



On Parade

## THE AIR TRAINING CORPS.

The Air Training Corps. at Princes-  
thorpe College is now nearing the  
end of its fourth and best year.  
Many reasons come to mind for it  
being our best year. We kept more  
cadets in September than any other  
year and we had a great influx of  
new recruits. For the first year we  
have managed to have a full comple-  
ment of N.C.O.'s. It is the first year  
that we have had project rooms,  
there are two for those interested in  
modelling and engines.

Then happened, what everyone  
had been waiting for. A message  
arrived from the C.O. at Southam  
(we are their detached flight) saying  
that the machinery had been put in  
action to make us a Squadron. In  
early March we had a visit from  
Sqd. Ldr. Swift of Wing Staff.  
After the usual meeting and inspec-  
tion of cadets and building, he said  
he could see no reason why we  
could not become our own Squad-  
ron. Furthermore he congratulated  
us on the high standard of dress  
and discipline. So now we are  
waiting for the day.

The majority of boys comment  
that they won't join because of  
short hair and the constant bawling  
everytime you step out of place.  
Maybe they are justified in this  
statement. I will describe this years  
programme and let you be the judge.

The first term, September to  
December, is taken up with training  
the new recruits. Sunday morning  
is taken up with drill, Monday  
evening is taken up with lectures  
on a syllabus laid down by the  
R.A.F. depending on their status,  
Basic, Leading, Senior or Staff cadet.  
Friday evening is taken up with  
projects. The only activities we had

during that term were: Two trips to  
R.A.F. Gaydon for Air Experience  
Gliding, flying at R.A.F. Shawbury,  
a night exercise, a dance, a swim-  
ming gala at Rugby, film shows by  
both the R.A.F. and Navy recruiting  
teams. Besides this proficiency  
gliding courses were taken up by  
two of our N.C.O.'s, both have now  
got their glider pilot's wings.

The second term, January-April,  
is a better term for activities.  
Lectures are still kept up until the  
exams on the first of May but Drill  
is slackened off slightly. The  
activities include more gliding and  
flying, another night exercise, a map  
reading exercise; a youth forum,  
educational trips to Coventry fire  
and police stations. Another visit  
by the R.A.F. recruiting team, a basket-  
ball match versus another squadron  
and a weekend camp at Llangollen,  
North Wales. Apart from this we  
had six more cadets on Gliding  
courses. Two were doing proficiency  
and four prepilot training. (This  
leads up to the proficiency course)

The climax of the year comes at

the end of this term when cadets  
have the chance of going on Easter  
Camp. This is a week's camp on an  
R.A.F. Station somewhere in Eng-  
land. During this time cadets can  
witness the day to day running of  
the camp and take part in various  
exercises including flying and shoot-  
ing. This year's camp was at R.A.F.  
Waddington in Lincolnshire.

The third term, May-July, is un-  
doubtedly the best term. After the  
exams the cadets have a chance to  
carry out in practice what they have  
learnt in classes. The basic cadets  
can do a wide variety of activities  
including shooting, morse code and  
first aid. The Leading cadets have  
a chance to prove themselves on  
map reading exercise and senior  
cadets can see in practise the work-  
ing of a Transmitting/receiving radio.  
There will be another weekend camp  
at Llangollen and a weekend camp  
at Bicester. Some cadets are going  
on a three day course at R.A.F.  
Halton, to find out the day to day  
life of apprentices at the station  
which concentrates on Mechanical  
Engineering. It is hoped to have a  
180 mile sponsored walk to R.A.F.  
Whyton and back sometime in May.

Apart from these activities we are  
sending some cadets to Frimley Park  
an Army training camp on a leader-  
ship course. The A.T.C. has an  
exchange scheme by which cadets  
from this country go to Germany  
and America sponsored by the R.A.F.  
Already one cadet has been from  
our Detached Flight and it is hoped  
many more will be able to enjoy  
the chance.

Are the majority right in their  
statement or have the minority taken  
the upper hand? The people we  
must thank for it all are Fl/Off  
Penn, P/O Mudge (while he was  
with us) W/O Mohammed and of  
course all the cadets, without  
whose help we would never have  
got off the ground.

A.T.C. N.C.O.'s Room

