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JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

8th December 1962, was a great day for the Junior Leaders Regiment. The Reviewing Officer for the Graduation Parade at Denbury was none other than Field-Marshal The Viscount Slim. K.G.

Field-Marshal Slim has had his own Squadron at Denbury since February 1961, and the present O.C. is Major J. K. Heyes, Royal Signals, who has recently arrived from 9th Regiment.

South Devon provided a truly Burmese monsoon for the occasion and the Field-Marshal was escorted on to the rain-swept parade ground by Major W. C. Rogers, M.B.E., M.C., R.A.E.C., in the absence of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A Holifield, M.C., who was, to his great disappointment, too ill to attend.

The parade was commanded by Major M. D. Scott, Royal Signals. The Regimental Corps of Drums, their ceremonial uniforms damp but undimmed, played during the inspection and march past, after which the Field-Marshal presented prizes and trophies, and addressed the boys before hundreds of watching parents. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Commanding Officer's Trophy: J.-R.S.M. F.O. Wilson, of Slim Squadron.

Cobb Memorial Trophy and Shield for the Champion Troop of the Regiment: Kukri Troop.

1st Commonwealth Division Trophy – Adventure Training: Quadrant Troop.

Gregory Pennant for the Best Patrol: Assaigai Patrol, White Spear Troop.

Commandant Training Brigade Trophy: J.-S.S.M. A. L. Hawkins, Alexander Squadron.

Junior Award: J.-Signalman D. Waterworth.

In his address, Viscount Slim said that the boys should follow three main principles: "Pay up, own up and shut up." He said the boys had opportunities which many others would have liked. The Army had given them good schooling, healthy bodies and healthy minds and they had an obligation to both the country and the taxpayers to repay that debt.

It was very fitting that the Field-Marshal also presented autographed copies of his famous books to some of his boys of Slim Squadron. Of all the great Commanders of the last war none has written with greater clarity or wit. They will certainly be treasured possessions of the Graduates of Denbury who received them from the author himself on that grey West-country morning.

After dinner the previous evening in the Officers' Mess, Field-Marshal Slim had said that there was nothing nearer to an Old Soldier's heart than the efforts and aspirations of young soldiers. And on the morning of the 8th December this was easy to perceive by everyone gathered on the Square in the heart of Denbury Camp.

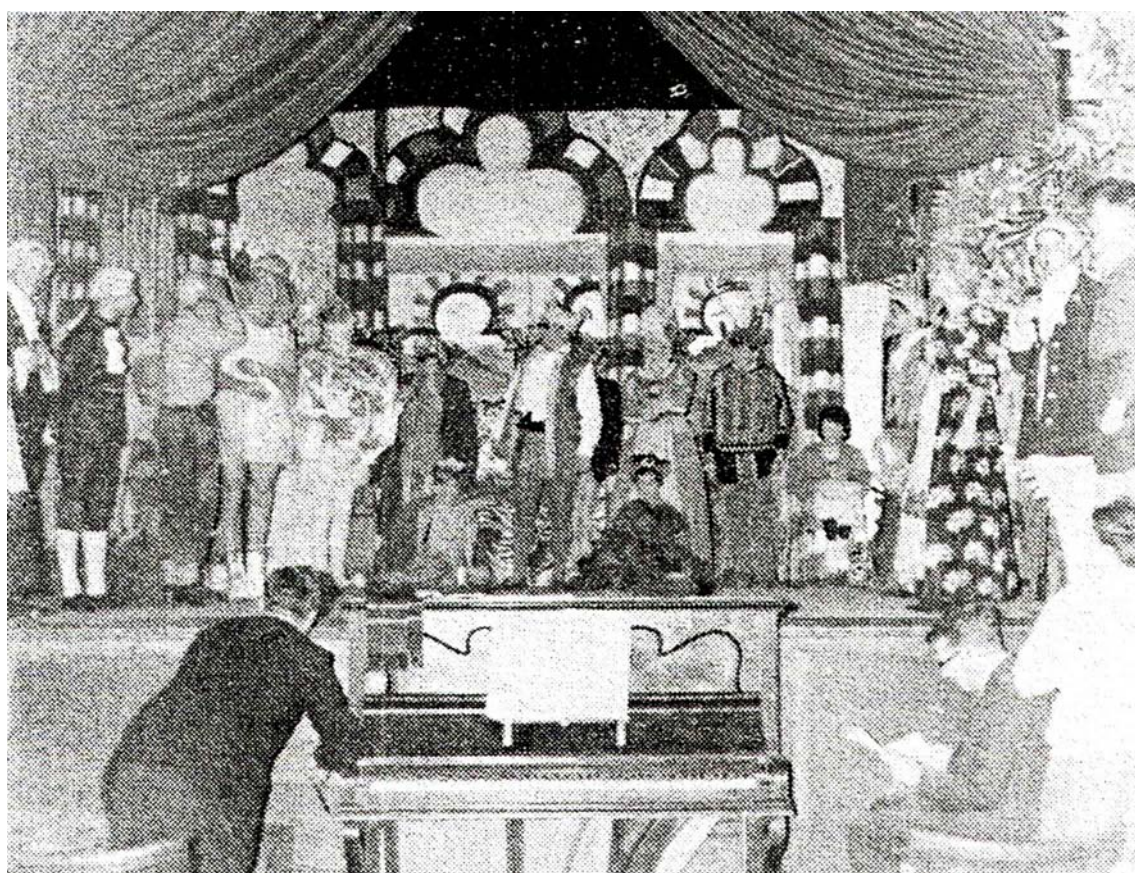




JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

1. Presenting Commanding Officers Award to J/R.S.M. Wilson
2. Major Jackson, 2 Signal Regiment, presenting a Pipe Banner to the Regiment on 17 November 1962
3. The Inspection of Alexander Squadron
4. The Inspection of the Band
5. Inspecting the Pipers

The Festive Season – Denbury Pantomime



A display of talent in an end of term show, a bright suggestion that we utilize it by putting on a pantomime for the next entertainment, and "Babies in the Moor" were born!

As simple as that! At least that was how it all began. The mere fact that a script had to be written seemed a minor point at that stage, but a good many grey hairs later the writers were prepared to admit that producing a script was no easy matter. Somehow it developed, and to join the good and bad fairies came more and more pantomime characters; Jack and his Beanstalk, Widow Twankey, Dolly and Dame of Dartmoor, the Ugly Duckling, Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves.

Two Junior Leaders get lost on Dartmoor, and in a dream a good fairy appears indicating that if they perform certain tasks on the way they will eventually find a lost Tor on which stands a castle. However, their way is fraught with difficulties and they are harassed by an evil goblin, a dragon and a giant. But, as in all pantomimes, this one too had a happy ending.

Captain Joyner as Yeti, the Hairy Fairy, who, incidentally, was a "goodie," gave a tremendous performance, and never failed to bring the house down at his first appearance, his 6ft. 3in. frame adorned in frilly ballet skirt and snow boots.

Captain Weiner as Dolly, and Alan Cooksley as Widow Twankey, although not quite in the running for "Miss World," nevertheless gained a few wolf whistles from enthusiastic members of the audience. Staff Sergeant Aven needed surprisingly little make-up as the evil "Bog Waller," the demon of the moor who terrorised all those of faint heart. The two babes were admirably played by Junior Signalmen P. Farrell and R. Lashley – Producers please note! King Skoolie was portrayed in best Far East fashion by Major W. C. Rogers, R.A.E.C.

The rest of the cast was made up of Junior Leaders and girls from the Camp Social Club. The pantomime was written and produced by Mike Grant and Alan Cooksley, who really could not have managed without the enormous help and advice given by Captain J. Swindells, Lieutenant P. Hodges, John Griffiths, Miss Pamela de Waal, Mrs. Carl Rogers, Mrs. Bennett, Peter Tysoe, who directed the painting and making of the sets, and Lieutenant C. Pearce.

February 1963



(Top left). A Junior Leaders Patrol on Dartmoor. The snow in places was 20 ft deep

(Bottom left). Junior Leaders taking part in the Confidence Course at Holne

(Top right). On the high ropes of the Confidence Course at Holne

(Bottom right). Lieutenant Mike Adams giving instructions in abseiling to Junior Leaders during Slim Squadron Camp

Another Great Day for Junior Leaders



The salute at the Graduation Parade on 9th April was taken Mr James Ramsden MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for War

We all feared the weather would be a repeat of the December Graduation Parade downpour. However, it relented at the last minute and the parade was held in the normal manner.

After the parade all official guests and spectators were entertained in the Officers' Mess to a buffet. This was followed by the presentation of awards and prizes by Mrs. Holifield, wife of the Commanding Officer. Later the Band "Beat Retreat"—a most impressive ceremony. The evening culminated in a very fine concert organised almost entirely by Junior Signalmen Button and Farrell, to which all guests and families were invited, finally an All Ranks' Dance was held in the gymnasium to the music of our own "Downbeats." The spirit and enthusiasm of the boys continued to the end of a most successful day. It was noticed, however, that certain members of the Staff were almost asleep on their feet, which was hardly surprising considering many had had little or no rest for nineteen hours whilst organising all the various activities, meeting parents and making frequent changes of uniform.

The Easter break appeared all too short and once again we are in the saddle preparing for a hectic summer term which includes the well-known Ten Tors Competition, for which there are already 1,500 entries. In addition three teams of 15 Junior Leaders will be participating in the Nijmegen Marches in July; the Band and Highland Dancers are touring B.A.O.R. in August and a gymnastic team of 80 Junior Leaders is taking part in the Bath Tattoo in July. If you would like to know more of the activities at Denbury why not write to the Editor of the Junior Mercury, whom we are sure would be delighted to send you a monthly copy for only 5d.

We shall all be very sorry to say farewell to R.S.M. S. G. Pavey who is leaving us on promotion to Quartermaster and we wish him and his wife, Elsie, the best of good fortune in the future.



J/RSM RA Jakins receives the Commanding Officers Trophy



The Commonwealth Trophy to Francisca Troop J/Cpl Spree



The Graham-Jones Memorial Skhean Dhu is presented

Please go to the Ten Tors 1962 file DENBURY page for the WIRE Ten Tors articles for June and July

September 1963

Junior Leaders Regiment Graduation Parade

At last a really fine sunny Devon for the Graduation Parade, at which the salute was taken by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E.

To give the uninformed some idea of the variety of the day's activities, apart from a first-class parade, the programme included: Presentation of prizes; display by Regimental Pipes, Scottish Dancers and Regimental Gymnastic Club; parents' tea; display of physical training by Junior Leaders who recently took part in the Bath Tattoo; Regimental Corps of Drums beat Retreat; concert in the Globe Cinema and a dance in the gymnasium.

The S.O.-in-C, in his address, said that the sky is the limit for you in the Army today. The only limiting factor is yourself.

The Graduation Ceremony was watched by about 1,000 parents and friends, many of whom had been accommodated in the Unit the previous night. The parade formed up under 17-year-old Junior R.S.M. R. Hails, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. It was commanded by Major W. J. Clapp, the Second-in-Command.

Colonel Holifield, in his report on the term's activities, said that the largest event had been the running of the Ten Tors Expedition; over 1,600 had taken part, and more than 1,000 completed the course. The 45 Junior Leaders who had taken part in the Nijmegen Marches, from 19th-27th July, had done very well. All of them had completed the 100-mile trek.

Major Prize Awards

Cobb Memorial Trophy and Shield

Awarded to Iron Troop
Collected by J/Sergeant Reid

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Senior Trophy

Awarded to White Spear Troop
Collected by J/Sergeant Ellison

The Bengal Tiger

Awarded to Montgomery Squadron
Collected by J/Sergeant Nicholls

Gregory Pennant

Awarded to Mons Patrol, Iron Troop
Collected by J/Corporal Turner

Commandant Training Brigade Trophy

Awarded to J/S.S.M. Tivenan
Collected by J/S.S.M. Tivenan

7th Signal Regiment Shield

Awarded to Francisca Troop
Collected by J/Sergeant Emmott

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Junior Trophy

Awarded to Kukri Troop
Collected by J/Sergeant Wathen

Commonwealth Division Trophy

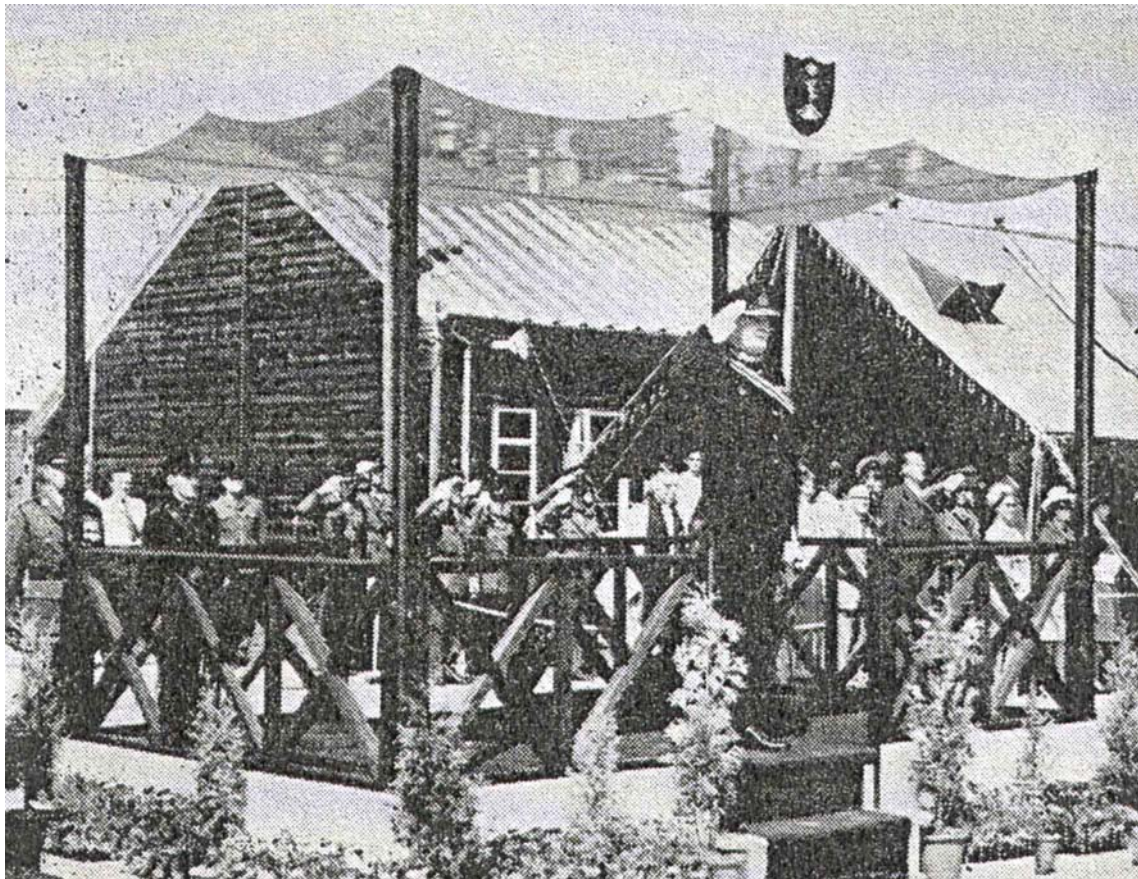
Awarded to White Spear Troop
Collected by J/Corporal Goffett

Commanding Officers Trophy

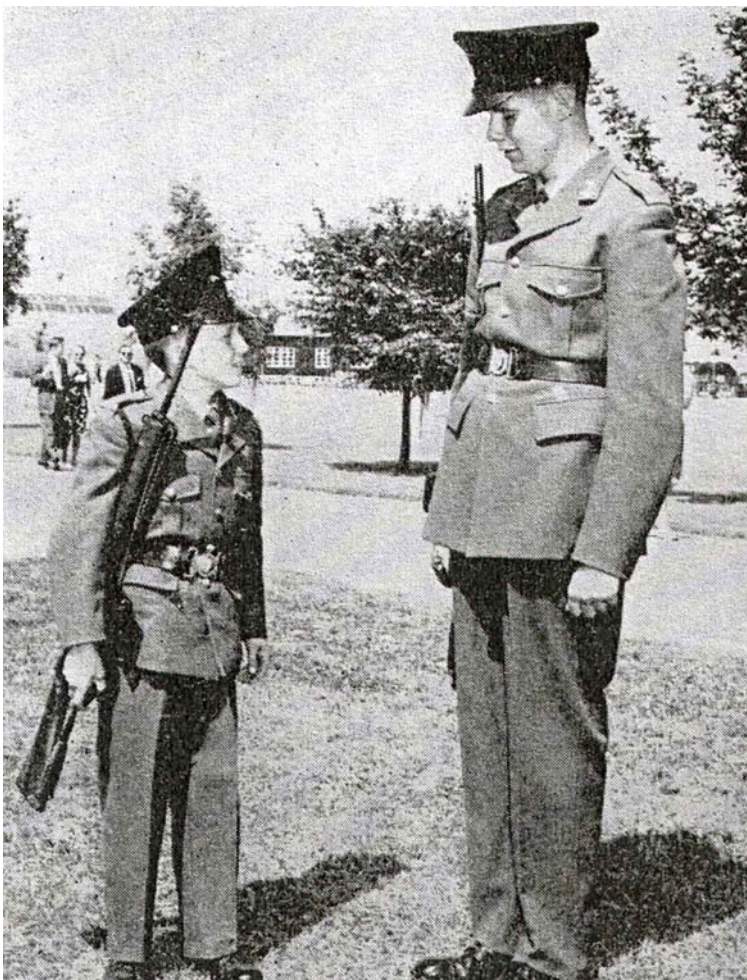
Awarded to J/R.S.M. Hails
Collected by J/R.S.M. Hails

Junior Award

Awarded to J/Signalman Wells
Collected by J/Signalman Wells



The S.O.-in-C. taking the Salute



The Long – Junior Signalmen Enoch, Jerboa Troop
and the short – Junior Signalmen Drake, White Spear Troop



Presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct
Medal to W.O. II Wombwell, the RQMS

Junior Leaders in Germany

From the 1st to 12th August, 1963, the Corps of Drums, Pipers and Dancers gave up twelve days of their leave to carry out a tour of some of the Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. Those visited were 16th, 4th, 7th, 1st and 2nd. The party totalled 78 and travelled in two hired coaches. The total distance travelled was 1,600 miles.

The Corps of Drums' Beating of Retreat was preceded by the Regimental Pipe Band, and a display of Highland dancing.

Besides performances within Barracks, two were given for the benefit of the local population in the centres of Herford and Bunde towns.

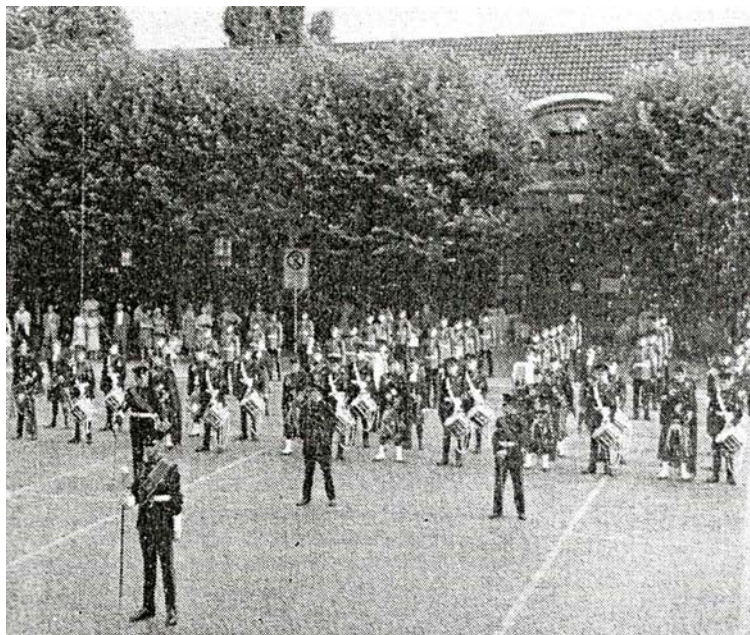
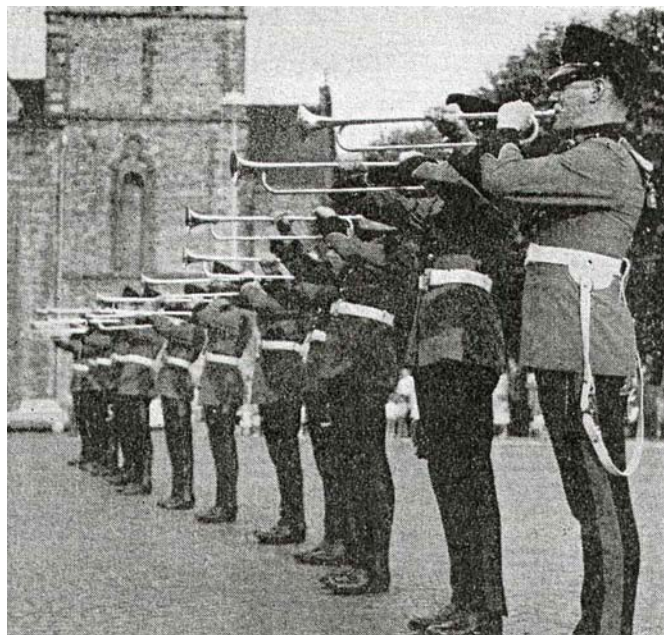
The pipers and dancers also gave several displays in Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and for the Corporals' Club at 2nd Regiment.

The Corps of Drums is now in its 12th year, whilst the Pipers, who have undergone a renaissance recently are only five years old. The Highland dancers being the most recent innovation. All combine to produce a show of an hour's length.

During the last term, the Corps of Drums appeared at Catterick – and the Bath Tattoo, besides performing at several local functions.

The accompanying photographs show part of the Corps of Drums and the fanfare trumpeters. The leading personalities being Junior Drum Major Hopkins, Junior Pipe Major Smith, Leading Dancer, Junior Corporal Hand.

The Regiment would like to say a very sincere thank you to the Royal Signals Regiments of B.A.O.R. who did so much to make our visit interesting and enjoyable. All of us were greatly impressed by the kindness and friendship extended to us throughout the tour.



Three weeks on the Continent

BY JUNIOR/SERGEANT N.M. HUMPHRIES

OF WHITE SWAN TROOP

The following is an account by a Junior Leader of a hitch-hike across Europe to as far south as Morocco. The difficulties encountered, and his reaction to them, provides interesting reading.

We reached Boulogne on the evening of Monday, 12th August. Our trip this far had not been too eventful. After leaving Calais we walked to a road-side cafe about twelve kilometres from Boulogne and had an enjoyable meal before continuing our journey. Just as we left the cafe we got a lift, which was to be our first and last for two days. That night we walked until we nearly dropped, then using Junior/Leader Corporal Pearce's tent as a blanket, we slept behind a garage. The second day was spent lazily. At hourly intervals we slept on the side of the road, taking it in turns to thumb a lift, consequently we only reached Abbeville that night. There we met a charming French girl of seventeen who showed us to a perfectly reasonable camping site. After watching us pitch our tent, she left, saying she would come back to see us the following morning. When we woke up, the whole field was alive with children for we had apparently pitched the tent in the children's playing field! The French girl came back and saw us to the road.

In the early afternoon we were absolutely bored as there seemed to be no chance of getting a lift. We then decided to split up. As Junior/Leader Corporal Pearce owned the tent and I hadn't brought a groundsheet and he had, there seemed to be no doubt as to who was going to be the most comfortable for the next few weeks. We tossed up a coin for the only map between us and Pearce won. We then parted and I looked forward to a very hopeless week.

At about 8.30 p.m. that night I arrived in Rouen after a couple of good lifts. As it was still quite early I decided to carry on and get as far as I could. I didn't get very far and ended my day by sleeping under the arch of a garage.

The rest of my time in France was spent in this way, eating and sleeping as and where I could. Eating was no problem as I spent quite a lot on reasonable meals.

Then I reached Spain! It was early afternoon of Friday when I came to San Sebastian. I had twenty new francs in cash and I decided to make this last me until I got to Gibraltar, although this, at the time, seemed well nigh impossible. I had to reach Gibraltar by Monday as I had to rendezvous with Junior/Leader Corporal Pearce there. That night when I had just reached the other side of Vitoria, I picked a place near a river, under a tree to sleep, where I imagined I could get a reasonable night's sleep. It then started raining, and how it rained! It seemed the heavens had burst open. There was no shelter around so I began to walk hoping to find some. I walked all night.

When dawn broke I was sick to the teeth with everything. All I wanted to do was to get back home. Then I managed to get a lift in a truck which took me on to Seville, about five hundred miles on my way. I reached Seville on the Sunday night, but the two days I was on the truck are two days I shall always remember. The two men who gave me the lift were the most joyful people I met whilst in Spain.

We stopped at almost every cafe on the way for a drink and I had three regular meals each day I was with them and they paid for everything. One thing that amused me was the fact that whenever they saw the police on the road, they would push me into the bed at the back of the cab, draw the curtains so nobody could see me, and leave me there until the danger had passed! This happened a few times each day and I was beginning to wonder whether I was on holiday or on the run! The reason for this caution was because only two people are allowed in the cab at any one time and the driver would be fined if more were found.

Just after we passed through Salamanca we came to a small village where a large crowd were gathering around a fenced-in field. At first I took no notice, then we heard the crowd shouting and screaming and then I realised that a bullfight was about to begin. This I had to see after hearing so much about them. There was nothing spectacular in it, just a few amateurs from the village with hopes set on a future career. Still, I came away feeling quite sick, as I had never seen anything so cruel and bloody in all my life. On Sunday afternoon we were about fifty kilometres from Seville and stopped in a village for a shave performed by the local barber. The reason for this was that the driver and his mate wanted to look their best when they reached Seville where the girls outnumbered the boys by about five to one!

From here on to Gibraltar nothing of any importance occurred. It was a marvellous feeling to sleep on a bed again after a week living rough. In Gibraltar I slept in the Toc H, which is an organisation helping tourists to obtain reasonable accommodation, so I gathered. It was in Gibraltar that I met Lieutenant M. R. Adams, my Troop Commander, on the Monday night. He had also hitch-hiked through France from England.

We had our meals in a small 'hole-in-the-wall' cafe called "Smokey Joe's." It was a really quiet place but seemed to be always full.

On the Wednesday we set off to go to Tangier, but missed the boat. When then decided to get to Tangier via Ceuta and late that night we arrived in Ceuta only to find that military personnel were not allowed into Morocco, so we spent the night at an inn in the city. The next morning we took the first boat to Algerciras, then back to Gibraltar. Before we had left for Ceuta we had tried to obtain an indulgence passage through the R.A.F. Army movements told us that there would be a possibility of getting one on Friday, so we waited until then only to find that we were out of luck. This meant we would have to hitch-hike back the way we came.

On the return journey I took the opposite route, proceeding via Madrid, which I reached on Sunday morning. I wanted to change some of my English money to Spanish currency and the only place in Madrid where I could do this was at the Palace Hotel where I quickly went to. Dressed in a pair of unpolished Army ammunition boots, grey Army socks, dirty shorts and a dirty striped yellow shirt, I entered the 'hotel. At the door my way was blocked by the Commissionaire, who turned me around and pushed me down the steps and showed me the back way out of Madrid! Later on I heard that the Palace Hotel is the most palatial hotel in Spain!

During my time in Spain I was shocked to find the people so backward. South of Madrid the area still seems to be in the Middle Ages, with people living in mud huts, and oxen pulling the plough. I know if ever I go again it will be for the sun and for nothing else!

France is different altogether though. The people are very friendly and their fields and valleys are beautiful. I would gladly go again to France. I met a young couple who live in Lille and who invited me into their home for the night. They asked me to visit them again when I returned.

One thing I did not mention in this narrative is that if I go again on a trip abroad, I will make sure I have a companion all the time, because I don't think there is anything so bad as being lonely, especially when one sees everybody else enjoying themselves and one has no one to speak to or laugh with.

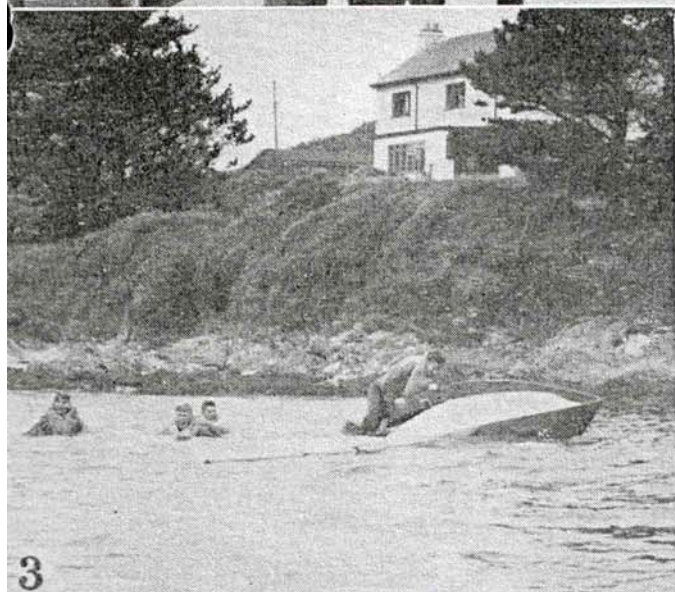
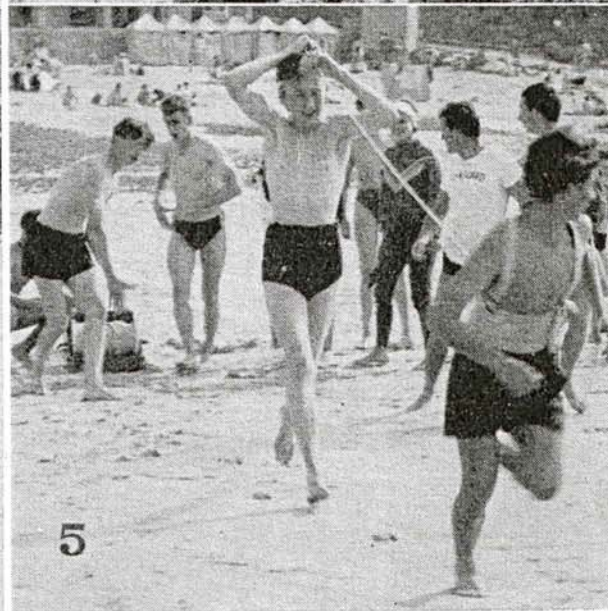
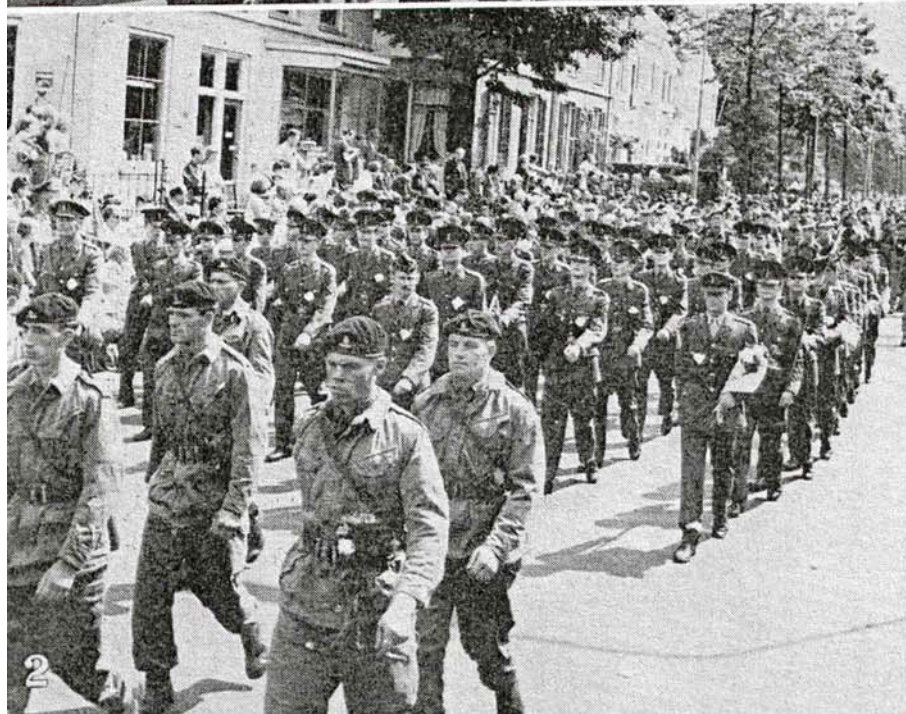
JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

The Regiment, having returned from a most successful ten days' camp at Penhale, in Cornwall, are now fully immersed in the normal training and preparation for the various competitions towards the Cobb Memorial Trophy for the Champion Troop.

The camp at Penhale provided plenty of new ideas and a variety of training not normally experienced at Denbury – one of the most popular activities was surfing at St. Ives and at Penhale. Many of the Junior Leaders were also able to climb the cliffs at Bosigran in the area frequently used by Sir John Hunt and Sir Edmund Hillary. From a non-climber's point of view, I must admit it was rather terrifying to look down the cliff face into the boiling sea below and I had visions of all kinds of disasters. It was rather reminiscent of the song about "Green Bottles" – "if one should accidentally fall."

"Slim" Squadron had a most enjoyable Sports Jamboree, against "B" Company, Junior Leaders Regiment, R.A.S.C. It is always interesting to be able to compare notes and ideas with our opposite numbers from other arms, apart from the ability to get almost every individual playing a game of one sort or the other.

The Graduation Parade this term is now on 7th December, and we all hope the weather will be kinder than during the visit of Field-Marshal The Viscount Slim, K.G., at the same time last year.



A page of pictures showing the activities of the Junior Leaders during the Summer Holidays

1. Nijmegen 1963. Captain Joyner, Sergeant & Leslie and Lieutenant Gray with the Regimental Teams during the March Past.
2. The Instructor. Lieutenant Ken Knowles illustrates the hard way to sail.
3. Climbing at Bosigran.
4. Life Saving Practice at St. Ives under guidance of the Life Guard.