# MIERCURY

Volume 9 Number 1

JANUARY, 1965

Price 5d.



-The Journal of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, S. Devon-



Brigadier J. B. Ashworth, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. returns to the saluting base having inspected the Junior Leaders during the Graduation Parade, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. D, E. Higgins, M.B.E.

(Photograph by Sgt. Stockham)

WHITE SPEAR TROOP - SPECIAL ISSUE

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

### Founder of Toc H visits Denbury



The Rev. Clayton causes a good deal of amusement as he shows off his pet dog to a group of Junior Leaders in the social club after the service.

(By Sgt. Stockham.

One Sunday towards the end of term saw the visit to Denbury of the Rev. P. B. Clayton, more familiarly known as "Tubby" Clayton. The Rev. Clayton is now a very active eighty-year-old, and is probably best known for his efforts in founding the Toc H at Poperinghe during the First World War. The expression, Toc H, is derived from the initial letters of Talbot House, which is named after the son of a well-known bishop. The son had been killed in the war, and it was at Talbot House that this well-known organisation was set up.

After the war the Guild was reorganised in 1922, and All Hallows Church, where the Rev. Clayton was vicar, became the Guild Church of Toc H. Basically now, the function of the Guild is to assist wherever possible those who are handicapped in some way, to live as normal a life as possible. In 1933 the Rev. Clayton was appointed a Companion of Honour for his work.

We are grateful to our visitor for the interest he has shown in the training being done in Denbury, and we hope that he will grant us the honour of another visit at some future date.

Dear Sir,

I suppose you are surprised to hear from me, but since I left Denbury I still like to keep an active interest in the goings-on there. I was most pleased to hear how well the Gymnastic team had done and I would like to congratulate everyone concerned on their achievement. I am looking forward to reading more about the team and their successes, or otherwise, in future editions of the "Junior Mercury".

Yours sincerely,

B. D. HOLMES.

23878806 Signalman Holmes, B., 3 OP Troop, 2 Squadron, 16 Signal Regt., BFPO 35.

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## THE UNIT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

By Sgt Akehurst-G30AZ

Many issues of the "Junior Mercury" have been published since news of the Amateur Radio Club last appeared in print and a great many thing have happened since then. During the three years of its existence the club has had many homes around the camp, none of which has been ideal. The club has also suffered a great deal through lack of equipment. With the arrival of the new Commanding Officer our luck changed. The Club now has three rooms in block 21 which is situated well away from the power and telephone cables within the camp. With the help of the Quartermaster's Department and RE's, work is well in hand to prepare these rooms for radio equipment. room is already fitted out as a listening room with four receivers and it is hoped that by the time these notes appear in print, another room will be fitted out as the main transmitter room, complete with all the necessary equipment.

At long last amateur radio from Denbury has come to the front of hobbies and the past term has meant a great deal of hard work, especially by the club members.

At the start of term unused telegraph poles were discovered around the camp. These were dug out on hobbies nights; next, the co-operation of the QM and RE's made possible the fixing of 25ft. steel extensions to the poles. The complete assemblies were then erected adjacent to the club after the digging of 6ft. deep pits for the base. We now have a really fine multi-frequency antenna arrangement suspended between these poles.

A third pole is shortly to be erected and this will make possible the erection of two further antenna to give the club coverage for transmitting and receiving to and from all corners of the globe. Thanks must be given to Sgt "Chalky" White for his valuable advice and help with the erection of the telegraph poles. It is understood that he is looking for a more sedate trade now.

Within the club the term has been spent in becoming familiar with the receiver. Members have been logging stations heard on the various amateur frequencies and grasping the fundamentals of radio communication.



J/Sig. Tom Jenkinson getting acquainted with the new receivers in the club room.

(By J/Sig. Cross).

Next term it is hoped to continue this and also to establish G3PYZ as a station to be heard throughout the world. Other activities will be the logging of short-wave broadcast stations and sending reports of reception to the stations in order to obtain QSL (verification) cards. Radio and antenna theory instruction as well as morse instruction is also proposed.

To help achieve all the above, we are fortunate to have with us Sgt J. Smith who who is licensed by the G.P.O. as G3TNV and also Sgt M. Murphy who operates a British Receiving Station, as a member of the Radio Society of Great Britain, and we hope that he is successful in the December City and Guilds examination for the Radio Amateur's Licence.

We also wish the various troop officers success in the same examination.

Finally, in response to the many times I

have been asked, the requirements for an amateur transmitting licence from the G.P.O. are as follows:

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Father Christmas pays his annual visit to the children's party in the social club. (By Sgt. Stockham).



The young visitors tuck in to the good things provided by the catering staff, (By Sgt. Stockham).

### White Spear and the Commonwealth Trophy

by J/Sig Keith Jones



A patrol relaxes on a mist-shrouded Hare Tor on the Commonwealth Trophy race.

(By Alan Cooksley)

As you may know, the Commonwealth Trophy is held each term, and consists of a hectic and tiring race by patrols across Dartmoor. In the last contest our troop entered six teams and each had to cover about ten to twelve miles.

Before the big day the troop were busily

packing their kit and being briefed by patrol leaders who had worked out the various routes of each patrol previously. Under orders from our troop sergeant, Sgt Payne, we went to bed earlier than usual on the eve of the competition, and the next morning

we were up bright and early, rushing about frantically doing last-minute preparations as we were one of the first teams off. Eventually, we were called out into the corridor and marched along to the MT square. The trip to the start was about an hour and a half, and on the way everyone was singing the usual army-type songs. We were met at the start by our troop sergeant and the OC, and were then inspected by SSM Salter to see that we had the correct kit. If our equipment had been deficient in any way, or had an item too many, we



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would have suffered quite a lot of penalty

This was my first Commonwealth Trophy expedition and I was, therefore, not quite certain what was the best pace to try to maintain throughout. I was soon to find out. J/Cpl Robertson, who was my patrol leader, started off at a cracking pace and I found that, as I had been informed, the first few miles can be sheer agony. encountered several bogs, one in particular seeming to go on for ever and giving us a great deal of difficulty. Two of the lads found what they thought was a safe route and went charging through, succeeding in getting across without a soaking, so I naturally followed. Imagine my suprise when I found myself, after half a dozen steps, right up to my waist in the wettest, smelliest and most uncomfortable bog I have ever met.

Eventually, the final check point was in sight, and was I relieved! The fast pace was something I would obviously have to get used to for future races. From the last check point we could see the finishing post and we hastened to it, to be greeted by a large and most welcome cup of coffee.

Although one of our patrols sustained an injury, I was very pleased that we succeeded in winning the trophy. Since the competition began we have always been in the first three as a troop, and are proud of the fact that we are the only troop to have won the race in two successive years. We hope to make it a hat-trick next term.

#### THE TROOP PERSONALITIES

White Spear finds itself well blessed with personalities who have brought a great deal of honour, not only to the troop itself, but also to the Regiment.

Probably the best achievement by White Spear boys, which has brought much acclaim to the unit, is the victory by J/Cpl Robertson, first of all in the Southern Command Trampoline Championships and then, a few weeks later, in the Army Championships. He then assisted another Spear boy, J/Sig Riddell, and three other members of the unit, in securing the Army Team Championships in both gymnastics and the trampoline. This is dealt with in more detail in another section of "Junior Mercury

Robertson also shines in another sphere for he is one of the Regimental rugby stars, as are also J/Cpl Bartlett and J/Sig Johnson.

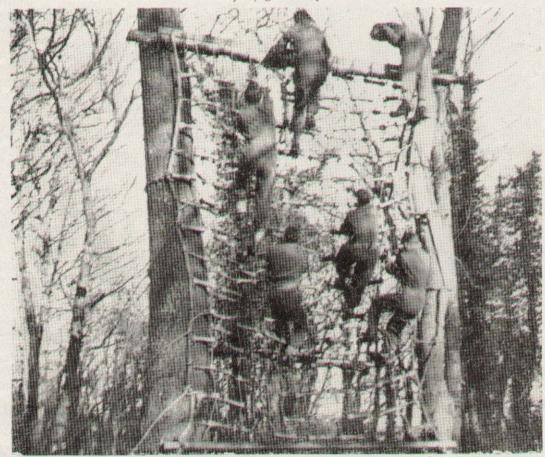
J/L/Cpl Sharp and J/Sig Julyan, a deceivingly quiet Cornishman from Penzance, are both members of the unit boxing team and we are extremely proud of the fact that the troop now has the champion shot of the Regiment in the form of J/L/Cpl Soppitt.

And finally, in the round ball game our troop sergeant, J/Sgt Kay, is a most prominent member of the Denbury side which is battling so grandly in their new adult

At the moment troop morale is very high indeed. We have a lot of younger boys but already a good number of them show signs of emulating the feats of those members whom I have mentioned. We are going to go from strength to strength and the troop expresses its thanks to Lieut. Maude and Sgt Payne for all their efforts in making this such a fine bunch of lads. J/Sig B. LAWS.

# SPEAR'S SUCCESSES IN THE COMPETITIONS

By J/Sgt K. Kay



White Spear's first patrol ascends the net on the assault course.

(By Alan Cooksley).

Altogether there are seven competitions which take place each term and which go towards deciding who will be the champion troop. The first one to take place last term was the cross country run. It is generally recognised throughout the Regiment that White Spear do very little in the way of training for this and at the same time manage to secure a good position every term. The last race was no exception, for the troop was placed fourth.

As is recorded in another article, the Commonwealth Trophy was won quite comfortably by White Spear, giving us maximum points for this event. The boxing brought us some very useful points as well, for we managed to secure second place behind Kukri. We were leading right up to the tenth bout, when our own J/L/Cpl Soppitt was beaten by J/Sig Jones of the winning troop.

Although we scored 403 points in the shooting competition, we could only manage to gain seventh place.

Competition day at the end of the term found us on the path near the assault course at 11 o'clock, awaiting our turn to go around. We were told to get into our patrols and then the whistle blew and we were away. The first patrol went very well until they arrived at the twelve foot wall. Here J/Sig Sedgebeer fell from the top and landed with a crack on his back. Luckily he was not seriously injured but the patrol lost valuable points in moving him out of the way. We eventually came fourth which was really rather disappointing, for since this particular competition started, White Spear has always come second.

In the afternoon we were in the gymnasium for the PT competition, but we did not do very well. We came fifth and repeated this in the drill competition which came later in the afternoon.

Since we are a very junior troop, we can, I think, be quite satisfied with our efforts in the various tests this term. In the final count up we found we were fourth in the Cobb Memorial Trophy, and fourth in the Signal Officer-in-Chief's Trophy. Next time we intend to win them both.

J/Sgt K. KAY.

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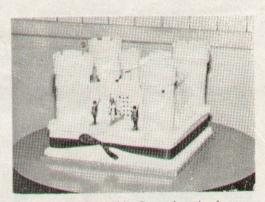
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White Spear are a noted boxing Troop, coming second in the Troop competition.



Nothing to do with White Spear, but simply a very fine example of the skill of the cooks under Q/Hales, who produced this cake.

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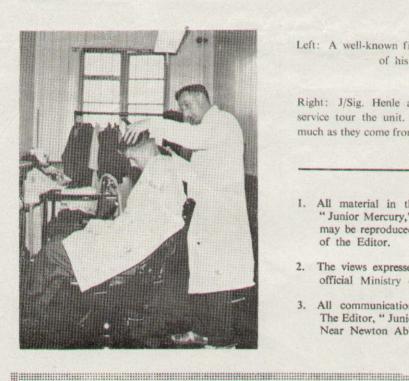
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#### THE DRIVER ELECTRICIAN.



Where the devil's that fuse box?



Left: A well-known figure in the unit, giving one of his "specials."

Right: J/Sig. Henle and his sister from a sister service tour the unit. The Henles are local inasmuch as they come from the village of Buckfastleigh.

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### GYMNASTS MOP UP THE OPPOSITION ONCE MORE

While members of the Regiment were battling at the end of term with the many and varied tasks to be completed, nine of their number were doing battle over 100 miles away. This was a different sort of battle, for this was the first Army Junior Gymnastic and Trampoline Championships, and they were held at Aldershot on the 17th and 18th December. The Regimental team was trying to repeat its overwhelming successes in the Southern Command Championships, as reported in the last edition of the 'Junior Mercury,' and this is exactly what they did.

Since the Command Championships in October, much hard work has gone into the preparation for the finals with the team training every day under the watchful eyes of QMSI Pictor and Sergt.-Instructor Dart, of the APTC, Cpl. Jackson and L/Cpl. Pattie. This hard work paid dividends, and the performance of the Denbury boys surprised all at Aldershot, the greatest surprise being created by the immaculate display of J/Sig. Norgrove, a display which was to bring him the title in the Gymnastic Championships. The most welcome praise was that given by SSI Pancott and CSMI Gradely, both of whom represented Great Britain in the recent games at Tokyo.

Thanks to the work put in by SI. Dart, himself an excellent gymnast, the team travelled to Aldershot well prepared for the fray and found that the first day of competition was to be taken up with the trampoline championships. In the individual event, A/T. Cpl. Rogers from Harrogate was the first competitior, and set a high standard from the start by scoring 8.9 points out of a possible 10 in the compulsory exercises. Our own J/Cpl. Robertson rose to the occasion with a grand 9.0 points and followed this with an 8.6 in the voluntary exercises to take the individual title. Norgrove ably backed him up and they clinched the team title by three points, Norgrove himself taking third place.

The day also saw another success for the Royal Signals when Sgt. Sani, of the Malayan Royal Signals, was runner-up in the Senior B competition, giving a very fine display on the high bar.

The following morning brought the junior team and individual gymnastic champion-



J/Sig. Kendall, one of the victorious team, receives instruction on the high bar. (By J/Sig. Cross)

ships. A team consists of four competitors who each do a compulsory and set routine of floor exercises, vaulting, parallel bars and high bar, each being marked out of a possible 10, with the exception of the vaulting, which carries a tariff depending on the degree of difficulty. This was a personal triumph for Norgrove, who won every exercise with the exception of the floor routine, which went to our own J/Sig. Rookes. Of course, Norgrove won, and the runner-up was J/Sig. Riddell from, need I say it, Denbury. With J/Sig. Kendall and Rookes in fourth and fifth places, the team swept the board and brought home four cups and eight plaques.

This all speaks well for the gymnastic team and is the result of two years of endeavour both in training and in displays. We look forward to next year, when we shall have to defend our titles, and realise



J/Sig. Cumberpatch, a youngster with great potential, practises on the parallel bars.

that any slackening of effort will result in a lesser place. To this end we have the APTC team visiting us shortly to demonstrate and coach both members and nearmembers of the teams, as well as films and matches against local schools.

Both trampolining and gymnastics are very rewarding sports, but both require a good deal of hard work and discipline. Prospects within the club are excellent, with two members of the team available next year as well as a number of competent reserves, particularly J/L/Cpl. Doane and J/Sig. Cumberpatch. Competition will be fierce for places in next year's team, but those who do succeed will rest assured that their places are well and truly earned.

C.C.P.

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Lt.-Gen. Sir K. Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., inspects the radio room on a recent visit to the unit.

Below—No need for an identification for this group of well-known camp personalities.

(By Sgt. Stockham).



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# A MEMORY OF SUMMER

By J/Sig R. A. Griffiths



There is something about a sailing boat that seems to capture the imagination of a great number of people. The sight of the sleek, graceful lines of the hull, the long, slim mast with a pennant fluttering at the top like a mad bird, the sails which seem to reflect the sunshine on the water below so that you see the image of the craft in the water; all these give a kind a magic to the sport

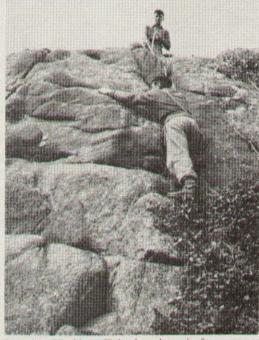
It is so hard to describe the pleasure of sitting in a small yacht, experiencing the thrill of leaning far out over the side to balance the vessel and at the same time getting that feeling of immense speed. You can feel the water rushing underneath the boat, and you can see the bows cleaving their path through the water, tossing aside foam and spray as if to say, "I am your master; stand aside." You have the feeling that you are away from the hustle of everyday life; for once you are in the hands of nature.

Yachting is a pastime that more and more people are taking to, leaving the crowded roads and noise, and finding peace on river, lake or in a quiet bay. A yacht gives one the feeling that he is master of everything, a feeling that he us the equal of anyone else on the water. He can go where he likes, do what he likes and whenever he likes within reason. If he has built the boat himself it gives him a glow of pride knowing that he

is sailing in his own creation.

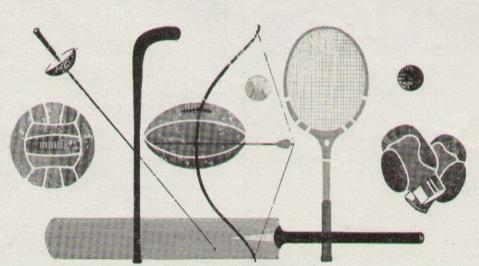
Sailing seems to bring you in contact with the basic principles of life; no machinery, no automation, just nature. You sail along calmly, perhaps sending a flock of seagulls screaming into the air, filling the silence with their noise, just as they must have done hundreds of years before. If you look down into the water you see the fishes flashing away with a flick of the tail, and the underwater plants swaying complacently with the ebb and flow of the tide. On a sunny day you can see the shadow of your boat on the bottom of the lake, and it gives you a feeling of security.

I find that after a day's sailing I feel much refreshed and better able to tackle the work of the next few days.



it gives him a glow of pride knowing that he

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### THE CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

### Babes on the Moor



Brenda, Dot and Linda prepare for the Ugly Duckling scene.



The whole cast receives its well-earned applause. (By Sgt. Stockham),

The end of the Christmas term always brings with it the now well established pantomime at Denbury. 1964 was no exception and it was decided by Mr. Mike Grant, the producer, that the best idea would be to re-hash the show of two years ago which was written and produced then by Mr. Alan Cooksley and himself. This proved to be a sound idea for the show was a great success, and for the original members of the cast who were involved again, the new material was amusing enough to awaken a new and real interest.

The story is, briefly, of two Junior Leaders who are on an excursion across Dartmoor and who fall asleep. There is a long dream sequence in which they travel from magic tor to magic tor, meeting many of the traditional pantomime characters, and they finally end up at the palace of Father Christmas. On each tor there is a task to be performed, and these give rise to great fun and frolics on the stage.

A simple story but it was the characters who made the piece. Major Joyner as the Hairy Fairy (who thought of that name?), Capt. Mike Weiner as Dolly the Dame of Dartmoor, and Alan Cooksley as Widow Twankey, all served up a good feast of laughs, whilst the three cooks, Phillip Heartburn, Fanny Haddock and Charlie Ritz, made sides split with their slapstick. The two wanderers, J/Sig Tait and Drake, were first-class and carried the story forward very smoothly indeed, while John Stevenson and John Heard gave most polished displays in their respective roles.

The glamour was provided by the young ladies of the Drama Club who looked absolutely splendid, particularly as ducklings and snow maidens. They were dressed by Mrs. Babs Rogers, Mrs. Joyce McMahon and Mrs. Louie Bennett, who, as joint wardenbe mistrasses did grand work

wardrobe mistresses, did grand work.
Sig./Vic Plumb and Mrs. John Joyner added the touch of evil that all good pantomimes must have, as the Bog Waller and "his Mum".

The musical accompaniment was by Lt Graham Saunders who spent many arduous



The Hairy Fairy casts a spell over the sleeping Babes.
(By Sgt. Stockham)

hours practising to get the songs exactly right. Scenery was painted by Mr. Peter Tysoe of the Art Department, it having been soundly constructed by Major Jack Woodcock. Both received much assistance from the members of their respective handicraft groups.

Three performances were given, one for children which was particularly satisfying for the reception was huge, and two for parents, boys, and staff. Full praise is due to everyone concerned for a first-class show, from the producer and the stars to the numbers of boys who splashed paint about the scenery and saw that everything was in the right place at the right time—or nearly so. Who can forget the tin of beans miraculously transformed into a lollipop, or the dragon reeling about the stage in an apparently bemused state as the head had slipped and the front man could not see where he was going. Still, that's all part of the fun.

#### **DEPARTURES**

Two notable figures who are missing from the Regiment this term are the Rev. Jack Thistle and Capt. Mike Weiner.

The Rev. Thistle has been posted to British Guiana where his work will be rather different to what it was here at Denbury. He said before he left, that he was looking forward to his trip abroad and especially to the sunshine. While he was at Denbury, the Rev. Thistle did grand work in the church and social life of the unit, and was well liked by all. Quiet, but very approachable, he will be missed by many of the boys whose problems, large and small, he helped to solve, or at least to ease.

Capt. Mike Weiner has left the unit for the Military College of Science, at Shrivenham, where he has a course lasting about seven terms, 'depending' he informed me 'on results'. Captain Weiner's job at Denbury has been the control and development of Trade Training in all its many phases. He has improved this most important facet of a soldier's life in the Royal Signals out of all recognition. He will also be remembered for his performances on the stage in all the unit shows, not least as a member of that illustrious team of dancers from Filthystan. Sportwise, Capt. Weiner was a keen footballer and had tremendous enthusiasm for the game, both as a player and manager of the various sides.

We wish the Rev. Thistle and Capt. Weiner, as well as the latter's family, all the very best in their new posts.

#### SHAKESPEARE ON SOLDIERS

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;

Or close the wall up with our English dead! In peace there's nothing so becomes a man As modest stillness and humility:
But when the blast of war blows in our ears, Then imitate the action of the tiger;
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage; Then lend the eye a terrible aspect.

(HENRY V)

# MID-SEASON RUGBY NOTES

The rugby side this term has had mixed fortunes. Of the nine games played, excluding the two against the Staff side, four have been won, four lost and one drawn. At long last the nucleus of a good and solid side is now present, and prospects look sound, if not outstanding, for the Army Cup competition.

At last the basic skills are being mastered completely and all players are going into the tackle first time, without waiting to see what the other fellow does—surely the foundation of all good rugby sides. The backs seem to have forged some understanding between each other, while the forwards are working as a unit and not as a group of individuals. This is the only way to win matches.

We look forward to a measure of success in the forthcoming competition and feel that our chances are as good as anyone's.

#### Results

Dartmouth School	O.B.	Won	35-	0
JL Regt. RAC		Draw	6-	6
HMS Raleigh		Won	8-	0
Plymouth Argaum	Nomad	sLost	0-	6
Newton Abbot Jui	niors	Won	8-	0
<b>Totnes Grammar</b>	School	Lost	3-	9
Torquay Athletic	Juniors	Won	18-	6
JL Regt. RASC		Lost	3-2	20

Dear Sir.

We would like a space in your "Junior Mercury" to say "thank you" to the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Denbury.

My wife and I were more than pleased in the way our son had been trained for adult service. We are sure you have laid a foundation for a very useful career in the Royal Signals.

To all officers and NCO's it may concern "thank you".

We would also like to mention on behalf of our family the excellent way we were accommodated, and catered for at the Graduation Parade in July of this year.

Yours faithfully,

(Mr. and Mrs. H. BONNETT). 13, Townsend, Woodford Halse, Nr. Rugby,

Warwicks.

### Output Christmas Term, 1964

#### SIGNALS TECHNICIANS

J/Sig. Barton	J/Sgt. Dockerty
J/Sig. Fentum	J/L/Cpl. Guy
J/L/Cpl. Gooseman	J/Sig. Roberts
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J/Sig. Stevens	J/L/Cpl. Taylor
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J/Sgt. Bowers
J/SSM Coates
J/L/Cpl. Esnouf
J/SSM Naden
J/L/ Cpl. Parkin
J/Sig. Williams

#### COMCEN OPERATORS

J/L/Cpl. Borck	J/Sig. Burrell
J/Sig. Casewell	J/Sgt. Clapson
J/L/Cpl. Clark	J/Sig. Cosham
J/Sgt. Green	J/RSM Hartrey
J/L/Cpl. Howard	J/L/Cpl. Jackman
J/Sig. Jewell	J/L/Cpl. Johnston
J/Sig. King	J/Sig. Paul
J/Sig. Pierpoint	J/Sig. Ridley
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### GRADUATION DAY—CHRISTMAS 1964

Graduation Day last term was heralded in glorious sunshine. This is an unusual thing, especially in the Christmas term, but needless to say, it was very welcome.

The parade went off excellently, the Inspecting Officer, Brig. J. B. Ashworth, C.B.E., D.S.O., remarking in his speech that it had been one of the best displays he had seen, and that he looked forward to paying many more visits to the unit in the future.

After lunch in the various messes and dining halls for all the guests and parents, the Regimental pipers and dancers per-formed on the square, to be followed by a drill squad from Junior Squadron, especially trained for this occasion. This was a new idea, which proved to be a success, for the youngsters were enthusiastically received as they went through their routine with the aplomb of veterans, in a style which many an experienced soldier would have been proud of.

The next part of the display was by the Regimental Corps of Drums, which was as competent as it always is. Their piece de resistance was Beating the Retreat, which was done splendidly.

A most interesting day was concluded with a performance of the pantomime (reported elsewhere), and a general social and get-together in the Sergeants' Mess for parents, officers and NCOs. Altogether a most successful affair.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Commanding Officer. Lt. Col. D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., Royal Signals.

Parade Commander: Major D. J. Strong, Royal Signals.

Officer Commanding Alexander Squadron:

Major R. M. Wright, Royal Signals.
Officer Commanding Slim Squadron: Major

J. K. Heyes, Royal Signals.

Officer Commanding Montgomery Squadron: Major J. Joyner, Royal Signals. Parade Adjutant: Captain C. J. Rayner, Royal Signals.

Regimental Sergeant Major: RSM W. T. Leeson.

Junior Regimental Sergeant Major: J/RSM D. K. Hartrey.

Drum Major: Drum Major A. Yates, B.E.M.

Junior Drum Major: J/Sgt. A. K. Harper. Junior Trumpet Major: J/Lepl T. Williamson.



J/RSM K. Hartrey leads the Inspecting Officer around the arrayed ranks.

(By Sgt. Stockham).



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