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6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

The Christmas term finished in a deluge of rain which, unfortunately, caused the Presentation Parade for only the second time in its history to be held indoors. However, the bad weather did not materially affect the ceremony, as the two winning troops were paraded in the Gymnasium for inspection by Brigadier K.C.O. Bastyan, C.B.E., who had very kindly consented to take the parade and make the presentations.

For the information of ex-Boys, the major trophies this term were won by: –
"G" Troop in the Senior Competition, and "A" Troop in the Junior Competition.
The Commandant's Trophy for the best all-round Boy was won by Boy/Sergeant Markie.

Unfortunately, the bad weather continued on the nest day when "R" Troop had arranged their own "Pass Off " Parade, which also had to be held indoors, but the standard of turn-out of these recruit boys and the kits which they had laid for inspection were well up to standard and a credit to the Troop.



Brigadier K.C.O. Bastyan, C.B.E., presenting a 1st Class Army Certificate of Education to B/Sergeant Jones of "B" Troop

In keeping with the new trend of WIRE Notes we will not report the usual round of visits to the Regiment, other than one important visit by Major-General K. Bayley, C.B., C.B.E., Director Boys' Training; nor will we report on the sporting activities of the Regiment, which, as usual, were all too numerous to relate here. Suffice it to say that Soccer, Boxing, Hockey, Cross Country Running, Basket Ball and Rugger have all been played with skill and enthusiasm, and we look forward next term to winning the Boys' Army Rugger Cup, under the skilful and able direction of Major T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., who now commands 1 Squadron.

All ex-Boys will be sorry to learn that Major F. Williams is leaving the Regiment after just over two very successful years commanding 2 Squadron, and at the same time, that old stalwart, S.S.M. Holt, is leaving 1 Squadron for Malta.

Sailing and Boating Club



Although the White Ensign has not yet taken the place of the Corps Flag on the mast at 6 (Boys) Training Regiment if our fleet of boats continues to increase, cries of "Aye, Aye, Sir" and "All Hands on Deck" will be supplanting the more down to earth military expressions. Our fleet of six boats was started when, on taking over the camp from the Depot Regiment, three Redwing sailing dinghies were more or less included in the inventory. Two of these yachts belong to the Royal Signals Yacht Club and the third is the property of the Army Sailing Association. Our move from Beverley took place in September at the end of the sailing season but as Torquay, our sailing base, was such a delightful spot one or two officers used this as an excuse to make numerous visits to see if our boats were: clean. . .afloat. . .still in one piece. . .still there, or for any other excuse that they could think of at the time. Eventually, after one or two afternoons in Torbay the Redwings were brought back to camp for maintenance during the winter months.

In December last year a letter was received in the Unit asking if any use could be made of 16ft. Pulling Dinghies, built originally for the Royal Engineers. A request was made for two of these craft and in June this year a little chit was received by the Q.M. from British Railways, Newton Abbot, to the effect that there were two boats at the station for collection. It must have been child's play for the Egyptians to build the Pyramids compared with moving 16ft. boats out of railway trucks and on and off a T.C.V. As usual, fully comprehensive equipment was supplied for the job namely, Ropes, U.S. one, and Soldiers, Strong, six. However, they reached camp without a scratch and were taken to Teignmouth at the beginning of this term. Since then Boys of the Regiment have been rowing twice a week on the Teign Estuary and also out to sea. They have taken to this sport, if you will pardon the expression, "like D.U.K.W.S. to water" and although initially there is usually some confusion in the boat with boys waving 12ft. oars about and trying to cleave the Coxswain's head open, after a few minutes they settle down to a steady stroke. By the time that they have had an hour afloat they are working like a Naval crew and when finally, on coming alongside the Jetty to disembark they "Toss Oars" into the vertical position, local fishermen watching have been heard to murmur "* * * * marvellous,"

The sixth boat of the fleet is a 15ft. sailing craft built for fishing, which was purchased from funds provided by the W.V.S. Being broad in the beam she is safe and ideal for teaching boys. She has been repainted and re-rigged and was launched at the beginning of October, her maiden voyage taking place recently. We are happy to say that she behaved herself very well under sail and although rather aged, is skittish enough to give the boys an exciting trip.

In conclusion may we say: Haul up the ladder, Jack, we are inboard.

EDUCATION

Practically everyone who is serving and many who have served know that there is a Boys Regiment, Royal Signals. Comparatively few really know of the very favourable conditions of entry, education, and prospects.

A new illustrated pamphlet is being prepared at the War Office but it will not be available for some time. With this in mind THE WIRE has acquired the following basic information, which, if not authoritative, is reasonably accurate.

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT Newton Abbot, Devon

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

AGE. Boys can join at the end of the school term, in which they reach school leaving age. The Boy enlists to serve until he is 18, and then for six years with the colours and three years with the reserve. He can, if he so wishes, go on until he qualifies for a pension.

HEALTH. The Boy must be medically fit, at least 4ft. 7in. in height, and not less than 5st. 4lb. in weight.

THE OBJECTS OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

Educational Training plays a large part in the work of the Regiment and its object is the same as that of the Regiment – to train Boys to be future N.C.O.s and W.O.s of Royal Signals.

The attainment of this aim in Educational Training falls into two channels: Firstly, in the general development of character, perseverance and initiative in the individual and, secondly, in the education of the Boy to pass the examinations which are required as a qualification for promotion to the ranks of Sergeant and Warrant Officer. About 80% of Boys leaving the Regiment are qualified educationally for promotion to Sergeant, by having passed the equivalent of the Army Certificate of Education Second Class, and of these about half have obtained further qualifications up to the level of the Army Certificate of Education First Class, and G.C.E.

While the Educational Training is of a general character, special attention is paid to training in Mathematics, General Physics and Map Reading, so that a sound basis of knowledge is provided on which training in the Royal Signals trades can be built.

PAY

The weekly pay for a Boy is:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| On Entry | 31/6d. |
| After six months | 31/6d. to 52/6d.* |
| After one year | 38/6d. to 59/6d.* |
| After two years | 45/6d. to 66/6d.* |

* Depends on progress in Proficiency

When on leave a daily rate of ration allowance is paid.

LEAVE

There is a generous allowance of leave each year on full pay. Part of it is at Christmas, part at Easter and part in the summer. Free travel warrants are provided each time.

COST

It will be seen that this Education is absolutely without cost. The food is good and plentiful, a complete issue of clothes (including shirts, underclothes and pyjamas), and bedding is provided.

THE OBJECT OF CORPS TRAINING

The objects of Trade Training in the Regiment are as follows:

To assist the boy to choose the trade which will give him the most satisfaction in life.

To teach, the boy the rudiments of several trades as required by a future N.C.O. in a Divisional Signal Regiment who has to command men of various trades.

To satisfy the demand by boys who enter the Royal Signals to learn a trade.

To add interest to the Training curriculum.

All boys of the Regiment undergo this Corps training and all get a chance to ride a motorcycle. In future, boys who join the Regiment at an early age will be given the opportunity to do further trade training in their last one or two terms.

The scope of this training will largely depend on the Educational achievements of the boys concerned.

GAMES

Cricket, Athletics, Rugger, Soccer, Basket Ball, Boxing, Cross Country Running, Swimming, Softball, Fencing, Gymnastics, Hockey.

LIST OF HOBBIES, CLUBS, ETC.

Hobbies – Outdoor Activities, French Classes.

Clubs – Art, Aero Modelling, Canoe Construction, Photography, Woodwork, Printing, Stamps, Model Railways, Radio Club, Boys' Club, Boy N.C.O.s Club, Dancing Classes.

May 1957

Junior

Leaders

Regiment



After a term of mild but unusually wet weather, the sun broke through during the last weekend enabled the Presentation Parade to be held on a warm and sunny spring day.

The presentations were made by Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E., and the parade was commanded by Junior S.S.M. Galloway.

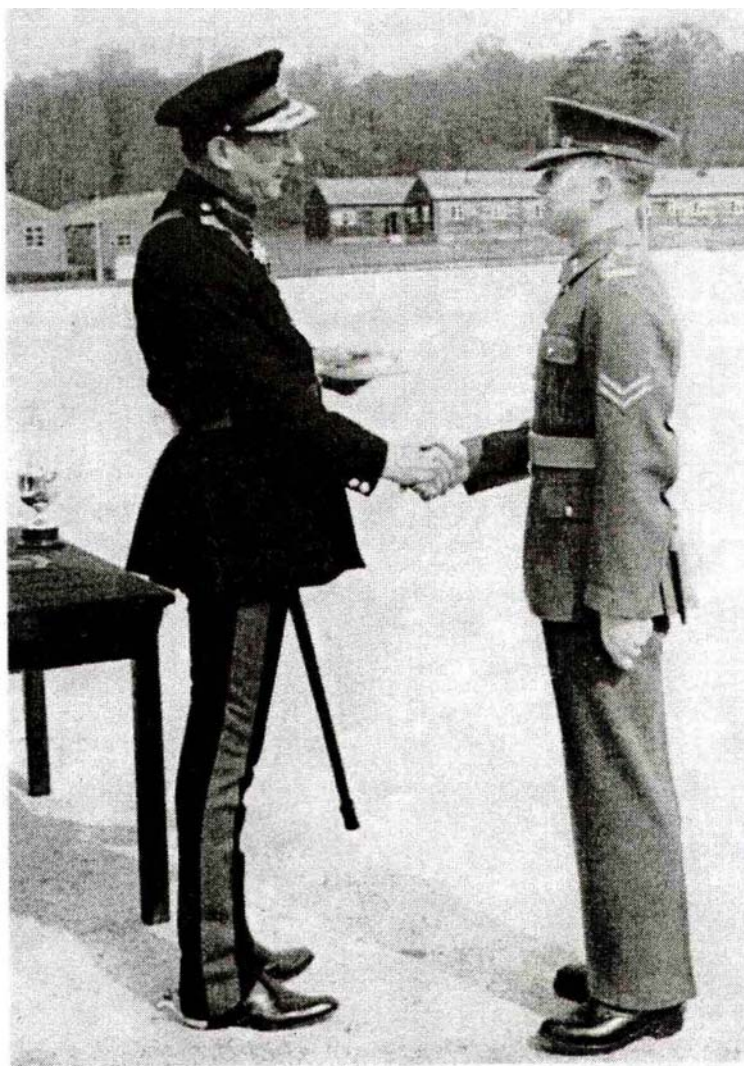
The S.O.-in-C.'s Trophies, which are now represented by silver challenge cups, were won by "H" Troop in the Senior competition and by "F" Troop for the Juniors. "H" Troop will be leaving the Regiment this term for their trade training and can be justly proud of their achievements in this competition, as they were also winners at Easter 1956.

The Commandant's Trophy for the best all-round Boy was won by Junior/Corporal Wigfield, of "G" Troop, and the Metcalfe Trophy for the best boxing performance of the season was won by Junior/Lance-Corporal Steel.

This term has been notable for the keenness and enthusiasm shown by all Boys in Rugby football.

Apart from a period of three weeks during the middle of the term, when heavy rains made the sports fields unfit for play, both rugger pitches have been in continual use. The 1 Squadron team reached the semi-final of the Boys' Army Cup and narrowly lost to bigger and more experienced opponents at the Army Apprentices' School, Chepstow. The Inter-Troop competition produced some stern battles played with skill and enthusiasm and, as several members of this term's Regimental team will be with us next season, we look forward to even better fortune next year. During the last week of term, as a result of a challenge, the Boys played a team of Officers. One or two rather elderly gentlemen turned out for the Officers' team and just managed to last out until the final whistle, by which time the score was 24-6 in favour of the Officers.

The Regiment will have started its second summer term in Devonshire by the time these notes are published. Summer Camp, Parents' Day, canoeing, sailing and many other activities have all been planned, so that all we now require is some really good Devonshire weather.



JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT Presentation Parade

A Retired Territorial Army signal officer in the West Country who used to contribute to THE WIRE under the pseudonym "Old Spark," writes: –

"I was privileged to witness the Presentation Parade of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals at the Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, Devon, on Thursday, the 4th April last. This event took place in lovely weather – a real spring like Devonshire day – amid beautiful rural surroundings, which made a nice frame for a good picture. I was thrilled to see how those happy, healthy boys acquitted themselves. The "Boy" N.C.O.s carried out the duties of Officers, Regimental Sergeant Major, etc., and they did it well; they never failed nor faltered and the Parade was as steady as a rock. It was something I was glad to see and shall remember for many a long day."

July 1957

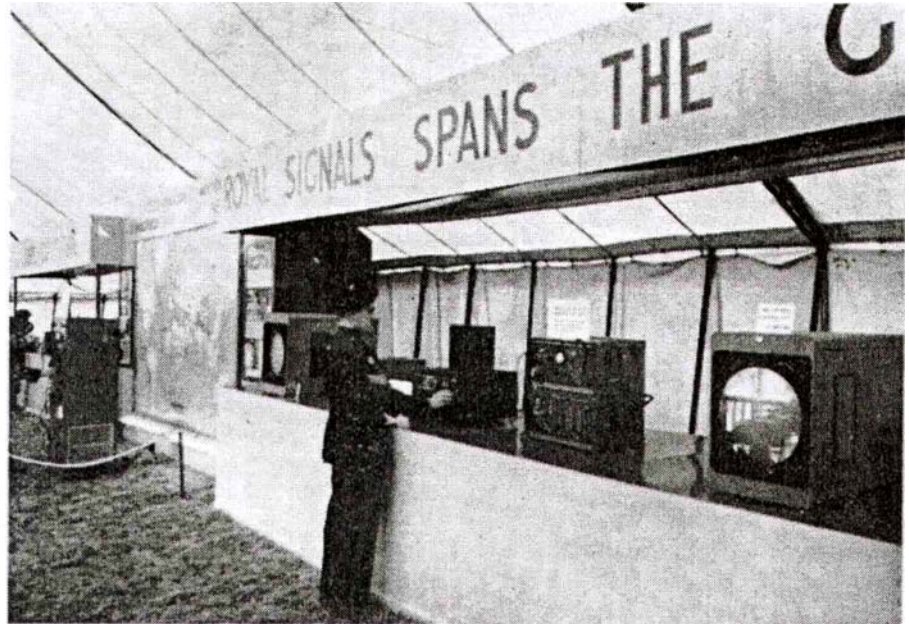
Signals Recruiting Display

BATH AND WEST SHOW

29th May to 1st June, 1957



The Receiver Portion of the Comcan Display



An unexpected opportunity arose this year for Royal Signals to play the leading role in the Army Stand at the Bath and West Show. "The Bath and West and Southern Counties Society Show," to give it the full title, is held annually, near one or other of the main centres in the West Country. This year Swindon was selected.

The Show covers all aspects of modern country life – agriculture, horticulture, livestock, produce, farming techniques and machinery. The show rings, marquees and prefabricated buildings housing the exhibits required an area of some 90 acres. Electricity was provided from a specially built power house, itself an exhibit, by an engineering firm. The Show is also the big occasion in the West Country for a display by the Services, provided this year by the King's Troop, R.H.A., and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Supporting these were the static Recruiting Stands. The Army Stand covered an area of some two hundred feet square. Half of this, the centre portion, was placed at Rural Signals disposal, with the flanks covered by the Royal Engineers and the Infantry recruiting vans.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment was made responsible by the C.S.O., Southern Command, for providing the main equipment to be shown, and also for the co-ordination of all Signals' exhibits. The primary aim of the display was to publicise the Technician and the Junior Leader. Of course, there were other aspects of the Corps to be brought out as well. With all these in mind, the display took shape, and exhibits were provided by U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, Junior leaders' Regiment, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron, Southern Command W.R.A.C. Troop, 12 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.), 63 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.) and 10 ASSU (T.A.). There was only some two weeks between accepting the commitment and the opening of the show. There thus ensued the rush against time, which is almost a Corps tradition; the improvisation, which is practically a Corps trade, and the legalised scrounging, which is a Corps accomplishment. All this called for central control, coordination and a deal of hard work by many people.

COMCAN. A complete carrier frequency shift link was laid out, with a large map of the world as a background, showing the main worldwide links. The equipment included a teleprinter linked to a Printing Reperforator No. 1, thence to a Printing Reperforator No. 2. From there to an Autohead 65, feeding into a WS 53. The signal was received by an AR 88, passed through a Receiver Adapter Field CFS to a teleprinter. At two stages in this sequence, a CRO CIXTELL was inverted to show the form of signal being transmitted. Thanks to arrangements made by the Signals Directorate, and with the co-operation

of 90 Signal Regiment, an E11 in its trailer was available for inspection by visitors, thus bringing the COMCAN picture up to date. The public were shown each stage of transmission of a message and technicians were on hand to explain the working of the system.

Junior Leaders. This stand was manned by the Junior Leaders' Regiment, and made a calculated appeal to youth. The emphasis was on games and sport, and sample equipment could be handled, from canoes and mountaineering gear, to epees and cricket bats. Lieutenant E. W. Hunt and his team of four Junior Leaders had a busy time answering questions from intrigued youngsters and interested fathers.

W.R.A.C. W.R.A.C. teleprinter operators were on duty at two point-to-point teleprinters. This was a popular section of the display – and it was obvious that the printers were not the only attraction!

Despatch Riders. A new Triumph motor cycle, lent by 12 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.), formed the centre of the D.R. Stand, where photographs of the Corps Display Team were on view, O.C. 5 Training Regiment gave welcome; assistance here, by making available members of the Team, who not only looked the part, but could answer the many pertinent questions put by the public.

Trades. To show promotion prospects in the Corps, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron produced a working-model trade and pay-structure board. This showed diagrammatically the various paths of promotion and pay at each stage. On a console, in front of the board, were listed all the trades of the Corps, with a switch under each trade. The board was so wired, that when any one switch was pressed, the appropriate channel of promotion from Signaller to Commissioned Rank was shown lit up. The senior R.S.M. of the Corps, W.O.I. E. R. Gay, M.B.E., of 63 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.) directed operations here, and was able to bring the weight of his experience to bear in his discussions with potential signallers.

ASSU. Air to Ground communications were demonstrated by a tentacle of 10 ASSU (T.A.). A raised platform around the vehicle simplified inspection of the equipment, whose function was explained on a wireless diagram. This proved a very popular exhibit.

"Side Shows." To meet the requirements of boys of all ages, who like to "dabble" – there was a wire recorder, a CRO, morse keys, and a receiver in breadboard form. This latter supplied background music and the Test Match commentary.

Royal Signals Association. Facing the entrance to the marquee was a rectangular booth, given over to publicising the Royal Signals Association. THE WIRE and the new booklet, "Royal Signals," were available to past and present members of the Corps. Warrant Officers or members of local branches of the Association were on duty at the stand to give information about the R.S.A. A good trade was done here, if the amount of talk in progress was any criterion!

For the record, and as a guide to others who may be involved in a show of similar character, a word or two on staffing and work involved may be of interest and help.

The first essential was to decide on the type of exhibits and to co-ordinate the effort available. The second was to standardise the method of layout, finish and decor.

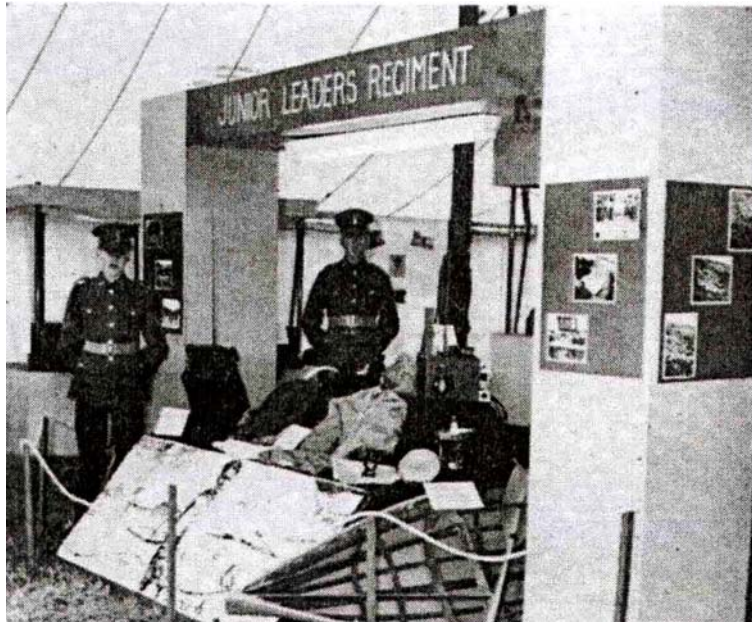
After manufacture or provision of display equipment and delivery to Swindon, it took nine working days actually to build up the display on the site. The skeleton of each stand was of 2in. tubular scaffolding. As can be seen from the photographs, all stands were covered, finished flush and painted. Altogether 40 sheets of hardboard, each 8ft. x 6ft., were required. The Show's own generator supplied the electricity, both for power and light, neon tubes only being used on this score. Under the contractor's monopoly charter, exhibitors were not allowed to do any distributive wiring – a certain amount of wiring had therefore to be paid for. Four carpenters, four linemen and two G.D. men were used full time for the nine days in erecting and wiring the final layout.

For the four days of the Show itself, the various exhibits were manned by two shifts, each of 19 Warrant Officers, Sergeants and junior N.C.O.s, with one or two officers available at all times. This scale of staffing was essential if visitors were to be given the ready attention such an event warranted.

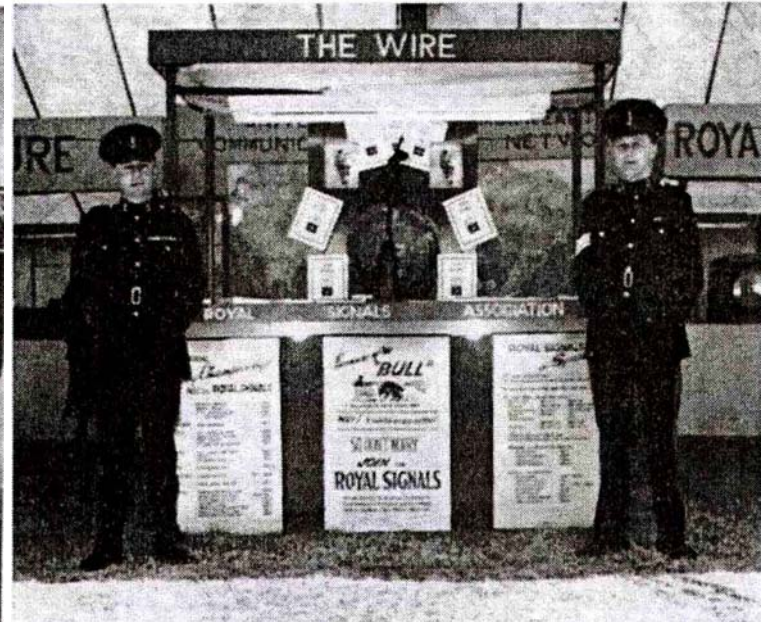
The success of a Recruiting Display at a Show of this type is not always easy to assess. There was a constant flow of the general public through the stands, a multitude of questions was asked, and the interest shown appeared to be genuine, and not merely casual. The aim was to present information, rather than to appear as a recruiting agency; and to give boys, young men and their parents an insight into the working of the Corps, the type of tradesman required, and the prospects offered by a career in Royal Signals. It is felt that this aim was achieved.

In a combined effort of this nature, it is an invidious task to select those who should be given a "mention." The carpenter and lineman in denims contributed just as much before the show as the radio mechanic in No. 1 Dress did during it. Special reference must, however, be made to Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., Commanding U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, for organising the whole Signals effort. Captain (T.O.T.) H. W. Holton of the same Regiment was in direct charge of the stand, and was responsible for technical arrangements. His Foreman of Signals, W.O.I Iveson, and an efficient and energetic team, can feel gratified that none of the equipment went "off the air."

A lot of hard work was put in by all ranks connected with the event, and they are to be congratulated on producing such a well-organised and smooth-running display. The weather was perfect throughout the four days, and despite the intense heat on the Friday and Saturday, those on duty retained a commendable bearing and sense of humour. THH



Junior Leaders Regiment Display
Junior Sergeant Mason and Junior Corporal Hehir



Royal Signals Association Stand
RSM J.F. Farley and Sergeant J. Berry

August 1957

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT PARENTS DAY, by Lance-Corporal J.G. Dadswell, "G" Troop

Long before Parents' Day dawned the camp was a hive of activity, with sleeping accommodation being prepared, dining rooms made ready, marquees pitched and weird looking structures erected, which afterwards turned out to be side-shows.

By the morning of Saturday, 29th June, the stage was set for Parents' Day. Preparations were made in order to welcome the parents, as well as helping with their luggage and taking them to their respective accommodations.

During the morning most of the boys conducted their parents around the "Spiders," training rooms, playing fields and various other places of interest. Tremendous efforts were made by the boys to draw inquisitive parents away from their own lockers and bed-spaces. More often than not these efforts were of no avail, so that many cries went up, "Why do you do this, that, or would it not be better to . . . ?" Consequently, many lockers were immediately padlocked, as mothers seemed more particular than the CO. By the time an almost thorough inspection of the camp "Spiders" and outside areas had taken place, it was nearing the lime for the Trooping of the Regimental Standard.

As the last of the spectators made their way towards the Parade Ground, boys proceeded to from up into respective guards. Soon the band struck up and the boys marched on with great swank eager to go through their paces in front of such a distinguished audience. It was easy to pick out the old soldiers in the crowd, as they knew they had to stand up when we presented arms. After marching past in slow and quick time in a temperature not far off the nineties, everyone was glad to leave the square behind.

Immediately after the parade everyone headed for the Goble Cinema in readiness for the Commanding Officer's address. In his address the Commanding Officer told the audience what sort of training the boys went through during their time here and that it was aimed at giving them self-confidence and making them into better citizens for later life.

Following the address the mass of civilians and Service personnel set off for the top sports field to witness an exhibition of P.T., which was a delight to watch. The boys looked immaculate in whites against the lush green turf and surrounding countryside. Afterwards the visitors wandered around the various stalls in search of some fun. These stalls ranged from knocking down images of our "favourite Warrant Officers" to a Fortune Teller's tent. I noticed that these shows were a wonderful success and credit is due to all who arranged them. I spotted many grown-ups happily sucking at orange ice-lollies as they went on their rounds of the numerous stalls. Eventually the stalls closed down and the few who wanted to have a tea made their way to the NAAFI.

In the comparative coolness of the evening the Boys' Band paraded on the square to beat the Retreat. The Band gave a spirited display of marching and counter-marching plus many rousing tunes on the drums and trumpets. It was truly a creditable performance, bearing in mind that it was the second time they had been on the square on such a warm day. The whole programme lasted about an hour, then the parents and boys had the rest of the day together. Some went out for the rest of the evening, whilst others stayed in camp to watch a film show.

By eight o'clock most people had either left or were enjoying the pictures, while a few parents still wished to stroll around our camp. Gradually the day drew to a close. The pictures finished, beds were prepared, parents and sons bid one another goodnight and silence reigned supreme.

Looking back on the occasion, it was a happy and memorable day both for visitors and boys.

September 1957

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Visit by Colonel H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand G.C.V.O.

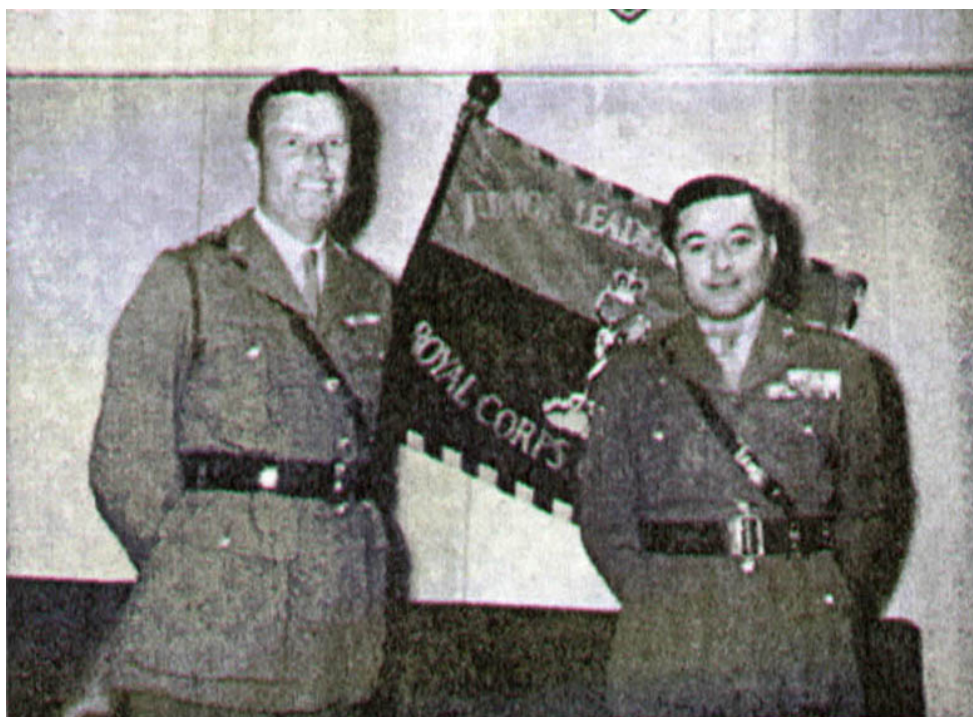
On Wednesday, 3rd July, Colonel H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, G.C.V.O., accompanied by his Personal Secretary, Captain R. W. Potts, D.C.L.I., visited the Regiment. On arrival, His Royal Highness inspected a Guard of Honour composed of Junior Leaders. He complimented the Guard Commander, Junior-Sergeant B. Wigfield, on the excellent bearing and drill of the guard.

During the morning, His Royal Highness was shown around the Regiment. He was very impressed by all that he saw. In the afternoon, Prince Chula visited Junior Leaders undergoing Initiative Training on the River Lemon. He was most enthusiastic, and had a word and a joke for most of the boys.

His Royal Highness, a charming and interesting personality, took especial interest in the training of youth. He enjoyed his visit so much that he is to visit the Regiment again in October, when he will lecture and show documentary films (taken by himself) on Thailand and the Thai Army.

The photograph shows His Royal Highness and the Commanding Officer, taken in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

In the background is the very fine new standard, presented to the Regiment by the W.O.s and Sergeants.



JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The most notable feature of the Summer Term was the announcement in the Birthday Honours List of the award of M.B.E. to R.S.M. Thompson. This was a richly deserved award and one for which Mr. Thompson and the Regiment can be justly proud. Many ex-Boys will remember Staff Sergeant Milnes, A.C.C., who served, the Regiment well for six years until his retirement last February due to ill health. His name also appeared in the Birthday Honours List with the award of the B.E.M.

Two awards of the L.S. and G.C. Medal have recently been made to Staff Sergeant Browne of the Quartermaster's staff and Sergeant Clarke of 1 Squadron. Both these awards were presented by the Commanding Officer on ceremonial parades.

Other major events this term have been summer camp at Braunton in North Devon; Parents' Day on 29th June; and a visit from H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, all of which have been reported elsewhere in THE WIRE.

On 19th June we took part in a Triangular Athletics Match with the Infantry and Royal Artillery Junior Leaders at Plymouth. Unfortunately the opposition was too strong for us, but it was a most enjoyable meeting and it provided us with much needed outside competition. This was evident when we competed in another Athletics Match against the Grammar School boys from Newton Abbot and Totnes on our own track. The result was very close and although we were finally beaten, the outcome was in doubt till the last event.

The presentation parade was held on 30th July when the Inspecting Officer was General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C.-in-C. Southern Command. The parade was commanded by Junior/R.S.M. Markie and the major trophies were awarded as follows: -

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| S.O.-in-C.'s Trophy | Senior Troops "A" Troop |
| S.O.-in-C.'s Trophy | Junior Troops "D" Troop |
| Commandant's Trophy | Junior/Sergeant French |
| Best Boy Recruit | Junior/Signalman Home |

At the end of the term we said good-bye to Major H. A. Leece who has gone to a Signals Staff appointment at H.Q. ALFCE. Our new Second-in-Command is Major S. F. Dunkley who has been with the Regiment since February. Major P. D. Parker has taken over command of 2 Squadron, having recently arrived from Ghana Signal Squadron. Captain Silk who has commanded H.Q. Squadron for the past two years has retired after 35 years' service with the Corps. We wish him and his family good health and good fortune in his retirement, and at the same time welcome his successor, Captain D. F. L. James.

Summer Camp by J/Sergeant B. Wigfield, "F" Troop

"How would you like to spend twelve days on the coast of North Devon?"

On a fine, sunny morning the 6th of June, the Regiment marched out of the camp gates, bound for Braunton, near Barnstaple. We were to spend twelve days there in an old wartime camp about three miles from the sea. The purpose of the camp was to give the boys an opportunity to use their initiative and it was also a break from the normal day-by-day training routine.

The Regiment marched down to Newton Abbot, a matter of four miles and some few pounds were lost through perspiration!

Everyone boarded the train and it pulled away. It was an uneventful trip and the train arrived at Braunton approximately two hours later. On the station we formed up by Squadrons and, after a roll call, we marched through the town and up the road to the camp. The first sight we had of the camp was pretty grim, but first impressions are not always true, as we found out later. This was our home for the next twelve days.

After we had found our respective huts, we drew bedding and cleaning materials and proceeded to get organised. The huts were old Nissan huts with stone floors and just a shelf running round the walls on which to place our kit.

Dinnertime came around and afterwards we lay out on the grass and either sun-bathed or played various types of sports. In the evening a swimming party was arranged under Major Jackson and they doubled to the beach and back, a mere matter of six miles!

After supper there was a film show; these we had throughout the camp period every evening, as a means of entertainment and relaxation. Lights out was ten o'clock and I think everybody slept like logs that night.

The following morning we all dressed in PT kit and boots; this was the every-day dress because of hot weather. Troop Officers then took charge of their Troops and went away on their various Exercises. My Troop went for a ramble around the countryside and down to an old lighthouse situated on the coast. We rested awhile and from there we walked about two miles along the clean, white sands to the swimming area. The beach was very good, it sloped up gently from the sea and then transformed into rolling sand dunes, we had a refreshing cold swim and made our way back to camp in time for dinner.

For our stay at camp there were various schemes and Exercises planned for toughening and refreshing the body. All the Exercises usually finished up with a swim in sea. There were the good old Army route marches and cross-country marches, following streams and walking through wooded country. There was also rock climbing on the cliffs at the coast and rock scrambling on the jagged limestone ridges. One Troop found themselves cut off when the tide came in and the ensuing rescue operations were rather comical. They have not yet lived it down!

Other Exercises included map reading, where individuals were put in charge of sections and had to lead them to a given map reference. This called for using one's initiative.

For the leisure hours of the day there were organised swimming parties down to the beach. Also as a means of recreation, a Softball knockout competition was arranged, which was eventually won by "G" Troop, after many exciting games and they were awarded ten cigarettes each.

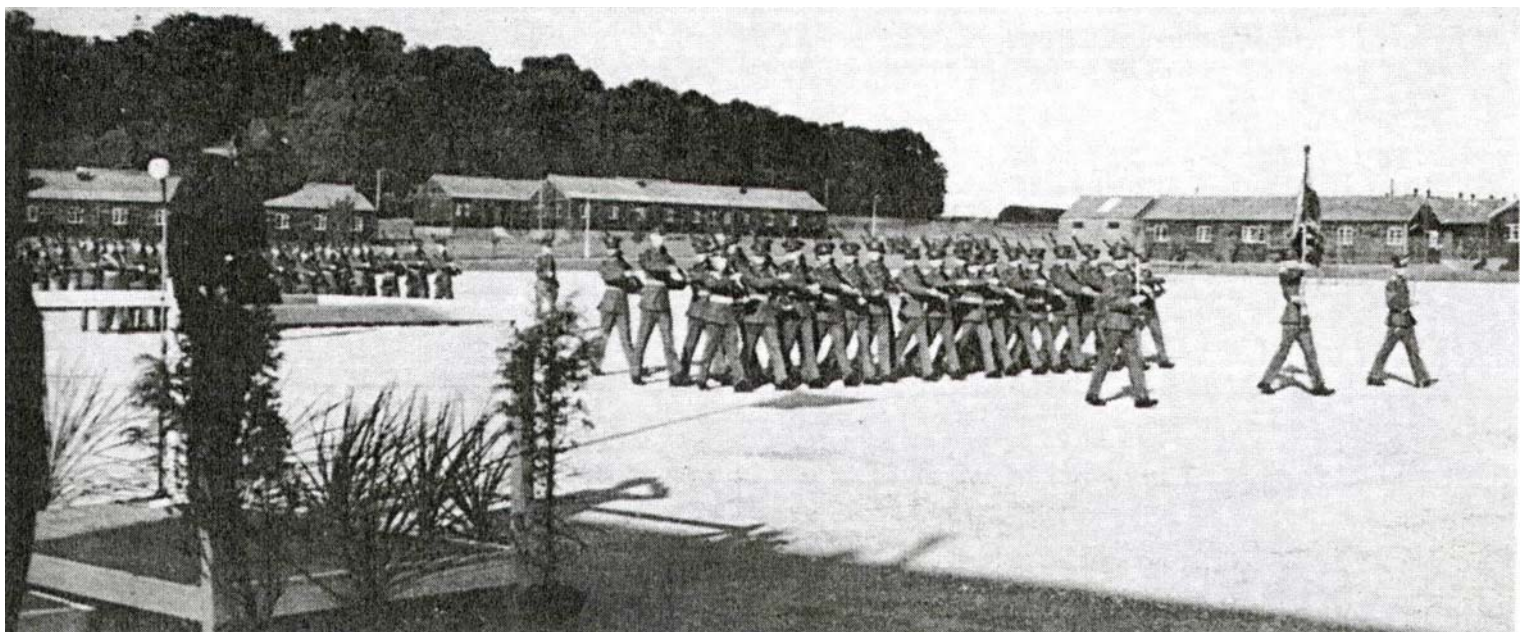
During the course of the camp each Troop took a turn at doing Duty Troop. One or two unlucky Troops did it twice. The Duty Troop provided boys to work in the Cookhouse, NAAFI, general duties around camp and a guard and fire picquet. Some of the boys thought it was fun on guard, but most did not.

Towards the end of our stay at camp visits, were paid to surrounding places of interest, such as the bakery, furniture factory and an RAF station.

For the visit to the RAF station we were taken there by trucks and conducted into a room where an RAF Officer awaited us. He gave a short talk on what went on at the airfield and answered questions anyone cared to ask. Then we were transported to a miniature range, where an armaments instructor described to us how the 20 and 30 millimetre cannons worked. We were given a demonstration of them in action. Afterwards we were conducted round the hangars and saw the Hawker Hunters and Vampires.

Eventually the day came for us to return to Newton Abbot but it had been such an enjoyable time that most boys did not want to return to the old routine. But our twelve days were up, so on the Monday morning of 18th June we marched to the station at Braunton and boarded the train for Newton Abbot."

November 1957



• ESCORT TO THE BAND

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

It is being rumoured around barracks the reason boys are kept in education classes all morning is to protect them from the dreadful sight of the Permanent Staff doing P.E. tests!

Brigadier Bradford, M.B.E., C.S.O., Southern Command, paid us a very welcome visit this month. Unfortunately, his visit coincided with a 'flu epidemic, so he was unable to see very much training.

Another very welcome visitor was H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, G.C.V.O., a cousin of the reigning King, making his second visit to the Regiment, this time to show films of Thailand and to give a talk about his country.

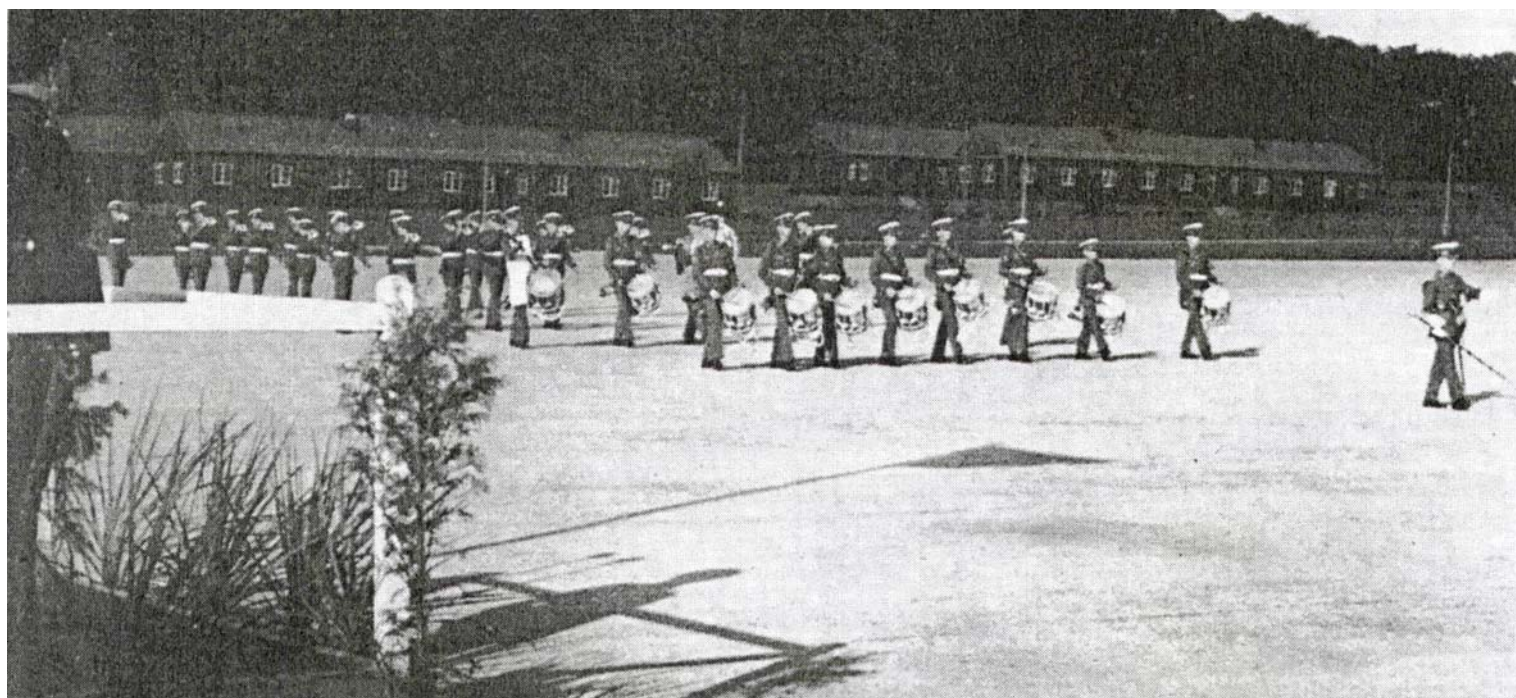
The films he showed were, as he said, "personal and private" shots of himself and his family in Thailand, and for an hour we were privileged to enjoy a personally conducted tour of the Prince's family photograph album. Scenes of architectural and natural beauty were relieved by sequences showing the drill and ceremonial of the Thai Guards, while a number of scenes showed field and battle training in the Thai Army, a valuable contributor to the strength of S.E.A.T.O. After the show Prince Chula dined with the Officers of the Regiment.

From film shows to film actors. Several of the boys recently took part in scenes to be included in a general film on Boys' Units now being made. Although hopes ran high at one time, they could not manage to "duck" any of the film unit during "operations" on the River Lemon.

As this goes to press, shouts from the Gymnasium indicate the progress of the eliminating rounds of the individual boxing championships. We hope to include some account of the finals in these notes next month.

Incessant bad weather and a 'flu epidemic which laid low over three-quarters of the boys and Permanent Staff, caused unusual difficulties in putting on the Trooping of the Colour for the Association's West County Reunion at Denbury on 28th/29th September. Tremendous efforts by the boys – coaxed by the indefatigable R.S.M. Thompson – ensured a "Troop" which was described in the local Press as a "magnificent spectacle."

At the conclusion of the Trooping ceremony, two very handsome silver cups were presented to the Regiment by the Aldershot and London Branches of the Association for Inter-Squadron Rugby and shooting, after which the boys were addressed by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who also took the salute.



• THE BAND. The trumpets were all presented by branches of the Association

The first opportunity for a real get-together came with tea on the lawn of the Sergeants' Mess, following the Trooping ceremony. For this occasion the Royal Signals Band played in their usual incomparable style as the background for many enthusiastic "grip sessions." The talk from group to group flowed swiftly back from Changi – Irrawaddy – Egypt Command Signals – Eddy Company – vic vic Group, down to Maresfield (and beyond). At this stage those who could not compete, or merely wished to recover, adjourned to the sports field to watch the games arranged so that the informal side of the boys' training could be seen.

The Liverpool Branch representative failing a last-minute victim to 'flu, meant that their shield, presented for Inter-Troop basketball competition, could not be handed over on the Trooping Parade. However, this magnificent trophy, together with the silver cups presented earlier, and flanked by Branch Standards, made an impressive show at the Reunion Supper. We were delighted to see such well-known faces as "Fairy" Fairclough – looking unchanged and as elfin as ever, Lieutenant-Colonel "Polo" Reid – the ever jovial Brigadier "Fatty" Galway (sans clubs for once) – "Dodger" Green, looking ready to trot on to the hockey field again at the slightest excuse, "Abdul" Pearce, the much travelled R.S.M. Vic Goodman, and "Lofty" Hart from C.S.O.'s Branch, Southern Command.

A number of Old Comrades and their families who had been unable to attend the supper turned up on Sunday morning to swell the congregation to nearly 300 for morning church. At this service the Standard of the Cornwall Branch was dedicated. After the service the parade formed up behind the Corps Band. It was a heart stirring sight to watch the Old Comrades, preceded by Branch Standards, lead two Squadrons of youngsters past the saluting dais, where the salute was taken by Major-General White.

Swift drinks in the Sergeants' Mess were followed by buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess until 2.30, when all gathered finally to hear a first-rate Band Concert by the Corps Band, under Major John Judd.

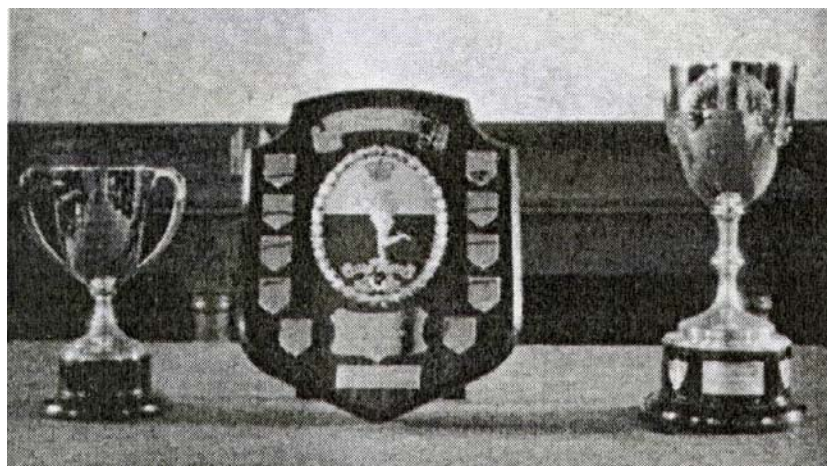
Relaxing after the last guest had left, we chuckled over the memories of the weekend. Of the Officer on the (very) Permanent Staff who dashed home in the middle of festivities on Saturday evening to return with his album of photographs to prove just who was in that section in 1931!

The surprisingly delicate flower arrangements by a Subaltern Officer better known for his boxing prowess, and the "impromptu" (?) rendering of "Colonel Bogey" by the Corps Band as a certain rotund and be whiskered senior Officer left the Band Concert.

Altogether a very memorable weekend for the boys and staff. We hope our guests enjoyed being with us as much as we did having them.



PRESENTATIONS
made by Branches of the Association to the
Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals



The photograph shows three Presentation pieces recently presented to the Regiment during the West Country Reunion at Newton Abbot.

Reading from left to right in the picture are presentations by: The Aldershot Branch, the Liverpool Branch and the London Branch.

The Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Junior Leaders Regiment wish to express their grateful thanks to the Branches concerned for their generous gifts. The trophies will be well and truly fought for. To the young, they will serve as a constant reminder of the older members of the Corps who have done so much to pass on a splendid background of loyalty and tradition. We shall strive to be worthy of, and to add to, this background.

December 1957

The Experiences of a Junior Leader at the ARMY OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL, TRAWSFYNYDD

BY JUNIOR LANCE-CORPORAL OLIVER



Day 1 Monday

We were all silent as the truck swung out of the camp gate and headed towards the station.

Six of us, with filled rucksacks, were beginning our long journey to Trawsfynydd, North Wales, to attend a fortnight's Outward Bound Course. We each wondered what lay ahead of us, as we had heard lurid stories from friends who had attended earlier Courses.

After many weary hours on trains and waits at deserted stations, we reached Dolgelly at about 10 o'clock. Transport awaited us. A kilted Sergeant Major guided us to the truck and we bundled in our rucksacks. It was very difficult to be comfortable. We were cold and the mist was very thick indeed, but it came in patches and through the reasonably clear parts we could see huge mountains, black and jagged; the truck jerked and twisted round awkward bends, through hamlets, past numerous forests, then a sudden sharp turn, and we were in the Camp.

After being led to our respective billets, we made haste to the cookhouse, had a satisfactory meal, then a welcome sleep.

Day 2 Tuesday

A fine, warm day greeted us – unfortunately, one of the very few. We did a quick period of P.T., had a shower and a filling breakfast. Everyone attended the C.O.'s opening lecture.

We were then split up into our different patrols, of which there were six, all named after famous mountaineers. I was in Lowe patrol. After an introductory talk we were lectured on rock climbing by our patrol instructor.

We drew our kit, sleeping bags, etc., after lunch and then did athletic training during the afternoon. The evening was left free and the majority went to bed early.

Day 3 Wednesday

The morning activities began as yesterday, but not in the same type of weather. During the morning we did a ropes course, doing knots and learning the way to use and preserve the rope, also we had a little practical map reading. In the afternoon we did our first practical rock climbing; we were all very afraid as we observed how the instructor clung on to finger-lip ledges and delicate footholds. First we tied the rope to us, then up we went – and wondered why we had been so frightened.

In the evening there was a talk by the CO. about one of his escapes from a German camp during the war.

Day 4 Thursday

Today we began a 36-hour scheme. In the cold and rain we walked, with periodical rests, for about five hours, until shortly before dark. We pitched our tents at the foot of a 2,800ft. mountain in the lee of a wood, but spirits weren't very high and the occasional "moan" could be heard among the general noise of stoves, mess tins and banging of tent pegs being driven in.

At last we were consoled by hot tea and a meal; we stripped off our wet clothes and quickly wormed into our sleeping bags. It had been a tiresome and trying day and the little camp was soon quiet – but still the rain came.

Day 5 Friday

As we packed our rucksacks in the rain, we dreaded the trudge back to main camp, over 10 miles away; the scenery was unusual and interesting, but we were "slogging" along and didn't really appreciate it. An amazing change occurred once the camp was sighted; there were sighs of relief, cheers, and grateful thanks were uttered. I think we were all rather proud. After all it was our first scheme, no one had any serious blisters, just, inconvenient ones, and we had walked and camped in rain all the time. After a hot shower we were none the worse for it and, anyway, it all led up to a large evening meal and a long sleep.

Day 6 Saturday

We did a little athletics in the morning, and the afternoon was left free to prepare for a concert in the evening, for which each patrol had to supply an item of entertainment.

Most of us took part in the concert, which was held in the cinema. It was highly successful and all patrols did their share very well and everyone enjoyed it, including the permanent staff, who had to suffer unmerciful "leg-pulling."

Day 7 Sunday

A rest day, when those keen, energetic ones went walking, others played games, some slept; even the sheep refrained from interfering with our recreation, as they so often did.

Day 8 Monday

The weather was much better, which was especially pleasing as today we began our first 3-day scheme. The rucksacks were much heavier this time as we had many more rations, but we set off in high spirits. We walked most of the day across country via a few tracks but mostly on a compass bearing, and we all took a turn at leading the patrol. We were fascinated by the height and steepness of the Cader Idris range. We camped below Cader Idris near a Youth Hostel about two miles from Dolgellau. It was very pleasant and we began to enjoy ourselves at last.

Day 9 Tuesday

Again the weather was very pleasant, and we learnt we were going to climb Pen-y-Gader, 2,927ft., the highest mountain of the Cader Range. We set off after breakfast without rucksacks, and it was like walking on air without the weight on our backs. We climbed gradually and leisurely for a while, enjoying every moment of the journey; we watched white cascading waterfalls, crossed sparkling streams, and watched agile sheep glide with ease across the rocks. We reached the base of the steep-shaped Pen-y-Gader and rested awhile at the edge of a small lake. We still had about 900ft. to ascend, most of it over "scree," i.e., loose rocks, which made it quite difficult.

Our final ascent was an exhausting, tiring climb. When we reached the top it was very windy and we were hurriedly changing direction for the downward journey; but whilst up there we had a clear view out over the sea far beyond Barmouth Bay. Away to the east, south and north, the undulating country spread for miles, interspersed by lakes and miles of forestland. It was a very enjoyable day, and everyone was contented when we retired to our sleeping bags.

Day 10 Wednesday

We were up early and quickly prepared for our return journey to camp. We made good progress with our now lighter packs, until it began to rain, which did slow us down. Once back at camp we had a busy time drying out our kit, as on Friday we were away again. Amongst us were a few with blisters, but otherwise we were still fit.

Day 11 Thursday

At 9 o'clock each patrol assembled in a different part of the camp for our initiative tests. Each patrol had to solve five different tasks, and these were enjoyed by all. This was followed by an individual written exam. After lunch we had an inter-patrol athletic competition. The standard was quite high and the patrol supporters were very enthusiastic. In the evening we drew rations for our final scheme.

Day 12 Friday

We set off in groups of seven in trucks to different points to begin our last scheme, in which we had to cover roughly 30 miles on our own, without the guidance of our instructors. One syndicate was soon lost in a large forest, but our compass rescued us and we checked in at our first checkpoint; we did 16 miles today and checked through two points, camping for the night at the second, where it was, inevitably, raining.

Day 13 Saturday

As soon as everyone was ready, we pressed on to the next point, through a few quite large villages, where people were very curious. We checked in at three more points, and had just over three miles to go to complete our task. This final lap meant a long, uphill climb and then a downward stretch; we had a conference and it was decided to continue, although it would soon be dark. We made it, and were eager to set up camp, eat and sleep.

Day 14 Sunday

The truck picked us up at 11 o'clock. This had meant a very welcome lie in. When we arrived back in camp we ate a large lunch, cleaned ourselves and our kit, returned the kit to stores, then heaved a sigh of relief. The remainder of the day we spent preparing for our return to Denbury.

We returned to barracks on Monday, 28th October, with mixed feelings. The course was tough, varied and exciting, and worthwhile – but the weather could have been better.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Among the several visitors we were pleased to welcome to Denbury this month have been the S.O.-in-C, accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, who spent a day talking to many of the boys and staff and dined with the Officers of the Regiment.

Of particular interest in the recruiting sphere, a party of Headmasters of schools in the area were given a comprehensive tour of the Regiment and saw all aspects of training and "spare time" activities. We hope this is the first of several such visits. This has been followed by the visit of a party of 18 boys approaching school leaving age from Audley Park School, Torquay, who spent the day with us examining and operating much of the equipment, firing on the miniature range and watching Junior Leaders in the course of training. In the afternoon they were issued with Anorak clothing and took part with one of the Squadrons doing Outward Bound type training on the River Lemon. The day was voted a huge success by masters, pupils and the Regiment, and we believe it will result in some recruits.

The Regiment provided a number of Trumpeters for Church Services in the area on Armistice Sunday, in addition to a contingent of Junior Leaders who attended the ceremony at the Memorial in Newton Abbot. Several complimentary remarks were heard on the turnout, alertness and bearing of the boys.

In common with other things, our boxing programme received a setback at the hands of 'flu this term. We were unable to hold the Novices' competition in which all junior Leaders box two one and a half minute rounds. In the first Regimental match versus the Infantry Junior Leaders we were beaten by nine points to five, but the result belies the closeness of the match. Our team captain, Junior Leader Casey, boxed a real skipper's bout, and when we have more who follow his sound aggressive style, we should be hard to beat. The return match was a very exciting affair, the contests going alternately to one side then the other, and the final result in doubt up to the last bout. Unfortunately we lost this, but we look forward with renewed confidence to our final match with H.M.S. Fisgard next month.