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JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

March winds, April showers. Generally speaking, March is one of the quieter months here at Denbury, prior to the usual build-up of activity before Graduation Day, and the end of term. This year Graduation Day is Tuesday, 13th April.

The swimming pool is now an accepted and much-needed amenity in the Regiment. It seems strange to think that swimming pools, until quite recently, were regarded as a luxury which could only be seen in the larger country residences. Now they are recognised as vital items of training equipment, not only in the Services, but in all educational establishments. Our aim is for every Junior Leader to be a competent swimmer before he graduates to man's service.

Basketball. An excellent recovery from last season . . . Having won four out of seven matches, the team has risen from bottom of the local civilian league, the Exeter and District League, to fourth. In this largely men's league, the team has done well. The first two matches, one against St. Luke's Teachers' Training College and the other against Northbrook School, the scores were impressive, as the team "made rings around" our opponents – 21 points to 8 and 30 points to 6. Tribute should be paid here to the good shooting of J/Sergeant Bowers and J/Signalman Endean, Endean having scored nearly half the points. With the recent addition of three six-footers, the Jones twins and Palmer, training has started on producing two Squadron teams. "Slim" Squadron has a most impressive team, with four six-footers! The teams practice five nights a week for an hour, an effort well worth while, for with the Army Boys' Basketball Championship only a few weeks away, it is hoped to field two teams strong enough to beat the Junior Leaders Regiments of both the R.A.C. and the R A.S.C., not forgetting our friends at Harrogate. Perhaps when this is won, the fact that the team got lost going to a match, due to someone's bad map-reading, will be overlooked, and all the effort put in by Sergeants Lightfoot, Block and Dart and Signalman Anderson will be made all the more worthwhile.

Fencing at Denbury? It is hoped to produce some fencing equipment in the near future and start a small fencing club at Denbury. Membership will include boys, staff, and possibly families as well.

Fencing is a sport dogged by technical terms, mostly still in their original French forms, and because of this does not enjoy the popularity it deserves as a sport. Only a small percentage who begin to learn the noble art of fencing are still at it a year or so later. This is a pity, because those who persevere through the tedious initial stages find what a grand sport it really is.

With all this in mind, it is proposed to get rid of the tediousness here at Denbury, so that we may send a few novice fencers into the Corps who are ready to graduate into more advanced classes. We are fortunate in having several staff members qualified to teach the sport, so fencing Regiments can, we hope, look forward to receiving a few enthusiastic fencers from Denbury.

Army Cup Competitions. It has been somewhat disappointing this year that we have lost the football, boxing and rigger competitions, but we were particularly unfortunate in that all the matches were played away from Denbury; in the boxing, it was a particularly narrow defeat by Oswestry, which depended on the final bout.

The rigger match versus R.A.C. Junior Leaders was again a very closely-fought match in which Signals clearly had territorial advantage almost throughout, but we were unable to actually cross our opponents' line. Dropped passes at the crucial moments were largely to blame and the lack of a good kicker resulted in our failing to gain any penalty points. The R.A.C. Junior Leaders finally won 8 – 0.

We hope that our hockey team can again reach the Army finals; we have a large nucleus remaining from last year, whose experience should enable us to do very well.

Outside Army Cup Competitions, however, we have enjoyed a large degree of success. At the recent Army Gymnastic Championships, this Regiment won the Army Junior Team Championship and also the Army Junior Team Trampoline Championship. Individual placings in these two championships were:

Army Junior Championship (Gymnastic)

- 1st J/Signalman Norgrove
- 2nd J/Signalman Riddell
- 4th J/Signalman Kendall

Army Junior Trampoline Championship

- 1st J/Corporal Robertson
- 3rd J/Signalman Norgrove
- 6th J/Signalman Riddell

Having been knocked out of the Army Cup boxing in the first round by the Infantry Junior Leaders, six members of our team entered for the Southern Command Junior Individual Boxing Champions with the following results:

J/Lance-Corporal Carr (8st. 7lb.)	Winner, Class B
J/Signalman Unwin (10st. 7lb.)	Winner, Class B
J/Signalman Foster (10st.)	Winner, Class B
J/Signalman Connachen (9st. 7lb.)	Runner-up, Class B.
J/Signalman James (8st. 7lb.)	Runner-up, Class B.
J/Signalman Parker (8st. 7lb.)	Semi-Finalist, Class C.

Education and Trade Training. The results of the new training programme are beginning to bear fruit and the number of passes in all examinations has risen to an all-time high. Likewise, on the trade side, the new training and greater concentration of effort and time in the programme is producing more capable and qualified end-product. It is to be hoped that training of Linemen and Electrician Drivers will soon be under way, thus broadening the facilities of our Junior Leaders.

April-May 1965

OUR JUNIOR LEADERS ARE AN ASSET TO DARTMOOR

It is all too common to see letters in the Press concerning the so-called evil of the Military Occupation of the Dartmoor National Park. In fact, of course, there is considerable co-operation between the Services and the National Park Committee, and those who write to the Press seldom understand that Service units in the Dartmoor Area render assistance in many ways. Not least amongst such Units is the Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Signals, who now have quite a long list of good deeds done.

On Friday, 12th February, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., accompanied by his Adjutant, Captain C. Rayner, and the O.C. Montgomery Squadron, Major J. W. Joyner, Royal Signals, paid a visit to Cranmere Pool to leave a new Visitors' Book in the box established there. By tradition there has been a box at Cranmere Pool since the end of the 19th century where visitors leave and collect letters franking them with a special stamp. The new Visitors' Book replaces a tattered and torn book which has now been sent to the Plymouth City Library to join earlier books.

Cranmere Pool is a desolate spot, not always easy to find, and the new book will establish a Regimental link with the oldest of all Dartmoor boxes. This book is now the third to be presented by a Commanding Officer at Denbury the other being at Fur Tor.



Lieutenant-Colonel D.E. Higgins, M.B.E., Royal Signals, signs the new Visitors Book at Cranmere Pool, Dartmoor

Another Dartmoor Deed completed by the Regiment was the demolition of an old engine house left derelict beside the track from Bittaford Bridge to a long since disused clay works at Redlake in the centre of the South Moor. This building was considered to be an eyesore by the Dartmoor National Park Committee and the task of demolishing it was willingly undertaken by the Officer Commanding Junior Leaders' Regiment. An account of the demolition by the O.C. Montgomery Squadron to whom the task was given as follows: –

Exercise "Knock Down"

“Surely it wasn't true! Volunteers were required to go out and destroy a building! To really smash it up and no barrack damages! But it was true and the demand to join SSM Wilson's destruction party was high!

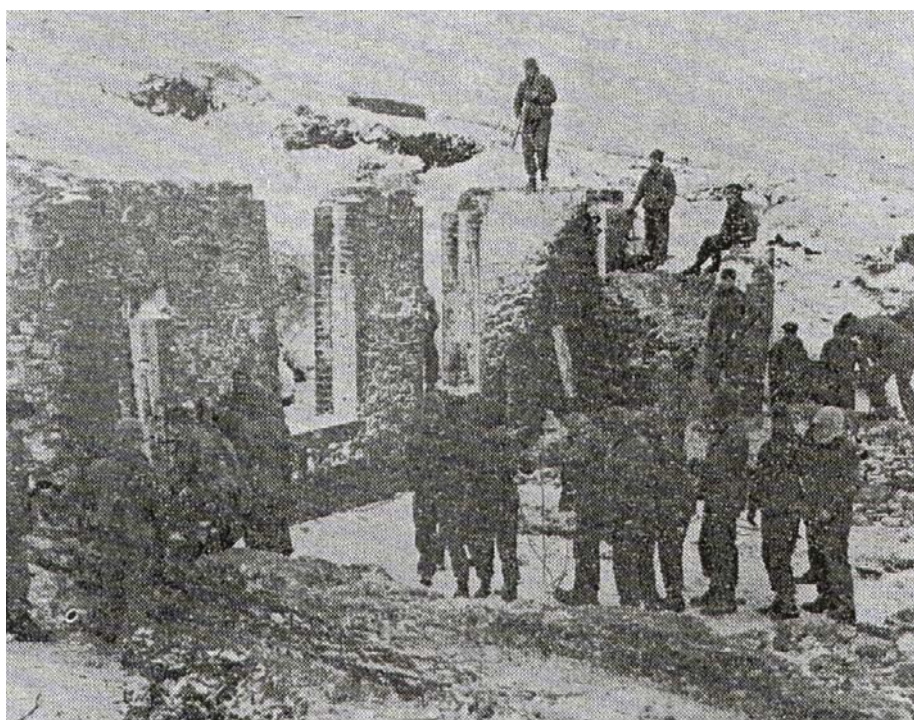
The expedition left Denbury on Friday evening the 29th January 1965. It was dark, very cold, snowing and blowing a gale but there were still more volunteers than vacancies. The building was an exceptionally strong granite engine shed a short distance along the disused china clay working track bed from Bittaford Bridge. The tools were picks, shovels, sledgehammers, a piece of rope and a ten-ton jack. The destroyers were 40 Junior Leaders from Montgomery Squadron led by SSM Wilson and Sgt Bumby. On arrival, the first problem was to get set up. No easy task with a gale force wind, frozen ground and very little light, but with the combined efforts of JSgts Rock and Byrne and after using the picks and sledge hammers, tent pegs were driven in and the flapping canvas made secure.

The next morning nobody complained that the 0730 reveille was too late, after all you can't work in the dark. There was a smashing time ahead and whilst JCpl Darling commenced to cook breakfast, the rest descended on the tools determined to knock down the building in the first few minutes. They were soon to discover that Dartmoor granite has a resistance of its own.

JSgt Rock grabbed a sledgehammer and commenced to attack a cross wall that he had his eye on from the start, disintegration was painfully slow. JSig Gordon claimed the jack and after some basic instruction from SSM Wilson, he soon got the idea and commenced to crack the main walls by exerting full pressure near the base.

It was hard work and few could make any impression with a pick, and when it came to swinging a sledgehammer, it was all a question of choice. Swing and miss and find yourself sailing after the hammer swing and hit and risk breaking your wrist for the pleasure of seeing a small piece of granite chip off the stonework. One by one, sections of the outer wall were demolished. It wasn't until mid-afternoon when, with one section of wall left, that JSig Gordon had his greatest triumph. This particular piece of wall had resisted all efforts, even the sledgehammer just bounced off. He used his jack at one end of the wall and after very patient work he succeeded, and we were all amazed to see the wall tower and fall with a great crash. The job was over and the tired party broke up to shelter in the tents from the biting wind

Departure was found more difficult than expected, as the 3-ton truck got stuck in a snowdrift on the way up to the site. A rescue party led by JLCpl Campbell eventually freed it. It wasn't until about 1930 hours that they arrived back at Denbury after a very hard 24 hours out. At least they were back in time for Church Parade, even though the girl friend had missed her Saturday out.”



Montgomery Squadron Demolition Squad prepare to drop the first section of wall

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

The Regiment returned to Denbury on 8th January after a welcome Christmas and New Year break. The weather was kind, and instead of the usual snowy landscape, Haytor lay basking in sunshine. This did not please 18 Junior Leaders who had saved up, persuaded Dad to save up, or even managed to borrow from the Bursar, to finance a ski-ing expedition to Scotland, led by Lieutenant Bruce.

In fact, as the skis did not arrive until the morning of departure, there would have been no chance to practice anyway. The party left on 26th January, displaying brand new skis and boots (watched by 600 or so envious pairs of eyes).

Within a day or so of their departure, however, to the delight of all, except R.S.M. Leeson, who had ideas of a drill parade, down came the snow. Denbury lay under a thick carpet, and though the playing fields were unusable for the regulation ball games, there was plenty of ammunition for the equally traditional exercises in ballistics, always popular under such conditions.

... taking their boots to bed

This change in weather happened to coincide with Montgomery Squadron Term 3 Adventure Training fortnight, and with another out-of-doors exercise, Exercise "Knock Down," laid on to assist the Dartmoor National Park Committee. Both continued, despite the weather Montgomery Term 3 boys now feel qualified to undertake an Arctic expedition; at least they appreciate the necessity of taking their boots to bed as the alternative to the pain of putting on frozen boots the next morning. One member of the party was faced with frozen socks as well – his first problem being to get the socks out of the boots.



Junior-Signalmen Burgus and Chaplin, both of Javelin Troop on Term 3 Adventure Training, show how to use two tents to form a windbreak for cooking in comfort

500 runners bore down on Denbury Cross

The termly Inter-Troop Cross-County Race took place on Wednesday, 10th February, just after the snow had gone. The ground was still soft, however, and to avoid damage to the lawn bordering the square, the start and finish were moved to the Top Playing Fields and the Records were put in the cinema.

At the start, the 500 runners, having failed to ram the CO., who stood to the side, bore down on Denbury Cross and its surrounding flower bed, nobly defended by S.S.M. Wilson. He held his ground and the bed survived as the runners swept past on either side to continue out of the south gate and on round the course.

Beaflighter Troop won the race with a record average finishing position of 147. Iron Troop were second with 175, and White Swan third with 178.

J/Signalman Drew won the race in 23min. 40. 5sec, for the sixth time in succession. This must surely be an unbeatable record: to be 16th in your first term, and then to win every race until your seventh and last terms takes some beating.

Local goats get in on the act!

The finish was enlivened by a herd of goats which joined in for the last mile. They entered the camp through the Officers' Mess gate, completed the final circuit and crossed the finishing line in great style amongst the leading runners. Once over the line they trotted smartly through the extra long finishing pen and after entering the cinema, reported to Sergeant Bumby at the Francisca Troop table. Lieutenant Hallchurch hurriedly drove them out to collect their finishing discs, but despite his protests, the P.T. Staff refused to issue them on the grounds that they, at least, could tell goats from sheep, and Q.M.S.I. Pictor duly disqualified them under A.A.A. rules for being inadequately clad. After waiting hopefully outside, watching more favoured runners gaining discs, they trotted off to the Education Wing, where it is rumoured that they all received a change of hobby from the S.E.O. The Orderly Officer eventually managed to get them locked up in No. 1 Drill Shed, where they spent the night doing what comes naturally. The next morning when the O.C. Alexander Squadron inspected his Drill Shed he was heard to mutter in horrified dismay: "Goats! Goats! Give me a little bull any day, it's far less baffling."

Hockey Triumph

Wednesday, 17th February was a great day for the boys' hockey team, when they played the Junior Leaders Regiment, R.A.C. in the second round of the Army Junior Hockey Cup at Queen's Park, Paignton. It was an exciting game, which started badly for Royal Signals when J/Signalman Day of Kohima Troop was badly cut above the eye and had to retire to be stitched up. At half-time the score was 0 – 0 and the R.A.C. boys were pressing hard. The second half was even harder, but just at the critical moment, with about 10 minutes to go, Havlin scored a beautiful goal and after a good forward run through from the half-way line. This, by some miracle, was to be the only goal, and extra time, which would have almost certainly, been too much for the tired ten was avoided. Thus, the defeat inflicted earlier in the term on the Rugby XV by the R.A.C. at Bovington was avenged.

May-June 1965

**JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT,
DENBURY CAMP**

Sports. The main impression received during the month of March has been the tremendous enthusiasm, not to mention noise, which has accompanied the inter-Troop and Squadron knock-out sports matches. Each Troop has been continually waging football, rugby or hockey warfare at an incredibly early hour in the morning. As yet the final results have not been decided, but whoever wins the competition will go down as one of the most successful held at Denbury. Pipers and buglers have gained much additional practice in support of their Troop teams. At regimental sport, the hockey team was unfortunate in being beaten 1 – 0 in a very close semi-final against the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, and this prevented us from appearing in the final of the Junior Army Cup two years running.

Boxing. In the Army Individual Boxing Championships held at Dover earlier this month, the regimental boxers unfortunately did not have a great deal of success. The only outright winner was Junior Signalman Unwin who became the Class B (10 st. 7 lb.) champion for the second year running. Junior Signalman Carr could not quite repeat his success of last year and was beaten in the final.

Trade and Education. The sixteen boys of last term's output who were retained here to complete their trade training have now completed that hurdle and have been posted direct to Units. Elsewhere Captain Watson and his trade training staff have completed the fourth weekend exercise for this term's output. The results of trade training tests at Denbury are continually rising and this term 90 per cent, of Junior Leaders who have sat a trade test now have their trade rating. In academic wing, senior and intermediate exams are under way and we hope for similar encouraging results.

Odd Jottings. Regular activities at Denbury continue. The Junior Leaders' variety show "Monday Night at 8" received a much needed shot in the arm this month and one of the best shows for a long time was produced. The highlight of the evening was the act produced by Javelin Troop, the winners of the evening's first prize, who persuaded the Commanding Officer to become the subject of "This is Your Life." He was somewhat astonished to be re-introduced to his "Boer War Comrade," "Childhood Sweetheart" and "Old Q Sergeant with an extremely broad Irish accent" and a gift of "Draws Dracula."

The new intake this term was a small number of 52. Highlight of the term for the recruits was the weekend camp at Churston Cove enjoyed in rather amazingly brilliant weather. Canoeing, swimming, introduction to radio, map reading, field cooking and a night exercise were enjoyed by all. The staff managed to retain their record as winners of the six-a-side Junior Camp football.

The Corps of Drums, Pipers and Dancers performed in Newton Abbot in support of the Churchill Memorial Fund whilst Junior Leaders went through the town with collecting boxes. Collections have also been made within the Unit.

The General Officer Commanding 43 (Wx) Div./District, Major-General M. C. K. Halford, D.S.O., O.B.E., B.A., paid a visit to the Unit on 8th March, 1965, and the following day a group of headmasters and career masters came to see what life in the Army is like for a junior soldier.

South Devon is basking in mid-summer weather as we conclude these notes and prepare for another Graduation Day.

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

Being in three places and once

Until you have experienced a Summer Term at Denbury and survived, your education will not be complete, it is then that you learn the art of being in three or more places at once. It is a time of great activity, when the Regiment is on continuous show. It is a time when much of the preparatory effort of the other two terms is displayed in public. The standard is high by tradition and both Staff and Junior Leaders need endless patience, tact and determination in order to ensure success.

It is inevitable that some Junior Leaders should find themselves urgently needed for one thing, detailed for a second and urgently to do a third. With the aid of MT and much ingenuity they may even manage all three.

This term has been no exception, even if it has been the wettest on record; but, despite the weather, nothing has been cancelled.

Ten Tors a great success

The first great event was Ten Tors, sponsored and staged by the Regiment, for the sixth time, at Whitsun. The demand to enter this year exceeded all expectations and many teams had to be refused entry. The weather was cool and the success ratio was higher than ever before.

The control system worked smoothly and efficiently thanks to the communications arranged by Captain Tony Watson and Yeoman of Signals Scrafton. It was inevitable, of course, that some of the better radio operators should happen to be wanted also by the Band for Retreat at the Jamboree, and then finally get selected as members of their troop team. The teams took first priority. In fact the Regiment teams did well, only one Junior Leader from White Spear Troop failing to finish the course. Though two troops, Beaufighter and Francisca, overslept on the Sunday morning and missed their medals by ten minutes and twenty minutes respectively!

Plymouth Army Week, Athletics and Nijmegen practice

June finished with the Plymouth Army Week, at which, from the applause they received, our Gymnasts, Pipe Band and Scottish Dancers appeared to be the most popular displays in the programme.

On 7th July our Athletic Team surprised itself by coming second in the Preliminary Round of the Junior Inter Unit Team Championships at Taunton thus qualifying for the finals at Aldershot on 24th July. This created a host of difficulties for the team contained some Nijmegen marchers due to leave for Holland on 24th July and some band boys due to perform at the Royal Tournament, also on 24th July. Agreement was eventually reached without bloodshed.

The practice four-day march of 100 miles for those going to Nijmegen was successfully completed on 11th July. Little did some of the marchers, who happened to be Term 4 boys, know that a new Term 4 exercise had been arranged to start four days later on 15th July, when they found themselves setting forth heavily laden with kit on another 50 miles to finish on 18th July. This, plus the final 100 miles to Holland, will make a grand total of over 250 miles in just over three weeks.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., has ideas of turning out some fit young men from Denbury!

Junior Leaders selected to represent British Army

The Nijmegen contingent left as planned and after a somewhat uncertain journey to Dover, arrived at the docks with less than an hour to spare. The party consisted of Major Joyner, Sergeant Mathieson and 12 Junior Leaders from Montgomery and Alexander Squadrons, C.S.M.I. Carpenter and 15 Junior Leaders from Slim Squadron, and Drum Major Yates as cycle orderly. The journey from Ostend to Nijmegen was quite uneventful, but on arrival they were informed that as a break with normal practice, instead of the British Army Contingent on the Flag Parade being selected from all British Units, this year our complete contingent was to have the honour of representing the 1,300 British Troops marching. This task was well performed and the boys received a well-deserved ovation from the crowds.

Denbury lads covered the routes in great form

Nijmegen this year was wet and cold, and the routes seemed longer. Perhaps because many of the main road sections had been cut and the routes changed to pass through new suburbs of the ever-growing city and surrounding villages. Nevertheless, the two teams covered the routes in great form, finishing early each day. All were awarded their medals and two more Team Medals were earned to bring the Regimental total to 30. This year, too, a new and quicker checking system had been introduced probably as a tryout in preparation for 1966 when extra competitors may well be expected to take part in the 50th marching festival.

Canoe race has some lively moments

On Wednesday, the Inter Troop Canoe Race, won by Iron Troop, was held at Coombe Cellars near Shaldon. It was a good site and Sailing and Cutter racing were added to the programme. It was a most enjoyable day, the Officers v. Sergeants canoe race being the highlight. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., as cox, rowed by Lieutenant P. Bruce and Captain Cuthill, challenged the R.S.M., R.S.M. Garland, rowed by Sergeant Palmer and Sergeant Eouzan. The Commanding Officer's boat crossed the line first, but whilst rowing back to "assist" the R.S.M. he received a somewhat unfriendly welcome. Battle commenced and despite the gallant efforts of the Officers' crew, it was not long before spectators were to see the CO. boat and all sink gracefully beneath the waves. It was a most impressive farewell, bringing tears to many eyes. The duty trumpeter was too overcome with emotion to sound the Last Post, but many hands were raised in salute and the second-in-command straightened his tie.

The R.S.M., however, ordered an immediate rescue operation and the CO. was soon rescued. It was then the turn of the R.S.M., pace stick and all, as the already wet officers decided it was time the R.S.M. met his due. Soon the second cutter had sunk, both crews were in the water and the R.S.M. was to discover that pace sticks are no good as "pook sticks." The sailing officer, Captain McMahan, in the one remaining cutter effected the final rescue of all except the pace stick, which was found in the mud at low tide next day.

R.S.M. W.T. Leeson seen off in traditional manner

R.S.M.s seem to come and go at an astonishing rate in Denbury, but we are happy to say that the "going" part is normally a pleasant one. The departure of R.S.M. W. T. Leeson was no exception as he was leaving on commissioning and posting to 16th Regiment.

Being the only Regiment of our kind in the Corps we pride ourselves on doing things in a proper manner and it was agreed unanimously that our departing R.S.M. would leave the Regiment and the Mess if not in a "blaze of glory" then at least "lit up." We were also fortunate enough to be able to welcome our new president, R.S.M. M. F. B. Garland, at the same time.

The traditional dining out was held on the evening of Wednesday, 14th July, and it really was a splendid occasion. With the bulk of the members present wearing scarlet mess kit the candle-lit tables presented a colourful picture enhanced, to a great extent, by the silver display. The dinner itself was excellent and the Loyal Toast was preceded, in our own inimitable fashion, with a Fanfare by the Regimental Trumpeters. Traditional music was provided during the coffee stage by two pipers in Highland dress.

RSM Leeson was then presented with a sword which came with heartfelt good wishes and congratulations from all Mess members and, we are sure, from all others in the Corps with whom he has served.

The evening was rounded off by the towing of R.S.M. Leeson across the Regimental Parade Ground to his new home – the Officers' Mess. Farewell and bon voyage, Lieutenant Leeson. The accompanying photograph requires no title.



JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, DENBURY CAMP

The end of the Summer Term fortunately brought about the only spell of fine weather this year and just managed to last for Graduation Day.

Graduation Day

Many parents visited the Unit for two days. Approximately 200 were in Camp and a further 150 (who were staying locally) visited us for the day. The reviewing officer for the parade was the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who arrived by helicopter, landing on the sports field.

Ninety-two Junior Leaders formed the Graduation parties who lead the March Past. They have recently departed for Royal Signals Units. During the afternoon 78 recruits of Junior Squadron had their pass off parade before moving up to the three squadrons. Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, was the reviewing officer at this parade. There followed displays by the Gymnastics Team, The Pipers and Dancers, Junior Squadron Drill Team and the Corps of Drums. A full day was concluded with the Commanding Officer's address and the presentation of prizes . . . and so to leave!

American Marines at Denbury

The Winter Term began on 8th September, 1965. Junior Leaders returning from leave were puzzled by the presence of American Marines. The Marines were the United States Embassy Guard in London and were staying in the camp whilst playing Rugby locally. The Americans were very interested in the Junior Leaders' organisation as apparently they have no counterpart in the States.

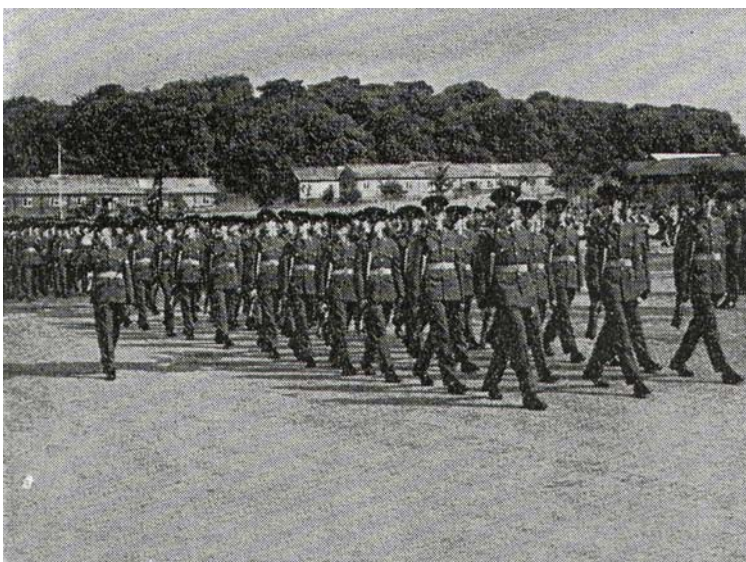
New faces

A large intake of 122 arrived on 14th September for Junior Squadron. After the inevitable initial periods of homesickness all have now settled down. They are eating and sleeping well after their introduction to Army training. There are many new faces in the Unit amongst the Staff this term and also some new additions on the training side. A new battery shop and generator shop are recent additions. Line training rooms and stores are nearing completion.

Boxing and cross-country

There has been much noise emanating from the gymnasium in the past week, cheering supporters have accompanied the Inter-Troop Boxing. There have been many fine fights, particularly on the finals night. Although many contestants lacked skill there was certainly no lack of spirit. It is hoped that the winners will give a good account of themselves in the forthcoming Army competitions.

The Inter-Troop Cross-Country came close on the heels of boxing. The individual winner was Junior Signaller Paterson of Jerboa Troop. This was a particularly meritorious effort as Paterson is only a second term boy and now has a chance to equal Signaller Drew in winning the race every term in a Senior Squadron.



Another intake of smart young men enter man's service
Graduating Junior Leader's march off from their final parade



Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling,
K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., addresses the Regiment
on the Graduation Parade

**JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT,
DENBURY CAMP**

Sport is the dominant note this month

This month has been one in which sport seems to have dominated the activities within the Regiment. Once again the Gymnastic Team has retained the Southern Command Junior Gymnastic Championships with, among other things, Junior Corporal Riddell winning the individual junior title and S.I. Dart the individual men's title in the Senior Championships. Our boxing team has now reached the semi-final of the Army Inter-Unit Junior Team Championships and is due to fight the Junior Leaders Company, A.C.C., in the near future. Perhaps our team will gain another bye and reach the finals!

In the Soccer Junior Leaders Army Challenge Cup, we have not fared so well, and in the second round were knocked out 4 – 2 by the Junior Leaders of the Royal Armoured Corps. On the rugger field, too, we have had misfortunes as far as the Army Cup Permanent Staff Team is concerned; they were beaten 6 – 0 by 17 Port Regiment, R.C.T. On the other hand, in the Judo arena we have qualified for the Army finals by beating the Junior Leaders, R.C.T.

Parachute Course – Success of an experiment

For the first time ever, Junior Leaders attended a parachute course as an experiment, and, after a weeding-out process from the many volunteers, six members of the Regiment started the fortnight's course at Abingdon. The first week of the course consisted of toughening-up and then preparation, and then there were jumps from balloons and aircraft. It was most unfortunate that on the very first jump from the balloon, J/S.S.M. Madsen broke his ankle. However, all the other Junior Leaders completed the course without mishap, and there can be no doubt that the experiment was a great success and worthy of repetition.

Headmasters – "Favourably impressed by all they saw"

A party of headmasters and careers masters spent a full day touring all parts of the Regiment just before half-term weekend and seemed to be favourably impressed by all they saw. All were from West Country schools, and several Junior Leaders at present in the Unit came from some of their schools.

An account by one of the participants in Exercise "Slog On II" (a four-day exercise) appears below, and is more or less typical of the type of outdoor training carried out in the unit.

EXERCISE "SLOG ON II"

By Junior Signalman J.T. Haydock, of Alexander Squadron

Exercise "Slog On II" was planned by Major J. W. Joyner and was designed to be an endurance test on an "Outward Bound" basis and an exercise in map reading. It was solely for the benefit of fourth term personnel of the unit, i.e., those who had been Junior Leaders for just over a year. The term was split into groups of about fifteen in number and each group was supervised by a member of the permanent staff from the same Squadron as the boys. There were two groups from Alexander Squadron (my Squadron), and this account of the exercise is all about my group.

On the day before the exercise commenced we were issued with a map, compass, etc., and also "our home" for the next few days, which was a bivouac tent. We found that the bivouac proved to be rather small and crowded when Junior Signalman Calver and I were in it, together with all our equipment.

High spirits

The next morning, dressed in denims, we set off in A.D. transport for Pridhamsleigh to explore the caves there. Lieutenant Hampson led us and we were all in high spirits and singing some of the songs for which the British Army is famous. For most of us this was our first experience of pot-holing – such as being trapped hundreds of feet underground. However, as we entered the caves our fears subsided and we spent a very enjoyable morning. On return to the surface we were all so filthy that it was necessary to return to Denbury Camp for a shower and change of clothing and then, after dinner, we set off on foot to Dartmoor for our first pre determined camp site for the night. During the march we took turns at map reading and the leader made all the decisions regarding our route. Nevertheless, Lieutenant Hampton kept a close watch just in case anything was wrong with the leader's decisions, and in due course we arrived at our destination, set up camp and cooked the first compo meal of the exercise.'

A frosty morning

Next morning we awoke to frost on the ground and we washed hurriedly in the nearby stream. We were all glad to cook our breakfast – not so much because we were hungry, but more because we wanted to get warm by the fires. With breakfast over, we struck camp and set off again across the moors, taking it in turns to lead the group. We tried to avoid the many bogs and marshy parts of the moor and kept as dry as possible.

A night exercise

We made good progress and arrived at our destination at Great Mis Tor and we made camp and cooked our tea. By that time Lieutenant Tilson had arrived and Lieutenant Hampson left us to return to Denbury Camp. Lieutenant Tilson's first job with us was to brief us for a night exercise which was to be held that night, and we set about making plans for it. While we were discussing it Major Joyner arrived and we heard him say to Lieutenant Tilson that we were the happiest group he had seen.

The exercise went off without a hitch and we then climbed into our sleeping bags and left the world of the living for a few hours until seven o'clock the next morning. We then had breakfast, struck camp and set off again, but this time the going was not so easy because we could not avoid the bogs and marshes and also had to climb several Tors. But, all things considered, we made good time and beat the other group, which was also making for Willsworthy. We gave them a cheer when they arrived and then all settled down for the evening and night.

Last day

Next morning was the start of our last day, and we set off for our last destination at which we would find the transport waiting to take us back to Denbury Camp. We were all in good spirits, although our blisters were throbbing, and after a short rest for dinner, we reached our transport without mishap.

For us the exercise was over then and we were glad to have come through the ordeal without dying of food poisoning from our own cooking or freezing to death in the streams at seven o'clock in the morning. What we learnt on map reading, cooking, making a camp etc., was invaluable to us, because after all, as soldiers, we may be called upon to live out in the open for any amount of time, and our experiences on "Slog On II" will benefit us all, I am sure.