

Vol XVI Issue-II (Bi-Annual) | September 2022

The Rimcollian

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

CENTENARY EDITION

A 100 YEAR JOURNEY



Prince of Wales, Prince Edward VIII addressing Cadets and officers while inaugurating the school on 13 March 1922



The Cadets with the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd) on 13 March 2022 at the start of the Centenary Celebrations



The Centenary Gate on Young Road, commemorating 100 years of Rashtriya Indian Military College

THE LAST POST

Name	Section & Year in RIMC	Date of Demise
Lt Gen Yash Malhotra	Pratap, 1956-60	22 March 2022
Cmde Beni Madhab Saha	Shivaji, 1953-58	27 March 2022
Brig Jasbir Singh, SM	Ranjit, 1962-66	01 April 2022
Col K C Anand	Rawlinson, 1935-41	06 May 2022
Brig Awadesh Kumar Mishra	Ranjit, 1953-57	July 2022
Mrs Shipra Mitra, w/o Col Ashish Mitra		27 July 2022
Mrs Zaki, w/o Lt Gen MA Zaki		28 July 2022
Mr Sumeet Panjratn	Shivaji, 1979-82	28 April 2022



Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Old
Boys Association of Rashtriya
Indian Military College,
Dehradun
Vol. XVI No. 2
(September 2022)
RNI No. DELENG/2005/15400

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Printed at
Om Printers

Photo credit
The cover photos & several
other pictures used in this
edition have been sourced from
RIMC, various Rimcollians and
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and front-inside photo by
Prof Sidharth Mishra



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Jo'ttings - Editor's Note



**Cmde N ANIL JOSE JOSEPH
(Retd)**

Dear Rimcollians,

This edition of *The Rimcollian* is our first edition, post our memorable centenary celebrations and it has all the usual suspects, with some added flavour. Like Rimcollians, *The Rimcollian* too has grown admirably, evident from the quality and sheer variety of the articles, and more importantly an increasing spread of contributors.

After the stupendous work by Team ROBA and Team RIMC for and until the Centenary there has been a change of guard at both. Lt Gen NK Khanduri AVSM VSM has taken over as ROBA President from Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa PVSM AVSM YSM VM IAF (Retd); Cdr Anil Jagtiani IN (Retd) as treasurer from Maj (Retd) MS Bedi, SM; and Col Vivek Sharma is earmarked to take over as Secretary from Group Captain Deepak Ahluwalia, VSM. At RIMC, Col Vikram Kadian SM has taken over as Commandant from Col Ajay Kumar.

Deservedly, our outgoing stalwarts would have received numerous kudos and compliments from all over for their valuable contributions. I am sure they are all satisfied and content with a job well done i.e. the fruit of their labours. We would also like to express our gratitude to ROBA President, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa for his continued support. Further, we thank Gp Capt Ahluwalia for all the energy he brings in every time.

At *The Rimcollian* too, we have had a quiet transition. I now have the privilege to be the Honorary Editor graduating from member Editorial team; one that has been toiling silently with large support from the brotherhood and the ladies by way of contributions.

It is only appropriate to 'Thank' our outgoing members: Air Marshal P P Reddy PVSM, VM IAF (Retd) our previous Honorary Editor; Mr Chiranjit Banerjee, Member Editorial Committee; and Maj (Retd) MS Bedi SM, our treasurer. Although this is a simple 'Thank you' here in this note; their work and contributions go beyond words. We would be adding new members to fill their gigantic shoes and thankfully we have volunteers.

Change is a constant in life and amongst many changes, girl cadets joining RIMC is the big news as we begin our transition to a new era.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions and support, as also all our sponsors without whom it would not be possible to bring out this magazine bi-annually. We would request more Rimcollians and families to put pen to paper and share their experiences; these are always very encouraging and clearly show the grit and determination of the alumni to make a difference, wherever we are. I would request Old Boys to directly mail their articles to the editor as and when an idea or event occurs.

Special thanks to our publisher Prof Sidharth Mishra, and editorial team members, Col Shailender Arya and Col Sanjay Kanoth for their tireless work in making good better.

May the tribe grow in strength and flourish. God Bless

Ich Dien & Enjoy Reading

**Cmde N ANIL JOSE JOSEPH
(Retd)**

Ranjit 1977 - 82

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



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Dear Rimcollians,

It is with a great sense of pride that I assume the duties of President ROBA. As young cadets in school, we always looked up to our senior luminaries who were great soldiers and leaders of men. They were our role models and inspired us to work hard with dedication and zeal. Taking on that role today is certainly daunting and it will be my endeavour to live upto your expectations of me.

It is towards our past that I shall look for guidance and it is from our future generations that I shall seek motivation.

As I begin my innings, I seek support of all the Old Boys to take forward this legacy and build on the good work done. As we all know, change is the only constant and we are all set to witness a major change in the make-up of the school. The first group of five girl cadets would be joining RIMC, which would be a watershed moment, turning our institution from boys only to a co-educational training centre. As members of the alumni, we should welcome the girls into our fold and see in them some outstanding future Rimcollians.

We have a lot to be proud of and thankful for. The Centenary Celebrations involved a lot of hard work and effort by outgoing Commandant Col Ajay Kumar, ROBA Trust, Gen VN Sharma, Chairman ROBA, ACM BS Dhanoa, President ROBA and Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia, Secy ROBA and all other associated with various conducting/organizing committees. I am sure that the new incumbent Col Vikram Kadian will continue with the infrastructure development projects and build on the framework he is inheriting. There is a lot that has been done - the Maj Somnath Sharma Resource Centre will be ready to welcome all - but a lot still needs to be done.

I exhort the Old Boys to contribute unstintingly to the school that has made us who we are today. Your contributions - in terms of your time, your expertise, your ideas, as well as in kind - are what will shape the RIMC of the next century. Just to illustrate the kind of support we need, your contributions will strengthen the ROBA Trust and enable us to hire the best talent, our Masters, who are the force-multipliers we need to build a better Rimcollian.

I shall continue to seek guidance of my seniors and with everyone's support I am sure we will continue on the path to Excellence.

Wishing the Rimcollians and their families the very best of times!

GOD BLESS RIMCOLLIANS - ICH DIEN.

LT GEN NAV K KHANDURI
901/C (1975-79)

Thank You Ajay

SIDHARTH MISHRA

In another 10 days Col Ajay Kumar would move on from the office of the Commandant, RIMC. Ajay's tenure forever be remembered for the leadership he provided to the school during the Covid-propelled lockdowns. His sober persona complimented his strong beliefs and determination. To me his tenure was similar to 'nunnery scene' of Shakespearean masterpiece Hamlet. The famous soliloquy, "To be, or not to be, that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer; the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take Arms against a Sea of troubles." The school was fortunate to have somebody of his mental make-up take lead, to overcome the dilemmas posed by unprecedented circumstances. It needed something extra-ordinary to say no several times to so many higher in the hierarchy. For him wellbeing of cadets was foremost and safety of the college campus utmost. Not to forget the centenary celebrations under most uncertain circumstances. The dilemmas before him must have been multiple but then he again led the school with his signature sobriety despite, as Shakespeare put it, 'suffering in the mind' in the run-up to and the aftermath of the celebrations. There could have been no better way to say thank you but through a personal visit. We after all come from the land where the setting sun is prayed before the rising sun. Thank you Ajay, best wishes to you, Meenakshi and the children for the future. — August 14, 2022



VIKRAM KADIAN TO CARRY THE BATON FORWARD

COL SANJAY KANNOTH

Col Ajay Kumar handed over the reins of the College to Col Vikram Kadian, SM on 27 August 2022. Col Vikram Kadian, SM, 1564/Ranjit was in RIMC from 1989-1994. He hails from the first batch that joined RIMC in Class VIII, as a result of the NDA entry being changed to Class XII. His inspiration to join RIMC was his maternal uncle, the legendary Lt Gen Niranjan Singh Malik, Kitcheners and ex-President of ROBA.

While at school, Vikram represented the College Team in Hockey. He was commissioned into 9 Assam in December 1998.

He has had a distinguished combat service and served extensively in active Counter Insurgency operations in most hotspots of the Kashmir Valley. He was conferred Sena Medal (Gallantry) and a COAS Commendation Card in his first tenure as a Company Commander. He then commanded 35 RR and 42 RR, the latter unit being conferred a Unit Citation during his command.

In the intervening period between his Kashmir years, he has served as a Military Observer in Sudan, done an Instructional Tenure at the Mortar Wing of Infantry School, and was nominated by his Regt as the 2IC during raising of the first Arunachal Scouts Battalion in the Nkorth-East.

He attended the 66th Staff Course at DSSC Wellington and the 46th Higher Command Course at Army War College. He was Col Adm of Romeo Force in Jammu and Kashmir, after which he received marching orders to the MO



Directorate. Short of his joining, he was selected for IMTRAT Bhutan as Col Adm where he served until July 2022.

With his communication skills, it is feared that the steady stream of young gullible Rimcollians being commissioned into the Assam Regiment from IMA will turn into a deluge commencing December 2022. He writes well, as any reader of the Camphor Series will testify, which he famously summed up as 'An alternate history of the RIMC'.

Vikram's taking over coincides with the

first batch of girl cadets joining the school in September 2022. Enabling him during this historic transition is his wife, Lalita, a career educationist. She hails from a military family. Her father, Lt Col YSK Gosain, (ex CO 10 Para (SF) 1986-89) served in RIMC from 1996-98 on reemployment. Lalita's two elder sisters are commissioned officers. The Kadians have two daughters - Manya in Class XII and Sayuri in Class V.

We wish the couple a rewarding tenure at RIMC. May the school rise to greater glory with them at the helm.

An illustrious journey of 100 years

— SIDHARTH MISHRA



Prince Edward VIII, the Prince of Wales, delivering the inaugural address to the cadets and staff on 13 March 1922

Let us begin by saying that 100 years is a short time in an eminent institution's long journey. On 13 March 1922, when the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (PWRIMC) was inaugurated by Prince Edward VIII of the British Empire, there were just 37 cadets, members of the staff and a small group of officials present on the occasion. The simple military function in front of the senior ante-room, however,

had the sufficient gloss to make the school shine in the next 100 years. In the next few paragraphs the memorable journey of the institution has been briefly enumerated.

PREAMBLE

On 13 March 1997, while delivering the address as Chief Guest at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the school, then President of India, Dr

Shankar Dayal Sharma said, "I am doubly happy to note that Rashtriya Indian Military College - a unique institution in the country - completes 75 years of its eventful existence today. During the period of these seven-and-half decades, the College has made an epoch in history by Indianising the top ranks of the Army and rendering yeoman service to our country by producing worthy officers and able leaders."



President's Cavalcade at School on March 13, 1997

FOUNDATION

The seeds of RIMC was sown way back in 1844, when Sir Henry Lawrence, one of the earliest British statesman of colonial India, made a proposal for the Indianisation of the British Indian Army's officer cadre to retain Indian soldiers in the British-Indian military service rather than they joining the armies of Indian rulers. Racial discrimination, which was a vital clog of the British colonial policy, however, came in the way of initiating any such move

The matter was, however, forced to be taken up for serious consideration at the end of World War I. During this Great War, over 10 lakh Indian soldiers were recruited for the British Indian army, which greatly strengthened the Allied war effort.

The successful display of valour and leadership qualities by the Indian soldiers greatly encouraged Indian nationalist leaders to bring pressure on the British to absorb Indians in the Army as King's Commission officers. Under tremendous pressure on 20 August 1917, it was announced that Indians were eligible for King's Commission.

Those selected were to be given pre-commission training at Royal Military College (RMC), Sandhurst. At RMC, these young Indians in conditions alien to their upbringing and experience were pitted against physically and mentally better

equipped European trainees. No wonder the results were unsatisfactory in the beginning. From the first batch of Indians admitted at Sandhurst, out of 25 cadets, only 10 passed out as 10 failed to meet the requisite standard, two died, two resigned and one was not deemed fit for commission.

To level the playing conditions, on 13 March 1922 the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College was established at Dehradun for preparing Indian cadets for entry to Sandhurst. The first batch included torch-bearers of the Indian military leadership including KS Thimayya, later to become Chief of Army Staff. Hiralal Atal, later to become Adjutant General, was the first Cadet Captain. He passed out in April 1923, joining Sandhurst in August 1923 along with four others from PWRIMC.

Till the opening of Indian Military Academy (IMA) in 1932, in all 165 Indians went for training to England to get King's Commission of which 61 were from PWRIMC, thus the institution in the very first decade of its existence. The PWRIMC in the next 90 years was to excel in the task of grooming young minds for training first to the IMA, later the Joint Services Wing (JSW) and still later National Defence Academy (NDA).

ADAPTABILITY

That the school stood up to every new challenge was most visible in the performance of its cadets at the various entrance examination for the higher training institutions and also their excellent performance later in service. A mention has been made above about how the school alumni dominated the list of trainees who were awarded King's Commission from Sandhurst, Woolwich and Cranwell.

The inception of the IMA in 1932 only enhanced the reputation of cadets from this pristine campus of being extraordinary. PWRIMC alumni K Bhagwati Singh had the singular honour of becoming the first Indian Commission officer bearing the number IC-1. He rose to become a Major General.

In the same course Brigadier Nripendra Singh Bhagat won the Gold Medal. This was just the beginning with many more swords of honour and gold medals to follow. It would be relevant to mention here that Nripendra Bhagat's younger brother Premindra Singh Bhagat, a few years later, was to become first Indian officer to win the Victoria Cross.

After independence, the government decided to start the Joint Services Wing (JSW), where cadets of the three services would train together before they went to their respective service pre-commission



President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad during a visit to the school in December 1956 with then Principal Mr Din Dayal.

training institution. JSW was established in January 1949 at Clement Town, Dehradun but later shifted to Khadakvasla, Pune, to blossom into the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA). The school was now to be a feeder to this new institution.

The first batch of JSW had 33 PWMC alumni in the total strength of 190. Ashok Datta topped the entrance examination and was also to pass out topping the merit list. As in the case of the Indian Military Academy, this was to mark just the beginning of a series of excellent performances over the next several decades by the school alumni.

VICISSITUDES OF TIME

The changes being faced were not only about the nature of institutions to which PWRIMC was to cater to as a feeder institution. Independence brought with it its own challenges, the biggest being the need to shrug off the tag of being an institution patronized by the British Crown.

On the 1st January 1948, the Tricolour - our national flag, was hoisted for the first time by the then Commandant, Lt Col LT Firbank. Also on this day, the Roberts, Kitchener and Rawlinson Sections were renamed after the legendary Indian warriors Ranjit, Shivaji and Pratap, names which spark a great sense of pride in every patriotic Indian.

Thus the first steps towards Indianisation at RIMC had started to take roots. It in these intervening years between the end of 1940s and beginning of 1950s that young Indian masters like Mr RC Singhal, Mr GS Bisht and Mr RC Sharma joined the faculty and they were to serve the school for a very long time to come with much grace and great commitment.

In light of the emerging political and cultural changes, in January 1950 the Government dropped the word 'Royal Indian' and rechristened the school as Prince of Wales Military College. On 1st December 1955, the Minister of State for Defence, Mr Mahavir Tyagi (who

represented Dehradun in Lok Sabha) announced in Parliament that the name of the PWMC was being changed to Sainik School. This move did not go down well with the college alumni, who felt shorn of their surname.

With the intervention of both Defence Minister VK Krishna Menon and Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at the behest of then Chief of Army Staff Gen KS Thimayya, the ellipsis of RIMC was restored in October 1959 albeit with a modification. It was now to be called Rashtriya Indian Military College.

The change of name was preceded by the visit of then President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad 7th December 1956. In his address, the scholarly President delineated the path which the cadets of RIMC were to follow in the coming year. The President said, "In India-since we attained independence-we are fully free to shape our own history. But before we think of building a new India we have to think of protecting and defending the Independence that we have got; and in



Lt Gen PS Bhagat, Lt Col HKL Johar (Commandant), Mr VV Giri, President of India, Lt Gen GG Bewoor and Lt Gen KP Candeth at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the school on 13 March, 1972

THE NEW CREST ALSO REPLACED THE BRITISH CROWN WITH THE ASHOKA CHAKRA WITH THE BULL AND THE HORSE ON EITHER SIDE. THE OLD MOTTO ICH DIEN, (I SERVE) WAS REPLACED WITH THE NEW MOTTO 'BAL VIVEK' MEANING STRENGTH AND WISDOM

that context the part which our defence forces have to play is, indeed, very great, and you, who are receiving training here, are expected, in due course, to take your places in the defence forces to protect and defend the country from any aggressor or invader."

The school alumni has not let the President down and has shown exemplary qualities of leadership both during the wars and peace. Their role in protecting the country from "aggressors and invaders" is very well-documented in the large number of gallantry and service awards won by the officers who were initially groomed at the school.

Before we move further, it's important to take note of another milestone event. In 1963 Peacock was declared the national bird. This spurred the move to change the college crest, an issue which was pending with the government for long. It was suggested replacing the ostrich plumes with the peacock feathers since both have a close resemblance. This was accepted by the Government.



Old Crest -
Ostrich Plumes -
1922-63



New Crest -
Peacock Feathers
1964 onwards

The new crest also replaced the British crown with the Ashoka Chakra with the bull and the horse on either side. The old motto Ich Dien, (I Serve) was replaced with the new motto 'Bal Vivek' meaning strength and wisdom.

Another important change was that the new crest had RIMC embossed on it whereas the old crest was common for all such institutions which had Prince of Wales' patronage. The new crest came into effect from 1964.

SHINING STAR

A quarter of a century after Independence, while the nation emerged as a strong regional force, the



contribution of the school alumni towards nation building was immense. They had the opportunity of showcase the achievements during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the school in 1972. The Silver Jubilee could not be commemorated in 1947 due to the uncertainties prevailing at that time.

The Golden Jubilee in March 1972 was marked with the august presence of the President of India, Dr V V Giri as the Chief Guest. Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal, (Rawlinsons 1922-23) was the senior most Old Boy present. The president of alumni association was Maj Gen Virendra Singh. The celebrations were held in the backdrop of the 1971 war,

THE MOST MEMORABLE
EVENT WAS THE
PRESENTATION OF THE
NEWLY BUILT WAR
MEMORIAL TO THE RIMC
FROM THE OLD BOYS
ASSOCIATION. IT IS AN
EXQUISITE PIECE OF
ARCHITECTURE IN WHITE
MARBLE, DESIGNED AKIN
TO THE JOHN KENNEDY
MEMORIAL IN
WASHINGTON. IT IS
ERECTED IN THE CENTRE OF
THE LAWN FACING THE
SCHOOL FLAG MAST.

where the Rimcollians had displayed great valour and leadership qualities, with eight brave hearts making the supreme sacrifice.

The presence of three Army Commanders, Lt Gen GG Bewoor, Lt G the Southern, Western and Central Armies in the war added to the pride of the school. The three C-in-Cs shared the dais with the Supreme Commander at the main function.

The President in his address said, "During this period of 50 years, the college has made history by Indianizing the top ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force and rendering yeoman service to the country by producing worthy officers and able leaders. Truly national in character, the College draws cadets from all parts of the country-from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and thus represents 'Unity in Diversity' which is the hallmark of our nation."

The most memorable event was the presentation of the newly built War Memorial to the RIMC from the Old Boys Association. It is an exquisite piece of architecture in white marble, designed akin to the John Kennedy memorial in Washington. It is erected in the centre of the lawn facing the school flag mast.

The memorial was consecrated with the recitation of passages from the Gita, Bible, Quran and Guru Granth Sahib, after Gen Atal had inspected a smart Guard of Honour presented by the Cadets. In a touching presentation speech, Gen Virendra Singh said, "the departed souls would always be loved and remembered by their school in whose lap they spent their childhood with gratitude and awe."

Thereafter Gen Atal laid the wreath on the behalf of the old boys. On this occasion the alumni also presented the College with a wrought iron gate for its main entrance and named it as Thimayya Gate, in memory of its illustrious old boy late Gen KS Thimayya, and the road leading from the Young Road to this gate as Thimayya Road.

YEARS OF CONSOLIDATION

The next fifty years have marked building shining columns on the strong

foundation laid in the first 50 years. RIMC further concretised its character being a feeder institution to the NDA with glory and excellence. Post-independence, the RIMC has sent 2,187 cadets to the JSW/NDA. This figure does not include the 307 cadets who joined various officer training establishments in the UK and India from 1922 till 1948. The RIMC sent a record 33 cadets to the 1st JSW Course in December 1948. This record was surpassed only in May 2000, when 34 cadets joined the 104th NDA Course.

Towards the end of 1980s, a decision was made to start posting Old Boys as Commandants. The first cadets to pass out under the first Rimcollian Commandant, Col (later Maj Gen) SD Mahanti was the 127th Course (i.e the 83rd NDA Course and 93rd Regular IMA Course). The lasting influence of Rimcollian Commandants is visible in the medals tally of the Rimcollians at both the NDA and IMA.

Rimcollians have won the Gold Medal on 42, the Silver Medal on 29 and the Bronze medal on 22 occasions. The RIMC achieved a clean sweep of all the three medals at the NDA Passing out Parade on four occasions - the 73rd NDA Course in November 1987, the 85th Course in November 1993, the 129th Course in November 2015 and the 139th Course in November 2020.

Rimcollians have won the coveted Sword of Honour at the IMA on 41 occasions, the President's Gold Medal 36 times and the Silver Medal 19 times. The records at the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy are somewhat similar.

The 1980s remained significant for the school with Gen VN Sharma taking over as India's 15th Chief of the Army Staff on 1st May 1988 and the third Rimcollian to reach the zenith position. He was the first Chief to have begun his career in the post-Independence Indian Army and served out a two year tenure.

Another milestone event, through the efforts of Gen Sharma was the decision to have Rimcollians as Commandants. Col SD Mahanti, as mentioned earlier, took over as the first alumni Commandant on 1st August 1989. Since then eight more

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SILVER MEDAL ON 29
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AND THE 139TH
COURSE IN
NOVEMBER 2020.

old boys have come to helm the school. The present Commandant is Colonel Ajay Kumar.

On 31 July 1991, was another landmark day for the RIMC, Air Chief Marshal NC Suri took charge as the 15th Chief of Air Staff. He has the honour of becoming the first Rimcollian to hold this apex post. Since then Gen S Padmanabhan has risen to be the COAS, the fourth old boy to hold the position after Gen KS Thimayya, Gen GG Bewoor and Gen VN Sharma. In 2016, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa become the second Rimcollian to hold the post of the CAS of the Indian Air Force.

In addition to them we have had

several C-in-Cs, PSOs and Vice-Chiefs in all the three services. Lt Gen CP Mohanty, an alumni of the 1970s vintage, superannuated recently as the VCOAS. His contemporaries Lt Gen AS Bhinder and Lt Gen Nav Kumar Khanduri are presently holding position of C-in-C.

WAY FORWARD

As the school turns 100, RIMC takes another major step forward getting ready to hosting the first batch of girl cadets on its primeval campus. Rimcollians have played a major role in bringing gender parity in the armed forces. Lt Gen Gautam Dutt, as Engineer-in-Chief was instrumental in giving woman officers command role in the Corp of Engineers whereas ACM NC Suri facilitated opening of the skies for the woman pilots of Indian Air Force.

The school's staff room today from an all-male bastion has substantial presence of woman faculty members. The first lady teacher in the College, Mrs Rebecca Beatty, who joined the staff way back in 1988. With its old boys having served the nation with valour and wisdom, the next 100 years would definitely have the girl cadets rubbing shoulders with boys with as much elan.

The institution which started as grooming school for boys from families of Indian elite, today is a crucible for melting cultures for boys, and now girls too, from diverse background and prepare them for leadership role in their life's journey. No other institution can lay claim to such huge contribution towards building of the nation as does the Rashtriya Indian Military College. The illustrious journey continues. ■

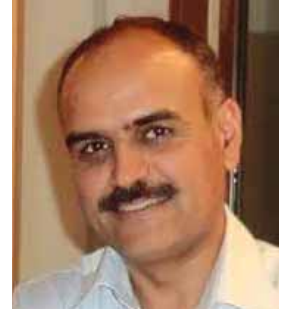
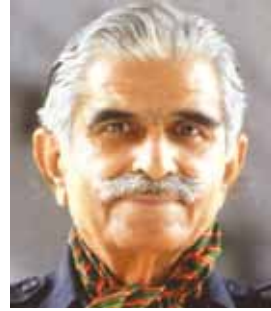
(The essayist was in Ranjit Section from 1979-83, headed school's journalism hobby club, was cadet editor of the Diamond Jubilee magazine in 1982, and editor of Platinum and Centenary jubilees volumes)

Acknowledgment:

1. Lt Gen NS Brar
2. Maj Gen SVP Singh
3. Maj Gen H Dharmarajan
4. Dr Akshay Joshi
5. Col Sanjay Kanoth
6. Col Shailender Arya

THE RIMC CENTENARY

— MAJ GEN ASHOK MEHTA (RETD) &
BRIG SUYASH SHARMA



Today, 100 years on, the youngest cadet, Nihar Reddy, all of 12 years seven months, will meet Gen Sharma, incredibly sprightly at 92. Rimcollians will be riotously happy, enjoying the centenary reunion guzzling RIMC spirits. Today, RIMC that the likes of Hugh Catchpole, Watson, RC Singhal, GS Bisht and RC Sharma helped make a world-class institution, is celebrating its centenary. It is truly the cradle for valour and excellence.

The Centenary Function was kickstarted by a soul stirring speech by the



Uttarakhand Governor's cavalcade arriving for Centenary Celebrations



His Excellency, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (retd) delivers Chief Guest's address at the inaugural function

Chief Guest, His Excellency, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd). He was lavish in his praise of the contribution of Rimcollians in nation building in general and the Armed Forces in particular. The most awaited moment of all Reunions at RIMC is the "Mother of All" competitions, Inter Secti on Boxing Championship. In the evening, all the Rimcollians with their better halves 'in tow' were seated alongside the cadets cheering for their respective sections.

Every bout is a matter of life and death, the young cadets spar inside the ring, outside it is the Old Boys lustily cheering for them. It is a sight which has to be seen to be believed. The Centenary year belonged to the youngest section of the College, Chandraguptians stole a march over their compatriots by punching their way to glory and bagging the most coveted trophy. For us old timers, it was quite a surprise as during our times our section was more academically oriented, where most of the Medhavis (Class Toppers) would be Chandraguptians. The Centenary Boxing



Winner at a boxing bout

Championship win will be part of folklore for future generations.

Gen VN Sharma, former COAS, nonagenarian, an epitome of grace and dignity, dwelled on these blows in his pep talk after the Boxing Finals. His pearls of wisdom on the blood and guts to tackle



Gen VN Sharma addressing the gathering after the boxing tournament



Commandant Col Ajay Kumar laying wreath at the War Memorial

bullies in life echoed cutting across generations of Rimcollians. On the next day, as the senior most Rimcollian present he marched smartly accompanied by the stick orderlies on to the War Memorial for the customary Wreath Laying, where his elder brother and India's first PVC Maj Somnath Sharma's name is also etched for his gallant action and supreme sacrifice while saving the Kashmir Valley in 1948.

Incidentally College reminds me of the many adventures that we bravely endured, in NDA and even later in the early years of service, there were times when some seniors would provoke us by calling RIMC a school like all the others. We just could not digest this downgrading of the status and contested, insisting that ours was a "College". After all the name itself was RIM College, so how could it be a school? All these fracas naturally resulted in the routine, "Get rolling!" A unique command which the

IN A LIGHTER VEIN, IT WAS THE 'NEVER SAY DIE' SPIRIT OF RIMCOLLIANS THAT FORCED EVEN CORONA TO BEAT A RETREAT. GETTING BACK TO THE CENTENARY EVENT, THE THREE DAYS FLEW PAST, WE WERE EVERYWHERE, IN THE CRICKET AND HOCKEY FIELDS...

cadets respond to in a reflex action by executing these continuous front rolls wherever they are in whichever attire they are; hopefully things are more of the same. These sessions did not dampen our spirits and we were always ready to take up cudgels on behalf of the status of the College always.

In a lighter vein, it was the 'never say die' spirit of Rimcollians that forced even Corona to beat a retreat. Getting back to the Centenary Event, the three days flew past, we were everywhere, in the Cricket and Hockey fields, Squash and Basket Ball courts matching our rusty skills with the Cadets; the Old Boys Teams were led by Young Octogenarians, Gen Jat Verma, ex-Army Commander on the Cricket Field and Gen Yash Malhotra, ex Engineer-in-Chief. Naturally we, the Old Boys won. The cadets took it in their stride and indulged us old fogeys.

While we enjoyed every moment of the three rejuvenating days, the ladies too had their share of fun, with most of them having given up on their spouses after all these years. They are aware when it comes to Rimcollians they are 'relegated in priority'. They also bond together enjoying the bonhomie and this 'thicker than blood' bond amongst these boys who simply refuse to grow up! ■

THE RIMC CENTENARY

We present before you the glimpses three-day celebrations,
to let you soak yourself in the Rimcollian spirit - **Editor**



The Governor sharing a light moment with Gen VN Sharma and Maj Gen Ashok Mehta



ROBA president, ACM BS Dhanoa (retd) with the Governor



Release of Coffee Table Book



Release of postal stamp and first day cover



Commandant addressing the gathering



The Centenary cake cutting on the evening of 13 March 2022



The wreath laying ceremony (L-R): Cadet Captain, Commandant, Lt Gen ADS Bhinder, ACM BS Dhanoa & Gen VN Sharma



A smart presentation of drill by the Indian Air Force



The Rimcollian Commandants: Col Prem Prakash, Col Vivek Sharma, Col Ajay Kumar, Maj Gen SD Mahanti, Col Arun Mangain, Brig HS Bainsla and Maj Gen H Dharmarajan



Para-jumping with the school flag



Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri presenting commendation cards to the members of RIMC staff



The beauties were present in full force at the celebrations



The winner of centenary year Boxing Championship with Gen VN Sharma and ACM BS Dhanoa



The editorial committee enjoying their drink after a job well-done (L-R) Col Shalender Arya, Maj MS Bedi (retd), Prof Sidharth Mishra, Air Marshal PP Reddy (retd) and Cmde NAJ Joseph (retd). Camera Shy: Mr Chiranjit Banerjee and Col Sanjay Kanoth



Good wishes for the school



The school fine arts team with the centenary sketch of our crest Bal-Vivek



Lt Gen Yash Malhotra (retd) leading the hockey team. We lost him soon after the Centenary



Presentation of Centenary Banner to the School by Col Ajay Kaila



AU Revor: The Annual General Meeting profusely thanked the school for hosting the centenary celebration.

Pan-Global Celebrations

The Centenary Celebrations were not limited to Dehradun. Rimcollians across the globe came together to celebrate the momentous event. We have captured these moments to underline the brotherhood - **Editor**

Kick starting celebrations at Seattle in Feb 2022



Rimcollians, spouses and children - L to R: Anubhav, Anupma and Aryan, Sandip Singh and Mrs Ramita Singh, Ananya Mishra, Mrs Daisy Tarafdar and Mushtaq Tarafdar, and Mrs Shilpa Joshi & Abhijit Joshi.



Scotch eggs and a specially designed Centenary cake made the evening complete with old tales and discussions around the Centenary celebrations took up the evening. Thanks all for marking this as the start of the Seattle Rimcollian chapter.

Celebrating the Centenary in God's Own Country: 13 MAR 2022

— Lt Cdr Arun Sivaram

The family beyond blood got together in Kochi at the premises of the Naval Officers Institute on 13 March 22 to celebrate the Centenary of the School. The Reunion as it is usually called is a meeting of souls, seniors meeting their juniors and course mates meeting each other and reliving old memories of the School. The Senior most officers present were Capt (IN) Sumanta Roy and Capt (IN) AJ Mathews. The fortunate amongst the brethren who could attend the celebrations at

Dehradun were the ones who were missing.

The festivities commenced in the afternoon with introductions which served as icebreakers; as nice as Rimcollians try to be, a bit of inter-section rivalry did creep in and the proverbial "During our times", did inevitably find its way in the conversations. After the traditional cake cutting and a speech by the senior most Rimcollian, the young brigade of officers doing their Sub courses and Mids time



charged at the lunch table. The splendid scotch eggs made the lunch memorable and soon it was time for everyone to bid



farewell, but not before a customary photograph of the get together amidst three loud cheers for RIMC.

A plantation drive was planned at Navy Children's School on 14 March to mark the centenary celebrations at RIMC. The initiative was well received across all echelons of the Naval fraternity at Kochi and also helped in spreading the awareness of the achievements of the

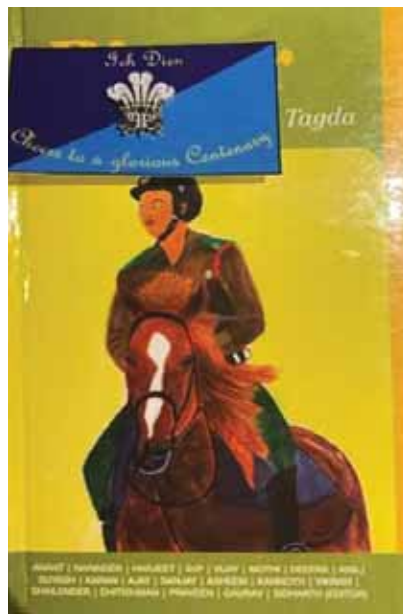
RIMC and the Rimcollians amongst the younger generation.

A second get together was organized to facilitate attendance of those who weren't present at the Kochi on 13 March. The venue was Holiday Inn Hotel which also provided the much sought after delicacy of Scotch Eggs without which a Rimcollian party would not be complete. The event was also attended by

Rimcollians from out of station such as Maj Gen Rajagopal (Retd) and Cmde Benny Antony (Retd). Cdr Sreehari and Lt Cdr N Gopinath managed the event overall ably assisted by Lt Cdr HP Chamola.

Cmde N A J Joseph (Retd) who had attended the Centenary at Dehradun was gracious to bring back latest copies of the Camphor Series of the books for the





present to buy RIMC souvenirs from brochures and undertook procurement on behalf of all. The sale of books and souvenirs was overseen by Lt Cdr Arun and Lt Ankit Arsh.

The event was made lively by the presence of the Officers from the Sub Lt courses namely Sub Lieutenants' Aryan, Deepak, Ankit and Vishwakarma. The warm ambience made everyone nostalgic about their time in college and after a round of drinks the school spirit and camaraderie was as high as ever. As the drinks flowed the laughter only echoed louder as everyone shared anecdotes about their time in college. After a speech by the senior most Rimcollian namely Maj Gen Rajagopal (Retd) motivating all present to do well and keep the school spirit alive and growing till the next centenary celebrations everyone proceeded for dinner. ■

those of us at Kochi and also titbits on how the celebrations took place at the Alma mater and how the present

generation cadets were carrying forward the legacy of the school. Lt Cdr Vaibhav Bhardwaj also made available for all



Standing (left to right): Cdr Sreehari, Lt Cdr Anirudh Kumar Singh, Lt Cdr Rohit Reddy, Lt Cdr Vaibhav Bhardwaj, Lt Cdr HP Chamola, Cdr RP Singh (Retd), Cdr Raju Mathew (Retd), Cmde Benny Antony (Retd), Mr R Santosh Nair, Cmde N A J Joseph (Retd), Lt Ankit Arsh, Lt Cdr Nithun Gopinath, Lt Cdr VS Arun

Seated (left to right) : Dr Divya, Mrs Akriti Bhardwaj, Mrs RP Singh, Maj Gen Rajagopal (Retd), Mrs Radhika Rajagopal, Mrs Rita Mathews, Mrs Jenny Joseph, Mrs Megha Gopinath

Kneeling (left to right) : Slt Deepak, Slt Aryan Prasher, Slt Ankit Awall, Slt N Vishwakarma

CENTENARY AT KANGLEIPAK: 13 MARCH 22

— Col Sanjay Kanoth

In Imphal, the 13th March gathering truly epitomised the microcosm of India that the RIMC stands for. Besides the Manipuris, we had representation from Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Kerala. Having been posted to the state for the first time and experiencing the place in person, one can only admire the long journeys that Manipuri cadets made in those years when air connectivity was yet to take root and insurgency was at its peak. Travelling by road to the railhead at Dimapur through strife-torn Nagaland, followed by the long train journey to Doon in the absence of mobile telephones or internet must have been a harrowing experience for Manipuri parents until the turn of the Century. They were truly at the very extremity of a highly uncertain and inadequate line of communication. Yet, Manipur has been a regular subscriber to the RIMC.

And it turns out that though the 'Manipuri connect to RIMC' predates the founding of the RIMC itself, little is known about it within our fraternity. His Royal Highness Maharaja Chura Chand Singh of Manipur was in the Rajwada from 06 May 1905 to 31 Mar 1907. His name is listed at ser. 28 in the white marble plate outside the senior Ante Room. The town of Churachandpur is named after this scion of the Manipur Royal family. Manipuri Rimcollians proudly count their position in the pecking order after this first Manipuri Rimcollian.

Col Wangkheimayum Manindra Singh (Shivaji, 1964-69) shared this important piece of trivia when we formed a Whatsapp group in January 2022 for the forthcoming Centenary Lunch. He informed that he is the fourth Manipuri Rimcollian, a contemporary of Col L Joychand Singh, and the twain were followed closely by Salam Sarat Chandra Singh, LT Singh, KAK Singh, LL Singh, CRK Singh, NS Singh, MR Shah and numerous others. It was obvious that

23. NAWABZADA MOHAMMED KULI KHAN OF CAMBAY	26.10.1903	01.04.1906
24. RAJKUMAR RAJENDRA NARAIN OF COOCHBEHAR	01.07.1903	01.04.1905
25. KHAN FATTEH DIN KHAN OF MANAWADA	08.05.1904	01.04.1906
26. NAWAB IBRAHIM KHAN OF SACHIN	15.05.1904	01.04.1906
27. KHASE SAHIB OF DEWAS	03.04.1905	31.03.1906
28. H.H. RAJA CHURA CHAND SINGH OF MANIPUR	06.05.1905	31.03.1907
29. MAHARAJ KUMAR JITENDRA NARAYAN OF COOCH BEHAR	15.05.1905	31.03.1907
30. KUMAR RANJIT SINGH OF BARIA	10.05.1905	31.03.1907
31. KUMAR NAHAR SINGH OF BARIA	10.05.1905	31.03.1907
32. B.SHEONATH SINGH OF KANOTA	16.05.1905	31.03.1907
33. THAKUR LAKHAJI RAJ OF RAJKOT	13.06.1905	31.03.1907
34. MAHARAJ KUMAR VICTOR NARAYAN OF COOCH BEHAR	16.05.1906	31.03.1907



Manipur has been well represented at RIMC over the ages. In addition to Meiteis, there has been a Rongmei (P Gaijinlung Rongmei, 96 Course RIMC, 655/Shivaji) and a Kuki (Capt Haopu Haokip, 2461/Chandragupta, 2005-10) who have secured Manipur's vacancy at the RIMC over the past Century.

As of 2022, we have a delightful mix of serving officers spread across Manipur. Brig Ashish Ranjan is the 'master of all he surveys' at Churachandpur. Col Tejas Candade is the josh-box Tiger at Shangshak while Lt Col Anoop Kunwar holds fort at Maram as

the boss of MGAR. A Deputy Commander ideally located in Imphal provided the crucial real estate for the venue. And so we got cracking for the do - with the aim of making the Imphal gathering the most memorable one outside Dehradun on 13 March 2022. In the build-up to the event, we reached out to everyone close by. Invitations were extended to Rimcollians in Kohima, Dimapur, Guwahati and even to Col James Brar in Kolkata.

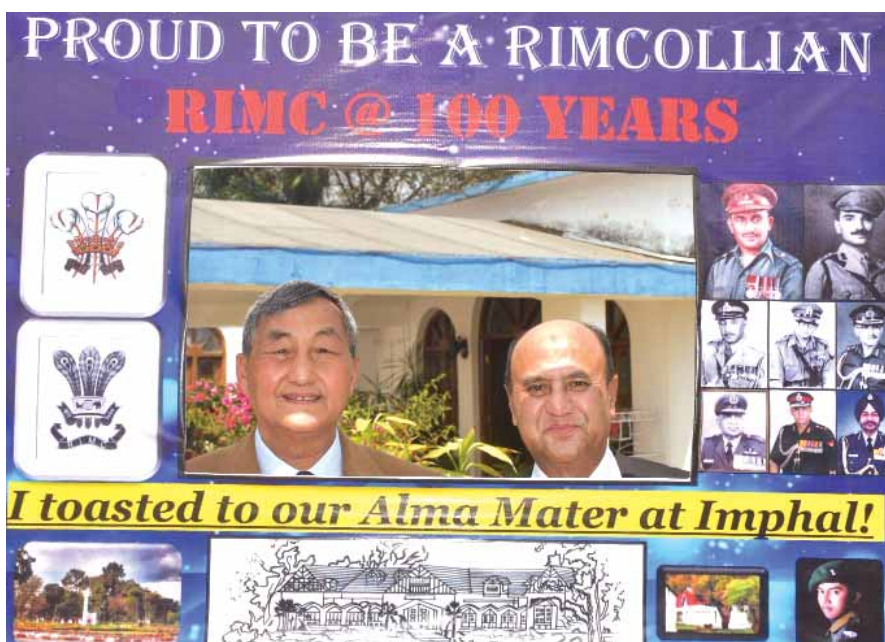
The standard Rimcollian lunch menu proved to be a logistic challenge in Manipur. Ham and bacon were declared



unavailable until Oinam Marjit Singh dug out the only vendor in all of Imphal who could procure these against a firm order. For other ingredients - especially dinner rolls & sponge cakes - it was realised that an airlift from Kolkata would be necessary. Dry-runs were conducted one week in advance to test the reliability of the logistic chain.

Scotch eggs! Many were prepared and consumed in the hills of Ukhrul until Tejas judged that the quality could match those of Doon's. For the 13th, an Ukhruli bovid made the supreme sacrifice to lay our scotch eggs in Imphal. A Cook each was sent ahead by Tejas and Brig Ranjan to ensure that nothing but the best would be conjured up for the Rimcollian palette. After all, we know how discerning Rimcollians can be when it comes to a Reunion Lunch, especially because it is a proud moment for them to show off their regal and sophisticated schooling to their families. But for Tejas's and Brig Ranjan's support, we would not have been able to make the event as grand as it turned out to be.

Come the 13th, and everyone put on their Rimcollian finery to assemble at the venue. Rimcollians drove in from Ukhrul, Maram, Churachandpur and Kakching, besides the locals in Imphal. We commenced proceedings by paying tribute to two senior Rimcollians who



had passed away over the past year due to Covid - Lt Col Huidrom Satya Brata Singh, 250/Ranjit, 1960-64 and Col Salam Sarat Chandra Singh, 423/Pratap, 1964-69. Everyone then introduced themselves and their families in order of College Numbers. While the gentlemen held forth on their divine talents, the ladies revealed some secrets that restored humanity back to their bragging husbands, while the audience broke into peals of laughter. Next on the agenda was the cutting of the Centenary Cake by

Mrs N S Singh & Col L T Singh, the senior-most Rimcollian and the eldest lady present. Then we all trooped outside for a group photograph. A selfie-point made for the occasion was put to good use and appeared on the status of the many the following day.

It was finally time for the Lunch. As we walked in, the host realized that the over-zealous chefs had exercised unnecessary initiative by garnishing the first batch of scotch eggs with a generous dollop of tomato sauce. The violation of further scotch



Seated L to R: Brig Ashish Ranjan (1367/R), Col N Sudhir Singh (489/P), Col CRK Singh (465/R), Col L Tikendrajit Singh (441/S), Dr Arunkanta Kojiam (449/S), Mr Mujibur Rahman Shah (491/C), Mr Salam Santosh Kumar Singh (1048/C).

Standing L to R: Lt Col Anoop Kunwar (1750/P), Col Tejas Candade (1867/P), Mr Oinam Marjit Singh (1876/C), Mr N Dipangker Singh (1821/S), Mr N Nirwash Singh (2379/P), Lt Col Sanasam Roland Singh (1978/S), Mr Mayeksana Yengkhom (1833/P), Col Sanjay Kanoth (1509/R).

eggs was stopped immediately, just in time before the first gentlemen laid their eyes on the delicacy. Vegetarians - the gastronomically oppressed cohort of RIMC - had some exotic sautéed vegetables and cutlets to make some amends for their protein shortfall. Everyone present gorged on the menu, proof of which was available in the rapidly vanishing dishes accompanied

by animated banter around the tables.

The senior-most Rimcollian in town, Col WM Singh regretted his inability to attend the event as he was convalescing, but wished the event good luck. We sent him scotch eggs, some tipsy pudding and the Newsletter to greet him on the occasion, which cheered him greatly.

As we prepared for dispersal, the

Rimcollian Newsletters were distributed. Dr AK Singh (Kojiam) distributed Red Cross souvenirs to the gathering. Finally we bade goodbye to each other at the end of a mirthful four hours, promising to meet more often and congratulating each other on the Centenary of our Alma Mater. **Long Live RIMC and the Rimcollian spirit!** <■

PUNE RIMCOLLIAN GET TOGETHER: 03 Apr 2022

— Newsletter Team

The Rimcollian Get Together held at CAFVD, Pune this year was a special occasion. The Reunion was organized after a gap of five years; it was the first time in the recent past that a cake-cutting ceremony was held, and we were fortunate that V Adm Ajay Kochhar, AVSM, the first Rimcollian Commandant of NDA could attend the Reunion. Since some of the Rimcollians from Pune were visiting Dehra Dun for the Centenary Celebrations in March 2022, the date for the Reunion was scheduled on 03 April 2022.

It was a pleasant Sunday afternoon when the Rimcollians assembled at the

CAFVD Officers Mess in Khadki. Brig Vijay Singh, the Commandant had kindly volunteered to take on the responsibility prior to his posting out in mid-April. However, he had to miss the event due to some commitments in Mumbai. Col Raman Gupta, Lt Col Deepak Jindal and Maj Karthik Reddy had ensured that all arrangements were meticulously done so that everyone would enjoy the function. The Reunion was being held in CAFVD after five years. Brig (later Maj Gen) DJ Singh, the Commandant had kindly organized the event in March 2017, and Lt Col Deepak Jindal had assisted him in

ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. We had a fairly good gathering of 36 officers and 18 ladies, with the special feature being the presence of Vice Adm and Mrs Ajay Kochhar. Adm Kochhar had just assumed command of the Academy on 01 April 2022.

Among the veterans, we were fortunate to have Capt HA Mohite, a 98 years old veteran of World War II, Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, Col & Mrs Kewalramani, Maj Gen & Mrs Rajan Aney and Col Ashok Bakshi. We missed the presence of Mrs Rajwade, Mrs Purandhare, Mrs Joglekar and Mrs Dabir, who would attend the



Reunion till some years back. We also missed Maj Gen AR Raikar, R Adm PD Sharma, Cdr KS Karandikar and Gp Capt AG Bewoor who were unable to attend due to commitments; as also Col DH Parab, who had just celebrated his 75th birthday at Ahmednagar the previous day.

At the entrance of the Officers Mess, the organisers had installed a big photo frame of RIMC Centenary 2022 - "Proud to be a Rimcollian; RIMC @ 100 YEARS", where one could have his photograph taken. All Rimcollians were seen enjoying themselves being photographed in the frame.

The Ante Room of the Officers Mess was quite large enough to accommodate everyone inside. After the usual round of drinks, snacks and bonhomie, it was time for the special cake-cutting ceremony - a nice two-layered cake with the RIMC crest on top and 100 Glorious Years written on the bottom layer. Capt Mohite did the honours, ably assisted by the junior most Rimcollian, Capt Mayank Malik and his wife.

It was a pleasure to interact with Adm Kochhar and the other Rimcollian officers posted in NDA and get news about the Academy. Col Karan Dixit kept the Rimcollians entertained with stories of the Centenary Celebrations, having just returned from Dehra Dun.

The Jazz Band of CAFVD played some peppy and melodious numbers in the veranda outside, so that those keen on dancing could enjoy themselves. It was time for our group photograph for which arrangements had been made in the lawns outside.



When lunch was being laid, it was the right time to conduct the proceedings. The highlights of the Centenary Celebrations in RIMC were briefed, amidst applause from the audience. The news of Chandragupta Section winning the Boxing Cup and Shivaji Section winning the Overall Championship received the maximum cheers (and jeers too) from the audience.

The Rimcollian Newsletter, March

2022 contains some nice articles written by Rimcollians and their spouses; 'Bal-Vivek' - the 10th volume of the Camphor series contains stories written by cadets presently undergoing training at RIMC; 'Valour & Wisdom' contains excellent articles by Rimcollians highlighting the contributions of the school's alumni towards nation-building; while 'Once Upon A Time In RIMC' by Brig Jasbir Singh, SM is a humorous book which brings alive



how mischievous teenagers are forged into soldiers at RIMC. A copy of these publications were shown to the audience, who later evinced keen interest in the same.

We were also privileged to have the company of Col Satish Malik, a NDA-course mate of Brig Suyash Sharma and friend of Maj YS Meitei. Though a non-Rimcollian, he had contributed immensely towards the preparation of the Centenary Coffee Table (CTB) Book. The excellent photographs taken by him of RIMC and the cadets, were useful in the Centenary Coffee Table book. Col Malik had brought along his original copy of the Centenary Coffee Table book, which was liked very much by the audience.

Some Rimcollians had passed away during the past one year. We solemnly remember Lt Gen Yash Malhotra, a spirited Rimcollian and good Hockey player, who would regularly attend the Reunion in Pune; as also Brig Jasbir Singh, an excellent sportsman, decorated soldier and author, who as an Instructor in IMA, would keep the Gentlemen Cadets spellbound with tales of his heroic acts as a young officer in Nagaland.

The arrangements for the function were excellent. The lunch menu which included Scotch Eggs and Fruit Tipsy Pudding was delicious and reminded everyone of the excellent food we had in School.



Finally there was a loud cheer for RIMC. The Pune Rimcollians are grateful to Brig Vijay Singh and his unit for having hosted such an excellent function, and Col Raman Gupta, Lt Col Deepak Jindal and Maj Karthik Reddy for having ensured

excellent arrangements. Like all good things have to come to an end, we departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time spent, hoping to meet more often in Pune, now that the Covid - 19 restrictions have been gradually eased. ■

Rimcollian get together in Bangalore : 09 Apr 22

A Rimcollian get-together was organised at Barton Center, MG Road, Bangalore, on 9th April, 2022



L to R : Mr Oinam Marjit Singh, Mrs Jaya Aiyappa, Wg Cdr Sanjeev Agarwal, Brig Vijay Kumar, Air Mshl B Suresh, Mrs Sheila Vijay Kumar, Mr Ranjit George, Mrs Ghosh, Mr Ranjit S Bhatti, Mrs Geetu Singh, Cdr Satish Aiyappa, Mrs Suresh, Mrs Anu Agarwal, Col Salam K Singh & Gp Capt Anup Ghosh.



Rimcollian get together in Jaipur: May 2022



L to R: Capt Dalvi, Brig HS Bainsla, Cdr Rishiraj Singh, Col SS Sangwan Host (not a Rimcollian), Maj Shakya, Brig SS Pundir, Maj Gen JS Nehra, Brig JS Bisht, Col Ashutosh Sharma, Col Ratnesh Jha, Col AJS Jauhal.

Kneeling L To R: Lt Col Shakti Singh, Capt Jarkop Doke.

Ladies L to R: Mrs Sangwan, Mrs Shakya, Mrs Ritu Pundir, Mrs Nehra, Mrs Shakti Singh.

Centennial get-together at NDA : 22 May 2022

— Col Vivek Sharma, 1407/P/127



Rimcollian get-togethers are always a delight for they bring in cheer, joy, a child in us and foster the bonhomie of light blue dark blue apart from breaking the momentum of Materialistic Life. It has a different blend, flavour and euphoria amongst the youngest Rimcollians at PCTAs especially NDA, which has the maximum strength. Earlier, as the Comdt RIMC, I had the fortune of planning and executing the same thrice. Needless to say, the experience has always been exhilarating and out of the world.

Since the cadets missed the lifetime opportunity of attending the Centenary Celebrations at College, a Meeting was planned with them, as per their schedule, to pep them up. They had been calling up me and Upasana, my wife, regularly for this and hence a promise was made to them, post Centenary, that we shall have a GTG at the first opportune moment, Covid Situation and Curriculum permitting. ACA Abhimanyu Singh did all the fine tuning and summoned me for the same on 22nd May, being a Sunday, little realising how busy they would get towards the end of the term. Nothing beats a determined Rimcollian and the younger generation is only doing better in their resolve. Insisting circumstances that had built up and craving that was getting to desperation, I had to book an early morning flight from Nagpur to Pune and return to Nagpur by late evening. Some people looked at it as a 'buggery', though I would confess I thoroughly cherished the experience.

A special moment for me since all the



cadets present at NDA had been my cadets at RIMC. Seen them growing from tender teenage boys to be men of honour soon. While they were at receiving end at RIMC, it was me who was at the receiving end now ... yes, receiving loads of love, affection and satisfaction of having been the mentor to the best one can ever see. It was a great feeling to see them nurturing well as fine military leaders in the true Rimcollian spirit. All the instructional staff and fellow Rimcollians had only prideful praises... We keep learning of their achievements. It was extremely gratifying to hug each one and share the warmth

with them. They all were curious to know of the celebration at the College. It was heartening to learn that as usual, they have sizable cadet appointments next term and many are breaking the records.

Since Sunday turned out to be a working day, it became a task to make the dream come true. Commandant NDA was very kind to not just appreciate this noble plan and give his consent. Wg Cdr Bharat Parab, Maj Mayank and Capt Abhishek Kaundalia did the finer coordination to not just make the cadets available but also identify a suitable venue. Adjutant NDA and SO to Commandant facilitated the rest. A gratitude to all was accordingly extended on behalf of the ROBA fraternity.

As a token of remembrance and special mark of the event, the signatures of all the Cadets with College Numbers were obtained on the Centenary First Day Cover. The same will be sent to the College archives. Some souvenirs were shared with extraordinary achievers.

Met the Commandant, Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar also who was very gracious to spare his valuable time and facilitate the meeting despite hectic end of the term activities. It was very inspiring to learn of his experiences and focused approach. We had a fruitful discussion for 45 minutes while the cadets mustered at the designated place of get-together. Presented Centenary First Day Cover and Brochure to the Commandant. His staff officers had the instructions to facilitate everything. A fine day with an amazing Spirit. Looking forward to the next one. ■

Rimcollians in New York: 05 Jun 22



Rimcollians in New York: 05 Jun 22

Rimcollians in Port Blair



Cdr Aplesh Mohan, Capt Mahipendra Salklan, Brig Rahul Gupta, Cmde Asheem Mital, Cmde Supradeepan, Cdr Gaurav Rana, and Wg Cdr Dhitisman Hazarika



Tricity Rimcollians: 04 July 2022



Blowing up the Lab & Old RIMC Tales



— CDR AJB SINGH (1955 - 1960)

There is of course only one Section. Pratap, successor to the Rawlinson name, Bara Part, Chhota Part and all, overlooking the cricket ground, the Pavilion and beyond.

Now my son Appu is going to join RIMC, the Section and all that goes with it, like me and my uncle Gurdip before me. We were on the road outside the Commandant's office that August morning of '94. A quick hug and he was gone along with the hundreds - before him to let school prepare him for the tomorrows of his manhood and a life at arms.

I remembered my own time in 1955 at quite the same spot. My grandfather had ruffled my hair, patted my back and returned to the Principal's office as PK Singh, a fellow first term from Pratap and I, lugged my trunk-and bedroll to the dorm.

The five odd years at school went by in a flash for me as indeed they did for all of us. I dare say that whilst one's experiences are unique, they are, in many ways, similar to those of the others. I close my eyes and am back in school again. To quote Thomas Moore

*"Oft, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Fond Memory brings the light
Of other days around me:
The smiles, the tears
Of boyhood's years,
The words of love then spoken;
The eyes that shone,
Now dimm'd and gone,
The cheerful hearts now broken!
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me."
It's a collage of images.*

The colossal six that Punjab Singh hit landed in the bungalow down the road and how he ate 54 or was it 56 cutlets one evening thereby ruining things for us all. Rations were reduced to a measly six cutlets per head thereafter!

There was PK Singh from Bihar who was good at PT, swimming, and football but whose English was as bad as my Hindi and our weaknesses and a shared love for music made us chums. He was a gentle soul though but no good whatsoever in a conspiracy. He couldn't wink, he couldn't whistle and would double up with a high-pitched laugh if ever he had to lie. He died as his unit advanced beyond Gadra Road in the winter of '65.

Odd things stand out in one's memory. Ram Das Kakati, the Naga from NEFA who would chew blades and glass and could wash the stuff down with 'Locula' eye drops. Yuck! Or how Nair's hands sweaty all the time and Bhattacharya is known as Elmer Fudd to this day because he was wearing the cap straight out of the comic strip, the day he strolled into school,

Then there was the duo of Avtar Singh and SP Das who ran off from school to become film stars only to be brought back to the fold a week or so later considerably less starry eyed Or Amarjit Singh from Shivaji Section whose skill in hockey was matched only by the brutal punishments he meted out. But if there was one person you were advised to stay friendly with despite his being in the Shivaji Section, it was Bhibu Mohanty. This is for the simple reason that he could forge the Matron, Miss Seth's signature! Need I say more?

We had cadet MR Sharma who, despite his height, had the wondrous

ability to fit into anyone's things thus making it necessary for many of us to risk surreptitious trips to Pratap Senior Dorm to forage for our stuff. Well Tikka Bedi had six toes on one of his feet while Mr. SP Sharma had half a finger less on his slapping hand and the object of our desires - Shashi, his daughter. Few however had either the chance or courage to talk to her though one got to see a little more of the other attraction, the Matron's niece, because her house was located near the MI Room.

Our masters were also a colourful lot. Mr Bisht the Hindi teacher played football and the evergreen Mr RC Sharma played hockey and squash and sometimes gave marks in Geography more for handwriting and colourful maps than for content. To say nothing of course of Mr Kitchlew who cycled so slowly that we often wondered why he bothered with the bike at all. Mr Arora once refused to give me pass marks in English when I wrote that "the palm trees swayed like the hips of a woman" and Mr KK Sharma surprised the whole class when we were doing King Solomon's Mines in Class III. Instead of saying "Good morning" as was our wont, the whole class bellowed 'Koom, Koom', a greeting from the book. Unfazed and without a moment's hesitation, he smiled as he raised his right arm and boomed 'Koom, Koom' in reply.

But there is so much to remember and talk about and of friends and school and all that went on. Games lost or won, the afterglow from strenuous exercise, taking the cup around after dinner or the satisfaction of having done your bit. One cannot possibly hope to put it all down here, though there is a thing or two that must be recorded.

The first that springs to mind in these troubled times of religiosity is how it never mattered in school what one's religion was. On Sikh festivals, everybody went to the Gurdwara and on Hindu festivals everyone went to the temple. There was a mosque and I expect we'd all have trooped off there too on occasion had there been enough Muslims about. There wasn't a Church and like lone-ranger Zaki, JAR Deans was probably the only Christian around in our time, or indeed Tester Jal Master the Parsi. But everybody was a cadet like everybody else and that was all there was to it. The only religious advantage being that at the temple the non-Hindus got 'prasad' first and at the Gurdwara the non-Sikhs. I suspect the Gods of men are not as interested in the affairs of men as we often make them out to be. I wish.....

Then there was when SK Sharma (II) and I decided to blow up the Lab to help stem, I suspect, the slide in our grading in the practical. Somebody told us that the gas for the burners was generated by the big black tanks with counterweights near the boundary wall. One evening we took off several weights and dropped them down the side of the tank. The wretched things made such a noise that we had to scamper off. The supply of gas to the lab was unaffected.

The failure hurt us quickly and we decided to teach everyone a lesson. Sometime later, we had a practical class shortly before the morning break and when all the other cadets had left, Sharma and I turned on all the Bunsen burners and slipped off without being seen.

That the lab still stands is evidence that it didn't blow-up, but the appointments did some detective work and at lunch told me to 'own up' that Sharma and I had done the deed. Pratap was the champion Section at the time and from my seat I couldn't see Sharma. Of course, I said 'No', upon which they went to speak to Sharma and returned shortly thereafter to say that he had confessed to the act. On hearing that I made a clean breast of it.

But Sharma had done nothing of the kind and did not budge when they told

WE HAD CADET MR SHARMA WHO, DESPITE HIS HEIGHT, HAD THE WONDROUS ABILITY TO FIT INTO ANYONE'S THINGS THUS MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR MANY OF US TO RISK SURREPTITIOUS TRIPS TO PRATAP SENIOR DORM TO FORAGE FOR OUR STUFF

him what I'd said. He could not believe his ears I think and so the Appointments brought him over to my table. One look at him and I realised that I had fallen for one of the oldest tricks in the book. But it was too late by then. I had been the one of little faith. I had let the side down.

Sharma never remonstrated or complained about what happened or the punishments that followed and we remained good friends. But the look on his face that day has remained etched in my mind since and has been punishment enough. The incident taught me things about loyalty, trust, faith and friendship that I may never have learnt, and these have stayed with me. Living by the lessons has been expensive at times, but then one sleeps easily at night.

On quite another plane was when Harmeet Dhillon and I decided to break bounds on the last day of the term. We bunked the evening programme in the Assembly Hall and decided to return only the next morning. Our theory was that since the school would technically be closed, 'nobody could touch us'.

When we trickled in at two, we had plans to pick up our baggage and push early since we were going home under 'private' arrangements. But our trunks were nowhere to be found as our dear six toed Section Commander Tikka Bedi had commandeered them!

He marched us to the Section Master's house 'at the crack of dawn', as

it were. We chirped 'Good Morning Sir' as Mr Shingal appeared weary eyed at the door.

"What's so good about the morning" he shot back and after giving us a piece of his mind, said he'd take us to the Principal.

We discussed all kinds of excuses and stratagems but Dhillon, who knew more about Mr Din Dayal the Principal than I, put on a couple of extra under-wear 'just in case'. I thought it was a ridiculous precaution since it looked as if he was wearing padded trousers - plus caning had gone out of the school system ages ago. Or so I thought.

In the event, Mr Shingal told the Principal about our trespasses and instead of forgiving he pulled out a Malacca cane from somewhere behind his desk, got hold of Dhillon by the neck and bent him over. He had asked for no explanations, and we gave none. But he was furious, particularly with Dhillon who he had apparently 'let off' once before on assurances of good conduct from the Sub-Area Commander who was Dhillon's relative.

"I told you to stay out of trouble" he said as he whacked him, "and here you are again". Dhillon shrieked and jumped dramatically with each stroke as if the layers of underwear were useless and stood up when the Principal paused briefly after three. He was brusquely bent over again by the Principal who crashed another three onto his padded backside declaring "you can't get away so easily, this is your second time".

"And you," he said turning menacingly towards me, "think you're too clever by half". As I bent over, he rained strokes on me with a force and venom of which I had thought the thin and mild-mannered Mr Din Dayal incapable.

After three 'lashes' I straightened up as a surprised Principal looked quizzically at me.

"It's my first time Sir" I clarified hopefully.

"Doesn't matter" he said, bending me over and laying on another three cracking whacks over back and bottom.

There must be a lesson somewhere - even in this. ■

My Encounters with Rimcollians - Part II

— COL VIJAY YESHVANT GIDH, VSM (RETD)



Being Introduced to the President



With Lt Gen K Bahadur Singh and Maj Gen Hira Lal Atal

Reunions are a unique event. During the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in RIMC in March 1972, the President, Mr VV Giri was the Chief Guest. As 10th termers, we got the golden opportunity to be introduced to the President.

It was a great honour meeting so many senior Rimcollians for the first time and listening to stories of Old Boys. Brig Hira Lal Atal was the Cadet Captain of the 1st course in RIMC in 1922. Lt Gen K Bahadur Singh had been the Chief Guest during the End of Term function in RIMC during December 1968, when I was awarded the English book prize in Class II.

Three of the four Army Commanders during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations were Rimcollians, it was nice to meet them. Later, as a cadet in NDA, being an active member of the Camera Club, some of my photographs were displayed during the End of Term function before



Conducting Gen Bewoor in NDA

the NDA POP in Dec 1972. Lt Gen GG Bewoor was the Army Commander, Southern Command and it was a pleasure conducting him.

When we were GCs in IMA in 1975-

76, Capt (later) Brig Jasbir Singh was our Instructor. The GCs loved to hear inspiring stories of his encounter with Naga militants when his battalion was deployed in Nagaland in early 1970s.



With Lord and Mrs Slim in RIMC during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

As a young Captain, I had the unique experience of serving in the Manigong post of 11 Assam Rifles in early 1980s, which involved an eight-days walk from the road head at Along. We were air maintained and the two young Rimcollian pilots, Flt Lt HS Sandhu and Flt Lt AK Prasad posted in the MI-8 squadron in Chabua ensured that I was well looked after.

After a year, I was posted as Adjutant in Battalion HQ at Along, when my wife joined me. After dropping supplies to the Assam Rifles posts located on the border, the IAF pilots would generally land at Along, on their way back to Chabua. It was nice to meet Sandhu or Prasad at times. When my wife returned to Mumbai, I got posted back to Manigong.

We were expecting our first child in November 1982 and letters from home took almost 20 days to reach Manigong.

My father sent a telegram "Congrats, Son Born, Baba". The contents were relayed to me on Radio Set from Battalion HQ. My leave was sanctioned and I walked back to Along in 5-days! The next day, I took a lift in a returning sortie from Along to Chabua. Sandhu suggested that I stay in Chabua, Prasad would have me dropped at Dibrugarh railway station. Since the runway at Bagdogra was under repair for a month, the weekly Assam Courier was to operate from Air Force Station, Chabua. The AN-12 Air Force pilots were staying in Chabua. It was here that Sandhu and Prasad suggested, why not go by air! They requested the AN-12 pilots, who readily agreed to take me to Delhi the next day! I had no Load Manifest (a ticket or permission) to travel by the Courier. Thanks to the Air Force, it was prepared early in the morning and I was dumped inside the

Courier. It was a memorable journey, since Sandhu was proceeding on leave by Courier to Chandigarh for his engagement!

Our unit was operating during Op RHINO in Assam in early 1990s, when Lt Gen HM Khanna was the GOC. When he visited Sikkim with his son in 1992, as the Brigade Major of the Jelepla Brigade, I had the privilege of conducting him. It was a pleasure to meet the General when he was occupying the exalted Chhatrapati Shivaji Chair of Excellence at Pune University and I joined as a Research Scholar in 2002. One morning, he rang up asking me to come over to his office, there was some minor problem with his computer for which he wanted my assistance. To his dismay, he learnt that I was clueless about computers. We both had a hearty laugh!

Capt (later Col) Col DH Parab was a

Divisional Officer when we were cadets in NDA in 1972-73. During one of my boxing bouts in my first term, I lost to an experienced V term boxer after putting up a good fight. Col Parab had been an outstanding boxer during his school and NDA days and he gave me some useful tips which helped me later my subsequent terms. It was so nice to meet him again, when he was the Commandant, RIMC and I got posted as the Adm Offr in 1994. Our children had to change three schools during the past year - KV Dinjan, then APS Ferozepur and now Dehra Dun. Col Parab suggested that son Varun should join RIMC and daughter in Cambrian Hall.

During my tenure as the Adm Offr in RIMC, we decided to organise a cruise for the senior cadets to Andamans in December 1995. Capt (later Brigadier) Shivender Singh did the planning. Cmde Vishram Naphade was commanding the Naval Aviation Squadron in Port Blair, while my course mate Maj (later Col) Rajive Chauhan was commanding the NCC Squadron. The sea journey from Chennai to Port Blair was tough, since the seas got rough due to inclement weather. The cadets soon got their sea legs and we enjoyed the journey. Cmde Naphade and Maj Chauhan were very happy to meet us and looked after us very well in Port Blair. It was probably the best holiday we ever had!

Our unit was fortunate to serve in the UN Peacekeeping Mission (UNAVEM - III) in Angola in 1995-96. I had the privilege of hoisting many Rimcollians serving alongside our Battalion Headquarters (Bn HQ) at Negage. It was very heartening to learn that Col RK Manucha was the Commanding Officer of 16 GUARDS - the unit which was to relieve us in Angola. It was a pleasure to receive the incoming battalion at Luanda airport in August 1996 and conduct them to Negage.

The process of affiliation of Infantry Regiments with Indian Naval ships had started in the late 1990s. Our Punjab Regiment was affiliated with INS Ranjit and the Ceremony was

scheduled in Mumbai in October 1996. Since our unit was deployed on the border, I was unable to attend the function. During my annual leave early next year, I learnt that INS Ranjit was still docked in Mumbai and it was a privilege to visit them. The Captain of the ship was Capt (later Cmde) Ranbir Talwar, he was thrilled to learn that I was a Rimcollian. I was accorded VIP treatment and later presented with a special memento - a cap of INS Ranjit!

RIMC was celebrating its Platinum Jubilee in March 1997 and it was a pleasure meeting the Pakistani Rimcollians again, since I had the privilege of being their Liaison Officer when they visited RIMC in March 1990. It was also wonderful meeting Lord Slim.

While attending the Celebrations, it occurred to me, why not take a lift in the Army Commander's helicopter after the function; it would save me valuable time apart from the train journey till Jammu. So I requested the Staff Officer of the Army Commander. Gen Padmanabhan readily granted permission. Mrs Padmanabhan was very kind and I was treated as a special guest.

Our unit was deployed for Counter insurgency operations in Manipur in early 1998. A British delegation consisting of war veterans of World War II and some family members visited Manipur during April 1998. I learnt Lord Slim was keen to meet Rimcollians. Having had the privilege of meeting him during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in RIMC in March 1997, Salam Sarat Singh and myself decided to meet him at Hotel Imphal. Capt Vikas Singh, the Special Forces officer posted in Manipur accompanied us. Lord Slim was very pleased to meet us at this remote location. I presented him with the Platinum Jubilee cassette and The Rimcollian magazine on behalf of the Rimcollians in Imphal.

The National Games were conducted in Manipur during February-March 1999. Since our Bn HQ was located near Imphal Airport, our unit was responsible for the Services contingent. The militants had

given a boycott call for the Games. When the IL-76 landed at Imphal, they were unable to refuel and return to Agra, since the IOC refuelling depot near the airport was closed. The pilot Sqn Ldr (later Gp Capt) SR Swaroop was my junior in RIMC. I suggested that they stay the night in our Bn HQ, and return the next morning after refuelling. My unit would ensure security of the aircraft. The Air Crew were well looked after and we ensured that the aircraft was refuelled the next morning and left for Agra. After the Games were over in early March, Swaroop arrived with his aircraft to pick up the Services contingent.

During the 1990s, it was noticed that most of the Gentlemen Cadets in IMA had started opting for Services and very few for Combat Arms, specially the Infantry. So it was decided that some young COs of Infantry units deployed in J&K and North East would deliver motivational talks to the GCs. I was fortunate to be one of them and got an opportunity to visit IMA in early June 1999. It was nice to meet Brig AAS Sinha, who was posted as Brig Training in IMA.

A few minutes into the talk, I found some GCs trying to control their sleep. The GC appointments were trying to keep them awake, AUO Vijayant Singh was prominent among them. I skipped the balance theory and went straight to the Case Study of our battalion ambush in Imphal town in April 1999. The loud bangs of IED blast, militants firing and our response seemed to wake up the GCs!

Our unit was deployed in Chakabama in late 1999 to monitor the ongoing ceasefire between the Government of India and the NSCN (IM). There was a deadly ambush of the Chief Minister's convoy by the NSCN (IM) militants at Chumkedima, near Kohima in early 2000. Our unit was mobilised for operations and placed under command of the Assam Rifles Sector, which was commanded by Brig (later Maj Gen) P Rajagopal. It was learnt that the suspected militants had taken shelter in the picturesque Dzukou Valley, at the foothills of Mt. Japhu. So an aerial

reconnaissance (recce) was planned of the likely hiding sites. I requested Brig Rajagopal for permission to accompany him for the aerial recce - I had never sat in a Chetak helicopter. He willingly agreed and we flew over the beautiful Dzukou Valley and along the base of the majestic Mt. Japhu. Little did I know that our unit would be tasked to comb the slopes of Mt. Japhu the next morning. After some effort, we located a few huts - they turned out to be huts belonging to some farmers!

After an enjoyable visit to Imphal in April 2012, my wife and I decided to visit Vairengte in Mizoram. Maj Gen AK Sen was the Commandant, CIJW School. We were to land at Aizawl airport, stay for a day and the next day drive to Vairengte. However, the weather was bad at Aizawl and the aircraft had to be diverted to Silchar; where Gen Sen kindly arranged to have us picked up. Our unit had been trained at CIJW School prior to our induction into Imphal Valley in early 1998.

During the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of NDA in December 2008, it was nice to meet ACA Gaurav Hridaya. He had performed a mimicry of Nana Patekar during the Entertainment Programme, which had the audience in splits - Nana Patekar was among the audience! Later Patekar invited him on the stage and gave him a pat on the back. It was nice to learn that Gaurav had joined 4/9 GR, a fine Rimcollian unit and married Capt Swarnima Thapliyal. It was a pleasure to meet Maj Gaurav during the Reunion conducted by 2 Mahar in Pune in March 2016.

During the NDA POP in May 2019, the CAS, ACM BS Dhanoa was the Chief Guest. It was a pleasure to meet him after our RIMC and NDA days; he still remembered my full name. It was also nice to meet Brig HS Bainsla, ex Commandant RIMC, who had come for his son's POP. Capt Bainsla was the Adj 5/9 GR, when I was the BM of the Jelepla Bde in Sikkim.

When we were GCs in IMA in 1975-76, Lt Col (later Maj Gen) BS Malik was our Battalion Commander, Manekshaw Battalion. It was a pleasure to meet him



With Maj Gen Malik in Pune

during a function in Pune in February 2020. Gen Malik had served as the Commandant of ACC & S, Ahmednagar. While preparing an article on the Rimcollian Commandants of Category 'A' Establishments for our Centenary Book some months back, I requested him for a short write up. He kindly sent it promptly.

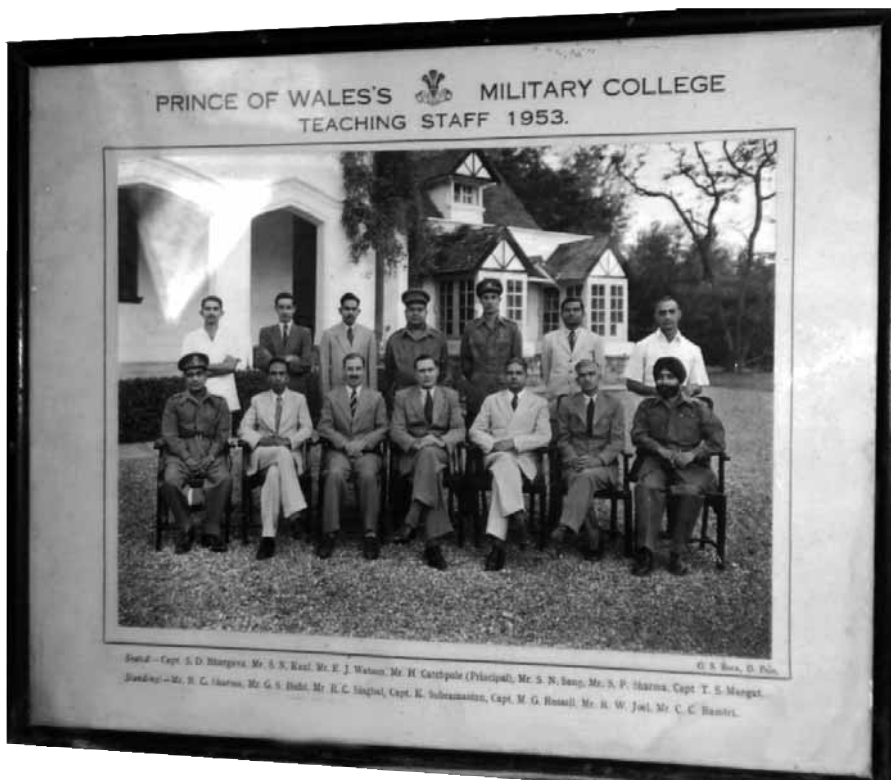
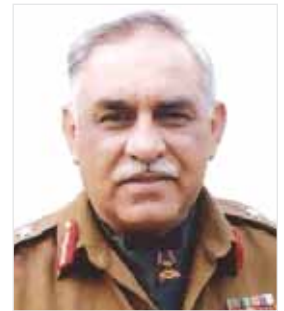
Cdr and Mrs KS Karandikar have been regularly attending the Pune Reunion every year. They stay near our place in Kothrud, Pune and the couple has been a great source of inspiration to our family. After I suffered from Chikungunya in 2016, my joints hurt a

lot. Cdr Karandikar promptly offered me gloves. He had been an expert deep sea diver during his service in Indian Navy and narrated incidents how he was responsible for clearing mines off the coast in Vizag harbour during the 1971 War, 1971. Later when I had severely injured my back in 2018, the doctors had advised surgery. Mrs Karandikar advised me not to undergo surgery - alternative treatments like physiotherapy and aqua therapy; followed by ayurvedic or pranic healing were better options. Other encounters, some other time! ■

(The first part of this article appeared in March 2022 issue of the Newsletter)

Best of Enemies: A Memorable Trip to Pakistan - Jun 2007

— MAJ GEN (RETD) RAJAN ANEY



Picture of Mr Cathpole and RIMC Staff, Hanging on a Wall at Abbotabad Public School

As a cadet at NDA in early 60s, I recall watching an amusing comedy, "Best of Enemies" starring the inimitable David Niven playing the role of a flamboyant British Cavalry officer captured by the Italians and the bonhomie between him and his captors. Years later, in Jun 2007, I got an opportunity to live a similar experience (fortunately not as a Prisoner of War). As a few of us Rimcollians walked across the Wagah Border Post and then drove onto Islamabad, I would often rub my eyes in disbelief and wonder if I was dreaming! Was I really in Pakistan to spend a

fortnight among people, who, I had all my life been brought up to believe, were my "enemies"? How did this come to happen? The answer: Mr Hugh Catchpole!

In Oct 1928, 21 year-old Mr Hugh Catchpole, joined the staff at the elite PWRIMC, rose to be the Principal and retired in 1953. Post retirement he was invited by the Pakistan Govt to be the founder Principal of Cadet College, Hasan Abdal (CCH). After a successful 5 year tenure, he was invited to be Principal of Pakistan Air Force Public School, Sargodha (PAFPS) where he

stayed for 7 years. Despite his intention to lead a retired life, he was persuaded to teach English at Abbotabad Public School (APS) and he remained there till he passed away. These four schools, decided to befittingly pay a tribute to this Educationist Extraordinaire and celebrate his Centenary by organizing exchange visits between Cadets and some of his students / Old Boys. He has the unique distinction of being closely been responsible in the education and upbringing of a large number of service officers in the subcontinent, many of whom had gone on to become Chiefs of Staff /senior officers of their respective Army/ Air Force/ Navy in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh besides others too who excelled in various other walks of life.

Following a visit in May 07 by some students and staff of CC Hasan Abdal and some Pakistani/ Bangladeshi ex-students of Mr Catchpole to RIMC, a reciprocal exchange from RIMC was scheduled from 10-18 Jun 2007. I was one of the lucky few to be part of this group.

Never in my wildest dreams had I imagined that I would get an opportunity to visit Pakistan. I had good reason to be even more excited to be a member of the delegation. I was born in Karachi in 1944 and like millions of other Sindhi Hindus, my parents and extended family had to flee surreptitiously as penniless refugees during the Partition. While we struggled to start life afresh in India, I often heard my parents/ family speak nostalgically of Sindh and the "good old days". My excitement at this unexpected prospect of visiting Pakistan and my birthplace exactly 60 years later can well be imagined.



Rimcollians with Brigs Karim And Fakir Mohammed

Acceptance and approval of this visit was at the highest level of both Governments. So Cdr Bhattacharya, our designated Coordinator, was warmly received by the Pak High Commissioner. As a special concession "No Police reporting" was stamped on our passports and fortunately spared this tedious formality during our visit. I will now briefly recount our programme date wise and also include some of my impressions as we went along.

9TH JUN

Amid much excitement our group of retired Rimcollians comprising Maj Gen TV Manoharan (Team Leader), Maj Gen & Mrs YK Yadav, Maj Gen & Mrs KS Kohli, Maj Gen SD Mahanti, Cdr & Mrs Arun Bhattacharya, Mr Abhishek Tiwary, Mr Abhishek Thapar, my wife Sheela and I boarded the Shatabdi at Delhi. The level of excitement rose as Arun handed us our passports duly stamped with the Pakistani visa, and the permission to cross over "On foot" (as opposed to by air or the Lahore bus or the Samjhauta Express). Commandant RIMC accompanied by his wife and daughter, two teaching staff and about 40 odd cadets were to drive to Amritsar/ Wagah on 10th morning. At Amritsar, Sheela and I visited the Golden Temple and prayed for not only a successful visit but also for our safe return! After all, the next day we would be venturing into enemy Territory!

10TH JUN

Due to a communication gap, the Govt sanction accorded to the RIMC delegation was from 13th -18th. They could not therefore cross the border with us on 10th.. On arrival at Wagah we were in for a shock! The Immigration Officer informed us that only those above 65 years of age could cross "On foot". He suggested the rest of us board the Samjhauta Express the next day. The senior Generals/ ladies had crossed over to join the Pakistani Reception Committee and were waiting impatiently for us. The Immigration Officer, though sympathetic, expressed helplessness and told us we needed a special waiver authorized by the Joint Secretary in New Delhi. Though it was a Sunday, after numerous frantic attempts over the next few hours, I was successful in contacting and convincing the Joint Secretary that the delay in our crossing over would possibly lead to unnecessary bad publicity and embarrassment to the Indian Govt. realizing the consequences, he grudgingly sanctioned the waiver (a minor miracle by any standards)!

After this harrowing delay we crossed "No Man's Land" to be overwhelmed by the warm reception by the Pakistanis. There was not the slightest hint of annoyance that they had been waiting in the intense heat for hours for this little farce to be played out. However they could not resist having a dig at us

since it was unthinkable to them that retired officers, including two Maj Gens, could be subjected to such treatment over such a trivial issue.

I cannot count the innumerable War games/ exercises/courses in my 38 years of service in which we had discussed plans of "crossing the border"! Now, here we were, a group of ex-Army officers being driven towards Lahore and that too with an Armed Police escort vehicle piloting us. It was an unbelievably surreal experience! We noticed that unlike India, the area between the border and Lahore was undeveloped. Thousands of Pakistani males were jumping into the muddy but cool waters of the Canal to beat the heat. Women were noticeably obvious by their absence. As we approached Lahore the surroundings changed dramatically. The houses on either side seemed posh and well maintained. Soon we were on the Motorway (a Nawaz Sharif legacy), an excellent road with disciplined traffic, to Islamabad, with a brief halt for a delicious lunch at Bhera,

On reaching Hotel Chancery, Islamabad, a small but neat clean hotel, we were warmly received by Maj Gen (Retd) Salim (a huge 6ft 6in Pathan) and Gp Capt Syed Anas, Secretary of the Sargodhian Old Boys Association (SOBA). The hotel was located barely a couple of hundred meters away from the infamous Lal Masjid, a hotbed of fanatical politico-religious activity which was soon going to be making headlines with serious repercussions for President Musharraf and his Govt!

We quickly settled in and were off for a short drive around Islamabad before reaching Brig (Retd) MM Karim's residence, a diehard Rimcollian and the main architect behind this exchange which had taken 10 years to fructify. Brig (Retd) Faqir Mohammed and his friendly wife Zohra Begum who were also invited, immediately took to Sheela and I and invited us to stay with them. We thanked them for their kind invitation but politely declined.

Though a few servants were around, it was the family who personally looked after us as we were treated to a



Rimcollian Delegation with PM, General Haq and Pakistani Ministers

sumptuous well laid out sit down dinner. Brig Karim enthralled us with stories of his days in RIMC / IMA and his rare distinction of having being commissioned into the IAF, subsequently joined the IN as a SSO and finally joined IMA as a GC, from where he left for Pakistan on Partition to eventually get commissioned into the Pakistan Army! Gen Manoharan (God Bless his soul, who, as old Rimcollians know, was of short stature), stood on a chair next to the giant Gen Salim Malik, and had us all in splits as he thanked Brig Karim with a hilarious speech. Many stories and anecdotes were exchanged. Soon it was midnight and we reluctantly headed back to our hotel. However the warmth and affection was to set the tenor that was to last throughout our stay.

11TH JUN

Islamabad, we observed, was a well laid out, clean city. (Queen Elizabeth's critical remark, a few years earlier, comparing the cleanliness of Delhi and Islamabad had created a diplomatic furore in India). The area around the



Dinner at Islamabad Club with Brig and Mrs Fakir Mohammed

President's Palace, PM's Residence/ Office, Faisal Mosque, Supreme Court is well maintained. Traffic discipline is good and the police brook no nonsense from anybody! We visited the majestic Raval Dam and observed a small boarded up temple close by. Our Liaison Officer informed us that many such temples in Islamabad/ Rawalpindi, had been boarded and non-functional since 1947.

We also visited a small Dilli Haat type of "touristy" shopping area called Shakarparian.

In the afternoon we drove to CCH to witness the Opening Ceremony followed by a Hockey match between CCH and PAFPS RIMC team was to play the opening match but thanks to the delay they had not yet arrived. Gp Capt (Retd) Nasir Khan and his charming wife



Rimcollians with Gen Mumtaz Muhammad and Family

Naseem accompanied us. Nasir, a Karachi based retired PAF pilot now with PIA, was a warm friendly person and he and I immediately 'took to' each other. When I casually mentioned to him my plans to visit Karachi, he promptly invited us to stay with them.

The Chief Guest was Gen Ehsan Haq, Chairman Chiefs Of Staff Committee and many senior serving and retired Pakistani officers, alumni of either CCH, PAFPS or APS, were present. We also met some distinguished old Rimcollians, notably the famous Air Marshal Noor Khan (ex CAS PAF), Capt Taj Mohammed Khanzada (a highly decorated officer) Brig MM Karim and a few others. I also met Brig (Retd) Salim Malik who had been the Pak Defence Attaché when I was posted as MA in Moscow and we recalled our days together. Many retired officers were Ambassadors/ Governors or occupying senior positions of power. Obviously not only did the Armed Forces rule the roost in Pakistan, but their retired officers were looked after rather well (like the IAS does in India)!

That evening, Brig Faqir Mohammed

hosted a sit down dinner at the Islamabad Club where we met his family and Maj Gen (Retd) Mumtaz Mohammed Khan, HJ, SJ (ex Rimcollian) who despite his ill health and against doctor's advice, had insisted on undertaking the long drive from his village Manshera. There was no way he was going to miss this opportunity of a lifetime to meet fellow Rimcollians from India. He extended an invitation to visit him and his family in Manshera whenever convenient. The spirit and love for the Alma Mater amongst the Pakistani Rimcollians was noticeably remarkable!

As expected, it was a very well laid out and sumptuous dinner. The exclusive Islamabad Club is fastidious about dress, no liquor is served and very few ladies were present in the club barring our group. Though the ladies greeted us warmly, yet at dinner they sat together in one corner of the table. It was a very noticeable facet of social life in Pakistan that ladies do not easily mingle with the menfolk. Invariably they had their heads covered and always wore long sleeved kurtas. Short sleeves, trousers and display of skin are strictly a NO NO. After

dinner, exchange of gifts and a few photographs, we reached our hotel and fell into our beds tired, totally impressed by the warmth of our hosts.

12TH JUN

The RIMC party, (thanks to Gen MM Lakhera, a Rimcollian and Governor of Arunachal Pradesh who requested the intervention of the Defence Minister) crossed over late on 11th Jun and arrived at CCH late at night. A Wreath laying ceremony was conducted at the CCH Shaheed Memorial to honour the alumni of CCH who had lost their lives in various wars (ironically, mostly against India) followed by a brief solemn and dignified ceremony as we laid wreaths at the Catchpole Memorial. It was indeed a very touching moment as he was the reason which made this otherwise impossible trip actually happen!

CCH, built along similar lines as RIMC, was quite impressive, though at the cost of sounding condescending, it seemed like a "poor relative". The cadets were smart and eager to engage with us. Most of them intended to pursue higher studies abroad (which apparently was



Mr Hugh Catchpole's Memorial

not a problem being from affluent/influential families) and then join the lucrative private sector. So, while an education in good Public Schools like CCH / PAFPS / APS was sought after, yet the Services were not a popular career option. This was so much like what is happening in India too!

We then visited the famous ruins of Taxila close to Hasan Abdal. This too was a memorable visit as the Museum houses some rare and beautiful relics of the Buddhist era and Gandhara art. Drowsy after a delicious lunch at CCH, we would have welcomed a nap. However, when our hosts suggested a visit to the famous and holy "Punja Sahib Gurudwara", we eagerly jumped into the bus. Two Abdaliians and a local Muslim gentleman responsible for the management of the Gurudwara received us. The Gurudwara is very sacred to Sikhs and we saw many Indian pilgrims. After paying our homage inside we walked around the Sarovar. As it was searingly hot the thought of a dip was very enticing but we had not brought any swimming trunks. Our hosts immediately produced a few swimming trunks which we gratefully accepted and jumped into the crystal clear, cold water. It was sheer bliss especially in the unbearable heat and an opportunity to touch the sacred rock and the

imprint of Guru Nanak Devji's hand made it a truly unbelievable experience.

Later, after a visit to a park dedicated to an Indian princess who had been buried alive in a wall as a result of an ill-fated romance with a General from the Army of Alexander the Great, we met Dr Faisal Mansour, a prominent citizen of Hasan Abdal. He greeted us warmly and we requested him to use his good offices to ensure that the sacred Gurudwara was well looked after.

We then rushed back to CCH to witness a hockey match between RIMC and APS. The RIMC cadets had played a hockey match in the morning and were now playing yet another match in the oppressive afternoon heat. Though obviously tired, they put up a spirited show and lost by a narrow margin of 0-2. After a buffet dinner at CCH we drove back to Islamabad, a tired but very happy lot.

13TH JUN

Brig MM Karim is a very ardent Hot Air balloonist and he took some of us for an exhilarating ride while his charming daughter Zahra took the rest of us shopping followed by lunch at a trendy Italian restaurant obviously popular with the younger generation. Here again we noticed that the groups were not mixed. The girls were smartly but conservatively

dressed and their heads covered. Despite our attempts to clear the bill, Zahra would have none of it. After lunch Brig Karim's daughter-in-law also joined us and the shopping continued. With a favourable exchange rate, the shopping was good value for money. We apologized to them for 'hassling' them but both charmingly expressed their happiness to escort us. Besides they were under strict instructions from Brig Karim to accompany us throughout.

They insisted that we spend the evening with Brig Karim and family. They drove us up to "Daman-e-Koh". The 'hem of the mountains' as the name indicates, is located at a slight height in the Margalla Hills and affords a panoramic view of the lights of Islamabad and a beautiful view of the recently constructed majestic Faisal Mosque, donated by King Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

Many families had taken advantage of the unexpected cool weather due to a slight drizzle, to visit this beautiful spot. However there was no noise or hooliganism. I guess one reason for this could be that no liquor is served. We then had a delicious dinner at Café Lahzees, located there. Once again Brig Karim refused to accept our request to let us pay the bill. This was typical warm Pakistani hospitality. We returned to the hotel around midnight and an end to yet another enjoyable day!

14 JUN

Gen KS Kohli and I, being keen golfers, had expressed a desire to play a round of golf if possible. Gen Salim went one better. He got special permission from the Vice Chief to take the entire group for a visit to Murree, the famous hill station located at an hour's drive from Islamabad, though not scheduled on the original itinerary! Naturally, we were all thrilled as it would give us a welcome break from the oppressive heat of the plains. Brig Karim and Zahra also joined us and we also had a surprise addition with the arrival of Mr Hugh Catchpole's great grandnephew, William who had just arrived from UK to attend the Celebrations



Golfing at Chinar Golf Club, Muree

After a 9 hole round we sat down to a well laid out lunch catered for by one of the local Army units. This experience of having a meal organized by and being served by active members of the Pakistani Armed Forces was, for us ex-Army officers, yet another unique one and unimaginable experience! I spotted a Major from the Signals, in combat dress and introduced myself. On enquiring if he was a golfer, and why he had not joined us, he wryly smiled and told me he was not a golfer but had been "nominated" to be the Secretary. The young officer had obviously been lumped with the job of laying out the "bandobast" for us and I thought about how it was just like back home!! For me this experience of playing golf in Pakistan was a dream come true! The standard of golf was nothing much to write home about but for the record, William narrowly missed an "eagle", while I managed to get one "birdie"! I also bought a golf T-shirt bearing the logo "Chinar Golf Course, Bhurban" as a treasured souvenir!

We returned to CCH for the finals of the Inter School Hockey Tournament and the Closing Ceremony. The Chief Guest was Lt Gen (Retd) Khalid Maqbool,

Governor Punjab. Some other distinguished guests were, Lt Gen Ahsan Salim Hayat Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Masood Alam, Peshawar Corps Commander, and Lt Gen Shahbat Khan Chairman Board of Governors of CCH. A large number of distinguished guests, mainly alumni from these three schools with their families, had gathered together for this unique event. RIMC was represented by our delegation as well as Capt Taj Mohammed Khanzada (a sprightly 85 year old highly decorated officer) and Brig Karim and Brig Faqir Mohammed who were keen to accompany us to Murree. However, since he was still recovering from a serious head injury, his wife requested us to convince him not to make the trip in that heat. He finally agreed but only after extracting a promise from us that we would spend time with them before we left Islamabad! Such was the affection shown by these old Pakistani Rimcollians that they wanted to spend as much time as possible with us Indian Rimcollians even though they had never met us before.

Gp Capt Anas introduced me to Wing Commander Aftab Alam who, though we were complete strangers, had

kindly offered to host Sheela and I both in Lahore and Karachi. I thanked Aftab but politely declined as I had made arrangements at the Lahore Gymkhana Club. However both Anas and Aftab would just not take No for an answer. So I thanked Aftab and accepted his hospitality in Lahore.

I reminded Anas that our visas, valid only till 21 Jun needed to be extended since Sheela and I intended to visit Karachi after the delegation returned to India. He assured me it would be done. They would ensure that I did not have any problem. However despite his assurances I was very apprehensive about staying on in Pakistan after expiry of our visas.

The Closing Ceremony was followed by a Quiz Competition between the 4 schools. The RIMC team won the Competition hands down! Gen Manoharan, gave away the prizes and then presented a beautiful sword to CCH from RIMC. This was followed by a Musical evening by artistes from Pakistan TV and a sumptuous buffet dinner. After dinner our group presented gifts to Brig Karim, his daughter Zahra, Gp Capt(Retd) Syed, Principal CCH and his charming wife as a token of our



Lunch at Shaadi Khan with Mr Khanzada and Family

appreciation of their warm hospitality. We bid a very grateful farewell to the Principal and his staff who had left no stone unturned to make our trip so enjoyable and memorable. Finally around midnight we reached our hotel, tired and sleepy but also mindful of the fact that our days in Pakistan were gradually coming to an end.

15 JUN

It was a day of confusion and fraught with us either being guilty of diplomatic "brick dropping" on one hand or hurting the feelings of our Pakistani Rimcollians on the other. According to the Itinerary decided with SOBA earlier, we were to visit Capt Khanzada's village Shaadi Khan and have lunch with him and his family. He had invited a few other Pakistani Rimcollians and influential persons. However at the Closing Ceremony we were surprised to be informed that we had been invited to an Investiture Ceremony at the Prime Minister's official residence next morning, where the PM would confer the Hilal-e-Imtiaz posthumously to Mr Catchpole, for

which Mr William Catchpole had in flown in from UK. To add insult to injury, none of the Pakistani Rimcollians were invited to the Ceremony. This was considered to be a deliberate insult to Khanzada (known to be a vocal critic of the Pak political system). Our delegation was thus willy nilly embroiled in the whirlpool of internal Pakistani politics! Our hearts were with our Pakistani Rimcollians who had gone to such lengths to plan and organise our visit. On the other hand our absence from this formal ceremony would be a serious diplomatic faux pas and more importantly, an insult to the memory of Mr Catchpole!

Finally, after hectic conferring it was decided that we would attend the Investiture Ceremony and immediately thereafter drive straight through to Shaadi Khan Village for a late lunch.

The PM's official residence is an imposing building and we were rather impressed as we drove through the immaculately maintained grounds. On arrival, we were introduced to a few Pakistani Ministers and senior officials assembled there.

Two aspects that struck me which are worth mentioning. Immediately after the PM, Mr Shaukat Aziz arrived, a senior official recited some verses from the Koran before commencing with the Investiture. Apparently, quoting from the Koran, invoking the name of Allah and the Prophet is standard procedure for all official functions.

The other was that in his welcome speech the PM referred to us as "visiting friends from other countries" rather than as Rimcollians. In fact an article in the National paper referred to us as "teaching staff" from other schools. Considering that our visit was to commemorate the Catchpole Centenary this seemed rather strange.

It occurred to me that here we were, a group of Indian citizens and ex-Army officers who had been in Pakistan for barely 5 days, guests in the Pak PM's house. Whereas, despite being a citizen of India for over 60 years I wonder if we would ever be allowed into our own PM's residence!

I could not also help but reflect on the irony of the event. The Pak Govt was conferring such a high honour on Mr



Mrs Aney with Mrs Shaikat Aziz (PM's Wife), Mrs Haq (Wife of Gen Ehsan Haq) and Mrs Syed (Wife of Principal CCH)

Catchpole acknowledging his contribution in the field of Education in Pakistan. Whereas his immensely valuable, loyal and sincere contribution of 35 years in India, his adopted country by choice, got no such recognition. He had dedicated his life to teaching and nurturing cadets of RIMC, a large number of whom had become senior officers of the Indian Armed Forces. He had donated a major part of his lifetime savings to RIMC and expressed a wish that he wished to spend his last days at RIMC (Alas this was not to be). This is an example of our failure to recognize the invaluable services of a remarkable person!

After the Investiture Ceremony, and tea with the PM, his wife, Chairman Chiefs of Staff and other senior Ministers/ dignitaries, we rushed to Shaadi Khan, almost a 3 hour drive for a late lunch with Taj Mohammed Khanzada and his family. Brigs Karim and Faqir Mohammed, his wife and a few other guests had already arrived. As expected, it was a lavish affair but more importantly was the warmth shown by members of his family. One of his sons, a

keen cricket buff, asked me if he ever visited India if he would be allowed to visit all the Test venues and he rattled off all the names, some of which I had never heard of. Once again we were overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality.

16 JUN

The RIMC Cadets had moved to Abbottabad Public School for an overnight visit on 15th and were scheduled to return to India. So we drove to Abbottabad to bid them farewell as well as briefly visit this famous old school, Mr Catchpole's final contribution in the field of Education. His room has been preserved as a Memorial. Hanging on the wall of this room I was pleasantly surprised to see a photo of him with some members of the staff at RIMC. I recognized my old Shivaji Section Master Mr SP Sharma, Mr RC Sharma, Mr PS Bhist and Mr CC Ramitri. Needless to say it was a strange feeling seeing pictures of some of my old teachers in a school in Pakistan.

We then proceeded to Manshera located close by where Maj Gen Mumtaz Mohammed Khan, had invited us to lunch with him and his family. He

fondly reminisced of his days at RIMC and the walls of his Haveli also had many photographs of those days. His family too overwhelmed us with their warmth.

17 JUN

We drove to the famous city of Peshawar, where we were received by Cols Bukhari and Rauf, as we drove around we noticed some building traces of Indian architecture, visited the famous Peshawar Museum which houses some beautiful antiques of the Indus Valley Civilization and Gandharva period from the 1st to the 8th Century as well as beautiful statues of Lord Buddha. After that we visited the imposing and historic Balahisar Fort which now houses the HQs of the Frontier Forces.

We were then taken to the beautiful Governor's Mansion. Though the Governor was travelling he had left instructions for our reception. As we drove in, we were unexpectedly accorded a Ceremonial Salute by the Guard. The irony of it was not lost on us. The smart ADC, Captain Mudassar, then escorted us around the well maintained



Ceremonial Guard at Governor's Mansion, Peshawar

Mansion which has been in existence since 1901.

We then visited a local market which apparently thrives on contraband stuff. We were fascinated to see a board nearby which read "FATA. Restricted Entry". This was the road to Khyber Pass. Naturally we were keen on visiting Khyber but were denied as we needed special permission. Somehow adventurous Abhishek Tiwary managed to get into a private taxi and headed towards Khyber. Luckily there was no untoward incident and he returned to our fold safely and related his experience. He described it a "War Zone" with everybody toting guns, including young boys.

18 JUN

We spent a pleasant day shopping followed by lunch with Brig Faqir Mohammed and Zohra Begum who had been insisting on Sheela and I spending some time with them. Bidding them farewell was indeed sad as they had been so kind to us.

That evening there was a large gathering at the Pindi Golf Course organized by the Sargodhian Old Boys Association. We met some top ranking Officers including the VCOAS, Lt Gen Ahsan Hyatt (a Cavalry officer), CAS Air Marshal Tanveer Ahmed and many others.

It was a gala evening with a nice Band in attendance and top Ghazal singer, Saira Naseem performing. At dinner I took the opportunity to exercise the "Cavalry connection" and sought the Vice Chief's intervention regarding my visa extension. Though he was scheduled to depart for a visit abroad early in the morning he assured me he would have it done. I scribbled our Passport details on a paper napkin, the only piece of paper I could readily find. As we were about to drive back to Islamabad, a Pak official rushed up and asked for our passports. I was reluctant to do so as we were scheduled to depart for Lahore the next morning. He told me to go ahead with our visit and assured me that the passports would be returned to me. Hesitantly, I did so with thoughts of Veer Zara playing on my mind! Apparently, as I discovered later, on reaching home and despite the late hour the VCOAS had called the Interior Minister and told him of my visa problem. The Minister promptly instructed a senior official to contact me immediately and have the needful done. Such is the clout the Armed Forces enjoy there.

19 JUN

What a terrible day this turned out to be. It was our Wedding anniversary and we had hoped to celebrate it in Lahore. However Fate decreed

otherwise. En route to Lahore, the air-conditioning of our mini bus broke down and attempts to repair it by the highly efficient Motorway Assistance Team were in vain. We had to endure the stifling heat for the rest of the 3 hour journey. To add to our misery, short of Lahore the driver took a wrong turn and soon we found ourselves stuck in horrible traffic snarls and going through the underbelly of Lahore. It was a terrible sight / experience and exhausting day. My batch mate and buddy, "Chinu" Mahanti, Sheela and I were guests of Gp Capt Aftab in his house located in the Defence Housing Authority, a well laid out housing complex where retired Pakistani officers were entitled to purchase a plot and build nice houses at hugely concessional rates.

The intense heat and the terrible drive had totally drained us and all thoughts of a celebration vanished. Aftab however had a small surprise for us. All these days we had not imbibed a drop of liquor so when Aftab kindly offered us a drink we welcomed it. To reciprocate his kind hospitality I gifted him the bottle of Scotch whisky I had carried with me, saying "you are probably the only Pakistani officer to have a bottle of liquor with the words" For sale in CSD (I) ONLY "!

20 JUN

Next morning Aftab drove us around Lahore and we visited Jehangir's Tomb and the famous Badshahi Mosque. However, we were too exhausted for any more sightseeing and settled for a taste of authentic Lahore cuisine and some delicious Biryani at a well-known restaurant. That evening a few Lahore based officers from SOBA invited us to a delightful Restaurant complex aptly called The Village as the décor resembled a typical village in Punjab. Needless to say the cuisine was "to die for" with a wide variety to choose from. Yet another evening of enjoying their warm hospitality.

21 -24 JUN

Next morning Aftab drove us to Lahore airport from where we flew to Karachi. I was worried as our Passports had still not been returned to us. My cousin's husband, Iskander and to my surprise, Gp Capt Nasir received us. Nasir drove me to the Police HQs, where, much to my relief, our Passports were returned to me. He then dropped me at my cousin's house located close to "Fortress Bhutto" in the upmarket Clifton locality.

In Karachi we got a glimpse of another facet of Pakistani life, the socially mobile and influential lot. That evening we were taken to a trendy chic Italian restaurant. My parents had often fondly mentioned Clifton Beach so a visit there was a must. It resembled Juhu beach though a lot cleaner and less crowded. Mostly inhabited by males though there were a few families too. My rebellious cousin, attired in trousers, attracted many unfriendly stares, so we didn't stay long. I enquired about our old family home but Shobha informed me it had been razed to make way for a new development.

Shobha organized a small gathering at her well-appointed house and invited Nasir, his wife Naseem and to my utter surprise Aftab (he had flown to Karachi to ensure all was well with us), and another couple, a Sindhi Hindu lady from Bombay married to a Pakistani. Both were excellent Ghazal singers and known as the Jagjit Chitra pair of Pakistan. It was a delightful evening with much song and laughter.

ON OUR LAST
EVENING WE WERE
TAKEN TO THE
POSH AND
EXCLUSIVE SINDH
CLUB HOUSED IN A
BEAUTIFUL OLD
BUILDING. THE
ATMOSPHERE HERE
WAS SIMILAR TO
DELHI GYMKHANA
CLUB

We also spent a pleasant day with Nasir and his family and Aftab. Their charming daughter, Nausheen took us shopping where I bought a couple of traditional Pak Pathan suits and finally after a delicious home cooked dinner bid them farewell.

Next morning we accompanied Shobha and Isky to a Brunch hosted by their friends. They were all well-known names in fashion/ design/ media / Entertainment etc. The men and the ladies were well groomed, dressed in trendy clothes and friendly. The ambience/ conversation was similar to such gatherings in Mumbai or Delhi.

On our last evening we were taken to the posh and exclusive Sindh Club housed in a beautiful old building. The atmosphere here was similar to Delhi Gymkhana Club. We were introduced to a few ex Ministers and senior officials (mostly from Benazir Bhutto's Govt). There were two noticeable peculiarities. Firstly, it had a separate Ladies Bar. Secondly, Liquor was not sold but Members could bring their bottles, have them placed at the Bar duly marked and were served from their respective bottles on demand!

25 JUN

This was our last day in Pakistan. To our pleasant surprise, Aftab, was at Lahore Airport to receive us. He drove us straight to the Border and ensured we had a smooth crossover. Later that evening we caught the train to Delhi and slept safely and soundly in our own beds that night. So ended an incredibly

memorable trip!

Next morning when we woke up it was with a feeling of having lived through a dream. It had been an unbelievable and unforgettably wonderful experience. We shall never forget the warm hospitality and attention we received from, not just total strangers, but those dubbed as "enemies". The warmth, friendship and kindness shown by the Rimcollians in Pakistan was extraordinary and what came through loud and clear was their love and fond memories for their beloved Alma Mater. However this was equally matched by some members of SOBA with whom we had no other common link other than our association, respect and admiration for Mr Hugh Catchpole. The manner in which Nasir and Aftab, two total strangers, shepherded us after the "formal trip" was over, was amazing to say the least.

To end this, I must mention two aspects which were indeed strange and conspicuous by their absence. Firstly, throughout our trip there was no politics discussed. Secondly, while we're quite sure we would be tailed by the ISI, we did not feel their presence. Stranger still was the obvious lack of gun toting Security around us. It was only while we were on the Motorway did we have an armed Police Escort/ Pilot.

NOTE:- It must be remembered that this trip was in the aftermath of the debacle of the ill-fated adventurism at Kargil in 1999. Apparently there was a feeling on both sides of the Divide that some sense of normalcy returned to Indo-Pak relations. Increased business ties and greater people to people contact was being encouraged. Unfortunately this did not last long. I doubt whether a similar trip could be organized under prevailing conditions. ■

Maj Gen Rajan Aney was in RIMC, Shivaji Section, from Jan 1956 to May 1960. He was commissioned into 63 Cavalry on 9 Feb 1964 and later posted to 65 Armd Regt on Raising in Sep 66. A graduate of DSSC and CDM, he has done various prestigious Staff and Command assignments including an Armoured Brigade and Mountain Brigade. He was the Mil Attaché in Moscow from May 93 to Dec 96.



Mr Somay Munde, IPS has been awarded Shaurya Chakra on Independence Day 2022. He was awarded this gallantry award for eliminating 22 Naxals in an encounter.

Earlier, he was awarded DG Police Insignia in April 2022 for his operations against Naxalism in Gadchiroli.

PROMOTIONS & NOMINATIONS

PROMOTIONS

Heartiest congratulations Adm Ajay Kochhar for the well deserved promotion to Vice Admiral and assuming command of NDA. He took over as Commandant NDA on 01 April 2022.

COLONEL TO BRIGADIER (ARMY)

Col Ashish Vasudeva, EME
Col Anup Kumar Tiwary, Armoured Corps
Col Anshuman Narang, Artillery
Col Dhiraj Ramanand, Artillery

CAPT TO COMMODORE (NAVY)

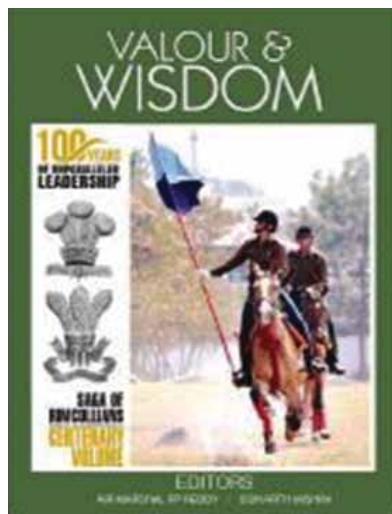
Capt Sritanu Guru
Capt P Nitin
Capt S Supradeepan

NEWS FROM DSSC

Scudder Navy — Cdr Vishal Sharma
Scudder Army — Maj Raghav Swarup
Govindarajan trophy
Most spirited Naval participant — Cdr Anvesh Murthy

BAISAKHI, SIKH REGIMENT & RIMC

*dēhi sivā bara mōhi ihai subha karamana tē kabahūṁ na tarōṁ
.. na darōṁ ari sōṁ jaba iāi larōṁ nisacai kari apunī iita karōṁ ..*



No.		From	To
1.	Lt. Col. J. Cook	Mar 1887	Jun 1894
2.	Lt. Col. J. Haughton	Jun 1894	Jan 1898
3.	Lt. Col. Des Voeux	Jan 1898	May 1903
4.	Lt. Col. C.E. Johnson	May 1903	May 1910
5.	Lt. Col. E.L. Sullivan	May 1910	May 1915
6.	Lt. Col. O.G. Gunning C.M.G.	May 1915	Nov 1917
7.	Lt. Col. E.F. Knox D.S.O.	Nov 1917	May 1921
8.	Lt. Col. W.E. Wilson Johnson C.I.E., D.S.O., C.B.E.	May 1921	Jul 1924
9.	Lt. Col. C.R. Lyall	Jul 1924	Jul 1928
10.	Lt. Col. H.L. Haughton C.I.E.	Jul 1928	1931

A few days back I get a message. "Hello Sir, Col Rahul Agarwal 143/C this side. I am reaching out to you for the book ..." Thereafter a call follows, "I have a budget to buy Valour and Wisdom." I reply, "Please go ahead and do so, it's on Amazon." He now unveils the agenda, "From Amazon I would get 10 in my budget but I need 40." Hearing this the antenna rises, "You said 40, what for? Don't tell me that you have actually mobilised so many old boys to buy the book?" What follows is narration of a quiet devotion to the school and upholding its pristine glory close to his heart.

Rahul starts explaining, "Sir I belong to Sikh regiment. I commanded 23 Sikh and now I am commanding a Sikh TA unit. In Sikh regiment we have the tradition of exchange of gifts between different battalions on Baisakhi. Learnt from your book that RIMC's first Commandant, Lt Col HL Houghton was a Sikh officer, Saragarhi paltan. His grandfather was CO during the famous battle. I would draft a letter citing the Sikh and RIMC connect to give a historical justification of gifting these books to the Sikh battalions."

Within next 48 hours hard business bargain follows and Rahul's unit gets the 40 books within the budget he had. "Sir, I have received the books thanks," he calls. I request him for a photo with the book, which he is still to send, probably camera shy. The snap from his WhatsApp DP is being used to let us all know Rahul.

—Sidharth Mishra; Baisakhi - 14 April 2022



Valour & Wisdom celebrates RIMC's 100 years and its contribution to the armed forces

— COL ANIL CHAWLA (Retd)/The Tribune

RIMC at 100, a cradle for armed forces

COL ANIL CHAWLA (RETD)

THE book 'Valour & Wisdom' commemorates 100 years of the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC). It documents its inimitable record and struggle against the pulls and pressures in times when eminence is granted by fiat rather than by achievement. Our youth must know how it has contributed to, and maintained, the high values of the armed forces. It tells that story well — of its founding on March 22, 1922, as the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (PWRIMC) by Edward, then Prince of Wales, and becoming a cradle for the armed forces.

Its day-to-day running is by 11- to 17-year-old cadets. The dedicated "gurus" keep a remote, watchful and caring eye over their "chelas". In turn, the senior cadets are lifelong gurus to the juniors. This is an unparalleled achievement. The book is fittingly authored by 26 Rimcollians and edited by two.

RIMC's achievements go far beyond and will continue in the foreseeable future as its alumni contribute with val-

our and wisdom to India's military might and development.

The book recounts how after World War I, the British made a less than successful attempt to select students to be sent to Sandhurst to become officers. Consequently, RIMC was established at Dehradun. After school, Rimcollians went to the National Defence Academy. It became a model for Sainik Schools. RIMC alumni have served in various wars. Examples of their heroism and significant contribution in military operations have firmly established the leadership role of Rimcollians. Many of these are detailed in the book.

As intake into the armed forces increased to meet India's growing needs, the proportion of RIMC cadets declined. Yet, despite the smaller numbers, they continued to be models of what an officer should be, of an ethos of unity in the face of petty superficialities that try to weaken India.

The book tells how a dedicated band of Commandants, principals and teachers, first British and then Indian, understood the importance of developing the kind of feeder institutions a professional army needs. They arranged a well-rounded education aided by an unobtrusive internal feedback between the gurus and the chelas. Even when the nationalities of the staff changed, the ethos held. The students and their tradition of professionalism played a major part in transcending the vagaries of time.

The book also tells how challenges of a less-than-understanding external environment were met to firmly prevent politics from interfering. This was achieved by internal unity of the staff, the cadets and the old boys. How the PWRIMC became the RIMC, then Sainik School and back to RIMC is well told. It shares stories of valour, dedication and unity beyond caste, religious, language, etc. The statis-

tics of those who achieved high ranks and won awards for bravery and devotion to service are of great magnitude.

The achievements in academia, business, diplomacy, sport, adventure, and even politics will inspire our youth in times of unprecedented change. Many younger siblings, sons of teachers and older Rimcollians have felt inspired to join RIMC. On a personal note, though too late for my daughters, but with RIMC opening to girls, my granddaughter just might join someday.

Included is how Pakistani Rimcollians fared. Soldiers are soldiers; their unique position transcends borders. Ignoring them would be pettiness foreign to Rimcollians. However, one wishes the story of how 11-year-old cadets are moulded into leaders had also been narrated by ROBA, the Rimcollian Old Boys Association.

ROBA plays a stellar role in ensuring that RIMC maintains high standards — a critical part of its ecosystem. The annual get-togethers and the interaction of old boys with the cadets leave a lasting imprint on their life, value system and worldview. 'Valour & Wisdom' deserves a place in every school library.



VALOUR & WISDOM: 100 YEARS OF UNPARALLELED LEADERSHIP
by Air Marshal PP Reddy (retd) & Sidharth Mishra.
Rimcollian Old Boys Association.
Pages 495.
₹2,095

THE book 'Valour & Wisdom' commemorates 100 years of the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC). It documents its inimitable record and struggle against the pulls and pressures in times when eminence is granted by fiat rather than by achievement. Our youth must know how it has contributed to, and maintained, the high values of the armed forces. It tells that story well - of its founding on March 22, 1922, as the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (PWRIMC) by Edward, then Prince of Wales, and becoming a cradle for the armed forces.

Its day-to-day running is by 11- to 17-year-old cadets. The dedicated "gurus" keep a remote, watchful and caring eye over their "chelas". In turn, the senior cadets are lifelong gurus to the

juniors. This is an unparalleled achievement. The book is fittingly authored by 26 Rimcollians and edited by two.

RIMC's achievements go far beyond and will continue in the foreseeable future as its alumni contribute with valour and wisdom to India's military might and development.

The book recounts how after World War I, the British made a less than successful attempt to select students to be sent to Sandhurst to become officers. Consequently, RIMC was established at Dehradun. After school, Rimcollians went to the National Defence Academy. It became a model for Sainik Schools. RIMC alumni have served in various wars. Examples of their heroism and significant contribution in military

operations have firmly established the leadership role of Rimcollians. Many of these are detailed in the book.

As intake into the armed forces increased to meet India's growing needs, the proportion of RIMC cadets declined. Yet, despite the smaller numbers, they continued to be models of what an officer should be, of an ethos of unity in the face of petty superficialities that try to weaken India.

The book tells how a dedicated band of Commandants, principals and teachers, first British and then Indian, understood the importance of developing the kind of feeder institutions a professional army needs. They arranged a well-rounded education aided by an unobtrusive internal feedback between the gurus

and the chelas. Even when the nationalities of the staff changed, the ethos held. The students and their tradition of professionalism played a major part in transcending the vagaries of time.

The book also tells how challenges of a less-than-understanding external environment were met to firmly prevent politics from interfering. This was achieved by internal unity of the staff, the cadets and the old boys. How the PWRIMC became the RIMC, then Sainik School and back to RIMC is well told. It shares stories of valour, dedication and unity beyond caste, religious, language,

etc. The statistics of those who achieved high ranks and won awards for bravery and devotion to service are of great magnitude.

The achievements in academia, business, diplomacy, sport, adventure, and even politics will inspire our youth in times of unprecedented change. Many younger siblings, sons of teachers and older Rimcollians have felt inspired to join RIMC. On a personal note, though too late for my daughters, but with RIMC opening to girls, my granddaughter just might join someday.

Included is how Pakistani Rimcollians fared. Soldiers are soldiers; their unique

position transcends borders. Ignoring them would be pettiness foreign to Rimcollians. However, one wishes the story of how 11-year-old cadets are moulded into leaders had also been narrated by ROBA, the Rimcollian Old Boys Association.

ROBA plays a stellar role in ensuring that RIMC maintains high standards - a critical part of its ecosystem. The annual get-togethers and the interaction of old boys with the cadets leave a lasting imprint on their life, value system and worldview.

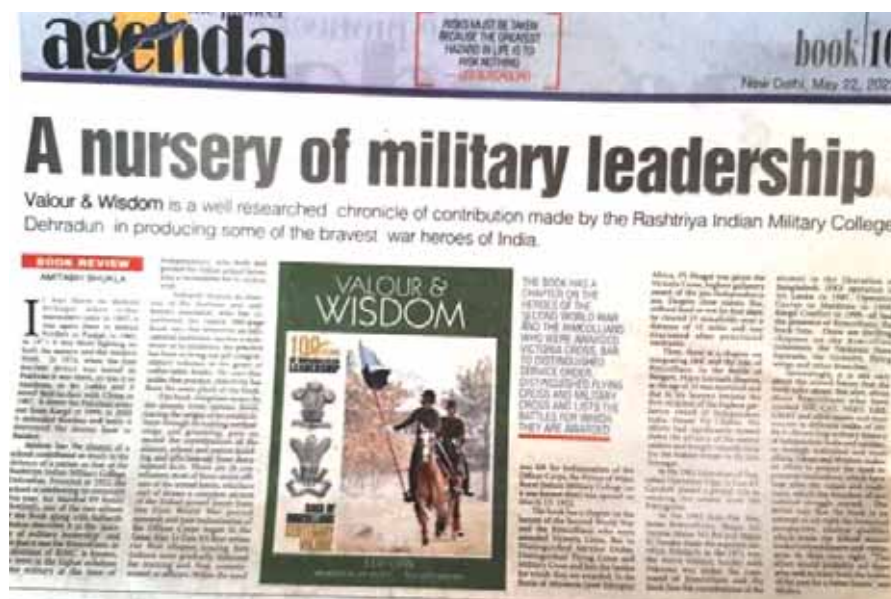
'Valour & Wisdom' deserves a place in every school library. ■

Tracing pre and post Independence Indian military history through a Book on RIMC

— AMITABH SHUKLA / *The Pioneer*

It was there to defend Srinagar when tribal marauders came in 1947, it was again there to defend borders in Punjab in 1965, in 1971 it was there fighting on both the eastern and the western front. In 1974, when the first nuclear device was tested in Pokhran it was there, so was it in Maldives, in Sri Lanka and it stood face-to-face with China in 1987. It drove the Pakistani army out from Kargil in 1999, in 2008 it defended Bombay and lastly it destroyed the enemy base in Balakot.

Seldom has the alumni of a school contributed so much in the defence of a nation as that of the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. Founded in 1922, the school is celebrating its centenary this year. Air Marshal PP Reddy (Retired), one of the two editors of the Book along with Sidharth Mishra describes it as the "nursery of military leadership" and says that it was the Rimcollians, as an alumnus of RIMC is known, who were in the higher echelons of the military at the time of Independence, who built and guided the Indian armed forces into a



formidable foe to reckon with.

Sidharth Mishra, an alumnus of the Institute and well-known journalist, who has co-authored the nearly 500-page book, says that whenever an educational institution reaches a milestone of its existence, the practice has been to bring out self-congratulatory volumes in the genre of

coffee-table books. He says that unlike that practice, objectivity has been the main plank of the book.

The book comprises essays by the alumni from various fields, tracing the origin of its establishment through its training methodology and grooming, puts on record the contributions of the alumni, school and nation building and

sifts hearsay from documented facts. There are 26 contributors, most of them senior officers of the armed forces, who have sort of drawn a complete picture of the Indian armed forces from the First World War period onwards and how Indianisation of the Officer Corps began in the Great War. Lt Gen NS Brar writes the first chapter tracing how Indians were gradually inducted for training and then commissioned as officers. When the need was felt for Indianisation of the Officer Corps, the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (as it was known then) was opened on March 13, 1922.

The book has a chapter on the heroes of the Second World War and the Rimcollians who were awarded Victoria Cross, Bar to Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Flying Cross and Military Cross and lists the battles for which they are awarded. In the Battle of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) Africa, PS Bhagat was given the Victoria Cross, highest gallantry award of the pre-Independence era. Despite close enemy fire, without food or rest for four days, he cleared 15 minefields over a distance of 55 miles and was evacuated

after punctured eardrums.

Then, there is a chapter on integrating J&K and the role of Rimcollians. In the Battle of Badgam, Major Somnath Sharma, at the age of 25 was martyred and due to his bravery became the first recipient of the highest gallantry award of Independent India--Param Vir Chakra. His efforts had significantly slowed down the advance of the enemy raiders and bought valuable time for the Indian troops to fly into Srinagar.

In the 1961 Liberation of Goa, called Operation Vijay, Lt Gen KP Candeth played a pivotal role in retaking the colony from the Portuguese.

In the 1965 Indo-Pak War, three Rimcollians, Major GC Verma, Major MS Bal and Major JC Pandey made the supreme sacrifice. Similarly in the 1971 war, the entire western border with Pakistan was under the command of Rimcollians and the book lists the contributions of the alumni in the liberation of Bangladesh. IPKF operation in Sri Lanka in 1987, Operation Cactus in Maldives in 1988,

Kargil Conflict in 1999--all had the presence of Rimcollians, the book lists. There are thrilling chapters on the Rimcollian Infanteers, the Tankmen from Rajwada, the Gunners, flying wings and other branches.

Interestingly, it is not only about the armed forces that the book talks about. But also, about those Rimcollians who have cracked JEE, CAT, NEET, GRE, GMAT and other exams and their success in different walks of life. Be it chronicling military history of Independent India and successes through individual and team efforts, Valour and Wisdom makes an effort to project the need to preserve institutions, which have kept alive the values and traditions, which the founders of our national struggle nursed. The writer says that the book is an attempt to set right the historical perspective, analyse qualities which made the school alumni leaders extraordinaire and visionaries in their own right. "This effort would probably aid those who seek to learn from the lessons of the past for a better future," says Mishra. ■

Valour and Wisdom, an insight into one of the oldest military education institutions in India set up by British

— ANI / *The Business Standard*

Valour & Wisdom' attempts to establish the praxis that RIMC has shaped the nation's military leadership. This has been done through a scheme of well-researched chapters accompanied by historic documents including pictures, from some of the better-known archives in India and abroad, and also freshly photographed frames as and where necessary.

The Doon valley and Mussoorie hills is home to several colonial-era public schools which groom young

minds to take over the leadership role in different spheres of life. One of the oldest among them is the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC). It was inaugurated on March 13, 1922, as the 'Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College', by Prince Edward VIII, the then Prince of Wales.

It was founded to fulfil the national demand for the Indianization of the officer cadre of the British Indian armed forces post World War I, where more than 70000 Indians sacrificed

their lives in support of the Allied forces.

It was set up in the pattern of British public schools to groom Indian youth for entry into Royal Military College, Sandhurst, UK, prior to awarding them a Royal Commission into the officer cadre. This nursery of military leadership completed 100 years of existence on March 13 2022.

Whenever an educational institution reaches a milestone in its existence, it's the opportune time for it



The release of *Valour & Wisdom* at the inaugural function of the Centenary Celebrations

to reflect upon its contribution to society.

In the West, it is now an established practice to research and write the history of an institution during its jubilee celebrations. In India, the practice, however, has been to bring out self-congratulatory volumes in the genre of coffee table books.

The volume at hand has been helmed by credible editors, which includes veteran journalist and author Sidharth Mishra, who despite being alumni of the institution has approached the project objectively.

Commenting on the book on RIMC, one of the co-authors of the book Sidharth Mishra said, "RIMC has contributed to the nation-building immensely and the book is a rare attempt to highlight the academic institution's valuable contribution to India's defence forces as well as other spheres including business and economy."

The book attempts to tell that RIMC is not just celebrating a century of existence in brick, mortar and greenery but it is celebrating the leadership its alumni have provided at various

critical stages of the evolution of our Nation.

The Second World War, various wars and military expeditions of the post-independence era, the support provided to the civil population in combating natural calamities and combating terrorism in various sectors is replete with the instances of a Rimcollian, as an alumnus of RIMC is known, in the leadership role.

In fact, it was the Rimcollians who were in higher echelons of the military at the time of independence, who built and guided the Indian Armed Forces into a formidable foe to reckon with.

As time progressed, Rimcollians also diversified into sectors and streams other than military, excelling once again in the new uncharted areas.

The spirit of valour and wisdom infused into the young minds of the cadets at this august institution has enabled them to rise to the highest echelons of their chosen career, be it in the armed forces or otherwise.

A book like this would probably need a sequel to tell many of the stories in detail which find mentioned only in brief in this otherwise voluminous title.

AIR Marshall PP Reddy was at RIMC between 1967-72. He was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in 1976 as a fighter pilot. After serving in uniform for almost 40 years, he retired in 2016 as CISC (Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to The Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee), the most important tri-service assignment before the emergence of the Chief of Defence Staff.

Post-retirement, he was picked by then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar as a Consultant for Defence reforms. A former President of the Rimcollian Old Boys Association, he is presently the Chairman of its editorial committee.

Sidharth Mishra, a veteran media person and academician of repute, was at RIMC between 1979-83. On leaving school, he joined Delhi University and followed it up with a very fruitful career in mass communication rising to become a newspaper editor.

An author of standing, he has nearly 20 books and over a thousand articles and research papers to his credit including publications from the prestigious Oxford University Press and the National Book Trust of India. ■

A TREASURE TO POSSESS

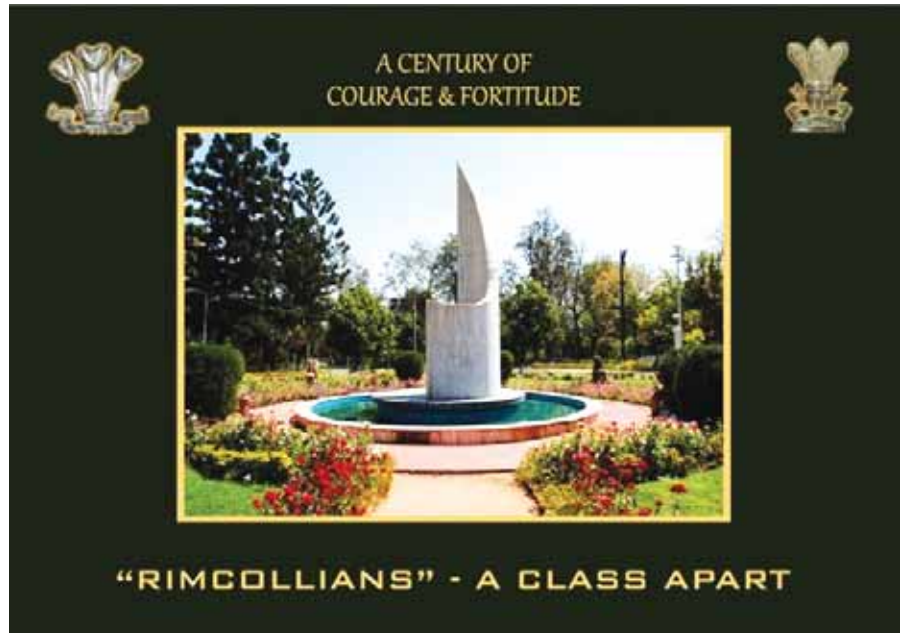
— SIDHARTH MISHRA

One of the most respected environmentalist, David Brower is sometimes credited with inventing the modern coffee table book. While serving as executive director of the *Sierra Club*, environmental organization with chapters in all 50 United States, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico, he had the idea for a series of books that combined nature photography and writings on nature, with, as he put it, “a page size big enough to carry a given image’s dynamic. The eye must be required to move about within the boundaries of the image, not encompass it all in one glance.”

The first such book, ‘*This is the American Earth*’, with photographs by Ansel Adams and others and text by Nancy Newhall, was published in 1960; the series became known as the “Exhibit Format” series, with 20 titles eventually published. The term “coffee table book” appeared in *Arts Magazine* in 1961, and in the title of ‘*The Coffee Table Book of Astrology*’, published in 1962.

In the Indian military establishment, with much care for celebrating their rich heritage, coffee table books have come to occupy a prominent space. This largely because they have the space in their grand offices and dinning areas to accomodate an oversized, usually hard-covered book whose purpose is for display on a table intended for use in an area in which one entertains guests and from which it can serve to inspire conversation. Pages consist mainly of photographs and illustrations, accompanied by captions and small blocks of text, as opposed to long prose. Since they are aimed at anyone who might pick up the book for a light read, the analysis inside is often more basic and with less jargon than other books on the subject.

Having explained what a coffee-table book is, let me tell you that Brigadier



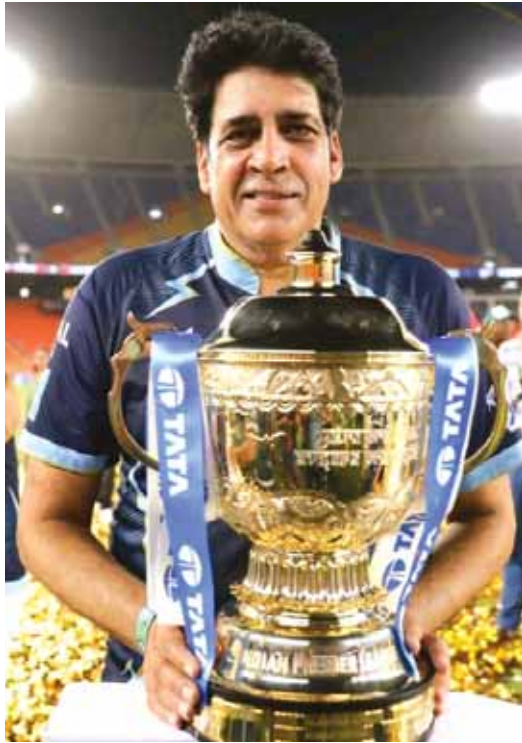
HAVING EXPLAINED WHAT A COFFEE-TABLE BOOK IS, LET ME TELL YOU THAT BRIGADIER SUYASH SHARMA DID A GOOD JOB OF THE WORK AT HAND. AS THE AUHTOR HIMSELF SAYS, “HIGH QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHS ARE THE HALLMARK OF A GOOD CO?EE TABLE BOOK”

Suyash Sharma did a good job of the work at hand. As the auhtor himself says, “High quality photographs are the hallmark of a good Coffee Table Book.” To once again use author’s verse, “My close trusted friend, NDA squadron-mate Lt Col Satish Mallik (Retd), a Kargil war battle-casualty, who is an award-winning photographer, was the man behind the lens to weave his magic and bring the picturesque campus of RIMC alive on these pages.”

The greater challenge was ‘repair’ the old photographs which the editorial team, which was tasked to write the voluminous history of the school, provided. This was commendably done by the design and the printing team. In design and quality, ‘*A Century of Courage & Fortitude*’ would match classiest of the publications of this genre.

The narrative of the book had to be short but informative. Here the books comes out weaving nice mosaic of the different hues of the Rimcollians. In short its a collector’s item, which would be cherished by any old boy who would posses it. ■

QUICK FLIP



Col Arvinder Singh, Gujarat Titans COO, Rimcollian (114 Course) beaming with the trophy in the IPL. He was handling Punjab Kings earlier.



Mr Sudip Roy Burman 113/Ranjit, has won Agartala seat in the recently held bypolls, June 2022



A Proud Moment - Passing the Baton. Mrs Jenny S Joseph and Cmde N A J Joseph VSM IN (Retd) (112 Ranjit) proud parents of Sub Lieut Ajay Jose Joseph N (179 Ranjit) in the previous POP.



June 2022 - 67th course celebrated the 40th anniversary of joining NDA. The first ever Rimcollian commandant of NDA made the spirited gesture of inviting the Rimcollians of the course at home for a high tea.

Aryan Ahluwalia (182 / Pratap), a second generation vibrant Rimcollian, has been Recommended by SSB Kapurthala as Army TGC (Tech Graduate Course) entry. He has done B Tech Electronics and Telecommunications. A proud moment for all of us and a special one for Gp Capt Deepak Ahluwalia, our energetic ROBA Secretary.

Diwan Singh is with Abhishek Kankan and 96 others.
6 h · 🌐

बड़े हर्ष से आप सब के साथ यह खुशी साझा कर रहा हूँ कि कल शाम, 30 मार्च को मुझे जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जल प्रहरी-2022 पुरष्कार से सम्मानित किया गया।

दिल्ली के रिज फारेस्ट और यमुना खादर का संरक्षण और, तालाब पुनर्जीवित करने के विषय पर किये कार्यों का भारत सरकार ने संज्ञान लिया ।

17 साल से पर्यावरण के मुद्दों पर काम काम करते करते भूल ही गए थे कि पुरस्कार भी मिलते है।




Maj Gen H Dharmarajan being awarded AVSM by the President of India in the Investiture Ceremony in May 2022.



Mr Jaideep Saikia, 116 Pratap, was awarded GOC - in - C Eastern Command Commendation Card on Independence Day 2022. Announcing the award, it was stated that Jaideep Saikia is being decorated with the coveted honour for his selfless service to the nation's security during the last over two decades as also for his forceful writings on issues pertaining to strategic national security issues. He is an expert on National Security issues and is also on the West Point Panel on Irregular Warfare Initiative for 2022.



Maj Shaunak Nivargi, a proud and distinguished Rimcollian, attending Army Command and Staff Course at UK, has been awarded the *Andover Prize* for best Defence Research Paper, DRP amongst 110 foreign student officers.



Rimcollian, paratrooper and CEO, Jaideep Kairon, on the cover of The CEO Magazine

REIGNING GOLD AT NDA & NAVAC

— COL VIVEK SHARMA/Commandant 2016 - 2020

Our young brand of Rimcollians have constantly given us a reason to cheer at the Pre-Commission Training Academies, term after term. Month of May 2022 turned out to be special as well.

NAVAC. 183 Adamantines is how the passing out course identified themselves at RIMC. NAVAC had the passing out parade on 28th May where in Sub Lt S Aditya received the prestigious honour of President's Gold Medal from Chief of Naval Staff. He was also adjudged the Best Sportsman. Aditya always had this special inclination to join NAVY through INA Ezhimala, contrary to the usual NDA way. He was in top 10 of All India Ranking for UPSC NDA - NAVAC and opted for NAVAC. He made the mark at the academy, all through his six terms. Sub Lt Varun Ponshe, his termie who joined NAVAC from NDA, was first in the Order of Merit amongst Ex NDA and excelled in his projects. Overall, five of them have taken the Oath of allegiance as Sub Lt; 3 are Ex NDAs and two from the Naval Academy.

NDA. Passing out parade was on 30th May and the passing out course call themselves 185th Falcons at RIMC. ACA Abhimanyu Singh Rathore did us proud by not just leading the parade but being conferred with President's Gold Medal by the Chief of Air Staff, who reviewed the parade. Abhimanyu was also adjudged Best Army Cadet and Best in PT.

Aditya was Section Commander Pratap and Varun Section Commander of Chandragupta of 183rd Course. Abhimanyu was the Pratapian Cadet Captain of the 185th Course. I must admit here to have been a proud mentor as Commandant RIMC to these young lads and their gift is indeed very precious in the year we are celebrating as Guru - Shishya ... fine tribute to all the Members of Staff at RIMC.



Sub Lt Aditya received the President's Gold Medal from the CNS who reviewed the parade.

Message received from Abhimanyu:-

Good evening sir.

I have been declared for PGM. Thanks to you and faculty at College for grooming us and being the ray of guidance during the most crucial years of our lives.'

Varun Ponshe :-

Thank you so much sir. We were there because of what our alma mater taught us in those 5 years. We are grateful to have you as our Commandant (which you will always be sir!) and the way you groomed us. We will definitely keep



rocking sir! After all that's an order by you...

Regards Varun

Cdr Nathan, Veteran, Aditya's Father:-

Congratulations to you as your product has been awarded PGM at the hands of CNS during POP this morning

Truly blessed we are as we have the fraternity to keep the flag of RIMC flying at best always.

FROM THE INFANTRY SCHOOL, MHOW

A word about the Rimcollians @ Inf YOs 155 in March 2022. All the attending officers have performed exceptionally. Some outstanding performers to cheer the Centenary Spirit.



Lt Watandeep Singh - Best in Project Presentation, Best in Tactics, Best student in Platoon Weapons, and Overall 3rd best YO.

Lt Arpit Garg - 3rd Best in Tactics, Overall 2nd Best YO.



RIMCOLLIANS AT IMA

Ten Rimcollian Gentlemen Cadets were commissioned from IMA Dehradun on 11 June 2022

Lt Suyash, AOC, 2nd Generation Ranjit

Lt Ronit, ASC, Chandragupta

Lt Naman, 21 Bihar, Chandragupta

Lt Manan, 2 Madras, Chandragupta

Lt Aryan, 5 Madras, Ranjit

Lt Aditya, 2 Bihar, .Ranjit

Lt Vaibhav Deoli, Artillery, Shivaji

Lt Ashish, 2/8 GR, Ranjit

Lt Maalan, Artillery, Ranjit

Lt Ravi, 7 Assam, Chandragupta

Lt Ashish received a Blue in PT, Lt Ronit received Half Blue and Spurs in Riding, GC Gaurav Prakash received a Blue in PT and Merit Card in Athletics.

Next Term Appointments

Battalion Under Officer Gaurav Prakash, Shivaji

Battalion Under Officer Aman Vashisht, Shivaji

CSM Aseem, Chandragupta

CSM Aryan Dhama, Pratap.

THE NDA POP - MAY 2022

— COL VIJAY GIDH/VSM (Retd)



It is always a pleasure attending the bi-annual Passing Out Parade (POP) at the National Defence Academy (NDA), particularly if a medal winner happens to be a Rimcollian. It was a pleasant Monday morning when we witnessed an impressive POP of the 142nd Course of the NDA on 30 May 2022. The prestigious POP was being held in its full form after a gap of two years. The parents of the passing out course were invited for two days and were able to witness all the events during the end of term. The parade was also covered live on Doordarshan channels and social media platforms.

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari was the Reviewing Officer for the Parade. With the poignant score of Auld Lang Syne played by the Military Band, 317 cadets

from the 142nd Course 'slow marched' out of the Khetarpal Parade Ground after the POP that marked the culmination of three years of gruelling training at the tri-services academy.

A total of 907 cadets participated in the parade, of which 317 cadets were from the passing out course. The passing out cadets included 212 Army cadets, 36 Naval cadets and 69 Air Force cadets, including 19 cadets from friendly foreign countries like Bhutan, Tajikistan, Maldives, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Sudan.

Addressing the passing out cadets, the Air Chief complimented the cadets for their immaculate turnout and exceptional drill movements. He said that the fine training imparted at the NDA would provide strength and confidence to the cadets to boldly face unforeseen

challenges. They would be required to lead from the front the men and women they command. Warfare is undergoing a fundamental change with the emergence of new technology and radically new doctrines. Hence, there will be a requirement to stay abreast with technological changes and advancements, for which they will have to study, research and analyse. This can be possible if they inculcate good reading habits in the early years of their service career, serve with dedication and develop a professional approach.

Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari is an alumnus of the 61st Course NDA, along with his course mates - Army Chief, Gen Manoj Pande and Navy Chief, Adm Hari Kumar.

The most thrilling event for the Rimcollians who witnessed the parade -



ACA Abhimanyu Singh being awarded the PGM.

live or on TV, was the Award Ceremony. Academy Cadet Adjutant Abhimanyu Singh Rathore was awarded the President's Gold Medal (PGM) for standing first in the overall order of merit. The POP this year also assumed special significance since the Commandant, NDA, V Adm Ajay Kochhar happens to be a Rimcollian - the first Rimcollian to head this prestigious tri-service institution since its inception in 1950s. He assumed charge as Commandant of the NDA in April 2022.

The passing out course consisted of 14 Rimcollian cadets, of which 07 were from the Army, 03 from the Navy and 04 from the Air Force. In addition to winning the Gold Medal, ACA Abhimanyu Singh was adjudged the Best Army Cadet and Best in PT.

It was a pleasure meeting ACA Abhimanyu and his proud parents after the parade. I congratulated Abhimanyu on behalf of the Rimcollian fraternity. Abhimanyu (2014, Pratap, 185th Course)

was the Cadet Captain during the January Term 2019 in RIMC and was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour and the President's Gold Medal. He was ranked 2nd in the All India Merit List and was awarded the UN Jha Gold Medal.

Hailing from Jaipur, his father runs a business, while mother is a teacher in a government school. His younger sister is in XII standard and is preparing for the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET) next year. Abhimanyu's grandfather had served in the Army Medical Corps. His father, Mr Tejpal Singh wanted to join the Army, but was unable to do so. Abhimanyu feels proud that he could accomplish his father's dream. It was nice to learn that Abhimanyu and BCC Harshvardhan Singh (Ranjit, 184th Course) who was awarded the President's Bronze Medal during the 141st NDA Course, happen to be cousins and belong to Jaipur.

Abhimanyu has fond memories of his stay in RIMC where he excelled in Athletics, Cricket, PT and Debating. He was a member of the College Cricket team, represented the Athletics team in Discus Throw event during the District Athletics and won a Merit Card in PT. He also represented the school in various Debate Competitions which won laurels for RIMC.



The medal winners with the Reviewing Officer

The course mate spirit which he learnt as a cadet and taking interest in teaching your juniors, so that our values and traditions get passed on to them; were the values that were imbibed in RIMC. In NDA, putting in your best in all activities and pushing oneself to one's limits, during Camps or sports events; and not to get complacent after winning or any achievement - is what he learnt from the Academy.

RIMC cadets continue to excel in NDA and won many medals during the sports competitions held during the Spring Term 2022. ACA Abhimanyu Singh and BCA RS Baghel were awarded a Half Blue in PT and Squash respectively. Rimcollians in NDA who have won key appointments during Autumn Term 2022 are as under:

BCC Agam

BCC Pankaj Roy

BCA Sudanshu Ojha

SCC Deep Dave

SCC Ashish Singh Chauhan

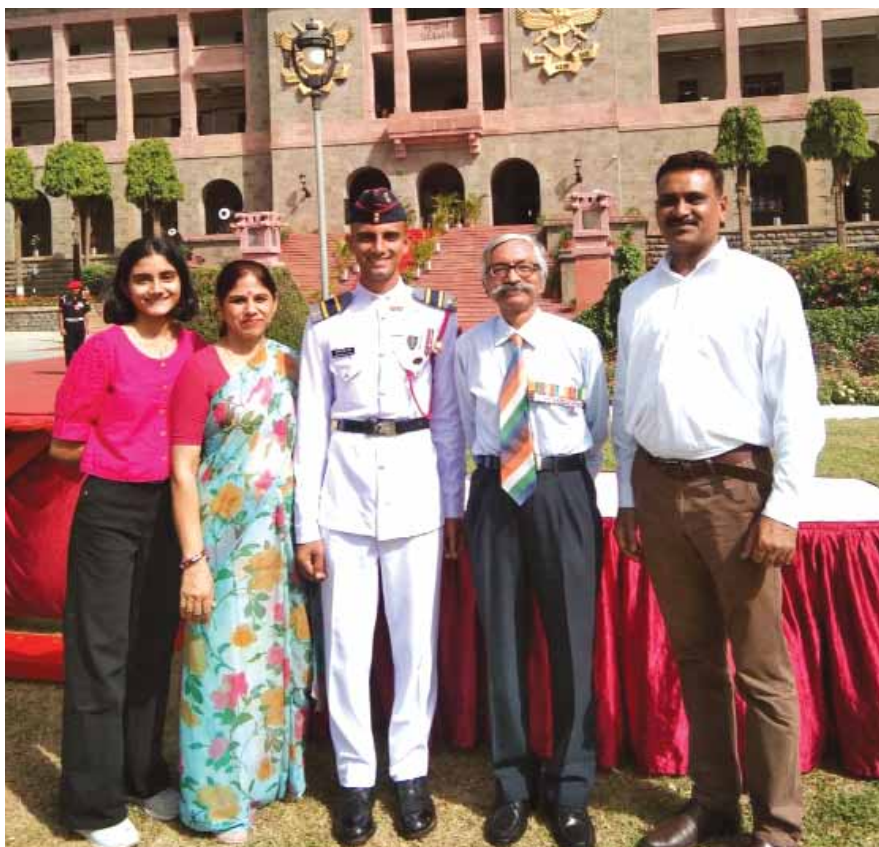
CQMS AS Bhaduria

The NDA had suspended all outdoor activities, including hikes and tours of cadets in view of the spurt in COVID - 19 cases from mid-March 2020. While the training activities had gradually started in the Academy campus from 2021, full-fledged activities including various camps were conducted as scheduled during Spring Term 2022. It was heartening to learn that Sub Sanjay Kumar, a recipient of the Param Vir Chakra during the Kargil war in 1999, has been posted as an instructor in the Army Training Team, NDA.

The cadets were glad that the mid-term hikes and educational tours were started this year. Hikes were conducted to various forts in Maharashtra, while educational tours were conducted to Maratha Light Infantry Centre and Commando Wing at Belgaum and INS Shivaji, Lonavla.

The NDA cadets proceeded for four weeks of term break after the POP. The passing out cadets will join their respective pre-commissioning academies thereafter, while the cadets of junior courses will report back to the NDA on 29 June 2022.

A Drone was effectively used by the Academy for the first time to capture the live events during the parade. The



Col Gidh with parents and family of ACA Abhimanyu Singh

scintillating display of the Sarang Helicopter Aerobatic Team mesmerised the audience with their manoeuvres after the parade.

The Convocation Ceremony of the course was held at Habibullah Hall on 29 May. NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant was the Chief Guest for the occasion. 234 cadets were conferred the degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University. While addressing the event, Mr Amitabh said, "Girls will be joining portals of this unique institution from the next course. So, you will face challenges of girls excelling and all of you will have to compete with them to excel as you go along."

Meanwhile, the NDA is all set to admit the first batch of girl cadets in June 2022 when the first course with 19 girl cadets - 10 for Army, three for Navy and six for Air Force - will begin their three years of training, which the Academy has said will be conducted in a 'gender neutral' manner. The NDA has said that akin to their male counterparts, girls in the age group of 16 1/2 to 19 years will undergo three years of military training after successfully

clearing the UPSC NDA written exam, Services Selection Board interviews and medicals.

In view of the historic judgement last year, the Centre had agreed to admit girls to the RIMC and Rashtriya Military Schools from 2022. With necessary infrastructure in place, RIMC is all set to admit girl cadets from July 2022 term onwards. Out of the 568 girls who had appeared for the written examination held on 04 June 2021, 07 girls cleared the same, while 05 vacancies have been allotted for the course commencing in July 2022.

It was very creditable to learn that RIMC was perhaps the only boarding school in India to remain completely functional during the complete Covid 19 pandemic.

The credit for the remarkable performance of our cadets in NDA goes to the Commandant and the Staff at RIMC for the good foundation laid while in School. In addition, the inspiration and motivation given by Rimcollian instructors posted in NDA goes a long way in encouraging these young cadets to excel in all spheres. ■



1970 IMA: He was the tallest among us all

REMEMBERING JASBIR SINGH



Jas as a cadet at RIMC, photographed with his father

It is a daunting task of composing and presenting a eulogy which can be difficult. The difficulty increases exponentially, when the deceased are all friends, whom we have known since the age of 11 /12 years. We were all very lucky to have had them in our lives and they will be missed by us all. They will remain with us all, every day, and as long as we can remember. Fondly remembering Brig Jasbir Singh, Ranjit Jul 62-Dec 66.

It is with great sadness that I stand in front of you today, to celebrate the life of our dear Jasbir. Lives are taken away from us too soon, and it is hard to understand why tragic things like this



Jas with other coursemates visiting Mr RC Singhal at his residence in Cambrian Hall, Dehradun in 2011;

happen to such good people. However, this is a question without an answer, and we should not dwell on the loss of our dear friends. Today let's celebrate his life and remember him fondly.

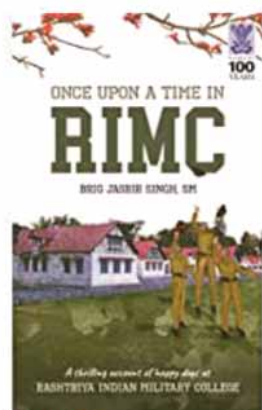
I take it as an honor and a blessing to pay tribute to our brother Jasbir. Finding the right words to mark the passing of a friend or family member's life is difficult, when emotions run high. It just has to come from the heart, and being an emotional and sentimental person, I hope to find the right words;

Jas has written two books. He has kept himself busy in spite of being wheelchair bound for almost 15 years. We were all part of the underground tunnel we embarked on after seeing the movie, "The Great Escape".

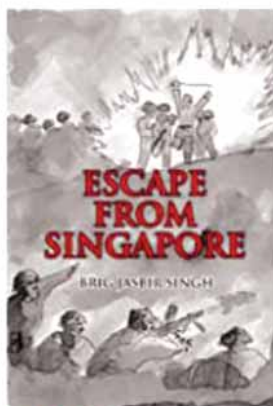


Jas with course mates and their families at the school in March 2016

Books By Brig Jasbir Singh



₹ 249.00
Paperback



₹ 320.00
Hardcover

Today is a hard one for us all. It is so much easier to mourn in silence; it takes away the worry of not being able to get your words out, or even just simply getting the right words out. But silence or not, one thing which I am sure we all appreciate today, is being here all together, sharing in each other's silence, sharing in each other's moments of thought for our friends, who we all loved. Please join me in prayers that Jasbir's soul RIP and may GOD give courage to those left behind to face this irreparable loss ■

—T Jawahar (Ranjit 62-66)

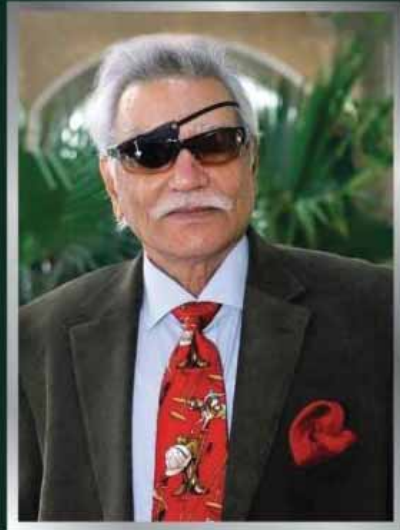
NOTE FOR A FRIEND



I first met Sumeet Panjratn when we together appeared for the examination and interview for RIMC in the conference room of Patna secretariat. He had long hair, innocent face. He joined school a few days late, he was the third from the state to join and first thing that roly-polly boy was to lose was those lovely locks of hair. Panjratn left school, I think after IVA, and since then I did not remain in touch. It was sometime in January 2021 that I received a call from him wanting to buy two sets of Centenary Series calendars. One he wanted for himself and another to be sent to his sister in Jamshedpur. I was so happy to connect with an old friend, on query learnt that he has remained a bachelor. A few days back he sent a photo on our class group enjoying a drink at his nephew's marriage, I saw him after almost 40 years and here he is gone. Life is so uncertain. God bless your soul Panju.

—Sidharth Mishra, 28 April 2022

In memory of our beloved father, a prayer meeting shall be held on Monday, 9th May 2022 at The Chinmaya Mission, Lodhi Road from 4 to 5 PM.



Major K. C. Anand

*Shatakshi & Umesh Anand
Minal & Jai Karan Anand*

Geetanjali Anand



After captaining the old boys hockey team for one last time during the centenary celebrations, Lt Gen Yash Malhotra, the former president of the alumni association, breathed his last at Shimla



Cmde Beni Madhab Saha (Retd), expired on Sun 27 Mar 2022, at Command Hospital (EC) Kolkata, leaving behind many to mourn his transit to higher realms. An alumnus of RIMC (964/Shivaji, 1953-58) and National Defence Academy, he joined Kilo Squadron and passed out with the 20th NDA Batch in Jun 1961.

He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1962 and served through two major wars. In 1976 he completed the prestigious Staff Course from Defence Services Staff College Wellington. After an illustrious service of 31 years in the Navy, he retired prematurely from Western Naval Command in the rank of Commodore in Nov 1993. ■

Letters to Editorial Team

Greetings Rimcollian! Congratulations on your Centurion commitment to producing top-of-the-line commanders.

Rimcollian have contributed enormously to keeping India's defence indefatigable. You all are a super bunch, professionally competent, yet down-to-earth, merry-making, loyal friends. Proud to be associated with so many of you over the years.

Hoping Rimcollian will allow me to "brag-recall" my "encounters" with one of your celebrated air warrior alumni, the late Air Marshal Subia.

I had just completed the Pilot Attack Course at Jamnagar, winning the Jamsatji Sword of Honour for standing first on the course (no sniggering recall of my academic performance at NDA, course mates!). When introduced to Air Marshal Subia, the then AOC-in-C SWAC, stabbing his finger to my chest, queried, "Rimcollian?" The meek, "No sir", had the C-in-C's smile turn into a disappointing frown!

Next encounter: I was ferrying a newly manufactured MiG 21 trainer from Ozar (Nashik) to Adampur, staging through Jodhpur for refuelling. Post '65 War, the MiG 21 was still a novelty, the trainer more so, as for the first three years, the only 21 squadron operated without one. As I was completing my post switch-off checks, lo behold I saw a much-starred/flagged Plymouth station wagon racing toward the aircraft. When such a sight appears before a young pilot who has just landed at a "foreign" base, the first thought is, "now what-the-hell-have-I-done?!!" Scampering out of the aircraft, the first step hardly off the ladder on to the ground, I looked in to the face of this imperious air marshal, throwing me, a lowly flight-lute, a grand salute, "welcome to my command sir!" Side-cap hardly slapped on to head, salute returned



Air Chief Marshal AY TIPNIS

(first & only time to a superior!), the air marshal grandly requested (not demanded/ordered), "Would you be kind enough to show me the cockpit SIR?"

Settling in to the cockpit, now grandly demands of me, "Rimcollian, no doubt?!" Wish I had the "sophistication to lie" that some acquire in service to get out of sticky situation/please superiors, so as not to disappoint this lovably flamboyant commander a second time. No disappointed frown this time though, but happy thrilled gaze at the instruments and controls, as would a kid with a newly acquired toy!

Only the duty transit crew chiefy (a flight sergeant, now renamed as JWO, a warrant officer rank) assisted me in the turn-round and I had to walk to the ATC to file my flight-clearance to Adampur (procedure/hospitality is far more organised/officer-supervised now for staging-through ac). But at the ATC, tea & refreshments awaited me: COMPLIMENTS of the AOC-in-C!

Third & last encounter: I had just taken over command of 23 Squadron, the Panthers, tasked

with converting the unit from Gnats to the latest mark of the MiG 21, the Bis/Type 75. We were busy ferrying in aircraft and equipment, a task requiring constant cajoling/begging/sometime, in frustration, "threatening" command staff to hasten in-flow of aircraft & ground equipment.

Lo behold my added frustration when informed "we would be hosting" the newly appointed Commodore-commandant of the Squadron, Air Marshal Subia, now AOC-in-C Maintenance Command.

On arrival at our station, Halwara, now the familiar imperious figure of Air Mshl Subia emerged from his aircraft, clad in flying overall. Before stepping down the ladder, he stood at the top, grandly surveying what lay before him, and I awaited the dread of having to disappoint him a third time: imagine the effrontery of a non-Rimcollian commanding HIS squadron!!

As the station commander introduced me as his squadron commander, I was thunder-struck by the air marshal beaming at me, "I know you are not a Rimcollian, but you will do!"

The many shortcomings in our two days of hosting notwithstanding, Air Marshal & Mrs Subia were the perfect guests, appreciative of everything, from the evening dinner-dance reception, welfare measures, state of morale of personnel, unit's training, the whole gamut, but most of all their squadron commander & his air warriors, notwithstanding no Rimcollian to boast of!

We were the envy of not only the station, command, but even the whole MiG 21 fleet, for we could "pick up" whatever we wanted, scaled or not, from the depots, regularisation of the same, was not to be our headache!

Vives les Rimcollian



Col RS KHATRI
Former Instructor

Congratulations on 100 glorious years of RIMC.

The Institution has a way of growing on you and very soon it becomes an inseparable part of one's life.

During my exciting tenure there, it was amusing to see nervous, wide eyed, absolutely raw kids, who came from all parts of the country, blending well, adjusting to a new way of life within no time and making RIMC

their new home. It was a pleasure to see them passing out as well groomed, confident youngsters ready to take their rightful places in the outside world. Looking back, the Institution can be rightfully proud of having given the country good leaders.

Yes, RIMC has taken giant strides and turned mere boys into men of steel. May it continue to guide and be a beacon of all round development.

RIMC was my learning ground too- being a first generation, a first time teacher. My gratitude to the boys and batches who made me fall in love with this profession.

My compliments to all those who made it what it is today. May it continue to shine in its glory.

God bless RIMC and all those who dwell therein as well as those who had the good fortune of being touched by it.

Letters to Editorial Team

STOP PRESS

In a first, 2 girls inducted into Rashtriya Indian Military College

Pankul.Sharma@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: The Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) — regarded as a premier preparing ground for those aspiring to join the armed forces — inducted two girls for the first time in the institution's history of over 100 years.

The 'July batch of 2022' began Monday with students of Class 8, including the two girl students. Public relations officer of central command, Shantanu Pratap Singh, termed it "a historic moment for the college". He added that one of the girl students is from Haryana and the other is a day scholar.

The decision to give admission to girls at RIMC came after the government opened the doors of the National Defence Academy (NDA) for women. RIMC commandant Col Ajay Kumar had announced during the institution's Centennial Founders' Day in March that they would soon be inducting girl students as well. To make the institute suitable for girl students, the military college had constituted a committee to assess all necessary steps before finalising its decision.

A RIMC official said although there were five seats for girls in this batch, only two could clear the process to get enrolled. He added that from the January batch next year, seats for girls will be increased. A total of 568 girls from across the country had given the entrance for the five seats.

RIMC was established on March 13, 1922 with an aim to impart military training to Indian youths so they could later be inducted into the British Indian Army as officers.

Dear Siddharta, Should I call it a set of books, a Compendium, a Treatise or a deportation I am at my wits end to give it an appropriate title. After giving a careful thought I feel it is most fair to call it as a Treatise as it meets the description of a Treatise. When I looked through the pages I was mighty impressed by the contents of the Treatise



Mr VG NENE
Former Vice Principal

for the painstaking and untiring efforts the editors must have put in before the manuscript was found fit from all angles to be sent to the publishers. For producing such a solid work I most heartily congratulate you for being primarily responsible to create this colossus and

invaluable work and I feel that if you corner much glory for creating the beautiful work you are rightfully entitled to it because it's a fit work to find a place in all National Libraries and in Schools and colleges. I am sure the Treatise will become a source of motivation to every student to try to become an officer in the defence forces of India. Regards, VG Nene

Publisher's Reply: Sir I stand overwhelmed by your kind words. This work was possible because teachers like you mentored us in the early years of our lives. Ich Dien

I was much surprised to receive the gift from the editorial committee consisting of the book, 'Valour & Wisdom', the centenary calendar and also the newsletter. As English teacher at the RIMC in the 1970s and 80s, I was always associated with the publication of the college magazine, which is now called *The Regalia*, and *The Chronicle*, the monthly newsletter. I also started and mentored the Journalism Hobby



Mr Uday Narayan (UN) Singh
Former Section Master

Club. From members of the Journalism Club of those days several have made a name for themselves as writers; some names I recall are Samir Shrivastava, Ali Ahmed Zaki and Sidharth Mishra among others. We also had a very formidable debating team in both Hindi and English. Also fondly remember the annual production of Hindi and English plays. God Bless the Rimcollian fraternity.



Mr CA JOSEPH
Former Vice Principal

Dear Editor,

I felt much happy to receive a copy of the voluminous 'Valour & Wisom' and also the Centenary edition of the Newsletter. It was very thoughtful of the editorial team to have remembered us on the occasion of the Centenary of the RIMC, where I had the privilege to serve with much satisfaction. I have remained in touch with the old boys in Kerela largely due to their initiative and associating with them has always brought happiness.



Mr DN THAPLIYAL
Former Vice Principal

Dear Editor,

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a copy of the centenary calendar and the centenary edition of the newsletter - The Rimcollian. My happiness knew no bounds on seeing the old boys celebrating the legacy of their old masters. Acknowledging the contribution of a Guru even after long years is the biggest tribute which can be made to the teachers. I immensely thank all those who made it possible for the old boy community to remember their masters.



Dear Rincollians,

2. I am indeed grateful and thankful for the trust reposed in me by the Rimcollian fraternity in entrusting me with the onerous and prestigious task of handling the charter of the Honorary Secretary of the distinguished alumni of the RIMC, the ROBA. A duty I have performed with deserving pride and ownership since 2014.

3. The crowning glory of my tenure as the Hony Secy of ROBA must doubtless be the 'Centennial Celebration' of our Alma Mater. Celebrating history of our esteemed institution that has been the cradle of Honor, Duty, Sacrifice, Bravery, Courage, Leadership, Character and Commitment was almost humbling yet gratifying experience. Even though the pandemic threatened to derail the event, it had to finally bow to our, collective Will and Espirit-de-Corps in marking our gratitude to our nurturing grounds. I extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who attended in making this MEGA occasion a once in a lifetime event to remember.

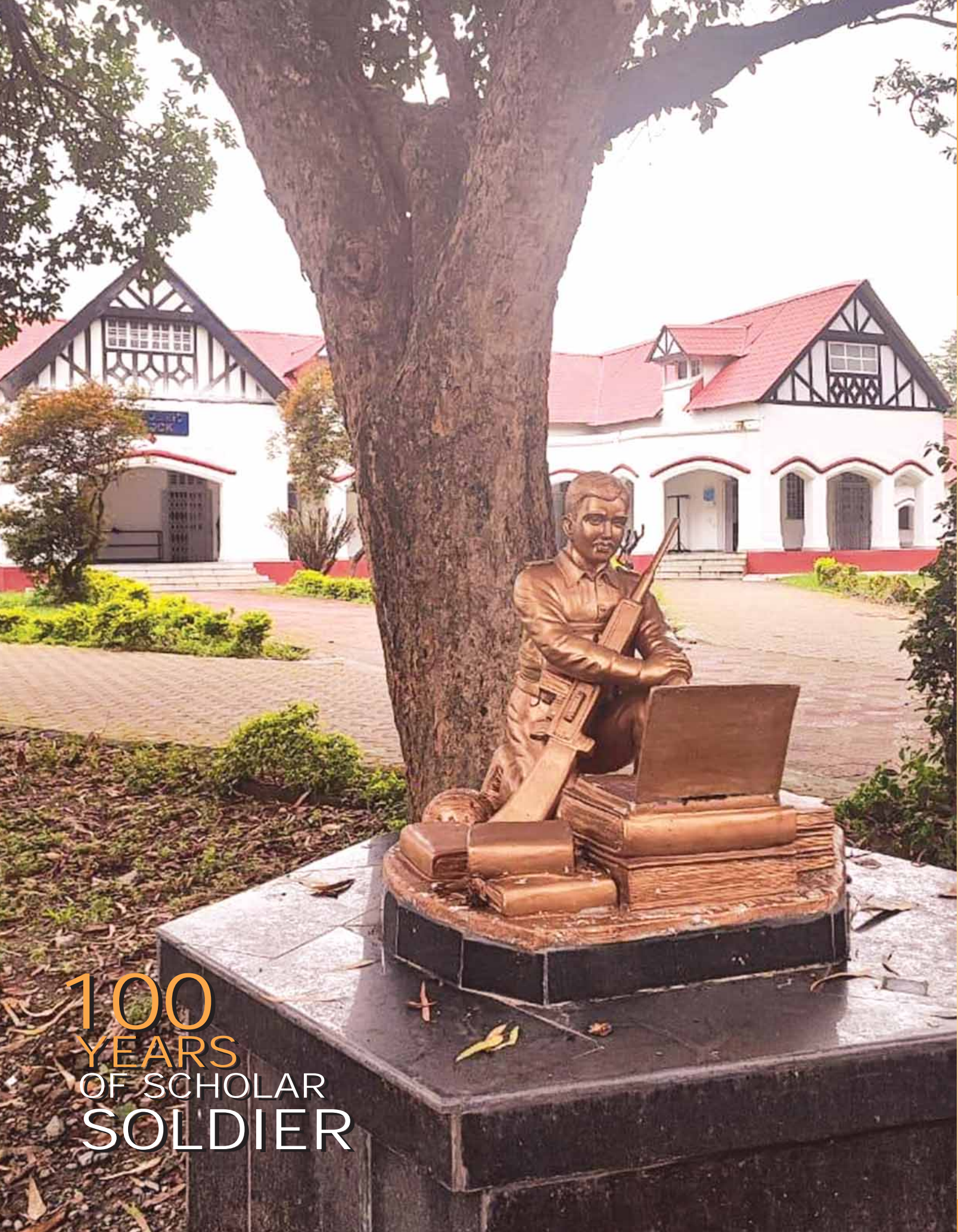
4. I would fail in my duty if I do not extend my heartfelt and warmest respects to Gen V N Sharma, Air Mrshl Reddy, ACM Dhanoa, Gen Grewal, Mr. Ajit Singh, Col Vivek, Col Ajay Kumar, Gen Khatri, Mr. Sandhu, Gen Nandan, Gen Pawar, Maj Bedi, Major Chibber, Gen Narayanan, Adm Arora, Maj Kairon, Cdr Jagtiani, Cmde Rana Mr. C Banerjee, Gen Gurbaxani, Cmde Pawsey, Brig R K Singh, Brig Suayash Sharma, Col Sanjay Sinha, Brig Panjrath, Gen Gill, Gen Kacker, Capt Sain, Wg Cdr Pundir, Col Nathawat, Air Mrshl Tiwari. Last but not the least, I profusely convey my gratitude all the members of the "**FAMILY BEYOND BLOOD**".

5. My list of gratitude would probably run endless and words could not convey my regards, affection and love for the names I may have missed. I wish to admit that I retain the utmost fondness for the lives that have touched mine and those that have mentored and guided me and with whom I have ever had the privilege of association and working in any capacity. To such a family beyond blood, I convey my deepest gratitude and wishes.

6. it's good to have a journey to an end but it's ultimately the journey that matters in the end. I must candidly admit that I have enjoyed every bit of journeying this onerous task and hopefully have lived up to the trust reposed in me. As another one of our accomplished Alumni takes over the mantle from me shortly, I wish him all the luck and am confident that we will continue to grow from strength to strength.

Long live the tribe.

Warm regards
yours sincerely,
Ajay Kumar



100
YEARS
OF SCHOLAR
SOLDIER