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The Rimcollian



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





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contents

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A Cadet during the reunion
mesmerized by the presence of
Old Boys and their families

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Chander's Notes

The hectic life of today, busy schedules, timelines and various appointments make it difficult for all to reach school, regularly and religiously, thus there is a need to feel something in one's hand to connect with the alma mater. The Rimcollian magazine thus becomes your vehicle to connect with school and memory lane of yesteryears.

Most of us take to soldiering thus wielding the sword, while the quill is the farthest distance apart, yet they both demand the same skill sets, patience, perseverance, courage and hard work, thus the written word which stands the test of posterity is still the store house of knowledge. The Rimcollian therefore hopes to keep each and every one of you updated.

To begin with, I wish to thank each and every one of you dear reader, without whose support and contributions it would be well-nigh impossible to publish this unique magazine which a very proud alumnus publish as a tribute to their alma mater.

The biggest takeaway from a magazine is that it leaves its imprint for others to relish. In this issue the usual bill of fare and various viewpoints are presented. There is a steady stream of course reunions now taking place which clearly reflect on the camaraderie of the fraternity, so keep coming and liven up the proceeding and in turn bring that freshness that comes with your presence.

Adding to the spurt of course reunions, my only request is that you send to the Editor happenings such that we can publish it in The Rimcollian. The spirit of camaraderie reaches its zenith during Annual Reunion yet within the next few weeks, its back to business, we need

to retain this and let's hope the magazine acts as a catalyst. The fraternity has taken measures to bridge the gap between all who wish well for the school, your magazine will dutifully record the events without prejudice and wish that one and one we make eleven at the earliest; as the time is running out for 2022 - Our Centenary.

Thanks to contributions from one and many, the magazine by now has acquired a momentum of its own and a rich content. In order to keep the flow going keep sending your contributions such that it becomes a meaningful read. I appeal to each and every one of you to send your articles so as to enrich the content and also, again extend the same to all the ladies and children for their refreshing views. Earlier the magazine was event driven, the aim now is to make it content driven, thus your support is essential.

The aim of all upcoming editions will be to increase the content and request-contributing editors to write for us. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed working on it.

I also wish to thank those who work selflessly and dedicatedly behind the scenes edition after edition, to make this prestigious magazine a success. Special thanks to my course mate **Maj MS 'Appi' Bedi (retired), the ROBA Treasurer**. This magazine would not be possible but for the superhuman effort made by the ROBA Treasurer, who has turned the finances around and made this whole endeavour self-sustainable.

And for **Sidharth Mishra, our publisher**, he can be spared a few rounds of the drill square for being there with help whenever asked for. The world class layout and design of the newsletter is courtesy his professional team.

Lastly I wish to thank our valuable sponsors for their whole hearted support in our endeavour. Do keep trusting us we assure you of our whole hearted reciprocation.

HAPPY READING and thanks to all those who found time to write for the magazine and all those who did not in spite of repeated requests, thought it more prudent to give the slip.

ICH Dien

VIVA RIMC
Dehra Dun

CS THAPA
Brig (Retd)
Pratap 64-69.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT



Air Marshal P P Reddy VM ADC

Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to
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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I take this opportunity to greet all Rimcollians and their families as President of Old Boys Association of RIMC (ROBA). While the basic aim and purpose of ROBA remains strengthening the Rimcollian bond, we have a deep moral obligation to ensure the well being and constant improvement of the Alma Mater. It is towards this end I wish to address every Rimcollian. What have we done to strengthen that bond and improving the Alma Mater? For all that we have received from RIMC, it is time to give back a little. Let us make every effort to bring all Rimcollians on board the ROBA bandwagon and to do our utmost in upgrading RIMC to be the unbeatable.

Presently, there is a void of Masters at RIMC. Enrolment through UPSC is a long drawn, time consuming process. ROBA Trust is doing its bit by hiring few teachers but is constrained by the availability of funds. If we Rimcollians pay our full dues to ROBA and ROBA Trust i.e. Rs 2000/- and 5000/- respectively, then ROBA will be able to hire good teachers. I would therefore request the Regional Secretaries and Senior Rimcollians to make the Rimcollians in their vicinity aware of the activities of ROBA and ROBA Trust and the purpose of contributions to these bodies.

In order to give a concerted impetus towards the functioning of ROBA, I would propose that the senior most serving officer in each Command be closely linked with all the Regional Secretaries and be a part of the ROBA Committee. Similarly, new and young members need to contribute by becoming or at least helping the regional secretaries. This would synergize the coordination and functioning of the ROBA activities both at the micro and macro level.

I also request everyone, including our spouses/children to send in reports of Rimcollian get-togethers and Re-union celebrations for publication in the Newsletter and the website – www.rimcollians.in.

I wish all Rimcollians and their families the very best.

GOD BLESS RIMCOLLIANS ICH DIEN !!!

New Delhi – 110 011

Date: 21 Aug 15

(PP Reddy)

Air Marshal

President

Rimcollian Old Boys Association

THE COMMANDANT'S DESK

By Col HS Bainsla, SM

It gives me great pleasure to communicate with all Rimcollians through this customary end of term letter. I write to share with you our happiness and anxieties in the fascinating process of a cadet's development. A letter on almost the similar lines is written to the parents to apprise them about the activities in which their child takes part to keep them abreast.

We do have range of activities every term and all of these obviously serve towards the holistic development of the cadet. The main focus this term was Academics which have always been the thrust area. The academic faculty strived hard to assist the students in gaining knowledge and attain high scores. We have observed that our intellectually developed cadets have a much better standing in the longer run. The library was freshly stocked up to encourage and inculcate the habit of reading amongst the cadets. A step towards this was that only books were given out as prizes for various academic and co-curricular related activities.

A workshop on soft skills was organized for the Cadets. It was a two-day event conducted by prominent personalities. The idea was to hone the soft skills of the cadets and at the same time expose them to other life skills which are so very important.

The Naval Cruise has now become a part of the routine. Every year a cruise to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands is undertaken. A lot of effort and coordination goes into planning these and they are unique to our institution. The credit of getting it through goes to senior naval Rimcollian officers. Last year in the month of Dec 2014, 28 cadets visited Vikshapatnam and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Nine cadets qualified in the Adventure Training Course held at NIM, Uttarkashi from 03 Dec to 18 Dec 14. Also Fourteen Cadets qualified in the Adventure Training Course held at HMI,



Darjeeling from 20 Dec 2014 to 03 Jan 2015.

Sports have always been an area of strength and it continues to be so. Four Cadets participated in the 11th Gen JJ Shooting Championship at Mhow held in Feb 15, RIMC stood at 6th posn in overall championship out of eight teams. In IPSC equestrian Championship in Feb 2015, RIMC Cadets won 01 Silver and 01 Bronze Medal and were placed at overall third position. In Delhi Horse Show at Army Polo and Riding Club Delhi Cantt from 27 Mar to 06 Apr 2015, eight Cadets participated in the Horse Show and Cadet Hritvick Patiyal won Gold Medal in DHS Children Jumping Gp-1 and Silver Medal in Children Hacks. Cadet Vickrant Raj won Silver Medal in YR & Junior Jumping Rescue Relay, Cadet Kapil Krishan Pandey won Bronze Medal in Children Hacks Gp-I and Cadet Yasodhan Ishar won Copper Medal in Junior Jumping Top Score. 25th Afzal Khand Basketball Competition was held at The Doon School, from 06 May to 09 May 2015, and the school team participated in the Basketball Competition. In 11th Khandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament reached the semi finals of the tournament. . In Inter School Hockey

Tournament held at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie from 05 May to 08 May 2015 RIMC again reached the semi finals of the Tournament. Our cadets participated in various other competitions and areas and did well.

Apart from the sports our cadets equally participated in Inter-School Debate, Quiz, Hindi/English declamation, Drama, Sit-N-Draw competition and INCA Map Quiz and did well. Vilasini Natyam' classical dance was performed artists under the aegis of SPICMACAY on 11 Apr 2015 at RIMC. Izhar -E-Hunar competition was held at Hopetown School on 11 Apr 2015. 35 Cadets participated in the competition. Cadet Anmesh Chug & Cadet Adhiraj Singh Rawat won 2nd Prize in Magazine Cover Design.

Senior students went to Roorkee to witness Ex-Jal Tarang where they were educated on various tasks and functions of the Corps of Engineers. The trip was very educative and motivating for the cadets. Educational/ Motivational visits were organised on 30 Jan 2015 to important military/civil establishments located in Dehradun ie IMA, NHO, FRI, NIVH, Wadia Institute, DEAL, Graphic Era, Central Soil & Water Conservation Research, OPTO, Electronic Factory, Ramkrishan Mission, IIP and Survey General Office. It was a great learning experience along with a day out for cadets.

Our cadets made us proud once again by joining the National Defence Academy in maximum numbers. Cadet Akshat Raj topped the All India merit list. Four of our cadets figured in the first 20 of the All India Merit List.

This year too saw a large number of old boys joining in the Founders' day celebrations from 12-13 March 2015. The cadets and the staff enjoyed hosting the Old Boys and look forward to their regular visit and support for the College.

25 August 2015

A C H I E V E M E N T S

APPOINTMENT

Vice Chief of the Air Staff

Air Mshl BS Dhanoa, AVSM, YSM, VM

1969-74, CHA

AOC-in-C, Eastern Air Command

Air Mshl C Hari Kumar, VSM, VM

1971-75, CHA

Comdt, IMA

Lt Gen BS Negi, YSM, SM, VSM**, PhD

1970-74, CHA

PROMOTIONS

Brig to Maj Gen

Brig DA Chaturvedi, SM

1973-78, RAN

Brig CP Mohanty, SM, VSM

1973-78, SHI

Brig DS Gill

1973-76, RAN

Cmde to Rear Admiral

Cmde Adhir Arora, NM

1975-78, RAN

Col to Brigadier

Col Atul Rawat

1978-83, PRA

Col Akash Kaushik

1980-81, PRA

AWARDS

Sena Medal (Gallantry)

Maj RS Pathania

1997-01, RAN



Former Chief of Army Staff Gen VM Sharma, Vice Admiral PK Chatterjee, Air Marshal PP Reddy, Lt Gen Manvender Singh, Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan and Col HS Bainsla lead the gathering at wreath laying ceremony

ODE TO A BRAVE SOLDIER

“Whenever I realised the end was near, I closed my eyes, recalled my school and asked myself, “how can I give up?”. I was taught by this school to never to give up.”



Our brave soldier Lt Col RS Sandhu with his better half

By Sidharth Mishra

Tucked away in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas is Dehradun, which was once an abode of retired Brown Sahibs and the home of leading boarding schools in the country. It has been 15 years since the state of Uttarakhand was created and these years have been sufficient to turn the quiet town into a bustling state capital. While those retiring from armed forces and other government services may no longer be moving into the Doon (the

valley) of Dehra, the famous boarding schools have somewhat still managed to retain their aura.

Dehradun town was once neatly divided into two halves by the Bindal River. The west side was exclusive to the cantonment and the forest department; and towards the east were the civil area and the bazaars. Today Bindal River has vanished with Bangladeshi immigrants having encroached upon its dried up bed, though the age old bridge still exists.

Within the cantonment there are two huge estates -- the Chandbagh and Rajwara measuring 69 and 139 acres respectively.

On these estates were built two eminent institutions - the Doon School (Chandbagh) and the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College (RIMC-Rajwara).

While the Doon School alumni became part of India's civilian elite as bureaucrats, politicians and captains of the industry, the RIMC kept its focus on producing military leaders. Both the schools have had their ups and downs but today's notebook is dedicated to the latter where your reporter had an experience of a lifetime last week.

For the past two decades I travel every year on March 12 and 13 to celebrate the Founder's Day of the school with its students, staff and other members of the alumni. When I started making the journey, I enjoyed a UFO-like status among the hardened soldiers, wondering how somebody who was trained to wield the rapier was pushing the pen to eke out a living. Slowly, reservation gave way to acceptance of me as a person but not necessarily of all my views.

I too wondered what kept taking me back to my school. I did not specialise in



Seven decades don't keep them apart as a cadet in his teens leads a retired and several serving generals at the wreath laying ceremony

defence reporting, thus a reporter's quest for a story as motivation was ruled out. Since I did not serve in the armed forces or do not trade with them, the networking bit too was ruled out. I got my answer this year.

Every March 13 morning at the Martyr's Memorial, a marble structure built at the main crossroad of the sprawling school campus, a function is held in the memory of those members of alumni who laid their life in defence of the country's and service's flag. This function is christened as the wreath laying ceremony. It's a small service attended over the years by presidents, governors, ministers, defence service commanders, school boarders, members of faculty and visiting old students with their families.

I TOO WONDERED WHAT KEPT TAKING ME BACK TO MY SCHOOL. I DID NOT SPECIALISE IN DEFENCE REPORTING, THUS A REPORTER'S QUEST FOR A STORY AS MOTIVATION WAS RULED OUT. SINCE I DID NOT SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES OR DO NOT TRADE WITH THEM, THE NETWORKING BIT TOO WAS RULED OUT

At this ritual a speech is never made. Smartly turned out students, who are called cadets; escort a chosen few to the memorial to lay the wreath on the behalf of the gathering. This is followed by long blowing of bugles twice; and during the break in between, one can only hear silence and chirping birds. Towards the end of the function one hears the roar of the rotors of arriving choppers, which carry out a fly past.

At the end of the function, I doubt if there is anyone without a lump in their throat. I first attended this function in March 1979 as a 11-year-old and continue to do so as I approach half-century. It gives me a reason to look up to my nation's flag, its military and my school, for having withstood the



vicissitudes of time but continue to be in the service of humanity as the motto of its founder Prince Edward said, Ich Dien: that's I serve.

But then what is that made the visit unforgettable this year. Over a period of time I have also learnt that military men are poor at conducting proceedings in a board room and all these years I have been witness to most inarticulate conduct of business at the annual general meeting of the alumni, which follows this solemn function, with everybody waiting for it to end. However, this year there happened something which gives me goose pimples even a week later.

As the meeting progressed through inarticulate noise, a nattily dressed

middle aged man walked to the dais raising quite a few eye brows. His name was Lt Col RS Sandhu. He took the mike and started the address without much ado. He slowly went onto share something special. He revealed that he was a patient of Hepatitis C and how he has fought the disease.

"I am standing before you today with two kidney transplants, a liver transplant and a brain operation," he said as he looked fighting fit itching to lead a patrol on the Line of Control or a quick reaction team into a subversive hub to fight for the nation's flag. "I would not have been here before you today, if I did not belong to this place," he said and without much fanfare went onto say, "Whenever I realised the end was near, I closed my

eyes, recalled my school and asked myself," how can I give up?". I was taught by this school to never to give up."

For the first time in 20 years I saw the whole hall stand in ovation, the applause started from the middle rows, went to the rear and caught on to the front rows occupied by the generals, air marshals and admirals. I write this notebook without talking to Col Sandhu. Sometimes we reporters should not ask questions but soak ourselves in sentiments of a speech not necessarily delivered by a Barack Obama or a Narendra Modi for that matter.

(The author is president Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice and Consulting Editor, Millennium Post)

GOLF

THE FIRST EVENT

On 12th March 2015 A few avid Golfers played a round at FRIMA Golf Course whose patron and Secretary were both Rimcollians



Good Morning and Happy Golfing for some



The two winners: Col Ajay Shekhawat and Lt Gen BS Pawar. Their respective handicaps are down to single figures.



Courtesy the hosts some scrumptious breakfast and a prize from the patron Lt Gen Manvender Singh to the seniormost golfer too, Gen VN Sharma.



RIMC MY ALMAMATER

REUNION: BATCH OF 1968 - 1972

SEPTEMBER ♦ 2015



By COL MPS 'Muttu' Gill

How can any one of the twenty-one of us forget that cold Dehra Dun day of 19 Jan 1968 when we rolled down the main gate of school in various means of transport? The first night at school was memorable since it was the birthday of one of our Classmates- (Nandan), Now Lt. Gen. Rakesh Nandan. We chatted late into the night, really excited about newfound friends, almost from every part of India including the Andaman's and an amazing environment. The next morning we feasted on scotch eggs, a crave that would last all our lives. There after started the polishing. The school entrance test resulted in a double promotion and some single promotions. The file having been set, the play now started in the right earnest, with the front rolling commenced, the polishing

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OUR BACKS**

of our backs. The seventh heaven was soon to follow. The Cadet Captains quadrangle was where we sweated during rounds for those smart acts that we thought would go un-noticed.

Well, very soon we were introduced to the sprawling play fields all around the school, under the watch full eyes of Mr. RC Sharma who supervised hockey, himself a national player in hockey, Mr. G.S. Bisht (you see) managed football, Mr. JN Wanchoo cricket and later on Mr. GP Pandy did so, other masters did look after other games as well. The motivation to participate in games came from that sports trophy that one wanted his Section to win. The winning section would celebrate by cheering and the celebrations there after at the Cadets Mess by banging of spoons, and the passing of the trophy with a soft drink



Seating : L to R - Mrs. Gulati, Mrs. Nandan, Mrs. P.P. Reddy,-----,-----, Mrs VK Chibber

Standing : L to R- Col. M.P.S. Gill, Air Marshal P.P. Reddy, Mr. R.K. Gulati, Lt. General R.Nandan, Mr.C. Banerjee, Col.G.K. Singh, Col. M.B. Sexena, Col. D.P. Dass, Admiral Chatterjee , Capt. V.K. Chibbar

cocktail that all sipped within the winning section. Sports were thus such an important part of our life at school. However when Shivaji Section won, we knew that it could not be without contributions of Mr. RC Sharma, rest would be understood. Joining school and being a non-swimmer had serious consequences, as you would find yourself in the deepest part of the pool!

The Academic block was where we spent most of the day, and a prep-class in the evening. It was here that individually one had to be above average. However here too we had lighter moments rumors went around

THE GREAT EFFORT OF MR. RC SINGHAL POLISHED OUR SLEEPY SOULS MATHS, A CAPABILITY THAT WOULD SEE, US THROUGH ANY COMPETITIVE EXAMS IN THE YEARS TO FOLLOW

how the spirit from the chemistry lab disappeared, with Mr. VG Nane around, he being our Physics teacher and Mr. LN Thakur the chemistry teacher. The great effort of Mr. RC Singhal polished our sleepy souls maths, a capability that would see, us through any competitive exams in the years to follow. We did have fun during the English classes of Mr. Dewadi, since we pretended to forget the spellings of Mussorrie every now and then, he would thus spell for us - (Yum-you-yess-yess-yo-yo-R-ye-Ee) Yummussorrie. How casual were those formative years at school?

We were fortunate to meet great stalwarts of our school, though less talked of now. We met them mostly at the re-union each year, which they regularly attended despite their age. Maj Gen Hira Lal Attal, the first cadet captain of the school would tell us, first hand how he could easily get selected to the Sandhurst since the Vice-Roy who interviewed him at Shimla remembered the six he had hit at a cricket match at school. Gen GG Bewoor, Lt Gen PS Bhagat VC, Maj Gen Virendra Singh and others were regular at the re-union each year. We sat around the stadium during the cricket match listening to their experiences both at school and thereafter.

Many changes also took place in the school during the time that we were there. The first major change was that for the first time we had a Service Officer as Principal of the school. Lt Col HKL Johar replaced Mr. SP Sharma as Principal. This did bring about a change from a civil approach to a subtle Military overture to the school environment. It was also the period, when Mr. Din Dayal, a Ex-Principal of our school was formulating the policy on school education in India. Maj Mangat a flamboyant- administrative officer replaced a more oriental Maj KC Anand. It was also during our stay at school that the NDA entrance was raised from Class X to Class XI standard, some gained; some lost six months for entry to the NDA. District sports were another important yearly event. Our school set many records. That of Cadet Thapa, (Now Brig) who did 100 Meters in eleven pt-one records, just short of the then national record of 11 seconds was sensational, I can also remember Cadet Mahto's excellent performance in 110 Mtrs High Hurdles. Well District sports also brought above close friendship with the fairer sex from Welhams and other schools, one such being of Amina Faridi with some-one whose name I cannot reveal for fear of his wife putting him difficult questions. Joining school and being a non-swimmer has serious consequences since you would find yourself in the deepest part of the swimming pool with no mercy shown.

Adventure has always been a part of school life! I do remember that trek from Chakrata to Shimla surprisingly we completed it in two days, return by toy train was fun !

The convocation hall (old wooden floor one) was where movies, mostly English were screened for us on weekends. What an up-grade it, was for us to move on to the balcony there, once we were senior. This was indeed a great motivational arena as well, since the walls were lined with very well carved wooden boards displaying names of those Cadets who had achieved merit at school, and those who joined the NDA. It was here that the yearly cultural

WE WERE FORTUNATE
TO WITNESS AND
PARTICIPATE IN MANY
EVENTS THAT
CONSTITUTED THE
CELEBRATIONS. THE
VISIT BY THE
PRESIDENT AT THAT
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OLD BOYS OF THE
FIRST BATCH AT
SCHOOL THEN IS DEEP
IN OUR MEMORY

activities would take place, some excellent debating, school plays etc and who can forget BK Sinha on the Bongos. The hall even today fills you with that youthful enthusiasm. One cannot but visit it once again each time one visits school. There were those fun times as well, the biscuit raid at the school bakery through the Chota/Bara part of Pratap, a place that is still a mystery to me. Very soon we also learned the trick of cutting bounds, a capability that would take the five of us - Rimcollins from K Sqn NDA to Goa and back without getting caught.

Well time never stood still even at school. We completed schooling in

1972-second term and most of us joint the NDA. Ironically five of us found ourselves in the same Sqn at the NDA. The last of us in service are to retire in some time form now, since cadet Rakesh Nandan and A Chakravarty rose to the rank of Lt Gen and PP Reddy to the rank of Air Marshal, and Sher Singh to the rank of Maj Gen. On the other hand the ones who did not join services but faced grater challenges and have had bigger achievements in their field of work. Chiranjit Banerjee as a Banker, Chibbar in managing huge projects, Harsh Pandya to the pinnacle in Air India, Pankaj Sewal and Gulati found success overseas. Our closing year at school was the Golden Jubilee year. We were fortunate to witness and participate in many events that constituted the celebrations. The visit by the President at that occasion and the old boys of the first batch at school then is deep in our memory. The old boys from the first batch included Gen Hira Lal Atal, Gen Tara Singh Ball, S Naranjan Singh Gill, Shri Zafar Alam.

It is now more than forty years since we left school. The bondage with our alma mater makes us flock back to school each year interestingly as a batch of 1968 to re-count those wonderful years spent there, though Chiranjit Banerjee is always there with a big push. We now only look forward to 2022. Our contributions are already underway with Air Marshal PP Reddy initiating the planning process as ROBA President and CB attending to corporate indulgence in the events that would constitute the functions in 2022. Our good wishes also to other Rimcollians who too are contributing. I can't close without paying our tributes to all the school staff who looked after us at the Cadets Mess, dormitories, the grounds men who maintained the playfields and the lovely gardens and the school office staff. Dhuni Chand our Dom help is one name I just cannot forget.

We draw great confidence and encouragement from even better efforts by the present and emerging generation of Rimcollians and those at school. Let your journeys through time be even more glorious, thanks to our Alma mater.

136 COURSE : 25th REUNION

RIMC TO A DIFFERENT DOON

By Col Shailender Arya

This March 2015, after over a decade, I went back to Dehradun and to the RIMC. Our 136th course had completed 25 years of joining the school since January 1990 and many of us had decided to meet up for the Reunion 2015. From where I was on the Line of Control in J&K, I managed a spot of leave, discovered a

snow-free day to move to Leh and finally flew down to Chandigarh in a lumbering IL-76 Russian aircraft. Incidentally, the most reliable IAF pilot on the Chandigarh-Leh route is also a Rimcollian, Wing Commander SS Chabra who has a reputation of flying in all sorts of challenging weather conditions. He is therefore very popular with the Army personnel desperate to

go on leave who are perpetually scanning the Leh skies for the incoming aircrafts.

From Chandigarh, with my wife Monica and two children we drove to Dehradun. They had been promised two days of great fun and bonhomie at RIMC. I also promised to hourly 'report' to my wife as every Rimcollian get-together she finds me disappeared or





The gang caught up after a long time. We missed our Coursemates

totally absorbed among fellow Rimcollians, only surreptitiously reappearing at the end of the party. The drive was scenic, though the traffic on the Nahan - Paonta Sahib - Dehradun route has increased multifold, particularly as one approaches Dehradun. While in our Class III in 1992, we had gone on a bicycle hike from Dehradun to Chandigarh and back. At that time, it was fun-filled drive with lots of breaks for sugarcane juice @ Rs 5 per glass and exchanging cassettes in the Walkmans some of us were carrying. Walkmans were then considered ultra cool, so most of the time they were prominently displayed, though the utilization was less than optimal. This road now is not safe any longer for cycling due to the increased quantum and speed of the traffic.

The signs of a changed Dehradun are visible from miles. While both

**HERBERTPUR, NAMED
AFTER THE BRITISH TEA
PLANTER HERBERT
WHO HAD FIRST SET UP
A TEA ESTATE HERE
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SIGNS OF CHANGE
ARE NEGATIVE**

residential and commercial buildings have mercilessly sprouted, the most spectacular growth has been of educational institutes, perhaps cashing on the reputation of Dehradun as a schooling hub. Schools, colleges and educational institutions of all hues promising every conceivable degree have sprung up from Herbertpur onwards, most of them sporting fancy names with Doon, global or international either suffixed or prefixed to them. Herbertpur, named after the British tea planter Herbert who had first set up a tea estate here circa 1860, today is devoid of any tea bushes. But not all signs of change are negative. The roads have been widened, particularly the one behind RIMC, leading from Ballupur Chowk to the Garhi Cantonment, and flyovers are under construction on the Chakrata and Saharanpur roads to smoothen the

traffic flow. The ubiquitous Vikram autos seem to be better disciplined and uniformly painted in blue. Earlier, they were smoke-spewing unruly monsters with a poor reputation to the extent that once we were Gentleman Cadets at IMA, they were banned as a means of transport for us.

Amidst this sea of gleaming malls on the Rajpur Road peddling every imaginable foreign brand and hundreds of schools promising international curriculum, it was a relief to enter something 'Rastriya' and 'Indian'. Familiar white-washed buildings, same stately trees, a sense of calm, and a strong feeling of belonging and continuity - that was my first reaction on entering RIMC. I am no opponent of development, sustainable or otherwise. Let the malls grow glamorous and apartment blocks mushroom to provide affordable housing in this ever-expanding capital of Uttarakhand, but leave the essence of RIMC same - structurally and culturally.

We were meeting after many years. It was a quarter century of joining RIMC and twenty years of passing out. So, it was post 'Bees Saal' of varied experiences in the Army, Civvies Street or high seas since RIMC and I was tempted to name this article as Bees Saal Baad. However, Bees Saal Baad is a totally inappropriate name for any reminisces, for while it may dumbly convey that twenty years have passed since the occurrence of the event, in the popular perception the title is still associated with the 1962 Bollywood movie of the same name. Though the movie was based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'The Hound of the Baskervilles', but in typical Bollywood fashion it featured a lusty Thakur and thereafter his son being killed by the vengeful spirit of the white saree clad Waheeda Rehman, and had a haunting touch about the entire thing.

All of us landed in Dehradun on 11th March 2015 from different corners of the country. Tarun Massey from Bangalore, Mandeep Singh Dhillon and P Shankar Swaroop from

New Delhi, Harpreet Singh from Tripura, Satyajeet Kumar Singh and Nishant Ranjan from Patna and self from J&K. Few of them wore the Rimcollian tie in the flights for some inexplicable reasons. Many could not join due to their 'exotic' Army postings in remote corners where they can only be contacted via village DSPT phones. Uday Bikram Choudhary got sudden sailing orders for 12th March, but retained his flight bookings to Dehradun till 11th March in eternal hope. Our first get-together was

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organised at a hotel, Four Points by Sheraton, at Jakhan on the Rajpur Road where many of us were staying (and therefore perpetually late in reaching RIMC for various events). The evening followed a riotous but predictable routine. Somewhere after mid-night, the hotel staff served dinner and gave up on us.

The next two days were joyfully spent in the school. The school has indeed been positively transformed. It was also refreshing to interact with the cadets during the meals on the Cadet Captain's lawns. The unfettered interaction has been a success - breaking down barriers and fostering better understanding, while

apprehensions like Rimcollians passing drinks have been proven to be unfounded. Some of them quizzed us on the choice of service while joining NDA. We endeavoured to tell them the pros and cons of each to enable them to make an informed choice. There was less shyness and more smartness. The campus was as ever beautiful and the sporting infrastructure greatly and visibly improved. The complex consisting of Thimayya Auditorium, the multipurpose hall and the new swimming and diving pool is perhaps not replicated elsewhere in any of the schools seen till date. The boundary walls are higher (though not insurmountable!) and the horses a welcome addition to the school. Perhaps, the next area of focus needs to be the classrooms - they need to be made interactive, smart and appealing.

Among the Masters who taught us in early 1990s, only two are still serving - Mr DN Thapliyal and Mr PK Sharma and we were delighted to meet them. It was also great to meet two retired Masters; Mr SP Bhatia and Mr RC Chaturvedi who graced some of the functions during the Reunion. Apparently Mr Bhatia is still associated with the school post retirement and he proudly displayed the paintings and sketches of the Arts hobby in Thimayya Auditorium's lobby. As it has already been suggested on the Yahoogroup, we must make an endeavour to invite the retired Masters in all Rimcollian meets, wherever they are settled. Thereafter, it shall be our sincere effort to remember and honour them in these meets. Their influence on us has been profound, and is a work in progress. Henry Adams has famously said; A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

In the Army it is fashionable to put 'Then' and 'Now' photos in the PowerPoint presentations - to visually emphasize that how the unit has transformed the area, improved the habitat, won over the 'hearts and minds' of the locals or some other magic, for which they need to be commended. But I am hesitant to put some 'Then' and



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'Now' photos of our course - the photos will only show increasing waistlines and receding hairlines since the last photos taken in the school days. Incidentally, our course apart from such dubious visual appearances has another distinction. This one is honourable - of producing four gallantry award winners wherein Harpreet Singh Manish Karki, Rajneesh Giri and Saminder Mor have been awarded with Sena Medal till now.

The Reunion had some other positive spin-offs. Tarun Massey worked overtime to ensure that the entire course had paid its ROBA membership and ROBA Trust dues well before the event. Old bonds were renewed, promises made to meet up frequently and our stock of RIMC memorabilia - ties, scarves, track-suits, tie-pins, T-shirts and Camphor Avenue series books - was liberally replenished. My children leaned to clap

enthusiastically whenever the name of Shivaji Section was announced. By the way, it was announced quite often in the Reunion 2015, as it swept away the Boxing trophy and the overall championship. I told them that it is generally like this since the Year 1922. Our profuse thanks and compliments to the Commandant, staff and the boys to make it a successful and highly memorable event.

Viva RIMC!

My Time at RIMC

By Lt Col FWD Fallon (1936-41, RAW)

In early 1936, after interviews with the British Resident and the Army Commander at Secunderabad, I was selected to attend Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College (PW, RIMC) as an 11 year old. Accordingly I left by train for Dehra Dun in end July, and reached the COLLEGE just before August. I was placed in Rawlinson's (now Pratap) section. There were six or seven new boys in the batch. I can remember Ali Edroos, MMS Bedi, M Kak, SK Dhar, as some of the other new cadets.

The Section Master was Mr PRITCHARD, and Rab Nawaz was the Section Commander. BD Rana was the Cadet Captain. In my stay at college during the first three years I got to know other cadets and made some very good friends like Mukhtar Karim, Roy Abbott, SPS Bedi, Mohd Mumtaz, and many others. The evening Roll Call parade the cadets who did not have a place of worship were marched off parade and Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims marched to their respective places of worship. The Cadets who had no place of worship at the college were taken to their places of worship on Sunday.

Some of the memorable people and events that flash across my memory as a Cadet are the announcement of the declaration 2nd World War by His Majesty George VI, which we heard while standing outside the senior ante room window in 1939. The announcement of Prem Bhagat winning the first VC clearing mines in Abyssinia, the death of my Grandmother, and being made Section Commander of Rawlinson's, and finally College Cadet Captain.

Some of my great friends were Mini Mohite, Roy Abbott Mukhtar Karim, SPS Bedi, MMS Bedi to mention a few. In



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1939, after evening study, most of us stopped at the senior ante room to listen to the BBC news broadcast. We heard the King, George V, announce the declaration of war against the Axis powers. Most of the senior cadets cheered as they felt they would leave for commissioning sooner. The first batch left for the Indian Military Academy (IMA), in Nov 1939 as I can remember and soon batches left for IMA

and other Officer Training School (OTS), regularly.

In 1940 a 4th section was created for English boys whose fathers were in the Indian Army. These boys included many whose fathers were well known to many ex cadets as they joined the services. Field Marshall Slim son comes to my mind. I met him at Imphal when I was on my way to Burma with 5 Probyn's Horse.

I met many old schoolmates during the rest of my career and had the honour of going back to the College as Admin Officer to Mr Catchpole in 1950/51 and spent some glorious years, with my wife and 1st born son at the College. I am sure some Cadets would recall those years. Sadly I left the College and went to Korea leaving my wife and son in Meerut. I never had a chance to revisit the College again and do regret the same.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

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Deepak Ahluwalia,
Jt Secy (AF) to Hon
Min for Defence Sh
Manohar Parrikar



A photograph of a man with a mustache, wearing a dark blue patterned shirt, sitting in a metal chair outdoors. Several monkeys are perched on his head and back. The background shows a natural setting with trees and a fence.

BEYOND UNIFORM

MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Sajal Chakraborty was in the RIMC from 1967-68 in Chandragupta Section as per the official records. He did not join the NDA and was later selected for the Indian Administrative Service rising to become chief secretary of Jharkhand government. Though he manages to remain in news for several reasons, his love for animals is exemplary. Here is a report which was carried on him in the Ranchi edition of Times of India. Editor)

Sajal Chakraborty, reappointed as state chief secretary (he has since demitted office), is known for his love for animals especially dogs. He recently got a new friend - a five-month-old female elephant calf named Rakhi, who was recovered from Garu in Latehar in an injured condition in August 2014.

Rakhi had strayed from a herd of elephants after her mother was killed in

a lightning strike. Chakraborty apparently played a crucial role in getting the three-month-old Rakhi nursed and rehabilitated when he came to know about her.

The calf reportedly recognizes him whenever he visits her at Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), 180km from here. Sajal often visits PTR because of Rakhi. "We have developed a kind of bonding. She extends her trunk to me whenever I go to meet her," beamed the chief secretary.

"I last met her during Durga Puja," said Sajal, who was re-appointed on September 30. A source in the forest department said he had sent his own car to bring a vet to the PTR to treat the calf when he visited Rakhi for the first time. He also asked vets from Ranchi to treat the calf that had some wounds.

In 1994-95, as deputy commissioner in West Singhbhum, he

had kept several horses and took personal interest in taking care of them. He started a horse-riding club in Chaibasa. Following his transfer, he handed over the horses to a Jamsheedpur-based horse-riding club. A well-placed source said Chakraborty had a lot of stray dogs, monkeys and tortoises in his Ranchi house. Later, he sent the monkeys to the Bhagwan Birsa Zoological Park.

"I often go to meet the monkeys at the zoo. I had requested the zoo authorities to take care of the monkeys well and they have been kept in a separate enclosure," Chakraborty told TOI.

At the chief secretary's HEC house, there are more than 10 injured street dogs, which were picked up from across the state by Sajal himself, while his office at the airport houses rabbits.

RIMC - Here it all began

Lt Gen Manvender Singh
Commandant, Indian Military Academy (2011-15)

Thank you Brig Chander S Thapa for asking me to do what most Rimcollians hate, and that is to sit and write. However, I have to be grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts behind 'shedding my uniform at school' on the day I hung my spurs. The thought of doing so at RIMC was spontaneous and something that emerged from within.

31 May 2015 was by no means an ordinary day. After all I was retiring after over 40 years of service to the nation, wearing the olive green with pride and purpose each day. While approving the retirement itinerary planned by the staff at IMA, I found that it contained all the traditional functions for those privileged to retire as the head of an institution. However, I felt that something was missing which left my sense of gratitude to the organisation somewhat incomplete. That our glorious Army which had given me success, respect, recognition, rewards, wonderful friends and took care of me and my family throughout the journey, warranted an expression of gratitude in some unique way.

And then it came as a flash. I had to be at the RIMC where my journey started in the olive green almost 50 years ago in Aug 1966. Obviously there was no question of burdening the School which had just finished the Graduation Ceremony. And therefore I planned a quiet visit to the School with all the gratitude locked up in my heart. I thought that after a symbolic 'hanging of the uniform', a look at our great institution and a handshake with the Commandant RIMC, I would be on my way. That the Commandant RIMC still succeeded in making it



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somewhat official by presenting School mementos and inviting the redoubtable historian Cdr Arun Prakash Bhattacharya to present to me with a copy of 'Indian Military Academy' was truly most touching and memorable.

How could the journey to the school end without a farewell to my most favourite master Mr RC Chaturvedi. He not only risked his life to fish me out of the River Yamuna during a mid-term hike, but silently taught the strength of humility.

My humble contribution to our great Army and personal success in life would not have been possible but for the RIMC. I always felt that while the academics were necessary and important, but what brought me success was the confidence derived from discovering myself amongst equals, learning values steeped in nationalism and camaraderie, importance of fitness as a habit and picking up the vital aspects of personal conduct based on military ethos. I am convinced that I would not be what I am, but for the RIMC.

Retiring as the Commandant IMA after serving the institution for three years and eight months, was in its own way an achievement. That the Army Headquarters always trusted Rimcollians to bring service values in this great institution is borne by the fact that a fourth of the Commandant's posted were shaped at the RIMC.

Thank you 'The RIMC', my wonderful teachers whom I revere, the tireless staff that works with passion to make the school what it is and to all senior Rimcollians who in their own silent way contributed to build my persona.

THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

By Rashmi

A story of a family that overcame all their personal disabilities and rose above them to reach out to society and give back selflessly to the disabled in the only way they knew - through love and compassion.

Late Capt. J K 'Jojo' Sengupta (Retd) was known for his indomitable spirit and zeal for serving those less privileged and this is what history books should speak of. Having lost his sight in Battle, Capt. Sengupta had to overcome enormous challenges to rehabilitate himself and having done so, felt the need to give back to society and reach out to other less privileged persons with disabilities. He founded the North Bengal Council for the Disabled in the year 1990.

Popularly known as Jojo, he did his initial schooling at Huddard High School, Kanpur, and later joined the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehra Dun. Brilliant and talented as he was, it was no surprise that he turned out to be a triple gold medallist from RIMC, National Defence Academy (NDA) and Indian Military Academy (IMA). He was commissioned into the 16th Light Cavalry, one of Indian Army's oldest regiments, in December 1962.

Capt. Sengupta was doing a gunnery instructors course at the Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra), when the second India-Pakistan war, waged again by Pakistan in 1965, broke out. All ranks doing courses at this training establishment were re-called to their respective regiments. Capt. Sengupta reported to 16th Cavalry and was pitched into the operations. On September 21, his fourth day in the war, he was very effectively conducting an artillery shoot from his tank,



CAPT. SENGUPTA WAS DOING A GUNNERY INSTRUCTORS COURSE AT THE ARMOURD CORPS CENTRE AND SCHOOL, AHMEDNAGAR (MAHARASHTRA), WHEN THE SECOND INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR, WAGED AGAIN BY PAKISTAN IN 1965, BROKE OUT

sighting targets through the binocular sights in the Commander's hatch of the Centurion tank, when an armour-piercing projectile hit very close. All the glass of the sights got shattered and hit him in his eyes and face.

After a prolonged period of convalescing at Army Hospital, Delhi Cantt and INHS Asvini, the Naval Hospital at Mumbai, Capt. Sengupta underwent rehabilitation and mobility training at St. Dunstan's in England. He also got the opportunity to learn Braille and typing and was able to access other rehabilitation services. He left the Army in 1967 with hundred percent disability and took up the dealership of Tata Oil Mills in Calcutta. In 1972, he also was also allotted the LPG distributorship of Indian Oil in Siliguri by the Directorate General Resettlement.

Having acquired self-reliance and on having been able to successfully set up and run his businesses, Capt. Sengupta felt the strong desire to serve those less privileged and decided to



establish the North Bengal Council for the Disabled in 1990 along with other likeminded friends. It was a daunting task to create a motivated team; Capt. Sengupta took the baton in his hands and set out to carry out the mission of NBCD in a manner which is unprecedented and inspiring. It was not an easy task to establish coordination with Govt. agencies and other NGOs and to synergize their efforts for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the region. His soldierly attitude, perseverance and relentless hard work bore fruit and in 1998 "Prerana" was born. Prerana is a cross disability educational centre for children with disabilities and seeks to provide holistic learning through a well-designed curriculum. Recently, the centre has begun including non-disabled from poor families and has thus been successful in creating a truly inclusive school. The year 1998 also

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witnessed the launching of a large 'Community Based Rehabilitation Programme' covering disabled persons in 700 villages in the Siliguri Sub Division. Both the programs are now running successfully and have been able to reach out to thousands of persons with disabilities.

In all his endeavours, Capt. Sengupta's wife, Rita Sengupta has stood by him with steadfastness. He got married to Ms. Rita Biswas in the year 1977. At the time, she was an independent lady and a well-qualified and passionate teacher, teaching in Calcutta. Inspired by their common values and zeal for service the couple dedicated themselves to this cause. They were blessed with twin daughters, Sreemoyee and Sreerupa and a younger son Bibek. His untimely demise on August 31, 2013 was an irreparable loss of a great mind, an excellent person and a wonderful friend and family member.



RIMC @93

There is a school called Prince of Wales Royal (now Rashtriya) Indian Military College in Dehradun which never sends out invitation to its old boys to come for the Founder's Day every year on 12 & 13 March. However, its children, howsoever, old they may be return home every year. Some present themselves in person, others celebrate it wherever they are. They all never forget to say a warm happy birthday to their Alma Mater. In the following pages the spirit of Rimcollian is captured through various events.— Sidharth Mishra

>> KEEPING ALIVE TRADITION <<

Though the general knowledge books still say that hockey is our national game, it has been ages that it has slipped way down the popularity charts. But if there is one place where it's still played with gusto it's at the different ground of this school. The tradition has carried on for 93 years and would continue for many more. The young and old, both make sure that the other sweats it out. Since only 11 can make to the playing squad, the non-players and the retired players use the time to get started for the reunion. It's time to rejuvenate associations, be it senior-junior or Guru-Chela. Hockey match between the old boys and the cadets, where always the spirit of RIMC wins, incidentally is always the first event on the three-day reunion itinerary.







>> GETTING READY TO FACE THE WORLD <<

Boxing is another sport which the RIMC among the very few schools promotes. The annual inter-section boxing competition between the four houses, called sections, -- Pratap, Ranjit, Shivaji and Chandragupta - culminates on the night of 12th March. Everybody from the Rimcollian community looks forward to bouts fought in the historic amphitheater. The fights are well-contested right from the lightest of the weights fought by the youngest to the heavier weights fought by the older students. There is fierce competition and loud cheering. But at the end of the day, there is no rancor over who won or who lost.





>> COMMANDANT'S DINNER <<

On the night of 12th March, the Commandant hosts the old boys, their families, masters and others guests to a dinner in the quadrangle opposite the Cadet Captain's room. This is the first opportunity which the cadets get to interact with the alumni and take a lot of tips from them. This is also the time for the old boys to return to the times of their youth.





>> WREATH LAYING CEREMONY <<



Every March 13 morning at the Martyr's Memorial, a marble structure built at the main cross-road of the sprawling school campus, a function is held in the memory of those members of alumni who laid their life in defence of the country's and service's flag. This function is christened as the wreath laying ceremony. It's a small service attended over the years by presidents, governors, ministers, defence service commanders, school boarders, members of faculty and visiting old students with their families.



At this ritual a speech is never made. Smartly turned out students, who are called cadets; escort a chosen few to the memorial to lay the wreath on the behalf of the gathering. This is followed by long blowing of bugles twice; and during the break in between, one can only hear silence and chirping birds. Towards the end of the function one hears the roar of the rotors of arriving choppers, which carry out a fly past. This is also the time for the old boys and their families to quietly inspire next generation about the rich traditions of the school.



At the end of the function, I doubt if there is anyone without a lump in their throat.







>> ROBA AGM <<

After the somber function at Martyr's Memorial it's time for the old boys to assemble at Bhagat Hall (Convocation Hall of the yore) for the annual general meeting of the Rimcollian Old Boys Association. The annual accounts and report of the association is presented. It's also the time to review measures which can be taken to further strengthen the camaraderie. The report of the ROBA Trust, a body built through the contribution of the old boys, is also presented on the occasion. The annual election for the executive committee is held at this meeting. During this time when the Rimcollians are busy discussing business matters, the ladies and children enjoy hospitality at Commandant's residence.





>> GROUP PHOTO <<

The group photo session at the amphitheater provides the opportunity not only to bring all the old boys under one frame but also time to click the smaller frames of diverse age-groups that come together. This is also the time for the families to hone the skills at photography.





>> CARNIVAL AT CRICKET OVAL <<

After the group photo session, the venue shifts from Academic Block in the North to the Cricket Oval in the South. For the next three hours there is an absolute carnival with horse show, cricket match between the old boys and the RIMC team, aero-modeling show and a lot of snacks to keep the chatter going. On this occasion old boy Capt Vippan Chibbar and his wife Sneh present medal to the best rider in memory of their son, who too was a top rider at the school. The old boys insure that they have somebody from their ranks as umpire to keep the balance. Thereafter is the lunch for the old boys with their respective sections, giving opportunity for interaction between the old and the new.







>> CULTURAL EVENING <<

Despite a hectic day session, the old and present cadets of the school present themselves on time for the cultural evening. The show is marked by painting, woodcraft, science and other exhibitions. This is followed by the presentation made by the Commandant to the Old Boys about the school's performance and the address by the ROBA president after the prize distribution. The evening concludes by a variety entertainment programme presented by the students.





>> ALUMNI DINNER <<

The annual reunion moves towards conclusion with the old boys coming together for a sit-in stag dinner in the cadet's mess. This is a near century long tradition. Other than the old boys, the school commandant and the faculty are invited to join. The dinner is hosted by the alumni association. The dinner is preceded by beautiful fireworks.

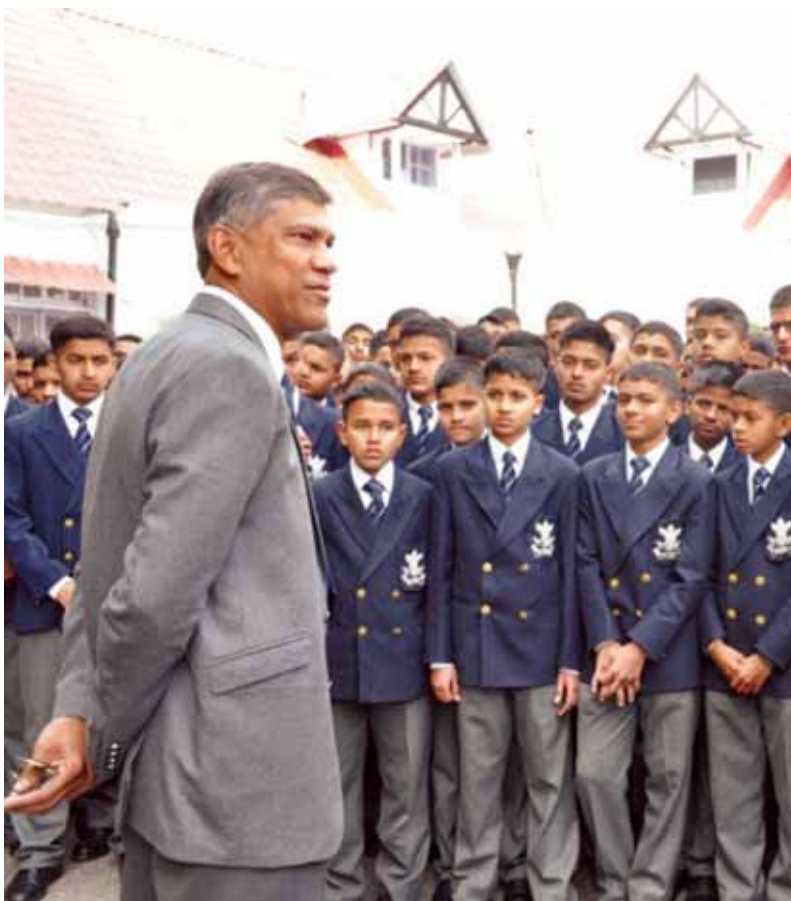




>> AU REVOIR <<

The annual reunion comes to an end on the morning of March 14. The old boys depart with a heavy heart but with the promise to return next year to celebrate the Alma Mater's birthday with equal verve.



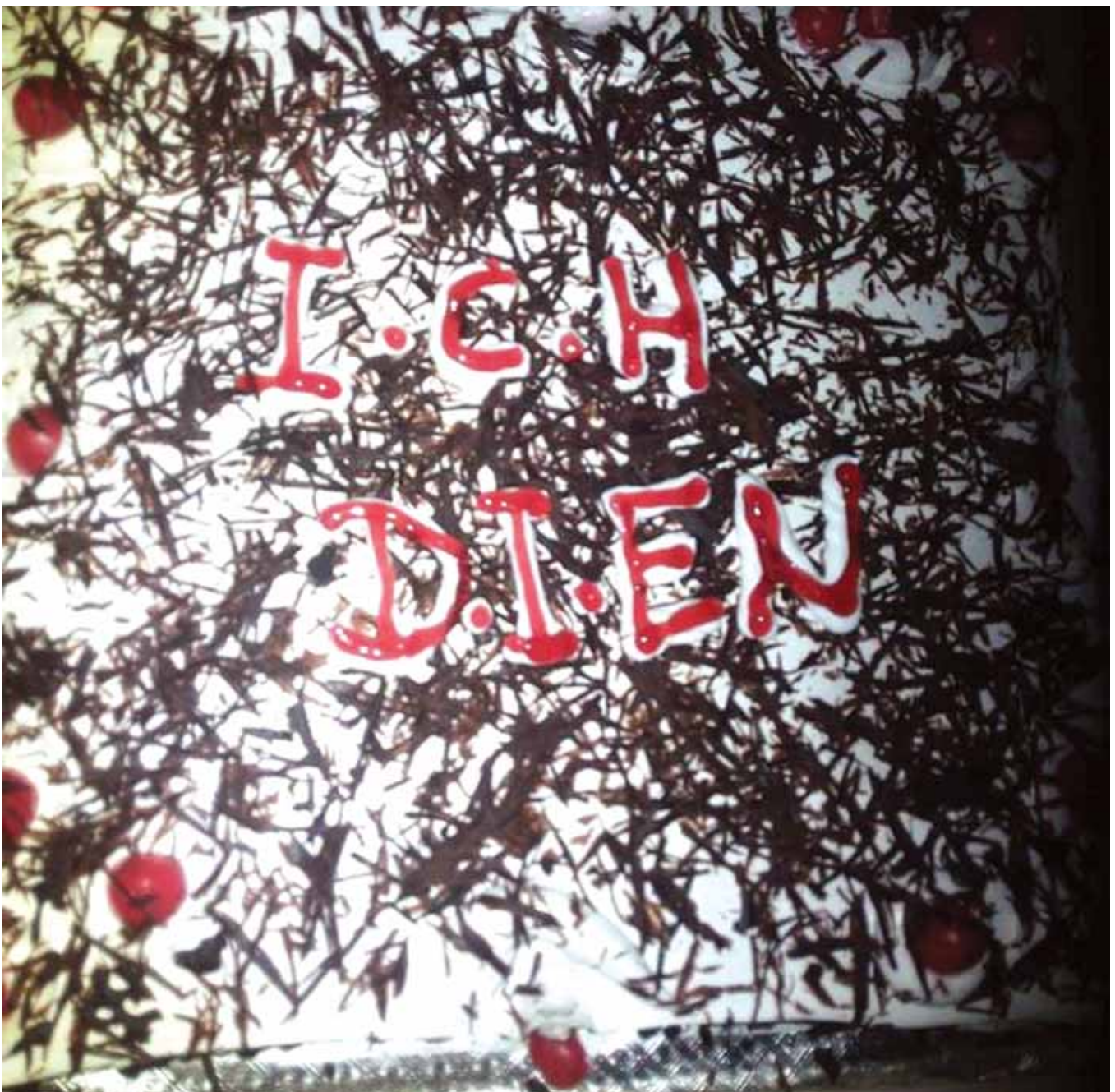




>> CAKES IN PLENTY <<

The annual reunions across the globe have started a unique tradition of baking a special cake to mark the birthday of the Alma Mater. This is probably done to compensate for the absence from the Rajwada Camp, as the campus is known. Here we have samples of loafy celebrations from Mumbai, Rangiya, Patna, Udhampur, Vizag, Naval Academy, Chandigarh and the very British scotch eggs from London.





ROVING EYE

REUNIONS 2015

KERALA CHAPTER - KOCHI, 21 MAR 15

By Cdr Kapil Bhatia
(with contribution from the Usual Suspects)

It was a warm evening as Rimcollians of all hues and hierarchies descended upon Kochi to participate in the much-awaited Reunion 2015. The weatherman was surely confounded with the mercury rising, only to discover later that the local

phenomenon was attributed to a motley gang of 'Hot Rimcollians' greeting each other 'warmly' over an evening of scotch, eggs and scotch eggs!

Indeed, the evening was anointed the Reunion of the 'Kerala Chapter' of Rimcollians, lending a clarion call to all Rimcollians domiciled in Kerala and

otherwise to muster for the annual 'Roll Call'. The 'Mission Statement' of the Chapter is to trace out all such Rimcollians, in retreat, incommunicado, aliased, camouflaged or simply hiding from the dreaded Sergeant to surface with aplomb and greet fellow Rimcollians.



KNEELING. Lt (IN) Yashpal Cherukuri, Cdr Kapil Bhatia, Sub Lt RP Singh, Master Garg, Master Garg 2, Master Shreevshnu Sreekanth, Master Sandhu, Miss Kothari, Miss Lingarkar, Miss Ann Mary Joseph, Miss Rianna Simon, Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph, Lt Cdr Anvesh Murthy

SITTING. Mrs Anu Kumar, Mrs Sudha Nair, Mrs Parvathi Revi, Mrs Radhika Rajagopal, Col Subhash Nair (retd), Cmde BK Kumar (retd), Mrs Omana Sivasankar, Mrs Rita Mathew, Mrs Priya, Mrs Jenny S Joseph.

SITTING BACK ROW. Mrs Aromica Bhattacharya, Mrs Puja Gupta, Mrs Garg, Mrs Ashwini Lingarkar, Mrs Isha Sharma, Mrs Kothari, Mrs Sushan Sreekanth, Mrs RoseMary Mathai, Mrs Rubila Sandhu, Mrs Seeta Lakshmi Kartik,

STANDING. Sub Lt Prashant Chandra, Lt Cdr GG Raturi, Lt Cdr Chandrakant Kothari, Lt Cdr Vaibhav Gupta, Cdr Nitesh Garg, Cdr Arun Bahuguna, Cdr RS Randhawa, Capt HS Sandhu, Lt Col PK Satish Kumar (retd), Flg Offr NP Revi (retd), Maj Gen P Rajagopal (retd), Cdr Raju Mathew (retd), Sqd Ldr Naresh Lingarkar, Maj Gen B Sivasankar (retd) VSM, Cdr RP Singh (retd) Cdr S Vishwananthan (retd), Cdr SS Sreekanth, Lt Cdr Arjun Subramaniam, Lt Cdr H K Singh, Lt Cdr Kartik Parsuraman, Cadet AK Rai, Lt Cdr Suraj Aiyappa, Sub Lt Katoch

Senior Rimcollians infused necessary momentum to the proceedings right from the start by demonstrating their characteristic Rimcollian spirit. Col Subhash Nair (Retd.) (72nd Pratap) mustered a quarter dozen Rimcollians {Flg Offr NP Revi (1959-64 Shivaji) and Lt Col PK Satish (1968-72; Shivaji)} from faraway Trivandrum to head to the venue, with ladies in tow. That he was the second senior-most Rimcollian during the evening served as a heady reminder that 'years' can never be an impediment to 'youthfulness'. Col Nair also was also insistent that the organisers trace out his senior in school - Cmde BK Kumar (1956-60; Ranjit) - so that the senior-most Rimcollian in the area is appropriately acknowledged.

In a similar vein, Cdr Madhusoodanan (1972-76; C'Gupta) drove down from picturesque Munnar to participate in the proceedings; Cdr RP Singh (Retd.) (1974-79; Ranjit), an Air India Express pilot, juggled flight schedules to leave the ATC dumbfounded on his whereabouts; the young (and notorious) Lt Yashpal (2003-07; C'Gupta) returned from an exhausting sea sortie just 12 hours prior to make a 'showstopper' entry; Capt Simon Mathai (1982-87; Ranjit), presently posted at Visakhapatnam, was represented by his better half and daughter, who were seen busy taking



LT COL PK SATISH (1968-72; SHIVAJI)} FROM FARAWAY TRIVANDRUM TO HEAD TO THE VENUE, WITH LADIES IN TOW. THAT HE WAS THE SECOND SENIOR-MOST RIMCOLLIAN DURING THE EVENING SERVED AS A HEADY REMINDER THAT 'YEARS' CAN NEVER BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO 'YOUTHFULNESS'

notes from eager Rimcollians as they spilt beans about the former's heady school days.

Cmde Benny Anthony (1974-79; Pratap) was missing in action though, since the Navigator had charted a northerly course to look up his family in Mumbai. Expect an early NAVAREA on the Get-Together next year, sir! Cdr CM Verghese (1981-86; Ranjit), despite best efforts, could not make it to the event for want of train bookings ex-Bangalore; grapevine has it that he flaunted his Chief Ministerial credentials to none-the-amused Station staff to secure a possible last minute train berth!

The evening started with the usual hullabaloo and energy as chuckles and guffaws filled the atmosphere. Repeated attempts by the CEO (Chief Event Organiser) and (self-confessed) Secretary, Kerala Chapter, Cmde NAJ Joseph (112th Ranjit), to initiate proceedings received limited support and sympathy. Readjustment of few notches on the mike decibel control brought much-needed order to the Assembly, forcing several seniors to act their age!!

The introductory speech by Cmde Joseph called upon all non-members to pay their ROBA subscription (both to ROBA and ROBA Trust), as also contribute, by means of monthly





subscription, as appealed by President ROBA. The option for contributing to the ROBA Magazine was also highlighted; Brig Thapa (Editor, ROBA Magazine) had been kind enough in lending copies of the magazine, which was shared with all attendees. The speech was followed by group photograph and cake cutting, with Cmde BK Kumar (senior-most Rimcollian), Cadet AK Rai (junior-most Rimcollian) and Mrs Isha Sharma (youngest Lady) doing the honours.

The Introduction Session started next with each Rimcollian recounting their year in school, Section and present status. Loud cheers permeated each intro, with timely conclusion of an intro being rewarded with a scotch egg. Senior Rimcollians (viz. those senior to the 'CEO') were accorded no time limits for the intro, whereas junior Rimcollians were allowed a minute to complete; a buzzer was kept handy to sound when anyone crossed the

WE WERE MEETING AFTER MANY YEARS. IT WAS A QUARTER CENTURY OF JOINING RIMC AND TWENTY YEARS OF PASSING OUT. SO, IT WAS POST 'BEES SAAL' OF VARIED EXPERIENCES IN THE ARMY, CIVVIES STREET OR HIGH SEAS SINCE RIMC AND I WAS TEMPTED TO NAME THIS ARTICLE AS BEES SAAL BAAD

customary one minute! At this stage, it may be highlighted that the unsuspecting scotch egg bearing steward had a providential escape as the hands of the dreaded bandit - Lt Cdr Anvesh Murthy, supported by usual offenders of the likes of Lt Yashpal, S/Lt Chandra and SLt Katoch (both 2004-08; Ranjit) - who launched a raid just outside the Kitchen. Arnab Goswami was last seen reporting the ambush on prime time television; "The nation demands an answer" was his last quip on the whereabouts of the missing scotch eggs!

Maj Gen Rajagopal (1960-65; Shivaji) and Maj Gen Sivsankar (1962-66; Pratap) recounted their school days with fervent nostalgia; Cdr Raju Mathew (Retd.) (1966-70; Pratap), looking his youthful best, tried to convince hard that he was out of school; subdued whistles were heard from the Ladies section as he took to the podium. Capt Sandhu and Cdr



Randhawa shared their school encounters. Cdr RP Singh (Retd.) was desperately looking for junior RP (S/Lt RP Singh; 2004-09; Ranjit), who was present that evening, but did the quintessential 'vanishing act' when needed most.

As the intros proceeded, not every Rimcollian earned the famed scotch egg though; Cdr Kapil Bhatia (1990-93; Shivaji) was enamoured by his portrayal of his life's mentor - Shri SP Bhatia - fondly remembered as 'Pappu'. Cadet AK Rai of the Naval Constructor Wing 'constructed' several fictitious stories as he tried to woo the ladies, to little avail. Lt Cdr GG Raturi (1998-2003; Pratap) was his polished, American accented best, though his referral to a Rimcollian dad-in-law did not win him brownie points, since his repeated cheering of Section over School was red-carded by the CEO and Third Umpire.

The evening continued apace post intros with drinks and discussions. Scotch eggs were the hot favourites and were polished off in quick succession. Indeed, the story of the scotch egg is intriguing, as it involved a euphoric mix of culinary skills and coordinated

S/LT CHANDRA AND S/LT RP SINGH (2004-09; RANJIT) MANNED THE GOODIES STALL; ALTHOUGH SOARING PINES MADE BRISK SALES, SOUVENIRS FROM SCHOOL COULD NOT FETCH UP IN TIME, LEAVING SEVERAL ATTENDEES ASKING FOR MORE (WE DID SOUND A CONVINCING TONE BY STATING THAT THE SOUVENIRS WERE SOLD OFF BEFORE THEY COULD REACH THE STALL!)

military action. Cdr Arun Bahuguna (1989-93; Ranjit), Commanding Officer of one of the ships, tasked his Master Cook to prepare the plat du jour, with guidance from Master Mentor (Mrs) Jenny Joseph; the savoury was refined interminably till the texture and taste was achieved to exacting standards.

S/Lt Chandra and S/Lt RP Singh (2004-09; Ranjit) manned the Goodies Stall; although Soaring Pines made brisk sales, souvenirs from School could not fetch up in time, leaving several attendees asking for more (we did sound a convincing tone by stating that the souvenirs were sold off before they could reach the Stall!). Cdr Sreekanth was the cynosure of all eyes...err, hands...as he honed his Palmistry skills on eager Rimcollians, each hoping to

find the next elixir. Lt Cdr Karthik Parsuraman (1998-2002; C'Gupta) was the light and soundman, with foot-tapping music in the background.

Several more group photos followed post Dinner; the organising team did a stellar job by furnishing a copy of the group photograph taken at the beginning of the function for each Rimcollian to carry home. Each Rimcollian also received a copy of the Kerala Chapter Directory, so we could remain in close touch in the weeks and months ahead. Nostalgia permeated the air by the time the proceedings concluded, and it was time for hugs and goodbyes. The mood was sombre, yet spirited, as we all took leave, promising to keep in touch and keeping the school flag flying high.

Long Live RIMC!!

GOA GET-TO-GETHER

By Capt (IN) Peush Pawsey

The 93rd Founders Day saw the Goan Rimcollians in their best at the "Hansa House" on 14 March hosted by the spirited and dynamic Commodore, Raghu Nair. The lively evening was made even more memorable by the presence of few outstation Rimcollians.

R/Adm KM Dhir made it from neighboring Karwar along with his wife and daughter and it was a pleasure to see them in Goa. Cmde Aukta and his wife too were visiting from Kolkata where they have been recently posted.

The visiting officers from CDM chose to be in the elite company of Rimcollians on a Saturday evening in Goa and we were indeed delighted to catch up with old friends after decades. We had Cols Arun Ahuja, Rakesh Nair, Sanjeev Kumar and Capt (IN) Divyanshu Rastogi from Secunderabad as part of the celebrations.

It was a fantastic evening wonderfully hosted by young flyboy Asoom Sharma who presented the Commandants presentation for us amid loud cheers and applause for the cadets back in school. To give us all first-hand information, Capt (IN) Asheem Mital landed directly from the Airport having attended the reunion at RIMC (duly smelling of Scotch and Eggs!!) and updated us on the conduct of the 93rd Reunion at Dehradun and salient issues of the AGM.

The veterans were represented by Cdr Benjamin Charles and Col Purohit along with their charming ladies and they regaled us with fantastic stories of RIMC of their days. Cdr Charles, being Secretary Goa Chapter, has assured that we would all meet more often in Goa!

The highlight of the evening was the stellar performance on keyboard and guitar by young Aditya and Arrush Nair

(sons of Raghu and Preethy Nair) who stole the show and our hearts with their fantastic rendition of popular numbers!

The list of attendees is as follows:-

R/Adm and Mrs KM Dhir
Cmde & Mrs Aukta
Cmde & Mrs RK Nair
Capt (IN) Asheem Mital
Capt (IN) Divyanshu Rastogi
Capt (IN) Peush Pawsey
Col Arun Ahuja
Col & Mrs Purohit (Retd)
Col Rakesh Nair
Col Sanjeev Kumar
Cdr & Mrs Benjamin Charles (Retd)
Cdr S Chakroborty
Lt Cdr Asoom Sharma
Lt Cdr Bhanu Godara
Lt (IN) Gaurav Shukla

The dinner was fantastic with mandatory scotch eggs which were carried on despite of being warned!

HYDERABAD BASH

By Wg Cdr Unni Kartha (R/62-66)

While I was at RIMC, there was always a bash-up up after the 'Golden Night', on 13th. The Reddy Garus above my name (on the list below), were given the royal treatment and those below my name did it to me when my turn came - I always passed out during Patti parade and Puking parade, but did not pass out when I was bashed out of Thimayya Gate, with a final match winning corner kick. The passing out was usually after golden night, if one passed out early, he was a hero. The same rationale applied during 4 O'clock 'Rounds'. If one ran around the quadrangle endlessly, which we did often, round and round, it became a Puking parade. Well, Patti parade, that was another kind of parade usually practiced in Shivaji Section, all of them

'Ivan the terrible'. But last night, it was a joyous Hug Parade, with scotch eggs, vitamin Z, and testosterone, good Ranjitian traditions. When we were leaving, quite a few from Chandragupta rounded on me, to prove that they were one up on Ranjitiens. I ran. He who runs away, shall live to eat scotch eggs, yet another day !!

Last night, under the stewardship of Maj Gen Rajendra Singh, the Old Boys in Hyderabad celebrated the 'Golden Night' at the RSI, at the 'Gazebo'. The Gazebo is special, it was made by 54 Div to practice the 'Ditch Cum Bund' battle. In the centre of the Ditch is the gazebo, built like the OP at Haji Pir Pass. To get to the bar counter, which was across the LOC, one had to negotiate the minefield as well as the DCB. So Gen Rajender very

brilliantly deployed the troops in very strategic manner - the Rimcollians at the bar and the ladies in the gazibo, where they could not see what we were doing across the LOC. The waiters, like 'Armed Kaur', preferred the Baily bridge and hence the scotch eggs were hijacked to the gazebo. One can't have the cake and eat it too, so we made best of the situation and had a piss up, repeatedly saying cheers to Gen Raj's brilliant military deployments. 'Win-win' situation for Red Land (women) and Blue Land (Rimolians). Those from Pratap were drinking soda, in the DCB, ruddy jokers !!

A surprise guest was Cherry (Gp Capt Cherian) who like a 'Jasoo' from Bangalore, decided to ground his late evening Spice Jet Hyd-Bglr flight and

REUNION - VIZAG CHAPTER

By Simon Mathai (1981-86)



join the Reddy Garus at RSI. He was heard complaining about me to the ladies in OP Hill. 'When I joined Rimc, my father told this joker to take care of me. He made me front roll all the way in the train from Ernakulam to Dun, 2500 miles'. So despite the delectable Vit-Z scotch eggs, the ladies did not laugh at my stand-up comedy show. I was deemed a bad man for making the 'sooooo chweeeet Cherry' front roll when he was only 11. 'Rascala', that is what the ladies said about me.

Wow, what a night.

This morning I have an 'Itch' on both my 'Diens'.

Not counting serving / course officers at various trg establishments, we have around 35 old 'Batteries' in Hyderabad. They are all either 'Ever Reddy' or 'Never Reddy'. The Ever Reddys mobilized like good soldiers to the war zone, at the Gazibo OP Hill.

Cheers, till we meet again.

I wish all of you long, happy, healthy life. To the staff & students in Dun, all the best.

The month of March holds a special place in the Rimcollian calendar. As the month approaches you see increased activity on the social media with the enthusiastic lot pitching in to coordinate the Reunion not just in Indian cities and towns, but the world over. There is a general air of excitement with Inter Section and Boxing results providing a platform for the old and the young alike to indulge in nostalgia and bandy about their Section spirit. And while the fortunate few manage to make it to the Mecca of all celebrations, our Alma Mater, the others renew bonds just wherever they are.

The Reunion Dinner for the Vizag Chapter was hosted by VAdm Bimal Kumar Verma, the COS, ENC, at his residence. The function was attended by 35 Rimcollians, along with their families. Admiral & Mrs Verma were extremely generous

with their warm hospitality and played the perfect host.

Lt Gen Chakravarty, DG NCC and Cmde Saurab Deb were the other senior officers who were present. The Naval band kept the crowd enthralled with a melodious range and mix of old and new numbers.

The ladies were requested to introduce their husbands with details such as course, section, years at RIMC etc. Additionally, they were also asked to narrate any one interesting episode that they had been told about by their husbands.

There was this young lady who narrated that after marriage every other officer her husband introduced her to, turned out to be a Rimcollian, so much so that she thought Navy comprised only Rimcollians. As the evening progressed you could see Rimcollians separated by almost four decades at school engaged in

animated discussions with each other. The senior ladies had seen it all before and thus left us to our own devices, to gloat in our camaraderie and glory. However, the young wives were in complete awe to see such strong bonding and connect. Lt Gen Chakravarty, as also other Rimcollians took turns at narrating interesting anecdotes of their school days. Some among the more enterprising also sang and performed to keep the crowd entertained. And while the bulk order of 'Soaring Pines' which we all were eagerly looking forward to did not materialise, we still found enough reason to find our spirit soaring.

NO RIMCOLLIAN GET TOGETHER IS COMPLETE WITHOUT THE TRADITIONAL SCOTCH EGGS SERVED. SCOTCH EGGS FORMED A PART OF A FAIRLY LAVISH SPREAD. FOR A CHANGE, WE DID NOT NEED THE 'EVENING ROUNDS' TO GENERATE THE APPETITE, AS WE ALMOST SINFULLY GORGED ON THE SUMPTUOUS SPREAD

The usual loud proclamations of which was the best section surfaced at regular intervals and was at times lost in the din with one trying to out-shout the other. However, the three cheers to RIMC proposed by Cmde Deb, did find a spirited response in unison and with full coherence. The traditional cake cutting followed with the senior most & junior most Rimcollian cutting the cake along with the senior most and youngest lady present.

No Rimcollian get together is complete without the traditional scotch eggs served. Scotch eggs formed a part of a fairly lavish spread. For a change, we did not need the 'evening rounds' to generate the appetite, as we almost sinfully gorged on the sumptuous spread. The COS house provided the perfect ambience for the evening, where we could let our hair down and foster those strong bonds which make for the spirited clan, much revered by others, under a collective name 'Rimcollians'.

As we parted, it was with an overwhelming feeling of an evening well spent, and with a promise of getting together more often.

PUNE GET-TO-GETHER

By Vijay Gidh (Retd) Shivaji, 1967-72

The Pune Rimcollians had their Get Together in 2 MAHAR Officers Mess on 15 March 2015. It was decided to hold the event on a Sunday morning, it being more convenient for the veterans as well as the serving officers attending various courses of instructions.

After Maj Gen Khurshed Balsara's departure last year, we were fortunate that the CO and 2IC of an incoming unit, 2 MAHAR were both Rimcollians. When I requested the Commanding Officer, Col Rajneesh Giri, he gladly agreed to take on the responsibility. Fortunately the CO and 2IC had been cadets when Col DH Parab was the Comdt and self as AdmOffr of our Alma Mater.

2 MAHAR has had some illustrious Rimcollians commissioned in the battalion - Maj Gen PD Sherlekar in early 1950s, Col Arun Mamgain in late 1970s and Col Prem Prakash in early 1980s while enroute to Mt Kamet as part of IMA Golden Jubilee expedition. Later Col DH Parab informed me that his father had also been commissioned in the 2 MAHAR in mid 1940s before he joined the Maratha MG Coy in the Italian Campaign.

During our Coordinating Conference some days before the function, we decided to request our spirited MCO, Lt Col WJK Singh to attend. I later realized that his son's CL X Board Exam was starting that day, he proudly replied 'Not to worry Sir, I will drop him at the examination centre, attend the session and pick him up in time!'

The Get Together as usual was a grand success with almost 50 officers and 75 persons attending, making it again the second largest gathering after the main ceremony in Dehra Dun. Rimcollian Get Togethers held irrespective of the locations and

numbers are always special, with news coming in of the celebrations all over the country and abroad. I learnt from Deepak Narwal that Viscount Slim had to miss the event in the UK this time since he was in Myanmar to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Burma Campaign.

We were privileged to have Mrs Rajwade in her 80's attending, while we missed the presence of Mrs Bewoor, Joglekar, Purandhare, Dabir and Nair. Gens Bewoors and Rajwade were both Cadet Cpts and excellent sportsmen. I recollect them playing for the Rimcollians Cricket team and along with Gen Jat Verma, the Old Boys were a force to reckon with for our Cadets team in the 1970s. Among the veterans and distinguished Rimcollians, we were fortunate to have Col SA Mohite, 1938-44, Kitcheners Sec who being 88 years old, always makes it a point to attend; Maj Gen PD Sherlekar, 1946-49; Mr MV Madhani, 1949-52 and Col JD Desai, Maj Gen Raikar, Col Kewalramani, Capt (IN) Paradkar, Gp Capt DC Gupta and Cols Parab and AK Bakshi, who were all in school during 1950s. The later two were our Instructors in NDA in early 1970s. We welcome Lt Gen Sunil Jog to our fold after 39 years of distinguished service in the Army. His last posting was as Comdt, OTA where he was awarded the prestigious PVSM.

We missed the presence of Cmde RS Huja, Gens HM Khanna, Yash Malhotra, Inder Luthra, Rajan Aney, Rear Adm PD Sharma and Cdr KS Karandikar who were unable to attend. Gp Capt AG Bewoor and AVM KG Bewoor too had to drop out due to some commitments.

Many other retired officers from Pune, those serving and posted here or attending courses in CME or MILT, Girinagar and our Air Warriors all graced the occasion. Wg Cdr Sharad



Sharma had just returned from Dehra Dun that morning after attending the Reunion in School. Lt Col JS Brar, ex PRO, Srinagar made it all the way from Bijapur. The next Sunday, 22 March he was to make it for the Bangalore function! It was nice that Col Mohit Wadhwa and Col JS Negi who had come from DSSC and The Infantry School, Belgaum as Instructors for TSOC, also were able to make it.

Though the copies of "Soaring Pines", the latest version of the Camphor Avenue series published by Sidharth Mishra could not reach this time before the function, many Rimcollians were seen paying up in advance for the book, which I promised would be delivered to them. Last year "Veerkumars of Rajwada" had sold like hot cakes.

Important aspects of the Comdt's speech of 13 March depicting the achievements of our cadets in all spheres, specially in NDA and Old Boys

in various fields were highlighted by me. Shivaji Sec winning the Boxing Cup and the Overall Championship was also mentioned amidst cheers and jeers from the audience. I also mentioned about our trip to Wellington last October, where our son is among the 24 Rimcollian Student Offrs attending the Staff Course this time. The Student Offrs who were our cadets in 1990s, kindly organized a Get Together on our behalf.

Points regarding all Rimcollians contributing for ROBA/ROBA Trust and the necessity of everyone joining the vibrant Yahoo group opened by our dear late WgCdr VG Kumar was also emphasized. In the end we paid our condolences to those Rimcollians or ladies who had passed away in Pune during the past two years. Capt Jojo Sengupta, 1957-61, an excellent all rounder and Gold Medalist in all Institutions, who had been severely injured during the 1971 War; the

young and promising Reuel Russell Mordecai, 1995-98; Mrs Meera Varma, w/o Lt Gen JS Varma, who was staying with her sister in Pune and Mrs Nair, w/o Late Air Cmde VV Nair, 1955-59 who was a regular attendee some years back and generally stayed with her daughter in London. We proudly remember Air Cmde Nair entertaining the audience every year during Rimcollians in School from our Cadet days.

We had our group photograph followed by a sumptuous Lunch with the menu similar to what we used to relish in RIMC. The Scotch Eggs and Fruit Topsy pudding were almost the same standard, thanks to the efforts of Maj Ashish Kumar, our spirited 2IC of 2 MAHAR.

Like all good things have to end, we departed with some fine memories of the wonderful time spent, hoping to meet more often in Pune rather than the customary 13th March every year.

BANGALORE RIMCOLLIAN GET TOGETHER

By Col Mandeep Grewal



Arrival of March heralds the reunion season and this year was no different. The Bangalore Rimcollians got together at the ASC Sports Complex for lunch on 22 Mar 15. The date was selected keeping in mind that those who visited RIMC could share their experiences during the Reunion. The get together was organized by Col Mandeep Grewal ably assisted by Maj Vivek Shahi. They had roped in the ASC Band and we had live music along with the eats and drinks. Mrs Anjana Parmar joined the band in entertaining the gathering with some lovely songs.

The music had to be interrupted so that we all could narrate stories from school spanning generations. Brig Vijay Kumar and his former Col Mukherjee were the eldest amongst us. Col Mukherjee was accompanied by his Rimcollian son, Col Kaushik Mukherjee.

RIMC WAS REPRESENTED BY LT COL RICHIE WHO WAS HERE TO TAKE OVER HIS "DWELLING UNIT" FROM AWHO. A TABLE WAS SET UP WHERE VARIOUS MEMORABILIA AND BOOKS WERE UP FOR SALE. MOST ITEMS WERE LAPPED UP IN A JIFFY. A LOOK AT THE PHOTO BELOW WOULD INDICATE THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO LIST NAMES OF ALL WHO ATTENDED

Both of them were in Bangalore on leave and made it a point to attend the gathering. RIMC was represented by Lt Col Richie who was here to take over his "Dwelling Unit" from AWHO. A table was set up where various memorabilia and books were up for sale. Most items were lapped up in a jiffy. A look at the photo below would indicate that it is not possible to list names of all who attended.

This was by far the largest gathering in Bangalore and was made special with the attendance of Mrs Emma Kumar, Wife of Late Wg Cdr VG Kumar, The Mukherjee father-son duo, Lt Col Karan Dixit and Lt Col JS Brar, both of who came into Bangalore only to attend the gathering. Mrs Shireen Banerjee made it a point to attend even as Mr Chiranjit Banerjee was missing in action due to ill health.

MUMBAI GET TOGETHER - 19 APR 2015

By Capt (IN) Anoop Chauhan

The most awaited event on a Rimcollian's calendar is undoubtedly 'The Reunion'. In Mumbai, the wait this year was a little longer due to various commitments of Naval platforms involved in rescuing Indian citizens from Yemen. Nevertheless as it is said 'the fruit of patience is always sweet' and believe you me, so it was when the reunion finally took place on a bright Sunday afternoon in Naval Sailing Club (INWTC) on 19th Apr 2015.

It would be unfair on my part if a little humorous tale about the event getting organized is not mentioned. Little did Capt Anoop Chauhan know that his inquisitiveness will have the better of him. He just randomly asked on a social media in end February, about the developments of a get together at Mumbai with no responses. Post returning from attending reunion at College he enquired once again. In reply, an inspiring and encouraging message read "Let's do it". The message was full of zeal and enthusiasm of a youngster, few of the many innate virtues of a Rimcollian. This was enough to rope in Capt Chauhan in organizing the event. Surprisingly for him, the message was from none other than Maj Gen Kurshed Balsara (Retd). As far as being a youngster and age is concerned, guess it would be prudent to say that a Rimcollian's age is always a constant figure of sweet sixteen. Only the years of experience keeps adding.

Much like a typical Naval Rimcollian, one who is always well versed with the technological advancements, Capt Chauhan made a "Mumbai Rimcollians" group on 'WhatsApp' and instantly the whereabouts of Rimcollians all across Mumbai started revealing. Contact could be established with over 110 Rimcollians/ladies including Mrs Aishi Talwar, w/o Late Mr PN Talwar, Ranjit



AMIDST THIS HUSTLE AND BUSTLE, AIR MARSHAL D C KUMARIA (RETD), SURREPTITIOUSLY CALLED CAPT CHAUHAN TO UNDERSTAND THE MYSTERY NAMED 'WHATSAPP'. AFTER EXPLAINING THE INTRICACIES, CAPT CHAUHAN LENDED A HELPING HAND AND VOLUNTEERED TO HELP HIM OUT. THE RESPONSE WAS "OH! DON'T YOU WORRY; A WING CDR IS ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO DO IT"

1938-44 and Brig K D Issar (Retd), Ranjit 1948-53. Amidst this hustle and bustle, Air Marshal D C Kumaria (Retd), surreptitiously called Capt Chauhan to understand the mystery named 'Whatsapp'. After explaining the intricacies, Capt Chauhan lended a helping hand and volunteered to help him out. The response was "Oh! Don't you worry; a Wing Cdr is already on his way to do it". Well, he still hasn't been able to join "Mumbai Rimcollians" WhatsApp group and is on SMS!

Amidst the excitement and joy of having found so many Rimcollians, a message popped up on the group which read 'Volunteers needed for organizing the get together and to meet over 'Chai pe Charcha'. I guess only 3 Rimcollians were delivered this message, Cdr Nitish Garg, Lt Cdr Ashok Garg and Slt Ashutosh Pandey (self). Much more with much less, being the motto of team, it got going. So the BIG TEAM, under the able guidance of Maj Gen Kurshed Balsara (Retd), Capt S C Katoch and Capt Anoop Chauhan, organised the event.

Maj MS Bedi (Retd) was requested to sent 25 copies of Rimcollian's



SITTING AHEAD: Capt Anoop Chauhan, in lap- Master Advik Sood

FIRST ROW: Mrs Charu Verma, Dr(Mrs) Sapna Agarwal, Dr(Mrs) Rosy Gurbaxani,, Mrs Jasmine Pavri, Mrs Pari Balsara, Mrs Lipika Jha, Mrs Renu Katoch, Mrs Vinita Chauhan.

SECOND ROW: S/Lt Ashutosh Pandey, Lt Cdr Ashok Garg, Mr Amit Sood, Cdr M Naveen, Cdr Sumeet Sinha, Mr Anshuman Mohapatra, Maj Gen Soli Pavri (Retd), Capt Sundeep Verma, Gp Capt PR Jayachandran (Retd), Cdr Nitesh Garg, Lt Cdr Panchaal Barua, Cdr Abhishek Kankan (Retd), Mr Suraj Gupta, Mr Akshay Kumar, Mr Aditya Swarup, Lt Cdr Rohit Tanwar, Lt Cdr Vishal Sharma, Lt P Ashok Varma

THIRD ROW: Cdr Vikram Pahlajani (Retd), Maj Gen Khurshed Balsara (Retd), Wg Cdr SR Swarup (Retd), Col PC Dhanraj (Retd), Cdr Ashish Bhattacharya, Capt SC Katoch,

FOURTH ROW: Mrs Usha Swarup, Mrs Preethi Naveen, Mrs Megha Gopinath, Cdr Virendra Kochhar (Retd), Lt Gen MA Gurbaxani (Retd), Col MS Patil (Retd).

FIFTH ROW: Lt Cdr Nithun Gopinath, Lt Cdr Abhishek Jain, Maj Rahul Agarwal, Cmde SK Jha, Lt Cdr Naveen Pandita, Mr Dinesh Rehani, Mr Mohit Khullar, Mrs Sherry Sood, Cdr AK Sharma (Retd), Mrs Sumita Mahapatra, Cdr Saurabh Agarwal, Mrs Bulbul Choudhary, Mr Chetan Desai, Mrs Kamini Desai, Col Rajeev Kumar (Retd), Mrs Monica Sharma, Mrs Pamil Jaggia, Mr Rohit Choudhary, Mrs Neha Jain, Mrs Shreya Garg, LtCdr SK Singh, Cdr Aman Singh Siwach, Cdr Nithin Cariappa, Cdr Anil Katoch (Retd), Col Shivraj Patil.

Magazine which he promptly obliged. On 15 Apr 15, SOS was send to him again to dispatch additional 30 copies, noticing the strength of confirmations growing exponentially, which were dispatched by him on the same day to ensure availability for the get-together. Courtesy him, all Rimcollians could get a copy of magazine. Thanks a lot, Sir.

Finally the moment had arrived, for which all Rimcollians were so desperately waiting. Rimcollians serving and working in various facets of profession came along with their spouses and had a robust strength of 78, accompanied with few kids. This was very encouraging. Cdr Virendra Kochhar, Shivaji, 1948-51, was the

senior most Rimcollian present, who along with Mrs. Pamil Jaggia (W/O of youngest married Rimcollain Lt Cdr Vishal Sharma) did the honours of cake cutting. A cake beautifully designed with Rimcollian crest with a replica of Tudar style building was cut by a sword. It was followed by a group photograph. Getting everyone in the frame was a hard task. Soft requests were ignored till a loud word of command from Maj Gen Balsara got everyone's attention.

Further, Cdr Virendra Kochhar talked in brief about his days at RIMC and spoke about the champion section which I take the liberty of not mentioning here(Obviously it wasn't

mine). Thereafter, Lt Gen MA Gurbaxani(Retd) welcomed and informed everyone of the role ROBA is playing and asked everyone to do their bit in whatever way they can for upcoming events and for long term sustenance of ROBA activities.

The event was beautifully planned and went on smoothly with a delicious buffet. Scotch eggs - well they were part of small eats and available for hard cores with the lunch too.

Like every good thing; this too came to its culmination with a promise that the celebrations next year would be even grander and bigger.

**LONG LIVE RIMCOLLAINS
ICH DIEN**

THE BI-SCOPE

While we are grateful to those who penned a report on the celebrations in their respective locations, we are equally thankful to those poor with writing skills. They proved to be great sports by just sending across the photos of the get-together. — Editor

RANGIYA



PATNA



UDHAMPUR



MHOW



LONDON



HISSAR



NAVAL ACADEMY



LOS ANGELES



KOLKATA



WELLINGTON



THE BAYONET AND THE BIRTHDAY CAKE

By Maj Gen B Sivasankar, VSM (Retd)

There was a cold November wind blowing atop the Pattan Heights, bringing a chill through the combat jacket. I pulled up the head flap as I walked towards the Officers Mess Tent. I could hear the voices dip and drop as I entered through the heavily curtained doorway. Chairs scraped as they all got up and wished 'Good Evening Sir'. I replied and stepped up to my favorite reserved chair near the kerosene fired bukhari and said 'shukriya' as the waiter served the evening winter ritual brandy with hot water. I said 'cheers' and the others responded by raising their soft drinks. Captain Satpal Dahiya announced "Tomorrow is Major Pillai's Birthday. His Scorpio forecast says 'you have been on a roller coaster ride for quite some time which might soon be coming to an end with a crash'. There was laughter all around. Maj Sunil, our doctor commented 'Sir, there is a feeling that another operation is due'. I looked around at the eager faces and asked 'any ideas for tomorrow?' Pills' being the birthday boy-to-be was given the choice of target.

It was Kashmir in 1991 and there was hardly any Int to go by. The only factor was the presence of militants in strength in almost all the populated areas and it was our experience that if we hit any village we could get a couple of them. 'Hey Pills' I asked 'what news from Kamru?' Santhosh Pillai was the 'C' Company Commander and his Platoon Commander, N/Sub Kamruddin, was heard to be having dreams and visions about the whereabouts of militants, much to the merriment of other personnel of the battalion except that they often came true. Pills replied 'Sir, today only he was saying that he can feel that there are militants across the river'. He opened up his map on the centre table and



traced his pencil across the Jhelum. We gathered around the table, there was a brief discussion, tying up the co-ord aspects and that was how we hit Zalapur in the early hours of 17 Nov 1991.

Dinner was a hurried affair, interrupted by tele briefings by the company commanders. All ranks were used to briefings on the move and by the time dinner was over, the companies were ready to move. Pillai was unusually quite during dinner and Doctor commented 'Pillai Sir, thinking about your birthday celebrations tomorrow?' Major Vinay Jaitly called the Mess Havildar and said "Kal Pillai sab ka janam din hai. Party hoga. Achha cake manga lena.' As I was leaving, Pillai walked up to me and said in a matter of fact manner 'I am feeling a bit apprehensive about tomorrow's op sir. I don't feel that I may come back alive.' "Nonsense Pills" I said, "nothing of that sort will happen. We will celebrate your kills and captures tomorrow. All the best".

It was 3 AM, the sky was overcast, but

one could still see the three snakelike company columns wading across the river. As I stepped into the river, the freezing water came up to my neck and I had a difficult time keeping up in single file with my protection party. I held my pistol high above my head and it was 15 minutes before my RP CHM pulled me out of the river. We could see the outline of the village and we took a wide detour to the other side of the village to await the cordoning process by the companies.

By 6 AM, the companies had linked up and tightened the cordon. Then we heard a single shot of AK fire. It sounded like a 'Tass', a warning shot fired by militants. Pills came on the set to report that the shot had gone close overhead and he was able to discern the approximate area of the origin. Pills and Vinay moved in for the search with their columns and after awhile Pills reported that two suspicious characters were found. About twenty minutes later Pills confirmed the recovery of one AK 47. The suspicious characters, it turned out, were a HM District Commander's son along with a body guard. Pills was sounding excited "Mall Hai" he reported, confirming presence of militants. It was only a matter of digging them out of the village they were hiding in. At 7 AM, though the fog was limiting visibility, the drill commenced to gather the population in the open ground, ladies and gents separately and children queuing up to collect the sweets. The search commenced by 9 AM from three sides and by mid day when the entire village had been searched, there was no sign of any militants. I called off the op and gave orders to wind up as we wanted to be back at the base before last light.



There were a couple of children sitting next to me. They had extracted more than their share of sweets and also breakfast from my party. On seeing the returning company columns one of them asked 'Khatam? Ja rahe?' I nodded my head and he asked again 'Mujahid pakada?' I said 'mujahid nahin mila'. He held up one wide spread palm and index finger of the other hand and whispered 'mujahid hai', indicating six militants. He pointed towards the last cluster of houses and touched his finger tips together to show that they are hiding on the roof tops. I quickly radioed Santosh and Vinay to redeploy. They were both standing near a double storied building and as I reached them, they were passing instructions to recheck the buildings especially the roofs.

We were watching the search parties going into action, when Kamruddin shouted 'Grenade' and as I dived for cover I saw Kamru leaping, catching and throwing a stick grenade, all in one go; a split second later there was the blast. Kamru's swift reaction had saved all of us. Pillai's rush up the stairs took us by surprise; both I and Doc shouted 'Don't go up', but he was already bounding up

the stairs and as he reached the top, we heard his customary trademark, a long burst of AK fire, for which he was known for. More gunfire and a painful grunt from Pillai before he fell on me and Doc who had followed close behind. Suddenly, there were sounds of gunfire from all around us. Unfettered by the firings, Doc quickly patched up Pillai. There were bullet wounds in his chest and stomach. His company quickly reorganized and his party got hold of a boat, put him on a stretcher and rowed across the Jhelum. The brigade was informed, a QRT moved from our base in Pattan to carry him to the helipad. They reached Pattan helipad just as a chopper was descending in a cold, cloudy and windy evening. Col JK Khan, RIMCO (Pratap) was the Air OP Sqn Cdr and like a true Rimcollian had broken most of the rules regarding visibility and last light to evacuate Maj Pillai.

The Brigade Commander was present at the helipad. Santosh Pillai was very much conscious and a bit 'high' on the morphine that Doc had administered. Suddenly he remembered and shouted "Where is my cake?" The Mess Havildar

soon stepped up with the cake on a tray and said 'Ram ram saab. Janam din Mubarak ho.' Pills was weak and groggy with shock and loss of blood. He could not move his right hand which had a drip stuck into it and was immobilised, but pulled out his ever ready bayonet with his left hand and cut the cake. There was an emotional applause from the onlookers and as the chopper lifted off, many eyes were wet.

It was 5 PM when we finally marched off from Zalapur. We had captured seven Pakistan Trained Militants and killed an Area Commander of HM. Three AK 47s, two pistols and one NSP weapon were captured. This time we returned over the bridge and reached back at the base by 8 PM. Santhosh Pillai was still in OT at Base Hospital, Srinagar. The surgeon when contacted said 'He is ok. Out of danger'. Some one shouted 'Arrey cake le aao'. Glasses clinked and we celebrated Santhosh Pillai's birthday in real operational style.

Thus, a tradition was born in 22 GRENADIERS where we always cut our cakes with a bayonet and always with the left hand.

EDITOR'S NOTE: 0331/PRATAP/CHANDRAGUPTA Major General B Sivasankar, VSM, was in RIMC from Aug 1962 to Dec 1966. He was commissioned into THE GRENADIERS Regiment in Dec 1970. He served with 9 GRENADIERS (MEWAR) and 6 GRENADIERS and raised and commanded 22 GRENADIERS. He attended Course at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and Long Defence Management Course at College of Defence Management, Secunderabad. After command of a Brigade at the Indo-Tibet Border, he was selected to attend The Course on Strategic Studies and Military Command at National Defence University, Beijing, China and thereafter was posted at The Ministry of External Affairs as Director, Disarmament and International Security Affairs. He commanded a Division on Indo-Pak Border and was General Officer Commanding Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala Area and retired as Chief of Staff of an Offensive Corps in 2008. He is settled down at Thiruvananthapuram.



MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

By Lt Gen BS Pawar (retd)

'Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers who can cut through argument, debate and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand' — General Colin Powell

A military force is only as good as its leadership, but very often this aspect is either taken for granted or does not receive the attention it deserves. Throughout human history, military action has been shaped by the character and competence of those in command. In the annals of warfare, often a small and indifferently equipped military, has defeated a larger and better equipped force due to good and capable leaders by creating conditions for their troops to perform beyond their capability.

Military leadership lies at the core



of organizational excellence and is the epitome of all that a leader aspires for—only a military commander can govern the life/death of soldiers under his command. The importance of exemplary military leadership cannot be over emphasized, as any failure of the military in the execution of its mandate, has dire and disastrous consequences for the State.

The military is a unique society, established to provide security to the State. In this doctrined force all training imparted to a new recruit convinces him that the only way to grow is the

doctrinal concept. It is only when he sees the real world that he is forced to think and this process sets the seed for change. This is the metamorphosis which a leader needs to identify. The soldiers in today's world understand the implications of the ongoing changes, especially social and economic and the way this change affects them, governs their behaviour. A leader therefore must be alive to the governing factors of the behaviour of the men whom he commands.

The challenge for military leaders in the present and future is to comprehend and channelize the behaviour to achieve the ultimate goal. In this ever changing scenario, it is not leadership that has changed, but our perception of leadership. The kind of leadership that we most value and prize today is not new - collegial, team-based leadership is evidenced throughout history. The essence of a military leader has been rightly summed up in the words of a Sergeant Major addressing the newly commissioned officers in the United States Army as follows, "No orders, no letters, no insignia of rank can appoint you as leaders. Leadership is developed within yourselves - it is an intangible, for leaders are made not born. You do not wear leadership on your sleeves, shoulders or on your caps. Be you Lieutenants or Generals, we are the guys you've got to convince and we will meet you more than halfway."

The socio-economic changes have impacted the entire world including India, so how can the military remain impervious to this change. This has prompted a wave of freedom to the generation which has neither the patience nor the inclination to weigh the pros and cons of this change. The result is that this change has to be managed at a micro level by the leaders. The very fact that in the past, the royal and elite class of the society was proud to be enrolled in the armed forces and the motivation was to serve the nation and not money, has transformed into armed forces being considered as a career by today's generation and rightly so in the changing environment.



Remember the difference
between a
boss and a leader;
a boss says "Go!"
a leader says "Let's go!"

- E.M. Kelly

YOU DO NOT WEAR
LEADERSHIP ON YOUR
SLEEVES, SHOULDERS OR
ON YOUR CAPS. BE YOU
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GENERALS, WE ARE THE
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HALFWAY

This fact puts the onus of maintaining the motivation in the same very careerist people, on the leader. There are some basic tenets on which a military stands and these are ingrained into all the soldiers and the military leaders. Competent military leaders develop trust, focus effort, clarify objectives, inspire confidence, build teams, set the example, keep hope alive, and rationalise sacrifice. For this century or the next, there is little mystery about requisite leader competencies or behaviours. Desirable qualities and skills may vary a bit, but the basic formula for the leader to succeed has changed little in past 2000 years and will remain the same in the future.

**(The author was at RIMC
in Pratap Section from
January 1960-June 1964)**

PERKS OF GRAND PARENTHOOD

Chiranjit Banerjee

For a school that expects even its oldest boys to look as youthful as they were in their mid-teens and behave in that manner as well (especially when amongst the fraternity), being a dowdy grandfather is somehow out of character. I have not dived too deep into the incidences of the grandfatheresque status of too many of my peers and seniors but I have a sneaking suspicion that some of them would be preserving their macho status (especially on social media) by not overly exposing themselves with their grandkids. No, I'm not imputing "Great Gatsby" type sinister motives that a certain gold digging, caviar, canapé & champagne consuming lady is being accused of by the media who has allegedly kept her heavy baggage of past relationships under close wraps.

When Sid Mishra, quite unexpectedly, displayed his strong like for this picture that I posted on my Facebook wall, I immediately sensed that something was brewing in the canny editor's mind. Sure enough, a missive to produce a thousand word reflection on being a grandfather followed soon after. One has read several commentaries on the joys of parenthood but I don't quite recall very many public expressions of the unalloyed pleasures of grand parenthood. Most ordinary mortals don't live to be grandfathers maybe? Or I am being too cheeky here!

Let me let some secrets out. "Likes" on your Facebook pictures are likely to increase manifold if your grandchild appears in the frame, as Sid will testify! You are also likely to make many more



ONE HAS READ SEVERAL COMMENTARIES ON THE JOYS OF PARENTHOOD BUT I DON'T QUITE RECALL VERY MANY PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF THE UNALLOYED PLEASURES OF GRAND PARENTHOOD

heads turn (especially while leisure walking or in a restaurant) if your cute grand child is in tow. A charming grand kid can also help you jump serpentine queues at malls and airport check ins. A fat cat recently confided in me that some nosy tax sleuths who made an unannounced visit to his fortress like mansion softened up considerably at the appearance of his extremely expressive granddaughter.

One of the stark realities of

grandparenthood is the premium on quality time that one is likely to spend with grandchildren as the biological clock will have entered its home run by the time one is elevated to grandparenthood. In the event, I for one, am packing in as much as I can by way of fun and frolic. Fortunately, I am not expected to discipline Jashaan as that is clearly his parents' remit. This is perhaps the most generous perquisite of being a grand dad which parents aspire for later in their lives.

How people react to age related milestones is often symptomatic of their innate nature. Turning fifty is traditionally the first warning bell which tends to push many into their shells. Notwithstanding the recently minted slogan of "60 is the new 40", a large section of Indian sixty year olds wrap themselves in moth balls. I bucked the trend by hosting a raucous dusk to dawn party on the Hooghly when I turned fifty in 2006. Most of the guests (with some honorable exceptions like Maj Gen. Chinu Mahanti, our distinguished first Old Boy Commandant) had to be helped onshore at the end of that night without end. That event pretty much set the tone and tenor for the last third of my life, if not half! What the arrival of my super energetic and ultra-talkative grandson has done is to transmit a booster dose of spirit to my ageing limbs that alcohol cant.

Another admission that I have to make is the feeling of inadequacy that overcomes me when Jashaan sallies forth with his proverbial million questions. This generation looks at the world with bounding confidence while we were oh so gawky. All the knowledge that Messrs. Singhal, Pandey and RC embedded in us comes up woefully short when I'm subjected to Jashaan's relentless line of questioning or should I say inquisition? The Second World War on which I have a fairly exhaustive collection does not engage my grandson as much as more recent cross border confrontations (of the 'Phantom' kind) that are captured in breath taking visuals rather in drab,



moth eaten books that lack the punch of an AV product.

The other interesting feature of Jashaan's origins is that he is truly a global citizen. His father is a third generation Sikh migrant in Malaysia who completed his higher studies in Australia. Therefore, I have to be sensitive to his multi-nation orientation. In short, I have had to come up to speed on the contemporary history of not one but three countries. Watching India - Australia cricket and

hockey matches is therefore a bit tricky when Jashaan is around. If Malaysia is also in the mix (in hockey), I have to walk on egg shells.

In short, I have had to almost reinvent myself to retain the attention of Jashaan as his attention span, like most of his peers, is measured in nano seconds. Unless you create an impression with him upfront, you are likely to be passed over. As I delve into my persona, I come up with strands that I did not think existed - like empathy and patience. Consequently, these newly discovered virtues (perhaps too late in life) are rubbing off on my professional visage and working to my advantage.

So if it's picking between grand childhood and grandparenthood, I would greedily take both!

(Chiranjit Banerjee was in the school from 1968-72. Although he joined the National Defence Academy but opted for a career in banking and finance, rising to be top honcho of many a firms.)



FOR THE NATION, ALWAYS

(It's seldom that when India wins laurels a Rimcollian would not be part of it. It happened recently in Nepal and Yemen, where the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy were deployed to rescue the earthquake hit and the war hit respectively. Op Maitri in Nepal was led by Brig Jarken Gamlin and Op Rahat in Yemen by Capt (IN) Pradip Singh. The first craft to land in Kathmandu with relief was commandeered by Wg Cdr SS Chabra.-- Editor)



OP MAITRI



OP RAHAT

BOOK REVIEWS

OF EVER SOARING SPIRITS

By Shailender Arya

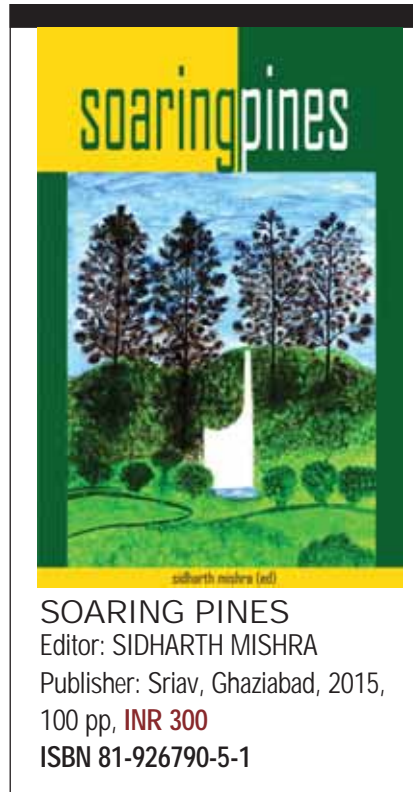
It's April 2015 and the book 'Soaring Pines', the much-awaited third sequel in the Camphor Avenue series has been recently released, after Camphor Avenue which was published in 2013 and Veerkumars of Rajwada which was published in 2014. Part reflections and part nostalgia, the Soaring Pines is more about RIMC than its two well-received predecessors which were about the valiant deeds of the Rimcollians.

But before I write more about this latest poster boy of subaltern writing from the Doon Valley, a full disclosure: I am one of the contributors.

The Soaring Pines is essentially about inheritance - not the monetary inheritance which can (and generally does) dissipate in two generations but the everlasting inheritance of values, hard-work and diversity which one invariably picked up in the school, and how this very inheritance proved to be foundational in life.

The book commences with an informative preface by Colonel Prem Prakash and the first chapter titled 'Soaring Pines' by Mr Sidharth Mishra wherein he emphasizes the free spirit of Soaring Pines with history, anecdotes and key influences on the school.

In 'Squash by Night' by Brigadier Jasbir Singh, the squash courts of RIMC of yesteryear are portrayed as the battlefields where the lessons of initiative, tenacity and the spirit of adventure were picked up. The 'Mission Impossible' of Brigadier CS Thapa vividly captures the interplay between his love for games but the life's necessity of studies. Finally, in almost an impossible manner, he joined up with his course mates at IMA, emerging the



winner in this curious story.

In 'Of the Many Intangibles at RIMC' by Commodore N Anil Jose Joseph is about imbibing diversity and tolerance in school. Next, Colonel Ali Ahmed writes about his life's journey and 'How I got to Pristina' in a key United Nations job in Europe, tracing his life through RIMC, NDA, Army and an air-conditioned think-tank in New Delhi, turning his 'opinion' and occasional 'non-confirmation' into academic advantage and pondering over the nature or nurture question.

'The Old Lang Syne' by Colonel Kaushik Sircar is a vivid recollection of his school days commencing 1979, the early influences shaping his life and his later successful foray into the corporate

world. The 'Growing up in the Hills to Conquer the Mountains' by self is, as the name suggests, a story about growing up in Dehradun of early 1990s and thereafter of the forays in the mountains - a failed mountaineering expedition in Garhwal Himalayas in 1999 teaching more about life than some successes later.

Colonel Sanjay Kanoth in his 'A School Blessed by Divine' is about how his views on religion were shaped by the schooling at RIMC which provides an understanding of genuine secularism and how the school happily fostered it. Lastly, 'The Making of us' by Squadron Leader Mayank Kanungo is about the uniqueness of the school and the permanence of meritocracy as a rule of life.

As the book is about these rich inheritances from RIMC, it reminds me of an American saying about passing the riches to the next generation. They say that leave so much to your children that they can do anything, but not so much that they do nothing. At RIMC, where the merit and hard-work counts infinitely more than family backgrounds, and the school teaches and enables you to excel - but excel you have to finally yourself; this saying captures the spirit of the book and the RIMC.

Our compliments to Mr Sidharth Mishra for putting this kaleidoscopic collection of reflections and remembrances together in a beautiful and lucid manner, which will find resonance with not only Rimcollians but all boarding school boys, Doon Valley aficionados and young book lovers. More than the school archives, these collections are more meaningful way to commemorate, celebrate and cherish the school.

BRAVE MEN AND STURDY MACHINE

By Shailender Arya

Byond Horizons is the story of the brave people who sailed Trishna - the first Indian boat to circumnavigate the world in 1987 - which is considered as a key milestone in Indian adventure. In particular, it is the story of Major AK Singh, the first handicapped yachtsman to sail around the world - the relentless pursuit of his dreams, his joyous life in the Indian Army, his hardships and the unique experiences of sailing abroad Trishna in this historic journey.

Though the basic narrative of the book is centered on the circumnavigation of the globe in Trishna, the story is beautifully interwoven with the life of Major AK Singh, particularly in school at RIMC, Dehradun and the training days at National Defence Academy. In between another perspective is provided by his wife Asha, who shared the fears and challenges of Trishna while it tossed around in the high seas and simultaneously managed her life and the upbringing of their two young daughters. From this angle, the book follows a unique manner of story-telling; a human perspective full of uncertainties and hopes rather than a superhuman we-did-it narration common with many adventure books.

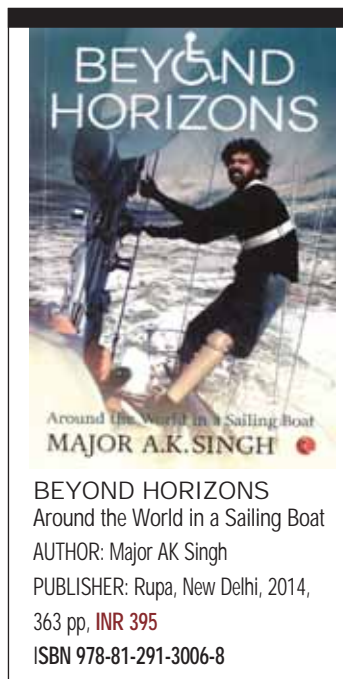
The book begins with the germination of the idea of sailing around the world in late 1970s, the firming up of the plan in the next few years, the frustrating bureaucratic delays, the purchase of the boat in England in 1984 and the sailing the boat, now rechristened as Trishna from the earlier name Guinevere, back home to Bombay from Southampton through Gibraltar, Lisbon, Malta and Port Said. This first journey from Europe to India set the pace for the much longer journey around the globe after one year in 1985.

In between the two journeys, the book takes the reader back to the author's formative days in RIMC of 1960s and later through the ups and downs of training at NDA. It explains that how as an Army

officer he developed a flair and liking for sailing and pursued it. This portion is also rich with anecdotes about some of his comrades, many of whom later died fighting in various insurgencies India was fighting in the 80s and 90s. To the author, after few years in his Army life, tragedy struck where his leg was amputated in a hand-gliding clash, putting a big question-mark over his ambitious plans to sail around the world.

The book now moves on to the Trishna and her west-ward voyage, commencing from Bombay in 1985. This portion is a mix of adventure and travel writing wherein the author traces the journey through Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The boat meets high waves, choppy seas, sea-gulls, playful whales and idyllic harbours as it weaves its way through Mauritius, St Helena, Ascension Island, Brazil, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica and through the Panama Canal into Pacific - the mightiest ocean on the world.

Similar circumstances, a combination of rough seas, wind-less days and daily challenges of living on small spaces on the boat are encountered by Trishna as they sail to Auckland in New Zealand through Puerto Ayora, Papeete and Suva. The boat encounters more challenges in the Tasman Sea and sails to Darwin through Sydney and the Great Barrier Reef, after surviving the worst storm to have hit Sydney in nearly a century. At many places they meet friendly locals; unfailingly hospitable



Indians of the great Indian diaspora spread in remotest corners and military men whose values and ethos are strikingly similar across the globe.

The Trishna finally re-enters the oriental waters and sails home to Bombay, where they began, through Bali, Singapore, Campbell Bay and Sri Lanka. In between, some members are rotated, but Major AK Singh and his almost-alive 'artificial limb' live, sail and work through the entire journey, penning letters for dispatch at the next port, eagerly awaiting for news from home and turning philosophical in between before the demanding

work or an approaching storm diverts all their energies towards survival.

The book is the original adventure of the yesteryear, before the days of Global Positioning System, emails and being on-line made adventure just another thing to tick-off the bucket list. The calls to India from ports, if at all, were patched through a web of countries and for days they were out of radio communication, once thought to be possibly lost at sea. More than that, it is the story of indomitable courage and the audacity to follow one's dream - in spite of loss of a limb, wavering finances and the doubts expressed by others. The narration is fast and effortlessly shifts between sailing, personal challenges and description of exotic locations. Apart from adventure enthusiasts, sailors and the military men; young book lovers, travel-aficionados and common readers will find also this book highly interesting and absorbing. The book is also highly recommended for school libraries and training institutions.

TO KILL OR NOT TO KILL

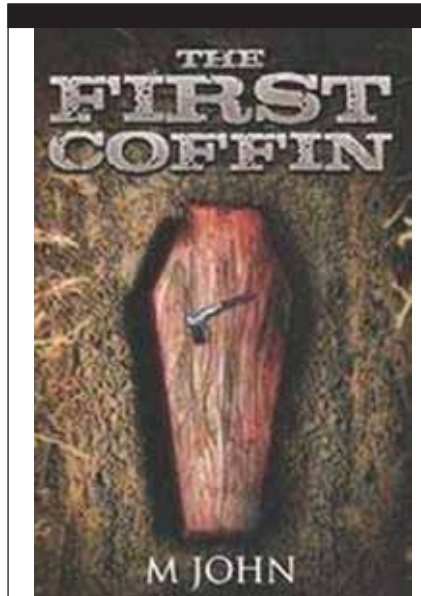
By Anjali Mathai

Julian Barnes's *The Sense of an Ending*, he says that one of his greatest fears is that life wouldn't turn out to be like literature. Literature, he says, is where the "real, true, important" things happen. Life, shorn of literature's grandeur, is a bland replica. I have never appreciated blandness more than I did after reading M. John's *The First Coffin*. In John's world, butchers mutilate young beggars with cleavers, surgeons are used by the mafia to remove organs from unsuspecting victims loitering in bars, and family members of honest policemen are mercilessly shot dead by trained assassins.

It would be an understatement to say that *The First Coffin* is a murder mystery because it is so much more. When the mafia is involved, murder is never a simple business. When a senior member of the police refuses to kowtow to the demands of Mumbai's underworld, a professional assassin is hired to wipe out the policeman and his family. However, the police officer's son—an MiG-21 fighter pilot—was not at the site of the crime. And now, he is out to avenge the death of his family.

The best thing about the book is its pace. The chapters are short and each one reads almost like an independent short story because it doesn't pick up where the previous one ends. Instead, each chapter introduces a new thread or character, a clever tool to build suspense. It is not often that a book has you sitting at the edge of your seat in relative discomfort because if you decide to relax and stretch out, a favourite character might get bumped off. I'm superstitious that way.

John is also a master at characterisation. The villain is satisfactorily menacing and the hero is beautifully fleshed out, perhaps because John himself was a fighter pilot. In 1985, he was selected to fly the Mirage-2000



THE FIRST COFFIN

AUTHOR: M John

PUBLISHER: Notion Press,
New Delhi, 2015,

304 pp, INR 295

"TECHNICALLY, YOU ARE ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY. AFTER RETIREMENT I FOUND THAT I HAD A LOT OF TIME ON MY HANDS. SO, I STARTED THIS BOOK TO KEEP MYSELF OCCUPIED. AS I PROGRESSED, I GOT MORE INVOLVED."

aircraft. He also completed a three-year tenure as defence attache in Thailand and retired as air vice-marshal. So what would prompt a fighter pilot to write a novel?

"Life in the Air Force as a fighter pilot is quite hectic," he says. "Technically, you are on call 24 hours a day. After retirement I found that I had a lot of time on my hands. So, I started this book to keep myself occupied. As I progressed, I got more involved."

Often, the worlds of the hero and the villain interchange; the hero kills and the villain saves, attesting to a fundamental truth of human nature as elucidated by the assassin: "I guess all human beings have both good and bad in them; only the degree varies."

The book is written simply but often, it is oversimplified. For example, the ease with which the son finds the members of the mafia before killing them seems implausible. The romantic interlude in the story seems forced and at odds with the rest of the narrative. At places, the book is over-explanatory; some things need to be shown rather than told.

But ultimately, it is clear that a lot of effort has gone into the planning and the crafting of this book. Gene Fowler once said that writing is easy. You only need to stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead. John has done a lot of staring. The result is a book that is so racy that it makes you thankful that the most excitement you get in real life is when your cat decides to poop in a different spot than its usual one.

Courtesy The Week

(Air Vice Marshal Mohan John joined RIMC in Aug 63, and was in Shivaji Section. He passed out in Dec 67 with the UN Jha medal for coming first in All India ranking in the merit list for entry to the NDA. Post-retirement he is settled in Greater Noida and has taken to writing to keep himself occupied. Editor)



O TEACHER, MY TEACHER

By Cmde N Anil Jose Joseph

There was once a cadet in RIMC, a good athlete and sportsman, but perpetually on a path that was beyond naughty. Quite often he was on the wrong side; not just in 'boys will be boys', but way beyond that. He was eventually made to withdraw from school on disciplinary grounds. Long afterwards, as young Lieutenants, we saw him enroll as a Dockyard Apprentice in Mumbai. Most, almost all of us Rimcollians, took umbrage. 'How can someone do so low a job for a Rimcollian!' 'It's an affront to Rimcollians!' 'How demeaning!'

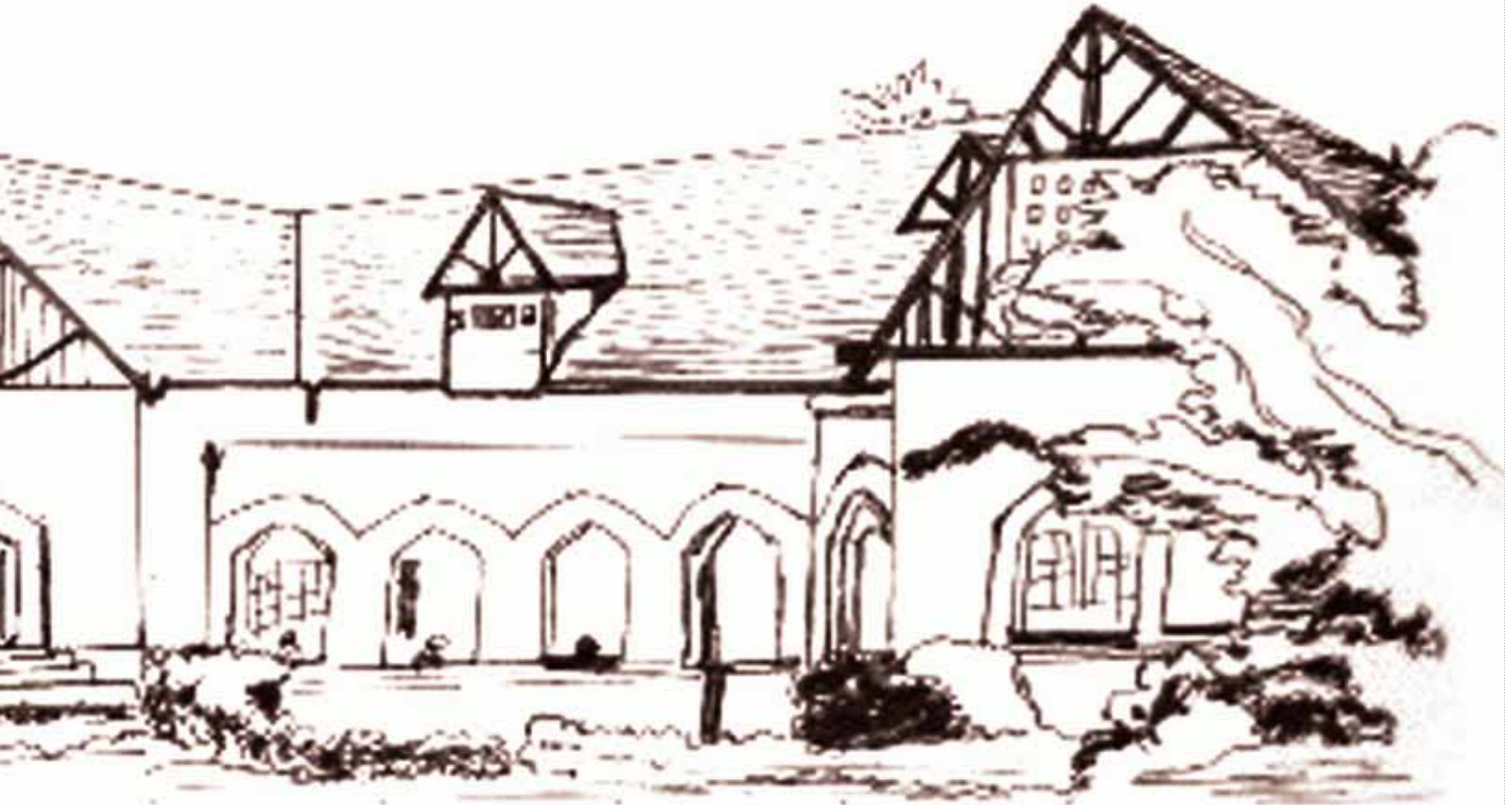
On a visit to RIMC in the late 80s, I described the whereabouts of my contemporaries to our teachers. On hearing about this colleague of mine as a likely dockyard apprentice, Mr. L N Thakur, our Math teacher's response was straight and simple "I am glad he is doing honest work at least." Mr LN's ability to elicit the nuance of the issue was



amazing. It amazed me how we didn't realise that the value lay in dignity of work and not just one's status.

A valuable lesson learnt outside the classroom. Our teachers continue to inspire us and quite often they remember even the seemingly most inconsequential happenings. Our teachers truly have elephantine memories. They recount incidents from our days at school and catch us off guard. I have a very unusual incident to narrate.

In 2006, I was in Kolkata to take over INS Shardul as its first Commanding Officer. Our base port was to be Karwar in Karnataka, so I thought it would be better to have all the families shift to Karwar and settle the 'administrative side' as the ship still had some time before she could sail. Interaction with the Naval Officer in Charge Karwar, convinced us that houses were available and that the new Kendriya Vidyalaya would be able to enroll all the children.



I decided to move with the first lot, and was at Karwar on 01 May 2006, to tackle issues upfront. Sure enough, we all got accommodation, but the KV refused to admit the children. I met the Principal, Mrs. Roopa Katiyar, who turned out to be a 'Doon type' and 'district athletics type' and we hit it off. She advised shifting children to a local KV at the previous station before moving to Karwar. We did as advised, for the rest of the children from our Shardul family, but a few kids, including my own, could not attend school. The school indicated it was not possible, as there were no vacancies and until a second section was approved, this was at a 'limbo'. Any query at Karwar, HQWNC and NHQ met a dead end with the line 'file is with K V Sangathan and the approval is round the corner'.

Well, round the corner stretched to three months and our bureaucratic red tape saw no progress....what I define as 'Present Continuous' or 'kadam thal'. There were children sitting at home whilst others went to school....some of them may have been pleased at the prospect, but the worry lines on the parents were increasing. I was under pressure from my own ship mates, my wife and my conscience, having

promised my men that school admission was guaranteed.

I thought to myself why not make an attempt directly. I asked Cmde KP Ramachandran, NOIC Karwar, permission to talk to KV Sangathan - hoping that the angst of a parent and the words of a Commanding Officer, who had promised his men, would carry more weight than a file that was moving up and down (or maybe not at all). Cmde Ramachandran who had approached KV Sangathan for the same, told me that there was a 'Dr. UN Singh' who was in charge of approving the second section. Dr. U N Singh, I wrote in my memo pad.

Dr. U N Singh!It rang a bell... "Listen, listen, ladies gay! No haughty feat of arms I tell; soft is the note and sad the lay that mourns the lovely Rosabelle..." I was quietly confident that doors would open, as I was fairly sure that this was Dr. U N Singh, my English Teacher from RIMC.

I rang him up and told his PA that I was an old student and would like to speak with him. I was put through immediately and the conversation went thus...

'Good morning sir, this is Cdr Anil Jose Joseph. I do not know if you

remember me sir, but I was a student of yours at RIMC.

I was stumped by his response.

"You are the one who ate bananas to increase his weight in boxing".

He had picked a very innocuous incident to connect. I gathered my wits and managed a 'Well sir, I am trying to take out those bananas now' (having gained enough and more weight since passing out in 1982).

Well, from there on it was a different story. I explained the predicament I was in and within 15 days the second section was functioning at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Karwar and to top it all, even the shortage of teachers there was addressed. Incidentally, the oversubscribed KV at Karwar was the only English medium school for many, many miles to the South, North and East. Why not the West? Well, we would have some mermen and mermaids enrolling from that side.

For me personally, the interaction thereafter was like a blessing each time I spoke to Dr UN Singh. Despite being a busy man in a busy chair, he still had time for me every time I called.

(Cmde Joseph was in 112 Course in RIMC from 1977-82). He belongs to Ranjit Section)

THEY JOINED THE RIMCOLLIANS FRATERNITY

Cadet Sec Com Akshat Raj

An exemplary example of 'Chest out Chin up', Mr Commander hasn't changed even a bit since his first term. Be it X- Country, Soccer, Athletics or Hockey, the College teams are a commonplace for him. All the best, Akshat.....



Cadet Sec Com SK Muzeeb

Be it the boxing ring or hockey field his josh and dedication for any activity is unmatched. His OLO's and motivational lectures will surely be missed by all! Adios Muzeeb.....



Cadet NCO Rahul Dwivedi

You tell them RD is here, they will say, "We are competing for second place". Such is the reputation of this great orator and the whole valley. Known for his hair styles among his juniors, he'll always be missed for punctuality. Way to go Rahul.....



Cadet NCO Abhiraj Gautam

Be it This young fellow takes the OLOs a bit too seriously. Along with being an exceptional Jockey, he is also a keen Debater and a good Journalist. Dasvadanija Abhiraj.....



Cadet NCO Anshul Sahu

This Delhiite, though never looked like one, is one of character and integrity. His selfless helping attitude is always admired by everyone especially by his juniors. Way to go Anshul.....



Cadet NCO Anshul Kumar

This Hulk of the college was by far, one of the tallest and broadest guys of the college. Always taking care of his dorm, his voice was very calm and serene. He will be missed for his peculiar style of walking. Sky is the limit Anshul....



Cadet NCO Abdul Malik

Mr. Baritone would never miss a chance to 'Live Life King Size'. Debating and Journalism hobby will always miss his absence. Good luck Abdul.....



Cadet NCO Purnendu Singh

You ask him a question, and he has all the answer on his finger tips. He makes scoring marks in exams look so easy just like the way he makes scoring Goals look so easy. Best of Luck Purnendu.....



Cadet NCO Ayush Singh Rawat

The 'Pac-man' of College proved his mettle in every field he was put into. Be it Boxing or Hockey, you never underestimate him because he's the 'Chotta Packet Bada Dhamaka'. Way to go Ayush.....



Cadet Pratyush Sharma

A good squash player and a swimmer as well, his favorite pastime was to scrutinize his juniors kits in the funniest voice possible. He will be thoroughly missed for his kind nature. All the best Pratyush



Cadet Sub NCO Elijah L.H.Sanga

A well natured lad from Mizoram he is a great boxer as well as artist. Always on time for all meals (only) he is a senior everyone looks up to. Good Going Elijah.....



Cadet Sec Com Shashi Kumara

Shivaji Section definitely owes the Discipline Cup to him. The 'Sauciness' with which he handles every situation is quality for all to imbibe. Keep going, Shashi.....



Cadet NCO Utkarsh Baru

This silent but violent boxer is one of integrity and character. Hailing from the hills of Jammu, this kiddo suddenly shot up to great heights. Shivaji Senior Dorm will miss his cheerful smile. May force be with you, Utkarsh.....



Cadet NCO Anuj Saxena

The invincible 'Mayweather' never let anyone past him, be it his opponent in the ring or the hockey ball in the field. His walking-talking styles will be thoroughly missed. Godspeed Anuj.....



Cadet NCO Lulu Lourembam

The Pocket Tanks Champion from Manipur leaves no stone unturned to reach his aim, even though it's too high. Soccer team, Cafeteria and Computer Lab will feel empty without him. All the best Lulu.....



Cadet NCO Mukul Kumar

This OG ace shooter has often been the centre of joke for his walking style but the OLOs this localite holds are admired by everyone. OG-ness had got to him so bad, that he ended up even walking OG. Bulls-eye Mukul.....



Cadet NCO Anushil Kumar

Angry Young Man of college will not let you stand when it comes to Debating. His snake like movements will be missed on the podium and the fields. College will seem to sober without this 'Pan Singh Tomar'. Au Revoir Anushil.....



Cadet Sub NCO Shantanu Shukla

If you want to listen a total OC joke, just go to the Basketball courts and you'll always find one person playing in slippers and vest. 'He's your Man.' This lanky fellow from Chattisgarh-cum-MP is a pro-swimmer and liked by all his juniors for his jazzO-Chill attitude. Keep Going Shantanu.....



Cadet Sub NCO Vijay Choudhary

Shooter, Cricketer, Baketball, Soccer player, actor and what not!! Mr. Bony Multitalented left no field without his touch. His spikes and folded sleeves will be missed thoroughly. Citius, Altius, Fortius Vijay.....



Cadet Sub NCO Pavitra Ojha

The Deadly Dancer is the Josh Machine of Chandragupta Section even though his OMLs could never be understood. Hopetown, Milestone and Spectrum stage will always miss you. Keep Dancing 'Understanding or not'..... Farvel Pavitra.....



Cadet Sub NCO Akash Singh

He would miss a match, or a fall in, or a meal, but never his glorious glamorous sleep. A role model for his dorm chaps; he would always be missed for his absence yet presence and also for his kind but monotonous talks. All Luck Akash.....



Cadet Devanga Bhusan Das

Most calm chap of VA, he was always found with a novel and gave tough competition to Akash. Academics are his forte and his specs made him look more erudite. Godspeed DB....



Cadet Captain Md Sohail Islam

Bouncer Boy Sohail, his one look gives you shivers; this Bongo Hulk is as soft with a brush as he is hardcore on the field. Be it Basketball, Soccer, PT or Athletics, he wins them all. Good Luck Cadet Captain....



Cadet Niraj Nitin Ingavale

A perfect senior, he always aimed high, never let his juniors 'sham' in the fields. Leading by example, he always strove hard to place his Section on glorious heights. Worthy of emulation, you'll always inspire us in times to come. Adios, Niraj.....



Cadet Sec Com S Sai Ganesh

This 'Michael Phelps' of the College was seen taking equally excellent rebound in basketball courts as the leaps in swimming. Chandragupta Section Junior dorm will miss his hawk-eyed Kit Inspections. Sionara Sai.....



Cadet Siddhant Sharma

This guy from Bangalore is an avid rider. Apart from being a good academician, he was also a keen photographer. The Hades of RIMC, way to go Siddhant.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROBA TRUST HELD ON 12 MARCH 2015 AT THE RIMC OFFICE, DEHRA DUN AT 1330 HRS CHAired BY GEN (RETD) V N SHARMA PVSM, AVSM

1. The meeting came to order under the Chairmanship of Gen V N Sharma (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, Chairman ROBA Trust. Following were present:-

(a) Air Mshl PP Reddy, VM, ADC	President ROBA & Trustee (Ex-officio)
(b) Vice Adm P K Chatterjee, PVSM AVSM, NM	Trustee.
(c) Lt Gen (Retd) BS Pawar, PVSM, AVSM	— Trustee.
(d) Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan, SM, AVSM	— Special invitee.
(e) Col (Retd) Arun Mamgain	— Trustee.
(f) Col H S Bainsla, SM	— Comdt RIMC & Trustee (Ex-officio).
(h) Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia	— Hony Secy & Trustee.
(j) Lt Col ERN Prasad	— Adm Offr, RIMC in attendance.
(k) Flt Lt (Retd) Ajit Singh	— Hony Treasurer & Trustee.

2. The following were given leave of absence:-

- (a) Col (Retd) HN Handa.
- (b) Dr NM Ghatate
- (c) Mr. SS Sandhu
- (d) Lt. Gen (Retd) SS Grewal PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM

3. The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 Feb 2015 were approved.

4. Considering the needs of the RIMC, only a part of which can be filled in by the Trust, the trustees agreed to allow the RIMC to make a proposal to draw (in the Financial Year 2015 - 16) an additional amount of Rs. 2.0 lacs exceeding the estimates of the Financial Year 2014 - 15 (which as presented stand at Rs. 13, 45,052/-). The proposal made by the Comdt, RIMC must fall within the ambit of the Trust Deed and be approved by the trustees. The sum, if approved will be made available in tranches.

5. The trustees took a view of the falling interest rates and decided that the corpus funds may be invested in the UTI Scheme for Charitable & Religious Trusts & Registered Societies (UTI - CRTS) as eligible form of investment under section 11(5) read with section 13 of the Act and Rule 17C (i) of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 for Public Religious & Charitable Trust.

6. The Hony Treasurer would proceed with completing KYC documents and other formalities necessary for such investments. The treasurer was also provide an analysis of the scheme by E mail to the trustees which is done with the attachments:-

(a) India Info UTI.

(b) UTICRTS81Fund----

(c) Further the URL of UTI for those who may want to reach for more information is :

(https://www.utimf.com/Funds/FactSheet/2015/Jan/uti_jan_2015.pdf.) go to page 37, you may need to scroll to 39.

7. There being no other points, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (ROBA) HELD AT RIMC DEHRADUN ON 13 MAR 2015

1. ROBA Annual General Body meeting was held at RIMC on 13 Mar 2015. The meeting was chaired by Air Mshl PP Reddy, VM, ADC, CISC and President ROBA and attended by over 175 members of ROBA.
2. The President ROBA began his address by welcoming Gen VN Sharma (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, Chairman ROBA Trust, senior Rimcollians, contemporaries and others. He thanked his worthy predecessors for their invaluable contributions to the alma-mater and added that their efforts made his task easier. He also thanked his immediate predecessor V/Adm PK Chatterjee, PVSM, AVSM, NM for his guidance and who set the motion towards contributing a minimum contribution of Rs 100/- per month through ECS for the Centenary Fund. He reminded all to contribute towards the Centenary Fund through ECS/NEFT or any other mode with a minimum of Rs 100/- from now.
3. He praised all the members present for their active participation and generous contributions which are delivering the desired results. He added that the excellent performance of RIMC and its alumni over the last nine decades is due to the dedication and affection of Rimcollians toward the betterment of the school and wished its continuity from all quarters. He also urged the members to come forward, now, and volunteer to take on the constitution of the Centenary Celebrations Committee (CCC) for making the event unique. CCC needs to plan conduct, generation of funds, making of souvenirs and publication of memoirs. He once again requested the members to give their names towards the end of the AGM for a formal composition of the said committee.
4. Hony Secy ROBA took over from the President ROBA to carry on with the Agenda. A two minutes silence was observed as mark of respect of the following:-
 - (a) Mr Reuel Russel Mordecai, 1995-98, Pratap, passed away on 08 Apr 2014.
 - (b) Lt Col Sri Krishen Dhar, VSM, 1936-44, Roberts, passed away on 21 May 2014.
 - (c) Col Prem Vir Singh, SM, 1960-65, Shivaji, passed away on 07 Jul 2014.
 - (d) Sqn Ldr Shiva Gopal Trivedi, 1944-50, Rawlinsons, passed away in Jul 2014.
 - (e) Col Anil Kumar Vashisht, 1961-65, Pratap, passed away in Jul 2014.
 - (f) Lt Col Rameshwar S Ratra, 1951-55, Kitcheners, passed away on 16 Aug 2014.
 - (g) Mr Kailash Nath Pal, 1949-53, Ranjit, passed away on 24 Sep 2014.
 - (h) Col Ramesh Kumar J Nair, 1951-55, Shivaji, passed away on 02 Oct 2014.
 - (j) Col Padamjit Singh, 1945-48, Kitcheners, passed away on 28 Nov 2014.
 - (k) Mr Arup K Chakravarti, 1948-50, Roberts, passed away on 05 Dec 2014.
 - (l) Lt Anthony C Johstone, 1942-44, Wavell, passed away on 06 Dec 2014.
 - (m) Col Sudhir Kumar Sharma, 1967-72, Pratap, passed away on 03 Jan 2015.
 - (n) Brig Ashok Ohri, 1953-56, Shivaji, passed away on 05 Jan 2015.
 - (o) Mrs MeeraVerma, W/o Lt Gen (Retd) JS Varma, passed away on 18 Feb 2015.

AGENDA

5. Accounts.
 - (a) Audited Balance Sheets, as on 31 Mar 14, were presented for perusal and approval of the house. Provisional Balance Sheets and Income & Expenditure statement for the period ending 31 Dec 14 in respect of ROBA & ROBA Trust were also presented.
 - (b) Passing of accounts for the period ended on 31 Mar 14 was proposed by Lt Gen Manvendra Singh and seconded by Lt Gen BS Pawar.
6. ROBA Trust. A brief presentation was given by Mr Ajit Singh, the Hony Treasurer & Trustee highlighting the fund position, its investments in government securities as per norms, audit of accounts and utilisation of interest income on salaries, scholarships and award of book prizes to the cadets. At the outset, he summed up that 75% of the interest income is spent on RIMC for which we all (Rimcollians) contributed and rest ploughed back to the Corpus Fund to ensure its steady growth.
7. Election of following as ROBA Working Committee Members was ratified by the General Body while offering a vote of thanks to the outgoing members:-

((a) Air Marshal PP Reddy, VM, ADC	— Hony President ROBA.
(b) Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan, AVSM, SM	— Hony Vice President ROBA (Army).
(c) CmdeAdhir Arora, NM	— Hony Vice President ROBA (Navy).
(d) Brig PN Ananthanarayanan	— Member.
(e) Brig Sanjay Singh	— Member.
(f) Mr Sanjeev Tandon	— Member.

- (e) Cdr Anil Jagtiani (Retd) — Member.
 (f) WgCdr Deepak Ahluwalia — Hony Secy ROBA.
 (g) Lt Col Rajesh Kaushik — Hony Asst Secy (Army).
 (h) Cdr Manish Sain — Hony Asst Secy (Navy).

8. Centenary celebrations. The following were proposed to mark the celebrations:-
 (a) Mint a coin.
 (b) Release of Stamp and First Day Cover.
 (c) Coffee Table Book.
 (d) Light and Sound show.
 (e) Car rally to London and back.
 (f) Museum.
 (g) Centenary attendance Charges. Rs 25000/- for four days stay ie., 11-14 Mar 2022 (excluding accommodation). Can be paid in equal five installments @ Rs 5000/- per month or in any other manner till Dec 2015. Thereafter, charges would be increased by Rs 1500/- each year to reach Rs 35,000/- by Mar 2022.
9. Minting of Coin. Capt Arvind Kumar informed the house that coins not in circulation are minted at Kolkata & Mumbai and commemorative & coins of Rs 1, 5 & 10 are minted at Hyderabad. Lt Gen Rakesh Nandan, DG C & W, apprised the house that the case for minting of coins to be processed through government channels viz., MoD and Finance for approval and no cost basis, which was accepted by all.
10. Lt Col Ramandeep Singh Sandhu, 1984-89, Ranjit, with the permission of the chair requested for a two minute speech about himself. He shared of his near death medical situation, three organ transplants and one major brain surgery which he underwent for which the courage to go through, he said was attributable to his being a Rimcollian and is the RIMC which taught him never to give up. He further stated that he is very proud to be a RIMCOLLIAN and gratefully acknowledged the help he received from the fraternity in his recovery. The house honoured this spirited Rimcollian with a standing ovation for his fortitude and the example he set for his 'never say die' attitude.
11. President ROBA requested for volunteers for the CCC. With the approval of the house following committees were formed:-
 (a) Fund Raising Committee.
 (i) Col BK Sinha (Retd).
 (ii) Col Arun Mangain (Retd).
 (iii) Mr C Banerjee.
 (iv) Col Ajay Singh Shekhawat.
 (v) Lt Col Karan C Dixit (Retd).
 (vi) Mr Sidharth Mishra.
 (vii) Maj JS Kairon (Retd).
 (b) Souvenirs Committee.
 (i) Maj Nirjhar Bhaumik.
 (ii) Col Ajay Singh Shekhawat.
 (iii) Maj Gaurav Bhandari (Retd).
12. Mr RK Gulati, who lives in UK, volunteered for necessary assistance for the Car Rally to London & back.
13. President ROBA thanked the volunteers for their unbound enthusiasm, willingness to participate and requested for an action plan to start with. For larger participation, the Committees were requested to spread the word to those who could not attend the meeting and forward their suggestions/proposals/names to the Secretary, Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia before the next ROBA Working Committee to be held in May/June 2015.
14. Col Mangain stressed on the need for funding of Masters' in view of existing deficiency as per PE. He apprised the house that efforts were on to get funding for a period of 05 years from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) to support salaries of ad-hoc masters, sports coaches and adventure activities.
15. A vote of thanks offered to the Comdt RIMC, Staff and Cadets for the excellent conduct of 93rd Founders' Day. The meeting declared closed by the Chair at 1100 hrs.

File No : 0010/ROBA/AGM/Mtg

Sd/- x xxxxxx

Date : 27 Mar 2015

(Deepak Ahluwalia)
 Wg Cdr
 Hony Secy & Trustee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING CONVENED BY ROBA PRESIDENT ON 26 MAY 15 AT SOUTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI, FROM 1500 HRS ONWARDS

1. A Meeting was convened by Air Marshal PP Reddy, VM, ADC, CISC, President, ROBA as aforementioned to discuss the modalities/structures for raising funds for centenary celebration. The following were present:-
 - (a) Mr Ajit Singh - Hony Treasurer, ROBA Trust
 - (b) Maj MS Bedi (Retd), SM, Hony Treasurer, ROBA
 - (c) Wg Cdr Rajvir Yadav (Retd) VSM, Member
 - (d) Brig Gajendra Prasad, Member
 - (e) Brig PN Ananthanarayanan, Member
 - (f) Mr Sidharth Mishra, Member, Centenary Funds Committee
 - (g) Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia, Hony Secy ROBA.
2. President ROBA welcomed all the members present and invited Mr Mishra to make a presentation on the scope and structure of the funds to be raised for centenary. Thereafter additional inputs were given by Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia based on response from out-station members.
3. Following a threadbare discussion, following decisions were arrived at :-
 - (a) All events to be held under aegis/partnership of ROBA. (ROBA Secy)
 - (b) All monies raised to be routed through ROBA account under the Centenary Celebration Head. (ROBA Treasurer)
 - (c) To invite suggestions regarding giving an appropriate present to the school which should be as magnificent as the Martyr's Memorial (presented by old boys in 1972) and the Platinum Jubilee Gate (presented in 1997). On locking the idea the Budget estimates to be worked out and funds planning to be initiated thereafter. (ROBA Secy)
 - (d) Need to strengthen The Rimcollian and expand it by raising funds through Advertisements and Subscription. (ROBA Treasurer)
 - (e) Wg Cdr Deepak Ahluwalia to facilitate early meeting between Director, Armed Forces Film and Photo Division (AFFPD), Delhi, and Mr Sidharth Mishra to set the short-film on school rolling. The documents of the funds regarding film made in 21997 available. Funds to be raised through royalty earned from multiple screening of the film. (ROBA Secy/CFC)
 - (f) Explore the possibility of organising annual lecture series. AVM Arjun Subhramanyam, recently posted to NDC, to be incorporated for guidance. (ROBA Secy/CFC)
 - (g) Explore the possibility of organising annual carnival in New Delhi/other centres. (ROBA Secy/CFC)
 - (h) Cycle Rally: Based on the inputs from Mr Chiranjit Banerjee, the rally to take place on annual basis provided there are at least 10 volunteers. (ROBA Secy/CFC)
 - (j) Car rally: The concept needs to be fleshed out further. (ROBA Secy)
 - (k) Raising funds through CSR for environment friendly projects at like bio-degradable waste disposal plant, water recycling etc. (ROBA Secy/CFC).
 - (l) Print an appropriate brochure at the time of the event to raise funds through advertisement to finance various events during the celebration. (ROBA Secy/CFC).
 - (m) RIMC to submit proposals for centenary building plans/repairs etc at an early date.

● (CFC - Centenary Funds Committee)

The meeting at 1630 hrs with a vote of thanks to the chair

File No : 0009/ROBA/Mtg

Date : 27 Mar 2015

Sd/-
(Deepak Ahluwalia)
Wg Cdr
Hony Secy ROBA

RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION		BALANCE SHEET AS AT		31.03.2015
PARTICULARS		AMOUNT RS.		
A LIABILITIES				
1 CORPUS FUND				
	Balance brought forward		29,72,726	
	Received during the year		5,21,226	
	Surplus during the year		2,22,772	37,16,224
2 MEDIA & PUBLICATION FUND				
	Balance brought forward		5,13,363	
	Received during the year		1,75,029	
	Surplus during the year		3,39,112	10,27,504
3 CENTENARY FUND				
	Balance brought forward		500	
	Received during the year		1,84,700	
	Surplus during the year		7,808	1,93,008
4 CURRENT LIABILITIES				
a	ROBA Trust		3,48,126	
c	Expenses Payable		1,04,401	4,52,530
	Total			53,89,266



(Signature)
TBS

RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION		INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		31.03.2015
PARTICULARS		FOR THE PERIOD ENDED		
		AMOUNT RS.		
1 SALES				
	Sale of Souvenirs			
2 DIRECT EXPENSES				
a	Opening Stock of Souvenirs	88,250		
b	Purchases	-		
		88,250		
c	Less : Closing Stock of Souvenirs	88,250		
3 OTHER INCOMES				
a	Interest on Company Deposits		3,40,107	
b	Newsletter Advertisements		4,16,550	
c	Donations		1,23,829	
d	Bank Interest		20,571	9,01,057
4 EXPENDITURES				
a	Bank Charges		942	
b	Honorarium		1,50,000	
c	Conveyance		4,416	
d	Postage & Stamps		3,661	
e	Printing & Stationery		1,960	
f	Newsletter Publication Expenses		1,26,845	
g	Audit Fee		17,100	
h	Telephone/ Website Expenses		26,937	
				3,31,864
5	Surplus/ (Deficit) during the year			5,69,193

RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION		INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		31.03.2015
PARTICULARS		FOR THE PERIOD ENDED		
		AMOUNT RS.		
B ASSETS				
1 FIXED ASSETS				
	Computers & Allied Accessories			
1 INVESTMENTS				
Fixed Deposits with Companies (including accrued interest)				
a	LIC Housing Finance Ltd.	13,00,000		
b	ICICI Housing Finance Ltd.	2,00,000		
c	PNB Housing Finance Ltd.	1,75,000		
d	Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd.	5,00,000		
e	HDFC Ltd.	15,75,000		40,50,000
2 CURRENT ASSETS				
a	Interest Receivable			
	Balance brought forward	58,601		
	Add : Accrued During The Year	3,40,107		
	Less : Received During The Year	(2,96,296)		
		1,02,412		
b	Stock of Souvenirs		88,250	
c	Sundry Receivables		5,60,715	
c	Tax Deducted At Source		48,786	
d	Income Tax Refund Due		77,238	
				8,77,401
3 CASH & BANK BALANCES				
a	Balance at Bank		4,60,064	
b	Cash on hand		1,801	
				4,61,865
				53,89,266

Place : New Delhi
Dated : September 8, 2015


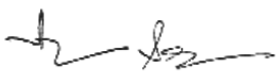
AUDITORS' REPORT
*As per our separate report of even date
for **A.K.Sethi & Co.**
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No.: 004656N
(Signature)
(A.K.Sethi)
Partner
Mem.No.: 083795


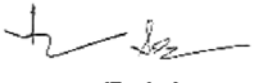
(Signature)
(Treasurer)

Place : New Delhi
Dated : September 8, 2015

AUDITORS' REPORT
*As per our separate report of even date
for **A.K.Sethi & Co.**
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No.: 004656N
(Signature)
(A.K.Sethi)
Partner
Mem.No.: 083795

(Signature)
(Treasurer)

RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION TRUST BALANCE SHEET AS AT		31.03.2015
PARTICULARS	AMOUNT RS.	
A SOURCES OF FUNDS		
1 CORPUS FUND		
Balance brought forward	2,37,89,426	
Received during the year	8,07,975	
Surplus during the year	8,55,473	2,54,52,875
2 CURRENT LIABILITIES		
a Honorarium Payable	7,000	
b RIMC	200	
c Expenses Payable	34,200	62,400
Total Sources		2,55,15,275
B APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
1 INVESTMENTS		
Fixed Deposits		
a LIC Housing Finance Ltd.	56,00,000	
b Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd.	5,50,000	
c PNB Housing Finance Ltd.	36,07,224	
d HDFC Ltd.	1,03,50,000	
e ICICI Housing Finance Ltd.	21,50,000	2,22,57,224
2 CURRENT ASSETS		
a <u>Interest Accrued But Not Due</u>		
Balance brought forward	4,12,185	
Add : Accrued During The Year	20,18,409	
Less : Received During The Year	(14,61,297)	9,69,297
b Sundry Receivables		3,48,126
c Income Tax Refund Due		2,58,254
d Tax Deducted At Source		1,42,284
		17,17,960
3 CASH & BANK BALANCES		
a Balance at Bank	15,40,091	15,40,091
		2,55,15,275
AUDITORS' REPORT		
"As per our separate report of even date attached"		
for A.K.Sethi & Co.		
Chartered Accountants		
Firm Regn.No.: 004656N		
		
(A.K.Sethi) Partner		
Mem. No.: 083795		
Place : New Delhi		
Dated : September 8, 2015		
		
(Trustee)		

RIMCOLLIAN OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION TRUST INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		31.03.2015
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED		
PARTICULARS	AMOUNT RS.	
1 INCOMES		
a Interest/ Dividends on Deposits/ Units	20,18,409	
b Donations	1,33,186	
c Interest On Income Tax Refund	14,112	
d Bank Interest	89,196	22,54,904
2 EXPENDITURES		
a Scholarships	48,000	
b Bank Charges	356	
c Honorarium	12,43,000	
d Audit Fee	34,200	
j RIMC Hospital Upkeep	40,000	
j RIMC Cadets Welfare	33,875	13,99,431
3 Surplus/ (Deficit) during the year		8,55,473
AUDITORS' REPORT		
"As per our separate report of even date attached"		
for A.K.Sethi & Co.		
Chartered Accountants		
Firm Regn.No.: 004656N		
		
(A.K.Sethi) Partner		
Mem. No.: 083795		
Place : New Delhi		
Dated : September 8, 2015		
		
(Trustee)		

BALWANT NEGI SUCCEEDS MANVENDER SINGH AS IMA COMMANDANT

DEHRADUN: Lt Gen Balwant Singh Negi on 3 August 2015 took over as the Commandant of the prestigious Indian Military Academy. He succeeds Lt Gen Manvender Singh who retired in May this year, an IMA release here said.

Before taking over as the Commandant of the IMA, Lt Gen Negi was GOC 14 Corps, Jammu and Kashmir. An alumni of the Rashtriya Indian Military College, National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, Lt Gen Negi has had an illustrious career spanning 37 years.

A highly decorated officer, Lt Gen Negi also has various academic achievements to his credit. He has been awarded a PhD by the Madras University for his research work on the topic "China's Modernisation". He is currently



working on his research topic "Tibet" as a part of his D Litt programme.

Throughout his military career, he has been a keen sportsman and a vigorous athlete, the release said. As mentioned earlier, Gen Negi has taken over from another illustrious Rimcollian Lt Gen Manvender Singh, who

superannuated in May-end.

Commissioned in the brigade of Guards of Indian Army on December 22, 1974, Lt Gen Singh held the unique distinction of serving as Commandant of prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, for a period of three years and eight months.

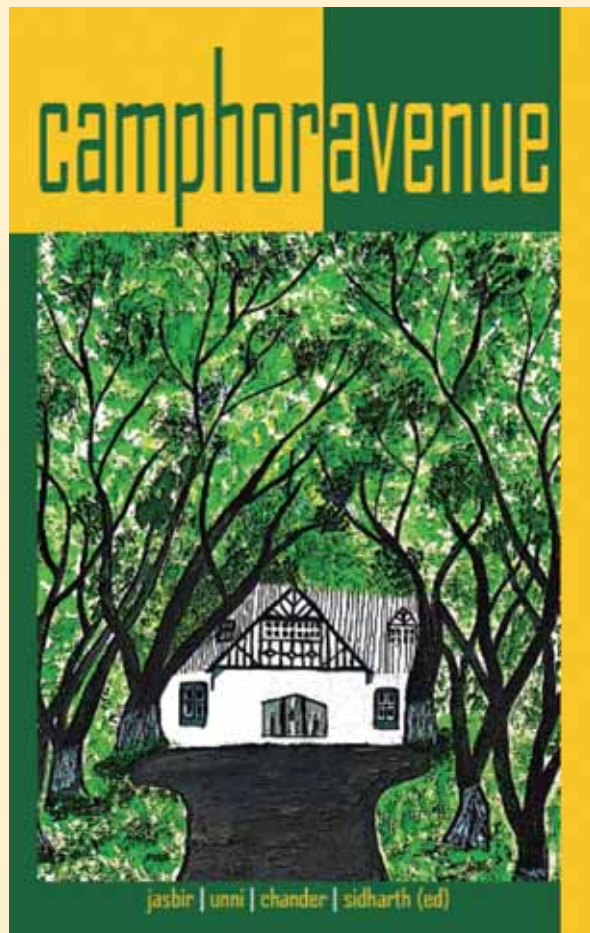
A highly decorated soldier, Gen Singh was awarded with Vishisht Sewa Medal (VSM), Ati Vishisht Sewa Medal (AVSM) and Param Vishisht Sewa Medal (PVSM) during his outstanding career spanning over five decades. In his tenure many positive changes were witnessed in the training activities and academic courses of IMA. He is also credited with increasing the facilities of the cadets of the academy.

(Courtesy PTI)

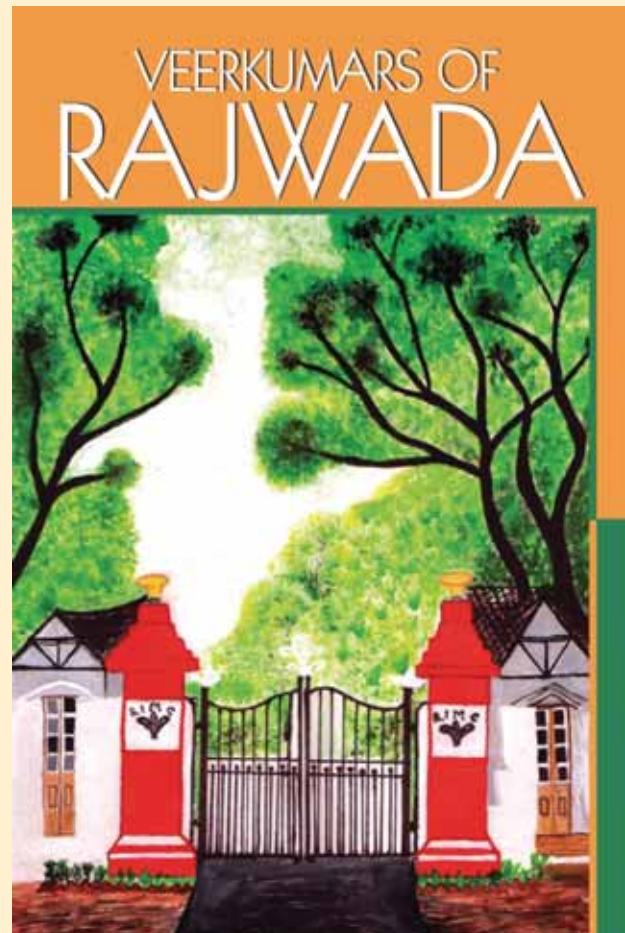


Lt Gen Manvender Singh with Prince of Wales, Prince Charles during the British royalty's visit to the IMA

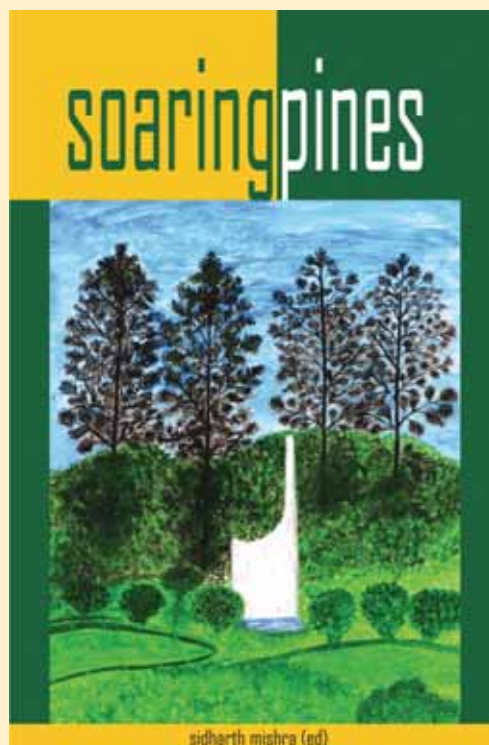
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Gen Tich with his coursemates at JSW | Bottom: Gen Tich addressing Rimcollians standing on a chair as head of delegation to Pakistan

THE SHORTEST GENERAL OFFICER

Maj Gen Trichnapalli Venugopal Manoharan, VSM (my Course mate) belonged to the 1st Course JSW/NDA, which he joined at Clement Town, Dehradun in early Jan 1949, when Joint Services Wing of the National Defence Academy was started. He had his schooling in the famous RIMC at Dehradun.

Popularly called Tich because of his very short height (about 5 ft 1 in or so). The doctors when they medically cleared him to join JSW thought that he would gain the required height in due course, but he never did! Tich was so short that he had to be lifted to grip a beam to do pull ups. It was a popular joke that his name was longer than his body!!

Though Napoleon was long reported to have stood at only 5 ft 2 in, historians have now suggested Napoleon was actually 5 ft 6 in. So may be Tich was the World's shortest general ever!!!

Maj Gen Manoharan was commissioned in the Corps of EME, did stint with DGQA, rose to the rank of Maj Gen and settled down at Bangaluru after superannuation.

Very witty, full of fun and always up to some mischief, Manoharan regaled all those who came in touch with him with humor and endless stories. Tich endeared himself to all the fellow



cadets as well as the staff (Officers, JCOs and NCOs). Even in his early 80s, he maintained his wit and humour.

Sadly, he breathed his last on 29 Jun 2015 due to cardiac arrest. The family, course mates, friends and colleagues are going to miss General Tich Manoharan immensely.

May God bless his soul and may he brighten up the life where he has gone now, as he did on mother Earth!!

● **It Gen Harbhajan Singh**
SO-in-C (retired)

The news of passing away of M was kind of expected because he was not attending the reunions for the past few

years and that was a bad sign. Nothing could keep him away from his annual fun event. M was where loudest laughs were.

He was a regular in the ladies group photo and they would wait till he took his place in the centre. He took active part in the AGMs and also kept the gathering lively; alleging discrimination he suggested that level of the pee pots be lowered!

His story of the journey from Madras to Dehradun to join PWRIMC was a lesson to the fussing parents of this era. His father congratulated him for being selected and later put him on the Madras Mail to Delhi. M, the grown up 12 yr old with a huge black box and a holdall. A telegram had been sent to info the College.

At Delhi the station master spotted a lonely boy on the platform and asked him what he was doing there? M said he was en route to Dehradun to join the famous PWRIMC. The man was surprised that he was alone. He put him onto the Mussoorie Express and informed the Station Master Master at Dehradun. M was duly received and reached the Principal's office in a tonga.

No fuss, a telegram was sent to info his father that all was well. There goes a Rimcollian who will be missed dearly. May he RIP.

—Col Arun Mangain



Amardeep being felicitated by then chief of army staff Gen NC Vij



Amardeep with his batchmates at a reunion

AD INFINITUM

Everyone wants to be the best, but when the climb to the top starts, only a few can maintain the enthusiasm'. Sqn Ldr Amardeep Singh was one such person who had the zeal of being the best and excelled at whatever he did. He was First in the Order of Merit at the RIMC, which he joined in 1996. He received 'Blue' in Athletics, 'Half Blue' in Cross-Country and 'Merit Card' in PT. He was conferred with the Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card for scaling Mt Black Peak in the year 2000. He broke the High Jump record in his Class II for which he was awarded the Commandant Special Scholarship.

A born leader, Sqn Ldr Amardeep Singh was also the Cadet Captain at the RIMC in the year 2001. A Topper of all the Courses he went for, he was highly acclaimed for having won the Sword of Honour, the Presidents Gold Medal and was the ACA at both the institutions. He joined the Indian Air Force and became a Fighter Pilot. Later on, he became an Instructor at the Flying Instructors School at Tambaram, Chennai. He was a true example of a 'physically fit and mentally tough' personality by being a



Amardeep with his Rimcollian mentor Commander Manish Sain during the passing out from National Defence Academy

Triathlon Winner and a X- Country Medalist.

The cruel blow of fate struck when he passed away while doing what he liked, which was participating in Triathlon, leaving his near and dear ones



Amardeep was a doting father too!

in shock and grief on 9 August 2015. The last rites took place on 11 August at Panchkula where his Coursemates came from Chandigarh and laid the Wreath on behalf of the ROBA. Flt Lt Ankit Uniyal also laid Wreath on behalf of the Commandant and RIMC Fraternity. He is survived by his wife and ten month old daughter. The entire RIMC Fraternity commiserates with Sqn Ldr Amardeep's family and prays to the Almighty to give them strength to bear this irreparable loss.

LAST POST

With deep regret we inform that the following Rimcollians have left us for heavenly abode

MAJ GEN TV MANOHARAN, VSM	1948-52	RAW	29 Jun 2015
MR HARCHARAN SINGH BUTALIA, IAS	1931-35	RAW	16 Jul 2015
SQN LDR AMARDEEP	1996-01	CHA	09 Aug 2015
DR AK TANTRAY	1981-86	RAN	September 2015



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