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6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

In the last report to The Wire, the Regiment was about to be posted from Beverley to Newton Abbot. Individually and collectively, officers, men and boys; the wives and families were in the midst of packing up and moving household goods and chattels, equipment and stores. The Summer Term closed in Beverley with bags more or less packed and the boys went on a leave extended to seven weeks. The staff put finishing touches to boxes, completed boys' reports and began to enjoy a short respite. The Regiment's connections with Beverley were gradually severed and its H.Q., followed by the whole unit, opened at Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot. We took over from our friends, the Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, which moved to Saughton Camp, Chester.

It is to be presumed that many readers of The Wire well know the many delights and the few snags of Rawlinson Barracks, with its magnificent skyline of Dartmoor to the west. It stands surrounded by deep, high-banked lanes of one vehicle width, steep hills and pleasant woods. This new setting and climate has obvious advantages over those of Beverley. And by the time the boys returned from leave on 19th September, their new quarters were ready for occupation, and lecture rooms and classrooms ready for work. The boys vote the change a big success. They find their new quarters in barrack "spiders" a great improvement on the single huts of Beverley. In spite of the distance to Newton Abbot, they like Devon and have lost no time in making themselves at home. With Dartmoor and the sea a few miles away and with much more space than before in barracks, there are new and interesting possibilities for training, which they have begun to sample. These have brought us in touch with the local civilians.

The Devonians, like our friends in Yorkshire, have been most helpful to all ranks, and their assistance and goodwill is much appreciated. And so, the Regiment has happily settled in its new and, we hope, permanent home, and is busily getting on with the job – although much remains to be done.

Sport

The Regiment has entered into local sport, and teams have been doing well in local leagues and against other Service teams.

Soccer. The Regimental soccer teams took on a large fixture list, which had been arranged largely by the Depot Regiment. The Cadre XI entered the South Devon Senior League and the Torbay Wednesday League. Up to now their results show seventeen wins in eighteen games.

Corporal Riley, Lance-Corporal McGreevy and Signelman Pacey, all well known in the soccer world, form the backbone of the team, and to their hard work and skill is due in large measure the success of the team. Riley and Pacey have also represented South Devon in a Charity Benefit Match under floodlights against Torquay United.

The Boys' XI is playing in the South Devon Junior League. This is composed of adult teams; the team has played seven matches and won three. In the Boys' Army Cup, No. 1 Squadron beat "C" Company of the Infantry Boys' Battalion by five to four, while No. 2 Squadron lost to "A" Company of the same Battalion. No. 1 Squadron met "D" Company of the A.A.S. Chepstow, in the next round and lost by two goals to nil, having been equal up to half-time.

In the Inter-Troop League, a terrific struggle has developed between "B" and "L" Troops, with 20 and 19 points respectively. They have still to meet each other, and enthusiasm is mounting as the final places count towards the assessment of Best Troop for the Director's Inter-Troop Trophy.

Hockey. The Regimental Hockey Team has been finding its feet on our newly surfaced vast tarmac drill square. We lost against the Devon and Wessex Brigade, beat Coast Artillery Training Centre, and forced a draw with H.Q., S.W. District. In the District Minor Units Competition, we beat the Staff of the Infantry Boys' Battalion, our neighbours from Plymouth, by three to nil.

Boxing. The novices' boxing, held early in the term, produced an excellent standard. A third of all boys entered, and competition was keen. Later the Open Individual Championships produced rather more skill. In the finals, the highlight of the evening was a special bout between Boys Skelton and Steel, both large and promising members of "R" (Recruit) Troop.

The Regimental team was selected after this championship, and on 3rd November, a match against H.M.S. Fisgard, the R.N. Artificer Apprentice Training Establishment, was held at Denbury – our first in the South of England. Past members of the Regiment who remember the earlier boxing successes in the north will be glad to hear that it was a tremendous evening. The Regiment came off the victors by nine bouts to one; every bout was keenly contested and the standard was high. The programme included a Special Army Selection bout between Lance-Corporals Coote and Sullivan, both of R.E.M.E., and boxers of Amateur International standard. This bout was a fine display, of value to the boys.

On 23rd November, the Regimental team met its next test, against the Infantry Boys' Battalion at Plymouth. Their supporters followed and excitement was quickly at fever pitch. The Regiment lost the first four bouts. But in spite of this hopes were still high. The next three bouts were won by the Regiment, and from then on the fortunes "see-sawed," first to the Infantry and then to the Signals, ending satisfactorily with a close win for the Signals of 23 points to 22, i.e. eight bouts to seven.

The boys who represented the Regiment in the two matches were: –

B/R.S.M. Johnson (Team Capt.)	B/Corporal Galloway
B/Corporal O'Donoghue	B/Lance-Corporal Bates
B/Corporal Prescott	
Boy McIntyre	Boy Wootten
Boy McGarry	Boy Bennett
Boy Naismith	Boy Griffiths
Boy Hyde	Boy Miller
Boy Chapman	

Basket Ball. The Inter-Troop Basket Ball League has produced much noisy enthusiasm in the drill shed. "L" Troop, of 5th Term boys are now secure in first place followed by their seniors "G" and "H" Troops. The general standard of play, knowledge of the game and enthusiasm has increased greatly, thanks largely to Captain Canham's untiring efforts. In a match against the Depot Devon and Wessex Brigade, the recent winners of the S.W. District Knock-out Contest, a mixed Cadre and Boys' team scored a clear-cut win. Outstanding players are B/Corporal O'Donoghue, B/Lance-Corporal Gallichan, B/Corporal Prescott and Boy Griffiths; whilst of Cadre players, Sergeant Taylor and Corporal Jennings are particularly effective.

Rugby. The Regimental Rugby XV has settled down well, despite the loss of Captain A. B. Edwards, R.A.E.C., the Wales and Army fullback, who was posted to London District last July. In the ten games played so far, the Regiment has won five, drawn one and lost four. The Regimental team played the Depot Devon and Wessex Brigade in a downpour of rain in the second round of the Army Cup and won by nine points to six. However, in the third round, against 15 Battalion R.A.S.C., from Blandford, the Regiment lost by fourteen points to six. Sergeant Evans has proved to be the most prolific points scorer. Lieutenant M. Panton and Corporal Byrne, both mainstays of the Regimental team, are also turning out regularly for the Newton Abbot R.F.C., the "All Whites."

The Boys' XV has fixtures for the end of the term and for the next term, the rugger term. At least one, Boy Hagley, promises well for an outstanding Rugby career.

Other Activities

The competition between Troops for the S.O.-in-C.'s Trophies, to be presented at the end of the term to the best all-round Senior and Junior Troop, is raging fiercely. Although at half-term "H" Troop (an output Troop) was in the lead for the senior trophy, the lead was so small that no forecast is possible, and the results must be left to the next number.

Great use has been made of equipment and the fine weather for expeditions and exercises on the moor. Canoes, windproof clothing and mountain boots, lightweight tents and such-like gear has been in demand for weekend camps and hikes. The weather has been extremely kind, although now that Autumn gales and rain have begun, some curtailment may be necessary. Many of the boys have not only carried out reconnaissances of the wilder areas but have also been called upon officially to reconnoitre and report on local villages or institutions. A visit was made to the famous Buckfast Abbey and a detailed report on a number of aspects of Torquay was made.

Great activity has been seen in the boys' boat shop and canoe store where the construction of more boats is going on apace. It is hoped that by next Spring the boys will have completed the construction of a 12ft. 6in. "Graduate" sailing dinghy, which will supplement the three "Redwings" of the Sailing Association, for which the Regiment is responsible. Other plans are afoot for enlarging our fleet still further.

The Boys' Trumpet and Drum Band has begun its activities after a break enforced by the necessity for obtaining new equipment. The trumpeters were in great demand on Remembrance Sunday, individual members being asked for at six local village ceremonies. A service was also held in camp by Rev. Bolton, the Regimental Chaplain, and Major Hill's No. 1 Squadron paraded in Newton Abbot, with the British Legion and others, and a Regimental wreath was laid at the Cenotaph by the CO., Lieutenant-Colonel Conner, on behalf of the Unit.

During the first half of the term, the Regiment was visited by the G.O.C. 43rd (Wessex) Division and S.W. District, who was accompanied by his G.S.O. 1, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., Royal Signals.

Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, visited the Regiment and came again on the occasion of the visit of the Director of Boys Training at the War Office. The Command Education Officer, Colonel A. B. S. Donald, D.S.O., T.D., and other Staff Officers have also visited the Regiment since our arrival.

With the approach of Christmas and end of term, a large number of events are planned. Apart from the Presentation Parade, to be taken on 7th December 1955, by the Director of Boys Training at the War Office, the Messes and Clubs are all planning their own festivities to mark the end of a pleasant term in our new and interesting surroundings.

The staff are preparing reports for parents; the boys are preparing their defence.

Jottings!

Mushrooms and a bull share a field by the camp.

Problem: What quality or vice does a boy need to collect the one without the other? (Cowardice?)

What steps should his girl-friend take when found visiting a boy under open arrest in camp? (Very quick ones.)

In Denbury what does a pint of cider cost? (Handing in plain clothes and six strokes!)

February 1956

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

These notes were received in December, too late for the January WIRE. – Ed

Our last report told of the arrival of the Regiment in Devonshire, of the settling in and of its activities during the first half of the term. Since then the weeks have whirled past in a frenzied kaleidoscope of sporting events, social functions, examinations and competitions. Christmas seems to have crept up on us. Boys and staff are going on leave almost, it seems, before half-term was over.

Whatever passing of time there may have been, all are unanimous in asserting that the Regiment has had a most successful term in every way. The weather has been co-operative and there has been a minimum of rain and frost; a welcome change from the bleak East Riding of last year.

Since mid-term, results of the Inter-Troop Soccer and Basketball Leagues have been decided. As was expected, "B" Troop were soccer winners and "L" Troop supreme in basketball. Junior Troop winners were "F" Troop and "J" Troop respectively. The Inter-Troop cross-country was won by "F" Troop, while the best individual winner was Boy Knight, of "M" Troop. This Junior Troop won against all other Troops, including the Senior and Output Troops and put up a remarkably good race.

The Regiment's boxing ability has been proved by the victories over H.M.S. Fisgard and against the Infantry Boys' Battalion, as reported at half-term.

The Regimental cadre soccer team is still unbeaten in the Torbay Wednesday League and have only lost one match to date and should have a very good chance in the South Devon Senior League. To enliven the last week of term, as if this were needed, the Officers and Sergeants of the Corps beat the Officers and Sergeants of the R.A.E.C. at soccer by six goals to four in a "friendly" game.

At hockey the Regimental team has played several matches and beat the Depot D.C.L.I. by one goal to nil in a home match. Playing on the parade ground the pace was terrific and a very good game developed. The team will miss Captain Heyes and Sergeant Robinson, the former posted to B.A.O.R. and the latter to 7 AGRA, both stalwarts of the hockey team.

The Presentation Parade was held on Wednesday, 7th December, 1955, when trophies and prizes for the term were presented by the Director of Boys' Training at the War Office. A number of distinguished guests attended the parade, including the Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, Brigadier Gardiner, the Chairman of Newton Abbot U.D.C. and others. Ex-Boys will recall that we have tried two or three forms of ceremonial parade on this occasion since December, 1954, but this term it was decided to remove all members of the staff from the parade ground as on Trooping occasions. Some rapid "temporary promotion" was therefore necessary and we saw on parade Lieutenant-Colonel (Boy R.S.M.) Johnson as Parade Commander, ably supported by three Squadron Commanders – Major (Boy/Sergeant) Sharpe, Major (Boy/Sergeant) Smith and Major (Boy/Sergeant) Gray. The parade was handed over by the Adjutant – Captain (Boy S.S.M.) Laine.

Whilst the guests were arriving the Parade R.S.M. (Boy/Sergeant) Galloway was lining up the parade, using a parade ground voice, which is becoming well known in the surrounding villages. On this occasion an ex-Service inhabitant of the village of East Ogwell, a mile from the camp, told the writer that he had guessed there was a ceremonial parade in progress as he distinctly heard the words of command. Each Troop was commanded by its own "Captain" or "Subaltern." "G" Troop, commanded by Captain (Boy Sergeant) Help, taking its place of honour on the right of the line as the winners of the S.O.-in-C.'s Trophy for senior Troops.

After a short speech the Director of Boys' Training presented the prizes and awards:

The Signal Officer-in-Chief's Trophy (late Director's Trophy) for the best all-round Troop went this term to Second-Lieutenant I. McClure's "G" Troop in the Senior, and Second-Lieutenant A. Johnson's "F" Troop, the Junior. The Commandant S.T.B.'s Trophy to the best individual Boy was awarded to Boy/Sergeant Help, of No. 1 Squadron, while the best Boy Recruit was Boy Goodman, "R" Troop. The Hedon Sword for the best Squadron ceremonial parade went this term for the first time to No. 1 Squadron.

After the ceremony the Officers' Mess entertained the guests to luncheon.

Photographs for the London Times Educational Supplement were taken of the parade by one of their staff photographers who had travelled all night to be here.

In order to meet the representatives of local newspapers the Press were entertained at the camp on Saturday, 26th November, 1955, when all activities were shown. The resulting articles which have appeared, pay testimony to the organisation and training provided by the Regiment and it is hoped may result in greater knowledge among the general public and in an increased number of recruits. To assist in this, local recruiting officers from Exeter and Salisbury also visited the Regiment, and the Youth Employment Officer of the Ministry of Labour was also a welcome visitor.

Social life at Christmas becomes hectic. This term is no exception. A very entertaining and enjoyable concert was presented by the Drama Group and members of the staff, in the Globe Cinema on Friday, 2nd December. Officers' Mess, Sergeants' and W.O.s' Mess, Cadre, Boy N.C.O.s and Boys each entertained their guests in their own way during the last week of term. On the last Sunday also, 3rd December, the Carol Service was held in the Chapel of St. George in the Camp by Padre Bolton. A very full congregation, including many of the families of members of the Regiment, heard the Lessons read by two Boys, a Subaltern, a Captain, the C.O. and the Padre. The carols were led by the choir, who gave a very fine rendering of "Good King Wenceslas."

On Wednesday, 7th December, a Christmas tea was held in the Boys' Mess, preceded by the presentation by the Commanding Officer of football, basketball and shooting medals and individual educational awards. After three hearty cheers for the Commanding Officer, the meal was rapidly consumed and everyone went off to prepare for the Boys' Dance in the evening, which, was a resounding success. A double-decker 'bus was acquired to transport the young ladies of Newton Abbot and Torquay who came to enjoy the party.

The following day saw the winning troops off on leave, followed smartly by the remainder on Friday.

This then was the conclusion of a most successful first term in our new surroundings at Denbury.

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

We hope that by the time these notes reach our readers the memory of icy roads and frozen pipes will have faded from the minds of those unlucky enough to "winter" in the United Kingdom while the happy warrior basking in the sun and warmth of Malaya or Middle East will not even believe in the stories of Arctic conditions in Devonshire. But Devon "caught it" this year. The R.S.M. could not stand up on the drill square, cars froze, married members came in with stories from outlying villages of supplies cut off, mains burst and no baths for a week. The civilian camp population soon thinned out from sickness (cadre manned the boilers), and oldest inhabitants talked of the worst spell for 30 years. In our centrally heated camp, even the boys, hardened at Beverley, appeared for a day or two in greatcoats. A few radiators burst. Education moved for a morning into barrack rooms, and a few Officers' and Warrant Officers' rooms froze up. The boys did not mind that, but it did look serious when the cinema heating froze and burst. However, some of our U.G. linemen instructors turned out under the Adjutant to help the plumbers, and the shows went on as usual. Before the frost put our grounds out of action, sport had an almost uninterrupted run, as this record will show.

Rugger. The Inter-Troop Rugby Seven-a-Side has raised great enthusiasm and the standard of play rose with each match played. A boys' fixture against Teignmouth Colts was lost by 9 – 5, a very good game in which Boys Jones and Booker and B/Sergeant Jackman played a prominent part. 1 Squadron team beat a company of the Boys' Infantry Battalion from Plymouth to enter the Boys' Army Cup semi-final, and great things are expected of the next match. The Cadre XV has been strengthened by the arrival of Sergeant Graham, R.A.E.C, the Durham County Fly Half. Earlier, the Regiment was outplayed by a Battalion Somerset Light Infantry in the first round of the Southern Command Knockout; but the match was a great exhibition of good Army rugby and these opponents are probably Southern Command finalists.

Soccer. It is with much regret that we lost Captain N. Richardson to 7th Training Regiment who has organised both the Boys and Cadre Soccer teams into well-knit formations. The success of both have been largely due to his enthusiasm and drive. However, Captain Canham is carrying on successfully in a good season.

The Cadre XI are now in two finals and two semi-finals. In the Devon Senior Cup Southern Area Final we meet the strong Dartmouth United team, on Newton Abbot's ground. In the Minor Unit S.E. District K.O. Cup final we meet Depot D.C.L.I. in Plymouth. As the result of our many cup engagements we have played few League fixtures. Even so we are mid-way in the South Devon 1st Division, our record being: –

Goals					
P	W	D	L	For	Against
8	6	0	2	48	12

The abilities of Corporal Riley (Manchester City), Lance-Corporal McGreevey (Arsenal) and Signalmen Pacey (Luton), have of course been greatly responsible for the success of the team and for its regular featuring in the local Press. The loss of Signalmen 'Joe' Crosby on demob will, however, be a blow. Tiny 'Joe,' playing at centre forward, has scored 36 and 'made' many goals this season.

After an average start the Boys' XI has now settled down and under the captaincy of B/Sergeant Jackman they have won their last four games. Boy Buist at centre forward has considerably increased the 'Goals for' total. In three games he has netted 8, including two hat-tricks. This boys' team is now mid-way in the civilian South Devon Junior League and though it has played far fewer games than the other teams, its record so far is: –

Goals					
P	W	D	L	For	Against
13	7	1	5	40	46

Basket Ball. The Inter-Troop Basketball League competition, which has been run during the past two terms, has greatly improved the standard of play, and we beat H.M.S. Fisgard 27 – 14 towards the end of last term. We have entered a team from each Squadron in the Enlisted Boys' Knock-out Competition. A number of boys have played in the Regiment team, among them B/Lance-Corporal Hogg (Boys' Captain), Boy O'Regan, B/Corporal Gallichan and Boy Griffiths. "L" Troop won the league last term and are second to "G" Troop for this term. The Cadre team had three matches, losing two and winning one.

Boxing. In the return boxing match with H.M.S. Fisgard at Plymouth in January, a good evening's sport was enjoyed by a very strong following from the Regiment – in spite of the wintry conditions. (So wintry that two cars scarcely reached home and two others had accidents, due to ice – not Naval gin). The Naval boys were too strong for us and partly avenged the defeat we inflicted on them earlier in the season. At the Southern Command Individual Boys' Championships the Regiment was represented by the following: Boy Skelton – had a bye to the final, but lost on a K.O.; B/Lance-Corporal Chapman, Boy Miller, Boy Markie, Boy Galloway, Boy O'Regan – all semi-finalists. They all boxed well but the opposition was too good for them. We have great hopes for the next season, with a lot of very keen boys coming along.

Hockey. The Regimental hockey team was able to play a few friendly games before the snow covered our pitch. The loss of several members of last term's team made a great difference in the standard of play and the players available in a return match against the Depot D.C.L.I., at Bodmin, were unable to hold the much faster home team. Great strides have, however, been made in teaching the boys to play and a number of good players are beginning to appear in the Inter-Troop games.

Other Sports. A new venture sponsored by the Boys' Club has been a table tennis team, which has played a number of matches against Youth Clubs and organisations in the district. This Regimental team has won all but one match. Much credit in this is due to Boy Coker, who captains the team.

Expeditions and hikes have continued to be popularly supported and a new interest has been rock climbing. For this we are greatly indebted to civilian enthusiasts, who have undertaken to train and lead us in our early attempts. The boys are keen but icy rock conditions have limited us.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has held two very successful functions during the term and has produced a successful darts team. This entails both home and away matches with local teams, most enjoyable social occasions. On 10th February an All Ranks' St. Valentine's Dance held in the No. 1 Gymnasium was most successful and well attended. Strange noises and scenes are being prepared by the boys of the Drama and Operatic Group to issue as a "live show" before the end of term.

To Ex-Boys – An Appeal. Finally, an appeal to readers, for news of "old boys" of the Regiment. We would very greatly appreciate news of your activities, your whereabouts and your experiences and successes in the Corps. A letter sent to the Commanding Officer or "Wire Correspondent" – Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, South Devon, would help us to keep in touch and give present members ideas of what they can hope for. Please drop us a line as soon as you like at any time about yourself – or about other ex-boys.

May 1956

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

As the end of the Easter term approached, events crowded in, even more than is usual. With the freezing spell over and snow gone we were left just enough time to Spring-clean the camp for our G.O.C.'s Administrative Inspection. The General liked the Cadre and Boys' Parade and our barracks.

The next day the South Devon Hounds met in the camp. After refreshments in the sun by the Officers' Mess lawn, they soon found a fox and began with a three-mile point. A crowd of boys with Lieutenant Simms-Reeve and more from the Recruit Troop followed hard on foot, and two boys were still catching up at each check at 3 o'clock!

The Director of Boys paid us his usual welcomed visit, and we entertained Recruiting Officers and a party of cadets from as far as Berkshire.

The Mayor of Dartmouth, with our W.V.S. lady helper, Miss Room, organised trips to Dartmouth where the boys were taken over H.M.S. Jewel, which was lying in the river.

A party of term seven boys with Lieutenant Jones were out in parties on outward-bound training on the moors when the mist enveloped them all. Some slept where they were. Others found the rendezvous where, to their surprise they found some Infantry Boys doing much the same thing that night.

Miss Room's social club has held some successful evenings in the Regimental Institute, and liaison with a local Church Club has made possible invitation dances with a 'bus load of girls.

The Regimental Football team has provided a series of exciting semi-finals and finals for us in both a number of civilian leagues and the local military competition. The D.C.L.I. from Bodmin have been their chief rivals and after a draw with extra time (7 goals each!) just beat us in extra time again at Plymouth, before a big Somerset Light Infantry crowd. Our team fought to the last minute, but they had too many matches in too short a time.

We were disappointed to be beaten by 6 – 3 in the Area Final of the Devon Senior Cup by Dartmouth United in a thrilling match before a large crowd of spectators at the Newton Abbot Club Ground. However, we were able to carry off a Cup in defeating Stoke Gabriel 4 – 2 in the South Devon Senior League final on the same ground. We have still to play the final of the Calder Cup.

Corporal Riley, of Manchester City, who has captained the team and done so much to achieve these fine results, is, unfortunately, about to leave us and we wish him the very best of luck for the future. Signelman Pacey has twice represented Devonshire in the inter-county amateur matches.

To turn to less important matches, it has been represented to your correspondent, somewhat forcibly, that results of this term's needle-match between the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Corps and their colleagues of the R.A.E.C, should be published. The latter won by 7 – 5. Last summer in Beverley, the Regiment began to take an interest in Fencing. The Senior Education Officer and members of his staff, former University fencers, began classes in this fine but little popularised sport. This term, three members of the Regiment, two R.A.E.C. and one Royal Signals, entered for the Southern Command Individual Championships, and have done very well. Staff Sergeant Craddock (R.A.E.C.) a former Leicester University College fencer was placed 4th in Epee and reserve for the Command Team to go to Olympia for the Royal Tournament. Sergeant Morris (R.A.E.C.), Durham University, was 6th in Foil. Boy Corporal J. M. Catterall, the third member of the party, fencing in his first competition, was placed 5th in Sabre and was able to take last year's Command Sabre Champion to four hits all. Boy Catterall had not fenced before joining the Regiment.

The last few days of term brought His Grace The Lord Bishop of Exeter to Confirm several dozen boys in our improved camp church.

On the same day the B.B.C. were televising our boys in the camp for their Children's Programme.

In the Appleyard family serial, Ronnie has joined 6 (Boys) Training Regiment! On April 7th he appeared joining the Recruit Troop at Denbury, being met by Captain Scott. His first uniform was seen being issued by Quartermaster Stokoe and others. A crowd of "R" Troop expect to join T.V. stars by appearing fortnightly on Saturdays between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. All members of the Corps with friends of 14-16 years old should tell them not to miss the next exciting serial!

On the last Monday and Tuesday of the term we were honoured by a visit of Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., our Signal Officer in Chief. On Monday he inspected the camp and saw the boys training, and on Tuesday took our Presentation Parade. The General addressed the boys on parade, giving us all something to live up to and congratulated the Regiment warmly. Accompanying officers with the Signal Officer in Chief were Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, Chief Signal Officer Southern Command, and Major A. W. Fitchett of Royal New Zealand Signals.

The Presentation Parade takes the form of an entire boys' parade, by troops, with the Regiment's Corps of Drums, and includes a General Salute, Inspection, March Past and Advance in Review Order. Not an officer or member of the staff takes part.

The parade was commanded by Boy/S.S.M. Alsford, the senior Boy Warrant Officer.

At this ceremony, Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., received from Apprentice Tradesman Corporal Robertson of A.A.S. Harrogate, the Silver Trumpet presented to the Regiment by the Harrogate Branch of the Royal Signals Association. The Trumpet was received by Boy Drum Major Lewer on behalf of the Regiment.

Winners for the Easter Term were: —

Signal Officer-in-Chief Trophy, Best Boy: B/S.S.M. Jackman. Commandant S.T.B. Trophies, Best Troop, Senior: "H" Troop. Junior: "F" Troop. Best Recruit Boy: "R" Troop (Boy Burn). Winners of Soccer League: "A" Troop (Lieutenant Hussey). Rugby Football Seven-a-side: "B" Troop (Lieutenant Philip). Basket Ball: "G" Troop (Lieutenant McClure). Hockey: "K" Troop (Lieutenant Jones). Drill Competition Winners: "L" Troop (Lieutenant Simms-Reeve). Shooting Competition Winners: "H" Troop (Captain Canham). The Best Individual Shot: Boy Coker.

A distinguished gathering of guests, including the Mayor of Dartmouth and four retired Royal Signals Commanding Officers or Senior Officers, watched the Parade and presentations, and were afterwards introduced to General and Mrs. Wheatley and entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.

That evening, with acclamation, the boys heard from the Commanding Officer that their parents were being invited on June 9th to a Parents' Day, and that those Mums and Dads who lived otherwise too far away would be invited to stay the night in barrack-room dormitories.

Early next morning members of the S.O. in C's. trophy-winning troops left for their Easter leave, followed next day, after some tidying-up by their fellows.

Most of the Staff, if not too exhausted to travel, managed to get away by Easter, in preparation for the best term of the year in Devon — the Summer Term.

Meanwhile we wish the output for May of 46 boys, good luck, new friends and a good trade in their Training Regiments.

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regimental football side has established a reputation in this part of England.

In Devon, the best football is played in the Plymouth and District League, and we leave them alone. Next best football is seen in the quarter county cup (our quarter is the Southern Area). The Regimental side, with its three "professionals," seven others of the staff and a boy or so, horrified all South Devon fans by making a bid to win this most important soccer trophy in this area. They reached the final and, before a crowd of well over 1,000 Devonians, lost a fairly even game by a score that flattered the winners, of 6-3, to Dartmouth United. It would interest many boys to know that in this Regiment boys younger than 18 were playing alongside Arsenal. Manchester City and Luton players in this class football.

The side did so well in its military and civilian leagues that it ended the season playing needle matches about every second day for three weeks, having without exception put off their well-earned leave to do so.



Capt TP Canham - Sig Birtles - Dvr Midgley - Sig Pacey - LCpl McGreevey
Sig Barker - Dvr Staples - Pte Duncan - Cpl Riley - Sgt Smith - **Boy Buist**

They reached the military finals (for small units in S.W. District), losing, with a replay and twice extra time. The feature of note was their three-goal recovery, fighting back from losing 5-2.

They carried off the Dartmouth Cup for another large local league – also the Calder Cup (for a mid-week league) before a good crowd, against strong civilian opposition.

But their record in yet another competition, the South Devon League, First Division, makes the best readings:

P	W	L	D	Goals for	Goals against	Pts.
23	18	4	1	111	42	37

In the South Devon Wednesday League the team won all ten of its matches played, scoring against 11, the massive total of 87!

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

Our first Summer term in "Glorious Devon" is now behind us, but in spite of some rather varied temperatures and an irregular amount of sunshine we have been able to make full use of Dartmoor and the coastline both for training and amusement.

Early in the term we said good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Conner on his retirement and welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker as our new Commanding Officer. At the end of term we also had to say good-bye to five National Service Officers, who have all worked hard and well as Troop officers during their twelve months with the Regiment.

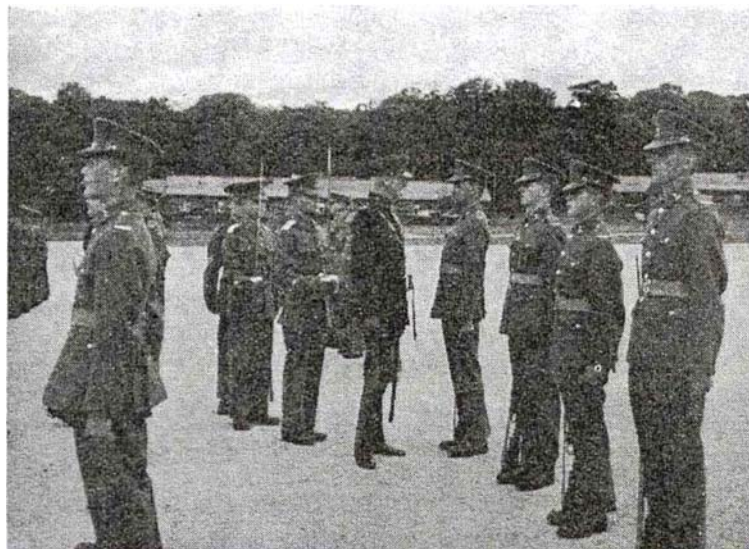
Two important visitors called on us during July. The G.O.C.-in-C, Southern Command (General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.), landed on the square in a helicopter and accompanied by the C.S.O., Southern Command made a quick tour of the camp. After lunch the General spoke to the Boys, impressing upon them the importance of the job they had taken on as potential future N.C.O.s and W.O.s of the Corps.

The Director of Boys' Training also spent a day with us and saw troops of 2 Squadron earring out some initiative training in the area of the River Lemon about a mile from camp. Happily, most of the obstacles were successfully overcome and no one fell in the river, as had been the case during earlier attempts. Later we took the General out to see Lieutenant Jones and "K" Troop in camp.

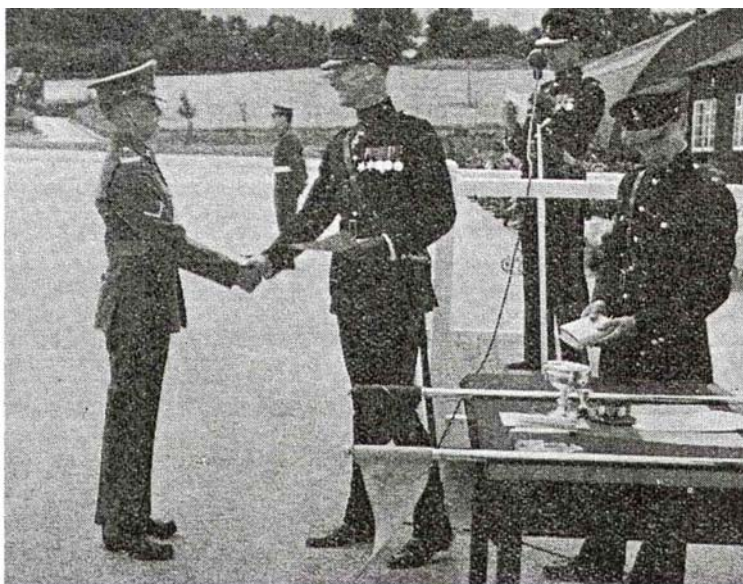
Summer camp this year was held on the South Devon Coast near Start Point. Each Boy spent five days in camp, but O.C. 1 Squadron and Sam, his dog, enjoyed it so much – they decided to stay for almost a fortnight. Cliff scaling, bathing, canoeing, map reading exercises, etc., were the order of the day. Good food and occasionally good weather helped to make the camp a success, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

The Band has been much in demand locally. Carnivals at Torquay and Dartmouth and several local Fetes saw the Band complete with silver trumpets. A high standard of performance was achieved on each occasion, very largely due to the instruction and training the Band have received under the care of Sergeant Yates.

The Presentation Parade at the end of term was taken by Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., C.S.O., Southern Command. The weather was fine and a large number of guests and members of the Regiment attended. The parade was commanded by Boy R.S.M. Alsford and as usual Squadrons and Troops were commanded on parade by senior Boys. Captain Ranft's "A" Troop won the S.O.-in-C's Trophy for Senior Troops, and Second-Lieutenant Johnstone's "F" Troop completed a hat trick in the Junior Competition. The Commandant's Trophy for the Best Boy went to Boy S.S.M. Clarke.



Brigadier G.B. Bell, C.B.E., inspecting 'G' Troop



Boy LCpl Wigfield presented with his Senior Test Certificate

Athletics and cricket have formed the major sports during the term, but a very successful soft ball competition was run during the term which provided good sport and healthy exercise when cricket pitches were otherwise engaged. At the Regimental Athletics meeting a number of records were lowered, and Boy Lance-Corporal Poingdestre emerged as a worthy winner of the Victor Ludorum trophy.

A triangular Athletics meeting was held in Plymouth between ourselves, H.M.S. Fisgard and the Infantry Boys Battalion. The Navy won the day but we had the satisfaction of beating the Infantry Boys Battalion.

6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT***Ex-R.S.M. Makes Presentation to Band***

Copy of Press cutting from the "Western Morning News"

The 8.45 a.m. parade at Rawlinson Barracks, Denbury, on Saturday, 22nd September, at which silver trumpets were to be presented to the Band, was delayed until 9.30 because of a thunderstorm. At 9.30 it was raining heavily and the presentation took place in the Drill Hall instead of on the parade ground.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker, the Commanding Officer of the 6th Boys' Training Regiment, Royal Signals, was present, together with the Second-in-Command, Major H. A. Leece.

The Adjutant, Captain D. E. Higgins, addressing the parade, said "A large number of the Royal Signals Association Branches have presented silver trumpets to our Band. We have already received 15 and a further six have been promised and are on the way."

Served as a Boy

This was a unique occasion. At the parade was ex-R.S.M. W. T. Lowe, who was Boy Trumpeter in 1927 at Catterick Camp with "F" Company. With him was his son, now serving as Boy Corporal Apprentice Tradesman at the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate.

Mr. Lowe, representing the London Branch of the Royal Signals' Association, was there to present the Regiment with two silver trumpets.

Boy Foster, of 210, New Kent Road, London, and Boy Corporal R. Senior, of 33a, Tentercroft Road, Lincoln, stepped smartly forward from the Band at the lower end of the Drill Hall and halted before Mr. Lowe.

Mr. Lowe, now a licensee at the Turner's Arms, Mortimer, West End, near Reading, then made the presentation of the silver trumpets, each of which was inscribed with the Royal Signals' crest and the words "Presented by the London Branch of the Royal Signals Association."



6th (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT – OUTDOOR CLUB WEEKEND CAMP

3rd/4th NOVEMBER 1956

Can you imagine a bleak Dartmoor hillside, a partially ruined and deserted farmhouse that stands silhouetted against the evening skies?

Through the dusk appear a strange but happy and cheerful band of warriors, all carrying immense packs. Could they be prisoners? Could they be smugglers? No! Just the Outdoor Club arriving for a week-end camp.

A party of 24, 18 boys and 6 cadre went to camp at Teignhead Farm, just to see how pleasant late autumn camping can be.

The party moved out from Barracks on Saturday afternoon and were transported to within 5 miles of the campsite by lorry. The last 5 miles was done in traditional manner – we walked. There were no mishaps but some members thought they were in for a wetting whilst crossing a stream which in the growing dusk appeared a far more difficult obstacle than it really was.

Tents were pitched and the evening meal was under way in record time.



It was not long before the boys found that fresh air and a little hard exercise make even terra firma a soft bed, and as a result were quickly fast asleep.

Lieutenant Riding, Sergeants Tatham and Calow however had other worries, the rest of the cadre party, W.O. II Wheatley, Staff Sergeant White and Sergeant Taylor had been playing rugger in the afternoon and were due to compass march out to the camp site later in the evening. Shortly before midnight and 2 hours overdue a flashing torch spelt out "Heat Tea" and all worries were over. After a hearty tea drinking session, even the cadre retired to their sleeping bags.

Sunday morning dawned in brilliant sunshine, a most welcome change for November.

W.O. II Wheatley and Boy Rackham proceeded to take the morning air and went for a short 5 mile walk before breakfast much to the amazement of the remainder.

After breakfast Staff Sergeant White and Sergeant Tatham led a party in search of the post box at Cranmere Pool. Here you collect any letters and then leave your letter for the next hardy visitor. A rolling mist speeded the return to the campsite, where the remainder had struck camp and prepared a late lunch.

The party loaded up and moved off on the last leg back, another 4 miles. Sergeant Taylor, with swinging camera and lantern on his pack, looked like the tinker of old. We all must have looked rather unusual as the local Dartmoor ponies just galloped away and surveyed us from a distance.

All too soon the truck was reached and one more weekend camp was over. Next question was: "When do we go again?" Some boys are never satisfied.