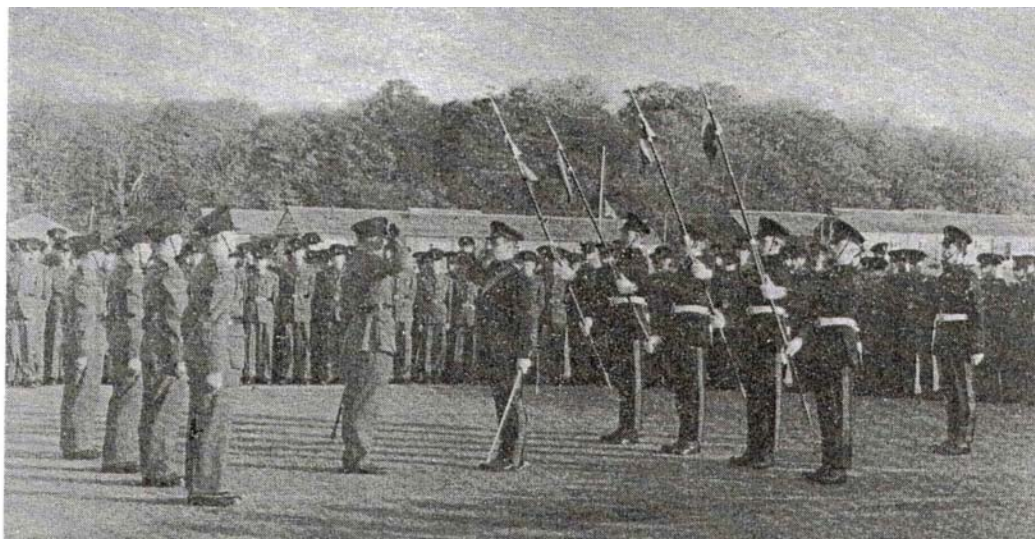


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***16th Regiment  
Adopts the  
Junior Squadron  
of the  
Junior Leaders  
Regiment***

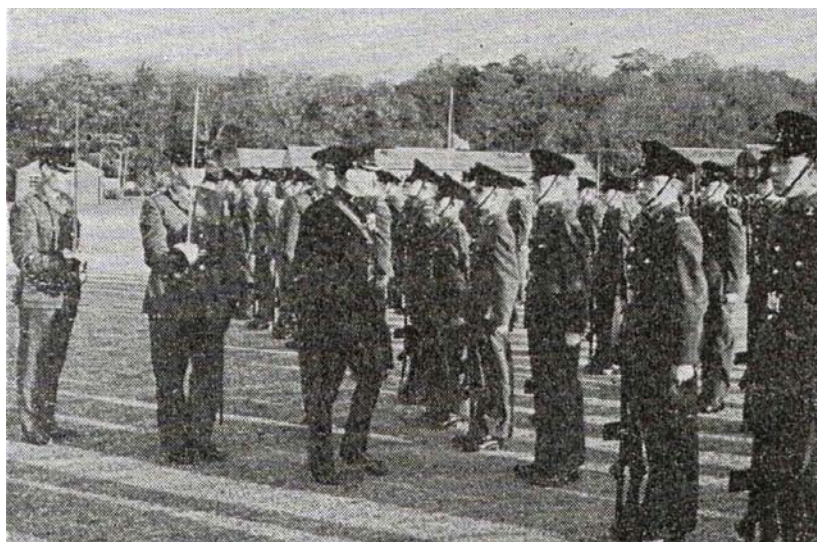


Yet another bond is established between a serving Regiment and our Junior Leaders Regiment at a colourful Lance Presentation Ceremony at Denbury. Denbury Camp, on the fringe of Dartmoor, is the home of the Junior Leaders Regiment. The Corps has always shown great interest in the work and training of this Unit and these bonds were further strengthened during last summer when the Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment made an extensive tour of the Regiments of the Corps in B.A.O.R.

We, here in Krefeld, were very impressed with the smartness of turnout and enthusiasm shown by the boys during their stay with us and as a reciprocal gesture it was decided to present a stand of four lances to the Junior Squadron who were the Cinderellas of Denbury, having no connections with any of the Regular Regiments. Accordingly, a lance presentation party was assembled consisting of Captain D. G. Smith, Staff Sergeant B. Howie, Lance-Corporal Little and Signalmen Bilson, Lashley and Richardson. Signalman Richardson and Lashley are ex-members of the Junior Leaders Regiment, a fact which further served to underline the existing ties between Denbury and the Regular Army. Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. P. Brader also accompanied the lance party and was the guest of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield, M.C.

The party reached their destination on the night of Friday, 22nd November, Staff Sergeant Howie having had his usual tussle with tight-lipped Customs officials over the intrinsic value of four lances! After a brief period of familiarisation drill for the four diminutive Junior Leader lance bearers the whole Regiment were played on to the parade ground by their Band which was, as usual, magnificent. The preliminaries over, the command 'Break ranks' was given and the 600 boys gathered around the dais to watch the actual ceremony of the handing over of the lances. Colonel R. W. P. Brader then addressed them and declared the existence of the association between Junior Squadron and 16th Regiment and also presented Colonel Holifield with a cheque for £65 on behalf of the Regiment to help to defray the heavy costs incurred by the Junior Leaders in sending their Band on the Summer Tour of B.A.O.R.

Colonel Brader then took the salute as the Regiment marched past and afterwards toured the camp seeking many other aspects of life at Denbury, which is full and rewarding for both students and staff. If the Old Boys of the Junior Leaders Regiment maintain their high standard and keenness on joining Regular Regiments, the Corps has nothing to fear in the future from the manpower trough because it is surely quality we seek above quantity.



Colonel Brader, Royal Signals, inspects Junior Squadron

Please go to the PHOTOS - FILES page for the article – The Wire visits the Junior Leaders Regiment

June 1964

## JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

As in most terms, many and varied have been the activities of this first session in 1964, culminating in a very fine Graduation Parade, at which the salute was taken by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler. Marching with the Regimental Band for the first time in public was the new mascot, "Laddie," a big snowy-white Pyrenean mountain dog, proudly wearing his red Regimental coat. In his address, General Whistler stressed the part that Signals are playing in modern life; his final message to the boys was "to aim high, but please do so with all humility, and above all enjoy life." A list of those graduating was published in the May WIRE.

Amongst the highlights this term has been the splendid achievement in the boxing world – after three years, the Junior Leaders Regiment have once again achieved success in Army Junior Boxing. With the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, as the venue, the Regiment entered four boys in the Army Junior Championships. They did very well, two becoming Army Champions, and one a runner-up. Two of these went on to the I.S.B.A. Championships and later boxed for the I.S.B.A. versus Wales.

### **Exercise "Waterwaves"**

Just before departing on Christmas leave, Military Training Wing were informed that the Regiment had accepted the task of providing check point communications for the organisers of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race during the Easter week-end.

Having had the leave period in which to think about some of the problems, the organisation and planning was started in earnest in mid-January. After a study of maps of the route, plus information on various sites along the route, provided by the Race Committee, it was decided to establish check points at Devizes, Wooten Rivers, Great Bedwyn, Newbury, Reading, Hambledon, Marlow, Bray, Chertsey and Teddington. Communications on the stretch of the Kennett and Avon Canal between Newbury and Reading were to be provided by the Reading Civil Defence Signal Section.

On 27th February, Radio Operator Class 6R1 (13 boys), plus the Officer-in-Charge Military Training (Captain M. R. C. Weiner), Yeoman of Signals Heard and Sergeant Akehurst left Denbury in our newly-acquired FFR Land Rovers en route to Devizes for a two-day recce of the proposed sites and course.

From the results of the reconnaissance, the final preparations were made and the Race Committee were given our communications plan, which adequately covered their needs.

On arrival in location, each detachment set up camp and opened up on their respective net. Three nets were planned, one covering the Devizes-Newbury locations, one covering Reading, Hambledon, Marlow and Bray, and an overall control net, Newbury - Marlow - Chertsey - Teddington, with Denbury coming up on this net in case any emergency might arise.

The testing of the nets was carried out on the evening of 26th March, and it was found that the frequency allocated to the control net was jammed by heavy interference from an RTTY station, so alternative arrangements were made for all stations on this net to join the Reading-Bray net. This proved a satisfactory arrangement, and all nets closed down until 07.00 hours next morning.

On 27th March, within minutes of the actual race starting, both nets were working satisfactory, and information about start times was being fed up to the Race Committee representative at Teddington.

A word about the race itself. There are two sections to the race – Junior and Senior. Senior competitors may start anytime between 08.00 hours Good Friday and 08.00 hours on the Saturday morning, and paddle throughout the night direct to the finish, at County Hall, Westminster. The Junior competitors start at 08.00 hours on Good Friday and only paddle during daylight hours, and there are compulsory overnight stops at Newbury, Marlow and Teddington.

Communications were required from one hour before the start of the race until all junior competitors had reached Teddington on the Sunday evening. Throughout this period our detachments kept communication until their respective section had been cleared of canoeists and permission obtained from the Race Committee for them to close down and return to Denbury; Teddington and Chertsey being the last to close on Sunday at 18.00 hours. The standard of operating throughout the exercise was very good, and all operators gained experience in working long hours and through heavy interference, and many of them gained experience in battery charging.

Despite the very cold weather over the week-end, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and felt they were doing a worthwhile job, which earned them the thanks of the Race Organisers.



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield introducing the Regimental Band Mascot "Laddie" and his handler Junior Signalman Fuller to Major-General A. M. W. Whistler on the Graduation Parade



The photograph shows the three finalists and their trophies. Junior Signalman Mike Unwin (left). Runner Up Southern Command Championships. Army and I.S.B.A. Champion at 10st Class 'A' Junior Signalman Freddie Carr (centre) Southern Command Champion and Runner Up Army Championships at 8st 7lbs. I.S.B.A. Champion at 8st Class 'A' Junior Sergeant John Le Page (right) Southern-Command and Army Champion at 9st 7lbs Class 'C'

## ***A Salute from Denbury to Norway***

In February and March this year, one officer and seven Junior Leaders from Denbury visited Norway. The following account was written by the Junior Leaders themselves and edited by the conducting officer. – *Editor*.

Friday, 21st February, was the start of half-term at Denbury. At mid-day the camp started to empty and the local buses, railway station, rapidly filled. At the station, however, in the London-bound queue, were one Officer and seven Junior Leaders looking rather more apprehensive than the rest – rather more heavily clothed and with heavier suitcases – this was the annual Norway party from Denbury on their way to the Norwegian Army Signal School at Jordstadmoen, near Lillehammer.

The party had been chosen more by luck than actual selection, and much to the annoyance of the Soccer Officer, included two Regimental first team players. Rigorous training had been indulged in by the course, mainly in the shape of gym workouts with weight equipment and hard practical sessions of exercise, four times a week for just over three weeks. This was tough work, but undoubtedly helped to achieve the high degree of team-spirit present before the party left, and also to the final fitness and hence success of the course as a whole.

The party travelled via London, mainly so that certain members could see an "aunt" or similar person that evening. This was entirely out of the question, since the hospitality offered by 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., was beyond the bounds of credibility and certainly allowed no individual the chance to escape once he was in their grasp. That night was an Old Comrades' night, and the sight of seven young junior soldiers certainly made an excuse for much repeating of old stories of quite remarkable interest by the "old ones" and a surfeit of traditional hospitality. It must also be said here, that it is the only time a junior soldier is ever likely to be woken up by an ex-Guardsman – a Sergeant-Major at that – with a cup of tea, quiet words of "time to get up; I am about to cook breakfast; ready in 20 minutes!" What a dream – one member still cannot believe it; and what a simply marvellous breakfast! After such a night, it was a very contented party that set off in the Newcastle train to board the M.S. Braemar later that afternoon.

### **Fascinating Entry to Norwegian Life**

Once in Oslo, we were immediately taken around to see the newly-built telecommunication tower to the north of the capital. The weather, unfortunately, was overcast, so the scenic value was less than our hosts wished, but even so, it was marvellous. The tower, with its collection of aerials and many floors, as well as ground installations, was a fascinating entry to Norwegian life. The short sight-seeing trip reminded us that Norway was a modern country with modern ideas, right bang up-to-date. After the unfortunately too short time in Oslo, and our first meal composed entirely of fish – oh! How much more lay in store for us – we boarded a train for Lillehammer.

On arrival at Lillehammer we were met by Captain M. Spilde, of Norwegian Army Signals. It was he who was to guide us and look after us for our three-week stay. All five previous courses from Denbury have had the good fortune to have him as their instructor – how lucky we were to follow suit. Soon, however, he had us back in camp (having eaten our inevitable fish!), into the barrack rooms and soon to bed for our first good night's sleep since Denbury.

The course was to use Norwegian equipment at all times. Thus, we collected a complete set of personal issues from their Quartermaster; we still cannot translate "Long Johns" into Norwegian. During this period there were many hopeful faces as Captain Spilde kept speaking of "she" and when we would start to "she." However, that afternoon we all went for our first ski lesson. After three days, we felt sure that the motto "slow, but sure" was for us! We just could not stay on our skis in an upright position, however hard we tried. By the careful example and patience of our instructor, the lessons gradually began to have their effect – and thus we learned to ski.

### **King of Norway Present**

During our stay at Jordstadmoen, we were fortunate to see the Norwegian Military Ski Championships. The "Military" covers all their equivalent to T.A., A.E.R., as well as regular units; since nearly all young Norwegians are members of the T.A., these championships were nearly national in character. The King of Norway came to watch one race, and we were fortunate to be present at the opening and prizegiving ceremonies. The programme included Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze Medalists in profusion, as well as world record holders. It still seems incredible that the recent Olympic bronze medallist could only come seventh, and for it to be regarded as natural – "the others are just as good, but we could only send three to the Olympics." There is no doubt that seeing these champions in action had a great effect on us; for there we really saw ski-ing at its best.

The Norwegian Army is, by some standards, small, but well-trained, and very conscious of its delicate and important link in the NATO chain. Hence, it shows much more interest in NATO and the interests of NATO than we are apt to do. Even the Norwegian soldier is well versed in NATO matters and fully aware of his country's position in the defence link – this was an important lesson the Junior Leaders learned by living amongst these educated soldiers. One result of this is that the Norwegian Army takes a tremendous interest in the British Army, amongst others, and nowhere is this more noticeable than in their Signal Corps.

THE WIRE IS READ REGULARLY; names are known, even in the mountains at Army Camps British names occur in visitors' books as frequently as Norwegian – so do some excellent cartoons! (N.B. for the Editor. Send for a copy of the book at Kittilbu – names and pictures that would make many present fairly senior officers blush at the antics of their early days!). But beyond this is the genuine interest shown, and there are excellent grounds for supposing that visits such as ours, as well as teaching us to ski and to understand the very important lessons of winter warfare, also serve as a focal point for this interest in each other. Nothing but good can come if, as a result, each side knows a little more about the other and we come back and pass round the knowledge gained.

### **The View of a Lifetime**

One of the ways in which we were able to learn about the Norwegian way of life and also to have a glimpse of the tourist trade, was to go on one-day visits to mountain resorts. One such visit was at Skeikarnpen, a well-known tourist spot. Here we had the view of a lifetime, and it is no wonder that such a place is now almost international in character. From here we could see the highest mountains in Scandinavia – outside the Alps, the highest in Europe – over 8,000 feet high. A wonderful canopy of cloud hung down on one valley leading far down into the distance, a terrifyingly steep face led to a deep valley on the other side – a large white basin with the serenity and peace of timelessness, but with the wind whipping up flashes of dust to remind one of the force of nature; and on the third side, on our west, a valley with the holiday and tourist huts, camps and an international hotel used by visiting royalty. Here, indeed, was Norway at its best. After such a sight we descended, again using a gentle, but hidden path, since the antics of the course in descending were enough to earn 'us at least equality with such clowns as Laurel and Hardy.' One instructor standing, eight of us sitting, or even rolling, in deep snow, constituted a pathetic sight.

We were more fortunate than previous courses, as one of the students at the Apprentices' School, with whom we stayed was in his off-duty time, a civilian ski instructor: Apprentice Fred Skudal soon became one of us – even to the extent of wearing his own balaclava in Troop colours. He stayed with us all the time, on and off duty, and was a great asset. When in the mountains he came and showed us how to live.

Life in a mountain camp is not as different as one is not as different as one might imagine from our ideas of camp. Tents are still there, camp discipline is more strict, and camp food is...well, not as good as is normal from the cookhouse. We lived in Swedish-designed M16 tents, which have a central stove, the chimney acting as a tent pole. Wooden flats are laid over the snow, which can be very deep, and palliasses and sleeping bags are used. Rifles are left outside – shades of a British court martial! – in a loose rack to prevent condensation and hard rusting, while boots are slept with! These are lessons soon learned when sleeping in temperatures of 40°F. of frost. We had four days in the mountain camp and here we indeed learned the lessons of winter. The weather, in fact, was exceedingly kind to us, but even so, we found it could be cold. Weasels (a military over-snow vehicle) towed us for long distances and weasel-towing was soon more of a sport than work. It was fortunate that we were all about the same standard, so great progress was made.

While in the mountains we were examined for our Norwegian cross-country ski badges. To do this one has to ski 10 kilometres in under 65 minutes for a bronze and under 55 minutes for a silver. All previous courses had managed to pick up some badges and two had gained a silver. We were very proud to finish up with four silver and four bronze which was found to be an excellent record after just 15 days' ski-ing. There is no doubt that our general all-out attempt at fitness before we went helped tremendously to gain these results. Of the four silver medallists only one had ever been on skis before, which proved the standard attained.

Unfortunately as always the good things have to come to an end and after just 18 days we repacked our cases and returned. Before we left, however. Colonel Langaas, the Commandant of the entire camp, very kindly presented our badges and medals as well as some excellent presents made for the course by the apprentices in the school. It was typical of our stay that we, a very small party, should be treated so kindly and with such attention. On our behalf, Lieutenant Prince thanked the Colonel for our stay and also especially Major Langdalen whose obvious enthusiasm and hospitality ensures that these trips are an annual success. Soon afterwards Captain Spilde was presented with a gift from us all.

Thus we left Norway, having gone well on the way to learning how to ski, met Norwegians both military and civilian, lived in modern up-to-date barracks and in tents in the mountains at about 2,500 ft., as well as getting to know and understand some aspects of the Norwegian way of life. This last was possibly as important as any for whether it was two or three boys visiting a Norwegian home with local "friends" or the conducting officer down in the local hotels, we all learned a great deal and for it feel better men. Thank you to all the Norwegians who read this – we know you will – especially Major Langdalen, Captain Spilde and "Fred."

Those privileged to make the trip to Norway were: –  
 J/Signalman Wenn, "White Spear," Bronze Medal.  
 J/Corporal Vaughan, "Beaufighter," Bronze Medal.  
 J/Signalman Kirby, "Kukri," Silver Medal.  
 J/Signalman Watson, "Iron," Silver Medal.

J/Signalman Boston, "White Swan," Bronze Medal.  
 J/Signalman Douglas, "Beaufighter," Bronze Medal.  
 J/Signalman Stevens, "Francisca," Silver Medal.  
 Lieutenant A.C.M. Prince, "Staff" (O.C. Iron), Silver Medal.

## JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

It was with regret and sadness that we said farewell to our Commanding Officer of the last two and a half years when, on a very wet 1st June, after a short parade he was towed out of Denbury Camp in a Champ. Lieutenant Colonel A. Holifield, M.C., did much for the Regiment during his stay in Devon and he and his wife are responsible for much of the friendship which exists between the Unit and the local population. He will be missed in the area and we all wish him and his family good fortune in Germany. At the same time we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Higgins to the Unit. The new Commanding Officer is no stranger to the area or this particular Unit because some time ago he was the Adjutant here.

On Saturday, 20th June, we were visited by the Commanding Officer of 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman, M.B.E., his Adjutant and R.S.M. A short parade was held and Iron Troop (the Troop affiliated to Colonel Proudman's Regiment) was presented with a magnificent cup which is to be awarded to the winner of the Obstacle Course Competition held each term. It was a very kind thought and greatly appreciated.

The occasion of the Corps' 'At Home' and Reunion saw another visit to Catterick by our Junior Leaders. After some doubts as to whether the main party would ever join the advance party of Lieutenant Graham and Drum Major Yates, a slightly reduced number arrived on the evening of Tuesday, 23rd June, in an assortment of Regimental and private transport; Lieutenant Hallchurch is to be congratulated on his driving ability. Wednesday morning witnessed considerable activity rehearsing with the Corps Band under the Director of Music. The effects of the previous day's journey were eventually thrown off to produce, by the end of the morning, the beginnings of a colourful and worthwhile performance. The next three days were spent on Baghdad Square busy with rehearsals for the playing of "Retreat" and the Sunday afternoon combined performance. In addition, a group from the Pipes and Drums and Dancers were attempting to reduce the scope of their display both in size and volume to fit the respective Messes in the Garrison. How successful they were we are not altogether certain, but we would like to thank all concerned for the hospitality during the visits to their Messes.

The visit for the Reunion coincided with the Princess Royal's Day Celebrations and "Retreat" was played by the combined bands on the Friday evening making the efforts of the previous day's rehearsals worthwhile. This was the start of the full weekend's programme with "Retreat" and Pipers and Dancers performing on Saturday. Church Parade on Sunday morning and the combined performance for the Old Comrades on Sunday afternoon concluded the weekend. It was a very busy week for everyone and the Junior Leaders, many of whom were visiting Catterick for the first time, enjoyed themselves. There were opportunities for them to see more aspects of the Corps than exist in Denbury and the perfect weather was a wonderful tonic.

Entry by 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt

September 1964

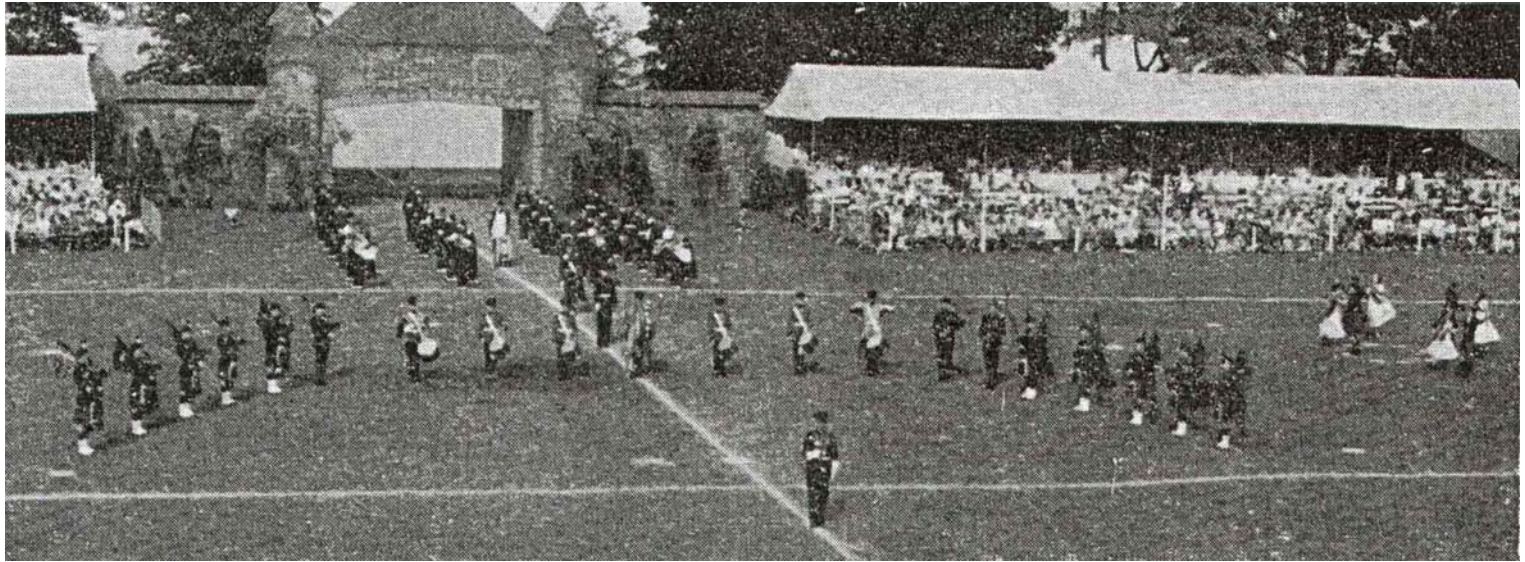
### IRON TROOP

Iron Troop, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, who are affiliated to us, quite naturally, have been the Champion Troop for some time, and the winners of the Obstacle Course Championship for years! It seemed, therefore, that if any silver were to be given to the Regiment, it should be for the Obstacle Course. And so, on Saturday, 20th June, after a real obstacle course journey from Bulford to Denbury, during which nearly all the obstacles were on four wheels, the Commanding Officer presented to Lieutenant-Colonel J. Higgins, on behalf of the Regiment, a silver cup to be competed for by all the boys for – yes, you've guessed it – the Obstacle Course. It was a grand day and, of course, particularly pleasing for us to see Iron Troop receive the cup as its first holders. It does one's heart good to visit the Junior Leaders and to see such a splendid collection of boys – boys who we are confident will be the backbone of the Corps in years to come.



Lt Col G. Proudman, M.B.E., The Commanding Officer presenting "The Obstacle Course Cup" to Lt Col J. Higgins, M.B.E.

## *Junior Leaders Regiment at the Bath Tattoo*



Pipers and Dancers of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, with W.R.A.F. Dancers and the Band of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Bath Tattoo. Is there ever a month, in any Army unit, which is not hectic? We are beginning to wonder. July was no exception! This year, at Bath Tattoo, one of the items was to have been a display of Scottish and Highland dancing by the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Women's Royal Air Force. However, at the last moment, for reasons beyond their control, the former were unable to take part, and the Secretary of the Tattoo suddenly remembered that we possessed piping and dancing groups. As a result, for many days at the beginning of the month we found that no matter where we went in the camp it was impossible to escape the skirl of the pipes as the teams prepared for their appearance at Bath. The pain was alleviated, to some extent, by the presence of 20 attractive W.R.A.F. girls who were to be partners to our dancers. For a while peace descended on the camp, when the "Scots" went off to Bath. When they got there they found themselves doing a lot more than they expected. Not only did they perform in their own item of the Tattoo but, in addition, they played with the band of the K.O.S.B. and in the massed bands, and also acted as ushers when not actually performing. All who went to Bath thoroughly enjoyed the experience and, judging from the local Press and B.B.C. television, they gave a first-class performance.

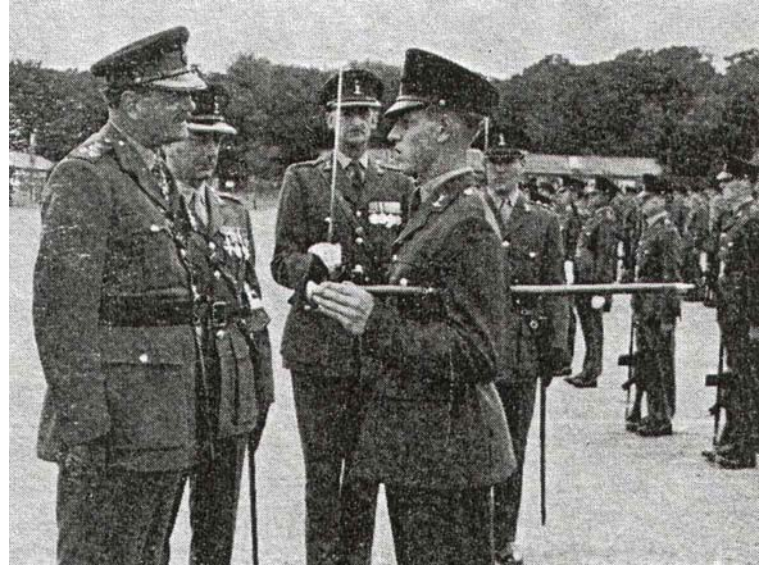
**Inter-Troop Competitions.** Soon after the sound of the pipes faded from camp as the teams moved off to Bath, it was replaced by shouts from the drill square, shouts from the sports field and shouts from the obstacle course as drill instructors and members of Troops encouraged competitors in the inter-troop competitions to give of their best. For some time, Kukri Troop seemed hot favourites to sweep the board, in the very last competition patrolling across the road, they were pipped at the post by Iron Troop for the Cobb Memorial Trophy, but even so, they held their own against Iron Troop for the S.O.-in-C.'s Trophy.

**Graduation Day.** The frenzy of the competition did not die away. It merely became a frenzy of preparing for the mammoth task of entertaining approximately 500 parents and friends, of which well over 400 required accommodation. Programmes and wet weather programmes were produced and practised, but on the Big Day, the 1st August, the weather could not have been kinder. The Graduation Parade, which was inspected by Brigadier K. R. S. Trevor, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander Devon and Cornwall Sub-District, was good enough to make everyone taking part feel proud of his efforts and to bring lumps to the throats of many parents watching. After lunch, which followed the parade, visitors were able to witness many of the activities of Junior Leaders at display stands which were erected throughout the camp by the various training groups, hobbies and clubs of the Regiment. They saw boys operating radio sets and teleprinters, flying model airplanes, building canoes, maintaining sailing boats, throwing each other about on Judo mats, printing invitation cards, making articles of pottery and many other activities. At four o'clock, the Commanding Officer addressed all parents and Mrs. Higgins presented the prizes. In the evening, having gained Tattoo experience at Bath, we ran our own little Tattoo, consisting of demonstrations by the Corps of Drums, pipers and dancers, gymnasts, choir and the newly arrived members of Junior Squadron, who gave a very good display of continuation drill. Finally, to round the day off, a dance was held in the unit cinema, with music provided by a guitar group of Junior Leaders.

The rush of Graduation Day was over! Next morning the quietness of Sunday descended on the camp and at ten o'clock instead of the usual morning service a Confirmation Service, attended by the Regiment and parents, was held and the Bishop of Exeter Confirmed 28 candidates from the Regiment and four visitors from nearby Ide. Now that it is all over, it is safe to look back and realise that the many chores and hardships inflicted on all members of the Regiment were worthwhile. The many letters of thanks and congratulations received from visiting parents have been most rewarding. We cannot relax, however. Now we are getting ready for summer camp and this undoubtedly will be covered by our next notes.



JSgt Hamer demonstrating at the Comcen Display



Brig K. R. S. Trevor - Lt Col DE Higgins - Maj DJ Strong  
JSSM J Turner Montgomery Sqn - Capt JW Swindells

November 1964

## ***Our Junior Leaders Shine in 100 mile Nijmegen Marches***

**And gain three more Team Medals**



Slim Squadron are joined by a Swiss Family on Day 3  
at Katerbosch



Alexander Squadron team, tough and cheerful, as  
they march through Groesbeek on Day 3

**Off to Nijmegen Again.** Whilst the majority of the Regiment was preparing for the Summer Graduation parade, a contingent of fifty was marching at Nijmegen. The contingent, led by Major J. W. Joyner, consisted of three teams representing Alexander Squadron (Sergeant Wilcox), Slim Squadron (Sergeant Lightfoot) and Montgomery Squadron (Sergeant Leslie). Junior Leaders from Denbury are no strangers at Nijmegen and this was the fifth occasion in the last six years that they have marched the 100-mile course. The party arrived in Nijmegen by coach at midday on the Sunday and the boys soon learnt the value of wearing British uniform, even when off duty, a habit which only the Navy seem to prefer, in this country.

A friendly rivalry soon grew up between our teams and those of the other British Units, particularly the 7th and 21st Regiments and the Durham Light Infantry. Junior/Sergeants Coates and Dockerty represented the Regiment as part of the British contingent in the march past at the Goffert Stadium on Monday evening. This ceremony was as impressive as ever.

The four days marches started on the Tuesday and the weather on the whole was unusually hot. Day one seemed long as we had a late start and day two was very much a blister day for many of the marchers including Sergeant Wilcox who was advised not to continue for the third day and handed over to Junior/Lance-Corporal McLean of Romulus Troop. Day three has always been considered the worst. The route is somewhat hilly and rather over 25 miles. But by now the boys were really warmed up and the hills, after training in Devon, were hardly noticed.



**Adopted by a Swiss Family.** The third day will be remembered, however, for a number of reasons. Slim Squadron were joined by a Swiss family for much of the day who marched in their ranks with them.

Montgomery Squadron became known to all the Yanks who were dropping out in large numbers for a new version of a certain song which described their tendency to "fade away." All will remember the ever-increasing rivalry with 7th Regiment which culminated in a round the camp cross-country run that evening. This was won by Junior/Signalman Temmen. There are some fit young men in Royal Signals, and, by the look of it, more to come!

The last day went quickly and all three teams threw the caution they had been struggling to keep up by marching "not too fast" to the winds and changed up to top gear.

**A Race with Belgian Paratroopers!** Montgomery Squadron, with 20 kilometres to go, were inveigled into a race with some Belgian Paratroopers; they were determined to march past ahead of them in Cuijk and to cross the Meuse on the pontoon bridge ahead of them. They did. Slim Squadron arrived at the last rest point first, there were no Swiss families to distract them! Alexander Squadron came in last but singing lustily as only they were able.

The whole contingent then formed up as one and marched the last 5 kilometres in No. 2 Dress to the applause of the packed crowds, it was a pleasant surprise to see an ex-R.Q.M.S. of the Regiment, R.S.M. Chilvers, in the crowd at Mook.

**Three Team Medals are won.** Those last few miles, difficult and frustrating as they always are, seem to provide a great climax to the many miles marched in training and in Holland. When all was over, the individual medals pinned on and the three team medals carefully put away to join the other 25 back at Denbury, one sensed a feeling of relief, pride and regret. Relief that there were no more miles to march, pride that the task was successfully completed and yet regret that it was all over.

**Summer Camp.** This year from Tuesday, 4th August, to Wednesday, 12th August, was declared a summer camp period, and activities were organised on a Squadron basis for all except the output. They were engaged in practice at their trades at a number of sites scattered over South Devon. Supervision of this kept Captain Weiner and Yeoman of Signals Heard somewhat busier than they had anticipated. Alexander and Montgomery Squadrons based their activities on Denbury whilst Slim Squadron deciding that they had seen enough of Denbury during the previous 14 weeks disappeared to Penhale in North Cornwall. The next term's promotions were declared at the start and the period was an excellent opportunity for new badges to be "worn in" whilst the wearer obtained some practice in exercising the responsibility that went with them.

**Alexander Squadron.** The theme was "organised recreation ready for the rigours of leave!" – the sea and Dartmoor being the main stamping grounds. A very successful day was spent on Ripon Tor Ranges which produced six marksmen and 12 first class shots. The most enjoyable exercise, named "Night Watch," for two troops at a time, resulted in a number of minor skirmishes by day and night as one troop attempted to outwit the other.

It proved, as was expected, that patrol cooking can be really tasty, or equally a burnt offering, also that though it is easy to be unseen at night, excited chatter invariably gives the game away. In the course of the exercise, which was organised by the boys themselves and umpired by troop staff, one side attempted to infiltrate through ground held by the other at night. Some sheep grazing in the area failed to appreciate the value of vigorous rugby tackles to which they were subjected by over keen Junior Leaders. Another highlight concerned Lieutenant Atkinson who was unduly flattened when acting as an escaped convict, Romulus Troop captured and treated him as such.

**Montgomery Squadron.** Major J. W. Joyner, the O.C. Montgomery Squadron, having had to march a number of miles in preparation for and at Nijmegen, seemed determined that the rest of the Squadron should also "enjoy" the pleasures of walking. At least it appeared so from the programme. Surprisingly enough, however, he seemed to forget Dartmoor and concentrated on getting to and from the sea as an alternative to going underground in one or more of the various caves in the neighbourhood. Getting thoroughly dirty crawling down the cavern at Pridhamsleigh proved to be an excitingly new experience for boys and staff alike.

The march along the sea wall from Teignmouth to Dawlish Warren proved to be somewhat disappointing, for although eyes were turned permanently right in the hope of seeing a "new look one piece," it seemed that none of the talent on display was sufficiently well educated or up-to-date in their dress. However a certain Junior Lance-Corporal in Iron Troop offered to lend his own one piece during a break period, but his generosity was declined. The Squadron bivouacked at Churston (the only un-commercialised area left unspoilt in Torbay) in two halves for two nights each with a changeover on the Sunday.

The camp staff was well organised by S.S.M. Stuckey, Sergeant Batten and Junior S.S.M. Coates. Sergeant Batten spent most of his time cooking, S.S.M. Stuckey was never allowed to make the tea and Junior S.S.M. Coates spent most of his time trying to catch the wherewithall for a fish supper. At least that is what he told the O.C. Squadron to account for long periods on the beach.

This camp period was most enjoyable, the weather fairly kind and most of the time was occupied in fishing, swimming, canoeing or cliff walking. An inter-Patrol relay race involving teams of runners, canoeists and swimmers was the excuse for being on the beach for two of the afternoons.

Some of the civilian holidaymakers on the beach may well have resented the invasion of their seclusion, though they should have appreciated the disappearance of litter left by others which the boys cleared up in two big sweeps at Churston and Fishcombe Cove. A tea stall proprietor was very pleased as there was no system other than sea and wind for effecting its removal. Shades of Nijmegen perhaps, but the experience of wearing uniform, when walking out after duty, proved valuable as a reminder that the public even in this country take more interest in army uniforms and those wearing it than they used to. It often pays to go in uniform.

**Slim Squadron.** Those who do not serve in Slim Squadron may be excused, I hope, if they use such expressions as Private Army or John Heyes' Own. At any rate the Squadron seem to have had an enjoyable spell on the beaches and dunes abounding Penhale, even if they did return a little slimmer than when they set out. Any excuse is good enough for an organised scrap, and it appears that when it comes to night patrolling Lions are not really a match for Swans, and the O.C. Lion Troop was badly pecked. His attempt to camouflage himself to look like an army cadet by letting his hair grow availed him nothing.

The same exercise when repeated by Kohima and White Spear Troops resulted in little contact. The O.C. White Spear detailed such a heavy bodyguard that the O.C. Kohima never even bothered to leave his bed and was able to dream up a new map-making project to encourage his troop to look at the literature pinned up on the barrack room walls. Alan Cooksley organised a number of climbing exercises using a railway viaduct. It is rumoured that Slim's next summer camp will be so planned that he can continue the good work on the Eiffel Tower. Perhaps the most popular activity of all was fishing for mackerel from a hired boat. It proved a good method of supplementing the rations as White Spear discovered.

I suppose it is reasonable to expect Royal Signals Staff and boys to understand such scientific expressions as "pockets of resistance." Lieutenant Carl Pearce, R.A.E.C., should perhaps blame other members of the Academic Wing for teaching resistance so thoroughly that his attempts to organise a little P.T. and a swim at 06.00 hours each morning came to naught.

December 1964

### JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

The start of the Christmas term was noted by the arrival of the largest intake ever to this Unit. One hundred and twenty-seven recruits arrived at Denbury on 15th September, 1964, and what was more remarkable every single one joined on the right day, which was another record. Boys came from all over Great Britain and as usual it was raining on intake day. After some initial homesickness in a number of cases, the intake has settled extremely well and up to press not one boy has purchased his discharge. The merry team of Drill Sergeants Dobson, Loveday, Evans, Mathieson, Kelly and Batten, under the eagle eye of W.O.II Stuckey, have quickly put the boys through their paces and all promises well for a high standard at the end of their first term. An enjoyable weekend camp was spent at Churston Cove near Brixham within two weeks of the start of term. Here the boys have their first taste of living under canvas, an event which is eagerly awaited. This intake promises a good all round standard of sport and all are now heavily engaged competing for the Squadron sports trophy.



"The Merry Team of Drill Sergeants"

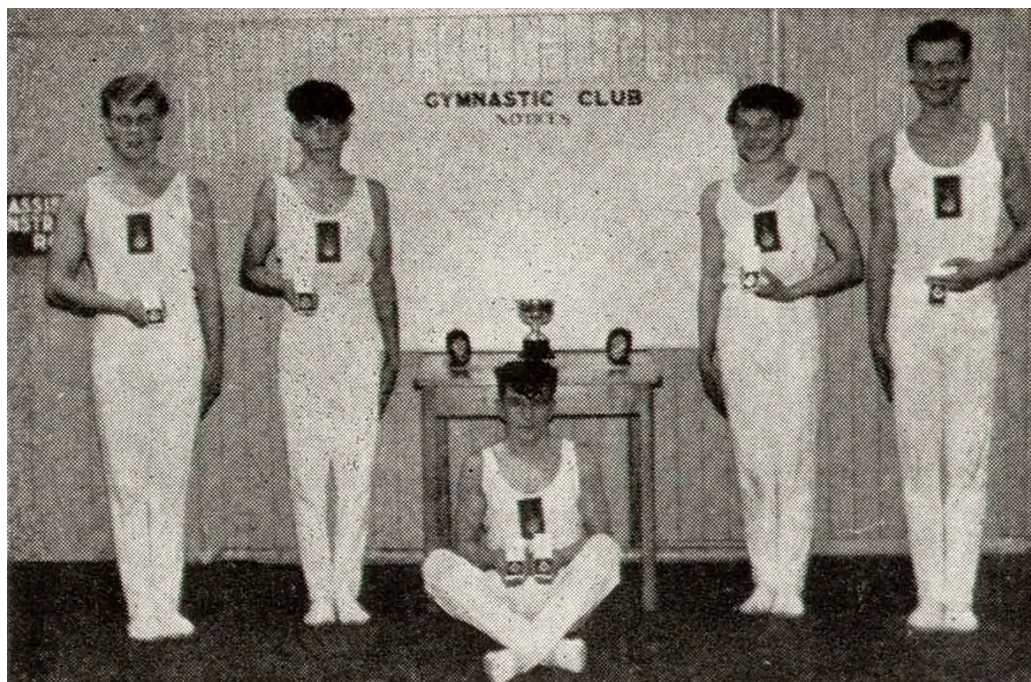
...they have put the boys through their paces and all promises well for a high standard at the end of their first term...  
From Left to right – Sgt Loveday, Sgt Evans, Sgt Dobson, Sgt Mathieson, Sgt Batten, WOII SSM. Stuckey, Sgt Kelly

Elsewhere in the Unit the Christmas term is in full swing with all boys striving towards their intermediate and senior exams at the end of term, whilst the output put in extra training to achieve their trade rating on leaving. There are outward and visible signs of improvement in the camp. The indoor heated swimming pool is well under construction and will be in full use next term. Each consignment brings more modern radio equipment and generally the twenty-five year old Militia Camp is being given a bit of a face-lift.

### **Much Physical Activity**

The Unit boxing team were unfortunately 'knocked out' of the Junior Army Boxing Championships by the Infantry Junior Leaders at Oswestry, but not before an extremely close contest was concluded with the home team getting home by three points.

Rugby and hockey competitions have not yet started but active preparation is well under way for the Junior Army Cups. Both teams have achieved some notable successes in local 'friendlies.' There are, however, two sports in the Unit in which some headway has already been achieved in the 1964/65 season.



Southern Command Champion Junior Gymnastic Team

In the recent Southern Command Junior Gymnastics and Trampoline Championships held at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot the Regimental gymnasts swept the board in no uncertain fashion. The gymnastic team, consisting of Junior Signalmen Norgrove, Rookes, Riddell and Kendall took the team championship with a most polished display in all of the compulsory and voluntary exercises. These consisted of work on the horizontal bar, the parallel bars, on the ground and on the long box. The Individual Gymnastics Award went to Norgrove who now feels justly rewarded for a lot of hard work put in at the gymnasium in his two years with the Unit. The runner-up in this event was Rookes, who shows much promise. In the Trampoline Competition the team of Junior Corporal Robertson and Norgrove won the plaque for the winning competition, whilst Robertson won the individual title with a sparkling and most accomplished exhibition. This was a fitting climax to many hours of practice. Work has now started in preparation for the full Army Championships which take place in the near future.

**Regimental Soccer.** After many weeks of 'juggling' with positions, the Regimental team is now playing at full strength and the players are now beginning to show their true capabilities. Whereas last season the team was playing in the South Devon Youth League and finding the opposition rather weak this year they have 'moved up' into Division II of the Junior League. This actually means that they are now opposing teams of much higher quality and ability, who are adults rather than youths and, of course, who are much more experienced. However, this formidable task has in no way deterred the Junior Leaders who, in fact, seem to produce greater attack and 'fire power' when up against this type of opposition than when their opponents are of their own vintage. If one considers the Army Cup as our primary aim, then playing in this class of football provides an excellent training ground for the team and this indeed is already producing the desired result.

On Wednesday, 21st October, we were 'at home' to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, A.C.C., in the first round of the Junior Leaders Challenge Cup. The final result of 5 goals to 2, in our favour, was a fair indication of the ability of both teams and we now look forward, in anticipation, to our semi-final draw against Junior Leaders' Regiment R.E. at Dover on Wednesday, 11th November, 1964.