

Vol V, Issue-2 (Bi-Annual) | October 2011

The Rimcollian

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

If you wanted the sky I would write across the sky in letters,
That would soar a thousand feet high,



**To Sir,
with Love**

Late Mr RC Singhal 1926—2011



editor's box

Dear All,

A few days back Col Arun Mamgain had dispatched a very passionate mail on the absence of the globetrotting Rimcollians, who failed to make it to Dehra for the memorial services of late Mr RC Singhal. I was in Dehradun over the weekend and made it a point not to visit Mr Singhal's house lest it be construed that I was trying to make amends. In our society we try to make amends for all the disservice we may have caused to a departed soul, while it (soul is neuter gender) was alive, by registering presence at such memorial services. Sorrow is a very personal matter and its best shared when the person is alive. After joining journalism, I had the opportunity to get associated very closely with Mr Singhal. First when I persuaded him to write for the Platinum Jubilee volume (1997) -- "Where Gallantry is Tradition". He not only wrote a piece but also sifted through huge heaps of papers in the archives to give the book a shape. He mentioned to me, while handing over the article, that he was under tremendous pressure to write some good things about certain individuals. "I resisted those pressures and I have been honest with the text," he said and I admired him and took him as my Guru in journalism too.

Few years later, he called me up from Dehra (on my office landline and never on mobile) and said that he wanted a book on Cambrian Hall, as the school was celebrating its Golden Jubilee. It was a year long exercise with several visits to Doon and once again he revealed several new facets of his personality. His red-inked pen would never err while proof reading.

And what service did the school render to him, to which he gave his life. In the early 1990s, I recall pitch battles being fought in the ROBA meetings for allowing retired teachers in the Old Boys Dinner in the cadet's mess on the night of March 13. I wondered how was the man who attended every old boys dinner since 1948 till he retired in 1984 was kept out of it for several years because there was no provision for the retired masters to be seated. The retired masters were allowed for dinner only around Platinum Jubilee. Singhal was forgiving and attended the dinner for several years thereafter but the other RC (Sharma) never came. Poor LN Thakur trots in on every March 13 looking for a place for himself, the school has seldom cared to fix a seat for him. We would all rush to write obits and attend memorials when he too is gone but while he is alive heap all humiliations on him. Mr Thakur contributed Rs 5000/- to ROBA Trust way back in 1998, much before most of us did.

Before somebody points out that Singhal was a much taller personality than Thakur ever could be, let me share with you that the humiliations heaped on Singhal were bigger and the man indeed was at times hurt. Soon after he died we rushed to raise demand for

naming a building and a scholarship after him. While he was alive how much did we care for him. I recall an event during the reunion when the Masters' Club at RIMC was being inaugurated. Some Professor Qureshi, presumably principal of one of the Catchpole Schools in Pakistan, was called to do the honours. Our own Grand Master stood in the crowd as an onlooker, wondering how come a Rimcollian commandant, who was also his student, could forget him. Could there have been a bigger and better dignitary than Mr RC Singhal to inaugurate the Masters' Club? This Professor (which I am sure he was not) Qureshi, with whom I interacted at length, was not a patch on our Guru. He certainly did not deserve to inaugurate the building with Mr Singhal being present there in the crowd. Its when we forget our own to pester the Pakistanis unnecessarily that we invite comments like the one from Wg Cdr Unni Kartha.

At another time in the ROBA, when Gen BC Khanduri was at the helm in Uttarakhand, we got a resolution passed to work towards getting Mr Singhal a Padma award. The school was assigned to do the spade work and I promised to get the required following-up once it was in the secretariat. The file never moved, and if it did, I was never informed about the file's progress. His name never appeared in the list of Padma awardees. But Mr Singhal was happy with the fact that his students had considered him worthy for a Padma award. Nonetheless, while launching The Pioneer on September 12' 2007 we did a public felicitation of Mr Singhal with the serving Commandant (Col Prem Prakash) and a former Commandant (Col Mamgain) escorting him to the dais to be handed over the scroll by the Chief Minister and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr Singhal never believed in keeping debts. We had sanctioned a complimentary copy of the newspaper for his residence from editor's discretionary quota. He not only insisted on paying for it but a few months later he even called up our marketing department to find out why they never sought an advertisement from Cambrian Hall. He would release small R-Day and I-Day advertisements. Monetarily it did not have much value but it meant a lot for me as he supported his chela's enterprise in his own BIG WAY.

Mr RC Singhal was a true embodiment of Guru-Chela relationship. The great Guru he was he must have forgiven all his chelas who did not attend his memorial service. But its for the chelas to atone for the disservice and humiliation we may have heaped on our Guru, while he was alive.

Viva RIMC, Viva Rimcollians

Sidharth Mishra
Ranjit (1979-83)

24/8/2011



Chander's Note

It has been an eventful past few months. Time and tide wait for no man nor do events. A few events are worth noting thus with the passing away of Mr. R C Singhal the doyen of excellence of education in RIMC a commemorate issue as a tribute to our guru was called for. We hope you like reading the same just as we very much enjoyed bringing the same to you. One of the great things about Mr. Singhal was his ability to connect to each and every one of his students in person. We all always felt he had a special relationship with each and every one of us. The articles that we bring to you try and cover all facets of him as a guru, a human being, a role model teacher and a family man. Words are not enough for him and his memory will go with each and every one of us.

Not only was he revered by us alone but also the establishment of Cambrian Hall as well. The way they reacted and still continue to look after his kith and kin speaks volumes both for them as an establishment and the respect love and affection that he attained.

On other areas we live in interesting times with a brand of youngsters lead by Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia taking on a Herculean challenge to raise adequate funds by next Rimcollians. We wish them God speed.

I wish to compliment a lot of Rimcollians on the good quality of debate that goes on in the net. It speaks volumes of us as a group.

Here is wishing all those in and out of service "Happy Hunting", till we meet again at the next Rimcollians.

Brigadier (retd) CSThapa
Pratap (64-69)



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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Mr RC Singhal was a colossus who benevolently touched several young lives during his 37-year-long innings at the Rashtriya Indian Military College. We often take pride in the fact that RIMC is a leading school of the nation, a fact now corroborated by some of the credible marketing surveys too. It was contribution of the teachers like Late Mr Singhal, Mr GS Bisht and Mr RC Sharma and their other contemporaries, which helped RIMC overcome the roadblocks in the nascent years of our freedom and achieve its present stature.

Pre-Independence we enjoyed prime position by the way of British patronage. Post-Independence, while continuing with our traditions, we developed the skill and wherewithal to stand-up in a competitive world, free of any patronage. The contribution of Mr Singhal's generation is seminal for it helped the school to develop these skills and create a position of pre-eminence for itself.

This issue of the *Rimcollian* is a tribute to our great Gurus who lived and breathed RIMC all their lives. May God give their soul peace!

(DC Kumaria)
Air Marshal
President
Rimcollian Old Boys Association

Date : 22 Sep 11

contents



2-5 Our Surrogate Father
Extraordinaire

6-7 Modern age
Dronacharya passes away

8-9 Farewell
Grand Guru

10-11 Guru to all,
Papa to me

12 MR RC SINGHAL
(1926 - 2011)
Rara Avis

13-20 To Sir
with Love

21-25 Roving Eye

26 The resident of
Bungalow no 40

28 Modern Age
Dronacharya passes away

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Name	Year at RIMC	Section	Expired on
COL BACHAN PRASAD VERMA	1956-60	PRA	27-Feb-11
LT COL ASHWINI KUMAR SETHI	1958-62	PRA	29-Mar-11
COL AK TIWARI	1963-67	SHI	19-Apr-11
MR MANJEET KATARIA	2002-06	SHI	25-May-11
CAPT BREJINDER SINGH	1962-67	SHI	Jun-11
COL RD VASHISTH	1942-47	KIT	21-Jun-11
LT COL PAR CHOUDHURI	1937-42	ROB	Jul-11
MR BHUPENDRA KUMAR YADAV	1971-75	PRA	7-Jul-11
COL NARBADESH KUMAR SINHA	1932-39	ROB	31-Jul-11
MR BHARAT PAL SINGH	1967-1972	RAN	24-Sep-11

Our Surrogate Father Extraordinaire

An Eulogy to **RAMESH CHANDRA SINGHAL**
by **Wg Cdr UNNI KARTHA**

- In England they philosophically say, 'The King is dead, long live the King'.
- Almost in the same tone, with more reverence, Sidharth wrote, 'RCS shall live, till the last of his pupil lives'.
- In this hour of mortal tragedy, I cannot find words to describe the loss, the words to write an appropriate eulogy about this incredibly awesome man.
- Nothing I say can better the eulogy in 'Pioneer' this morning, an eulogy to this venerable, erudite and humane guide, a teacher, a surrogate father extraordinaire.

I met RCS Sir last, few months ago, 45 years after leaving RIMC. My classmates of 62-66 (Mamu Mangain, Surdy Jasbir, Tinda Arvind, Tota TJ, and I, all of us by now senior citizens ourselves), we went to his house to pay our respect at 1900 hrs on 11th Mar this year. He was at the door to receive us, impeccably turned out in his characteristic tweed coat and tie. In my mind's eye, I could imagine him just as he was on the day I first met him in 1962. He did not look a day older, he was as ram rod straight and awesome as he was when I first met him. My elder brother and I had arrived at RIMC in a 'Tanga', and near the Commandant's office stopped to ask directions from a smart gentleman who was walking along briskly in the same direction. 'Oh.... I will show you where to go', he had said and got into the Tanga along with us and took us to the awesome senior ante room. While my brother and he chatted, banter between two people of the same age, I surreptitiously observed the gentleman whom I subsequently got to learn from, and to love, as Mr Chips, RCS Sir, Pratap section master. I was then put into Ranjit and did not see much of him, at least till much later, till I was appearing for ISC and NDA, more or less at the same time. That is what I thought, or what I recollected as I went to see him



Mr RC Singhal with visiting President Dr S Radhakrishnan

at his house in Mar 45 yrs later.

In the fraction of the second that we took contemplating whether to touch his feet, as we wanted to do, RCS stuck out his hand and shook our's, one by one. 'Thank you for coming to see me', he said in a melodiously clear and affectionate voice. When my turn came to shake his hands, I found that his hands were frail but his grip was firm and determined. I also noticed that he patted me on my shoulder twice, something he had never done before, something which he did not do with others along with me that night.

He then told his son, 'Please offer them a drink, they are special'.

While RCS Sir chatted with my peer group one by one, I stood aside sipping my drink, chatting with his son and DIL, rather shy and reluctant to face the frail old man. My peer group that night were illustrious boys in school, very accomplished men afterwards, RCS had reasons to be proud of them. I was unsure whether he would remember me, or whether he would be happy to see me. After all, I was one of his worst pupils, a problem child. After about 45 mts of chatting with others, he gestured to me. 'Come and sit next to me', he said patting the sofa. I went and sat at the edge of the sofa, I am sure he noticed my hesitation and discomfort.

'Sir, my name is Kartha, UG Kartha', I said hesitatingly. 'I doubt whether you will remember me'. I spoke loudly, assuming that he may have some problem hearing.

'Did you have a problem jumping off the 7 mtr board in NDA?', he asked looking into my eye. His eyes were twinkling, the corner of his lips were twitching with merriment.

'No, Sir, I had no problem, I jumped often from 10 mtr, afterwards even qualified as a paratrooper', I said absentmindedly, wondering whether the old man had gone senile. Suddenly my mind jumped out of my head, about 50 yrs backwards. Memory came flooding back. Havildar Major Limbu lining us up on the 3 mtr board in the indoor swimming pool in our first term in RIMC. We were to jump into the pool and swim one length to pass the physical. One by one, everyone ahead of me jumped, and



Mr RC Singhal addressing students at Cambrian Hall days before he passed away

'SIR, MY NAME IS KARTHA, UG KARTHA', I SAID HESITATINGLY. 'I DOUBT WHETHER YOU WILL REMEMBER ME'. I SPOKE LOUDLY, ASSUMING THAT HE MAY HAVE SOME PROBLEM HEARING. "WHEN DO YOU THINK IT IS A GOOD AGE TO STOP CRYING, AND TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER"

swam. Then came my turn, I stood there immobile, my legs weighing like a bag of cement. I did not know how to swim. I never told anyone, no one had asked me either. Limbu Sahib got impatient and let fly a long burst with his whistle, 'Jump Karo Cadet', he shouted. In the closed environment of the indoor pool, the long burst of whistle reverberated and echoed with menacing overtone. I was so frightened that I jumped, not into the pool but to the side. I fell half in the water and half outside on the edge, my face hit the pool edge and my nose and upper lip started to bleed copiously. I started to cry. I don't know what RCS was doing there. He gathered me up in his arms and ran with me held to his chest to the MI Room next door. While waiting for Matron to prepare her sewing needle, to stitch up my lip and nose, RCS asked me very kindly, 'How old are you?'

'I am 11 yrs old Sir', I said, sitting up and drawing myself away from him.

'When do you think it is a good age to stop crying, and to be a good soldier?' he asked with his characteristic straight face, I could see his lips twitching in a suppressed smile. 'The matron is going to stitch you up, it is going to be quite



THE MASTERS OF THE YEARS: (From Left to Right) Mr K Kumar, Mr GS Bisht, Mr RC Singhal, Comdt Col DK Chawla, AO Maj PKK Raju and Mr RC Sharma

painful, would you rather cry now or afterwards?', he asked with much compassion, like a father.

'I will not cry Sir', I told him with new found determination of a 11 yrs old. Afterwards, I have not cried, at least not for silly things like pain or injury.

'I haven't cried much afterwards Sir', I said to him very seriously that night, 50 yrs later, with all the seriousness of a 61 yrs old man. I wanted him to be proud of me, as much as a son desires that his father is proud of him. I was all of 11 yrs, all over again.

'You write well', RCS told me nodding his head. 'But you still use big words and make spelling mistakes'. He was smiling now, his eyes wrinkled in good humour. My mind somersaulted again, 48 years backwards this time. I was in the quarantine with Measles, all by myself in the building next to the MI Room. RCS had come by, and saw me there. 'How are you?', he had enquired.

'I am bored Sir, I wish everyone had caught Measles', I said to him quite seriously. I did not have wit or wisdom then.

'Ummmm', he said with a straight face, 'I cannot help you there', he said.

'But I will come by in the evening again'.

That evening he brought me Enid Blyton's 'Five On A Trip', which set me off on a career of reading. I now read everything that I can lay my hands on, with as much aggression and zest as soldiering. Writing was only a progression, though I confess that I have yet to master the English language. He came by every evening that I was in hospital, and encouraged me to start writing short stories as 'time pass'.

'How is your health?', I asked with genuine concern, back being a 61 yr old.

'Oh, I am OK, as good as it can get', he replied waiving off my concern. 'Do you still like puzzles?', he asked.

'My god, this man remembers each day of my childhood, as if it was yesterday', I mumbled under my breath.

I could remember him sitting in his Spartan office, the corner of the teachers room, with ledgers and note books piled up end to end. He would call me often to counsel me. My homework usually consisted of doodles or ink blotches and holes in the paper where I had broken off the nib of my pen (the dip dip type pens those days). I did that on purpose sometimes to avoid doing home work. I

see that you don't like to do home work, is that it?', he once asked me, in very gentle tones.

'Oh, I don't like anyone marking my mistakes in Red Ink, that is why I don't do home work', I told him with the irrefutable logic of a 12 yr old. He sat there silently for a while. 'Try to do things for yourself, do it in such a way that you feel proud of what you have done, satisfy yourself and don't worry about others, whether they like what you have done', he said afterwards, with empathy and affection. In all my adult life, whenever I have had to shovel shit of any kind, I have tried to make a 'Taj Mahal' with it, and I have never forgotten what he said to me that day. I do things now, everything, to satisfy myself and have had trouble only because I am my own biggest critic. No one writes red ink remarks in my note books, not any more, I write it myself.

I was very bad in mathematics. Once he called me to his office and gave me a simple puzzle and told me to sit there and solve it, 'I challenge you to solve it', he said, rather seriously. I solved it within a few minutes and gave it back to him.

'Hmmmm', he mused. 'You are intelligent enough to solve puzzles, but

you need someone to throw a challenge at you each time, only then you would want to use logic and your brain'. He was silent for some time, looking at me. 'Mathematics is a science of logic, do you think you can challenge yourself to try and solve it like a puzzle?', he advised. Afterwards, whatever I did was a challenge, a mountain that I had to climb motivating myself to do it, and I have never forgotten RCS's advice.

'I don't want to study', I told him another time, when he had advised all my peer group to appear for external ISC exam.

'I just want to join NDA and become an officer in AF, so that I don't have to study'. I was rather convinced that was how things were going to be. He just smiled, with unfathomable patience, 'OK, do this for me, would you?. Can you show me whether you are capable of doing it?', he asked.

I went along like a meek puppy, I did the ISC, did it well too, at that time thinking that I was doing it for him. Afterwards, learning and studying became a never ending routine and in the AF there was no respite, every day I had to learn something new, there were never ending examinations. In retrospect, there was none that I wanted to please more, he was my surrogate father. He was a surrogate father to everyone in my peer group.

Sipping a drink with him in Mar this year, the years shrunk, I was like a child



Mr RC Sharma, Mr RC Singhal, Mr Hugh Catchpole, Col KN Sardana and Mr VG Nene

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all over again, basking in the unrequited love, affection and pride that RCS bestowed on me. In so many ways he has given me much. His valuable time, attention, patience, advice, wisdom, and above all encouragement, more than any of the others in my peer group who were better and hence did not require all of it. I required all of it and more, he knew that I was a maverick. The last thing he said to me that night is something very cheerful, wisdom that comes with age and exposure.

'Once your father wrote to me', he said conversationally. 'He wanted to know why you did not excel in RIMC'.

'What did you tell him?' I asked with insatiable curiosity.

'I told him that some seeds take longer to grow into a tree', he paused. 'When the sapling is good, with the right amount of water, sunlight, manure and a bit of encouragement, they will all grow into tall flowering trees'. He then smiled enigmatically.

'Sir, I think what I am today is all because of your effort', I said with all the sincerity that I could muster.

"No, No", he shook his head with mock gravity, 'You did all the growing and running, all by yourself, I was just a sign board in your life'.

Ramesh Chandra Singhal, my surrogate father Sir, I wish you bon voyage on your eternal journey. I salute thee in farewell. In death you are closer to me than the distances that you have chosen to go. You shall live on, till the last of us who love you, and owe you, fall in our own mortality.

God bless your soul.



Mr RC Singhal with Maj Gen (Retd) Chinu Mahanti and his other former students



Receiving an award from the governor Mr Surjit Singh Barnala

Modern age Dronacharya passes away

Jaskiran Chopra ■ Dehradun

Singhal died in harness as the day he retired from RIMC till today, he was with the Cambrian Hall School as its principal. He guided the school following the death of its founder

Aug 6: It was indeed an unfortunate day for the Doon valley on Saturday as it lost one of its legendary figures — a dedicated teacher and academician — who taught hundreds of young men at the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun for 37 years between 1947 and 1984 and thereafter served as Principal of Cambrian Hall school for 27

years. With the passing away of Mr Ramesh Chandra Singhal, an entire era of commitment and sincerity to the profession of teaching has passed away. He was the epitome of discipline and knowledge and it is no surprise that two of his former students are today the heads of the two most important and prestigious military institutions of the country namely Indian Military Academy (IMA) and RIMC. Col Pankaj Kumaria is the commandant of RIMC while Lt Gen Manvendra Singh is the commandant of IMA.

Mr Singhal passed away at 11.30 on Saturday morning after a brief illness. He was 84.

From 1947 to 1984, Singhal was at the RIMC, first as a master of mathematics, then as House Master and Vice Principal. He filled in the vacuum created post-Independence by the exit of the British Masters like Hugh Catchpole and others from the RIMC in 1953. At the inauguration of RIMC, the Prince of Wales had stressed the importance of "the first few blows on the anvil of life that give the human weapon that set and temper which carries one through life's battles". The Royal guest also urged the administrators of the school not only to keep the high ideals of public schools in England but also foster and maintain the old Indian spirit of mutual reverence which bound together the "guru and his chela". Hugh Catchpole and Mr Singhal were the finest examples of how a teacher could mould and strengthen the personality of a student. Singhal carried forward the legacy of the fine British masters.

Singhal died in harness as the day he retired from RIMC till today, he was with the Cambrian Hall School as its principal. He guided the school following the death of its founder Col Shashi Shamsher Jung Bahadur Rana. The Cambrian Hall has declared that it will close for a couple of days to mourn the loss.

But it was during his tenure at RIMC where he made a seminal contribution to the nation. Since 1990 all the RIMC Commandants have been Singhal's former students. Till date, he had been attending all the reunions and other functions held at the RIMC. Around 1200 commissioned defence officers of our country passed through the capable hands of this "Dronacharya" while they were at the RIMC before going to NDA and thereafter to IMA, AFA and Naval Academy. Several General officers in the three services Defence Services chiefs like Gen S Padmanabhan and Air Chief Marshal NC Suri were taught by the inimitable Singhal. His 'chelas' outside the services too swear in his name.

"His silent service to the nation would be remembered by those whom

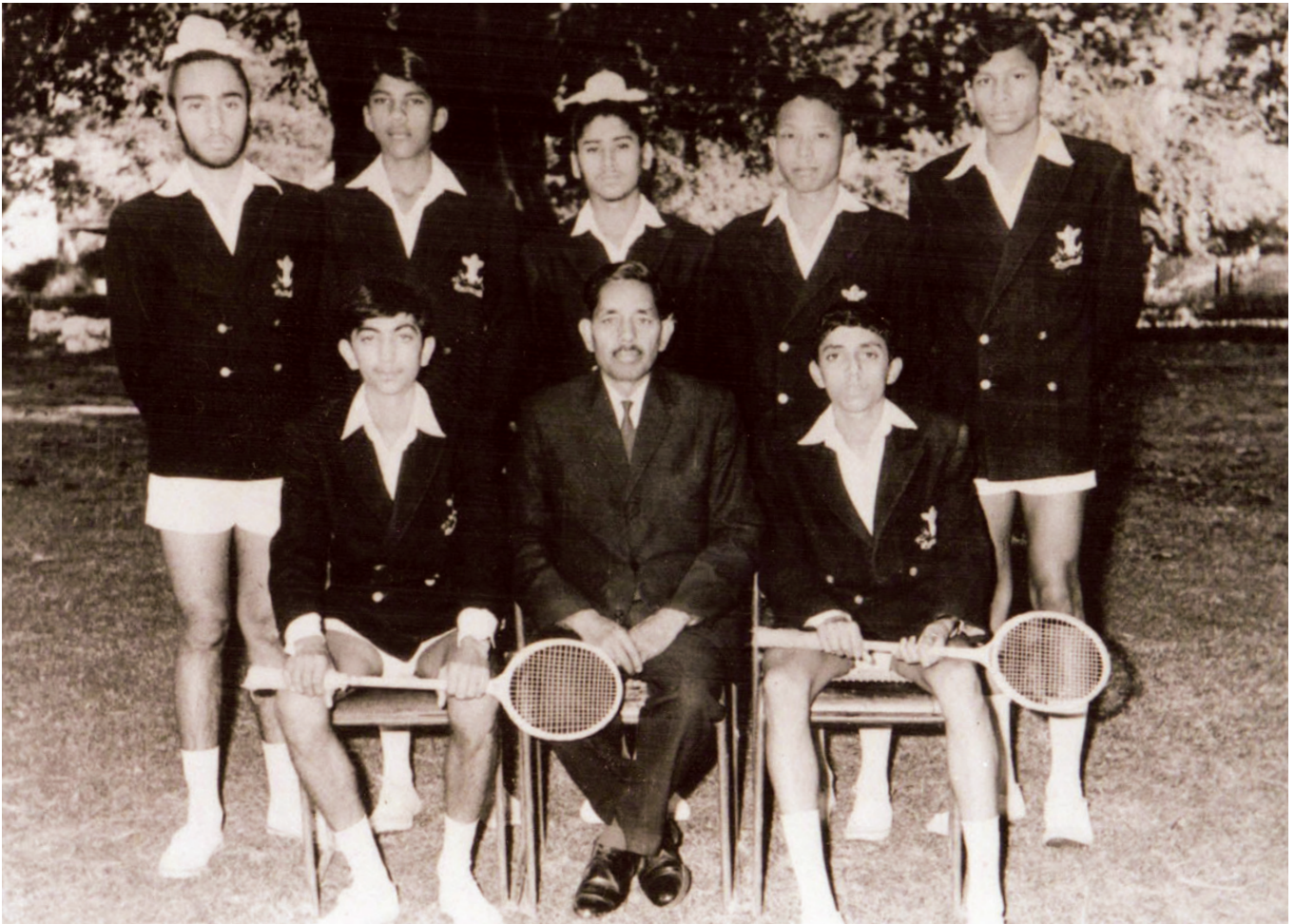


Receiving the pride of doon award from Mr Subir Raha, then Chairman ONGC

TILL DATE, HE HAD
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he tutored," said Sidharth Mishra, editor-in-charge of The Pioneer (Doon edition) from Delhi. Brig (Retd) CS Thapa, who is a media person now, spoke to "The Pioneer" from Astha Hospital and said "Singhal symbolized an era of goodness and true learning. Teachers like him are tough to find now." He said that it was a sad day in the lives of thousands of Rimcollians as well as Cambrianites. Singhal had been awarded the "Pride of Doon" award some years ago. He was not just Doon's pride but that of the entire nation. Doon will not be able to get over this loss. Singhal is survived by two sons -- Sandeep, who works with the State Bank of India and Mukul, who is a Colonel in the Army, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

(Courtesy The Pioneer, 07 August 2011)



Mr RC Singhal with Pratap section Squash Team

Farewell Grand Guru

Brigadier CS Thapa (Retd)

It was a heavy forecast day with thick moisture laden clouds and what was uppermost in my mind was the impending game of golf in the afternoon as I loaded by golf bag into the car. These days the rain gods play truant so our four ball has started afternoon golf as we observed that it rains less in the afternoon. It took one call from Sidharth Mishra to announce the sad news to me followed by an SMS from Col Arun Mangain, the former Commandant of Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun.

How many times do single calls set

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the ball rolling for us one wonders in hindsight? Mr. R C Singhal the Dronacharya of RIMC and Cambrian Hall had passed away after a brief illness. As one climbed up the hospital steps to pay homage to the departed soul the images of the man who was our most revered guru came flooding to my memory. He lay there calm and quiet on a hospital bed with his daughter in law Mamata holding him.

The relationship between a guru and a shishya in an all boys boarding school when you are at an impressionable age is most precious and the first thought that

struck me besides the pain was that we always took our gurus to be infallible, unlike soldiering where life and death is a just bullet with your name.

The Guru takes on the role of the father and also imparts knowledge that we search which our parents cannot give us thus the necessity of formal education. These teachers of ours have imparted us gyan and now the source of knowledge remains no more is that not a great loss.

Thus the pain of a shishya is two fold that of a father like figure and that of a guru. Currently of course the modern teachers state that the student only wishes them they if one is their class teacher and once he or she leaves the class the salutation vanishes. Thank god we do not belong to this generation and thank heavens our teachers taught us right from wrong very early and firmly in life when the first few blows temper the steel.

The great thing about him was that he after nearly 64 years of service died in harness. I would also like to say full marks to the management of the Cambrain Hall that they treated him like a family member, and organized one of the most befitting funerals. The school management represented by Rani Chander Raja Vijaya Lakshmi Rana was there at the hospital and she and her son Krishna and son in law Col Dahiya ensured that the departed soul got its due.

Such acts today in a materialistic world where everything counts in monetary terms are great trend setters. It shows to the world at large and people that all hope for mankind is not lost and we humans still have values that we cherish.

The great thing about our guru was his humanness and a rare sense of humour. The way he taught us maths was infallible. Fed up with our class of naughty boys whom he had handled dime a dozen he taught us the value of under root 2 which none of us could muster. Just think of a very normal thing in your life "I Love a Girl i.e. 1.414", where I stood for 1, love a four lettered word for 4, 1 for a, and similarly girl for 4.



THE GURU TAKES ON THE ROLE OF THE FATHER AND ALSO IMPARTS KNOWLEDGE THAT WE SEARCH WHICH OUR PARENTS CANNOT GIVE US THUS THE NECESSITY OF FORMAL EDUCATION

One day we were at the receiving end of another section during a cricket match. The team bowled spin and the other section was hammering us. In walked Mr RC Singhal, our section master, and stated in his logical style, "this chap is a fine hockey player. With a thin hockey stick he hits the ball further than a cricket bat. Now if you gentlemen bowl slowly to him he will hammer you some more."

We changed the attack what we used to call fast bowling and got success.

One of the things that stood him tall and earned all our respects to him was

his integrity. This was one quality that he carried and the only possessions that he had with him was his kith and kin, no material possessions except our well wishes.

There was a sea of humanity to bid him farewell, it consisted of all, but above all, the heavens opened up twice to bless him gently, once when he finally left home and the second time at Haridwar, just a slight drizzle as if to say Lord Indra welcomes you.

Farewell great guru from all of us, and thank you for imparting knowledge nonstop to many grateful students.



The Happy family (Standing in front of Mrs Singhal's Photograph)

Guru to all, Papa to me

Mamta Singhal

I distinctly remember the cold winter evening when I stepped into my in-laws house which was located at the historical 13 Young Road the Principal House of Cambrian Hall. Little did I realize that it would be a life time of experience and one day I would leave this picturesque place we call home with out my father in law? As I look back at those wonderful 19 years long association that I shared with my father

in law, a smile comes to my face and I light up, but than the smile slowly gives way to sadness as the grim reality dawns upon me and I glance at the room across the door is shut, it never was locked, during the last 19 years. My father reminded me the other day that I came to this house as a daughter in law, gradually transformed into a daughter and finally played the role of a nurse and mother during my father in laws final few days.

"Papa" as I used to call him affectionately was a man of measured words. One could predict with certainty the time and what the requirement would be. He was a man of frugal requirements, he lived saintly, was self disciplined and had a Spartan life style. He was rigid yet malleable in his own ways, deeply religious man he entrusted the job of "pooja" to me and always used to say Mamta, "I hope you pray for me too", and he felt that I did an excellent job of it.



Flanked By his sons Sandeep and Mukul, both Rimcollians

There was never a moment that I felt the absence of a mother in law, he was always so caring and had time to listen to me, a word of advice, guidance and compliment was always on his lips. One incident that is deeply and distinctly imprinted in my mind is of my confinement days when I was expecting my son. I used to skip meals very often and Papa used to confirm from the cook, he used to get upset, and finally when he could take it no more he made me sign an agreement to have at least one chapatti every morning and evening, which he constantly monitored with due diligence. What was I to know that after 17 years I was to sign a similar agreement with my father in law during his final days as he was having problem swallowing, I reminded him of our agreement, he slowly smiled and offered no resistance, but thereafter, the agreement did not last?

I did not have the privilege of seeing

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him during his RIMC days, but what ever I heard and saw made me feel proud of him. His day started with morning assembly in CH and ended when the gates of the school were locked by the night watch man. He did this for 27 long years of which. 10 years I had the proud privilege to be, by his side.

Both my children were born at CH in front of him, he blessed them in his own silent way, played with them, took part in their birth day celebrations in his own way. I wish and pray to God that his blessings and love guides them and remains with them as they step into this world and life ahead.

He was a saint and I see him every where and in every thing I look around, he is Omni present in my life in his own special way. Whenever I think of him my eyes moisten and go hazy, but that is all that I can do, may you be Always Happy Papa, where ever you are.

MR RC SINGHAL (1926 - 2011)

Rara Avis

The cruel hands of fate, inflicted a loss inexplicable when on 6th of August, 2011, our beloved RCS Sir, the doyen of education and erudition, breathed his last. With

his passing away, an era has come to an end - an era of 36 years of devoted, self-less and unobtrusive service to this institution. An epitome of dedication and ineffable commitment, this 85 year old savant has left a deep void never to be filled. For him, education was not a profession but a mission to sculpt officers, Brigadiers and Generals- each one a 'magnum opus'- sculpted out of his inchoate self.

In the year 1948, a young graduate joined the then Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, Dehradun. He was one of the five Indian teachers who replaced the British Masters. He served the Rashtriya Indian Military College, India's most prestigious Military School, with great distinction for 36 years. That was Mr RC Singhal. He was in the distinguished company of men like Mr Hugh Catchpole and EJ Watson, the legendary figures in the history of military and English public school education.

Mr Singhal went to the United States as Fulbright scholar and taught Maths to Senior Secondary classes and returned with a degree in school administration and organization from John Hopkins University, Baltimore. He was selected by the British Council in India to undergo extensive training at the Institute of Education, University of London. He also held Masters and training degrees from Allahabad University.

He became almost an institution at the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. He served the College as a



teacher, Section-Master and Vice Principal. He sent 72 batches to the National Defence Academy, Khadakwaasla, Pune and had the rare credit for having had a hand in shaping the destiny of nearly 1200 officers who joined the Armed Forces in India. Among his students who have held very high ranks in the Defence Services and won many gallantry awards are the former chiefs of the Army and Air Staff.

Mr Singhal authored five books; one of them bears the title- Brain Teasers for seniors. The book was published by the Macmillan & Co. and has been used by schools in India since 1966.

Mr Singhal was:

- Past President of the Council Schools Principals Association, Dehradun.
- Past President of the Doon Mathematics Society as well as of the Doon Organization of Science teachers.
- Member, Advisory Committee, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.
- Member, Governing Body of Delhi Public School, Ghaziabad.
- Member, Governing Body of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Birpur.

Mr Singhal did a commendable job as the Principal of Cambrian Hall - a prestigious, English Medium Day-cum-

Residential school with a strength of about 1800 boys and girls drawn from all parts of India as well as overseas.

Besides being a worthy teacher and a successful administrator, Mr Singhal was actively involved in social service. A Rotarian of over forty years standing, he was President of the Rotary Club, Dehradun during the year 1973-74.

Mr Singhal, during 63 years of his service to the youth of the country, excelled as an ambassador and diplomat with a seriousness of purpose, sincerity, intellect, initiative and enthusiasm for every assignment he undertook.

His presence at graduations and reunions at the RIMC went a long way to show his commitment towards this institution which he had nurtured with utmost affection, love and care. Despite keeping poor health, he never let his spirit cower, but would walk up to every master not merely to exchange pleasantries but to check out in detail his perspective of education and other aspects of pedagogy. His solicitous self was an expression of his deep concern for the well-being of each and every soul on the premises.

He has been a keen player of Tennis, Squash and Hockey.

He was honoured in 2002 by his Excellency Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor, Uttaranchal for donating a sum of Rs 1,21,000/- (collected from students and staff of Cambrian Hall) to 'Help Age India' society - an organization helping elderly people all over India.

He was honoured with the prestigious 'Pride of Doon Award' in the presence of His Excellency Shri Sudarshan Agarwal, Governor, Uttaranchal in March 2004 for his long and dedicated services in the field of Education.

**Mrs Rachna Malhotra
RIMC**



Mr RC Singhal with visiting Chief Of Army Staff Gen VN Sharma in the senior Ante-Room

To Sir with Love

Dear Friends

It is a sad time for RIMC. Mr Tyagi, then Mr RC Sharma and now Mr RC Singhal, have all passed away in the space of the last year and a half.

Mr Singhal simply worked till he dropped, and then died. His work kept him alive, and he lived only to work. I don't know how old he was, but he must have been more than 80. Everone has to go, he was advanced in years, and quite frail, simply through age. Better to be on "the other shore" than to be sick, incapacitated, an invalid. So we should be glad that a karmayogi has passed on, to reap his harvest.

We must honour his memory in a fitting manner. I think someone proposed (in the Facebook Rimcollians group?) that one of the squash courts be named after him, as he was an enthusiastic player in his younger days. Mr Singhal was closely associated with

the academic side of the school, and was also involved for decades in hands-on mentoring in his role as a section master. Some site / space in the academic block may be named after him. Just like the "convocation hall" (as we called it in our time) became Bhagat Hall, and that is how cadets know that place now. An important prize could be instituted or named after him, like, say, for best academic student (based on 5 years) in the passing out batch. So that it has a stature like the UN Jha Memorial Medal had /has (for the cadet standing first in the merit list in the NDA joining batch). Something befitting. A picture or a bust would also be good, I think.

When I read the message about his body being taken to Cambrian Hall, I felt a pang, and wished it was also taken for a little while to RIMC, so that the school could pay homage to him.

V Ramaswamy

Dear All,

It was only last night that one learnt about our revered Guru, Mr RCS hospitalisation through Col Mamgain's mail. There was a glimmer of hope in the mail that he would be back home soon. Today morning Col Mamgain's message shocked me. Our Guru was no more. At this sad moment all I can say is God give strength to Sandeep and Mukul and all us Rimcos whose lives Mr Singhal had touched. The only tribute I can pay to my Guru if he is listening somewhere up there is that "Sir, whatever Maths I know today is due to you". May your soul rest in peace and bless us all.

Rakesh Nandan
(Shi-1968-72)

It is with the deepest regret and sorrow that I learnt of our beloved teacher Mr R C Singhal's demise in Dehradun.

My family and I would like to convey our most sincere condolences to the family on their bereavement.



Mr RC Singhal with cadets at an end of term cultural function

I can never forget him. Not only did he teach me, but he taught my son and daughter as well in Cambrian Hall.

Our prayers are with the family during their difficult moments.

Sorrowfully,

RN Balagopal
Pratap (59--63)

I was in the School from 1952 to 56. Mr. Singhal then was a young master. Somewhere during this period he took over as our (Partap) section master from Mr. SN Kaul. Even then, as a young man, Mr. Singhal was a very serious minded dedicated teacher. I spent most of my time in school in his and Mr. CC Ramtri's classes.

Besides the education he gave us, he

was about the most dedicated Indian teacher/Master we had. Behind his serious exterior was a very human and loving person. He must have been well over 80, because I am 71. I think he was over ninety. He lived a full life dedicated to education. A very civil and cultured man worth emulating.

I pray for peace to his soul and wish his family a prosperous future.

Brig (retd) Kuldip Chokkar

Dear Friends,

I get this unkind news as I open the net after being out for over 36 hours.

What to say and how to respond; possibly as Mr Rama sir says that Mr Singhal lived and passed away to work. A lesson for us.

In grief indeed but there is solace

that many of his Chela Souls will survive to continue to do him proud.

Let us first absorb this event as the Pitamaha has left us speechless and thoughtless.

Regards.

Om Shanti
Col Prem Prakash
Ranjit 1974-78

Dear Rimcos,

The passing away of Mr RC Singhal is indeed a very sad news for all of us. He taught us maths besides being the House master of Pratap Section during our time in RIMC. He also prepared us for the maths entrance exam for the NDA. He was devoted & meticulous in all his endeavours. He played a great part in moulding our lives & we owe a great deal



Mr RC Singhal presenting a sports award

to him for whatever success we have achieved. He will be greatly missed by all those he came in contact with. We hope our alma mater, RIMC, will suitably honour his memory. May his soul rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

Maj Gen SK Gupta
Ranjit (1955-1959)

A profound sense of loss and grief is what one felt on hearing the sad news..... Nostalgic memories came flooding back His contribution, dedication and involvement cannot be put in words... May he rest in peace and God grant the family and us all the strength to bear the loss...

Air Cmde SN Deshpande
Ranjit 1973 - 77

Dear All,

Breaking all norms I am releasing the main city page of the Dehradun edition of The Pioneer dated August 7, 2011 in the public domain before it has hit the stands. This is our 8-column top of the page tribute to our Guru who created that sense of self-belief in me. "Tum gadhe ho, apni talent ko nahi pehchante ho," Mr Singhal had thundered and packed me of for a national debate at Delhi was back in 1983. More than a quarter of a century later, as he breathed his last I was receiving congratulatory notes from Brig Thapa for a very successful seminar I had organised a day earlier in the Capital on civil society attended by Sheila Dikshit, Kiran Bedi and Arun Jaitley. Sir, your gadha did not let you down. You shall live till the last of your pupil lives.

Sidharth Mishra
Associate Editor, The Pioneer

Its sad news but Mr Singhal left for his heavenly abode this morning at 1130 in doon. I believe he wasnt keeping too well. Its an end of an era. I am sure each one of us have fond memories of him and would

remember him in our own way for he touched everyones lives those who passed through the portals of RIMC. Let his memory live on. Ich Dien.

Kapil M



From Left RIMC Commandant Col H Dharmarajan, former Commandant Maj Gen KN Sardana, Governor Mizoram Lt Gen (Retd) MM Lakhera and Mr RC Singhal

Dear Rimcollians,

It has been a long day for the family, their grief is - just theirs. I am so impressed by the manner in which the Cambrian Hall family stood with their Principal and his family in their hour of grief. It was all so personal. Rani Saheban, the lady who owns the school, was there all through even though she is perhaps as old as our departed Master, also present were all the members of her family. She was heartbroken that the man who had seen their school through for 26 yrs was no more. The Cambrian Hall has been a rock solid support, this is so rare in today's environment when those fading away are easily forgotten.

Charlie Thapa, my wife and I were in the hospital. Just outside his room was a poster of Tagore's 'where the mind is without fear ...'. It carried so many thoughts of the assembly with it and gave it yet another perspective. I was noting the

msgs of some of you from the computer to carry to Mr Singhal when Sandeep called. Please send your condolences to the family at the Cambrian Hall address.

Ms Tyagi and Nishi, her daughter, were among the first to arrive at his residence. Later in the evening the offg Comdt RIMC and Staff also arrived. A little later the immediate family members also reached.

Brig Jasbir Singh, one of his favourites, was writing the obit sitting in his cottage in Ranikhet but the internet failed due to hy rains, so a few local correspondents are doing it with inputs from RIMC. All the papers are going to carry it tomorrow. When Jas got the mail saying he was not too well he wanted to start for D Dun, his wife asked him what he would do because he is wheel chair bound. And Jas said that he would just sit by the door. Events have overtaken his journey.

He served our Alma Mater for 37 yrs!

The man died as he lived, simply and with minimum fuss. Till the end he was only asking any visitors about how others were faring and never complained about his own ailment.

We now go to the funeral at 9 am tommorow.

We just lost one of our finest Masters. I am sure his thoughts are still about the good name of his RIMC and The Rimcollians. In any meeting the conversation turned to his concerns about how the Old Boys were faring. His takia kalam was, 'I Mean he should be a General now, after all he was a very good buoy.' What a rare man. He loved his students with an open heart and how he could place them and their pranks! May the Lord bless us with a few more of his kind.

I now realize my good fortune to have been in the same town as him and met him so often.

Viva RIMC, In grief,
Col Arun Mamgain.



Mr RC Singhal and then Commandant Col Arun Mangain with the Winners of Boxing championship

Good obituary Sid...

Will miss Mr. Singhal very much.

GRS Reddy

He lives on in our hearts and actions as it is impossible to even try and recount in which all ways he impacted our impressionable minds...

We had bunked school, to watch Kranti and the public caning next morning taught me more about discipline and facing consequences of ones actions than anything else.. Many would remember that..There were so many of us that evening in our misadventure...

His legendary Maths lessons particularly those that helped generations of us crack the code for NDA exams are just a few...

Regards,
SqN Ldr (retd) Anurana Saluja
Shivaji 1979-83

Dear Arun,

Read the sad News of Mr. Singhal's demise. Please convey our heart felt condolences to son Sndeeep and the rest of the family.

My association with Mr. RC Singhal has been a very long one. He joined as a young master towards the end of my stay in RIMC and prepared us for JSW entrance exam in 1950 - 51. Thereafter, Gen Manoharan & I have been interacting with him every year during the Reunions. We were present for the felicitation given to him by the Dehradun City council when during his talk he expressed how proud and happy he was of his ex students, most of whom were serving the Nation in responsible positions.

Like Mr Catchpole, another senior comrade of his, he kept serving mankind till his last breath.

He will be remembered by RIMC,

Cambrian Hall and those who were taught by him, for long time.

May his soul rest in Peace.

Maj Gen Bilu Neogy (1947-51)

Dear Rimcollians:

A fitting way to honor Mr. Singhal could be an award named after him with a cash prize and presented during Reunion to the best teacher, as determined by some objective criteria, preferably with some input from cadets. For example, each passing out batch could vote and make a nomination before leaving the school for the teacher who had the greatest impact on them. This way, two awards would be made each year during the Reunion.

The cash award could be sponsored in rotation by different batches volunteering to do it or through contributions made by individual Rimcollians. There could also be a trophy in the staff room with the names of the winners to acknowledge their

contributions. The amount being awarded should be realistic, consistent and sustainable in the long-term. I also feel that old boys will be very willing to contribute for specific initiatives such as this one.

If there is agreement (and no objection or duplication with existing awards), I will be willing take responsibility to get the funding arranged for the first award and will liaise with other Rimcollian fellow academics - Anand Swaminathan, Samir Shrivastava (and any others) - to get this in order for the next Reunion.

Sincerely,

Karan Sonpar

An excellent write up Sidharth, in the memory of a real life Dronacharya. All I can say is that they don't make teachers like him any more. We shall really miss the great Master. May his soul Rest in Peace. God Bless.

Wg Cdr (Retd) Dinesh C Gupta
Ranjit (1959-62)

Dear Friends,

If there were two things that one were to pick out from Mr Singhal's character that stood out it would be a sense of

enduring commitment and empathy. I remember having run away from school in my first term and being recovered by my dad from Anand Swaminathan's house in Delhi. Dad was furious and brought me back to school thinking that he would have to request the school authorities to overlook my indiscretion. To his surprise, Mr Singhal showed no signs of anger and brushed it away by just saying 'Arjun needs to get tougher-don't worry Professor we will look after him and ensure that he gets a hide of thick skin'-He then went on to distract my dad by inviting him to talk to Class V and VA on 'Leadership' and all was forgotten.

So intense was his commitment and so sharp was his memory that he always made it a point to ask me about my father. I remember him once saying that the two loves of his life were mathematics and students of RIMC and Cambrian Hall and how fortunate we all were to partake of his wisdom and empathy. I was touched recently when I received a letter from him congratulating me on receiving the AVSM- he even asked me to inform him when the investiture ceremony was scheduled and promised to watch it.

My sincere condolences to Sandeep and the rest of the family-Will be grateful if this message can be passed on to him.

AVM Arjun Subramaniam

Dear Rimcollians,

Learning of Mr Singhal's demise has made all our hearts heavy with grief. He was like a father to us. I was doubly fortunate - my son Dhritiman also had the privilege of being schooled by him in Cambrian Hall from 1984 to 86 when I was posted in Dehradun. He was a giant among men and his legend will live on through his innumerable students.

Deepest condolences to Sandeep and Mukul.

Brig (retd) Ujjal Dasgupta
Shivaji 1958-62

Dear Sidharth,

Very beautifully written & extremely true about the icon in our lives. My sincere compliments for the remarkable way in which you have written the last part ... He will live till ...

Best Wishes
Brig Jasbir Singh
(Ranjit 1962-66)



Mr RC Singhal, Capt (now Brig) Shivendra Singh, Commandant Col Dilip Parab with visiting CAS Air Chief Marshal NC Suri



Mr RC Singhal and Col H Dharmarajan presenting an award for excellence in academics

Dear Rimcollians,

The sad news of Mr RC Singhal's passing away on 05 Aug 2011 at 1130 hrs has come as a shock to me and I am sure to the Rimcollian Fraternity too. He was a colossus that walked the earth. A messiah in academics and for all of us whose next agenda after RIMC was NDA, one can never forget the way he made us so thorough in Mathematics (I was never inclined towards Maths) way back in 1970 that the NDA exam was a cakewalk. Brilliant in his teaching abilities without any comparison and as section master and mentor he was a simple man but rock solid, humane, compassionate and a disciplinarian. He had a fantastic memory and remembered everything about his cadets from names to all their naughty pranks. He was much loved and revered by his students and for those of us who were very lucky to have been tutored by him will miss him very much. Words and actions cannot fill the void he has left behind and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

To Mukul, Sandeep and the families my wife Geetu joins me in conveying our

heartfelt condolences and may God guide you and give you the strength to overcome this very sad loss. We grieve with you in this tragic hour.

In Grief

SKSingh Jr

With the passing away of Mr Singhal, an era has come to an end. Upon learning the news, it was difficult to hold back the tears. Only the previous day during a discussion, I gave his example of dedication of life for the society at large. Whenever I met him, I always touched his feet to seek his blessings. People like him are hard to find and to be tutored by him is the greatest blessing for all of us. I will miss his presence during the Reunions and other functions. I pray to God Almighty to give strength to his family and brother Rimcollians to bear this loss. May the departed soul rest in peace.

A word of advice to brother Rimcollians. Let us not start a discussion at this juncture as to how to honour Mr Singhal. A discussion on our egroup becomes a debate. Please, let the tears dry

down. Let us get ourselves out of this shock and compose ourselves and then discuss in a suitable forum on the subject.

Vippan Chhibbar
Chandragupta (1968-72)

I was apprehended at a night show @ Gahri Cantt theater a few days before I passed out but there was no lift even for a tenth "termer" as far as RCS was concerned - a swift slap across my cheek with a hushed refrain 'Banerjee - I did not expect you to do this' resonated with both anger & affection. If only he had known that this was my "nth" breaking bounds foray thanks to the Bollywood bug that had been induced in my system by the Hindi speaking brigade of Dharendra Singh, "Doc" Srivastava, Mahato (the latter two are no more) and gang.

The India CIO of one of my client companies (a Fortune 20 bank) is a Cambrian Hall alumnus and we bonded on Day One owing to the common Dronacharya that we shared.

If only RCS knew how far his



Col DK Chawla and Mr RC Singhal with a visiting dignitary in college library

influence had spread - well beyond the Vindhyas and deep into the technology capital of India.

Chiranjit Banerjee
1968-72

Hearfelt condolences to Mr Singhal's family ; I owe him a lot not only as my maths teacher and vice principal but also as a guide in my life.

He has touched many a young minds during his tenure in Doon at Rimc and

Cambrian Hall. May his soul rest in peace

Capt Raghu Nair(IN)
shivaji 80-84

Rest in peace sir, you'll continue to live in our hearts & your legend will be passed down generations of Rimcollians who owe everything to you.

Cheers.....

Col (Retd) Dilip Kumar

Dear Unni Sir

I did not know Mr. Singhal personally and haven't met you as such, but going through your eulogy brought back all the good things at College so much so, that



Mr RC Singhal with Cols DK Chawla and GPS Waraich

tears welled up in my eyes as I went through the last few lines...

Sir, I did not have the honour to be taught by Mr. R C Singhal and you can call it the bad luck of the courses which joined after he moved on to Cambrian Hall. And I would agree to it without a hitch.

He was a great man indeed, epitomised in the words of his Cadets whom he loved dearly and who loved him for all that he was to them.

Rest in peace, Mr. RCS.

Ich Dien
Rajat Shahi
147th Blue

Roving Eye

RIMC Reunion, Mid-West (Chicago)

Wg Cdr(Retd) and Mrs Sukhdev Sawhney graciously hosted the Rimcollians at their residence in downtown Chicago on 12 Mar, 2011. The following attended:

Wg Cdr (Retd) and Mrs Sukhdev Sawhney
Mr and Mrs Abir Samuel
Maj (Retd) and Mrs Pawan Kapoor
Vibhore Singh and girlfriend
Aditya Shahi
Abhishek Gupta

It was a memorable evening. The warmth and welcome exuded from every nook and corner of the apartment. Mrs Sawhney outdid the best of the chefs in the Chicago land area by her culinary skills. However, scotch-eggs, unlike as promised, mysteriously materialized in other forms.

The good old as well as the good but not so old times were recalled. While the youngsters tried to impress the oldies with their technological prowess, presumably acquired at RIMC, the oldies typically responded with a bemused been-there-done-that look on their faces.

There was an assortment of emotions, overwhelmingly positive ones, on display. Colleagues and masters were remembered, instances recalled, and homage's paid to any and everything associated with RIMC. Wives and the solitary girlfriend exclaimed that they hadn't seen their better-halves and a possible better-half-to-be guffawing like this, for apparently no reasons at all, ever before.

In short, an evening made memorable by the presence of the fraternity who made it a point to be there from as far as Indiana, Ohio and Missouri states and of course the Sawhneys who gave the word 'hospitality' a new dimension.

Regards,
Pawan Kapoor

Kolkata Reunion

Dear Friends,

The Kolkata Rimcollians Reunion was successfully concluded last night, at the Engineers Officers Mess, Ballygunge, Kolkata. 38 Rimcollians were in attendance (or represented by their wives) and 57 persons in all attended. The list of those who attended is given below. The eldest Rimcollian present was Maj Kumar Jagtiani (51-55), and the youngest Capt Sai Anvesh (2000-2004).

Maj Gen Dipankar Bannerji graciously presented a bottle of Chivas to the bar.

Scotch eggs were served, and the feedback is that they were rather good. (The catering was by Taaja's, Kolkata.) Some people have given cheques towards the ROBA / ROBA Trust payments.

I shall be depositing these. More payments are expected, and through the next and subsequent get-togethers we shall be enlarging our Kolkata Rimcollians contacts base, drawing all into the fold, and also trying to collect payments from them.

(In order of registration)

1. Col NK Paul, S / 66
2. Col Subimal Ganguly, P / 59-64
3. Lt Col & Mrs Kaushik Sircar + 2 sons, S / 79-83
4. Gp Capt & Mrs Nilanjan Biswas, C / 77-81
5. Maj Gen B Chowdhuri, P / 53-57
6. Mrs AP Dutta
7. Maj Gen Dipankar Bannerji, P / 1955
8. Col AK Bhaumik, R / 55-58
9. Maj K Jagtiani, S / 51-54
10. Lt Col Vishwajeet Kumar, C / 83-89
11. Brig & Mrs AK Dutta, S / 59-63
12. Debarata Roy, S / 59-63
13. GD Chowdhury C / 71-76
14. TK Bardhan, S / 1953
15. Lt Col & Mrs Shakti Ranjan Banerjee + daughter, S / 63-67
16. Col BN Majumdar, S / 63-68

17. Col Hirak S Sen, S / 59-63
18. Maj and Mrs GK Ghosh, C / 67-72
19. Lt Col Namitava Ghosh, R / 65-70
20. Col & Mrs B Bhattacharya, P / 1954-58
21. Mrs Neeta Sarkar
22. Devjeet Basu, P / 88-93
23. Sandip Singh, P / 88-93
24. Capt RM Jolly + guest
25. Capt & Mrs PK Munshi, + 2 guests R / 51-55
26. Samir Chaudhuri, R / 51-55
27. Lt Col Pratap Mazumdar, P / 62-66
28. Col & Mrs Ashok K Dutta, P / 61-65
29. Lt Gen & Mrs Gautam Dutta P / 1961-65
30. Capt & Mrs RK Paul, S / 1967-72
31. Cmdr & Mrs AJB Singh, P / 55-60
32. Col A Roychaudhary, 82-87
33. Col Subodh Kumar 82-87
34. Capt Anil Bhalla R / 61-65
35. Capt & Mrs Kalyan Chakravorty, R / 1971-76
36. Maj & Mrs Ajay Sangma, C / 95-99
37. Capt Sai Anvesh, C / 2000-04
38. V Ramaswamy, R / 72-76

We hope to meet again in July, and will be trying to establish contact with all serving Rimcollian officers in and around Kolkata. With several people newly brought into the fold, we are hopeful that the next get-together will be truly well organised and memorable.

V Ramaswamy

Pune Get-Together

The Rimcollians Get-Together in Pune was held in HQ Pune Sub Area Offrs Mess on 12 Mar. Maj Gen Aniruddha Chakravarty, VSM got posted as GOC, Pune Sub Area in Feb 11, just in time for Rimcollians! An excellent scholar, a professional soldier and a fine gentleman, Gen Chaks (as we called him in school), gladly agreed to take on the responsibility and even forego his

scheduled visit to Dehra Dun for the Reunion.

The Get-Together as usual was a grand success with almost 70 Rimcollians and 115 persons attending, the second largest gathering after the main celebrations in Dehra Dun. Rimcollian Get-Together are always an affair to remember, which usually make the ladies or non-Rimcollians wonder what it is that these crazy bunch of gentlemen are prepared to go any length to host or merely attend. Is it the lure of mouthwatering scotch eggs or the good booze which flows with the bonhomie, or the opportunity to meet our Old Boys and learn of their pranks in school, or catch up with old friends and recollect one's old memories of the wonderful days we had, Rimcollians definitely are a breed apart!

Among the attendees, we had distinguished veterans like Capt Baji Mohite and Col (Minni) Mohite, who were in Kitcheners Sec in 1930-40's. Though in their late 80's, they always make it a point to attend. We had been fortunate to visit their place in Pune, since I happened to be the Dorm Com of Col Mohite's son Vikram in early 70's. A very naughty and enterprising youngster who was always up to something funny, Vikram unfortunately did not join the services and died over a decade ago due to stomach illness, thereby ending four generations of fine warriors who had proudly served the Maratha Regt from pre-WWI till 1971.

We were privileged to have Mrs Radhika Bewoor, Mrs Joglekar and Mrs Purandhare attending. I remember Gen Bewoor attending Rimcollians when in school, especially when Gens Bhagat, Bewoor and Kandeth were our Army Cdrs during the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Maj Gen Joglekar and Col Purandhare were in school in early 1940's. We missed the presence of Mrs Nair, wife of Air Cmde NP Nair this time. In her 90's, she would attend every year.

Among the other veterans and distinguished Rimcollians who attended were Maj Gen PD Sherlekar; Lt Gen HM Khanna; Maj Gen Anil Raikar; Gp Capt AG Bewoor, and his younger brother Air



A huge gathering at Pune

Mshl Keshav, who has just ret'd; and Col DH Parab, our illustrious Comdt at the Alma Mater and Col AK Bakshi, both our NDA instrs. Col Bakshi was the Maharashtra Hockey team goalkeeper and Col Parab a reputed boxer and footballer during their NDA days. We had Naphade brothers, Cmde Vishram who ensured us a lovely time during our visit to Andamans with the RIMC cdt's in Dec 95, and the younger Cdr Vijay; Col MC Pradhan; Capt (IN) S Wangdi; Brig MP Yadav, a distinguished mountaineer, who helped RIMC in our initial mtng expeditions in 90's; Mr SS Sandhu, PCDA, HQ SC, an excellent runner and swimmer, whose 'Dead Man Dive' from the 5 m board earned him a perfect 10 pts, but also a deep cut on his skull, thanks to a steel plate lying vertical on the floor of the pool; Maj Gen Rakesh Nandan; Brig Balraj Singh, Comdt designate, BEG Centre; Air Cmde Deshpande; ofrs from NDA; CME; DIAT, and many others. It was nice to see the good old fly boys from Lohegaon, especially Rajeev Sharma, son of our reputed Sec Master Mr RC Sharma.

Highlights of Comdt RIMC's speech depicting the achievements of our cdt's and Rimcollians along with latest photos of the school were presented. The aspect of payment of dues for ROBA/

ROBA Trust by defaulters was stressed upon.

The snacks provided by Sandeep Mukherjee, Gen Mgr, Blue Diamond Taj, Pune were excellent, the food was superb, and the scotch eggs made by the 6 MLI cooks and perfected under the expert guidance of Mrs Chakravarty, almost matched the delicacy of the ones made in school. In the midst of such a lovely evening we suddenly realized that the Group Photo had remained. By the time we could manage one, many of the old timers had left. We all departed with fine memories of a wonderful Get-Together, thanks to Gen Chakravarty and of course Col Satish, whose single handedly managed the show as Col Chaudhary proceeded on TD at the last min. The list of ofrs who attended along with some photos is being uploaded by Satish shortly.

Col (Retd) Vijay Gidh

Dear All

I am forwarding the details of the Rimcollian family present at the Reunion in Pune on 12 Mar 11. Any corrections/inclusions as appropriate may please be done. I am certain this list shall be handy to all of us in Pune.

Best Wishes B R Satish 1984-90 P
+919405035178

Ser No	Name	Yrs / Sec	Tele/Mob No	E-mail ID	Remarks
1	Col (Retd) V Y Gidh	1967-72	25462189	colvygidh@rediffmail.com	
2	Maj Gen A Chakravarty	1968-72		chaks1956@gmail.com	
3	Cdt M Gargate	2005-10	9422038093	msg2442@gmail.com	
4	Col SA Mohite	1936-41 (Shivaji)			
5	Lt Col BR Satish	1984-90 (Pratap)	9405035178		
6	Capt S Wangdi	1964-68 (Pratap)	9822031047	wangdi.sariputta@gmail.com	
7	Maj Gen PD Sherlekar	1946-49	9890243205	psherlekar@yahoo.com	
8	Lt Gen HM Khanna	1952-56	9850880301	khaushin@yahoo.co.in	
9	Maj Basant Sewale	1996-00	8007589425	basantsewale@yahoo.com	
10	Gp Capt Rajive Sharma	1974-78	9673502724	Rajive_nikita@yahoo.com	
11	Wg Cdr YK Singh	1990-91	9970915324	magicvedicmaths@yahoo.co.in	
12	Col VK Sinha	1962-66 (Pratap)	9923460527	colvksinha@yahoo.com	
13	AVM KG Bewoor	1964-69 (Shivaji)	9422057221	kgbewoor@yahoo.com	
14	Maj Gen Rakesh Nandan	1968-79 (Shivaji)	9637674315	premchand_nandan@yahoo.co.in	
15	Mrs Joglekar w/o Late Maj Gen AM Joglekar		9822011148		
16	Mrs Purandare w/o Late Purandare		9850208215		
17	Lt Col R Chakraborty	1984-89 (Pratap)	9906369637	amazing72bobby@gmail.com	
18	Col DP Das (Retd)	1968-72 (Shivaji)	9225660009	debprakash.das@gmail.com	
19	Lt Col D Mallick	1969-73 (Shivaji)	9890500492	mullicks@vsnl.com	
20	Cdr Peush Pawsey	1983-87 (C'Gupta)	9665036328	peushpawsey@gmail.com	
21	Lt Col AK Pandey	1986-91 (Ranjit)	9422454072	pandeyasimk@yahoo.com	
22	Mr P Deb	1970-74 (e'Gupta)	9423585239	paritoshdeb@ulic.co.in	
23	Cmde VR Naphade	1960-64 (Shivaji)	9850968771	vishramnaphade@vsnl.net	
24	Cdr VR Naphade	1966-70 (Shivaji)	8087552149	naffyur@gmail.com	
25	Air Cmde SN Deshpande R	1973-77	9561917926	dashi814r@yahoo.co.in	
26	Col Vijay Singh	1981-86 (Ranjit)	9665724158	vijayvs1970@gmail.com	
27	Gp Capt AG Bewoor	1956-61 (Shivaji)	9890907266	ag_bewoor@cnwadgla.prom	
28	Col Karan Dixit	1978-82	9860710189	kdrajasahib@gmail.com	
29	Maj Rajneesh Giri	1990-95 (Chandragupt)	9158281139	rajneeshgiri76@yahoo.com	
30	Maj V Jacob Kurian	1988-93 (Ranjit)	8007589505	Jacobandanjana2004	
31	Col P Das	1967-72	9106683801	priatoshdeb@rediffmail.com	
32	Wg Cdr Arun Sinha	1980-84 (Chandragupt)	9422315900	arunsinghal1968@yahoo.co.in	
33	Wg Cdr KN Singh	1987-92 (Chandragupt)	7709184240	knsingh@yahoo.com	
34	S/L R Kapil	1989-94 (Ranjit)	95455939394	rohitsukhoi@gmail.com	
35	Sandip Mukherjee	1970-74 (Pratap)	9920556561	sandip.mukherjee@tajhotels.com	
36	Kisshor Rajhural	Chandragupt	9426015200	crushaal@crushaal.com	
37	Mr Gaurav Tripathi	1996-01 (Shivaji)	9765552428	tripathigaurav23@gmail.com	
38	Flt P Pandey	1996-01 (Ranjit)	9096822681	cadetprashant@yahoo.co.in	
39	Col DH Parab	1958-63 (Shivaji)	0241/2330206, 9960872237	dileeparab@yahoo.com	
40	Brig MP Yadav	1967-70 (Pratap)	8806037359	mprabha@gmail.com	
41	Col MC Pradhan	1964-67 (Shivaji)	8007999533	udai.mc@gmail.com	
42	Maj Gen Anil Raikar	1956-60 (Shivaji)	9923760003	anil.raikar@gmail.com	
43	Maj M Chopra	1993-97 (C'Gupta)	95455088555	drmanuchopra@yahoo.co.in	
44	SS Sandhee PCDA (SC)	1967-70 (Shivaji)	26122504 (O) 26333277 (R)	sukhendersandhu@yahoo.com	

Ser No	Name	Yrs / Sec	Tele/Mob No	E-mail ID	Remarks
45	Col AK Bakshi	1959-63 (Ranjit)	9225507061	bakshi_ak@yahoo.co.in	
46	Lt S Bhonsle	2000-04 (Pratap)	9632347511	scharyf@hotmail.com	
47	Sandeep Hanchanale	2000-04 (Ranjit)	9689941125	sandeep2164@yahoo.com	
48	Flt Lt Ankush	1998-03 (Shivaji)	9049638642	sudyal@rediffmail.com	
49	F/o P Dwivedi	2000-05 (Shivaji)	9545904642	flanke_8430@yahoo.com	
50	HA Baji Mohite	1936-42 (Shivaji)	25537711		
51	Lt Varun Jaswal	2001-05 (Ranjit)	8888962149	vj1709@gmail.com	
52	SLT HS Gandhok	2002-06 (Ranjit)	9767842326	rockingstars1989@rediffmail.com	
53	Mr Arvind Raman	2001-06	9762224585	wokemeup@gmail.com	
54	Capt AK Tiwari	1998-02 (Pratap)	9273938809	thunderteen20@sify.com	
55	Capt R Prakash	1998-02 (Ranjit)	9158441349	prakashbegins@yahoo.co.in	
56	Capt V Sharma	1998-02 (Pratap)	9673165208	mountanucky@gmail.com	
57	Flt Lt PSN Varma	1997-01 (Pratap)	9766337986	narendraiaf@gmail.com	
58	Col P P Roy	1964-68 (Ranjit)	9604130018	partharoy9@yahoo.in	
59	Nilesh Sharma	150 (Ranjit)	9823456274	nitesh.rise@gmail.com	
60	Capt Udit Negi	1998-02 (Pratap)	9011648069	negiudit@yahoo.co.in	
61	Pratik Joshi	2002-05 (Pratap)	9545288183	maverick2281@gmail.com	
62	Lt Himanshu	1998-03	800753145	himrimc@yahoo.com	
63	Capt Dev Prasoon	1998-03	8007369265	devprasoon3@gmail.com	
64	Capt Karan Sharma	1999-03	8698665268	karan7a16@gmail.com	
65	Maj R Shankar	1989-94 (Chandragupta)	9011752302, 9049436991	shankar.ramnath@gmail.com	

V Satish

RIMCOLLIAN GET TO GETHER ON 13 MAR 2011 AT BANGALORE

Hi Rimcollians,

It was indeed great meeting you all during the Reunion get to gather. I am enclosing the details of members who participated and also some photos. Hope you had a great time.

Col Rajesh Parmar (rajparmar_23@yahoo.co.in)

S/No	Name	RIMC Sec	Mob No
1.	Tarun Massey	Pratap	9980014393
2.	UB Choudheri	Pratap	9831592900
3.	Sqn Ldr D Hazarika	Shivaji	9845729290
4.	Mr Sudipto Das	Pratap	9745729290
5.	Wg Cdr K Cherian	Ranjit	9916999737
6.	Gp Capt N Tiwari	Chandragupta	9900169829
7.	Col Rajeev Bhatia	Pratap	9482020223
8.	Lt G Francis	Pratap	7760632989
9.	F/O Gautam Kumar	Chandragupta	9535464756
10.	Shashank Saket	Pratap	9886427693
11.	Gp Capt KS Reddy	Shivaji	9164061200
12.	Maj Punit Srivastava	Shivaji	8147881525
13.	Col Rakesh Kapoor	Pratap	9449001030

14.	Wg Cdr V G Kumar	Shivaji (1957-61)	9448082362
15.	Col Dilip Kumar	1969-73	9448851643
16.	Jaypratap Naidu	Shivaji (2002-2006)	9159805081
17.	Lt Col T K Jacob	Chandu	9845003814
18.	Ashish Pun	Ranjit	9538455255
19.	Neelabh Mishra	Chandragupta	9538045648
20.	Prabal Mallik	Ranjit	9845193951
21.	Kannan Selvam	Ranjit	9008100507
22.	Archit Kashyap	Shivaji	8870695641
23.	Abindu Dher	Chandu	9731737351
24.	Dr Nishant Ranjan	Chandragupta	9945784157
25.	Sqn Ldr Anurana Saluja	Shivaji	9742201357
26.	S/L Shiv Shankaram	Ranjitian	9035272408
27.	Lt Col Milan Khurana	Shivaji	9008077833
28.	Cdr Sunny Varghese	Ranjit	9480215687
29.	Lt Col R S Bangari	Pratap	08022109309
30.	F/O Kumar Gaurav	Shivaji	7760037208
31.	Mr Raj Prince	Shivaji	9632026049
32.	Lt Col Rajesh Parmar	Shivaji	9590851580

Melbourne Reunion

Hi all

We had a small gathering at my place on 12 March. The following attended:
Mrs & Col FDW Fallon
Mrs & Mr Satyajit Warty
Mr Jai Laungani

Harmanjit Jauhal would have joined us, but he is currently in India. He had plans to be there in Dehradun for the Reunion. Hope he made it. Col Fallon showed us a 1953 College magazine. It was a fun evening. Special thanks to Mrs Warty for making, you guessed it, superb Scotch eggs.

Cheers

Samir Srivastava

Rimcollian Get-together in Wellington

Dear Rimcollians,

A Rimcollian get-together was organised on 26 March 2011 at Holiday Inn, Ooty by the Rimcollians in Wellington attending the 66th Staff Course. We are 14 of us here, nine from the Army and five from the Navy. However, we do not have any Rimcollians presently posted in the faculty of the Staff College, with AVM Dhanoa recently moving out to the Air Headquarters. In addition to the Rimcollians and their families, Mrs Chandra Joshi, our Physics teacher in school from 1991 to 1997, along with her husband Col Joshi, attended the same. She is teaching at the Lawrence School, Lovedale, and has recently become the first lady Vice Head Master of the Lawrence School in their 153 years of history.

The dinner was great and the Holiday Inn managed to produce some good scotch eggs as well. Keeping the younger profile of the crowd in view, DJ was in



Lucknow Get Together

Dear Rimcollians,

We had a reunion at 3/11 GR Officers' Mess last month. The following attended:-

1. Col Vijay Bhagat - 9793841547
2. Col SS Pundir - 8756161111
3. Maj (Retd) TS Chimni - 9236167020
4. Sh Kailash Nath Pal - 9839610124
5. Maj Gen(Retd)Pradeep Mittal - 9794270007

6. Maj (Retd) AK Singh - 9415002683
7. Maj(Retd) PN Singh - 9415011775
8. Mr BK Yadav - 9838680111
9. Mr Sandeep Ahuja - 9935057701
10. Lt Col(Retd) Subhash Chandra - 9450903962
11. Lt Col Raman Gupta - 9839882341

Kudos to Col Samar Singh Pundir for the wonderful arrangements and the delectable dishes served for dinner.

attendance and was rather a hit. Many thanks to the Rimcollians who took the pains to organise this memorable evening, particularly Maj Amit Kumar (stands posted to MO) and to Capt Vivek Shahi - who is posted here in a local unit and is the backbone of any Rimcollian activity.

We are also trying to ensure 100 per cent compliance in terms of contribution to ROBA membership fees and ROBA Trust. The initiative has been taken by Cdr Rohit Garg (senior-most Rimcollian here) and Lt Col Sanjay Kannoht, and most of us have topped up our balance amount, and we hope to give a 100 per cent result before we leave Wellington towards the end of next month. Hope this becomes a trend in other courses as well like TSOC or say JC.

Warm Regards,

Shailender Arya

Leh Get-together

Dear Friends,

1. It was a pleasant meeting of a few of us at Leh sometimes back where we

were all present for something. Rimcollians who met up were:-

- Maj Gen Balsara.
- Brig ST Upasani (made a short visit).
- Brig DS Gill (moving to Chandigarh shortly).
- Col Prem Prakash.
- Lt Col Kalia (moving out shortly to take over an Armd Regt).
- Lt Col Vijayantya.

2. Zia and party planning a visit this side; there are people along the route who should be able to help. I am leaving this sector in Jun. People should plan Amarnath Yatra this yr again; hope sit will be better. There are Rimcollians around. I could meet up with three families and one Hony Capt of our expedition; it was a God sent trip for me to Leh. I am getting more and more convinced on the power of strong and positive thoughts. You will get what you want if thoughts are pure and powerful.

Regards.

Om Shanti.
Prem Prakash

Rimcollians get together 9th July London 2011

THE BRASSERIE, Hilton London
Paddington Hotel, 146 Praed Street,
London, W2 1EE

List of Attendees:

1. Mr Aditya Swarup

2. Mr Swarup (Aditya's father- Rimcollian)
3. Mr Amit Jain
4. Mrs Jain
5. Dr Deepak Narwal
6. Mrs Narwal
7. Viscount John Slim
8. Viscountess Slim
9. Mr Marcus Pradhan

10. Mrs Pradhan
11. Mr Ravi Gulati
12. Mr Paramvir Singh Chattwal
13. Mr Saranjit Arora
14. Mrs Arora
15. Mr Vivek Sood
16. Mrs Sood
17. Mr Rahul Ghosh

Dr Deepak Narwal

The resident of Bungalow no 40

Reminiscences of Mr Kaushal Kumar

The 40th anniversary of the Founders day had just been over and the enchanting fragrance of Rimcollians meet still fresh in the air, when I first stepped into the RIMC campus. Firdausi's verse echoed into my ears 'Gar Firdaus Bar_rue Zami Ast, Haminasto, Haminasto. Haminast.'

A silver tongued AO Capt BK Laroia and a silver haired acting Principal Mr SP Sharma greeted me with such warmth that an extremely happy stay at the place seemed assured to me. But then, when I formally reported to the Principal in his office, he stared at his watch and spoke curtly - "You were required to report at 11.20 Mr Kumar and it is 11.25" and before I could utter a word in reply he concluded his diktat, "And now you may go. Come tomorrow at 11.20" with an emphatic stress on 11.20. It gave me a rude shock. I was keen to join the post the same day in order to avoid any break in service. Fortunately it was only a lesson with no other intent. My senior colleagues particularly - Mr. RC Singhal, Mr. GS Bisht and Mr. RC Sharma put me at ease. Their devotion, dedication and dexterity had created an atmosphere of self discipline that an unparalleled work culture had automatically been developed in every individual of the college. Inter-section rivalry did exist but it never gave birth to jealousy or bitterness.

I recall an insignificant instance of great significance. One rainy afternoon then Commandant Col DK Chawla and myself, with umbrellas over our heads passed a gardener busy cleaning a flower bed. Col Chawala paused and said, 'Beta! It is raining, go and find some cover for yourself.' Completely drenched, he stood up and replied. 'Sir! I never felt the rain. Its only on your telling that I realized it was raining, just a bit of de-weeding is left; allow me to complete it.' And he got



busy once again. RIMC gets brilliant and promising young brains from all over the country, the Indian-ness is unique; teaching them is both easy and challenging and I enjoyed this balancing act thoroughly. And when they leave they carry with them an everlasting bond of friendship. It is to be seen at the Rimcollians meet to be believed, illustrious alumni's like Gen Shahnawaz (of INA fame), Gens Bhagat, Candeth, Virendera Singh, Bewoor and others embracing and meeting each other. I still recall the scene when the Pakistani Rimcollians met the Indians re-enacting the famous Bharat Milap.

Holi was one occasion when the sublime, all of a sudden turned ridiculous for the staff. Starting from the college temple the procession would terminate at the VP's bungalow. Often repeated jokes from Mr Bisht and Mr RC Sharma, Ramayana-Mahabharata mix

from Mr VG Nene, songs from Mr Abid Mustaqin and equivocal verses composed by me always received thunderous applause from one and all, while delicious homemade sweets and kanji, specially prepared by Mrs. Singhal added unique flavor to the festivities.

1971 had been a sad year of my life. While the nation celebrated the great victory of Bangladesh, I was deeply hurt to hear the news of the death of so many of our old boys. I had personally been so close to each of them. I sobbed for many days.

Ecology was a passion with me, in my own humble way I added to the generous green environment. My wife actively participated in my endeavours. There are more than ten full grown trees still surviving. During our visits we never fail to talk to our floral friends- Banarsi Langara, Leechi, Peers, Plum, Lemon growing around Bungalow No 40 and elsewhere.

Cadets teasingly in their private conversation addressed teachers by their nick names. We knew it but turned a deaf ear even when we overheard them. Recently Brig DA Chaturvedi in a get together revealed the secret to my granddaughter. Since then they all call me 'kaye koo' and it takes me back to RIMC days. RIMC is so deep in my heart and soul that in the words of Wordsworth- 'Whenever I lie on my couch in a vacant or in pensive mood, RIMC flashes upon my inward eye, which is the bliss of solitude.'

(Mr Kaushal Kumar retired as Vice Principal of the school in 1988. In fact he took over from Mr RC Singhal).

Teacher with a poet's heart

Reminiscences of Mr LN Thakur



I saw innocent faces ripening
I saw buds blossom into roses
I wish I can come back again

I wish I can find eternity in these fragment environments

It has been a long journey of twenty four and half years for me and recounting my experiences at 80 is a Herculean task, the last time yours truly featured on the ROBA magazine was in Dec 1977. A young formative child enters the school portals and leaves with the brand RIMC. It's an eventful journey for both the student and the teacher. No school get together can be complete without a word about the masters who always remember their wards by first name.

It takes at least ten years for a master to develop himself as most use it as a spring board for better opportunities. My first night at RIMC was a haunting experience full of noises of footsteps only to realize next morning they were cats. It took me a tough three-and-half years to become a permanent master from UPSC, and I always set challenging papers for the students.

One learnt a lot of lessons while at school and the first was take action yourself, coupled with "Hate the sin not the sinner". I loved the students like my son who too passed out from RIMC with 42 medals. I too was influenced by Mr. RC Sharma who exposed me to district sports association whose honorary secretary I was.

I trekked a lot as I liked the Garhwal hills extensively and remember various anecdotes of cadets' drinking water and vomiting and food poisoning all special stories which are a chapter by themselves.

Being an introvert reading was my favourite pass time. I enjoyed kitchen gardening, bee keeping and also kept a cow for 12 years. I learnt hockey and squash while serving at RIMC. The various naughty anecdotes will remain my most cherished possession be they about various people or naughty characters we masters

cherish the same.

My retirement was the most honourable occasion of my life. The Commandant and the Administration Officer Lt Col Prakash Singh my old student were there, and his words "Mr. Thakur can you continue for two more years, still touch my heart". I was the first teacher when on retirement a special assembly was held at the Bhagat Hall. Col SD Mahanti who later on retired as a Major General sent me a testimonial with the quote of Prince of Wales referring to "Guru Chela" relationship. It is a cherished memory with me. I am living a contented life without any liabilities, I may have retired, but I am not tired.

My students have given me a lot of respect; Capt Anil Joseph (R) Indian Navy has put my photograph on the net. I get calls from Australia, Canada, and many places in India. My son being with the Indian Navy I have been honoured on board many a warships and various messes. At most places a Rimcollian reunion is an annual feature and I have fond memories of them on the beaches of Goa or at various Navy Messes.

"I would say that the voice comes from the past, including Rimcollians from Pakistan.

Its echo mingles with the future generation, blending together,

To form a binding for the three services that most Rimcollians serve, Carrying their distinct identity with themselves."



Commandant Col OP Choudhary, Mr LN Thakur and AO Maj HIRAK Sen with college hockey team

Modern age Dronacharya passes away

JASKIRAN CHOPRA ■ DEHRADUN

It was indeed an unfortunate day for the Doon valley on Saturday as it lost one of its legendary figures — a dedicated teacher and academician — who taught hundreds of young men at the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun for 37 years between 1947 and 1984 and thereafter served as Principal of Cambrian Hall School for 27 years. With the death of Ramesh Chandra Singhal, an entire era of commitment and sincerity to the profession of teaching has passed away.

He was the epitome of discipline and knowledge and it is no surprise that two of his former students are today the heads of the two most important and prestigious military institutions of the country namely Indian Military Academy (IMA) and RIMC. Col Pankaj Kumar is the commandant of RIMC

while Lt Gen Manvendra Singh is the commandant of IMA. Singhal passed away at 11.30 on Saturday after a brief illness. He was 84.

From 1947 to 1984, Singhal was at the RIMC, first as a master of mathematics, then as House Master and Vice Principal. He filled in the vacuum created post-independence by the exit of the British Masters like Hugh Catchpole and others from the RIMC in 1953.

At the inauguration of RIMC, the Prince of Wales had stressed the importance of "the first few blows on the anvil of life that give the human weapon that set and temper which carries one through life's battles". The Royal guest also urged the administrators of the school not only to keep the high ideals of public schools in England but also foster and maintain the old Indian spirit of mutual reverence which bound together the 'guru and



RC Singhal with then President S Radhakrishnan during the latter's visit to RIMC in the 1950s



RC Singhal

his chela'. Hugh Catchpole and Singhal were the finest examples of how a teacher could mould and strengthen the personality of a student. Singhal carried forward the legacy of the fine British masters.

Singhal died in harness as the day he retired from RIMC and today, he was with the Cambrian Hall School as its principal. He guided the school following the death of its

silent service to the nation would be remembered by those whom he tutored," said Sidharth Mishra, editor-in-charge of *The Pioneer* (Doon edition) from Delhi. Brig (ret'd) CS Thapa, who is a mediator-person now, spoke to *The Pioneer* from Astha Hospital and said "Singhal symbolised an era of goodness and true learning. Teachers like him are tough to find now."

He said that it was a sad day in the lives of thousands of Rimmcollians as well as Cambrians. Singhal had been awarded the 'Pride of Doon' award some years ago. He was not just Doon pride but that of the entire nation. Doon will not be able to get over his loss.

Singhal is survived by two sons — Sandeep, who works with the State Bank of India and Manoj, who is Colonel in the Army, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

'True expression of emotions can be narrated only by sensitive writer'

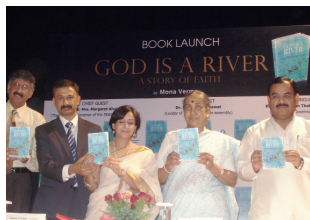
Guv releases book *God is a River*

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Governor Margaret Alva highlighted the importance of the manner in which writers and poets can express the emotional aspects of the trauma and pain caused by the partition of India.

"Historians can present such tragedies in another way. But the true expression of emotions of the men, women and children affected by the tragedy can be narrated only by a sensitive writer," said Alva at a book release function in the Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

The Governor made the speech after releasing Mona Verma's book "God is a River"



which is the author's second book after she wrote "A Bridge to Nowhere" a few years ago.

"It was a great tragedy when India with its rich traditions was divided and people had to face the pangs of the division. Unfortunately, humanity never learns a lesson from history,

author, who belongs to Haridwar, on her intellect, beauty and creativity. You have proved that the pen is mightier than the sword."

Dr Harak Singh Rawat, leader of opposition, was the special guest on the occasion. He complimented the author on her sensitivity.

Mona Verma read out excerpts from her book and said that she been inspired by the stories about the partition which her grandparents had told her when she was a child. This is a story of faith, and the destruction of faith, and the destruction of faith is repeated," she said.

Destruction and bloodshed is repeated," she said.

The Governor said that writers and artists from India and Pakistan had been meeting at many forums. "They can be a bridge between the two countries. They can do more than what the politicians can."

She complimented the

Uttarakhand rapidly emerging as an Education Hub: CM

Three new varsities to open in State soon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated a Private Law College situated near IT Park at Saharadhar Road on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Nishank said that Uttarakhand is rapidly being developed as an 'Education Hub'. Foundation for Law University in the State had already been laid. Besides, inception of new colleges in private sector would also enable the students to get more opportunities in the field of law.

He said that three new universities had also been decided to be opened in the State shortly. He said that the history of Law in India dated back to the era of Arthashastra



and Manusmriti. New challenges before the law specialists in the comparatively new fields, like economic, corporate and cyber, etc. was being witnessed in the present age.

He also advised the students not to compromise with the human values in the face of modernism. Special Guest Chairman of State Commission for Consumer Redressal Justice

BC Kandpal said that the new college should design its curriculum keeping the modern social perspective in mind.

Chairman of Police Shikayat Pradhikaran Justice Shambhushank Srivastav, Vice-Chancellor of the Technical University DS Ghaziabad, and Director of the Institute Prof RH Gorane, educationists, and guests in large number were also present on the occasion.

DM unhappy with progress of development works in Pauri

GP SENWAL ■ PAURI

Pauri District Magistrate Dilip Jawalkar expressed dissatisfaction at the slow progress of the development works being executed under the district sector, State sector, Central-aided and external-aided schemes during a monitoring meet here on Saturday.

Jawalkar warned that negligence will be not tolerated and strict action will be taken against those officers who are found negligent in the execution of development works of the different schemes.

The DM said that the development works under different schemes aren't being completed within the stipulated time period due to lethargic attitude and negligence of the officers of the district offices concerned. He questioned as to why the work has not gained momentum even though sufficient funds have been provided to the different officers of all departments to collect the proposals from the members of the District Planning Committee. These proposals should be included while development plans are drafted for the district, he stressed.

It was revealed during the monitoring meeting so far a total of ₹20,975.68 lakh has been released to different departments for various development work schemes out of which only 56.7 per cent funds have been spent so far. The limited amount of funds spent on intended works hint at the lack of interest being shown and the work being done by officials to facilitate the effective and timely execution of these development work projects.

The large population of Central-aided and external-aided schemes, the work is not being executed with honesty and efficiency which, according to the continuing anomalies in the ratio of money released and money spent, stressed the DM.

Chief Development officer Vinay Kumar Bhandari, District development officer Nandan Singh Rawat, Chief Medical officer Dr LK Gussain, Superintendent of Police PWD Dayanand and officers of various departments concerned were also among those present in the meeting.

CM distributes cheques under various social welfare schemes

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank disbursed cheques pertaining to various schemes of the Social Welfare Department to the beneficiaries in a camp organised by the Social Welfare Department in Dehradun on Saturday.

In his address Dr Nishank said that their Government had increased the social welfare pension manifold. Earlier, pension was disbursed to limited number of beneficiaries, but now it is being given to all the beneficiaries entitled to it. The State Government is implementing developmental schemes in the regions having dense population of the SC/STs.

The basic infrastructural facilities, like, roads, drinking water, electricity, irrigation, etc. were being developed in such villages. Scholarship is being provided to the students belonging to the SC/ST/OBC. An amount

MORE THAN ₹100 CRORE HAD ALREADY BEEN DISBURSED UNDER GAURA DEVI KANYA DHAN YOJNA OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND MORE THAN 35,000 GIRLS HAVE BENEFITED

of more than ₹100 crore had already been disbursed under Gaura Devi Kanya Dhan Yojna of the Social Welfare Department and more than 35,000 girls have benefited from the scheme.

The Social Welfare Minister Matar Singh Kandari said that their department is running many welfare schemes for the welfare of the deprived sections of the society. In order to ensure that the beneficiaries got the old-age pension, widow pension, and physically handicapped pension easily, the pension was being

paid through crossed-cheques.

The grant for the marriage of the girls belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes was also being provided in the State. Similarly, grant to the poor people belonging to SC/ST for their treatment was also being provided. Their department is running many welfare schemes for the welfare of the minorities. Making a mention of various schemes for the welfare of the Physically Handicapped people, he told that economic aid for tricycle, wheel-chair, etc. was also being given in addition to marriage grant to the physically-handicapped couple.

Cheques for 422 old-age pension, 375 widow pension, 300 physically handicapped pension were disbursed to the beneficiaries on the occasion. Besides, 10 girls were also provided with cheques under Gaura Devi Kanya Dhan Yojna. One beneficiary was also provided with a wheel-chair.

Four-day free health camp concludes

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A four-day free health and meditation camp organised by the Art of Living for underprivileged girls at the Him Jyoti School on Saharadhar Road in Dehradun concluded on Saturday.

According to the organisers of the Bal Chetna Shivir, the camp saw the participation of around 220 girls, aged 8-15 years from underprivileged families who are receiving education in Him Jyoti School.

The camp began with the lessons on meditation and pranayama for a relaxed and a stress-free mind after which the children were also taught the importance of healthy living, cleanliness, good hygiene along with the values of caring for the environment and respecting their elders.

"Importance was laid on good habits, as when inculcated young they remain with the child forever. Not only did the children play a lot of games but also learnt pranayama and meditation for a healthy body and mind. It is the vision of the management of the school and the unwavering support of the Principal that has made this beautiful course possible in our school," said Art of Living teacher Nidhi who conducted the camp.

A participant Akansha, aged 10, said, "I had fun and learnt a lot." Another participant Neha, aged 11, said, "I will keep myself clean and also plant trees near my house". The camp ended with plantation of trees in the campus of Him Jyoti School by the participants.

The Bal Chetna Shivir of the Art of Living aims at reaching out to the underprivileged children, instilling in them human values and a sense of belongingness. Valuable lessons on sharing how to deal with criticism, as well as pranayama



and meditation are taught to relieve them of the stress and for their overall well-being. They are made to play games and indulge in other activities which impart a moral sense in them. Environment education also forms an integral part of the curriculum. They are educated about how even a little awareness can help in environment protection and they are also inspired to take up initiatives to save the environment.

City markets decked with wide range of rakhis

DOON GEARS UP FOR RAKSHA BANDHAN

KANIKA AGARWAL ■ DEHRADUN

The city markets are decked with a wide range of rakhis and other items in preparation for the festival of Rakshabandhan to be celebrated on August 13. The rakhis displayed in shops range from those made from delicate threads to elaborate large pieces with the price ranging from ₹5 to ₹150.

Local shopkeepers are trying their level best to cash in on the festival by displaying a wide range of rakhis in their shops. Various kinds of rakhis are available in the market as per the taste of the customers like rakhis with cartoon characters for kids and simple coloured threads for adults. The popular cartoon characters like Chhota Bheem, Ben 10, Shin Chan are



among the favourite for kids. Apart from cartoon characters, the character Anandi of *Balika Vadlu* TV series is also favoured by the kids.

A shop keeper in Paltan bazaar, Ja Talwar said, "We have rakhis from Kolkata which are exclusively designed, with work in stone, lace, beads and sequins. These rakhis are bigger in size for kids with costing ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 75. Simple and delicate threads have been brought from Mumbai. The price range of



these rakhis is between ₹10 to ₹20. These are among the items most preferred by the customers. These threads are made up of silk with delicate and attractive work in the middle. Rakhis meant for kids are colourful and big in size. We also have gift packs along with a rakhi of different cartoon characters priced at ₹150," he added.

Owner of Rupam Gift House, in Ghosi Gali, Rajesh Goyal, has stocked his shop with a wide variety of rakhis



catering to different age groups. He told *The Pioneer*, "Customers want variety so rakhis available here range from simple ones to fancy ornamental ones with Jani work and symbols and sacred items of Hinduism like Om and Rudraksh beads. The price range of the rakhis available in our shop is between ₹10 and ₹80 per item. For kids we have rakhis with cartoon characters such as Chhota Bheem, Tom and Jerry and Donald duck which



attracts those who look for items for kids. These rakhis cost between ₹20 and ₹60," he informed.

A city resident, Meenakshi Shukla who has started preparing for the festival said, "I have purchased rakhi for children who like big and colourful rakhis and simple threads for the adults. We celebrate Rakshabandhan with enthusiasm as both I and my brother are happy to reaffirm our bond on this day."

Unhealthy roadside eateries pose risk to public health in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

At a time when the health department is undertaking drives to clamp down on food adulteration, one of the most popular fast foods in town has continued to pose serious health risks to the numerous people who eat it every day.

Chowmein is one of the fast food items most preferred by those looking for a quick bite in Dehradun due to different factors but the half cooked cabbage used in this item has the potential to transmit pests which directly affect the brain of the consumer. Both the health department and municipal authorities have maintained an apathetic attitude towards the danger posed to public health by the sale of improperly cooked chowmein in town even while the authorities claim that steps



are being taken to prevent sale of adulterated food items. Apart from chowmein, most other food items sold in stalls and roadside eateries across the town are contaminated and pose a risk to public health but the authorities seem to have turned a blind eye towards this major anomaly.

It should be noted that some days ago Chief Medical Officer of Dehradun Dr RK Pant had averred that those guilty of food adulteration would be dealt severely if the Food Act is enacted in the State in the coming days. He had claimed that health

inspectors and deputy CMOs are regularly instructed to conduct surprise raids and collect food samples especially from the remote areas of the district.

However, neither the Health department nor the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun have succeeded in curbing the threat posed to public health by the unhygienic items sold at fast food stalls and roadside eateries across the town. The MCD provides licenses to roadside food stalls but even so it is the building division and not the health division which issues the licenses.

The large population of students and working people in town is one of the factors that have increased the consumption of fast food. The presence of stalls in the vicinity of the health risk posed by food sold at such eateries.

89th Reunion at RIMC



Old Boys and their families interacting with cadets



Col Jasbir and Dr Bir Khurana, the seniormost visiting couple



Former commandant Col (Retd) Arun Mamgain with a Rimcollian daughter Srijana at the reunion



Commandant Col PK Kumaria, Vice-Admiral PK Chatterjee, Air Marshal DC Kumaria, Lt Gen SK Singh and ROBA Trust Chairman Gen (Retd) VN Sharma at Martyr's Memorial



THE SHINING STARS: Lt Gen SK Singh, Air Marshal DC Kumaria and Vice-Admiral PK Chatterjee, the seniormost serving Rimcollian officers from respective arms at the reunion

BALANCE SHEET

ROBA TRUST												
BALANCE SHEET AS AT						3/31/2011						
LIABILITIES	CORPUS FUND	KCMET FUND	HARD LUCK FUND	S.D.TATA TRUST FUND	S.K.TYAGI FUND	MASTER INCENTIVE/ GEN.S.C.SINHA FUND	TOTAL					
CORPUS												
Balance Brought Forward	4,567,839	2,007,131	286,969	4,571,447	847,637	1,335,348	13,616,371					
Add : Receipts during the year	532,811	-	-	-	191,160	1,278,902	2,002,873					
Less: Paid during the year	-	-	-	-	(1,039,000)	-	(1,039,000)					
Add : Surplus during the year	255,318	133,509	18,300	71,449	203	(509,414)	(30,634)					
	5,355,968	2,140,640	305,269	4,642,896	-	2,104,836	14,549,609.59					
CURRENT LIABILITIES												
Scholarships payable	6,000	25,000	-	6,000	-	17,500	54,500					
Audit fee payable	25,369	-	-	-	-	-	25,369					
ROBA	(18,644)	-	-	-	-	-	(18,644)					
Honorarium Payable	6,500	19,225	25,000	6,000	-	17,500	67,724.87					
TOTAL	5,375,193	2,165,640	305,269	4,648,896	-	2,122,336	14,617,334.46					

ROBA TRUST														
BALANCE SHEET AS AT						3/31/2011								
ASSETS	CORPUS FUND	KCMET FUND	HARD LUCK FUND	S.D.TATA TRUST FUND	S.K.TYAGI FUND	MASTER INCENTIVE/ GEN.S.C.SINHA FUND	TOTAL							
INVESTMENTS														
Fixed Deposits with LIC														
Hsg. Finance	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	300,000							
Fixed Deposits with HUDCO	550,000	-	-	-	-	-	550,000							
Fixed Deposits with PNB														
Housing	400,000	100,000	50,000	1,100,000	-	-	1,650,000							
Fixed Deposits with HDFC	900,000	-	-	-	-	150,000	1,050,000							
RBI Bonds	545,000	95,000	100,000	1,150,000	-	550,000	2,440,000							
Fixed Deposits with ICICI Bank	430,959	948,834	-	-	-	225,000	1,604,793							
Fixed Deposits with ICICI Housing Finance	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	150,000	2,150,000							
Fixed Deposits with Kotak Bank	1,500,000	700,000	100,000	-	-	-	2,300,000							
Fixed Deposits with Canfin Homes	350,000	-	1,843,834	-	250,000	-	1,075,000	350,000				12,394,793.00		
	4,975,959	1,843,834	-	250,000	-	-	12,394,793.00							
CURRENT ASSETS														
Interest receivable	72,232	3,689	813	36,000	-	30,033	142,766							
Interest Accrued But Not Due	209,175	74,198	-	-	-	82,902	366,275							
Advance to Staff	45,500	-	-	-	-	-	45,500							
Income Tax Refund Due (Earlier Years)	30,165	20,896	5,306	29,499	-	6,717	92,583							
Tax Deducted At Source	39,400	396,471	18,101	116,884	2,231	8,350	29,618	95,117	-	-	12,290	131,942	101,640	748,763.56
Balance at Bank														
- In Fixed Deposits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
- In Savings Accounts	2,763	204,922	46,920	46,920	303,779	-	-	-	-	915,395	915,395	1,473,778	1,473,777.90	
TOTAL	5,375,193	2,165,640	305,269	4,648,896	-	2,122,336	14,617,334.46							

ROBA TRUST													
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED						3/31/2011							
INCOMES	CORPUS FUND	KCMET FUND	HARD LUCK FUND	S.D.TATA TRUST FUND	S.K.TYAGI FUND	MASTER INCENTIVE/ GEN.S.C.SINHA FUND	TOTAL						
Interest on Company/ RBI/ UTI Deposits	453,340	133,746	18,300	423,449	-	116,086	1,144,921						
Contribution towards Scholarships	13,198	-	-	-	-	-	13,198						
Donations	39,000	-	-	-	-	-	39,000						
Interest on Income Tax Refund	14,845	-	-	-	-	-	14,845						
Bank Interest	36,804	57,187	54,763	188,509	18,300	423,449	203	203	-	116,086	91,770	1,303,734.54	
TOTAL	557,187	188,509	18,300	423,449	-	203	1,303,734.54						

ROBA TRUST												
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED						3/31/2011						
EXPENDITURES	CORPUS FUND	KCMET FUND	HARD LUCK FUND	S.D.TATA TRUST FUND	S.K.TYAGI FUND	MASTER INCENTIVE/ GEN.S.C.SINHA FUND	TOTAL					
Scholarships	12,000	55,000	-	12,000	-	17,500	96,500					
RIMC Cadets Welfare	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	15,000					
Audit fee	25,369	-	-	-	-	-	25,369					
Honorarium to RIMC Masters	-	-	-	-	-	608,000	608,000					
Honorarium to Tata Masters	112,000	-	-	340,000	-	-	452,000					
Honorarium to Staff	137,500	301,869	55,000	352,000	-	-	625,500	137,500				1,334,369.00
TOTAL	301,869	55,000	-	352,000	-	625,500	1,334,369.00					
SURPLUS DURING THE PERIOD	255,318	133,509	18,300	71,449	203	(509,414)	(30,634.46)					