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I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous on my first day, I'm sat in a room full of people I don't know about to do sport I have absolutely no experience in. However, by the next day my previous expectations were completely blown out the water. The first launch was exhilarating, in what seemed like a matter of seconds I'd gone from being stationary on the ground to soaring in the sky over hundreds of feet. My first instructor Ken was very patient and helped me gain a deeper understanding of the physics behind gliding. I soon realised that gliding is not actually just about the flying itself but also about the necessary teamwork behind the scenes. We were placed in syndicates for the week, these were people we had to rely on to maintain our glider.



My cohort was lucky to stay in Middle Wallop's Army Base which gave an interesting insight into the military lifestyle. Sleeping in bed bunks to having our breakfast and dinner every day in the officer's mess was something I'll never forget. For me a highlight of the scholarship had to be the guest speakers we had come talk to us throughout the week. From a typhoon pilot to David Durston the chairman of Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club, we had so many willing guests give up their time to further educate about both careers in aviation and the military.

The people I met made a lasting impression on me, the opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded people who share an interest in aviation was invaluable. The laughs I had during the week made my experience 10 x better.

If I had to choose a favourite moment it had to be the aerobatics I was fortunate to do with my instructor and gliding over



Salisbury Cathedral on a cloudless summer's day. I am forever grateful for this opportunity that HCAP and the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club gave me.