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JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

Exercise "Five Fingers"

In addition to the now familiar fourth term Exercise "Slog-on", the fifth term have their own Exercise "Five Fingers". At the beginning of November sixty Junior Leaders left Denbury for Penhale near Newquay in Cornwall. It was the start of a four-day multifunction exercise.

The weather prevailing in the Devon area had not been pleasant for a few weeks and it made a change to have lovely sunshine for once. By the time they had pitched their 160 pound tents on the edge of the 'sand dunes' dusk had fallen and it became very chilly. Little flickers of flame dotted around the camp area indicated the 'Tommy' cookers of some very cold individuals making attempts to cook a meal from Compo!

Dawn the next day saw frost biting at the grass – and their fingers and toes, as we emerged from our sleeping bags. By 08.00 hours everyone had eaten and work began. Two groups of ten commenced revising and learning basic infantry tactics, learning that trees do not grow, let alone run on grass covered sand dunes. Two other groups learnt some bridge building and the last two went rock climbing at Roche Rock.

The tactics training was by far the hardest, running up the side of dunes where for every two paces forward it was one back. Sergeant Hall of Iron Troop did not enjoy this! The use of trip flares and smoke grenades added a bit of realism to the training, which culminated in a night exercise over the dunes. The defending party surrounded themselves with trip flares and waited for the inevitable. But no! A sly Junior Corporal Watson and Junior Signaller Wheeler noticed the wires in time and attempted to mark them so that the attacking force could slip in unnoticed. Alas, the temptation was too great and one was set off. The noise of the thunderflashes being thrown into the area deafened everybody for five minutes then down went the smoke grenades and the attack went in.

The following day, both these parties went to Roche Rock where Mr Cooksley, one of the civilian instructors waited to take them rock climbing. The wind was so strong that one could almost walk up the side of the rock unaided and most of the group could not resist abseiling out of the window of the hermits hut on the top of the rock. Both party leaders, Lieutenant Rumford and Sergeant Hall, declined the invitation of the Junior Leaders to attempt this rather breath-taking feat. In the afternoon, with a couple of hours to spare both parties were taught how to dig in – very easy work in sand. This culminated in a kind of pitched battle on the top of a steep-sided dune where both party leaders were rolled in the sand.

On the last day, fantastic efforts were made to build a couple of bridges across a wide stream. If only the PSO's could have seen them, sure that the Royal Engineers would have gained some BIII Bridge Builders. Having constructed these engineering marvels the time came to take them to pieces and return to camp. The feeling at the end was that it had been interesting but not too arduous an exercise. The only regrets were that we had to leave such a pleasant training area.

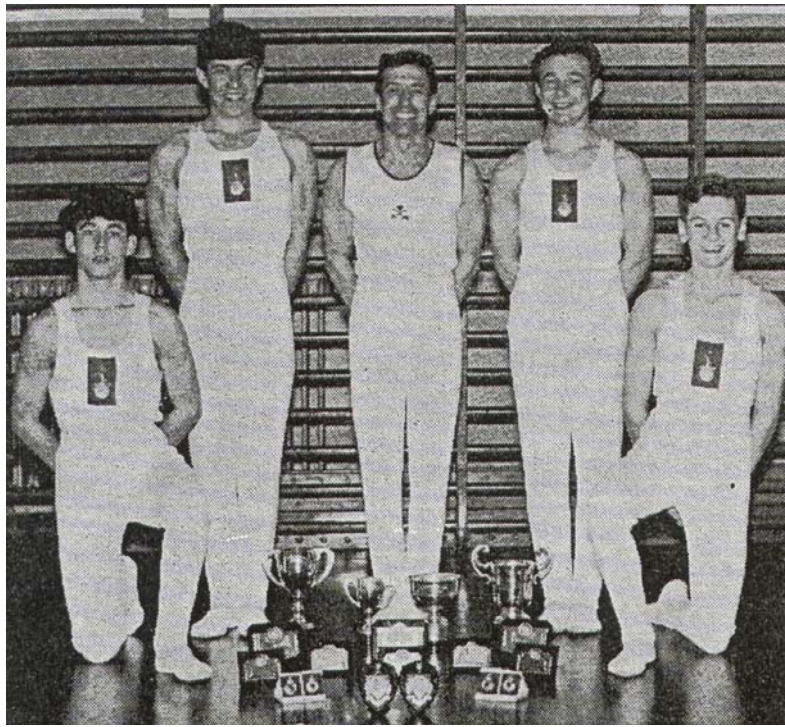
Regimental Soccer – Fine start to season

(Contributed by Junior Corporal Carr)

The regimental football team has got off to a good start for the 1965-66 season. Playing in the South Devon Youth League they have gained 14 points out of 16 points so far and achieved a fantastic goal average of 93 points for and 14 against, in the league. They have also played two friendlies and two cup games with 10 goals for and 10 against. Altogether they have scored 103 goals for and conceded 24. A newcomer to the side is Junior Lance-Corporal Burrows who plays at right-back. His strength in the tackle and his fine ball -distribution belie his sixteen years. Centre-forward Holt, who has recently left the Regiment, and inside-forward Proctor went on a football course during the last week of the summer break, and what they learnt of trapping, heading and ball control and distribution have been of considerable value to the whole of the forward line. The "Goals Scored" column in our record is ample evidence of this.

Junior Leaders Army Challenge Cup

We are pleased to report that the team avenged its defeats at the hands of the R.E. Junior Leaders during the past two seasons, which on both occasions has terminated the Regiment's interest in the Army Cup. This year at Denbury in the preliminary round the Signals lads came home 3 – 1 victors in a match which was unfortunately marred by the frayed tempers and ill-feeling which one normally associates with professional games. Naturally these matches are keenly competitive, but lack of self-control and discipline only serve to spoil the game for both spectators and players alike. In the second round played at Denbury the Regiment met the Junior Leaders R.A.C. from Bovington. Although the Regiment did most of the attacking and looked the better of the two teams the visitors were 4 – 2 victors and so removed the Regiment's interest in the Army Cup for yet another season.



WINNING ARMY GYMNASTS FROM JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

Photograph showing cups and medals won by the gymnastic club at the Southern Command and Army Gymnastic finals for 1965

Junior-Lance-Corporal Kendall, Junior-Corporal Dyer (Junior champion team members), S.I. R.Dart, A.P.T.C. (Senior Army champion), Junior-Corporal Riddell (Junior Army champion and Junior team member), Junior-Signalman Cumberpatch (runner up individual champion and Junior team member)

Army titles for Denbury – an outstanding gymnastic success

Earlier this term the gymnastic and trampoline club was hard at work in preparation to defend the gymnastic and trampoline junior Army titles won at Aldershot last year; and to enter for the first time the Senior Army Gymnastics. The training was long and arduous for all concerned, proving the point that this sport is one of the world's toughest. The training, however, paid off in the Southern Command stage of the championship where the club was also the defending champions. The gymnastic team of four Junior Leaders, Junior Corporal Riddell, Junior Corporal Dyer, Junior Corporal Kendall and Junior Signalman Cumberpatch retained the team cup with Junior Corporal Riddell winning the individual title with an excellent all-round performance. It was very pleasing to see the team reserve Junior Signalman Honey also turn in a good performance, a fact which must herald well for next year.

We were not so fortunate, however, in the Trampoline Section where the "A" team was confronted with strong opposition and eventually took second place to the Army winners (Junior Parachute Company) by 3 marks. In the final Army stage the Junior Parachute Company were winners by a very clear margin, which must show the excellent standard reached by Junior Signalman Forster and Gibson. Finally the turn of the team coach came in the Senior gymnastics and here we captured our next trophy, S.I. Dart, A.P.T.C, winning the title by a clear 15 points. Thus the club returned with a further three weeks to polish performances before the Army championships, and with hopes running high for further success the work proceeded well under the watchful eye of Lieutenant Pearce, R.A.E.C.

In November the Army stage began with the first event, the Senior gymnastics and excitement was high as S.I. Dart was in second place at the end of the compulsory routines. In the afternoon, however, an excellent performance on the parallel bars put S.I. Dart into the lead, which he never lost.

Thus we captured our first Army title; S.I. Dart also won medals for the vault and parallel bars as well as the Southern Trophy for the individual title.

In the Junior gymnastics, which is a team event with an individual champion, we were up against our old rivals from A.A.S. Harrogate whose team had all competed in last year's championships. However, with good steady performances we drew ahead slowly to win the team trophy by 7 points, thus retaining the title we won last year. Much credit for this win must go to Junior Corporal Riddell, who collected the individual trophy, for his all-round performance – he did not drop below 90 marks on any piece of apparatus and the only piece he did not win outright was the vault which went to A/T Tungate of the A.A.S. who collected a 9.4 for a touch front somersault in his voluntary routine.

The runner-up in this event was Junior Signalman Cumberpatch with the other team members gaining individual placings of 5th and 6th. Work must now start on next year's performances and we look forward to keen competition but with higher hopes.

Results

Senior Army and Southern Command gymnastic champion: S.I. Dart, A.P.T.C. (attached Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals).

Junior Army and Southern Command gymnastic champion: Junior Corporal Riddell.

Junior Army and Southern Command gymnastic team champions: Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

Runners-up Southern Command trampoline title: Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals "A" team.

Army Boys Expedition to the Pyrenees

By Junior Signalmen Shield, Junior Leaders Regiment

Two Junior Leaders from Denbury find themselves 9,000 feet up in the Pyrenees

This expedition was organised to give boys from all arms a chance to do some serious climbing and walking in conditions very unlike those available in the British Isles. It also gave us a chance to meet the people of a different nation.

Chosen to represent Signals

I was chosen with J/Corporal Hughes to represent Royal Signals. On Sunday, 8th August, we finished the term early and started on our long journey south to the Pyrenees. At Dover we met the other members of our party. There were boys from the Royal Engineers, the Royal Army Medical Corps, Army Catering Corps and several Infantry Regiments. Monday was spent in the briefing room and getting to know the other boys. We left Dover next morning and arrived at Louchon, a town at the base of the Pyrenees, 24 hours later. From the railway station we walked to the base camp, eight miles across the hills. Here we met a group of French students who were camping nearby and they were soon very interested in our proposed expedition. The base camp was situated in a valley about 3,000 feet above sea level.

Selected for moderate climbers' group

Before the expedition started we were split into three groups, experienced climbers, moderate climbers, and walkers. For the first few days we all did a bit of walking, then the experienced climbers went further into the mountains where the climbing terrain became more difficult and a higher standard was required. The walkers were by this time, making their way towards the Spanish border, on a two-day trip; I was put with moderate climbers. After three days we started into the mountains.

A mile-and-a-half-wide glacier

The first climb was up to a height of 9,000 feet. We spent several days at this height. At first we did a few smaller climbs and some abseiling, but later we started working on ice in groups of four. We walked across a glacier for a mile and a half. It was so steep that we had to zig zag most of the way up. Just below the top there was a small crevasse about 5 feet wide and 12 feet deep. We were within 100 yards of the Spanish border when we reached the top. In order to get to the bottom of the glacier again we had a slide down, using a series of ropes tied together as a guide.

Beaten by the locals at Rugby!

Next day we returned to the base camp where we gave a display of mountain rescue. We showed a large party of spectators how mountain descents are carried out with a stretcher. That afternoon we played sports with the French people from the camp and village. We beat them at volley ball but unfortunately lost the Rugby. In the evening we had a camp fire, where both parties sang songs in their own language. A truly international evening, it was enjoyed by all, and we were sorry to leave.

Much local kindness

We were struck by the hospitality of the local people in Louchon. They were all very pleasant and friendly, and on the last day when a group of us were having a meal in a cafe a gentleman paid our bill. Evidently he fought with the British in the last war.

We were all very sorry when the time came for us to leave, and we all vowed that we would return if ever we got the chance. The long journey home was rather depressing, but the thought of another two weeks leave ahead soon had us smiling again when we arrived back in England.

**JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT,
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Denbury Floods

The most significant recollection of the Easter Term so far is the incessant rain. It hardly seems to have stopped, and every outdoor exercise has been marred by the bad weather. Many outside improvements have been delayed and the occupation of our mobile homes has had to be put back.

Sporting Scene

In the Army Junior Cup, the rugby team accounted for the Junior Leaders, R.C.T., in the first round, but were narrowly defeated by "J" Company, A.A.S., Chepstow (3 – 0), in the next. This was a really hard-fought game at forward, played in almost a mud bath. Our forwards played extremely well, but unfortunately, the backs were less effective. Particular credit must go to Randall and Whitehead.

In the same competition, the hockey team have also accounted for Junior Leaders, R.C.T., in the first round (3 – 1 after a drawn first game). There was some grand hockey played in this game and Roe scored all three goals. Unfortunately, although very confident, because we had been without our captain and star forward, Greatholder, in the first round, we were beaten 2 – 7 in the quarter-finals by Junior Leaders, R.E.M.E., after a good game.

Slim Squadron scored a notable achievement at basketball by winning the Southern Command Minor Units Competition, but were defeated in the semi-finals of the Army Competition by a team from Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon.

Permanent Staff

Each team has entered for the Minor Units District Cup. The rugby team deserves pride of place, having won the competition. After an indifferent start, this team has settled down and has now won all games since early December. The main difference in the strength of the rugby team has been the improved play of the forwards. Whereas we have a strong back division, the forwards were suspect and the team was unlikely to gain possession of the ball. However, we obtained at least as much of the ball as the opposition, and our backs then normally ran riot. In the three cup matches, the team scored 101 points and only five against. In the final we beat 22 Location Battery, R.A., by 24 points to nil. The staff hockey team scored a good win over the School of Infantry in their first match, but went out to a good H.Q., Southern Command side in the semi-final. The staff soccer team scored a first round success, but also went out in the semi-final to 14th Regiment. The weather has curtailed a lot of activities and, at the time of writing, a fairly extensive 'flu epidemic has also taken its toll. However, term exercises are continuing. One of the most interesting activities this term has been the ski-ing trip to Scotland by a party of Junior Leaders.

New Intake

Owing to the fact that there is no school leaving in England at Christmas, the intake in January was the smallest number ever – 21. However, all have stayed the course well and, in spite of their reduced strength, appear a very happy and spirited group.

Major J.W. Joyner

There are many comings and goings in a unit – normally too numerous to mention. One who cannot be overlooked is Major John Joyner, who has departed for Catterick. He has been with this unit for nine years, and a decade of Junior Leaders owe much to him for his unselfish dedication in furthering their interest and skill in external leadership training. There is probably no greater expert or lover of Dartmoor, and the success of the Ten Tors Expeditions over the years has largely rested in his shoulders. We wish Major and Mrs. Joyner the best of good fortune in their new station.

Scottish Ski Trip

On 10th February, 14 boys set off from Denbury in the P.R.I. bus on a trip to Scotland, where they were to learn to ski. The first night stop on the way was at the Army Apprentices' School, Carlisle, where food and overnight accommodation was provided. The following day the bus made Aviemore without a hitch – much to the surprise of everyone. The hotel that had been booked was the new J. Arthur Rank Coylumbridge Hotel, which was luxurious, and the boys were at a complete loss to start with, having everything provided for them.

The ski training itself proved valuable for all, and after the week's efforts several boys became quite proficient. The biggest slope, the White Lady, eventually proved to the more proficient of the boys that they possibly had not reached the standard that they imagined, and brought them down to earth with a bump.

Injuries were negligible – apart from a couple of sprained ankles – and the trip was well worthwhile. The return journey to Denbury again went without a hitch – once the bus got started after six hours effort.

**JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT,
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Exercises

During this month (March) there were several exercises, the longest of these being "Slog-On III" for the fourth term boys, which ran over four days. The exercise included rock climbing, pot-holing and about 40 miles of road and moor walking. The portion of this exercise that will remain firmly imprinted in the minds of all who took part was a raging hailstorm that struck early one evening and was followed by snow on the higher ground. This storm caught everyone by surprise, as the weather had been very reasonable up to that moment. The previous day, 10th March, saw the Junior Squadron one-day exercise, and it was here that the Unit was given nationwide publicity over the alleged temporary loss of some of the boys. The Unit's own rescue service, operated by Trade Training Wing, went quickly into action when the news of the loss was heard, and proved its efficiency in its first live operation. The boys were recovered early in the morning after having spent a cold night on the moor. There were no casualties and they appeared to be none the worse for their experience. O.C Alexander Squadron spent a cold morning sitting in the open door of a helicopter quartering the moor area looking for the boys.

On 25th and 26th March, Junior Squadron went for their termly camp to Churston Cove and had an enjoyable week-end.

The last exercise to take place during the month was the Commonwealth Trophy race. This inter-troop race usually produces some excellent feats of speed over long distances on Dartmoor, and this term's was no exception. The race finished in very good time, with no serious casualties, and Kukri Troop won for the third time in succession.

Visits

During the month there were two visits by senior officers, on 15th March, the Inspector of Boys' Training, Brigadier K. R. S. Trevor, C.B.E., D.S.O., and on the 28th, Brigadier J. M. S. Majury, M.B.E., Commander, Devon and Cornwall Sub District. Both made a fairly extensive tour of the Regiment and a detailed tour of Trade Training Wing.

The headmasters of schools in the district also visited the unit and were impressed with what they saw. Again, they had an extensive tour of Trade Training Wing and showed great interest in the variety of trades offered by the unit.

On 12th March, Major Ryan, of 216 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron came down to the unit, and on the same day a party of 37 boys from Kukri Troop went to Aldershot to see 216 Squadron. The boys had an extremely good time and were given a good idea of the activities of the Squadron. Unfortunately, a demonstration of parachuting had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Sports and competitions

Practically all the sport that has been going on this month has been confined to inter-Troop games. At the end of every term there are the inter-Troop knockout competitions in the major sports. This term saw White Swan Troop beat Beaufighter Troop in a very hard-fought game of rugby. The lead in this game changed hands four times, and both Troops were relieved when the final whistle blew. The hockey was won by Quadrant Troop from Lion Troop; this again was a very hard-fought match. The soccer was won by Lion Troop who beat White Swan Troop.

There were only two outside sporting competitions during the month. The Slim Squadron basketball team made a long journey to Edinburgh, only to be defeated by a team from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon, in the semi-final of the Army Cup (Minor Units). The other event was the Southern Command Major Units Swimming Championships. This was held in Aldershot, and each Squadron sent a representative team. Unfortunately, our highest placing was Montgomery Squadron, which came fifth, but this in itself was a very good performance.

The other competitions which have been taking place are the inter-Troop drill, P.T., assault course, shooting and swimming. The overall result produced Kukri as the winning Troop and Iron Troop as the runners-up.

The term's activities have virtually come to an end with the end of the month. The only remaining one is the Graduation Parade on 5th April. However, during the leave period two major activities are scheduled. The first is Exercise "Lifeline," which takes place in Wales, and many of the Trade Training Instructors, together with a number of the output boys, are providing communications. The second involves the Band, which is spending some time at Aldershot rehearsing for a demonstration at Wembley Stadium on 30th April. Both these activities will be reported on in a later edition.



Junior Leaders "perform" at the Outward Bound School. Top fitness is required here – though we enjoyed a laugh at the expense of the "not so agile". In this photo Corporal John Baker (Lineman training) obviously prefers the vertical!

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

Headquarters Squadron is the feature this month

Here can be found the majority of the permanent staff of the Regiment. The Squadron is commanded by Captain (Q.M.) H. J. Crocker and the S.S.M. is W.O.II F. A. Gibbs who, until the end of last year, served with the Joint Communications Unit in Borneo. Captain Crocker leaves us this month, joining the present two-way traffic between Denbury and Borneo. His place is taken by Captain R.A.J. Bingley who has recently transferred from the Mercian Brigade to the Corps and to whom we bid a special welcome.

Helping run a Regiment such as ours is almost all work and no play but we have not heard any suggestions that some (or all) of us are dull boys. Unfortunately our numbers and location prevent us from taking an active part in many outside Regimental activities so most of us do not get around as much as we would like to.

Getting involved in the Ten Tors Expedition

We do, however, get very much involved in the major event of the year – the annual Ten Tors expedition. This year's, the seventh, has just ended and an article will be included in the next WIRE describing the event in full. Suffice to say now that the expedition was again a tremendous success. Despite the loss on posting of Major John Joyner, who did so much good work on earlier expeditions, our organisation this year was the best ever. Communications, apart from two radio relay links kindly engineered by 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment, were provided entirely by the Regiment – with excellent results.

Looking slightly the worse for wear after Exercise "Lifeline"

In April the Regiment provided an ad hoc Brigade Signal Squadron to support an "enemy" brigade on Exercise "Lifeline" the first major exercise to be held in Britain since the war. This Squadron, made up of permanent staff and Junior Leaders who had just graduated to man's service, did exceptionally well, earning the thanks and praise of those who mattered. Our vehicles made a proud sight leaving Denbury for the Welsh mountains, but after ten days of snow, continual rain and mud, they returned looking slightly the worse for wear!

Top fitness necessary at the Outward Bound School

Saturday morning is the most unpopular morning for the rank and file of H.Q. Squadron. Most of them would prefer the morning off (who wouldn't?), but it is the one day in the week when the more serious aspects of soldiering can be contemplated, and those who cannot find a justifiable excuse for being absent have to parade for military training. A few weeks ago we visited the Outward Bound School at Holne Chase, near Ashburton, where top fitness is strictly necessary. Needless to say, we all enjoyed the laughs at the expense of the not-so-agile!

Former members of the Regiment will be interested to hear that two "old hands" are still with us – Major John Smith-Owen and Drum-Major Alan Yates. Major Smith-Owen is now in his seventh year with the Regiment. Drum-Major Yates has been in Denbury, apart from a one-month break in 1955, for over 15 years –four and-a-half years with the Depot Regiment and the remainder with us. For all his long service in Devon, the Drum-Major probably sees more of the United Kingdom than any of us, as our Band, Pipers and Trumpeters, under his able direction, are still very much in demand all over the country.

**JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT,
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July was about the most hectic month of a very hectic summer term. The quietest event being the Regimental Stand Down at the beginning of the month. On return the Junior Leaders were faced with a very full programme.

Nijmegen Marches

Once again the Regiment entered for the marches and was in fact the only Junior Leaders Regiment in the country to be allocated any vacancies.

This year we entered three teams, namely "Alexander" Squadron, "Slim" Squadron and a Troop team from "White Swan" Troop. We had 49 Junior Leaders marching. The training was extensive and prior to departure to Nijmegen every Junior Leader had marched close on 250 miles in the lanes of Devon. The party went by bus and ferry to Nijmegen and had two very enjoyable days prior to the marches to look around.

The four days of the marches will long be remembered by all the boys. With 15,000 marchers they were able to rub shoulders – or feet – with representatives from some 15 nations. At the opening ceremony the Junior Leaders were chosen to represent the British Army and on the final march in they were very popular with the crowd as they marched past the saluting dais in their No. 2 Dress.

We are pleased to report all the participants received their medals and we also collected three team medals.

We must, at this point, thank C.S.M.I. Carpenter of the A.P.T.C. for his efforts and enthusiasm and the excellent results his training plan achieved.

Presentation Group

This has been the busiest term of the year for the Band, Pipers and Gymnasts. Whenever they have appeared they have been widely acclaimed and praised for their skill and enthusiasm. The group has given displays at the S.S.A.F.A. Fete, Teignmouth, Reading Army Display, Butlins, Minehead to name but a few.

Commonwealth Trophy

This year the Regiment was loosed upon Dartmoor in conditions which were more readily allied with November than August. As the wind rose and the mist fell all the staff wondered what would happen. It is with delight we announce that we were able to account for all boys in record time. They were all extremely wet and cold but none the worse for wear!

In fact, the hardships were much reduced later when it became known that one of the check points manned by persons responsible for map reading instruction lost their way when coming off the moor, thereby spending much longer than was necessary in the uncomfortable weather.

Regimental Regatta

This annual event was held at Coombe Cellars on Wednesday, 16th July, under admirable conditions, although there was quite a high wind and strong sea. The River Teign was alive with dinghies, canoes, cutters and motor-powered assault boats. All events were eagerly contested with the final result depending upon the last event.

As usual the permanent staff were well and truly drenched but it was all taken in the spirit of the event.

Great credit must go to Captain Cuthill and Captain McMahon for the organising of such an enjoyable afternoon.

C.C.F. Summer Camps

This month saw the arrival of five school C.C.F. contingents – Kelvinside Academy; Taunton School, Peter Symonds School, Queen Mary's School and Radley College. The Regiment had prepared a tented camp for all the C.C.F. contingents. We also provided assistance with a certain amount of the training. It was interesting to see how enthusiastic these Cadets were when they were training with the latest equipment. They all stated how much they had enjoyed their visit and I think hearing the comments of the Cadets has made the Junior Leaders appreciate all the more the facilities they have on the camp.

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT**S.O.-in-C. at Graduation Parade**

The summer graduation parade took place this year on Monday, 8th August, in more favourable weather than that which drenched the output at Easter. The parade was commanded by Junior R.S M. Randall and the inspecting officer was Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O. The Junior Leaders seemed to put a little extra something into the parade before their Signal Officer-in-Chief, and were rewarded by his compliment on their drill and turn out.

The S.O.-in-C. joined the guests of the Regiment and the officers for lunch before taking his leave.

After lunch it was Junior Squadron's turn to hold their passing-out parade, watched once again by many of the parents. The Juniors were then able to consider themselves members of their Senior Squadron, with whom they will remain until they graduate to man's service.

Parents then walked round the Regiment to look at training, hobbies and sporting facilities and to watch various demonstrations. Later there was a short tattoo consisting of a display by the gymnasts, band, pipers and drums and Highland dancers.

At four o'clock, parents, boys and staff congregated in the cinema for the prizegiving and for the Commanding Officers' address, during which he summarised Regimental activities and achievements for the interest of the parents.

After the prizegiving, tea was served in the N.A.A.F.I., during the course of which parents were able to chat to the staff about their sons and to discuss their progress.

The day after graduation day developed into a struggle between Junior Leaders and Staff. The former intent on packing their bags to ensure they were ready to make an unhindered start to their leave whilst the latter were desperately trying to ensure that everything was battened down and secure before the "labour force" disappeared.

Very early on Wednesday, 10th August, various coaches departed and a deathly hush descended on the camp, where only the staff remained, and by mid-day everyone was ready to depart. Another term had ended.

Summer Cruise

As a grand finale to a successful season, the Sailing Club's annual cross-Channel cruise will long be remembered as the outstanding event of the season by those taking part.

It was "Certa Cito" all the way as we logged over 420 miles and visited eight ports in six days.

The crew consisted of: Skipper, Lieutenant P. E. Bruce; mate, Captain P. G. McMahon (R.A.E.C.); crew, Junior Signalmen Noble, McKendrick, Clare, Hild and Kershaw.

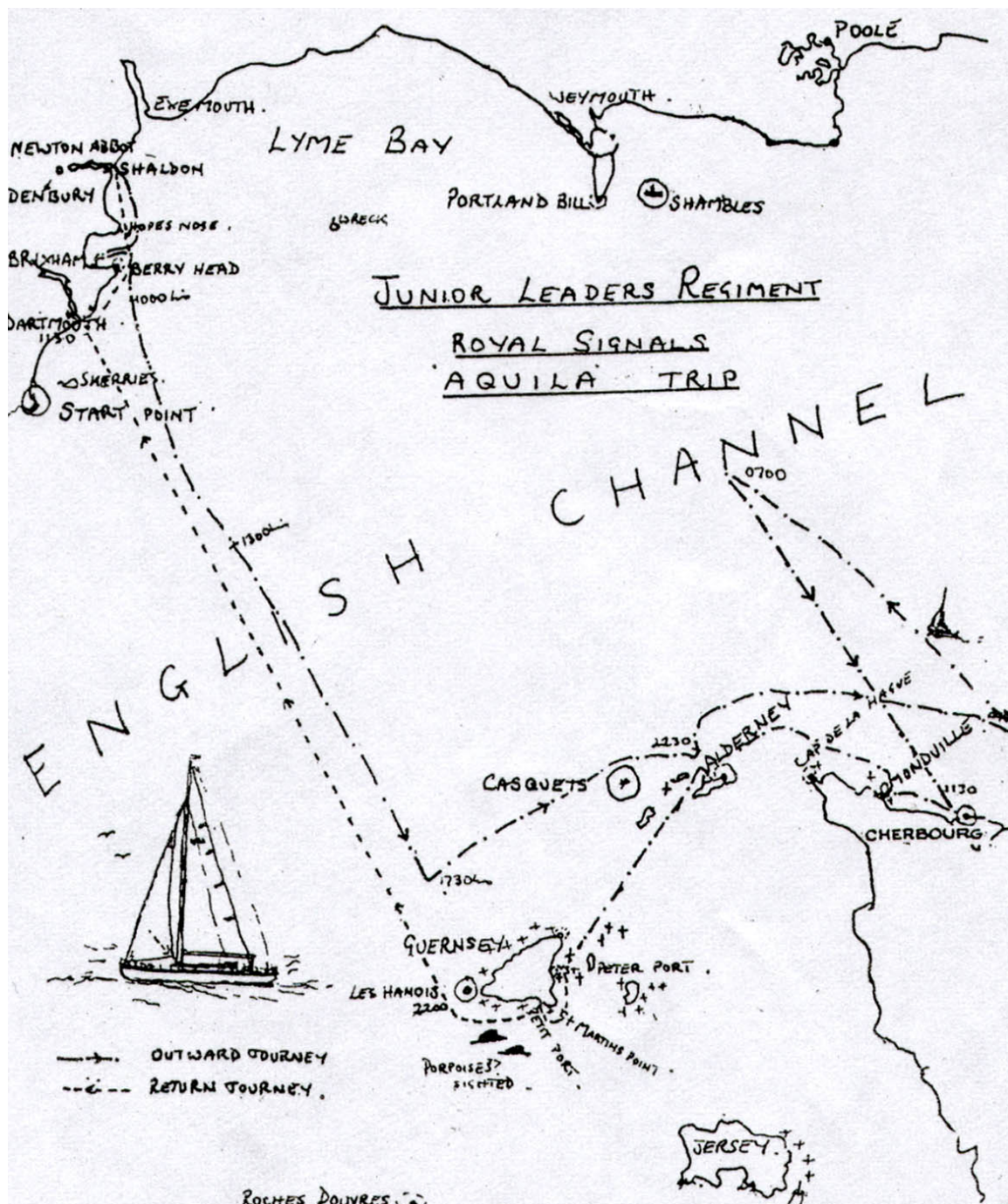
The boat, The Aquila, is an ex-German 100 square metre 'Windfall,' retired after an eventful career as Galahad with the Royal Naval Engineering College, and still going strong. The yacht is now owned by Major Gregson, R.A. (Retd)

On Sunday, 4th September, we were gale-bound in harbour, and when the wind moderated we had to wait for the tide to rise high enough to cross the bar.

We finally left at 21.10 hours, a dark night, with a strong swell left by Hurricane "Faith." At 00.45 hours, in Brixham harbour, we were met by the customs officer, who mistook us for the excise cutter. We had to alter our navigation lights.

The following morning we set out to cross the Channel, helped by a south-westerly wind which gradually freshened. We reduced sail accordingly, and one by one, everyone except the skipper was seasick.

A few miles south of the Hurd Deep, and we altered course from Les Hanois, Guernsey, to the Casquets and Alderney, with Cherbourg as long stop.



Folkloring with the Highland Dancers

On the 25th August "The Group Ecosais" set off in fine holiday mood for the big folklore festivals in North-East France. For months we had practised the routine required for this kind of "do," and we were full of confidence as our old 'bus trundled along over the bumpy roads of West Flanders towards our first stop, Auberchicourt, near Douai.

At Ypres we stopped to see the Menin Gate Memorial. There Holman, one of our drummers, discovered his grandfather's name in the Roll of Honour. He was very chuffed about this.

At Auberchicourt we found the townspeople, led by the Mayor, out in strength to meet us and it was a very jolly party that settled down to lunch in the Salles des Fetes. The talk was all about the Argylls, who had been billeted there in 1939/40; our piping instructor, who had been in the Argylls then, was treated like Bonnie Prince Charlie!

After a ceremony in the evening at the British Cemetery and the French War Memorial, and after a wine of honour in the Town Hall, we put on our show. We would have been there yet had we responded to every encore.

Next stop was Metz, where we joined about 40 or 50 folk groups and bands for the great Mirabelle festival—the biggest of its kind in Europe. One hundred thousand people were packed into the town for the festivities and the place was really jumping. We soon made friends with people from other groups, but particularly with the lads from the Royal Canadian Air Force Band. They were a right lot of comedians.

German Trip, 1966

During the summer leave a party of seven boys chosen from the German Hobby spent ten days sightseeing in Germany. The objects of the trip were to introduce them to the country and to give them an opportunity of practising the language they had learnt in the classroom.

H.Q. 4 Division and Signal Regiment at Herford kindly acted as hosts and gave the boys a very favourable impression of man's service. A number of trips were undertaken during the stay, including visits to Hamburg, to Hamlin, where the legend of the Pied Piper was seen re-enacted, to Lemgo, Bad Salzufflen and Detmold, as well as a number of visits to open-air swimming pools in the area.

Regimental Boxing

The Regimental boxing championships were held this term and were spread over several evenings. Eventually 30 finalists emerged on Finals Night to produce a fine evening's boxing. There were some close decisions, with displays of enthusiasm, pluck and courage in abundance.

In the Troop competition, Beaufighter Troop emerged the winners with 33 points. Lion Troop were second with 29 points and White Swan third with 25 points. White Swan did well to produce four champions.

A cup for the best boxer was awarded to Junior Signalman Hirst, Quadrant Troop, and a cup to the best loser to Junior Signalman Craven, Lion Troop.

In the preliminary round, the regimental team were drawn away to the A.A. College, Arborfield, and were narrowly beaten by 23 points to 22 points. This was unfortunate, as we had hoped to reach the finals at Aldershot in November. Now we have to rest content by boxing friendlies with Junior Leaders Regiment, R.A.C., and Junior Soldiers Company, Wessex Brigade, also local boxing clubs.

In the New Year several of our boxers should do well in the County-Southern Command and Army Junior Individual championships.

We welcome the arrival of our new boxing instructor Sergeant A. Paxton, Royal Signals. He is most enthusiastic and is knocking the regimental team into good shape.

March-April 1967

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

Graduation Day and re-organisation

During the Christmas term we received definite news that this Regiment would be closed at the end of 1967. The Christmas Graduation Parade was, therefore, a regrettable milestone in that it was the last parade of this Regiment in its old form since, due to the coming run-down, all future parades will be smaller. The reviewing officer, Brigadier J. H. S. Majury, M.B.E., Commander, Devon and Cornwall Sub-District, praised the Regiment for the work it has done and congratulated all on parade for their smartness and steadiness. Immediately afterwards, Junior R.S.M. Dyer, who had commanded the parade, complained of "feeling funny" and was admitted to hospital with pneumonia. A good example, we feel, of steadiness on parade. When the Junior Squadron Pass-off Parade took place in the afternoon, another regrettable milestone was passed as there will be no more such parades since there are to be no more intakes.

Later that day, in his address to parents, the Commanding Officer told them of the coming closure of the Regiment and future plans for the Junior Leaders. Boys are now grouped by outputs which simplifies administration for the remainder of the life of the Regiment but entailed considerable re-organisation at the very end of last term. After a trial period, approximately forty Junior Leaders have been accepted for transfer to the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

For the grand finale of Graduation Day, instead of demonstrations by the Corps of Drums, the Pipe Band, the Highland Dancers and the Gymnasts during the afternoon, a Searchlight Tattoo lasting about an hour was presented on the main Square during the evening. In spite of heavy winds (which made it impossible to erect the canvas castle back-cloth) and rain, it was a great success and all credit is due to Drum-Major Yates and all who took part.



GRADUATION DAY

Brigadier J. H. S. Majury, M.B.E., speaks to Junior Pipe Major Waddell, English Junior Pipe Champion

The Drama Club

At the end of last term, the Drama Club presented a pantomime "Aladdin," written and produced by Major "Dusty" Miller. It was seen and enjoyed by three very good audiences and in particular a large party of old age pensioners who came along on the Saturday night.

The Easter term

The Easter Term is now well advanced and the Junior Leaders have quickly settled down in their new Troops and billets. So quickly in fact that this term is now running its normal course.

On the sporting side quite a lot of success is coming our way. Having been knocked out of the Army Junior Soccer Cup last term, the soccer team is now doing very well in the South Devon Youth League and are to be semi-finalists in the Youth League Cup in the near future.

The Regimental basketball team has recently won the South-West District Army Junior Major Units competition and in the Minor Units competition "B" Squadron were clear winners with "A" Squadron runners-up. The Regimental and both Squadron teams will now play in the Southern Command finals of both the Major and Minor Units competitions.

The hockey team has had a successful season and is now through to the semi-finals of the Army Junior Hockey Cup, whilst the rugby team are quarter-finalists in the Army Junior Rugby Cup.

Let us hope that we can report continued successes in our next notes.

Sergeants' Mess

A "Night to Remember" it was intended to be, and a "Night to Remember" it turned out to be – that was the night the Sergeants' Mess dined out our retiring Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) G. B. Symonds, M.B.E.

Originally a member of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, Captain Symonds joined the Royal Signals on 1st April, 1941, and served a total of 25 years, probably the most memorable of which were served in the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, from March 1962 to December 1966.

And so to dinner, with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., Captain (Q.M.) Symonds, M.B.E., Captain A. J. Cornwell, R.S.M. M. F. B. Garland and S.S.M. A. Burns all seated at the top table, with fifty Mess members resplendent in Mess kit, occupying two adjacent tables.

The 'ice' of this formal occasion was broken even before grace could be said when W.O II Osborne – our Junior Leader-sized Squadron Sergeant Major – was unable to find his seat and, amid laughter and remarks such as "Throw him across the table – mind he doesn't drown in the soup!" the evening commenced. Good humour prevailed along with excellent food and it was with difficulty that the Mess was "shushed" to silence in order that the speechmaking could begin.

At long last those of us who had discovered that the R.S.M. had a new bowler hat and a rolled black 'brolly' hidden in his cupboard were to be disappointed; these two items had been purchased in order that the Mess could present them to Captain Symonds. Amidst loud cheers the presentation was made and we all roared our approval of the wearing of a black bowler with Mess kit. In addition, Captain Symonds was presented with a photograph album with the names and signatures of all members on the first two pages, the remainder of the album being empty in order that it could be filled with the many photographs we intended to have taken that night.

The "presentation spotlight" was then turned on the Adjutant, Captain Cornwell, as he was presented with the C.D.M. (Cadbury's Dairy Milk – for our overseas readers) which was made up of a large coloured garland with a half-pound bar of chocolate and Captain Cornwell's long-awaited G.S.M. (Radfan) attached. I should say at this stage that the G.S.M. arrived several weeks earlier and was skilfully hidden in the Orderly Room, leaving the Adjutant to wonder why all the other personnel entitled to the G.S.M. (Radfan) had received their medals but not Captain Cornwell.

Coffee was waived as we were all eager to get down to "bare facts" and we quickly left the dining room.

Much to many people's surprise, the lounge was found brim-full with one hundred members of our Joint Leaders Corps of Drums and Pipe Band who struck up with great gusto as the Quartermaster entered. It was indeed very fine and Captain Symonds was obviously much moved by this gesture.

Drink flowed fast and furious, but was at one stage interrupted when the Quartermaster was requested to take the salute on the drill square whilst the band marched past in a final tribute to him.

More stories, more jokes and more drinks followed until everyone had disappeared into the night. I think I remember locking up the Mess at something like 04.30, thus ending a very memorable occasion.

May-June 1967

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

The "Torrey Canyon" – Fine work by Junior Leaders

Spring Term is drawing rapidly to its close, 66 Junior Leaders are graduating to Man's Service, and we shall expect about 250 Juniors to return after leave for what will be our last term in Denbury.

Junior Leaders' Sport

Rugby

We were beaten, but not disgraced, by the Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.A.C., who went on to win the Army Junior Cup.

Hockey

After playing about twice as many games as any other competing team, we were put out of the Army Cup semi-final by the Junior Sappers. Hockey officers note well the name "Howie." We think he's a good one and should make his name in due course.

Boxing

An Army Champion – J/Signalman Patterson (8 stone) and a runner-up, J/Signalman Sayer. They, together with J/Lance-Corporal Short were Southern Command Champions.

Cross-country

A slight improvement on last year in the Army Junior Championships, but still well out of the hunt. However, we had a marked success in the Devon Boys' Club race and eight Juniors were selected to represent Devon.

Table tennis

J/Signalman Ruffer won the Devon Boys' Club junior singles, J/Corporal Ebbage was runner-up.

Food

Visitors to Denbury have always been impressed by the high standard of meals prepared by our cooks. We know they are good, but to prove it to the rest of the Army, a team consisting of W.O.II Malpass, Lance-Corporal Wild and Private Dick, won the 43rd District Cookery Cup. In the Southern Command competition, Private McClory replaced Private Dick, who was sick, but it made no difference and we took that cup as well. We wish our team success in the Army Finals at Aldershot on 10th May,

"TORREY CANYON"

There can be few who have not heard of the large oil tanker which went on the rocks off the coast of Cornwall on 18th March, and of the efforts to stop the thousands of tons of crude oil which threatened the beaches of South-West England.

The 21st March was our Administrative Inspection Day and preparations were well in hand to receive Brigadier Majury, Commander, 2nd Infantry Brigade and Devon/Cornwall Sub-District. However, the Brigadier took charge of the Army operations to save the South West beaches, and our Administration was tasked in quite a different way. To run any military operation a Commander must first have communications and, being the only Signal Unit in this part of the country, Brigadier Majury requested our assistance. The Regiment quickly deployed radio detachments and comcen personnel and got a network going. It proved invaluable in the first stages, and great credit is due to the P.S. Sergeants and their crews of Junior Leaders who worked so hard.

The Brigade also asked for a Liaison Headquarters to be set up at Truro. The Commanding Officer, with three young Signals Officers, set this up and manned it through the following ten very harrassing days.

At Plymouth H.Q. things were buzzing and two R.A.E.C. Officers were detached for watch-officer duties. Meanwhile, at Denbury, the remainder of the Regiment was by no means idle. At a few hours' notice to move, the Regiment drew spray equipment, protective clothing and boots and prepared itself for exercise "Mop-Up." Now all this was taking place towards the end of term, and over Easter as well. Trade Tests and education examinations were looming up, and the Instructional Staff were showing due concern.

Just in time, however, the Regiment was stood down. The H.Q., Truro, and the signals commitments were handed over and a very tired CO. and his staff returned to Denbury on 1st April.

Messages of congratulations and thanks for the work done were received from the Army Commander and Brigade Commander.
June-July 1967

The Signal Officer-in-Chief Major-General P.E.M. Bradley, C.B.E., D.S.O., reviews Corps affairs - part of review:

Junior Leaders

To our sorrow, the Junior Leaders Regiment at Denbury disbands at the end of this year and those Junior Leaders who have not completed their training will do so at the Apprentices College at Harrogate. Now that we have lost the Junior Leaders Regiment we must make full use of Harrogate's capabilities. I am sure that the College will meld its own fine traditions with those of the Junior Leaders Regiment, which has such a long and distinguished history of service to the Corps and to the Army.

July-August 1967

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP**Food**

The Regimental Cookery Team, comprising W.O.II Malpass, Lance-Corporal Wild and Private Dick, maintained the high standard of cookery that won first prize in the Southern Command Cookery Final by gaining second place in the Unit Competition of the Army Cookery Competition.

Cross-country

We have had a very successful cross-country season. The highlight and climax came when our team won every trophy and medal (except four minor ones) in the Devon Youth Clubs' cross-country race. As a result, eight members of our team were selected to represent Devon in the Inter-Counties Junior Cross-Country Championships. Those selected were: J/Sergeant Dempster, J/Signalman Davidson, J/Signalman Granitza, J/Corporal Lumgair, J/Signalman Foster, J/Signalman Lawrence, J/Lance-Corporal Fuller and J/Signalman Neighbour.

The success of our team is due largely to the efforts of Sergeant Evans. Special mention must also be made of J./Corporal Lumgair, who was placed in the first three in all but one race.

TEN TORS, 1967

Preparations for Ten Tors, as usual, began quietly before Christmas and gathered momentum until Friday, 26th May, when Denbury Camp was invaded by 2,000 boys and girls, all eager to take part in the seventy expedition on Dartmoor.

No sooner had everyone retired to their tents, pitched on our playing fields, than pipers were to be heard rousing the competitors at 04.30 hours on Saturday. This was followed by the shouts of Sergeants Byrd and Eouzan reminding everyone that the buses left the square at 05.30 hours.

The first busload of walkers reached Haytor, the start, to find that visibility was down to about fifty yards and that the rain was falling in torrents. However, despite a caution from us about the difficulties of trying to negotiate Dartmoor in such weather, no team refused the documents issued at the start. It was discovered later, however, that several teams fell out two or three minutes after leaving the start.

The 'fall-out' rate this year was very high compared with previous years, when conditions were ideal. Rain and mist persisted most of the time, with only a few clear periods on Sunday. Of the 330 or so teams that started, only 80 (18 girls' 37 boys', 22 youths' and 28 men's) teams finished. Another 228 competitors, travelling in incomplete teams, completed the course in time and so won certificates. Owing to the disbandment of the Regiment, this was the last Ten Tors that we shall organise; it was also our toughest, for previously we have had a complete Regiment available, while this year we had less than half the man/boy power at our disposal. So precious was labour, that for the first time we were unable to enter teams.

Footnote

In case anyone reading the above is unaware of what Ten Tors is all about, here is a brief description. It is an expedition for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20, and they are required to follow a prescribed route across Dartmoor of distances from 35 up to 60 miles, according to their age and sex, in a period of 36 hours. The route takes them to ten of Dartmoor's hills (called tors). Complete teams who cover the course are awarded team medals and individual certificates. Members of incomplete teams who finish in time are awarded certificates.

Easter Graduation Parade, 1967

The reviewing officer at the Easter Graduation Parade was Major-General E. F. Foxton, O.B.E., B.A., who is the Director of Army Education. Unlike the previous year, when there was a deluge of rain, the parade took place in cold but dry conditions. Sixty-five Junior Leaders graduated, leaving 250 boys to complete the last term that this Regiment will be in existence.

September-October 1967

A sad occasion — Last parade at Junior Leaders Regiment

Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, was the reviewing officer at the final parade of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, held at Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, Devon, on 10th August.

The Regiment, which is being disbanded, has been at Denbury since September, 1955, when it moved there from Beverley in Yorkshire. Last October it was announced that the system of training of young soldiers in the Corps was being changed, and training would be spread over other Signals establishments and the Army Apprentices College.

The parade, commanded by J/R.S.M. K. Beharrell, consisted of 246 junior leaders, of whom 71 were graduating to adult service.

When the Corps of Drums performed for the last time, the ceremony of beating Retreat in the early evening, the Regimental Standard was handed over to an escort party of junior leaders going to Harrogate, where it will be laid up. Seven pipe banners, given to the Regiment by mayors and chairmen of councils of neighbouring towns and by the local Caledonia Society were returned for safe keeping.

Denbury Camp has been the gateway into the Corps for thousands of young regular soldiers. There they have learnt a way of life and an outlook that has not only stood them in good stead, but through them, has helped to build up the high reputation of the present-day Corps. Very many will hear of the passing of Denbury with deep regret. However, comfort can be taken from the fact that much of the Denbury input will in future be absorbed by that excellent establishment, the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. The "Boys" spirit, which has always been such a feature of Corps life, still marches firmly onwards. We salute all those members of the staff at Denbury who, over the years, have dedicated themselves to the training of the many admirable young men who are serving or have served with the Corps. They have done a wonderful job.