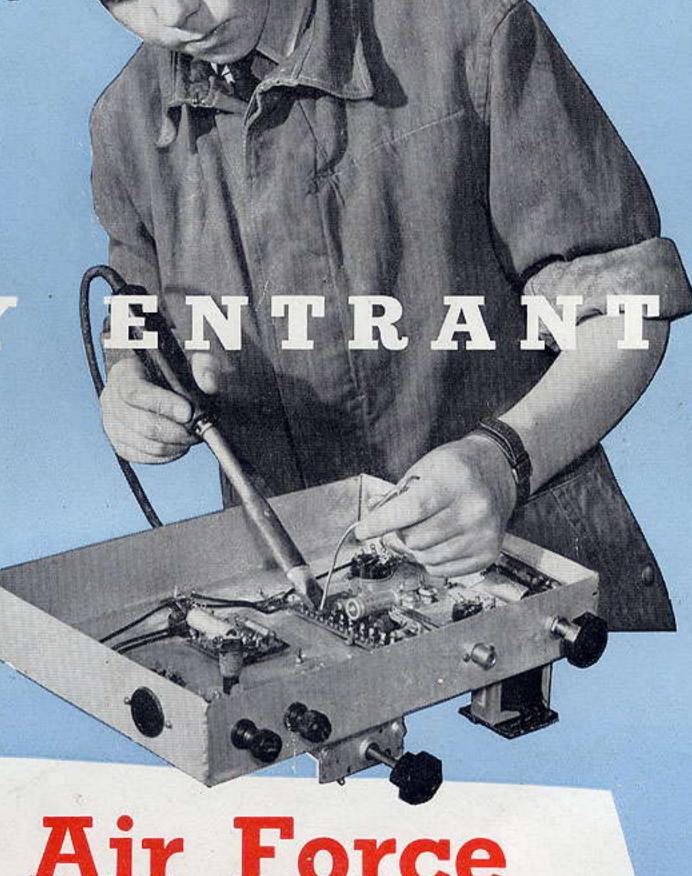
AFINE
START
IN LIFE
AS A

IN THE



Royal Air Force



A FINE START...

Just leaving school?

LIKE MOST BOYS nowadays you are probably keen on aircraft and have often wished you could turn your hobby into your job when you leave school. Why not make your wishes come true? By joining the Royal Air Force when you are between 15½ and 16½ as a Boy Entrant you can learn a skilled trade which will enable you to work directly with or near aircraft all the time.

In fact, there is nowhere more exciting or more important for any young man to work today than in the Royal Air Force. In this age of jet aircraft and guided missiles, Britain must maintain her lead in the air and the best place to keep abreast of these thrilling new developments is in the Royal Air Force.

Note to parents

IF YOUR SON joins the R.A.F. as a Boy Entrant, he will have a wide choice of trades ranging from aeronautical, radio or electrical engineering, to catering, clerical duties or signalling. In this way he won't be wasting his time in some dead-end job when he leaves school. Instead, by joining between the ages of $15\frac{1}{2}$ and $16\frac{1}{2}$ (in exceptional cases 15-17), he can get ahead in the work he most wants to do. By the time he is $17\frac{1}{2}$ he can be a fully qualified tradesman earning a man's pay.

This book tells you more about the trades open to your son as a Boy Entrant. Read on and see what an interesting life he leads at a Boy Entrant School with a fine career to follow. He gets a good trade training at no expense to yourselves (in fact he's paid whilst he learns) and there is no formal written examination for him to pass to be accepted. Candidates are, however, required to undergo certain simple arithmetic and English tests as well as an intelligence test when called up for selection.

Full details of conditions of entry and service are given in Air Ministry Pamphlet 340, obtainable from any R.A.F. Recruiting Centre, or by writing to: R.A.F. Central Recruiting Office, Victory House, London, W.C.2.



AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING



GENERAL ENGINEERING

TRADES FOR BOY ENTRANTS

IF YOU WANT to do mechanical or electrical work and are handy with your hands you can train in one of the following engineering groups, each of which contains many different trades:

AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING
ARMAMENT ENGINEERING
RADIO ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT
ENGINEERING
GENERAL ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL TRANSPORT

If you are interested in less technical work, there are a number of other trade groups from which to choose:

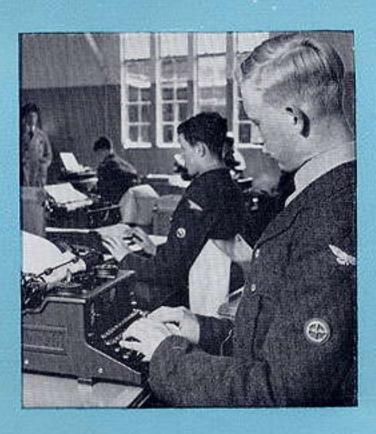
CATERING
GROUND SIGNALLING
PHOTOGRAPHY
SUPPLY

ACCOUNTING AND SECRETARIAL

The following pages give a brief outline of the work of each trade group and the particular jobs which Boy Entrants can learn to do.



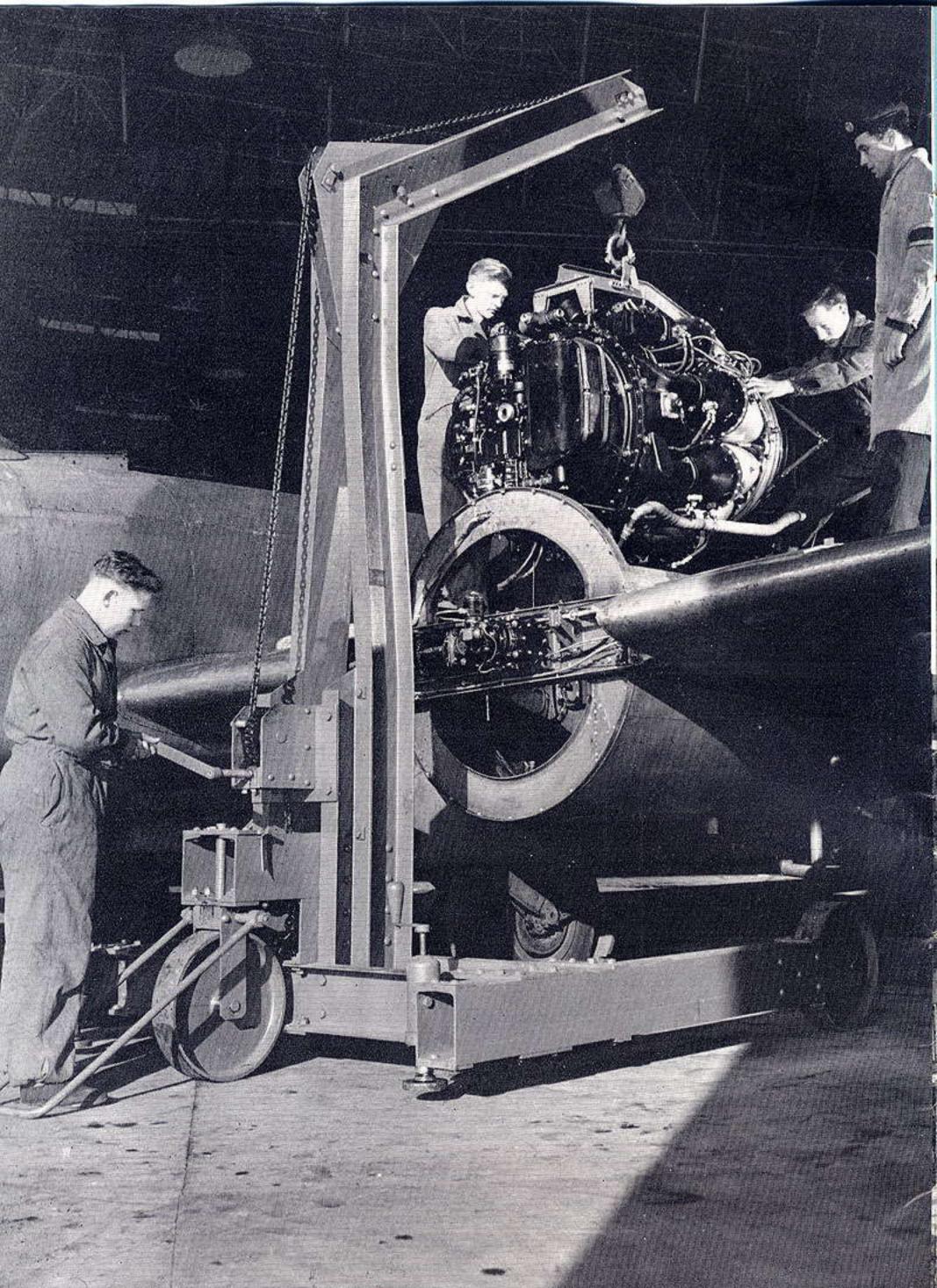
ELECTRICAL AND
INSTRUMENT ENGINEERING



ACCOUNTING AND SECRETARIAL



CATERING



AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING

ENGINE MECHANIC · AIRFRAME MECHANIC

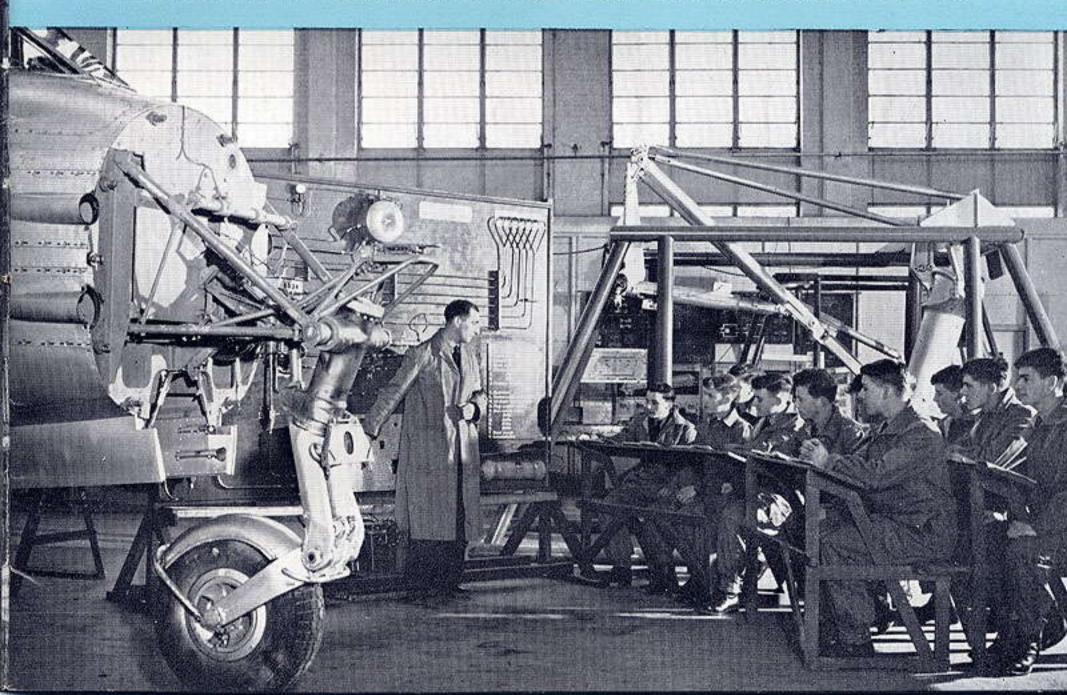
ENGINE AND AIRFRAME MECHANICS are key men in the Royal Air Force. They help to keep the different types of aircraft in perfect flying condition, and on their work may depend the safety of the aircraft and the success of operations.

Engine mechanics carry out routine inspections and service all kinds of aircraft engines. As a Boy Entrant you learn to check, adjust and repair the controls, gauges and accessories, and to see that the engine is giving the correct revolutions and boost when running at full throttle. You also learn how to diagnose and rectify faults in the fuel, oil and coolant systems.

As an airframe mechanic, you would learn to do the day-to-day servicing of the wings, fuselage, tailplane and undercarriage of aircraft. This means checking, adjusting or replacing any faulty parts of the airframe controls, such as elevators, ailerons and rudder, and the tyres, brakes and hydraulic systems.

◀ Learning to install a Derwent jet engine into a Meteor fighter

A Senior Technician teaches a class of airframe mechanics the hydraulic system of a Meteor





ARMAMENT ENGINEERING

ARMAMENT MECHANIC

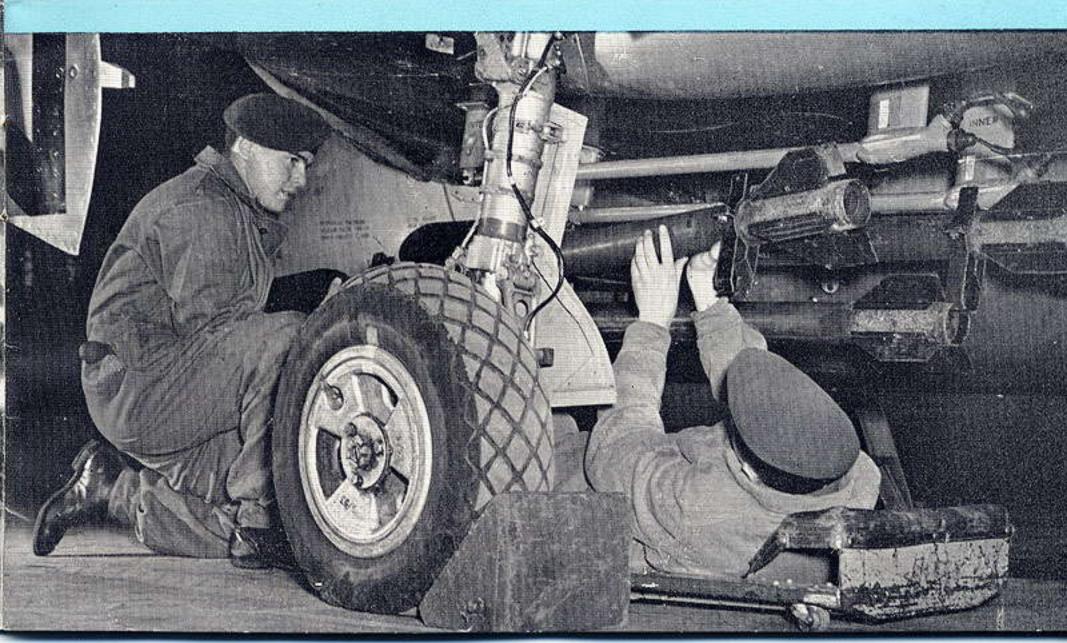
As the Royal Air Force is a fighting Service responsible for defending Great Britain, armaments are as important as the aircraft that carry them. Without them there would be no effective Air Force.

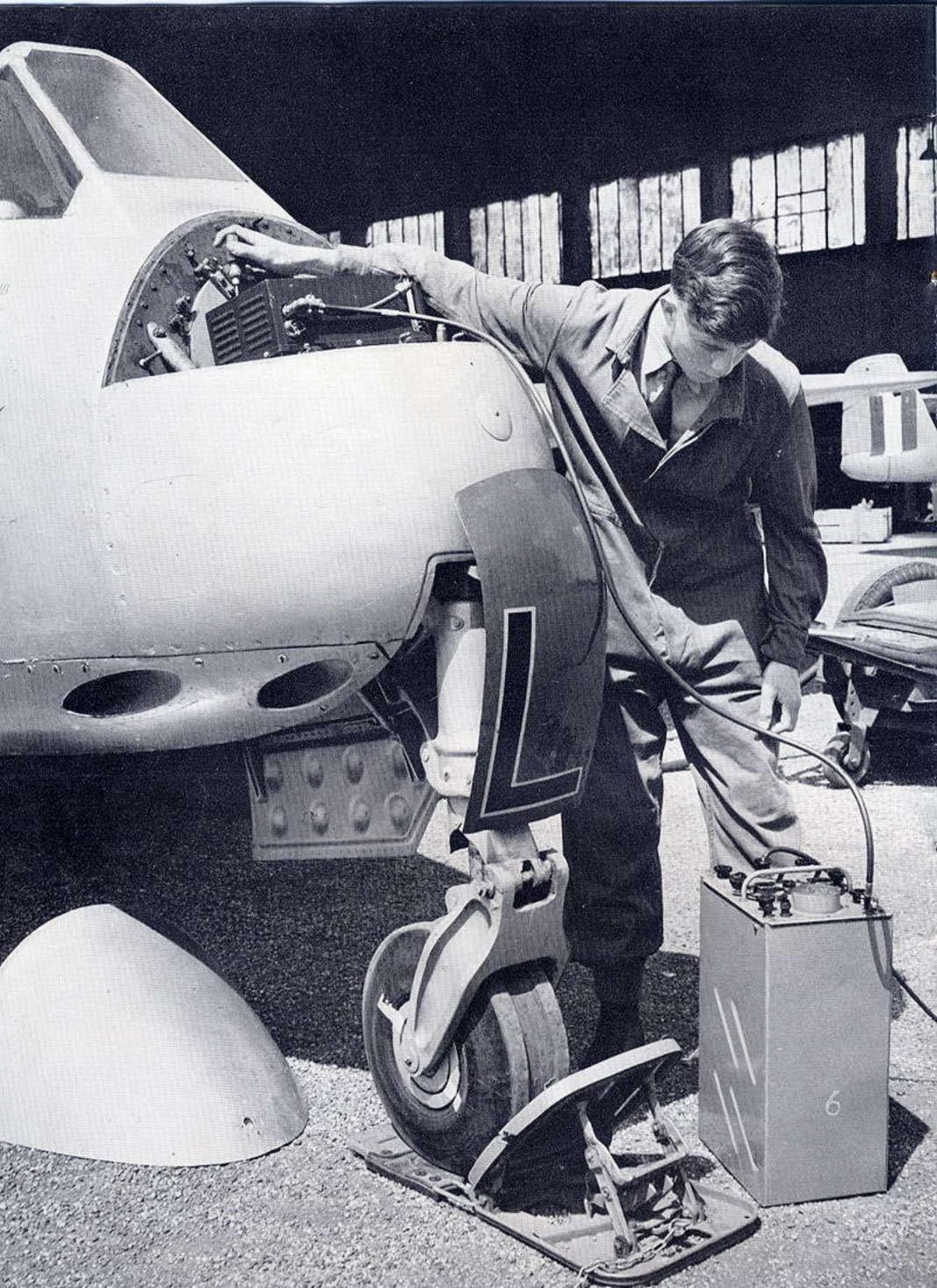
As an armament mechanic you would have a very important task to perform. Your training is on both guns and bombs, but you must also have knowledge of small arms, such as rifles and revolvers, which you will learn to clean and service.

As an armament mechanic you learn to install and service the guns in the aircraft, harmonise them with the gun-sights in the cockpit and turrets, and load them with ammunition. The new rocket projectiles and launching equipment would also be your responsibility.

You would learn to look after all the bomb gear except the actual bomb-sight which the instrument mechanic services. Bomb gear includes the apparatus for loading bombs into aircraft and the mechanism which releases them in the air. You would also look after the ejector seat which in an emergency throws the pilot clear of his aircraft enabling him to make a safe parachute descent.

◆ Servicing guns from jet fighters and (below) fitting rocket projectiles to an aircraft





RADIO ENGINEERING X

AIR WIRELESS MECHANIC · GROUND WIRELESS MECHANIC

AIR RADAR MECHANIC

RADAR AND WIRELESS plays a vital part in the defence of Britain and in everyday flying. It warns the R.A.F. of the approach of enemy aircraft, guides the pilot in bad weather and at night to his target and safely home again, and it makes possible precision bombing.

If you join as an air wireless mechanic, your task would be to repair and service the wireless equipment installed in aircraft and on which the pilot and air signaller depend for contact with flying control towers and other aircraft.

As a ground wireless mechanic you would be responsible for the servicing of the receivers and high-powered transmitters used for sending messages between ground stations.

If you were to train as an air radar mechanic, you would have the choice of several trades. You could learn to service the radar equipment used by fighters to track down enemy aircraft; or you could learn how to assist in looking after the complicated radar search equipment used in long-range reconnaissance aircraft such as the Shackleton; or if you preferred, you could learn to service the radar equipment used by the navigator of a bomber, such as a Valiant, Vulcan or Victor, to find his exact position in bad weather and at night over the sea and land.

← Checking the wireless equipment of a Vampire

Training to be an air wireless mechanic, a Boy Entrant checks the transmitter frequency on a radio altimeter





A time check on a bomb-release circuit

ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENT ENGINEERING

ELECTRICAL MECHANIC (AIR) · INSTRUMENT MECHANIC (GENERAL)

INSTRUMENT MECHANIC (NAVIGATION)

ELECTRICITY is used in aircraft for various purposes: to light the pilot's instrument panel, to work the radio systems and controls, to start the engines and in connection with bomb-release and gun-firing mechanisms.

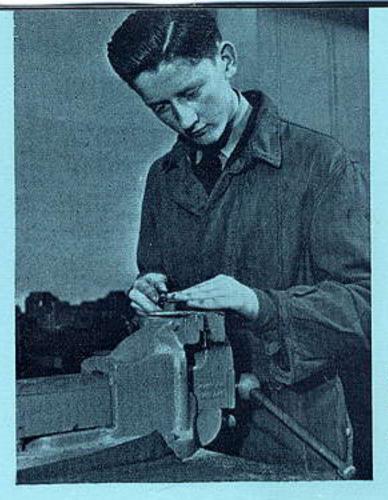
If you become an electrical mechanic (air) you will specialise in the testing of electrical equipment in aircraft, such as alternators, generators, aircraft power supplies and distribution, aircraft and armament electrical services.

As an instrument mechanic (general), you would learn to test and adjust, or replace, engine and flying instruments in aircraft, and to look after the oxygen system which enables the crew to breathe at high altitude. You may learn also to service watches, clocks, cameras and other precision instruments.

If, on the other hand, you were to join as an instrument mechanic (navigation) you would concentrate on the complex navigational and bomb-aiming instruments, such as bomb-sights, special compasses and the automatic pilot which relieves the pilot from manual flying over long distances.

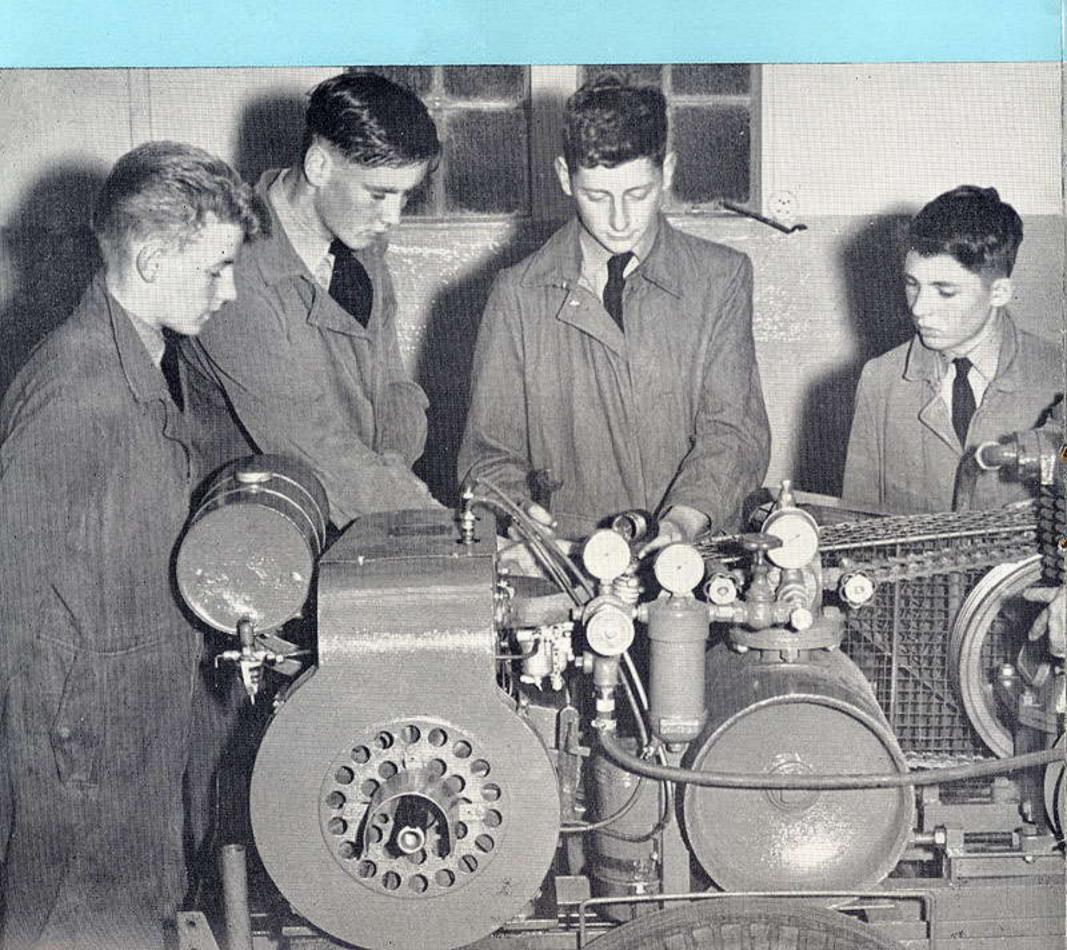
A Boy Entrant learning to be an instrument mechanic calibrates aircraft instruments with a pressure gauge





GENERAL

Boy Entrants receive a thorough grounding in workshop practice, starting with elementary bench work



ENGINEERING

GENERAL MECHANIC

THE GENERAL ENGINEERING trade group carries out a wide variety of tasks, including general fitting, machine-tool setting and operating, woodworking, metalworking, blacksmithing, welding and drawing office work.

Boys in the trade of general mechanic learn various skills within this field. You will be taught how to do simple sheet metalwork, turning and fitting



operations, and how to operate drilling, sawing and milling machines, power presses, buffing and sandblasting machines as well as how to perform simple grinding operations. As a general mechanic you will manufacture, repair and modify items of ground and domestic equipment, service ground internal combustion engines, pumps, compressors, aircraft ground servicing equipment, hydraulic test rigs and pressure refuelling equipment.

As a Boy Entrant you will receive, therefore, a thorough grounding in general workshop practice, and will learn to use precision measuring instruments and to interpret working drawings—a training which will be useful all your life.

Training to be general mechanics, Boy Entrants learn how to service a compressor



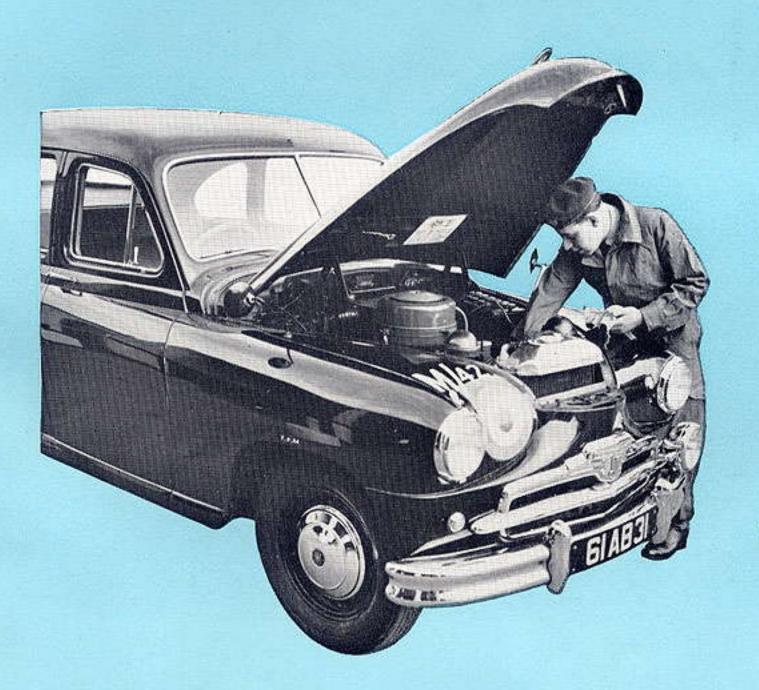
A Flight Sergeant explains the braking system of a Vanguard to boys who are training to be mechanical transport mechanics

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT

M.T. MECHANIC

THE MECHANICAL TRANSPORT trade group is responsible for the driving, maintenance, repair and overhaul of all mechanical transport vehicles used in the R.A.F. A large proportion of these are special vehicles connected with the operation of aircraft, such as tractors, towing vehicles, bowsers and portable airfield equipment.

Entering this trade as a Boy Entrant, you will learn to diagnose and rectify running faults, to carry out all aspects of minor servicing and to overhaul all types of vehicles. Your tasks will include the adjustment of steering assemblies, braking systems, carburettor and ignition systems, the servicing of wheels and tyres and carrying out preventive treatment for corrosion. You will learn also to assist in major component changing.





GROUND S

TELEGRAPHIST II

As R.A.F. UNITS are scattered all over Great Britain and in the far corners of the world, an efficient and fast telecommunications system is of vital importance. A large number of skilled tradesmen are needed to operate the wireless telegraphy and radio telephony systems, as well as the teleprinter and telephone networks.

Your chief duty as a telegraphist will be to operate the teleprinters which

The class receives a morse message sent by an N.C.O. instructor

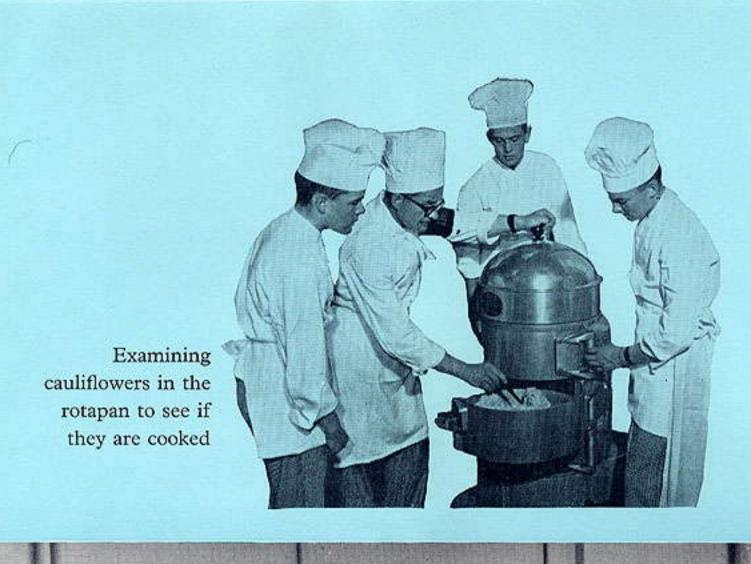


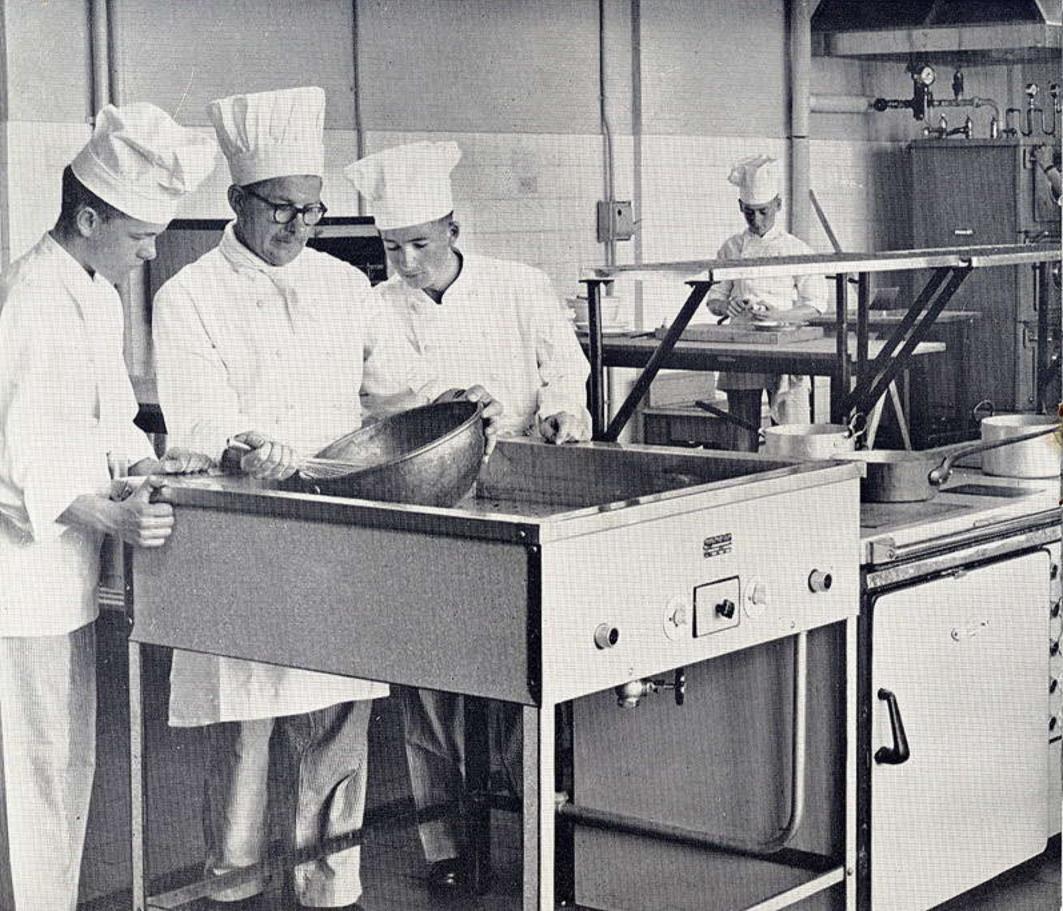
IGNALLING

send messages by landline and radio to units anywhere in Great Britain. You will also learn to receive and send messages in morse. These are transmitted by wireless between stations separated by long distances and between pilots of aircraft and flying control towers. Another job you will learn to do is to carry out first-line servicing of ground w.r. receivers and telegraph equipment and to install simple field-telephone systems.

Boys training to be telegraphists learn to operate a teleprinter







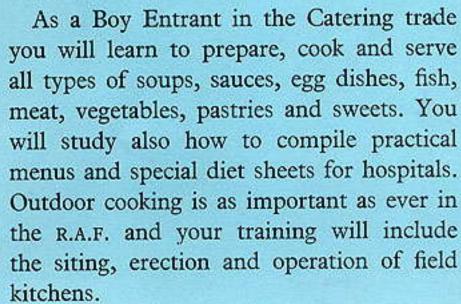
CATERING

COOKII

THE PROVISION of well-cooked nourishing food plays an important part in keeping men fit and working efficiently, and so the standard of catering in the R.A.F. is very high. The training of cooks is undertaken in modern kitchens fitted with the latest equipment. Service experience is accepted as approved trade experience in connection with City and Guilds of London Institute

examinations, which may be taken later if

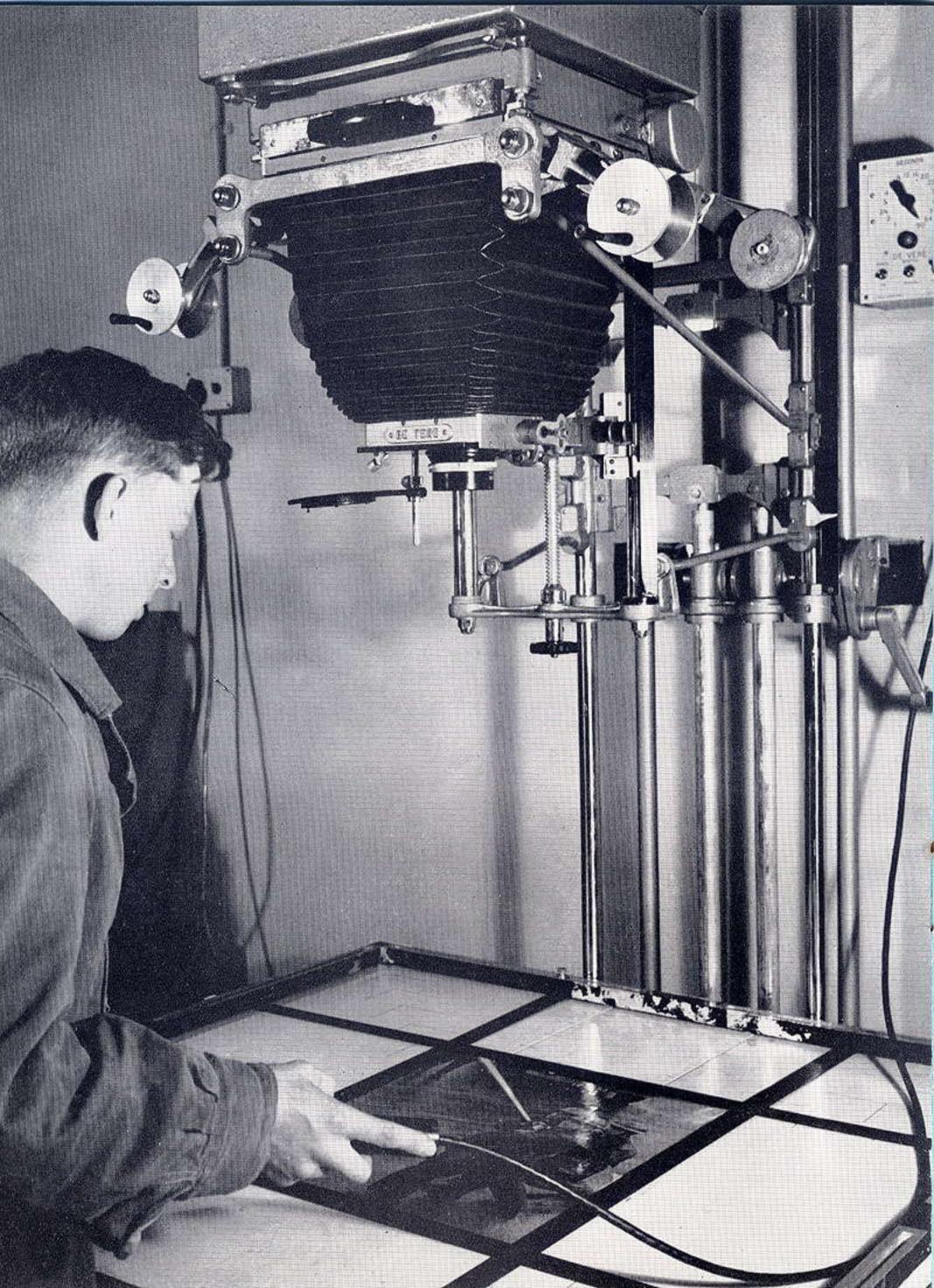
desired.



Boys can reach a high standard of proficiency in all branches of the culinary art, and even the chores are now being lightened by the introduction of washing-up and other modern machines.

An experienced cook demonstrates how to beat an Italian meringue





PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER II

Photography is used in the Royal Air Force for map-making, reconnaissance before an operation and afterwards to estimate the success of a mission. It is used also for training and other purposes.

Your duties as a photographer will be to carry out routine photographic processing and printing of air and ground films and to operate ground cameras using flash, flood or natural lighting. You will also be responsible for installing air cameras in aircraft and for servicing all kinds of cameras used in the Royal Air Force, together with their associated ancillary equipment. You may also be required to prepare photographic reconnaissance camera failure reports and to maintain records.



SUPPLY

SUPPLIER II

THE SUPPLY TRADE is responsible for obtaining, storing and distributing by land, sea and air, to R.A.F. stations all over the world some 800,000 items of equipment. These items vary from nuts and bolts to complete aircraft, and include clothing and domestic equipment. This trade also arranges for the movement of R.A.F. personnel and families from one R.A.F. station to another.

If you become a supplier in the R.A.F. you learn to maintain stock records, to undertake the skilled packing of all types of equipment and how to load transport aircraft scientifically. After your training, you may work at a large base depot, at a seaport in an Embarkation Unit, or in the Passenger and Freight Section of a Transport Command airfield.

Supply is one of the vital trades of the Royal Air Force—for it is an indispensable link in the chain of activities which keep the aircraft flying.

In the large picture on the right, Boy Entrants are shown by an instructor how to pack technical equipment and stores. The top picture shows boys learning how to locate stocks in the store-room by means of a card index system







ACCOUNTING

New entrants in the clerical trades learning to touch-type



AND SECRETARIAL

CLERK (ACCOUNTING) · CLERK (GENERAL DUTIES)

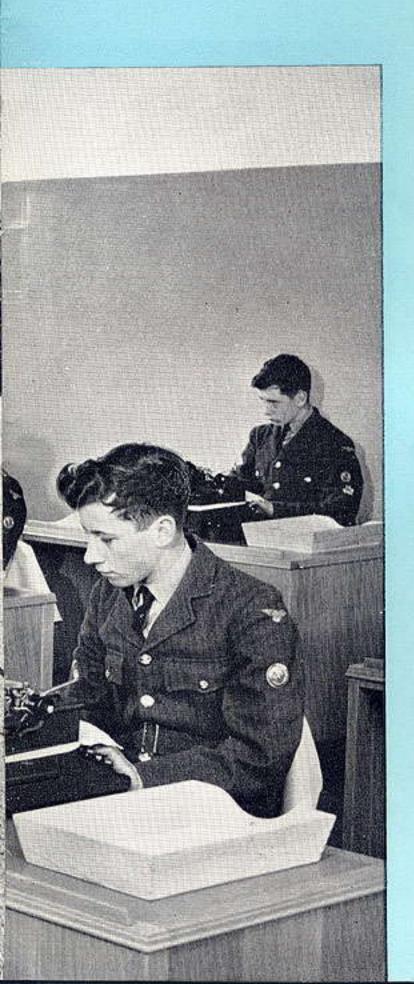
In any organisation as large and complex as the Royal Air Force whose activities extend to all parts of the world, there is bound to be a great deal of administrative work of all kinds.

If you choose to become a clerk (accounting), your work will be concerned with the preparation of airmen's pay and allowances, officers' allowances

accounts and civilian pay. You will learn the principles of book-keeping and P.A.Y.E. income tax, and how to use the latest office machinery.

If you prefer to be a clerk (general duties), you will have a wide variety of duties. These can include the keeping of officers' and airmen's personal records, the preparation of documents for courts of inquiry and courts martial, specialist work on statistics, maps, flying and technical records, and medical and hospital administration. In preparation for these duties, you are taught typewriting, the treatment of correspondence and files, and other office procedures.

Accounting and secretarial work in the R.A.F. differs from normal office work in the amount of outdoor activity and overseas life which is offered. Not every young man may wish to fly, but those with a liking for administration can in this trade group be associated closely with the adventure of flying and the stimulating life of the Royal Air Force.





Boys are encouraged to use their leisure hours in the way they like best At R.A.F. Cosford aircraft modelling is a favourite hobby



YOUR LIFE AS A BOY ENTRANT

Where and how you train

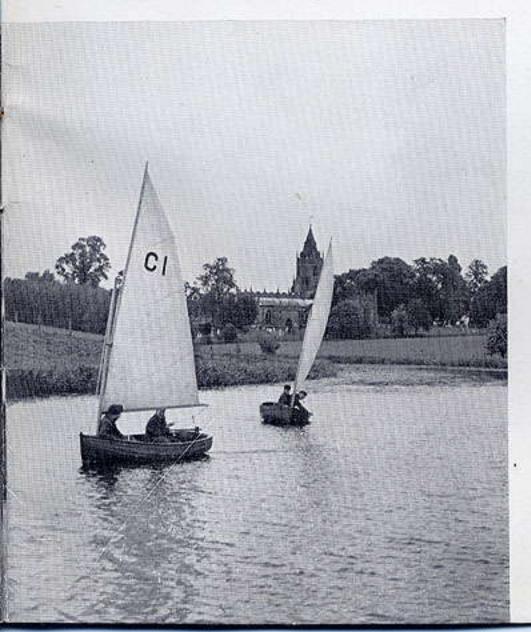
Boys training as mechanics in all engineering trades (except wireless and radar) go to R.A.F. St. Athan, Glamorgan, South Wales. Wireless and radar mechanics and all other tradesmen train at R.A.F. Cosford, Shropshire, near Wolverhampton. All Boy Entrant courses last 18 months.

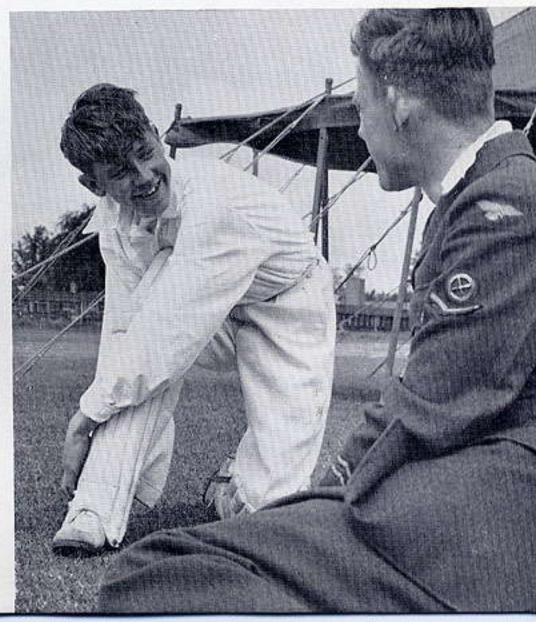
From the day you join you will learn to do things the way the crack R.A.F. tradesmen do them. Besides learning the theory and practice of your particular trade, you will learn about the organisation of the R.A.F. and its fine traditions. Every tradesman must also be a fighting member of the Service, so you will be taught fieldcraft, how to drill smartly and how to use a rifle. Your general education will continue too and you will attend classes in science appropriate to your trade, English, mathematics, geography, and current affairs. Later as an experienced technician you may serve overseas in some of the countries which you will have learnt about. If you are ambitious and want to get on you can take your G.C.E. examination while in the R.A.F.

Even if your work is not directly related to aircraft, all Boy Entrants have opportunities to gain air experience by flying as passengers in modern R.A.F. aircraft.

R.A.F. Cosford sailing club

Getting ready to bat





There's sport galore

ALL MEMBERS of the R.A.F. must keep very fit, so you will have plenty of opportunities to play all kinds of outdoor games. The Boys' Schools have extensive playing fields for football, rugby, cricket, tennis, hockey, and all forms of athletics. They have also an indoor swimming pool open all the year round and modern gymnasiums for physical training, boxing and indoor games.

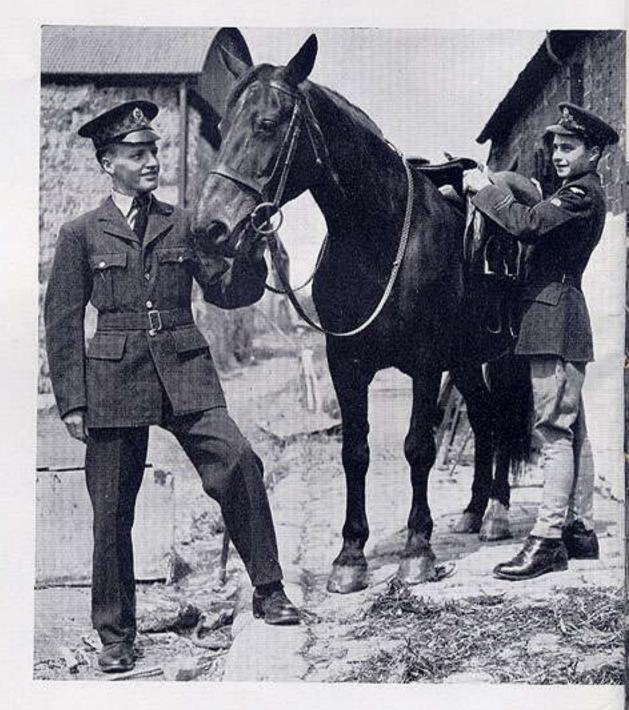
All the hobbies you want

Whatever your hobby or special interest you will almost certainly have a chance to enjoy it at a Boy Entrant School, whether it be aeromodelling, photography, woodwork, amateur dramatics, music, or even astronomy! Both Schools have excellent reference and lending libraries, and the latest films can be seen at the Station cinema at special prices.

At the N.A.A.F.I. Club you can play snooker, darts and table tennis, and there are comfortable reading, writing and television rooms, a canteen and a shop.

At both Boys' Schools there are churches for the main denominations and the Chaplains are always ready to help you with any personal worries or difficulties. Every Church has its own recreational club, too.

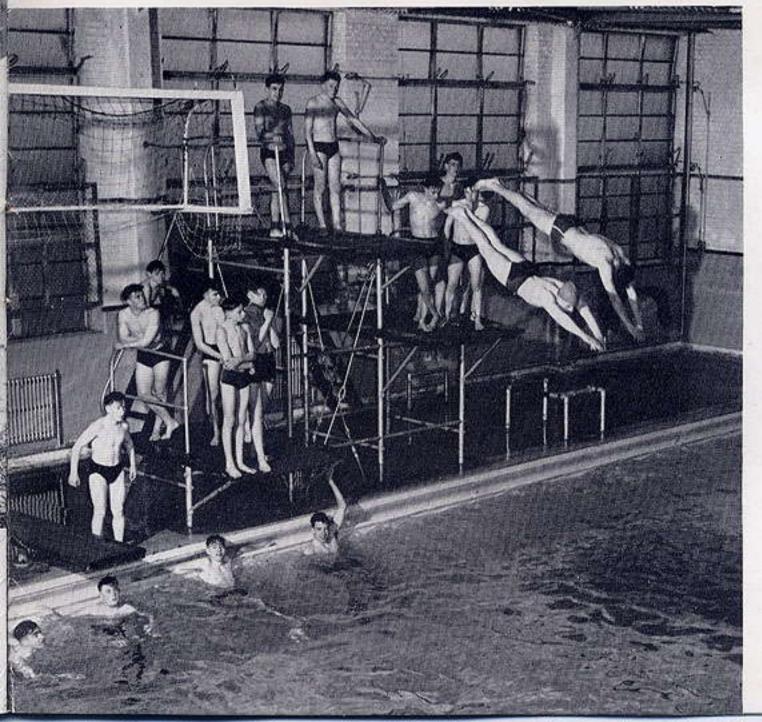
In short, at an R.A.F. Boy Entrant School you have a wonderful opportunity to take part in all sorts of activities that are not available to many boys in civilian life. You become much more than a tradesman, too. You become a key man in a fighting Service—Britain's first line of defence.



Boy Entrants are able to enjoy all kinds of sport



There are clubs to meet everyone's interest at Boy Entrant Schools. Here is an astronomy club, with the officer in charge



A plunge into the beautiful swimming pool at R.A.F. St. Athan, which is open all the year round

PAY AND PROSPECTS

Your pay as a Boy Entrant

DURING YOUR TRAINING you get paid at the rates given below. Your meals, accommodation and tuition are all free, so your pay is virtually pocket money.

| WHEN | | WEEKLY PAY | | | | |
|--|-----|------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| First year of training | | | | | | £ s. d. |
| Second year of training | *** | | *** | | | 1 18 6 |
| | 100 | | | | | 2 9 0 |
| On becoming 17 during training | | | | *** | 3 10 0 | |
| On qualifying under 17½ or on becoming 17½ during training | | | | | 6 2 6 | |

Kitting

You will require if posted to a tropical zone. After your initial free issue, you have to maintain your kit to a serviceable standard for which you will receive a clothing allowance. Sports kit is also provided. Special protective clothing for tradesmen who need it is also issued free.

Your career in the Royal Air Force

A BOY ENTRANT can make the R.A.F. his permanent career. You can stay in the Service until you leave with a pension and a substantial cash grant at the age of 55. Alternatively you may leave after 12 years' regular service (this counts from your 18th birthday), or after 9 years' regular service followed by 3 years in the Reserve. If you leave before pensionable age, your R.A.F. trade experience will stand you in good stead as a civilian, and will qualify you for trade union membership.

Your prospects of promotion

On COMPLETION of your Boy Entrant training, you will become a Leading Aircraftman, and after about 6 months' practical experience on a R.A.F. station, you

will be promoted to Senior Aircraftman, if your work is satisfactory. Outstanding boys may be selected during Boy Entrant training for an Apprenticeship, after which they qualify as Junior Technicians. Others who show sufficient ability on the job can take advanced training later to become Junior Technicians.

Further promotion may be in the Command (N.C.O.) ranks or in the Technician ranks according to whether your technical skill or your leadership qualities are the greater. The diagram on the inside back cover shows how you can progress.

Most Boy Entrants stand a very good chance of reaching at least noncommissioned officer rank. Exceptionally talented boys may become commissioned officers.

Your pay as a qualified tradesman

AFTER YOUR TRAINING you will get paid at the maximum rates payable to regular ground tradesmen. The precise amount will vary according to your trade, rank and the allowances to which you are entitled (i.e. whether you are married, etc.). The following table will give you some idea of the weekly pay you can expect in each rank:

| | SINGL | E MAN | MARRIED MAN * | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| RANK | Skilled trades | Advanced† trades | Skilled trades | Advanced† trades | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | |
| Leading Aircraftman | 7 0 0 | | 9 16 0 | _ | |
| Senior Aircraftman | 7 14 0 | _ | 10 10 0 | _ | |
| Junior Technician | _ | 8 18 6 | - | 11 14 6 | |
| Corporal | 8 15 0 | 9 19 6 | 11 11 0 | 12 15 6 | |
| Corporal Technician | _ | 10 10 0 | | 13 6 0 | |
| Sergeant/Senior Technician | 10 10 0 | 11 18 0 | 13 16 6 | 15 4 6 | |
| Flight Sergeant/ Chief Technician | 11 11 0 | 12 19 0 | 15 1 0 | 16 9 0 | |
| Warrant Officer/ Master Technician | 12 15 6 | 14 3 6 | 16 19 6 | 18 7 6 | |

^{*} The rates shown are those payable to airmen, in married quarters, or married and under 21 years of age. An extra £1 1s. 0d. per week is payable to married airmen of 21 or over who are living out.

[†] These rates refer to tradesmen in aircraft engineering, armament, radio, electrical and instrument engineering trade groups only. Tradesmen in other advanced trades get 10s. 6d. less a week.

In addition, increments of pay are granted at the following rates after completion of 12 years' reckonable service after the age of 18:

Corporals and Corporal Technicians ... 14s. 0d. a week

Sergeants, Senior Technicians, Flight
Sergeants and Chief Technicians ... £1 4s. 6d. a week

Warrant Officers and Master
Technicians £1 11s. 6d. a week

Increments for length of service in particular ranks are also paid as follows:

Flight Sergeants and Chief Technicians 7s. 0d. per week for each 4 years in the rank

Warrant Officers and Master 10s. 6d. per week for each 4 years in the rank

How to become a Boy Entrant

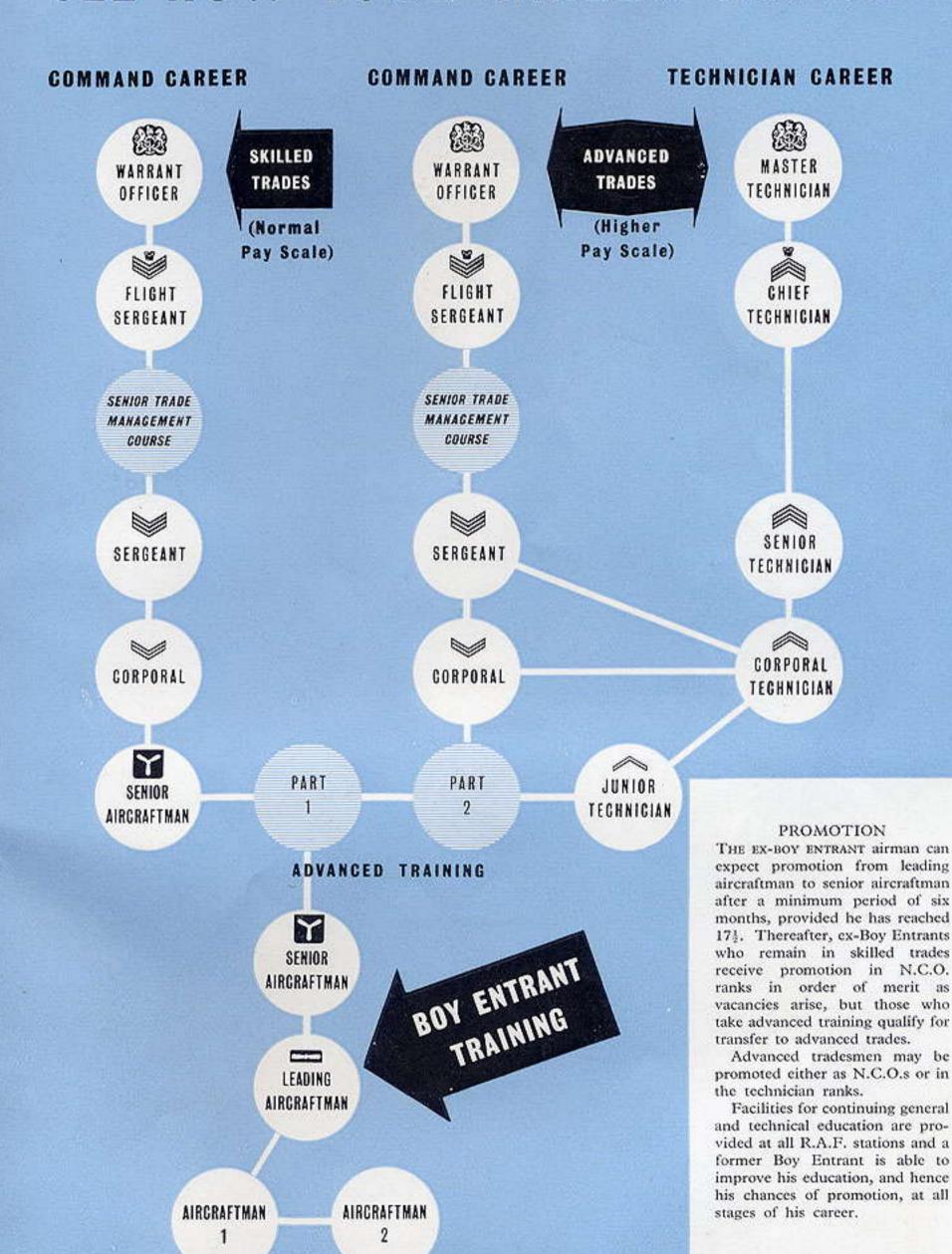
Any British boy between the ages of 15½ and 16½ (in exceptional cases 15–17), who is physically fit, can become a Boy Entrant provided he shows in aptitude tests that he can benefit from the training. There is no formal entrance examination for Boy Entrants, but candidates are given simple arithmetic and English tests when called up for interview.

There are three entries each year—in January, May and September. Completed application forms must be returned to Air Ministry before 1st October, 1st February or 1st June respectively. The application forms and full details of conditions of service and how to apply can be obtained from your local R.A.F. Recruiting Centre, the address of which is on the back page, or by writing to the address below.

R.A.F. CENTRAL RECRUITING OFFICE VICTORY HOUSE, LONDON, W.C.2

An inquiry places you under no obligation

SEE HOW YOUR CAREER GROWS



CENTRES

| ABERDEEN | 52 Bridge Street. 28606 | LEEDS | 54 Cookridge Street. 32914/5 | | |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| BELFAST | 75/81 Victoria Street, 1. 33011 and 33012 | LEICESTER | 36 London Road. 24940 | | |
| BIRMINGHAM | la Albert Street. Cent. 1843/4 | LINCOLN | 36 Broadgate. 28191 Pownall Square, Pall Mall. Cent. 7281 | | |
| BLACKHEATH | 21 Lee Road, S.E.3. Lee Green 1603 | LIVERPOOL | | | |
| | 114/118 Holdenhurst Road. | Tarran | The state of the s | | |
| BOURNEMOUT | 26201, Ext. 10 | LONDON | Victory House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Tem. 1215, Ext. 4036 | | |
| BRADFORD | 11/17 Barry Street. 20987 | MANCHESTER | Hardy's Buildings, 3 Cateaton Street. | | |
| BRIGHTON | 56 West Street. 24732 | article (State of State of Sta | Deansgate 6055/6 | | |
| BRISTOL | Esso Building, 35/37 Colston Avenue. 94051 | MIDDLES- BROUGH | 75 Grange Road. 43026 | | |
| CAMBRIDGE | 19/20 Market Street. 58271/2 | NEWCASTLE | R.A.F. Longbenton. 661024 | | |
| CARDIFF | 12 Frederick Street. 27626 | NORWICH NOR 68 K | Martineau Hall, Colegate. 24670, Ext. 2 | | |
| CARLISLE | 9 The Crescent. 23359 | NOTTINGHAM | 120 Derby Road. 46407/8 | | |
| CHATHAM | 68 High Street. 45285 | OXFORD | Government Buildings, Marston Road. | | |
| COVENTRY | 37 The Precinct. 61393/4 | | 48041, Ext. 167/172 | | |
| CROYDON | 12 London Road, West Croydon. Municipal 1061/62 | PLYMOUTH | Prudential Buildings, Armada Way. 64572 | | |
| DERBY | 6 The Strand. 47955 | *PORTSMOUTH | Ministry of Labour Buildings, Lake Road. 22752 | | |
| DUNDER | 44 King's Road. 3191 | PRESTON | 121 Church Street. 56500 | | |
| EALING | 25 Haven Green, Ealing Broadway, W.5. Perivale 8822/3 | READING | 23a Queen Victoria Street. 50650 | | |
| EDINBURGH | 21 Hanover Street. Caledonian 3114/5 | SHEFFIELD | 70 Cambridge Street, Moorhead. 23301/2 | | |
| EXETER | 38 Bedford Street. 54204 | SOUTHAMPTON | 16 Archers Road. 25239 | | |
| GLASGOW | 12 Princes Square, off Buchanan Street, C.1. Gent. 4852/3 | SURBITON | 19 Upper Brighton Road. Elmbridge 0016 | | |
| HULL | P.O. Buildings, Jameson Street. 15903 | SWANSEA | Llanfair Building, St. Mary's Square. 55643 | | |
| ILFORD | 97 Ilford Lane. 3866 | WOLVER- | 36/40 Broad Street. 24104 | | |
| INVERNESS | 23a High Street. 1518 | HAMPTON | | | |
| IPSWICH | 8 Tavern Street. 56474/5 | WORGESTER, | 2 Bath Road. 24683 | | |
| | | *WORKINGTON | South William Street. 759 | | |
| * Inquiry Office | only | WREXHAM | 16 Bridge Street. 3554 | | |

*Inquiry Office only.

Royal Air Force

BOYENTRANTS