

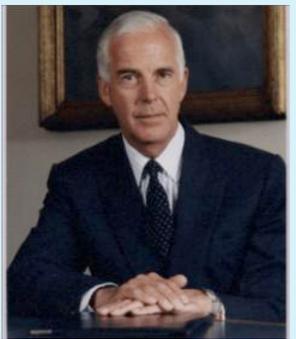
# RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

## Jack Holt



*The Jack Holt Memorial Award is for the SNCO engaged in Initial Officer Training who has by instruction and personal example done most to instil into the cadets the qualities needed of an officer in the RAF, the nominees are assessed for instructional skills, personal standards, extracurricular activities directly linked to Initial Officer Training and personal standing and influence with the cadet body.*

# Mr J Holt - Forward from the CA President



In May 1952, shortly before the graduation of No 56 (Flight Cadet) Entry, Sergeant Jack Holt was posted to the RAF College Cranwell. He was a large and imposing Yorkshireman, whose bearing and manner were such that in a short time he was given the acting rank of Flight Sergeant and moved to C Squadron.

In 1955, he was moved across the road to the Junior Entries where entrants up to 70 strong were introduced to military discipline and drill as the first steps in their three year officer training at the College. This introductory period was purposefully tough, and drill was unrelenting. Flight Sergeant Holt expected the highest standards; his commanding voice and his withering asides to miscreants were unforgettable characteristics. He was both feared and respected and as the months went by increasingly admired. The pace-stick he carried and used for maximum effect became an emblem for the man.

Five Junior Entries passed through his hands during the period 1955 to late 1957 before he crossed the road again to C Squadron where he set the standards for the Cadet Wing, until returning to the wider RAF in 1962. His 9 years at the College saw a generation of cadets pass through his hands, the creation of a legend and the award of the BEM. He had a further glittering career as Station Warrant Officer at a number of Stations, adding to his legendary status in the Service, and he retired after 36 years in 1982. He died barely a year later at the early age of 59.

Jack Holt epitomised all that is best in the SNCO cadre of the Royal Air Force and, in 2000, it was determined to commemorate the man and all he stood for by creating the Jack Holt Memorial Award. A Memorial Plaque was also installed under the window of what was his Orderly Room in C Wing overlooking the parade ground in Yorkshire stone. It reads:

**JACK HOLT MBE BEM  
CADET WING FLIGHT SERGEANT 1952-1961  
REVERED BY  
FLIGHT CADETS OF THAT ERA**

The Jack Holt Memorial Award – an emblematic pace-stick - is presented each year to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) engaged in Initial Officer training, considered by the College to have done most to induce in the cadets the qualities needed in an officer in the Royal Air Force. The award was made first in 2002 and has been awarded annually thereafter, usually now at the final rehearsal prior to the Graduation Parade. The reports which follow (Slide 6 onwards) of the awarding of the pace stick show that the quality of the RAF SNCO cadre lives on today.

This short piece about Jack Holt is also reproduced in the Prizes & Awards section of the CA website. The Jack Holt Memorial Award and its incorporation into College tradition arises from the energy and initiative shown by 76 Entry with Peter Symes playing a major role in its co-ordination.

# **2002 Inauguration Ceremony - Jack Holt Memorial Award**

**Awaiting source material from the RAF College Archive**



# 1982 College Journal Extract - Mr J Holt

## OBITUARY

(Reproduced to overcome legibility issues with the original source document)

### Mr J Holt MBE, BEM

Those who were at the College in the 1950s will be saddened to hear of the recent death at the early age of 59 of one of Cranwell's most legendary characters - Flight Sergeant (latterly Warrant Officer) Jack Holt. Perhaps in the whole history of Cranwell, no member of its staff at any level has been so vividly remembered. Many a current Station Commander would have sprung automatically to attention if he heard the scream of "Mr Murgatroyd"!! (if that was his name) uttered in the unique parade ground voice of Jack Holt.

Jack, who alternated between C Squadron and the Junior Entries for the 9 years following his arrival in 1952 as a 28 year old Corporal/Acting Flight Sergeant, was entirely in a class of his own as a drill instructor, so far ahead of any rival that I have never seen his standards approached. No one could look the part better - just above average height, immaculate in uniform, fierce in aspect, his dominating ginger moustache irreverently immortalised in his nickname "Bogbrush". His orders were awe-inspiring, his domination of a squad of up to 70 Cadets at a time total, his correction of the minutest error of detail unerring, his grasp of humorous metaphor brilliant.

Yet Jack was more than a mere drill instructor. He was in his element in Junior Entries; it was he who decided and imposed the required standards of turnout and discipline. Indeed, he decided the minutiae of the Junior Cadets' lives. He made up and typed the daily orders, carried out the inspections - even ordained when cricket matches were to be played between the Junior Entry and the Sergeants' Mess. Perhaps the most important lesson he ever taught was that the highest standards can only be achieved in any activity by total effort. He gave - and got - total effort. He retired to his native Yorkshire after over 36 years service, with the MBE and the BEM, only last year.

He was, in a metaphor that those of the Cranwell generation he trained will understand, the Don Bradman of RAF NCOs: there were many other excellent individuals but he stood so far above all of them that he was completely in a class of his own. He will be much missed.

# 2006 College Journal - Jack Holt Memorial Award

## THE JACK HOLT MEMORIAL AWARD

*By Sqn Ldr Peter Symes RAF Retd*

In 2005 Flight Sergeant Rick Chapman was judged to meet the criteria for the award of the Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick and cited as:

"The Senior Non Commissioned Officer engaged in Initial Officer Training who has by instruction and personal example done most to instil in the cadets the qualities needed of an Officer in the Royal Air Force. The nominees are assessed for instructor skills, personal standards, extra-curricular activity directly linked to Initial Officer Training and personal standing and influence with the cadet body".

He is shown being presented with the memorial pace stick at the Church Parade during the Old Cranwellian Association Reunion Weekend by Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Kennedy of No 46(Flight Cadet) Entry and President of the Association.



The last report was of the inauguration of the Award in 2002 so with this fourth presentation the time is ripe for an update on the progress of the scheme.

In the interests of continuity and security in the longer term the planning committee headed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon of No 76 (Flight Cadet) Entry has handed over to the Old Cranwellian Association Committee the ongoing administration of the award scheme and custody of the fund. That is now a Reserve Account within the Association's assets and on its balance sheet as at 31 December 2004 it stood at £1367: the sum remaining after inauguration and subsequent presentation costs, including the bulk purchase at discount of pace sticks (of which two remain in stock), derived from 132 donations totalling £2466.

Following a reunion of the 76th in 2004 to mark the 45th anniversary of their graduation, Jeremy Price asked the 21 who mustered to subscribe money to the Fund as consideration for his production of copies of a group photograph and with £300 thus induced he went on to suggest a formal record of the Awards. The proposal was enthusiastically endorsed at the Association's AGM and a Jack Holt Memorial Award Book has been produced jointly with the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit. It will accordingly be on display in the foyer of the Unit's Headquarters day to day but transferred to the Rotunda during the Association's Reunion Weekends.

Such an eponymous record necessitates a photographic preface too but surprisingly an "at camera" picture of Jack

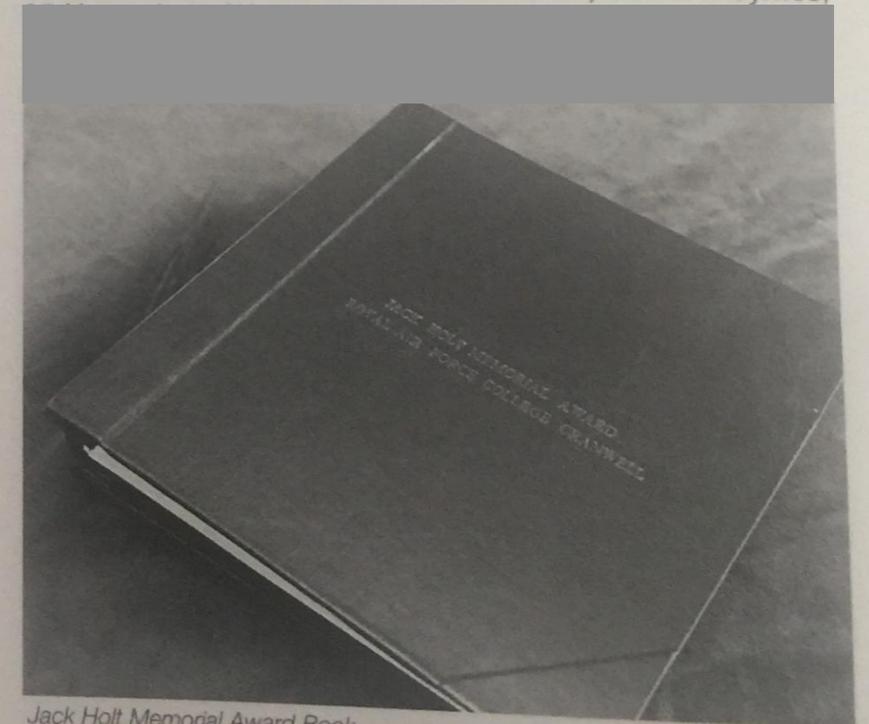
Holt, up close and on his own, has so far been impossible to find. The College archives have been thoroughly searched but surely Mrs Holt has an album many have asked? She does indeed but it was not until some 10 years after his time at the College that they were married and her photographs are of them together in social settings. On all three counts he therefore lacks that lean and hungry look which for so many of was so motivating and so memorable! Therefore the Book opens provisionally on a computerised enhancement, through the invaluable agency of Mary Guy the College Librarian cum Archivist, of a small illustration in the College Journal of him sledge hammering the opening from C into the D Wing extension in May 1960. One would hardly approach The Brush to say "cheese" except perhaps when in the Senior Entry. So if anyone in Nos 56 to 84 (Flight Cadet) Entries in C Squadron in particular, has a fairly close up photograph solely of him, it would be greatly appreciated to evaluate alongside the couple which John Hawtin of No 65 (Flight Cadet) Entry has kindly isolated by computer from informal group shots and sent from Canada.



As to the near future, only Senior Non-Commissioned Officers in the RAF Regiment have been eligible for the Award so far on account of the establishment of OACTU. However, the restructuring of the Flight System to include Flight Sergeants from any trade as Deputy Flight Commanders has opened up the field to the entire spectrum of the RAF. This is an exciting new development and is part of a major reorganisation of how we deliver Initial Officer Training.

Beyond that, the scheme as a whole will be reviewed in 2007, five years after inauguration and, from the point of view of the 76th, in the year of the 50th anniversary of their being introduced to the Royal Air Force by one Flight Sergeant Jack Holt.

(Please send any photographs, or even further donations (payable to the Old Cranwellian Association) to: Peter Symes,



*Jack Holt Memorial Award Book*

# March 2007 - Jack Holt Memorial Award Winner

## JACK HOLT MEMORIAL AWARD

*by Squadron Leader George Formby, Officer Commanding Military Skills Squadron OACTU*

Sergeant Gareth Burton was posted to the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit where his outstanding qualities ensured he was an exceptional asset during the transition to the new Initial Officer Training course. Specially chosen to be an acting Flight Sergeant on C Squadron, he proved to be a highly professional SNCO developing an exemplary working relationship with the Squadron officers and cadets alike.

During the busy transition as the new IOT course was implemented, he was instrumental in ensuring that all drill and ceremonial training was delivered in accordance with the exacting standards demanded by the College Warrant Officer. Additionally, he successfully ensured that the department's new drill instructors all mastered the intricacies of the College drill programme very efficiently. An inspirational role model for young junior officers, he would frequently give up his time at weekends to support the training to ensure that the high standards of the RAF were maintained.

Sergeant Burton has also carried out an exceptional amount of fundraising activities. As the principal charities representative within Military Skills Squadron, he was responsible for several charity projects and also organised a charity all ranks social event for each IOT Squadron through the year. In



*Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Kennedy presenting the Jack Holt Memorial Award to Sergeant Gareth Burton*

addition, he also represented RAFA at the London Marathon raising a significant amount of money. Sergeant Burton is a truly outstanding SNCO who exemplifies all the traits that OACTU aims to instil in its potential junior officers whilst demonstrating an outstanding level of commitment and enthusiasm for his duties at the RAF College. In recognition of his qualities Sergeant Burton was awarded the 2006 Jack Holt Memorial Award for the best performing Regiment SNCO at the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit.

# March 2011 - Jack Holt Memorial Award Winner

## The Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick for 2010

*The Jack Holt Memorial Award is for the SNCO engaged in Initial Officer Training who has by instruction and personal example done most to instil into the cadets the qualities needed of an officer in the RAF, the nominees are assessed for instructional skills, personal standards, extracurricular activities directly linked to Initial Officer Training and personal standing and influence with the cadet body.*

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The Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick for 2010 is awarded to:

### **Flight Sergeant Dean Betts**

Flight Sergeant Betts' experience and effectiveness as a Dep Flt Cdr has been exemplary. His enthusiasm and innovation naturally inspire the cadets to embrace the importance of personal bearing, dress and most importantly command example. Detailed knowledge of RAF Ceremonial procedures has made him a centre of gravity for the delivery of the high level of drill standards achieved on many important official occasions, such as an extremely successful Queens Review. Cadets speak of his outstanding professionalism and fairness which is supported by a sense of infectious enjoyment and enthusiasm that encourages his students to always strive 'to be the best'.

He is extremely proactive with an abundance of capacity; examples include the setting up of the Cranwell Sprint Triathlon series over the last 2 years. Additionally, he instigated the 'inter Sqn dash challenge', that is conducted every 10 weeks and in aid of an OACTU charity. His resolute instilment of ethos and camaraderie across the entire cadet body, through competition and challenge, epitomizes the tenacity and fighting spirit we require from our current and future leaders of the Royal Air Force. A remarkable individual who is a real asset to the Royal Air Force College and indeed to the wider Royal Air Force; beyond doubt, a worthy recipient of the Jack Holt Memorial award.

*Flight Sergeant Dean Betts receives the Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick from Sir Jock Kennedy*



# May 2012 - Jack Holt Memorial Award Winner

## The Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick For 2011

*The Jack Holt Memorial Award is for the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) engaged in Initial Officer Training who has, by instruction and personal example, done most to instil into the cadets the qualities needed of an officer in the Royal Air Force. The nominees are assessed for instructional skills, personal standards, extracurricular activities directly linked to Initial Officer Training and personal standing and influence across the entire officer cadet body.*

The Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick for 2011 is awarded to:

### Flight Sergeant Eddie Partyka

Flight Sergeant Partyka's experience and effectiveness as a Deputy Flight Commander has been outstanding, particularly during a period of unprecedented surge in course numbers. His commitment and professionalism is of the highest standard, always motivating others - cadets and staff, alike - to 'be the best'. Flight Sergeant Partyka is selflessly committed to his work, running back-to-back courses from Main Squadron to Remedial Training. Despite this he continuously volunteers for additional duties, such as No 1 Mess House Member, introducing initiatives that have directly enhanced the quality of life for cadets during their first term of training. Flight Sergeant Partyka has utilised his glass engraving, photography and video editing skills to produce trophies

and memorabilia that have influenced the ethos and camaraderie of the cadets across OACTU. He has demonstrated excellence on C Squadron, quickly becoming the 'senior Flight Sergeant' and, on Delta Flight, greatly assisting failed cadets in achieving success through his highly effective coaching and mentoring skills. As a result he has been selected to mentor the new Flight Sergeants for the first term of the next Initial Officer Training Course. Flight Sergeant Partyka is an exemplary role model to cadets and the other OACTU staff, naturally inspiring a new generation of junior officers and instilling them with the highest sense of excellence, ethos and camaraderie.

*Flight Sergeant Eddie Partyka receives the Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick from Sir Jock Kennedy.*



# May 2013 - Jack Holt Memorial Award Winner

## The Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick 2012

*The Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick is awarded annually, to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) engaged in Initial Officer Training (IOT) who has, by instruction and personal example, done the most to instil into the cadets the qualities required of an Officer in the Royal Air Force. The nominees are assessed for instructional skills, personal standards, extracurricular activities directly linked to IOT, and personal standing and influence across the entire cadet cadre.*

Flight Sergeant Richard Bromell has been a consistent and trusted stalwart to B Sqn, Officer & Aircrew Cadet Training Unit (OACTU) and the Royal Air Force during the 3 years he has been in post. He has served variously as Deputy Flight Commander and Squadron Flight Sergeant, in support of cadets at IOT. He is meticulous with his conduct and appearance, and has become the epitome of how cadets should conduct themselves in striving for the excellence the RAF demands from its entire staff.

Not only has Flight Sergeant Bromell acted as the Squadron Flight Sergeant, he also regularly assists the College Warrant Officer with the varying and lengthy drill parades and practices, normally in preparation for upcoming cadet ceremonial duties that belie RAFC Cranwell. In addition, Flight Sergeant Bromell is not averse to aiding the Force Protection Training Squadron when they have staffing issues or require his expertise. He does not consider time nor weather as a constraint to anything he undertakes; he invests his personal time coaching cadets in all conditions, where their course programme allows, thus enabling maximum learning opportunity. Furthermore, on matters such as

dress and deportment, standards and officer qualities, he excels when imparting the Ethos and Core Values that are synonymous to IOT.

His dedication to the Service is second to none, as he constantly strives to increase his situational awareness of the Royal Air Force and Force Protection matters – this ensures leadership exercises are relevant and realistic; he even role-plays when required. These regular selfless acts amplify self-efficacy, and demonstrate his drive to allow cadets a balanced transition to officer life in the Royal Air Force. His peers utilise his wealth of service knowledge as a sounding board when they need to resolve a policy issue, or require a succinct but factual answer. His firm but fair traits ensure he is also a valued role model to OACTU staff, and all who interact with him.

To conclude, Flight Sergeant Bromell is a diligent SNCO who always puts the cadets' needs first; he develops and challenges them where possible and uses every opportunity to ensure they are fully prepared for service life by imparting his experience where appropriate. He fully deserves his plaudits, and the award of the Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick.

*Flight Sergeant Richard Bromell receives the Jack Holt Memorial Pace Stick from Sir Jock Kennedy.*



# August 2016 - Jack Holt Memorial Award Winner

## JACK HOLT MEMORIAL TROPHY

Winner - Flight Sergeant Philip Holt

Flight Sergeant Philip Holt joined the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit in September 2012 as Flight Sergeant Training Support Flight but was quickly re-tasked as a Deputy Flight Commander on C Flight, C Squadron. During his time on the Squadron he demonstrated outstanding commitment, professionalism and personal standards and, as a result, he was selected for the role of Flight Sergeant Standards in Training Development Squadron. The role is extremely challenging; the incumbent is the gatekeeper of the department's training standards and is responsible for maintaining the integrity of training delivery, providing underpinning instructor support and ensuring compliance with the Defence Systems Approach to Training Quality Standard. Holt met the challenges of the post head on and quickly proved to be an exceptionally worthy incumbent. He was extremely proactive in ensuring his formal qualification as a Defence Trainer Supervisor to supplement his already robust credibility as an experienced and extremely competent instructor; moreover he used his enhanced skills and knowledge to develop departmental policies, procedures, documentation and support mechanisms in line with training best practice. His reputation as a firm but fair instructor, an outstanding SNCO and an individual with an iron integrity has stood him in good stead for the role but he has also worked hard to remove barriers to learning, building extremely effective working relationships with staff at all levels of the command chain and evolving the assurance process from simply a checks and balances approach to one of development and support. Out with his formal training assurance role, Holt regularly volunteers to provide peer mentoring and informal support to his fellow instructors and is viewed by his colleagues as the senior instructor, a hard earned but incredibly worthy

status to have. Holt is currently also acting as Officer Commanding Assurance and Governance Flight, a post which has been gapped for a considerable period, and is doing his utmost to fulfil the responsibilities of a flight of four, a clear indication of his capacity, ability and commitment. Furthermore, as a result of his unquestionable standing in the department and his irreproachable standards, he operates as the Deputy College Warrant Officer, the most senior non-commissioned officer in the department, and subsequently holds a substantial degree of gravitas and influence even beyond that of his primary role. Out with the department, Holt is also responsible for an Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit accommodation block, working tirelessly to maintain and improve the standard of living accommodation provided to our Officer Cadets, and is Deputy Officer in Charge of both the Royal Air Force Cranwell Cycling and Triathlon clubs, competing in associated sporting events in his own time. Flight Sergeant Holt's worth to the department is immense. His professional abilities, personal standards and commitment to the Service combine to make him the epitome of a Royal Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and the absolute essence of our instructor cadre, and he is therefore highly recommended for the Jack Holt Memorial Trophy.

