

From: Ian Gill
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2020 4:32 PM
To: Paul Asbury

(Other addressees have been removed for their privacy.)

Subject: OCS Acceptance Letter 30 Nov 1966

Paul,

Here it is mate.....browned and creased (I did actually iron it for today's scanning). Hope it is OK for the OCS website.

I kept that letter because it meant so much to me.

From my CMF years, I knew OCS selection was difficult. Many applications but only a few selections. The actual OCS course itself was reputed to be tough. Big drop-out rate. That was my thinking at the time and after all the tests and selection procedures I was just hanging out each day for the letter to arrive. And when it did, I reckon I might have actually held my breath as I opened the envelope. Even at a callow 19 years I knew full well this was a major point which would influence the rest of my life.

I remember the pure elation of reading that first paragraph. I had made it! I reckoned the world was at my feet....and I was also full of caution. I already had a good career ahead of me and there would be no going back to it if I failed OCS.

Note that there are no congratulations or "well dones". The Army is "pleased" you have been selected....now get down to business. They are not even sure you are going to turn up; hence the "please advise" if you intend to rock up to enlist. Not an ounce of marketing or selling.

But very good staff duties.

Ian