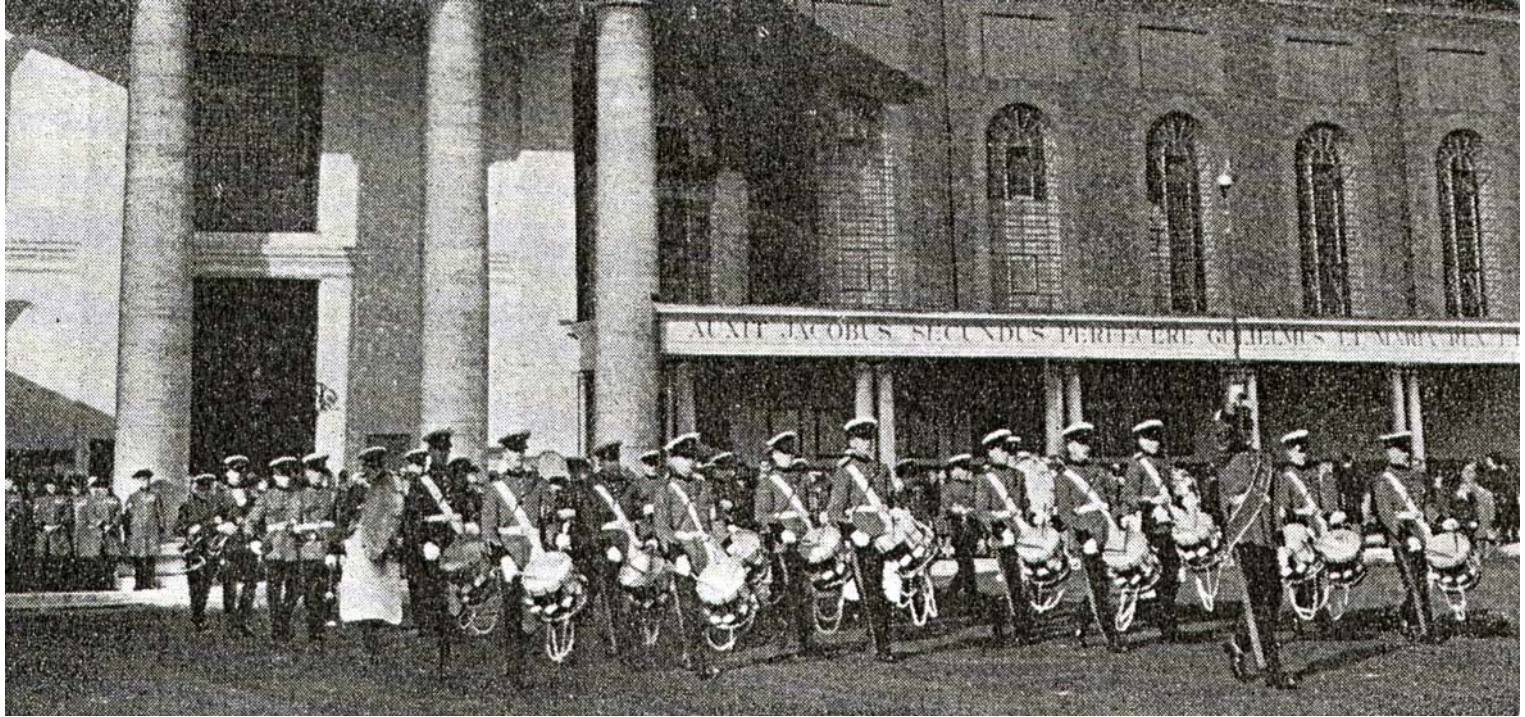


Thanks to the Wire for permission to reproduced the following articles

## Visit of Junior Leaders Regiment Band to London November 11th to 13th, 1960



The Corps of Drums of the Regiment left Denbury by coach in the bleak and early hours of Friday 11th November 1960. They joined up with the Regimental Choir at Paddington later in the day and went straight to the Royal Albert Hall. There they were disappointed, but not disheartened, to learn that the final form of the programme precluded they are playing anything more than a token part in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

Saturday 12th November was spent in the living accommodation allotted in the Royal Artillery Depot in Woolwich, where preparations were made for a special performance arranged by the Commanding Officer for the following day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

The day of Sunday 13th November – Remembrance Sunday – dawned bright and clear, and in bright sunshine the Corps of Drums, 55 strong, entered the venerable precincts of the Royal Hospital and prepared to begin their counter-marching display. At 11.45 am as the Remembrance Service congregation moved solemnly out of the "dim, religious light" of the Hospital Chapel, the opening fanfare echoed through its courts and cloisters.

A distinguished gathering, including the Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital, Major-General Sir A. Douglas Campbell, KBE, CB, DSO, MC, the Adjutant, Brigadier PB Cuddon, CBE, MC, and such Corps personalities as Brigadier HR Firth and Colonel HA Prince, watched the resplendent lines of scarlet march, counter-march wheel and circle with precision and steadiness while playing a varied repertoire of marches on drums, trumpets and bugles. The final touch to an impressive performance was added when a file of Scottish pipers, wearing the Grant tartan by gracious permission of the Countess of Seafield, played a few stirring airs from over the Border.

After an advance in review order had taken place and the General Salute had been sounded, the Lieutenant Governor thanked the Drum Major for an excellent performance. The files of fresh and youthful Junior Leaders then marched briskly and smartly past the spectators, among whom could be seen the lined and battle worn face of many a veteran who had come to spend the evening of his days in this happy and pleasant place.

So age and youth met, communed with each other for a short while and then, inevitably, their ways divided. But perhaps for a few minutes some old heart had been uplifted and the thrill and magic of a soldier's life recalled to an ageing memory.

## I was there

BY J/SIGNALMAN CRAGGS, WHITE SWAN TROOP, JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

On 11th November I, along with 126 other members of the Regimental Choir, travelled to London for the British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

We arrived in London at around one o'clock. During the journey on the train we had been kept busy learning and perfecting a new harmony for "Soldiers of the Queen," that kept our minds occupied but I still felt a little apprehensive at the thought of appearing before the Queen.

I think it is true to say that there was no one in our party who was not nervous by the time we reached the Royal Albert Hall, where the festival is held. The first feelings I had were of minuteness, which is not surprising when you think of the tremendous grandeur of the building.

At the first rehearsal I think everyone was very nervous. The Whole Choir was getting lower and lower in both volume and spirit. After we finished I felt like crawling away to some dark corner to hide. However, we were cheered up by Ralph Reader's talk, and by the promise of microphones for our next rehearsal, to aid the volume. After lunch everyone felt better and in the next rehearsal we sang much better. When the time came for the matinee performance we were again a bundle of nerves. This is understandable when you consider that the previous audiences we have had were small, compared to the vast crowd in the auditorium. However, the whole Choir responded to Mr Webber's cool, calm confidence, and sang very well. Later, during the community singing, we all relaxed and sang as if we were having a singsong in the barrack room.

In the evening, as we watched from the side of the hall, I was deeply moved when the Chelsea Pensioners came down the steps to join the rest of the forces in the muster. Indeed, I sang "Soldiers of the Queen" just for them, and was proud to.

Though I was young, too young to remember, during the War I did lose a number of relations, some of whom I never met. During the silence I was thinking deeply of these lost relations of mine, and it was not until the Lord Bishop of Birmingham read the Blessing that I realised where I was. I had an immense feeling of both pride and joy when I entered the Arena, and sang in front of the Queen. I sang as I have never sung before, so did the rest of the boys, from what I could hear. The Royal Albert Hall impressed me with its magnificence and tradition. The Festival with its glory, splendour and the memories it stirred. I am indeed proud to say that I appeared before Her Majesty The Queen in the 1960 Festival of Remembrance.

### **Graduation Parade 14th December 1960**

It was fine but very, very cold with an icy wind from Dartmoor. The Regiment paraded by Troops with very considerable interval and a wide gap in the centre occupied by the Band in full dress.

The graduates paraded on the outer flanks in Battle Dress, the remainder in Service Dress.

The Drums marched to the saluting base, received the Regimental Standard and Escort, which was marched to its place in the centre of the Regiment.

Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, was received with the General Salute and commenced his inspection at the conclusion of which the Regiment marched past by Troops in line.

The Regiment then "broke ranks" and assembled in a half circle for the Inspecting Officer's address, which dealt in the main with his congratulations to the Regiment on turn-out and steadiness.

The Regiment reformed and those who were to receive Trophies and Awards marched out on the long and difficult journey to and from the saluting base. After the Advance in Review Order and General Salute the finale was impressive to a degree.

The two Troops of Graduates turned inwards and slow marched through the ranks and off parade to the traditional music of the Pipes. As they disappeared in the distance, two Troops from the Recruit Squadron marched on from either flank and took their places.

Impressions. As always in this Regiment, near perfect drill, excellent turn-out AND a steadiness on parade which could not be improved on by veteran troops.

For the March entry please go to file 93B\_Looking\_Back\_1961



Last June, after visiting Denbury, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., wrote to the Commanding Officer and said that he would like to present a trophy to the Regiment before he relinquished his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Colonel Gregory suggested a "Pigeon Trophy" and asked the General to consider having the trophy carved in wood. Not only would such a carving be unusual, but it would be in keeping with other newly-received trophies. In his reply, General Moberly said he would be pleased to present such a trophy, but he did not want the finished carving to look like a crow.

FAUST LANG, of St. Ives, Cornwall, a distinguished artist-sculptor, was asked to undertake the work, but, unfortunately, he was leaving for Oberammergau a few days from then to be present for the Passion Play season. However, he said he could undertake to make the carving in Oberammergau, but that he would be unable to deliver it for several months, when arrangements could be made to collect it from him. He was told to go ahead with the work and that, somehow, it would be collected as soon as it was finished. The collection of the beautiful carving, in white maplewood, was made the subject of an "Adventure" for a suitable Junior Leader. Junior Sergeant Grant (now in man service) volunteered to collect the trophy on his own, with no assistance from the Regiment. This is an account of his journey:

"I started out from Newton Abbot at four o'clock on Tuesday, 17th November, 1960. I had hoped to catch the night train to Ostend, but I arrived too late. A railway carriage on Victoria Station was my bed for the night. The next morning I caught the boat train to Dover, and, after a calm crossing, arrived in Calais at about three o'clock. My route to Paris took me through Boulogne, Arras and St. Quentin. People who gave me lifts thought I was a parachutist, and I let them think along those lines throughout the entire journey.

I arrived in Paris at one o'clock on Wednesday morning. While I was looking for a hotel a police van drove up. A man who was walking along about 15 yards behind me ran up an alley, which turned out to be a cul-de-sac. The gendarmes trapped the man in this alley; he surrendered with his hands above his head. The police then took both of us to the police station. They thought that the prisoner might have been tempted to relieve me of my wallet; he was an Algerian.

The Commissioner of Police advised me to spend the night at the station, as there would be no hotels open at that time of night. The cell stank of its previous inhabitants, and in neighbouring cells were criminals and prostitutes. The next morning, after viewing Paris, I set out for St. Die, arriving at 19.00 hours. The towns in the area of Nancy and Epinal were the cleanest I saw in France. Having spent the night at the house of a young lady in St. Die, I proceeded through the Vosges Mountains to Strasbourg. Crossing the German border, I passed through Stuttgart and Ulm, and along the Autobahn to Oberammergau. Arriving there at 11.30 hours, I collected the pigeon, which was the object of my journey.

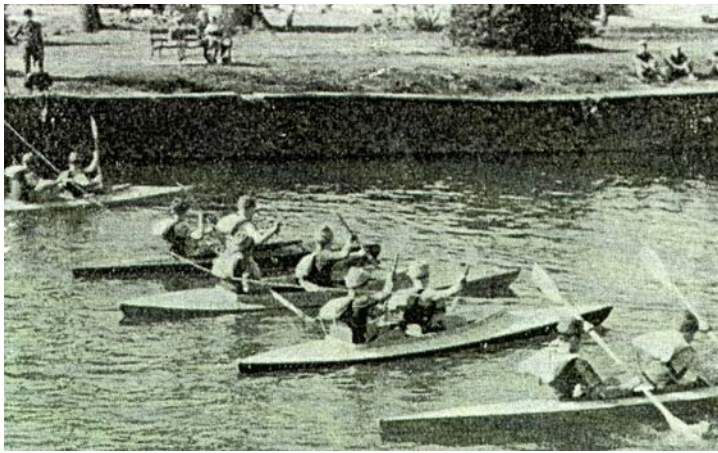
After having lunch with the wood carver, I climbed a mountain and took some photographs of the scenery. I then went to the U.S. Army base at Oberammergau, where I obtained a lift to an Army base at Munich. On the Saturday morning most of the helicopters left on a search mission as a 'copter had crashed three days before. I managed to get a lift in a jet-engined helicopter which was en route for Verdun, and I was dropped off at Stuttgart. I spent the weekend at Stuttgart, and 'Americanized' with the Americans stationed there. There was a training flight leaving for London, via Brussels, with which I got a lift on Monday morning. When we were flying over the Channel I was silting on a 'Mae West' with a parachute on my back (which I hadn't the remotest idea how to use). We touched down at Gatwick Airport with a flat tyre – that was really a terrifying experience!

After seeing Major-General Moberly at the War Office, I returned to Denbury Camp with the pigeon. I had been away only one week, but had sufficient experiences to last me for a lifetime.

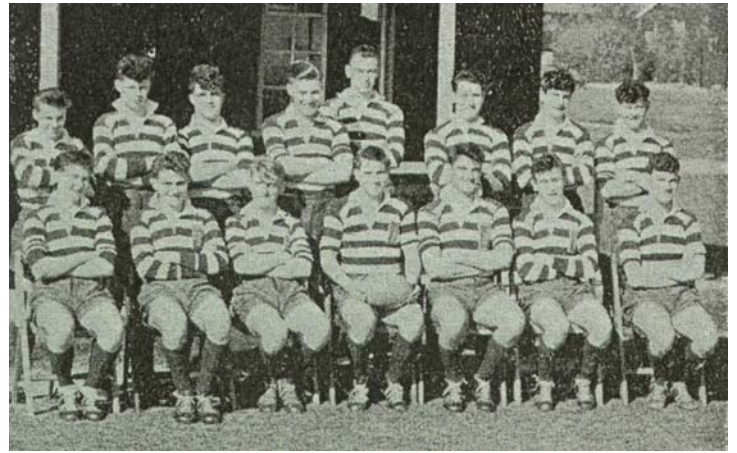
The Oberammergau Pigeon Trophy has inspired individual troops to obtain, breed and train their own pigeons. Unexpected difficulties in breeding and training, all through inexperience, are being overcome, and now that short distance races are being held, we hope to have our first Whitehall/Denbury race in August of this year. It is hoped that General Moberly will be able to start the first race from London and present the trophy to the Winning Troop.



Junior Leaders with their Pigeons and Sergeant G.A. Aven "Senior Loftsmen"



"The start of one of the Inter Troop relay races"



Please go to Sport 1961 for better photo with names and troops

## Junior Leaders Regiment

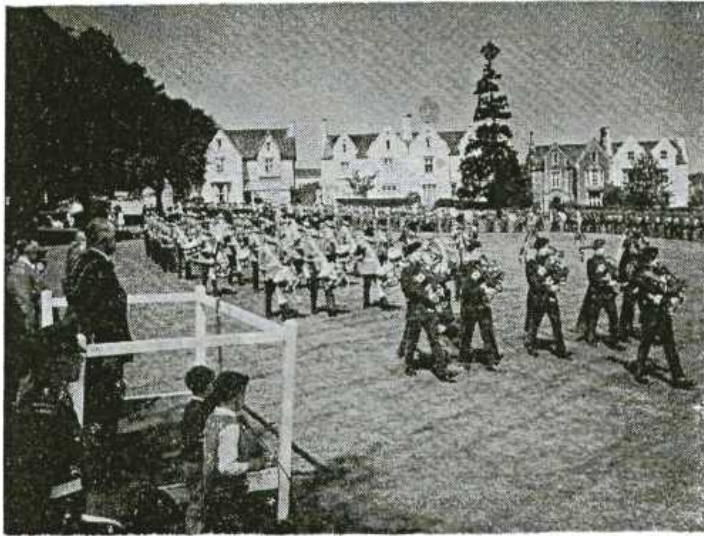
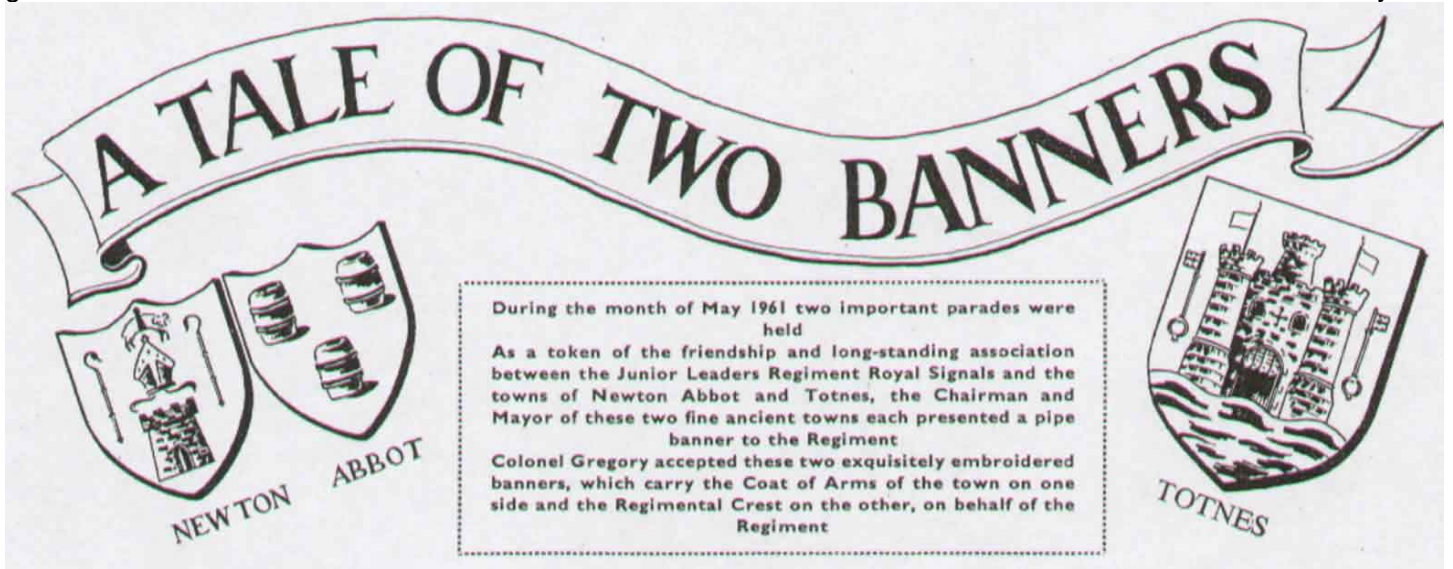
*"And so hold on when there is nothing in you – Except the will that says hold on."*

On Tuesday, 28th March, 1961, at Taunton, the Regiment won the Army Junior Rugby Cup for the second year running, defeating the R.A.C. Junior Leaders by 11 points to three, after four-and-a-half hours of play. In other words, it took three games, each with extra time before a result was achieved.

Kipling would have been inspired if he had been able to see what developed into a titanic struggle between two completely evenly matched teams, where the will to win was never lost by either side for even one of the 270 minutes of play. Observers whose critical faculties were not blunted by affiliation to either side were most impressed by the spirit in which the game was played. Thirty young men doing battle to the end for the honour of the Regiments and Corps, with no loss of temper and a schoolboy chivalry in their conduct on the field.

The Corps can be proud of their Juniors and this particular success will bring satisfaction to many readers who, having read of the successes of our massed choir and Band, may have been wondering where the rugby ball and the boxing glove came into all this. In fact, the Regiment has a unique record amongst Junior Leaders Regiments in that it has held an Army Cup for the last four years – in 1958 and 1959 the boxing, and in 1960 and 1961 the rugby. In addition, we were runners-up in the soccer in 1960.

On the 27th March we held our Regimental Canoe Regatta on the River Dart at Tomes. This has now become a termly event. Each Troop builds its own two-man canoe and a series of relay races decides the winner, which this term was the 2nd Regiment's Kohima Troop. Brigadier White, the Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, and a very special friend of the Regiment, presented the prizes, which included one for the officers, who, in the manner of Cambridge this year, defeated the senior non-commissioned officers in convincing style.



The photographs show the band followed by a strong detachment of the Regiment marching past the Chairman of the Newton Abbot Rural District Council, Mr HH Gribbon after he had presented a Pipe Banner to be carried by the Pipe Major of the Regiment. In making the presentation, Mr Gribbon told the Regiment: "In future you will be scattered all over the world and it is my sincere wish that you will carry with you happy and warm memories of Newton Abbot and the people of Devon. I trust that the bond of friendship now established between the Royal Signals, Denbury and Newton Abbot may grow for many years to come"



The photographs show the band and a party of 200 Junior Leaders of Alexander and Slim Squadrons under Command of Major PD Parker marching past Alderman KD Evans, Major of Totnes after he had presented them with a Pipe Banner bearing the crest of the of the Regiment and the Arms of Totnes. Lt Col LHM Gregory MBE the Commanding Officer, informed the Mayor that the Regiment would provide an official Piper to attend on the Mayor whenever summoned, either privately or publicly.

## Junior Leaders Regiment

### THREE ROYAL BANNERS

In 1937 Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., S.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., CD, D.C.L., L.L.D., Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, presented a banner to the 51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment, Territorial Army. At that time the pipe band of the Regiment was the only band of its kind in the Royal Corps of Signals and in keeping with the Highland Clan Associations of Aberdeen, the pipers wore the traditional tartan of the Clan Grant, approved for their use by the head of the Clan, the Countess of Seafield. The banner, which became the most prized possession of the Regiment and remained with it throughout the years of the war, was fashioned in satin and gold braid, bearing on the one side the Heraldic Arms of The Princess Royal and on the other the Winged Mercury on a Globe surmounted by the detached St. Edward's Crown, the badge of the Royal Corps of Signals.

On the 21st April, 1956, a similar banner of identical colour and design, was presented by Her Royal Highness to the Gurkha Signal Regiment of the Brigade of Gurkhas, with the badge of that Regiment on its reverse side. The presentation took place in the Throne Room of St. James's Palace and was witnessed by a distinguished company of officers, headed by His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador. The event was most significant in that it offered a delightful prelude to the Coronation of the King of Nepal on the 2nd May, 1956, at Katmandu, to which place the banner was carried by the hand of the Lord Chamberlain, acting as Her Majesty's representative, and there was handed over to the Pipe Major of the Gurkha Signal Regiment. Thus it was that the youngest Regiment of the Brigade of Gurkhas came to possess the first Royal Banner to be embraced within the tradition of any Gurkha Unit. In keeping with the custom established in the 51st Highland Regiment, and in consequence of the affiliation established between that Regiment and the Gurkha Signal Regiment, the latter also sought, and received, permission to wear the tartan of the Clan Grant. The banner presented to the Gurkhas was proudly borne on the pipes of the Gurkha Pipe Major in Katmandu and has since travelled to Singapore, Malaya, Borneo, Hong Kong and during the State visit of the King of Nepal the banner found itself on parade outside Buckingham Palace, which was a happy coincidence as it had first been carried ceremonially on the day of the King's coronation. Her Majesty the Queen noticed the banner and was pleased to comment on it.

On the 19th July, 1961, Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to present yet another banner to Her Junior Leaders Regiment stationed at Denbury near Newton Abbot in South Devon. Again, the banner followed the pattern and design of its predecessors and was embroidered by Hobsons of London who had also been responsible for making the banner for the Gurkha Signal Regiment. While being in every way similar to the banners presented to the Highland and Gurkha Regiments, the badge of the Royal Corps of Signals on the reverse side of the banner is embroidered across a large globe supported by a scroll bearing the words "Leadership in the Cause of Peace." The banner was presented to the Pipe Major of the Regiment, Junior Corporal Etherton, at St. James's Palace in the presence of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General L. de M. Thullier, C.B., O.B.E., the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E., and the Junior Leaders Council consisting of twelve Junior Leaders and including the Junior Regimental Sergeant-Major, Junior Warrant Officers and Junior Sergeants of the Regiment. The Junior Council on this occasion appeared in a body for the first time before their Princess and Colonel-in-Chief, a unique honour and privilege, and replaces the normal monthly meeting in the Regiment at Denbury, where with the Commanding Officer over a working luncheon they discuss problems concerning life at Denbury.

This delightful banner, presented at such an appropriate moment, fires the imagination and romantic aspirations of all the Junior Leaders selected to participate in the "Operation Enterprise" which involved a journey to Holland at their own expense where they took part in the one hundred miles international march, a visit to Signal Regiments in Germany and a visit to SHAPE in Fontainebleau near Paris.

Interesting aspects of the expedition are that the pipes, drums, trumpets and bugles of the Regiment participated at the Flag Parade at Nijmegen on Monday, 24th July, the choir, 120 strong, sang at St. Martin's Clinic (the Spastic Hospital for Children, near Nijmegen in Holland), 14 patrols of 10 Junior Leaders each participated in the march, the band with the Scottish dancers toured Units in Germany at Munchen Gladbach, Krefeld, Lippstadt, Verden, Bunde, and the choir proceeded to Paris. The choir which sang before Her Majesty The Queen at the Albert Hall at the Festival of Remembrance in November, 1960, gave a concert of folksongs and traditional songs of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and included Dutch, German and French songs with the appropriate national anthems of the countries they visited. The band Beat Retreat, and the dancers included in their repertoire the Royal Signals Reel. (A more detailed report of this venture will appear in the next issue of THE WIRE.)

This Royal Banner which accompanied the Regiment to the Continent returned to Denbury in a very proud and splendid fashion to lead the end of term and graduation parade before the Signal Officer-in-Chief, civic heads of the towns around Denbury and five hundred parents on Wednesday, 9th August, 1961.

As the sound of drums, trumpets, bugles and pipes die away we remember those who graduated from Denbury in August, 1961. We wish them all the best of luck and fortune in their future careers.



### Junior Leaders Regiment

Operation "Enterprise" a voluntary Continental Tour by the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals in Summer 1961



### "ALEXANDER AND SILM MARCH AGAIN"

Colonel Gregory leads Alexander Squadron (Represented by Quadrant Troop) Left and Slim Squadron (Represented by Jerboa Troop) Right

Two hundred and fifty Junior Leaders and Staff set out for the Continent on the 22nd July by coach from Denbury to Dover. The original figure was three hundred but an unforeseen attack of German measles which, thank goodness, was prevented from spreading into an epidemic, and the senior examinations, reduced the figure by fifty. However, the total included the band, the pipers, the team of Scottish dancers and the choir.

The expedition was made possible by every boy and member of the staff who accompanied them volunteering to go, and in consequence of that subscribing eight pounds each to cover expenses. The cost for those who marched and returned directly was eight pounds, the band tour cost two pounds more each and the choir a further two pounds. Money was raised from Regimental funds to subsidise the enterprise sufficiently so that all who took part paid the same amount – eight pounds per head. This is stressed because the endless performances given by the band, the tiresome journeying, the hundred miles of marching, the constant change in and out of uniform, ironing clothes, cleaning boots and all the many other chores, collective and individual, associated with an undertaking of this sort, was entirely voluntary. This represents a demonstration of personal discipline, enthusiasm and pride of Regiment and Corps which does credit to our young leaders.

The party crossed from Dover to Ostend on the night ferry on the 22nd July and left Ostend for Nijmegen, by coach, at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of the 23rd July. All ranks were very well received and equally well looked after by the Dutch authorities during their stay. On the evening of Monday the 24th the band and the entire marching contingent of one hundred and fifty paraded at the international flag parade witnessed by over fifty thousand people and received a great ovation. This was the occasion of the first appearance of Her Royal Highness's banner. They were remembered from last year for their balaclava hats, and being the largest single contingent that had ever participated in the marches captured the interest and warm enthusiasm of the crowd. The choir took with them a local boy named Anthony Ware (thirteen years of age) whom it adopted as an honorary Junior Leader and, having a beautiful soprano voice, he contributed handsomely to the success of the concerts in Holland, Germany and France.

The band played the marchers out for the first mile or so on the Tuesday and Wednesday and again for the march in on Thursday and Friday. Apart from these engagements, it was invited to perform on at least eight other occasions and also beat ceremonial Retreat on Friday night after the marches. The services of the band were offered to march-in a very tired contingent of Air Force men and women on Wednesday and it finished leading several hundred weary bodies and blistered feet. On the Saturday morning, the 30th July, the band, the dancers, pipers and the choir gave a special performance at the spastics hospital (St. Martin's Clinic) in Nijmegen, where they were given sumptuous hospitality. Junior Leaders helped to carry out patients in their beds so that they could watch the band display, and when the rain descended upon them were equally quick in carrying the patients back into the Central Hall and continued with the good work.

The marching party returned to Denbury travelling over the same route and by the same means as the outward journey leaving Nijmegen on Saturday afternoon.



"Band in Scarlet"



Choir with Hon. Junior Leader Anthony Wear

The choir proceeded to Berglin in Germany to stay with the 13th Regiment and the band moved to the 28th Regiment in Rheindahlen. On Saturday afternoon the band, choir, dancers and pipers combined to give a performance at Rheindahlen which was very well received, and the following day the choir gave a special performance for the families of the 28th Regiment at St. Tonis Barracks. The band, with the dancers and pipers, set off by road for the 1st Regiment at Verden early on Monday morning and there beat Retreat before a complete Divisional audience and locals. The following day they performed at a Guest Night. A letter was received from Colonel Woodrow which says, ". . . the whole visit was the greatest signal success for the band and the choir. We were extremely proud of them and their performance, their turnout and their bearing." He has also promised a 'quaich' and a banner – so they must have been good!



The band next visited the 2nd Regiment at Bunde where they gave a public performance in the centre of the town. After twenty minutes this was unfortunately rained off, but although the Junior Leaders had to make an early start the next day they volunteered to beat Retreat again for the Regiment and its guests before leaving. Colonel Hoerder described the visit in his letter in this way, ". . . what a terrific show they put on for us and how much we loved having them." And then he adds, "I am afraid I had to call it off, terribly sad for the boys, ourselves and for the Germans (nearly three thousand of them). Nevertheless, they had had long enough to demonstrate in no uncertain way the standard which they had achieved and I left them in no doubt of our appreciation. They were disappointed and asked if they could put on a special private performance for us on the Regimental Square next morning. We were delighted and it was a wonderful show. The whole Regiment, including a number of families and 108 Company, R.A.O.C., witnessed this high standard of performance, and even the sun came out to join them." The 2nd Regiment have also promised a present but its identity remains a secret.

From Bunde this party left for Lippstadt and once again they repeated the same performance, and an excellent report was received from the 22nd Regiment on how they did and stating that the band and choir must come next year. Colonel Knowles' eloquence is suitably inscribed with a cheque for fifty pounds. The band next proceeded to Ostend, where they were to meet up with the choir on Monday the 30th.

The choir, having given their concert at St. Tonis Barracks, travelled overnight to Paris. They made two excursions round the city and gave a concert at the International Club, which from all reports was a great success. The Deputy Supreme Commander, General Sir Hugh Stockwell, spent some time with them, and in fact invited them all into the Officers' Club for a drink. A small presentation of a Regimental plaque was made to Sir Hugh for the Supreme Commander and he promised to send them a photograph of the presentation being made. It was unfortunate that the Foreign Ministers' Conference prevented General Norstad from speaking to the choir.

Nevertheless a very good time was had by all and a special NATO briefing was given to the boys which was something that appealed to them. more than any other form of entertainment. The choir, like the band before them, got back to Ostend without mishap, and together they returned to Denbury in good time for the end of term parade on Wednesday the 9th of August.

Wherever the choir or band and dancers went, letters of greetings and good wishes from the Civic Heads of Newton Abbot, Torquay, Totnes and Paignton were faithfully delivered to the appropriate local authority and all have since replied in suitable and most flattering terms.



Dancers and Pipers dance "Prince Charles of Edinburgh"



Deputy Supreme Commander NATO accepts Gifts from the Choir Leader J/S SM Spearman



JSSM 'Chick' Brister - JRSM Chris Spearman at the 8th ex-Boys Annual Dinner in London

November 1961

## **JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT**

### **Ponder on this**

Throughout the long hours of *every* day and every night, ceaselessly and endlessly, the eternal watch goes on, recording a testimony of faith in the officers and men whose patience and perseverance win for us the highest honour and fill our hearts with the greatest pride. No other arm can claim to share in this or even reach so high.

With the passing of time, something positive – seconds of solid achievement and a little lustre – are added to the rich heritage of our Corps. Whether in war or peace makes little difference: the traffic graph rises perhaps, and tempers with it, and our activities are extended onto the battlefield; but at every level it is the same job – all the time.

Much of our work is taken for granted and little is known about most of it. Its very nature precludes publicity while its aims and purpose thrive in obscurity. Yet the quality of leadership which invokes the determination, the skill and the integrity that enshrines and preserves the communications so vital to our Commonwealth and International obligations can arouse the interest of a national audience and reach its eyes and ears through other and more spectacular means.

We are proud to have one of the finest bands in the Army and its reputation is reinforced and re-echoed in divers places by the drums, trumpets, bugles and bagpipes, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, the 51st (H) Division Signal Regiment T.A., and the Gurkha Signal Regiment. From the Highlands of Scotland to the lowlands of Devon; in Holland, Germany and France men and women, soldiers and civilians have listened and taken note. In Malaya and Hong Kong, in Borneo and Katmandu the story has been repeated. The hills have answered to the strains of our music and people of many races have clapped their hands in approval.

Who has not heard of the motor cycle display team? the daredevil despatch riders, men of courage and humour, dash and derision, stirring the hearts and testing the nerves of audiences from Earls Court to Maddison Square.

But that is not all, for the Corps also has a choir of Junior Leaders, and the only one of its kind in existence. Is it not time we elevated it to the dignity of a Corps project? What is the evidence? The Albert Hall 1960 and the Christmas broadcast to B.A.O.R., the Middle and Far East; and in 1961 the tour of Holland, Germany and France undertaken at its own expense. Whatever the views of readers may happen to be, they must all agree that there is a time for singing and a time for encouragement. The Christmas carols and folksongs to be recorded in November will cost money. Without any outside help, each record will cost about three pounds, provided we order a reasonable number. Do you want a copy – to play to your family on Christmas Eve and to your friends at your Christmas party?

We have asked for broadcasting time on the BBC television and ITV but both are cautious and wait to hear the results of our recordings next month before committing themselves. HMV are also interested – and just suppose, by a trick of chance, that we cut a golden disc!

Enough! There is of course a Scottish dancing team with aspirations of its own, and the dancers never tire of demonstrating the Royal Signals Reel and Gregory's Frolic and now the Highland Fling and thirty-two some reel. On second thought perhaps this had better remain a local activity – after all one hardly wants to be dubbed "the dancing corps."

As I said at the beginning "ponder these things" – are there any of more importance in peace, or in war.

### Fall in the Stars and Junior Leaders

This, a charity performance, at the Victoria Palace, on Sunday, 19th November, was made memorable for at least two members of the audience by the participation of the Choir of the Junior Leaders Regiment.

At the end of the first half of a star-studded programme, Miss Gracie Fields had told some of her very quick, very Lancashire, stories. Alone, and as always, charming the vast audience with her smile. The semi transparent back-cloth whisked away to reveal the 57-strong Junior Leaders' Choir to join with that most famous lady in two of her famous songs. "When you smile as you wave me good-bye" was first "made" for the writer when, so many years ago, she sang it before a "back-cloth" of half a Battalion of the XXth Regiment in a troopship. That our own Junior Leaders Regiment could, and did take their place, is fame indeed.

As always, "turn-out" was impeccable. Their No. 2 Dress of blue hat, smartly-cut jacket, collar and tie, ornamented for stage appearance only, with a "choir sash" in Corps colours.

During the interval it was pleasing to meet several of them, obviously with parents or friends, mingling with a fashionable audience in the lounge and bar. Modest, confident, delightful. "Give my compliments to Colonel Gregory and tell him from me that he should be very pleased with you." "Certainly, sir, I'll do that, but – your name, sir."

Several of them, mercifully in shirt sleeves and denims, were on stage as "audience" for a "camp fire" entertainment when they were liberally spattered with shaving soap by Mr. Harry Secombe; joined in the chorus of many songs by the charming Miss Shirley Abicair, and rolled about in laughter at the rendering of "Good-bye" ("White Horse Inn") by Mr. Arthur Haynes.

Quickly changing into uniform, they appeared in the finale, singing with Miss Constance Shacklock-.and Miss Vera Lynn.

All in all, it was a night to remember, both for the distinguished audience and for the Junior Leaders. The Junior Leaders were not able to demonstrate their drill, different, but none-the-less impeccable, than that of the Tiller Girls, *but* to have appeared on a programme with Mr. Bud Flanagan, Mr. Eddie Calvert, Mr. Benny Hill, Mr. Frankie Vaughan, to mention but a few of those who are sure to have talked to them. A night to remember!

Miss Jean Metcalfe and Mr. Cliff Michelmore repeated their earlier performances of "Two-Way Family Favourites," and it was pleasing that Miss Patricia Lambert's first song was asked for by the 16th Signal Regiment.





## ***Junior Leaders Regiment***

### **Firelight Fantasy – 1961**

"I remember it well," said the ghost-like figure of the Bursar, resplendent in his Balaclava uniform – he continued to explain the traditions of Denbury and of how the first occupants of the newly-built camp were the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who were themselves immortalised as the "Thin Red Line" at Balaclava.

Firelight Fantasy was not just another small military display – it told the story of a young man entering military service and his thoughts and first impressions on the many varied activities in the Junior Leaders Regiment.

For 90 minutes over 1,400 spectators from all over South Devon were treated to a feast of colour, pageantry and humour by our Junior Leaders and their young ladies. The band, as always, immaculate in scarlet and with their new drums glistening, gave another superb display of marching and playing, coupled with the novelty of illuminated drums and beating in a blacked-out scene.

The Choir go from strength to strength, last November they performed at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. This November they are appearing at the Victorial Palace in support of such stars as Gracie Fields and Harry Secombe. One of their many songs is "Michael," a current Pop Hit – this was given most enthusiastic applause.

No military pageant would be complete without a Drill display. This had the twist of showmanship, with every member of the squad, including his rifle, being illuminated by a series of small bulbs supplied from a battery in the vest pocket. In complete darkness their phantom-like movements were most effective.

The Regimental Pipers and Dancers were joined in a display of the Thirty-two-some Reel by some young ladies from local dancing academy. The many hours of practise were rewarded by flattering comments both after the show and in the local Press.

Several other acts which were most entertaining included: P.E. and Regimental Activities Demonstrations; "The Q Stores," a very true to life portrayal by the R.Q.M.S., the only modern approach being the issue of one Junior Lady to each Junior Leader.

Our first space vehicle was launched, belatedly, with Junior Leader Gagarin – the whole project being under the technical direction of Lieutenant Wagstaff, R.A.E.C. (The rocket actually left the launching pad!)

The evening ended with the regimental bonfire complete with ten guys (one for each troop) and the firework display ably controlled by our Dentist, Captain Walker, R.A.D.C.

Guy Fawkes 1961 will be remembered for a long time! Has Firelight Fantasy become an annual event? We hope so and I am sure our friends in South Devon would welcome it in years to come.

Our Cecil B. de Mille was our new 2 i/c, who within a month or two of arriving at Denbury found himself immersed in the detailed organisation of a Firelight Fantasy. What happens after two years is anybody's guess, but nevertheless great credit to Major Scott, now affectionately signed a "Fellow of the Regimental Firelight Fantasy Festival" in recognition of his Stage Management.