION AS WELL )
4. LT COL KAMALDEEP SINGH with KIRTI CHAKRA .

All three services were well represented for all categories of awards presented . It was indeed a privilege for me to be in company of such esteemed group. Photograph with our better halves are attached.

Photo by: Kaydee

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



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

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### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I feel honoured at having been elected for another term to the office of President of our Old Boys Association. I thank all of you in reposing your faith in me and assure you that ROBA will continue to work to strengthen Rimcollian bonds and strive to take the school towards even greater heights.

The ROBA today is a vibrant body with a huge membership base which is growing by the day. A lot of plans are on the anvil to help the school maintain its glorious track record of providing leaders of men and champions of society. I exhort the members to come forward with suggestions to improve the functioning of our association so as to prepare our alma mater to face the challenges of the modern technological and communications age.

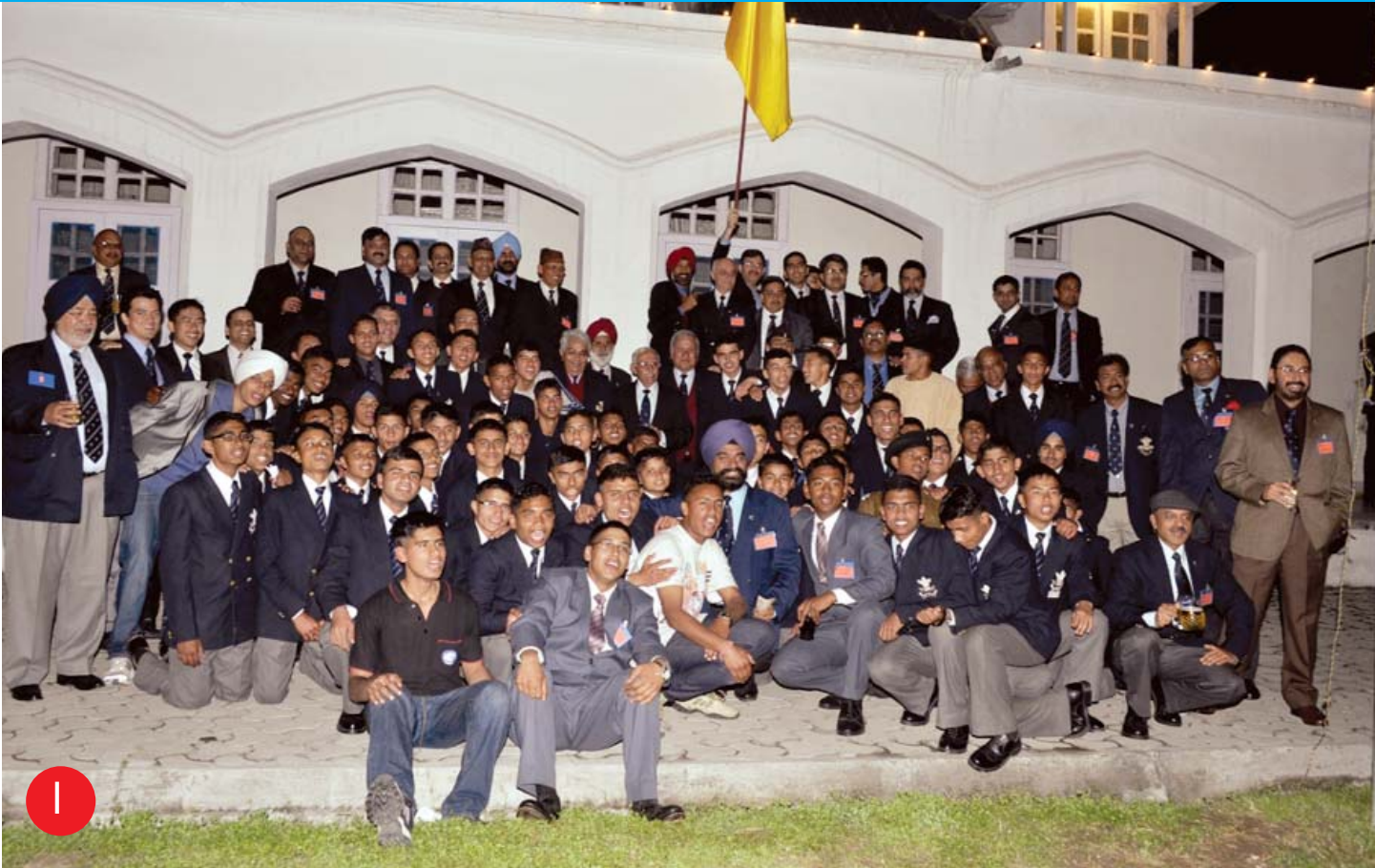
As the RIMC Centenary Year draws near, it is my fervent request to all members and office bearers to start brainstorming and contribute with ideas and suggestions to celebrate the great occasion in a befitting manner.

The *Rimcollian* is an effective means to reach out to each one of you and to inform you of the well being, achievements, concerns and traditions of our community across the globe. My appreciation to the members of the executive, editorial and internet connectivity teams of the *Rimcollian* for the hard work put in to keep the 'Ich Dien' spirit alive. Godbless and Godspeed.

(DC Kumaria)  
Air Marshal  
President  
Rimcollian Old Boys Association

Date : 26 Sep 12

# REUNION 2012



1

1. Old Boys and cadets of Pratap Section celebrate the winning of the Overall Championship Trophy.
2. The cultural troupe of RIMC.
3. A gallant cadet rider during the horse show.
4. Group Captain Prabhat Kumar, ROBA president Air Marshal DC Kumaria, Mrs Kumaria and the commandant, Col Pankaj Kumaria share a light moment.
5. The passing out class making a presentation to ROBA Trust chairman Gen VN Sharma.



3



4



# LIST OF RIMCOLLIANS ATTENDING REUNION 2012

Ser	Name	Ser	Name	Ser	Name
1	Air Cmde Satwant Singh	71	Col SS Pundir	141	Maj TAS Bedi
2	Air Mshl DC Kumaria	72	Col Subodh Kumar	142	Maj TT Jamir
3	Air Mshl PS Raghavendran	73	Col Sugandh Sharma	143	Maj Vishal Singh
4	AVM A Subramaniam	74	Col Tejinder Singh Shahi	144	Mr Aditya Swarup
5	AVM B Suresh	75	Col TK Chata	145	Mr Ajit Singh
6	AVM BS Dhanoa	76	Col TK Guha	146	Mr AK Barman
7	AVM C Hari Kumar	77	Col Vikas Singh	147	Mr AK Paul
8	Brig AAS Sinha	78	Col Vivek Jaswal	148	Mr AK Sharma
9	Brig AS Bedi (Retd)	79	Col VK Singh	149	Mr Akshay Kumar
10	Brig CS Thapa	80	Col VS Negi	150	Mr Alok Vijyant
11	Brig DD Kapoor	81	Col YK Gautam	151	Mr Ashm Mahapatra
12	Brig DS Gill	82	Dr Deepak Narwal	152	Mr Ashok Rawat
13	Brig KK Sharma	83	Dr NM Ghatate	153	Mr Atish
14	Brig PN Ananthanarayanan	84	Dr Ranbir S Gill	154	Mr Bhriгу Sharda
15	Brig PS Jaggi	85	Flg Offr JP Parida	155	Mr Charandeep Singh
16	Brig Ujjal Dasgupta	86	Flt Lt Ankit Uniyal	156	Mr Chetan Singhal
17	Capt A Awasthi	87	Flt Lt Chetan Ahlawat	157	Mr Chiranjit Banerjee
18	Capt Aditya Sharma	88	Flt Lt Gautam Sharma	158	Mr D Kapoor
19	Capt Arivind Kumar	89	Flt Lt JK Sharma	159	Mr Devjeet Basu
20	Capt Dikshant	90	Flt Lt Manish Das	160	Mr Dhirendra Singh
21	Capt GS Dhillon	91	Flt Lt Raghunandan	161	Mr Hari Prakash
22	Capt Ishitab Vashisht	92	Flt Lt Umang Nautiyal	162	Mr Harmanjit Singh Jauhal
23	Capt M Malik	93	Gp Capt Abhijit Sen	163	Mr Harsh K Pandey
24	Capt Manitaabh Saran Saxena	94	Gp Capt Anil Kumar Singh	164	Mr Jagdeep Kairon
25	Capt Nayan Ghildyal	95	Gp Capt VS Chhikara	165	Mr Karan Bamba
26	Capt PPS Grewal	96	Lt (IN) Ashoom Sharma	166	Mr KD Hiranandani
27	Capt Pulin Upmanyu	97	Lt (IN) G Anvesh Murthy	167	Mr KPS Dhillon
28	Capt RPS Rana	98	Lt Anurag Shukla	168	Mr Krishnpal Singh
29	Capt Simon Mathai	99	Lt Col AS Shekhawat	169	Mr Kunal Rai
30	Capt VK Chibber	100	Lt Col Gaurav Bhandari	170	Mr M Long Kumar
31	Cdr AK Sood	101	Lt Col Girish Pande	171	Mr P Manjul
32	Cdr GS Sindhu	102	Lt Col Hirak Sen	172	Mr Pankaj Sinha
33	Cdr KK Agnihotri	103	Lt Col JS Brar	173	Mr PVS Babbar Chattwal
34	Cdr Mahesh MS	104	Lt Col Kartikeya Sharma	174	Mr Rahul Anand
35	Cdr Manish Sain	105	Lt Col KR Singh	175	Mr Rakesh
36	Cdr RV Desai	106	Lt Col Praveen Bhal	176	Mr Ramdas Kakati
37	Cdr V Napahade	107	Lt Col R Chakrabarty	177	Mr Ranjeet Nambiar
38	Cmde NAJ Joseph	108	Lt Col R Nathawat	178	Mr Ravinder Gulati
39	Col Arun Mamgain	109	Lt Col RK Bhagat	179	Mr Rohan
40	Col Ashwani Sharma	110	Lt Col RS Kohli	180	Mr Rohit Kumar
41	Col Dilip Kumar	111	Lt Col RS Sandhu	181	Mr Salam Sarat
42	Col Dilip Prasad	112	Lt Col Sanjeev Kumar	182	Mr Sandeep Singhal
43	Col Dinesh Syal	113	Lt Col Sharat Laskar	183	Mr Sanjeev Tandon
44	Col DK Chaudhary	114	Lt Col Sugeet Jain	184	Mr Saurabh Redhu
45	Col DS Bhattacharya	115	Lt Col Vishal Sharma	185	Mr Sidharth Mishra
46	Col GDS Kochhar	116	Lt Gen BS Pawar	186	Mr SK Sinha
47	Col Harjeet Singh	117	Lt Gen HRS Mann	187	Mr Swapan Bhadra
48	Col Harminder Singh	118	Lt Gen Manvender Singh	188	Mr JS Rajput
49	Col HN Handa	119	Lt Gen NS Brar	189	Mr Vikas Bhandari
50	Col J Singh	120	Lt Gen Yash Malhotra	190	Mr Vikram Sabharwal
51	Col JPR Ismail	121	Lt Kaushik	191	Mr Virender Mahaseth
52	Col JS Bajwa	122	Lt Rishi Raj Chaudhary	192	Mr Zia-ul-Hussain
53	Col KS Salklan	123	Maj Anirudh Banerjee	193	Sqn Ldr GRS Reddy
54	Col KS Sanewal	124	Maj Ashutosh Sharma	194	Sqn Ldr Rajesh Kumar
55	Col MB Saxena	125	Maj AY Singh	195	Sqn Ldr Rakesh Rai
56	Col Mohit Gandhi	126	Maj Gen AK Kapur	196	Sqn Ldr Rakesh Rai
57	Col MS Baidwan	127	Maj Gen KS Kohli	197	W/o Late Col AK Sethi
58	Col NC Sharma	128	Maj Gen Rakesh Nandan	198	Wg Cdr Ajay Ram
59	Col Neel Kamal	129	Maj Gen SD Mahanti, VSM	199	Wg Cdr AK Dash
60	Col NJ Singh	130	Maj Gen Sher Singh	200	Wg Cdr AV Singh
61	Col Pawan Bhatnagar (Retd)	131	Maj KC Anand	201	Wg Cdr B Bhadra
62	Col PP Agarwala	132	Maj Mainak Deb	202	Wg Cdr BPS Rawat
63	Col Premvir Singh	133	Maj MS Bedi	203	Wg Cdr CS Venkataramany
64	Col PS Gill	134	Maj NP Sharma	204	Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia
65	Col Rajeev Kumar	135	Maj Poshuk Ahluwalia	205	Wg Cdr Nitin Kanwar
66	Col Ranjan Dutta	136	Maj PPS Bhullar	206	Wg Cdr Prabhat Kumar
67	Col RK Manucha	137	Maj PS Gurung (Retd)	207	Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav, VSM
68	Col RK Singh	138	Maj Rahul Pathania	208	Wg Cdr Sharad Sharma
69	Col Robi Kapoor	139	Maj RS Bedi	209	Wg Cdr SR Swarup
70	Col SK Sharma	140	Maj Saurav Dey	210	Wg Cdr KA Cariappa



Gen Viru with Sahibzada Yakub at Platinum Jublie in March 1997

# Stranger than fiction

Lt Gen (retd) Sahabzada Muhammad Yaqub Khan

— Hamid Hussain

**(Editor's Note:** This article forwarded by Col Ali Ahmed Zaki of Nelson Mandela Centre, Jamia Milia Islamia, I have found to be a very compelling reading.)

Sahabzada Muhammad Yaqub Khan is part of that generation of subcontinent that witnessed some of the most exciting events of the last seventy years. He was not only a witness but active participant in many events of these challenging times. Some events of his life seem material for a novel rather than real life experiences. This generation born at the zenith of British Raj in India received the best education that the Raj could offer and joined Indian army during Second World War. Young lads from different religions and ethnicities were comrades in elite regiments fighting under the

FORMER COMRADES  
BECAME FOES WHEN  
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OTHER AS CAPTAINS AND  
MAJORS IN 1947-48 WAR  
IN KASHMIR

guidance of their British mentors. As Captains and Majors they saw the independence of their land and departure of British. Some had to leave their ancestral lands that happened to fall on the wrong side of the divide. Former comrades became foes when their newly independent countries got entangled into prolonged conflict over the disputed territory of Kashmir. Many fought against each other as Captains and Majors in 1947-48 war in Kashmir, in 1965 war as Brigadiers and Major Generals and in 1971 war as senior commanders of their respective armies. In case of Pakistan, they saw the successful secession of east-

ern wing in 1971. Yaqub is a poster child of this generation of officers.

Yaqub was born in the aristocratic household in the princely state of Rampur. He studied at Prince of Wales Royal Military College at Dehra Dun. He joined Royal Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun and commissioned in Indian army. He joined elite 18th King Edward VII Own Cavalry of Indian army. During Second World War, 18th Cavalry left India in January 1941 for the Middle East theatre and landed in Egypt. Regiment was then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Howard Fowler (he had just taken over command from Lieutenant Colonel H. M. Tulloch) and senior most Indian Viceroy commissioned Officer (VCO) was Risaldar Major Kapur Singh. Lieutenant Yaqub was with A Squadron (Hindu Jat) commanded by Captain J. M. Barlow.

18th Cavalry was part of 3rd Indian Motor Brigade commanded by Brigadier E. W. D. Vaughan (later Brigadier Filose) and grouped with two other elite cavalry regiments; 2nd Royal Lancers (Gardner's Horse) and 11th Prince Albert Victors' Own (PAVO) Cavalry. They were supported by 2nd Field Regiment of Indian Artillery. Volunteers from all three cavalry regiments of 3rd Indian Motor Brigade formed Indian Long Range Scouts (ILRS). It was a squadron strength organization commanded by Major Samuel Vallis McCoy and consisting of J (Jat), R (Rajput), M (Muslim) and S (Sikh) patrols. In May 1942, Italian forces overran 3rd Indian Motor Brigade and large number of Indian officers and men became Prisoners of War (POW). Yaqub's comrade in 18th Cavalry was Second Lieutenant Abhey Singh. Yaqub and Abhey came from similar backgrounds. Yaqub was from the princely house of Najibabad and his father Sir Abdul Samad Khan was Prime Minister of the princely state of Rampur. Abhey was from the princely state of Kota where his father Major General Sir Onkar Singh was Prime Minister of the state. Two other officers of the regiments fighting alongside Yaqub's 18th Cavalry were also from aristocratic families. Major Rajendrasinhji Jadeja (he has the distinction of being first Indian officer to win DSO and later rose to become Chief of Staff of Indian Army 1953-55)



Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in parade uniform as the Commandant of the Governor General's Bodyguard.

commanding B Squadron of 2nd Lancers was from the princely state of Nawanagar and Lieutenant Sardar Hissamuddin Mahmud el- Effendi of 11th PAVO Cavalry was scion of the Afghan royal family. Yaqub and Hissam were later polo buddies (along with Colonel 'Huskey' Baig and Colonel Sikku Baig they played at Lahore Polo Club).

Yaqub and Abhey along with the senior most Indian officer Major P. P. Kumaramangalam (2nd Field Regiment) were together in Italian POW camps of Avers and Avezzano. In the confusing times of 1943 when Italian forces capitulated, these three officers escaped. Yaqub had learnt Italian during captivity therefore he was leading the pack interacting with Italian peasants to try to reach the allied lines. They were captured again, this time by Germans and they spent next few years in German POW camp of Braunschweig. Yaqub learned German during his stay with Germans. He was repatriated after the end of war in 1945. 1947 Yaqub opted for Pakistan army while his comrade Abhey Singh stayed with Indian army. Abhey transferred to 17th Poona Horse and led a tank squadron in 'Operation Polo' when Indian army moved into the state of Hyderabad in 1948. In 1965 war, Yaqub's parent battalion 18th Cavalry managed to reach the Burki Police Station on Lahore front and their commandant Lieutenant Colonel Hari Singh Deora (later Brigadier) had his picture taken in front of Burki police station. Yaqub commanded 11th PAVO Cavalry in 1952-3; the regiment that was in the same formation when he served with 18th Cavalry during Second World War. In 1947, Hindu and Sikh soldiers of regiments allotted to Pakistan went to India and Muslim soldiers of regiments allotted to India came to Pakistan. Muslim elements of 2nd Lancers (along with some elements of 8th Cavalry and 9th Deccan Horse) joined 11th PAVO Cavalry while Sikh squadron of 11th PAVO Cavalry went to 18th Cavalry and thus the circle was completed.

In 1947, Yaqub was Second in Command of Viceroy's Bodyguards then commanded by Lt. Colonel Peter Hussey. Indian army regiments were divided between India and Pakistan including Viceroy's Bodyguards. This unit consist-



Then Foreign Minister IK Gujral with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in New Delhi on Dec 18, 1996

**IN 1947 YAQUB OPTED FOR PAKISTAN ARMY WHILE HIS COMRADE ABHEY SINGH STAYED WITH INDIAN ARMY. ABHEY TRANSFERRED TO 17TH POONA HORSE AND LED A TANK SQUADRON IN 'OPERATION POLO' WHEN INDIAN ARMY MOVED INTO THE STATE OF HYDERABAD IN 1948**

ed of Punjabi Muslims and Sikhs. Like all other regiments, personnel and equipment of bodyguards was also divided. Major Yaqub representing Pakistan and Major Gobind Singh (Jaipur Guards) representing India went to the stables of Viceroy's Lodge to divide the property of the regiment. Mountbatten's ADC Lieutenant Commander Peter Howes arbitrated and at one time a coin toss decided about which country will get the gold carriage of Viceroy. Yaqub came to Pakistan with the Muslim component and their share of the property of one of the oldest regiments of Indian army and became the first commandant of Governor General's Bodyguards. Yaqub's elder brother Sahabzada Muhammad Yunus Khan was commissioned in Indian army from Officers Training School (OTS) at Bangalore and served with Garhwal Rifles. In Second World War both brothers fought under Union Jack and both earned Indian General Service Medal (IGSM). In 1947, Yunus opted for Indian army. Immediately after inde-

pendence, India and Pakistan went to war in Kashmir. Yaqub was sent by Pakistan army while Yunus was sent to the same theatre by Indian army. Yunus was with Garhwal Rifles (most likely 3/18 Garhwal Rifles commanded by a fine officer Lt. Colonel Kaman Singh and a superb senior most JCO Subedar Major Sher Singh Rawat as this unit saw lot of action and 1/18 Garhwal Rifles came to the theatre quite late in July 1948). Yunus served as Deputy Military Secretary to President of India and retired at the rank of Colonel.

A number of Indian and British officers were captured by Italians in Middle East theatre in May 1942. All three commanding officers of the regiments of 3rd Indian Motor Brigade; Lt. Colonel Fowler CO of 18th Cavalry, Lt. Colonel De Salis CO of 2nd Lancers and Lt. Colonel P. R. Tatham CO of 11th PAVO Cavalry were bagged by Italians. In the Aversa POW camp in Italy, a very strange chapter of Indian military history was recorded. Italian commander of the POW camp, Colonel Errera appointed several Indian officers for management of prisoners. These officers of different faiths and ethnicities were fighting under the flag of British Indian army and were now prisoners. Major Kumaramangalam (2nd Field Regiment) being the senior most officer was appointed commanding officer of the camp. Captain Yahya Khan (4/10 Baluch Regiment, now 11 Baloch of Pakistan army) was camp Adjutant and his assistant was Lieutenant Shamsher Singh. Captain Tikka Khan (2nd Field Regiment) was Quarter Master. Other inmates of the camp were Yaqub Khan (18th Cavalry), Major Ajit Singh (Royal Indian Army Service Corps), Captain Kalyan Singh (2nd Field Regiment), Captain A. S. Naravane (2nd Field Regiment), Lieutenant Abhey Singh (18th Cavalry) and Lieutenant Sardar Hissamuddin Mahmud el-Effendi (11th PAVO Cavalry). Many officers of this POW camp later played important part in the history of India and Pakistan. The Italian Colonel of the POW camp could not have imagined that he was holding a whole crop of future high power society. This camp has the world record of holding so many future senior officers under its roof. Kumaramangalam escaped from Italy but captured by Germans and was

their guest for few years. He later became Chief of Army Staff of India (1966-69). Yahya Khan rose to become Pakistan army chief and then President (1966-71). In 1971, Tikka Khan was Commander of Eastern Command and later became Pakistan army chief (1972-76). 2nd Field Regiment of artillery can be proud to have two army chiefs of rival India and Pakistan. Yaqub Khan became Lieutenant General and served as commander of Eastern Command during the fateful days of 1971. After retirement he served as ambassador at several important posts and Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Hissam rose to the rank of Brigadier in Pakistan army. Ajit Singh rose in the ranks to become Lieutenant General, Kalyan Singh and Naravane

**YAQUB'S CRITICS POINT TO THREE INCIDENTS PERTAINING TO THREE DIFFERENT TIMES OF HIS LIFE. FIRST IS WHEN HE WAS IN KASHMIR WAR IN 1947-48. YAQUB WAS ORDERED TO RESCUE A SMALL PICKET SURROUNDED BY INDIANS**

became Major Generals and Shamsher Singh Brigadier in Indian army.

Yaqub left his mark on Pakistan army. He has many admirers as well as his critics. Yaqub is pioneer of starting the intellectual life in Pakistan army. He served as Director Armored Corps as Brigadier, 6th Armored Division commander, Commandant of Staff College and Chief of General Staff (CGS) as Major General and Corps Commander of East Pakistan at the rank of Lieutenant General. As Commandant of Staff College at Quetta, he introduced Pakistani officers to the higher direction of war. He was also instrumental in establishment of National Defence College (now National Defence University) with its two tiered course. There were not too many thinking generals in Pakistan army at that time.

In view of his aristocratic background and intellectual bent, Yaqub was different

in outlook. He was from the old school of strict adherence to protocol and traditions. One of his junior officers who served with Yaqub when later was commanding 11th PAVO Cavalry recalls an incident in the mess. In one of the early days of his command, Yaqub stormed out of the dinning room because his cold meat was not properly dressed and potatoes were not of uniform size. The officer swears that he saw tears in Yaqub's eyes. I can easily visualize that during Second World War, when ready to surrender, Yaqub donning his best cavalry uniform and asking his orderly to polish the boots with extra shine and then put on his cavalry sword and wait for the Italian officer to show up and Yaqub surrendering with full protocol.

Yaqub's critics point to three incidents pertaining to three different times of his life. First is when he was in Kashmir war in 1947-48. Yaqub was ordered to rescue a small picket surrounded by Indians. He was a thinking officer and kept calculating his own likely action and enemy's possible reaction. In the meantime, Indians overran the picket. Second was when he refused to carry out military action against Bengalis when he was commander of Eastern Command. Yaqub was sacked from the army for his refusal. At that time, almost all officers regardless of their rank and social background denounced Yaqub. Later, with hindsight, some changed their mind and thought Yaqub did the right thing. Third criticism relates to his post retirement career. He served at important ambassadorial positions under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and later served as Foreign Minister of Bhutto's executioner General Muhammad Zia ul Haq without any qualms.

In one life, Yaqub has enjoyed every aspect of an adventurous journey. A long and fulfilling military career was followed by an equally rewarding career of a well respected diplomat. In addition to these full time occupations, he continued his passion of reading (his grandfather Abdus Salam Khan was an avid reader and kept a large library) with some philosophical bent and played polo. He is probably the oldest living officer in Pakistan and at the ripe age of 91 he has a treasure chest of memories that can bring a smile as well as a tear or two in the eyes.

Courtesy: Defence Journal, April 2011

# AN EMBODIMENT OF VIRTUES

Farewell to Krish Ahlawat, the Vice-Principal

— Rachana Melhotra

(Krish Ahlawat was a first term in my final term that is he joined the school as a young master in our 10th term. He was assigned to our section and sat next to us on the dining table. We did strike a lifelong rapport. **Editor**)



A life lived truly in letter and spirit is the one to be accredited with unrelenting and selfless service, the life that has always placed service before self. And such has truly been the life of the revered Vice Principal of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Mr KS Ahlawat, who retired on 31 May 2012, having offered almost twenty nine vital years of a lustrous career. Twenty nine years ago, a very fine gentleman joined this premiere institution but little was known that he would go on to become one of the stalwarts of RIMC and one of the finest teachers this ninety year old institution has ever seen.

Born on 5th of May, 1952, in Rohtak District of Haryana, he completed his School, Graduation and Post Graduation

from Punjab University, Chandigarh. He did B Ed, Diploma in IT, qualified for School NET- India Basic Course and also Advance Computer Training Course. He joined RIMC as a Geography Master on 16 August 1983.

His twenty nine years of ceaseless devotion, his unconditional affection for the cadets, his guileless compassion for their adolescent needs and an astute understanding of the subject of Geography attributed a charisma to his persona and he was upgraded to occupy the chair of Chandragupta's Section Master and Vice Principal on 5 June 1992. His meteoric rise from a Geography Master to an iconic Vice Principal reflects his never say die attitude, his indomitable spirit and his ability to remain positive even in the face of myriad obstacles of life.

Someone has rightly said that there are two ways of spreading light- to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. MrAhlawat has been that guiding light, be it seniors or juniors, teachers or administration at the RIMC. There was only one man- MrAhlawat, whom everyone looked up to. One could always see his dedication when he was the first one to reach the Academic Block and the last one to leave. He was the one who used to go running to teach the Boards classes. Be it the filling of NDA forms or the Board certificates- his was the pivotal role.

It was not just his presence in the Academic Block but also his extraordinary skills on the field. One could also see him sweating it out in the basketball courts, soccer fields and the squash courts, not for a moment forgetting to inspire and motivate all the cadets of RIMC. A favourite of all the cadets, MrAhlawat has also received Central Army Commander's Commendation Card twice, once in 1996 and then in 2008, both for his meritorious service to the institution.

This luminary extraordinaire has made a great difference, having touched innumerable lives with his brilliant pedagogical skills. MrAhlawat, loved for his qualities of head and heart, his integrity, his boldness, his loyalty, his qualities of forget and forgive and the principal of consensus today stands on the pinnacle of excellence.

This is with gratitude from the entire RIMC Fraternity.

# RIMC @ 90

— Vivek Jaswal

Sometimes the cost of not changing is greater than the cost of change. Reunion - 2012, was overwhelming on many counts, one of which was the concerns exhibited by the Old Boys on the continuance of quality produce at RIMC as has always been down the years. Our salutations to this candid spirit ... words juxtapose expression. The resounding echo across the rank and file encompassing various walks of life and if I dare sway across borders, speaks volumes of the Rimcollian Esprit-de-Alumni. However, it is also as much time to bask in the past glory as to crystal gaze into the future. The moot question here is ... 'are we 90 years too young or 90 years too old'. Most such changes were too subtle to capture a military man's attention or maybe loyalty to the nation as always left are pupils dilated enough to avoid such a focus. Thus, leadership in the early years of our existence in large measure constituted military leadership. Leadership in the following years especially beyond 1991 (some feel this year to be the year of India's second independence, breaking the shackles of license raj & a stunted concept called socialism - a view shared by the famous author Gurcharan Das in India Unbound), has gone many fold beyond the precincts of the military.

## **Beyond Scotch Eggs, Ham & Coffee Pudding**

A soul searching question ... **who are we and where are we headed?** No institution can run on past glory — *let alone love and fresh air*. Would it be point for consideration to make leadership dominance our core competency? Leadership in all domains, military is one of them. Is it



time for checking our course? What are the impediments and how can these be overcome? At this juncture, Robert Frost's famous lines '... the road not taken' ring in the ears of course with a vivid recollection of Mr. UN Singh drumming these in. While as most would agree, infrastructure provides a

tremendous impetus to an institution; however, *infrastructure is not the institution*.

*'I'd rather have an army of sheep commanded by a lion than have an army of lions commanded by a sheep' ...* initial years at RIMC set a very strong foundation in leadership. Could we not

set focus on this key aspect and permeate all walks of life. While at this juncture much of this may seem outlandish, how about exploiting all avenues of entry into the armed forces, be it the National Defence Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and the Cadets Training Wing (some of this has already started under the stewardship of the present Commandant). Subsequently, we expand into the domain of Indian civil services and a decade later make inroads into the corporate world (be captain's of the industry), political domain etc. Of course, many would scoff at this suggestion and others would question its practicability. I would not want to contest either for we are a reflection of our thoughts. What may seem impossible today may actually be a reality tomorrow. IBM, a world leader in mainframe computers could never read the battle lines clearly when Microsoft was busy targeting the personal computer market. What of it, years later IBM had to actually sell of its PC domain to Lenovo. To others who may critique this on grounds that fund support by the Ministry of Defence will be stopped. I am sure we can find a way out of this maze by studying the models the Mayo College, the Lawrence School and the like.

To most of us it may come as a surprise that with the current intake and outflow, at no time will we have more than 2500 to 3000 Rimcollians in the world and at best two thirds of this number are active and of which less than a quarter are in a position to make a difference. With such small numbers we are much below critical mass. This aspect too needs urgent reflection. A serious headway is being made in this direction. How about having a no-bond entry to the school? This category pays the full emoluments. Ministry of Defence should not have problems with such a scheme, since it is a revenue generating mechanism. Today, while education at IITs is subsidized using the taxpayer's money, there no



Coffee Pudding



Scotch Egg

encumbrance on the IIT graduates to serve in a particular service let alone India.

It is time that we put our heads together, whether online or during social events to be ready to tackle the challenges that are likely to be thrown at us in the coming years. Mr.Rattan Tata has recently released a sum of 4 crore with an annual assured feed of Rs 44.75 lakhs over the next ten years. It is very heartening to note that the ROBA is looking at expending this amount towards improving the quality of faculty at School. *'Our thoughts may prove to be our biggest impediments'*

### Wg Cdr Unni Kartha's inputs on Col Jaswal's thoughts:

Vivek's mail and the very erudite and well written attachment began my day in deep thought. I am 62

and hence probably eligible for such senior citizen like deep introspection and thought, though I fall asleep when I do that. When younger, I was simply told, 'Don't think, just do it'? I share Vivek's unquestionably deep sense of pride at being a Rimcollian. I also in many ways agree with what he was trying to say in his article 'Beyond the Scotch Eggs & Pudding'. That RIMC must remain a cradle of leadership, but we must open our minds and get rid of the 'Skene Committee mentality' that is now quite irrelevant in 21st C India. That the 'cradle of leadership' in RIMC must now extend to all walks of life and not just military career as *raison d'etre*. I hasten to add that military must remain RIMC's main focus (unless we stop calling it a 'military college'). I have watched the career profile and mental makeup of many Rimcollians who did not join the military, for one reason or the other. I am very proud to say that whatever profession they went into; they have excelled and done RIMC proud. So Rimcollians can excel in professions other than the military, while excelling in military seems a more difficult task for Rimcollians. Therein lies the lacuna, the reason for the re-look at the *raison d'etre* of RIMC training that Vivek seems to be suggesting.

The year that I joined RIMC (1962), before the 62 war started, another momentous event took place. On the urging of then Defence minister VK Krishna Menon, several Sainik Schools were set up on the pattern of RIMC (he even took some of the staff out of RIMC and Doon School to start such schools). Due to the vitriolic things written about him in history sheets, all of us grew up believing that he was a very bad man. Whether he was good or bad is now irrelevant, what is relevant is that the Sainik Schools have prospered and produced more illustrious soldiers as well as statesmen since 1962, compared to Doon School as well as RIMC. It is time we asked why is this so. OK their mass (numbers) is more, but this is about quality and not about mass or numbers. Their quality is better than we (just like the old joke 'mine is longer than you'). This is a case in point for Vivek's thought provoking article, the one about having a rethink about what kind of products do we want RIMC to produce in the generations to come. Do we aim at producing simply toy soldiers or do we want to produce highly motivated and competitive 'soldier-statesmen' - like other schools (for example the Co Ed school in Doon who seems to be punching the RIMC boys on the nose in every competitive event - a credit to another of my illustrious class mates of RIMC and lifelong friend who started this school, against whom my only complaint is that he should go and have a bloody haircut, I am simply being very jealous of him, though he is my dearest friend J)

I beg forgiveness, from all those very illustrious soldier-statesmen that RIMC has produced, for my innocent (non derogatory) use of the word 'Toy Soldiers'. However, I can statistically prove that about 90% of us retired Rimcollians, those of us who were produced by RIMC from 1960-1988 were simply toy soldiers - those who were simple soldiers and retired by the time of selection grade promotion, or self destructed and took premature retirement out of disgust (the money is a recent incentive for premature

retirement, most of us who took retirement before 5th or 6th pay commission did it out of disgust at the system, because we were misfits). I am presuming that the post 1988 batches are still serving. Most of us from 1960-88 did not have it in us to be soldier-statesmen though we ate as much bacon, liver curry and scotch eggs, it had something to do with our lack of competitive spirit, lack of the chameleon like the ability to adapt, improvise, innovate, and probably a singular character deficiency, something that we were not taught in RIMC - sycophancy. We were taught the wrong lessons in RIMC, to stand up for a cause; we were taken for cross country runs too often to Chetwode Hall to read the inscription there. It may sound silly opinion, but I am suggesting seriously that in the 21stC environment, it is not academic training that is so important, most of us start our service career as officer in-charge mules or piggery anyway.

I say with some conviction that the quality of the masters is not so important, if we have to spend money to improve training, what we need to impart are survival qualities - chameleon like, the ability to adapt, improvise, innovate, and above all the art of sycophancy. In my humble opinion, no matter how immoral it sounds, the last one is the most important, no matter what vocation we choose. These are the new qualities that are required to make RIMC products good soldiers as well as statesmen in the times ahead. We also need to see that RIMC products go into every vocation. I am saying this very seriously as a true patriot, one who is most concerned with nation building. For a brighter future for India we need to have Rimcollians succeeding beyond middle level in every walk of life, they must one day control the destiny of India, not just the destiny of the military. Unfortunately even if one becomes the Chief Of Staff, now-a-days one doesn't even have the power to control the destiny of the service he commands, so we need to also breed the

Bureaucrats who will then give the military a more judicious control of the military. We need to breed politicians, I mean the sons of Politicians. We need an image makeover. The pupa has to be turned into a butterfly.

I agree that one of the main stumbling blocks against any progressive thoughts (soldier-statesmen viz toy soldiers), is the funding and paternal claim of MOD. If we use a bit of Psy war, and surreptitiously were to influence the joint chiefs of staff and their senior subordinate staff (who are all now Sainik School products or just run of the mill products) that RIMC should now be modelled on Sainik School model, or the Doon School model, and if the MOD is told that ROBA will take over and generate our own funds, I think the Babus will be only too happy to let us do this thing, though we should hide the fact that we are trying to produce soldier-statesmen and not toy soldiers. The very thought of equating RIMC to Sainik School, Doon School or any other school, it is quite revolting to me, but under the circumstances I find it the only pragmatic Psy war solution. ROBA must endeavour to get RIMC out of the clutches of MOD and gain complete autonomy - let us say a school with military affiliation. Beyond that, let us convert the school for scoundrels, albeit with retired or serving service officers, plus a visiting faculty from every famous institution in India to improve quality of education. By mid 21st C RIMC products will be at senior level, soldiers as well as statesmen, captains of industry, movers and shakers, the ones with the power to change India into a vibrant country - my thoughts are quite similar to the 'Skene Committee mentality', just modified to suit the ever changing morality in India. I hope my vision is not through my ass?

Last year, during the ROBA meeting on 13th, Deepak was able to generate Rs 50 lacs in about 20 minutes from just those present. I just heard of the Rs 4 Crore grant that has come from Tata (is

this Soli's effort?). If Rimcollians set their mind to it, I am sure they can do anything, even raise money (OK, OK Handa Sir, my apologies - I know how difficult it has been for you to get the routine contribution from some of the scoundrels who have been evading arrest by ROBA). Each of us have our own qualities, some like me can help sweep the floor, some can help raise funds and I can say this with utter confidence that no Rimcollian is useless (testosterone because of scotch eggs?) each man will do what he can do, what he is good at doing, I am quite sure what we need to do is to identify talent and ability and put them to work building ROBA onto a power house.

We need to take in more boys, sons of rich and famous, even sons of half way home politicians, bureaucrats, anybody with money, power and influence. Take lots of money from them. That will give ROBA money as well as clout. Such boys will have a good influence on ordinary boys, the ones we want to give competitive spirit, chameleon like the ability to adapt, improvise, innovate, and even a dose of sycophancy so that they stop being toy soldiers and become soldierly-statesmen. Continue sending the boys for a run to Chetwodehall, which may teach the future political and future bureaucrats (the rich and famous) a bit about the order of priority about the country being first and self being last. It is a win-win solution for everyone.

I have more suggestions, but I would rather let you eat your scotch eggs in peace.

**Unni Kartha (R 62-66)**

### **Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph inputs on Col Jaswal's thoughts:**

**Dear Vivek (and Rimcollians)**

As we discussed during the Rimcollians - this is definitely something we need to think about. Many have discussed this or suggested it earlier as well but you have put it to paper and this is definitely the first step. (Compliments on the wonderful paper kiddo and also on having put pen to paper).

I have often wondered whether we (Rimcollians) ourselves realize our potential. Do we have any school in the world that has 25 kids from 25 different states studying and evolving together? The intangibles in this growth and learning alone are itself unique. I am afraid many among us do not comprehend or realize the potential. I have often wondered (let aside the facilities at school, which by itself is without parallel) with just this aspect of 'mix' are we not selling ourselves short. Are we all not capable of so much more? How many among us are willing to push ourselves?

As much as I am passionate about the Armed Forces but our profession is a paradox in more ways than one. Take the issue of leadership (supposedly our *raison de etre* and main calling; what we have been trained to do, what should come naturally to us). Far too often many among us do not practice leadership we tend to float around the Sergeant Major style of leadership that one acquires in the Academy (bullshit or push our way through rather than inspire). At the Academy it may be a good form of leadership but one is meant to evolve (from the Sergeant Major) as one grows in service and in life. This needs constant reiteration to all leaders.

Each profession is no doubt different and requires different attributes. However the military experience is unique as highlighted by the German philosopher Hegel " This form of experience contains the harshness of extreme contradiction - the self sacrifice of one's freedom, the maximum repression of individuality, the renouncement of personal opinion - in fact the complete absence of mind, coupled however, with the most intense and comprehensive presence of mind and decision at the moment of acting".

I could just go on and on. But to get back to the issue do we need to widen our scope at School. Many would be worried primarily on the issue of what is our charter. Is it that we are a feeder institution to the Armed Forces? -- but as Vivek's opening part indicates the

charter is to provide leaders both in military and civil field ("*RIMC began as a nursery of leadership by setting a tradition of excellence ... and later reached high positions of military and civil leadership in India as well as in Pakistan and elsewhere in the world...*"). Is that so ....

If that be so part 1 can easily be redefined. To start with we can widen our net (our representation) in the Armed forces (covering all types of entries) and include the Civil Services. {We definitely need people where the power is -- and one has to admit that power is in politics and bureaucracy}. A simple solution to get a Rimcollian political persona in is to get Priyanka Gandhi to admit one of her sons in RIMC (Ia AkhileshYadav in Mil School Dholpur). Jokes apart politics may not be in our ambit (unless someone chooses it as his second innings) but surely bureaucracy is. Within the Armed forces we already have a departure from the earlier only NDA entry to NDA and NAVAC now -- this should spread to other forms of entry (CTW, AFA etc) as also different branches within the Armed Forces. This part should easily be within our ambit.

Some Rimcollians have made it to the Civil Services and other Allied Services and have done a great job (as also are the ones who have stepped into the corporate world). Joining the Civil and allied Services could be encouraged. For that we would need a tie up with a good college which would follow up their training and preparation after the VA. (Again the Question would be does our charter allow this). This too should be possible as it depends on interpretation of the charter. Towards this -- We could also encourage what is already in the provision of a certain percentage of cadets being those who do not sign the bond to join the forces but fund their entire training. This provision could be advertised clearly so that parents use the Quality education. These cadets could be the one to chart the previously uncharted waters.

Thus far it appears possible without any great tweaking in our charter.

# My fulfilling years at RIMC

— R C Chaturvedi (1962-2001)

There comes a time in life when one wonders what all he can possess forever, Money, Clothes, Property, or all the worldly goods put together. On deep introspection I have come to the conclusion that memories are the most cherished ones. My memories of working in RIMC over 39 years, was the golden period of my life. Looking back I feel that my dreams were fulfilled at a very early stage on induction as a teacher to RIMC. The dream became a reality on 6th September 1962. It was my ambition to be a teacher; therefore, this was my destiny. I thanked the lord for being the chosen one.

My 39 years of experience was most self illuminating by sharing the light of knowledge amongst the cadets who I feel represents the future of the country. In these years I realized how tedious and rewarding it is to build up an individual's character, to make some one realize who he is and what purpose of his being here. All this can only be acquired through hard work and even greater labor.

Sadly there are times when I have heard some youngsters say Oh it's a thank less job. On the contrary when one meets the cadets and see the fruits of my labor and see them as senior high ranking officers of the Indian Armed Forces they are still my cadets. I feel my job seeing them in exalted offices has been done and it is the successful culmination of my mission. I feel proud that I am responsible in playing a role in the career building of so many youth of India.



R C Chaturvedi

My career has been a learning curve where not only have I been a teacher but a learner as well. When ever I interacted with my cadets I realized that one has to learn till the last days of his life. I have seen the images of Bharat and Abhimanyu in my cadets and they have lived up to it. My cadets have understood the meaning of bravery, honesty, obedience and loyalty in its true sense and I am proud that my mission of teaching them was fulfilled.

Life has been wonderful every during the entire length of my service. I have enjoyed interacting with the cadets during activity classes, on the squash court, the tennis courts, while playing badminton or out in the sports field. There were some over whelming moments during long distance cycling trekking and

hikes. I recall one such incident during the cycle hike.

One of the cadets hitched a ride on one of the busses. His bicycle which was on the roof of the bus fell down and got damaged. The bicycle however was beyond economical repairs. I therefore contacted a senior Rimcollian who much to the annoyance of the sentry on duty had the damaged bicycle transported to the flag staff house. The board said the annoyed sentry clearly shows "No vehicles beyond this point". But the Rimcollian spirit worked and that is the bottom line.

Every teacher faces the perpetual "Guava and Chakotra raids", but if most of you still yell in delight we teachers also smile at the knowledge that we left the fruits for you all in purpose hanging a little longer so that we could all reminisce about them later.

Life continued during those 39 years. I got married, in due course of time I became a father of four wonderful children. My son has the proud privilege of being a Rimcollian. Three of my daughters were married during my stay at RIMC and eventually today I have grey hair.

At last on 30th June 2001 I retired. Today I sit back and reflect on the past few years and am thankful to God for every thing. He was kind enough to give me a platform of RIMC, which was a launch pad to me for rising to great heights. I am deeply grateful to all my peers, seniors, juniors, and most of all to all the cadets who gave me love and affection, and deep respect. In the end I wish to thank God and wish to state that if I am born again into this world than he must make me a teacher again in RIMC.

# Roving Eye

## SNAKES AND SCOTCH EGGS AT SAMBA

Before the E Group is flooded with the happenings of the Reunion at Dehradun, let me quickly update you on a great get-together we had at Samba last evening, 10 March 2012. For all those who think it's a field area; before the party actually began at Doon, we already had it here in J&K. Or as they say, do not worry about the world coming to an end - it's already tomorrow in Australia.

A Rimcollian get-together was hosted in the lovely lawns of the Flag Staff House at Samba, J&K by Brig Santosh Kurup, SM\*. Most of the Rimcollians drove from Pathankot, Madhopur and Jammu to attend this party which commenced with a captivating talk on snakes by Brig Kurup. We learned that New Zealand and Ireland are the only snake free countries, the snakes hibernate in both extreme winters and summers, and actually only of very few of them are venomous. This was followed by a 'physical introduction' to the non-hibernating snakes from his collection (a snake habitat maintained on a first-caught-first-refuge basis) and a photo-session of holding the non-poisonous snakes by the officers and some brave ladies and children.

This was followed by a great party, a who-is-where talk and how one is missing going to Dehradun and how the winters are still persisting even in mid-March. Brig Kurup also informed the gathering that he has obtained the secret and the most authentic recipe of Scotch eggs from the school which have been prepared at a liberal scale, including catering for some who have a penchant for packing them off for next day's breakfast. Nevertheless, many Rimcollians no-names-taken still went slow on the snacks to preserve their appetite.

The next events were a small speech by Col SK Sharma, the senior-most Rimcollian present and the screening of the Platinum Jubilee movie on the school,

followed by a very sumptuous dinner with generous servings of Scotch eggs. Near mid-night, we all drove back to Jammu, Madhopur and Pathankot after a customary Rimcollian photograph and thanking Brig Santosh Kurup for a lovely evening. The names of the Rimcollians who attended this get-together are listed below. Please feel free to email me for their contact details.

- Col SK Sharma
- Brig Santosh Kurup, SM\*
- Col RD Sharma
- Lt Col Kaushal Kishore
- Col AK Pandey
- Lt Col Rahul Kesar
- Lt Col Shailender Arya
- Maj Arjun Rathore
- Maj SC Ray
- Maj Sandeep D'souza
- Maj Abhishek Goswami

Regards,  
Shailender Arya

## RIMCOLLIANS GET-TOGETHER IN PUNE

The Rimcollians Get-Together in Pune was held in BEG Centre & Group on 10 March. We decided on this date it being a Saturday, since it would be more convenient for the serving officers, specially those attending courses in DIAT, Girinagar. Unfortunately, a good number of regular attendees had to regret due to unavoidable circumstances, the final attendance being around 50 officers, compared to the 70 who were there last year. I am sure it would still be the second largest gathering after the main celebrations in Dehra Dun, this being the 90th Founders Day of our Alma Mater. Thanks to the excellent arrangements made by BEG Centre and the single handed efforts made by Lt Col BR Satish in personally speaking to all the Pune members, as well as obtaining a slide show presentation from RIMC, the Meet was as usual a grand success.

Rimcollian Get-Togethers irrespective of the locations and numbers are always special. It was nice to learn from my son in North Kashmir that a spirited Rimcollian commanding an infantry unit nearby, ensured that all young ones posted nearby were invited on the 12th. While speaking to some Manipuri friends the other day, he said the Rimcollians in Imphal were all looking forward to the Get-Together being organized in Bishenpur on 13th! Reminds me of some of the ones I was lucky to attend or organize in remote or exotic locations like an air maintained post in Arunachal Pradesh, high altitude ones in Sikkim, during thick of insurgency in Manipur or Assam, or J&K, and one with Col Dharmarajan, then a Captain, during our UN tenure in Angola. Of course, the ones organized in RIMC during the Golden Jubilee celebrations in March 1972, when we were tenth term cadets or the Platinum Jubilee in March 1997, when I got a chance to come down from J&K, will always stand out.

This time we were privileged to have Col SA (Minni) Mohite, Kitcheners, 1936-41, who amused us with some interesting incidents during his daring visit to exotic locales in Bhutan some 3 years back; Cdr RS Ahuja; Maj Gen Anil Raikar; Col DH Parab, our illustrious Comdt at the Alma Mater and Col AK Bakshi, the Maharashtra Hockey Team goalkeeper during his NDA days, who were both our Instructors at NDA; Capt (IN) VA Paradkar, who now motivates boys to join NDA & Navy; Cmde Vishram Naphade, who looked after us so well during our visit to Andamans with the RIMC cadets in Dec 1995; Col MC Pradhan, an excellent athlete and X-country runner; AVM KG Bewoor, our Sec Commander & Cadet Captain; Brig Balraj Singh; Air Cmde SN Deshpande; officers from DIAT, CME and many others. It was nice to see two youngsters from IIT, Powai, Vishu Mahajan & Somag

Munde; two from INS Shivaji, Lonavla, SLt SK Sudhanshu & C Yashpal, as well as our good old fly boys from Lohegaon in the evening.

We missed the presence of some of our veterans and distinguished Rimcollians like Capt Baji Mohite, Kitcheners, 1936-42, due to leg injury; Lt Gen HN Khanna & Gp Capt AG Bewoor, both regular attendees, due to some last minute commitments; while Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, Cdr VR Naphade & Maj Gen Rakesh Nandan decided to attend the Reunion in RIMC. Mr SS Sandhu, ex-CDA(O) got posted to Delhi. Unfortunately, Mrs Nair, Mrs Radhika Bewoor, Mrs Joglekar & Mrs Purandhare who had been attending regularly all these yrs, had to miss out at the last moment. NDA Camp Rovers was going on, so our NDA Instructors had to miss the event.

The highlight of the evening was a slide show presentation from the Commandant RIMC's speech, which depicted the achievements of our cadets & Old Boys in various fields. Important aspects of the presentation were explained by Col Gidh, ex-Administrative Officer, who also later emphasized on the advantages of payment of dues for ROBA/ROBA Trust by the defaulters.

The menu was similar to what we used to relish in RIMC, scotch eggs being almost the same standard, thanks to the efforts of Col & Mrs Ashish Mitra, who were fortunate to be posted in RIMC in mid 1990's. The lovely snacks reminded us of last year's ones provided by Sandeep Mukherjee, Gen Mgr, Blue Diamond Taj, now posted abroad.

Since we did not want to repeat last time's mistake of having the Group Photo late, we ensured one well in time while the spirits were high! The list of Rimcollians, who attended as well as some photos taken during the function, will be uploaded by Lt Col Satish.

We all departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time, hoping to meet again next year, including all those whom we missed this time.

**Col(Retd) Vijay Gidh  
Shivaji 1967-72**

## **Vizag get together : a leaked report of an ISI agent**

**B**uzz was in the air. Our intelligence sources at naval units and ships hinted us on a probable new strategy planning meet by the Indian Navy. The gravity of matter was found to be serious considering number of simultaneous meetings in many stations including non-Naval bases. Unconfirmed reports from other military stations revealed a massive similarity in the events leading to a run up to these activities, and a possibility of tri-service meetings at a few places cannot be denied.

Vizag unit of our agency first sensed something fishy when yahoo email accounts of many officers, which were lying dormant for past few months, were logged in by these individuals commencing 10 Mar 12. On determining the usage pattern, it was revealed that all these individuals logged into their account and checked only the mails which had their subject starting with "[Rimcollians]". Most of them opened the mails till they found one which read 'Vizag Get Together' by an individual named Abhilash (Lt Cdr Abhilash D). The mail had been coded to look like a simple short message in English, but our experts suspected that it contained time and place of the meeting. On scanning Abhilash's profile and activity in our database, it was found that he used a code name 'D' which he suffixes to his name sometimes. Furthermore, he has been the felicitor of such meetings at Vizag even earlier. Even in this meeting, he reached the venue first to see that the meeting goes smooth, and late arrival of the members had made him anxious, initially.

It didn't take much time for our experts to decode the hidden message. It did contain time and venue of the meeting; and blimey! These Indians are smart. The meeting was to be held on a working day, in plain clothes, onboard a frontline warship - Ranvir. It was codenamed - 'Reunion'. They thought that meeting on a working day would not cast suspect in minds of people working for agencies like ours; and there was probably no safer place for this meeting than a warship, which was separated from the jetty by two

other ships and their respective security staff. Plain clothes could be to give this whole meeting a de-militarized look.

The commanding officer was himself present for the meeting, and reportedly arrived in time, even before few younger members who were to attend the meeting. The duty officer of the ship received the Commanding officer with a salute, said nothing except a usual "Good evening, Sir", but seemed worried about 'late' (means - after Commanding officer) arrival of other individuals. Commanding officer sensed it from his anxious face, and reacted with a rarely-seen smile, which said "Even I can't help it".

The details of the meeting were kept secret and meeting was convened only at the eleventh hour. The venue chosen was found to be suspicious. It was found that the Ship's Captain (Capt Srinivas Vennu) had earlier commanded two of the most potent Indian Submarines and so we first guessed that it could be a planning related to underwater warfare. The ship's Sonar Officer's involvement was further strengthening our speculation, but then ship's flight commander (Cdr Anubhav Kumar) was also seen at the meeting. Later we found that another young officer (Lt Amiya Shankar) was present for the meeting, who had been posted to the ship recently, and is known to have created quite a few waves wherever he was posted earlier. The ship's Sonar Officer (Lt Amrit Kumar) has been in news recently and is presumably the next aide of the Eastern Fleet Commander. To put it all together - the venue, INS Ranvir, was chosen not randomly, but deliberately.

A person with bold voice and fiery eyes (Col PK Rai) often sighted travelling from an apartment near RK Beach to NCC unit in a gypsy, was probably the only army element present in the meeting. Other than this, the meeting saw a wholesome participation of all Naval units and ships. Material Organisation, Vizag, could possibly be the alternate venue for briefing, considering involvement of large number of individuals from this unit (Cdr Anjan Das, Capt SK Verma, Lt M Arun, Lt Ashish Kumar and Lt SK Singh). The Naval dockyard was represented by Cmde SK Jha, Capt Saurav Deb, Lt Cdr Divendu



### Trivandrum Reunion

On the occasion of 90th Founders' Day, the Rimcollian Get together in Trivandrum was held on 13 Mar at Army Officers' Institute. It was a small get together of just 4 of us & our lady wives. We missed the presence of 3 of our fellow Rimcos of Tvm namely Gen Sivsankar, Cdr Vishwanathan & Col Satish as they were away on duty/ due to unavoidable circumstances. Our diminished strength notwithstanding, it was indeed a vibrant evening which substantiates the point that Rimcollian get together irrespective of location & numbers are always very special. Our wholehearted thanks to our veteran Rimco, Col Ramesh who hosted the evening, his personal instructions to the cook ensured that the "Scotch eggs" & other items in the menu were of a high standard as can be noticed in the snaps attached.

Those who attended were as under

**Brig KNM Nair**  
**Col Ramesh Nair**  
**Wg Cdr Mohanchand**  
**Col Subash Nair**

Sharma and Lt Cdr Umesh. They were surely planning their diving support from Command clearance diving team as the OIC CCDT (Cdr SC Katoch) was also seen boarding the ship.

Even the submarines squadron is believed to have a stake in the mysterious plan as Lt Cdr Panchal Barua and Lt Cdr Bullewere sighted. They had also brought the budding 'dolphin aspirant' SLT Bhabtosh Jena with them. However, people were trying to ping Lt Cdr Omkelkar and Lt Pranay Chandra who neither surface nor made a check report.

There was this other bunch of people from ships, as well. Most of them - gunners (Lt Rakesh Kumar and Lt Arjun Subramanyam) were seen in company of Lt Cdr Gaurav Rana, the specialist gun-

ner). However, the biggest gunner of them all, Capt Simon Mathai was peculiar by his absence and was last seen pushing for a leave in headquarters and booking a flight to Dehradun. It was suspected that a few navigators (Lt Cdr Anoop Sharma and Lt Cdr VV Reddy) who were to be a part of this meet, were on leave. Lt Cdr CK Kothari was the communicator present. Seriousness of the meet was further confirmed by the fact that, the Naval Assistant (Cdr Sritanu Guru) to the Commander-in-chief, who had barely managed a night halt at Vizag, also attended the meeting. Cdr SR Das was seen with Lt Cdr Bhattacharya discussing what could possibly be the ASW matters. Commanding Officers of the mightiest warships - Astravahini (Lt Ashok Garg) and INTRV

(Lt Abhishek Jain) were however relaxed and were seen hobnobbing with the ladies (to fix up their Sunday brunches, evening coffees and a few dinners!). Midshipman Arvind and Rohan candidly joined all groups and answered lot of questions, most of them regarding the structures flashed on screen.

Later on, we accessed a list of officers who had missed the meeting due to official commitments. Cdr Anup Ranjan (CO, Cannanore) topped the list. Lt Cdr Deevaj Thapa who has wings was reportedly flying. Few of them (Cdr Asheem Mittal, Cdr Subramanyam, Lt Cdr Samanto Roy, Lt Ronnie Chowpoo) were away, out of station, attending classes (CO PCT) and were presumably attending a similar meeting in Kochi.

Though we could not get the information about the contents of the meet, it is envisaged that this event codenamed 'Reunion' was a big success as it finished with loud cheers. We could manage a few photographs of this event which will be put up shortly. It is believed that meetings of this sort were in progress in different parts of the country, simultaneously. Report from other stations would be interesting to know and the one from Dehradun is eagerly awaited.

The report accessed by-

**Ashok Garg**  
**Lieutenant**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**INS Astravahini**  
**Mb - 9666 820 845**  
**Resi - 0891 281 1958**

P.S. Please blame the ISI agent if he has failed to report a few names of those who attended or has spelled the names incorrectly (which he must have, as he generally gets high after a three shots of lime-soda).

### Jalandhar get-together

Hi Folks ! A Rimcollian Reunion was organized at Jalandhar Club on 30.03.12 after a gap of almost 4/5 yrs. The last one having been organized by Col Dharmarajan { Ex Commandant RIMC } in 2007/08 while he was commanding a unit here. A bottle of champagne was

popped open to celebrate the 90 glorious years of school's existence. A toast was also drunk for the bright future of the school & for the well being of Rimcollians/ their families. A sufficient quality of Scotch Eggs along with a steady flow of Black Label Scotch ensured the high spirits of Rimcollians. A few snaps will be uploaded shortly. The following attended the function:-

#### RETIRED

1. Col Daljeet Singh [Rawlinsons 1941-47] 9876760032
2. Maj Gen Karam Singh & Mrs Karam Singh [Kitchners 1945-49] 01812482374
3. Maj Subash Gupta & Mrs Timmy Gupta [Pratap 1960-64] 9815902309
4. Lt Col M. L. Bhagat [Ranjit 1961-65] 9516178585
5. Capt(IN) Arvind Kumar [Shivaji 1962-67] 8054091100
6. Brig B. S. Dhillon & Mrs Sukhi Dhillon [Ranjit 1964-69] 9915029155

#### SERVING

1. Lt Col Prem Singh [Pratap 1984-90]
2. Lt Col Sandeep Sirohi [Shivaji 1989-94]

Rgds

**Maj Subash Gupta [Retd]**  
**Pratap 1960-64**

#### Kolkata Get-together

We had a Rimcollians reunion in Kolkata 20th July evening. The venue was Henderson Hall, in Fort William. Unfortunately none of the three serving Rimcollian officers at Fort William (Brig Jarken Gamlin, Col Arindam Saha, Col Zubin Minwalla) could attend owing to last minute engagements. Nevertheless, the turnout was reasonably good, despite the fact that quite a few had to drop out on account of ailments - typically in the air at this time of the year here!

Notable about this reunion -

After a long time, Col (Retd) Ashim Das could attend. He had suffered a cerebral stroke in 2011, but thanks to the Almighty and Col Das' fighting spirit, he

has been able to overcome the physical effects to a considerable extent, and I'm sure there will be further improvements in future.

Mrs Aditi Choudhary attended the Kolkata Reunion after several years and is now back in the fold. We were happy to welcome into our fold Grp Cpt A Shendye, who is now in Barrackpore, and Lt Cdr Sumanta Ray, who is posted in Kolkata. The youngest was Varun Lal (S, 2000-2005), who is a pilot with Kingfisher, attending a reunion in Kolkata for the first time.

Lt Col SS Roy, who is now settled in Kolkata, where he belongs, attended after a long gap, and we look forward to him joining the band of permanent Kolkata Rimcollians. Maj (Retd) Aniruddha Bannerjee also attended after quite a gap.

We have father-son Rimcollians in Col (Retd) Namit Ghosh and Adhiraj Ghosh. Son is in the middle of his college exams and was unable to attend. But father was present, having come down from Krishnagar together with Col (Retd) NK Paul.

GD Chowdhury (Bull) took photos, which will be available soon.

#### Attendance:

- Col N K Dhankar
- Group Capt & Mrs A Shendye
- Cdr Pinakesh & Mrs Das
- Lt Cdr Somaditya Chakraborty
- Lt Cdr & Mrs Sumanta Ray
- Mrs Neeta Sarkar
- Dr Gita Chatterjee
- Mrs Aditi Chowdhary
- Maj Gen (Retd) B Chowdhury
- Brig (Retd) AK Dutta
- Col (Retd) Ashim Das, + son + daughter-in-law
- Col (Retd) Shakti Bannerjee
- Mr G D Choudhury
- Col (Retd) TK Bardhan
- Capt RM Jolly & Ms Ratna Sen
- Col (Retd) NK Paul
- Mr Rana Dutta
- Capt (Retd) RK Paul
- Lt Col (Retd) & Mrs S S Roy
- Col (Retd) A Bhaumik
- Maj (Retd) Kumar Jagtiani
- Capt (Retd) & Mrs PK Munshi
- Mr TK Acharya

- Maj (Retd) Aniruddha Bannerjee
- Col (Retd) Namit Kumar Ghosh
- Mr Varun Lal
- Mr V Ramaswamy

#### STOP PRESS FROM KOLKATA

A number of Kolkata Rimcollians are Anunwell, Arup Chakravarty, Col (Retd) B Bhattacharya, Cdre PB Chowdhury. Mrs BN Mazumdar suffered a stroke recently. We pray for their speedy recovery and good health.

**V Ramaswamy**  
**(1972-76 / R)**

#### MUSINGS ON REUNION (March 15, 2012)


Dear All,

I just came back after attending the Reunion at Dehradun. As usual, I felt much rejuvenated after attending the Meet. This is the first time that four of our classmates were there since I have been attending the Reunion non-stop from 1990 (2000 being the exception). The stay at the Dormitory is the reminiscent of the old days and it seems that it was yesterday I happened to be there as a cadet.

I would like to highlight some of the issues which cropped up during the informal discussions I had with some of the old boys. Some of these issues had been raised before also but no concrete steps seem to have been taken in these regards. These are

- 1) Who should be called a Rimcollian in the sense that who is eligible to become a member of The Rimcollians Old Boys Association (ROBA)? As for me, to be eligible to become a ROBA member, the following may be taken for consideration
  - i) One who has completed entire tenure in RIMC.
  - ii) One who has completed some years (may be completed class IV A) but had to be withdrawn because of being medically unfit.
- 2) One should not be made a member of ROBA if
  - i) he has not completed his tenure at

# OBITUARIES

1. MAJ GEN AK SAMANTARAY, VSM*	1969-64, SHIVAJI	27-Mar-12	
2. COL BISWAJIT BHATTACHARYA	1954-58, PRATAP	30-Apr-12	
3. MR PRAN NATH TALWAR	1938-44, ROBERTS	2-May-12	
4. MR SATYENDRA MOHAN SHAHI	1949-53, PRATAP	18-Jun-12	
5. LT CDR A SATYANARAYAN	1967-72, PRATAP	Jul-12	
6. COL ABDUL QAYYUM	1944-48, KITCHENER	Aug 2012	
7. WG CDR VIKRAM SINGH	127/CHANDRAGUTA	30 AUG 2012	
8. MR TEJ RAM	1936-41, KITCHENERS	04 Sep 2012 at New Delhi	

(I attended funeral of WgCdr Vikram Singh at Jaipur. It was heart wrenching to say the least to see his wife WgCdr Taruna Singh and 11-year-old boy trying to cope up. Col Vikas (Rimcollian again), Vikram's anguished younger brother was of course there to lend support. The air crash didn't even give them a chance to see Vikram one last time. That is life — we have to accept it and live with it. Col DS Bisht (SW Army Command) arranged for a wreath. —VIKRAM PUNDIR)



RIMC and was withdrawn midway due to some personal reasons but not related to medical problems

ii) One who was rusticated (simple term thrown out) on disciplinary grounds

Another point of discussion I would like to raise is charges related to the reunion meet at RIMC (may be for elsewhere as well)

1) Charges for family and individual should be different. This was raised before as well. But some members were of the opinion that in the armed forces parlor the ladies are not charged. I would like to mention here that the meet is not of armed persons alone. There are many civilians as well. Moreover, in the armed forces meet, the children are generally not allowed to attend their party. After all, it does cost more to arrange for accommodation, etc.

for the family as against for a single person

- 2) Even for family, children above say 12 years may be charged as charged for the guest. I do not think anyone like to be subsidized his part payment by someone else.
- 3) I am not sure how much a guest is charged. This was not stated in the mail we received wherein it was mentioned the charges to be paid for Members, Non members and GCs. I suppose individual guest is also charged at the same rate as non members are charged. For this purpose guest names are also to be mentioned while filling up the attendance list. Members should send the list to the ROBA and RIMC before hand as far as possible.
- 4) The RIMC and ROBA should also send detailed expenditures incurred (on account of accommodation,

transport, food and beverages and others) vis-a-vis amount received to all the ROBA members on account of the Reunion. This is required for the transparency purpose as many members feel that wherever, there is a deficit, this is met from ROBA fund.

- 5) I suppose it takes quite a toll on the Commandant and supporting staff to work out the logistics for such an event. Commandant may feel free to ask any volunteers ready to help in organizing the meet. For this purpose some of us may even come to Dehradun few days before to render help in organizing such an event

I thought of sharing some of these observations and comments would be highly solicited

IchDien

A. K Barman

1971-75 (Chandragupta)

# Flosbury flip on a dump of sacks

— VK RAI

Although I came in contact with the RIMC only in the year 2000, when I got an offer from Col Arun Mamgain, the then Commandant of the College, to coach the athletics of his institution, my association with a great Rimcollian dates back to 1953, when Gen KS Thimayya was appointed Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea, where I was there as a member of the peace - keeping force.

Being the Alma Mater of such a great man, my expectations about its training facilities were very high, but when I surveyed them a little deeper, I was very disappointed. The high jump 'pit' was a mere dump of sacks filled with coir, where the cadets were practising Flosbury flip, risking the safety of their backs and necks. The long jump pit was a make-shift "dig and jump" area in a remote corner of the field. Shot put and discus circles were grassy pits and starting blocks were antique. The weight training equipment was rather crude with the multi gymnasium with half a dozen of its stations requiring repairs. The track was a common entity for men and horses and to make matters worse, football players also left their "foot prints" on the track to make the lives of athletes' sublime!

However, the most heartening thing in the whole atmosphere was the enthusiasm of the cadets to learn and excel accompanied by the desire of the Commandant to see that his wards performed well and brought laurels to the College. Under such favourable circumstances there was no problem in getting proper equipment in place. Soon a foam 'high jump pit' was purchased, a pit was dug up and got filled with fine sand for the horizontal jumpers, concrete circles were made for shot and discus and many other accessories were procured. Equestrian training was shifted to another field and the track was mercifully saved for athletes and footballers.

There was another problem, which



VK RAI

came in the way of uninterrupted training - the problem of stress fracture. The reasons were two-fold. The first was due to stress and strain, which is overcome by strength and endurance workout. It appeared to be so physically challenging that the energies used to complete the workout were of such magnitude that they stole from those energies needed for growth and development. Their systems were fatigued. Cumulative micro traumas over time without allowing enough time for recovery caused fatigue, illness injury and stress fracture. The other very obvious reason was that the cadets wore the so-called "tennis-shoes" which even the ball-boys of the tennis-court do not wear now. Those thin-soled shoes with no shock absorbing quality were worn by the cadets during the PT and Sports. They jumped and ran on the hard surface and if they suffered from stress fracture - especially the younger ones, it should not have surprised anyone! The matter was discussed and those age-old tennis shoes were replaced by some good quality shoes having shock absorbing quality. Gradually, the incident of stress fracture reduced to a very large extent.

There was yet another problem which

needed to be addressed on top priority - that was the problem of punctuality. The sports games period used to be from 4 to 5 p.m. But some cadets usually came late by 5 to 10 minutes. The senior cadet did try to rectify them by punishing them to do front rolls but some or the other cadet still turned up late. Watching this phenomenon for a week, I told the cadets one day that thereafter the latecomers will be punished by me. Of course the punishment will be the same front rolls, but it would be slightly different. The cadets coming late will only give orders and I will do the front rolls! There was a pin-drop silence for some time. Some must have thought that I had gone crazy! But when I went to the ground the next day I found the entire team of 30 athletics sitting there in the pavilion since 3.55 p.m. No people ever come to my period late even by a minute thereafter.

I told them in very clear terms being late amounts to indiscipline, which could not be tolerated. In my dictionary spelling of Discipline starts with letter 'P' - which stands for punctuality. It demands self-discipline and understanding of the value of time without which it was not possible for me to impart athletics training to them. The price of discipline is less than the pain of regret! In this connection, I want to mention that if we want the cadets to learn. 'On - dot punctuality' - our programming should be pragmatic. When we keep the Hobby period from 3 to 4 p.m. and sports from 4 to 5 p.m. how can we expect the cadets to be present on the play field at 4 p.m. sharp - when they have to go to their dorms, change their clothes, shoes and cover a distance of about 400 meters to go to the ground?

Tackling a few of such problems, I started coaching the cadets whose first target was to complete in the District Athletic meet. They had been 'taking part' in that meet for quite some time but the only thing worth writing back home used to be that



they "also ran"! But they were quite happy with the mere participation. They had learnt that what is important in sports and game is to "take part" and not to win! And they did exactly that. They took part and never won! Unfortunately, they had not read the ensuring clause of that Olympic motto which says "important thing in life is not to triumph but to struggle"! Mere participation is meaning less. One has to take part to fight it out, to struggle to succeed for that he has to work hard and prepare mentally and physically to win. He has to determine to go there to win. I narrated to them the examples of the great athletes like Wilma Rudolph a polio victim in her childhood who became Olympic champion in 1956 with sheer guts Jesse Owens; Harrison Dillard born in very poor family still shook the world with their performances. Incidentally I had the great fortune to be coached by that great man Jesse Owens for a couple of days and I told them what he said touching the sweat on my forehead is I love it keep it flowing that the way to succeed.

Gradually, their attitude changed. They started working hard. Coming in the morning even a couple of hours before P.T time and worked with utmost sincerity. In their inter section athletics created a couple of new records and later won the District Championship in the senior division beating even the Sports College. That victory furthered developed their self confidence and they wanted to take part in more of such competition which were organised by all India Public Schools Association but since RIMC was not a member of that body it could not take part in it Col Mangain, himself did not like to confine the RIMC to mere frog in the well type of existence. He wanted to give exposure to the cadets to test their strengths against the other schools and college of the

country and see where they stood. He got the RIMC affiliated with the All India Public Schools Assn and even hosted its annual conference in our college. The delegates were very highly impressed by the activities of the college and also allotted that years of annual championship to the RIMC.

With the organization of an All India Public School Athletic Championship a new chapter began. The Moti Lal Nehru, Sports School, Rai, had been winning the championship for the last 15 years in a row and they entered the arena strutting like a turkey. But they got a shock of their life when the RIMC gave them a thorough beating. Perturbed the Principal of the MNS could not take the defeat by the "new comers" gracefully and observed actually this is not our athletic team. These are our footballers' basketball players. We will show you our team in the next meet!

The next meet was at YPS Patiala where the "actual" team of MNS came to show their prowess. But the Rimcollians gave them a thorough beating once again. Probably the YPS track was not up to the mark so they decided to hold the next championship on their home ground and beat these new comers in front of their home crowd. Incidentally, it was on the same track where I had won the National Championship beating the then Asian Champion Lavy Pinto way back in 1956. The story was the same at Rai. The RIMC again beat them hollow in the home ground. Ultimately, they raised their hands up in acknowledgement of the prowess of the "amateurs" who had beaten the professionals thrice in a row. These were other competitions too in which the Rimcollians showed their prowess. But somehow I was not very happy with those victories of the athletic team. The purpose of all sports and games and the PT is to

develop all the five bio-motors speed strength stamina flexibility and the coordinating abilities such as balance and agility in the cadets. Each of these skills must be trained frequently, ideally on daily basis, mastery of applied skills such as running, jumping, throwing, kicking need to be focus at sense.

Specialization comes much later the system followed was just the opposite. The day the newcomers joined the college they were directed to different games and sports. It appeared to me like putting the cart before the horse. Specialization before general fitness. Col Prem Prakash had taken over the command then and I discussed the issue with him and he agreed to bring about a change in the system. It was decided that all new comers will be in the athletic wing under me initially and will go to the other games & sports later. During this period, I could test out their genetic capacities of speed, stamina, strength, flexibilities and train them to develop those skills. The senior athletic too, helped me to train them. We introduced the proper method of athletic training like sprint drills circuit training medicines ball training harness running stair running up hill and downhill running etc. they were taught the correct systems of warming up cooling down. These multilateral training are essential before specialization begins latest researches have also established that the aerobic endurance can be developed to about 70% during the period from puberty to adolescence the time the cadets are in the RIMC. This is also a very important period to maintain their flexibility which starts decreasing from the aged of 10 and the speed too can be developed systematically in the period but as the command changed the old system of specialization from day-one\* was brought back because that was the system which was followed

when the new Commandant was a cadet in RIMC, "Natural resistance to change"!

There was yet another great problem faced by me and my fellow coaches of other games - the problem of paucity of time. It was just not possible to get the cadets to do warming up, learn the technique of the event, cool down and also develop their bio-motor within just 60 minutes. To solve this problem at least to some extent I had suggested that the work of development of the bio-motors should be undertaken by the PT Staff besides their work of training on the vaulting horse etc. In fact the work of Physical Training is only the job of development of these bio motors. But it was not possible to implement that programme as the PT Staff could possibly not understand the science of exercise physiology. It requires, planning at macro and micro- level for cadets of junior and senior groups and monitoring their progress. That is a very unfortunate aspect of our training. After all the PT and sports are just two sides of the same coin- the physiological development of the individuals along with an important trait of their personality that of sportsmanship. This is a critical period of their growth a period of foundation of all those leiomotors. Just as the authorities have entrusted the work of their mental development, academic equation to very qualified masters for which there is very well structured programme, there is no such realization on their part to also see that foundations of the physiological development are equally strong. It is not a question of training the cadets in a few games and a few stunts in PT but laying a solid foundation of the health of our officers of our defence forces. For this there has to be knowledgeable person to look after this very important aspect of their physiological development. He could also be entrusted with the nutrition part of the diets of the cadets which is an important part of training. In this connection I am reminded of what Col Mamgain had asked me once as to what exactly is the reason of some sort of an undergrowth of the cadets vis-à-vis the Donatives or Cambrians etc who being in the same age group are much bigger and stronger since I am not expert on nutrition I could not give any particular

reason but only a vague reply on the deficiency in their diet which I am mentioning here for consideration of the authorities concerned.

Proteins are necessary for growth, building up new tissues and repairing the injured ones, structural elements, tendons and contractile elements in the muscles. All Enzymes are made of proteins. Proteins also serve as potential source of energy- each gram yielding 4 gms calories. Body needs of energy however must be satisfied before proteins can be efficiently used for growth and repairs. If the diet does not provide sufficient energy through the Carbohydrates and fats, proteins are catabolized for energy rather than for building and repairs of tissues. The cadets as I had seen during my stay in the RIMC, were busy from morning till evening doing multifarious duties even till late nights attending to the 'work' given by the seniors. Fasting overtraining in order to reduce their weights to meet the demands of boxing strategies was their regular annual feature, which also gave big jolt to their growth besides bleeding noses'. Under such conditions the growth of cadets is affected it is but natural. My plea about deficiency in diet being the main cause of their undergrowth is strengthened by the fact that the same cadets shoot up in their height and weight in just 6 months when they join the NDA where they get very well balanced diet: even when the amount of physical work that they are made to do is far greater. I am sure a re-reverberation of the diets of this cadet not what the documents spell out but what is on their dining table will confirm my views and since it is a very important aspect of the future Defenders of our country the authorities concerned might think of releasing little more funds for the children of our country who are getting a daily dose of patriotism will also get a little more balanced daily diet.

Someone might question my over-indulgence in the affairs of the RIMC to which I most humbly plead guilty. But for this guilt, I hold only a Rimcollian responsible, who had taught me, by his own examples, to do one's duty without fear or favour - The name of that great man is Gen KS Thimayya.

# Reader's Corner



KS Thimayya's residence

Jul 28, 2012

Dear Mr Sidharth Mishra,

I am a Rimcollian (Shivaji 1955-59 ). I made it a point to visit Coorg couple of months ago. Gen Thimmaya's place is in shambles. Totally uncared for infact cows are roaming around. May be you can do something by mentioning it in The Rimcollian.

I got my copy of Mar 2012 after my long absence from Cuttack due to my prostrate detected of cancer. I got it operated in Medanta Gurgaon. I will make it a point to keep in touch. Its really sad to hear about Gen Viru. May his soul rest in peace.

Best wishes.

Commodore

B K Mohanti VSM (Retd)