

R Troop April 1959 intake



Back row: Bob Mckay - J Lycett - M Crowley - J Howell - P Capon - A Crowden - K Bowker - C Jerram - Alan Dixon

Centre row: Stan Gill - John Sullivan - Michael Hall - T Baker - G Farmer - Ian 'Ginge' Hutton - Mick Willoughby
Fred Songhurst - Jim Rodger

Front row: John Smart - J Robertson - Pete Booker - Bernard 'Bugs' Bourgoise - A Scaife - Bob Etherton - P Livingstone
Brian Davies



Back row: A Hollowell - W Hindmarch - Bill Hill - ? Osbourne - John Watkins - P Maidment - from the June 59 Junior Wing intake



A Crowden - Bernard 'Bugs' Bourgoise - Pete Booker - Allan Dixon - P Capon



Taken from a barrack room door by Dave Denning on troop disbandment – December 1966



Fred Songhurst

Extract from the Junior Mercury – May 63

The present system started in Christmas Term, 1959, when I handed over the J Troop buildings to the new OC White Spear Troop...It was in the summer of 1959 that the new White Spear Troop was formed in R Troop (now Junior Squadron). Once again they were to be experimental and, of course, very special.

R-Troop colour was rose-pink, and the new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. L. M. H. Gregory, MBE, decided to create White Spear Troop from one intake. Their new OC, Lt. David Whitehead, was appointed to R Troop, and he literally handled his new troop from their very first day in the Regiment.

June 12, 1959, was their great day, when they were inspected by HRH The Princess Royal. We all thought they were to be called "The Princess's Own," at least, for she was most interested in them, but it was not to be; and White Spear Troop moved up to take the place of J Troop in 2 Squadron the following term. The boys of J Troop were posted back to their original basic troop to make way.

So the Rosy Pinks of R Troop replaced the Black of J Troop, but with a difference when the balaclava was introduced. As a special honour they were entitled to wear a white "turret," a privilege which I am sorry to see, is rapidly becoming forgotten.

White Spear Troop grew in strength and were to become champion troop at the end of the Summer term, 1960. They held this position until most of the original troop had been posted.

Capt JOHN JOYNER

Can you help with more photos?