

HIGHLIGHTS of 1964



The Commanding Officer **Lt Col DA Holifield** and his wife Betty and their eldest daughter Christine



March 1964 - Skiing in Jorstadmoen in Norway - **M 'Nip' Vaughan** - **Steve Watson**

Graduation Day – Wednesday 8th April 1964



JSig Adrian 'Goliath' Fuller with Lassie

Following extracts are from the Herald Express – Apr 64



Adventure training award



Mascot "Laddie" and handler



Champion squadron award



Smart soldier



A smile for the pipers



A few remarks



Cobb Trophy for Iron Troop



Marching off the square

PHILL (5)



Major General AMW Whistler takes the salute first time the Junior Squadron Lances on parade



Half Slim Squadron with OC Maj JK Heyes



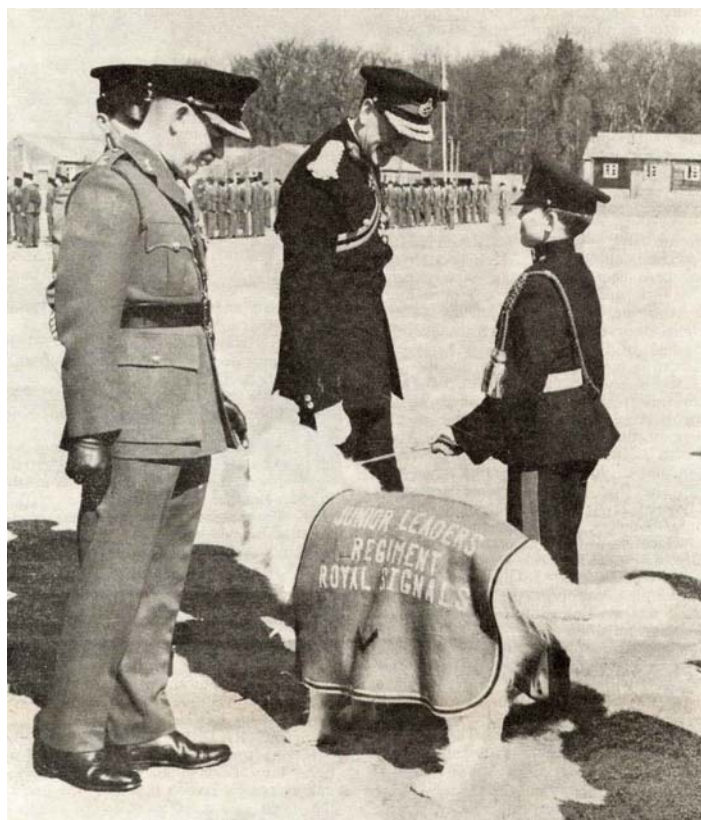
Slim Squadron formed in two halves



Half Montgomery Squadron march past with OC Maj JW Joyner



“Gather round chaps” Slim Squadron with Sgt Dobson from Junior Squadron looking on



Major General AMW Whistler - **Adrian 'Goliath' Fuller**
Pyreneean Mountain Dog 'Laddie' the Regimental Mascot



JRSM Maurice Emmott

FROM ADJUTANT TO COMMANDING OFFICER



"Some six weeks ago I took over command of this Regiment from Lt.-Col. Holifield.

This to me is a great honour and pleasure, as I served in this Regiment as Adjutant from 1955 to 1958. I have watched with great interest the Unit's reputation grow over the years and am now very impressed with its standing within our Royal Corps of Signals.

As to the future, we have now been finally promised the swimming bath, which is to be built in the upper drill shed, by October of this year. This swimming bath will, of course, be heated so that all-the-year-round swimming can take place.

On the 1st September we take over another playing field and this should provide us with all the necessary space we require.

Efforts are being made to bring a new look to our trade training and new equipment to effect this change is now arriving in the Regiment.

Our efforts in the Amateur Radio field are to be expanded. All the new radio receivers are now in the Regiment and the transmitters are expected before the start of next term.

I have already been most impressed with the Regimental reputation amongst the general public in Devon, also by the help and support given to the Regiment by the Parents of our Junior Leaders. Your help and generosity make the work of the Regiment so much easier.

Our Regiment here has a very fine record and it must now be my task to carry on the very fine work of my predecessor Lt.-Col. Holifield."

Denbury says farewell to Col. Alan: welcome to "Jungle Jim"

THE current ambition of Lieut. Col. Desmond Eric Higgins, the recently installed commanding officer of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, at Denbury camp, is "to carry on the good work of my predecessor."

And his predecessor, Lt. Col. A. Holifield, said of his successor: "I am very happy that the incoming officer is an old friend. I know I am leaving the regiment in very good hands."

This good feeling between the two officers is typical of both but especially of Col. Higgins, whose reputation has arrived at the camp before him and who is already affectionately known as "Colonel Jim."

This is not Col. Higgins' first encounter with Denbury camp. Six years ago he was adjutant there and then he got to know most of the boys and the staff.

Fine Regiment

He told the *Advertiser* this week: "This is a very fine regiment and I am proud to be in command of it. To do something like this is every officer's ambition." He also spoke highly of former Junior Leaders who he had got to know while he was adjutant and whom he met after leaving and going back to the regular services.

Col. Higgins believes that it will be his job now to take the boy soldiers and turn them into useful persons with the Royal Signals.



Lt. Col. D. E. Higgins.

He considers the camp to be "something much better and bigger" than the ordinary school. "When you have lived under difficult conditions with some of the men this camp has produced, you know that this is something different from the usual school," he said.

Army Career

But he does not expect his command to be plain sailing. "Obviously many problems will arise," he said, "but they will be dealt with as they come."

The problems he will deal with, will be only those affecting the camp as a whole or those which will seriously affect the lives of the boys under his command. He believes that one of the main objects of the camp is to give the young men the confidence to deal with their own problems.

This, he said, will eventually give the boys what they need to join the regular army. He commends the army as a career to every young man. "For trade training, comradeship and adventure the army is second to none. It is the best possible outlet for young men. The best in the world."

He concluded: "I have been posted here for three years. And I will serve the regiment to the best of my ability over this period."

Col. Higgins was born in north-west London in 1920. He went to Willesden county school and afterwards joined the post office as an engineer.

Private

In 1941 he joined the Royal Signals as a private soldier and went to the training school at Catterick. He went to Coventry as a corporal instructor then back to Catterick to a commission school.

In 1944 he was commissioned into the Royal Signals and after a period at Kent went to India. He left Britain as a second lieutenant and arrived in India as a first lieutenant. By 1945 he had become a major. He was engaged in heavy construction work laying telephone trunk routes.

Aboard

He returned to Britain in 1947 and took over a training squadron at Catterick. After that he went to Malaya for three years as a captain in a Gurkha Signals troop.

For three years he was adjutant at Denbury and then went to Singapore where he had a static signalling job for 18 months.

It was during the following 18 months that he earned the nickname of "Jungle Jim" in Thailand and North Borneo. There he commanded a portable signals squadron.

For the past 2½ years he has been at the War Office working under the director of communications and electronic equipment.

Col. Higgins' home is at Yonder Wreylands, Lustleigh. He is married with three children. Although his son is too young to start soldiering yet Col. Higgins hopes he will when he is old enough. "But it will be his

Col. Holifield leaves after 2½ successful years

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE AND ACTIONS OF 200 SPIRITED YOUNG MEN IS NO LIGHT TASK TO FALL UPON ONE MAN'S SHOULDERS BUT FOR THE PAST 2½ YEARS IT HAS BEEN THE BURDEN OF LT.-COL. ALAN HOLIFIELD, NOW OF KNOWLES HILL ROAD, NEWTON ABBOT.

Since December 1961 Col. Holifield has been the commanding officer of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, at Denbury. But to him it has been a pleasure rather than a burden. He told the *Advertiser* recently: "I am very sad to be going. I have certainly enjoyed my time with the regiment."

"But it has been an interesting job and it has kept me very busy."

During his stay at Denbury Col. Holifield has collected several memories. Some are sad, such as when there was a bad fire at the camp or when several boys were lost while on exercises on Dartmoor. Some are quite the opposite, such as when Totnes council asked the camp to provide the guard of honour for the visit of the Queen. Most of his memories are on the brighter side. The most recent is of the latest Ten Tors expedition which, he said, was the biggest ever and consequently the most difficult event the regiment has ever had to organise. But it went off "very well indeed."

Drawbacks

There have been a few drawbacks in being the commanding officer of the camp, Col. Holifield added. One was that to get the confidence of the whole camp he had to get to know each boy at least by sight if not personally. Another was that the camp took part in a great deal of adventurous training work and as such needed a great deal of supervision. A third was that because the camp came under the control of the Ministry of Defence, there was a large turn-over of officers and N.C.O.s.

Col. Holifield, likened the camp to a "large boarding school with



Lt.-Col. A. Holifield.

leadership and academic trade training as its principal subjects." But he did not look upon himself as a headmaster. "I was a professional soldier using my experience to bring the younger generation up to be soldiers and junior leaders in the army."

Standards

He has been most proud of the general raising of the standards of the Junior Leaders during his time at the camp. This has been so notable, he said, that the Ministry of Defence has given the permission for a small proportion of the senior N.C.O.s at the camp to become N.C.O.s in the regular army the minute they leave Denbury. The youngest adult entry into the regular army will not get rank until he is nearly 20 while boys from Denbury leave and join up when they are only 17½.

Col. Holifield is leaving because his normal period of command has expired. The army, he said, likes to keep its senior officers on the move so that they can get full experience of every type of army life, rather than know how to do only one thing if there were a crisis.

Career

Col. Holifield was born at Wembley in 1919. He went to school until shortly before the second world war when he joined the Territorial Army as a private soldier. "I knew



"and I wanted to do something to be in a position to fight."

When he was 20 he became a sergeant and in 1941 was commissioned into the Royal Signals. Nine months later he was a Captain and in 1942 went overseas to North Africa, Italy, Greece, the Middle East and Austria. By that time he had become a major.

After the war he was given the rank of a captain and for two years was attached to the officer training unit at Catterick. In 1950 he went to the staff college at Camberley for a year. After that he went to Germany for a while and was for two years a squadron commander in a Signals unit, having become a major.

From 1955 to 1957 he was a staff officer at the War Office followed by three years as an independent squadron commander with the King's African Rifles at Nairobi.

After a further 18 months as a liaison staff officer attached to the German army he came to Denbury on promotion.

He will now return to Germany as a staff officer for a while.

Lieut. Col. Alan Holifield's ceremoniously escorted out of the gates of Denbury camp on Monday. Here he is being towed in an army "Champ" by junior sergeants and warrant officers of the Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Signals, which he commanded for the past 2½ years.

He relinquished his command the moment he passed through and his successor, Lieut. Col. D. E. Higgins, took over.

The 60 boy soldiers with their officers and civilian instructors gathered in the gymnasium on Monday morning to hear Col. Holifield's farewell speech. He also thanked everyone who had helped him while he was at the camp and welcomed Col. Higgins. "I could not have wished for a better officer to hand over to," he said. Photo H. R. Rivers.



Lt Col DE Higgins - **JSgt Geoff Coates** - Lt AGM Prince Lt Col Prounman presents the CO with a new trophy
 with the CO of 3 Div HQ & Sig Regt inspecting Iron Troop for the troop winning the assault course competition

Nijmegen Marches – Slim Squadron Team – July 1964



1 - **John 'Amos' Birkenshaw**
Dick Sedgebeer - Pete Marven
Dave Flay - 6
Mal 'Doc' Docherty



Pete Mason - Bernie Temmen - Mal 'Doc' Docherty - Sgt CN 'Pete' Lightfoot
with **Pete Marven** and **John 'Amos' Birkenshaw** at rear

Graduation Day – Saturday 1st August 1964



Iron Troop Colour Party previous term Champion Troop provided the Colour Party



Half Montgomery Squadron



Brigadier KRS Trevor talks to **John 'Helmet' Freeman** of the output party



Half Montgomery Squadron marches past



Output party march off



Neil Campbell operating the C11 ACF/CCF net



JRSM Johnny Bonnett with his parents after the parade and the last time the JRSM carried a sword at Denbury



JSig Frank Higham with a charming guest



JSgt Ian Haylock receives SO-in-C Trophy on behalf of Kukri Troop



Miss Pamela de Waal and some of her lady Scottish Dancers



JRSM Johnny Bonnett with his parents



Teleprinter demonstration



Potter's wheel demonstration

Penhale Camp



Slim Squadron Summer Camp 4-12 Aug 64

Graduation Day – Thursday 15th December 1964



Half Alexander Squadron with OC Quadrant Troop 2Lt LRJ Tilson



JRSM Dave Hartrey and Colour Party provided by Iron Troop the previous term Champion Troop



Commanding Officer Lt Col DE Higgins and **Brigadier JB Ashworth**



Alexander Squadron formed in two halves march past



Output party march past this was the last time black belts were worn at Denbury

Can you help with more photos?