

JUNIOR

MERCURY

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



Photograph by Sgt. Stockham

HIGH ENDEAVOUR!

Junior Signaller Enoch (Jerboa Troop) in action during rugby practice

SPECIAL BEAUFIGHTER TROOP EDITION

TRADE TRAINING—SEE PAGES 2 and 3



Communications Centre operators in training with the new Siemens T 100 teleprinter. Capt. Mike Weiner, Royal Signals, Officer i/c Trade Training, explains the course of instruction to two Recruiting Sergeants, Royal Signals.



Major "Dusty" Miller, O.C. Alexander Squadron, visits a class working on Reperforators with recruiting staff from many parts of the country. Photographs by Sgt. Stockham

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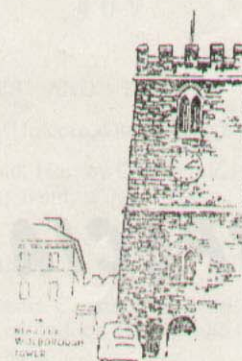
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The Junior Squadron Passing Out Party. The Regiment wishes Major Hamish Paterson (holding cup) luck on his new appointment. The present O.C. Montgomery Squadron is returning to Gurkha troops. The R.S.M. and J./Sgt. Siggs cut the cake.



The Commanding Officer presents J./Sig. Crooks with a Corps Tie. Crooks is in "B" Group and is one of four outstanding recruits to receive this award. Major John Heyes (O.C. Slim Squadron) is on the right of the picture.

Photographs by Sgt. Stockham

TRADE TRAINING AT DENBURY

By the end of this term it will be two years since the new trade training syllabi were introduced. The aim of trade training at Denbury is to bring every Junior Leader up to Class III standard in one of two basic Royal Signals operating trades, either as a COMCEN (Teleprinter) Operator or as a Radio Operator. Training has had to be limited to these two trades in order to keep down the quantity of equipment and the number of instructors.

A small number of boys have difficulty in mastering the trade to which they have been allocated and these boys are given the opportunity in their first year of switching from Radio to COMCEN or vice versa. All boys are interviewed by the Senior Personnel Selection Officer towards the end of their training and are allocated to a permanent trade for their Colour Service. Those who have reached BIII. standard as COMCEN or Radio Operators may be posted direct to regular units to exercise their trade or they may be sent on to the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, for continuation in an 'A' trade. Thus a Radio Operator BIII. may be trained as a Special Operator AIII. and a COMCEN Operator BIII. may go on for training as a Cipher Operator BIII. It is anticipated that a considerable proportion of boys who have qualified well, on either of the basic operating trades, will be allocated for continuation training as Telegraph Operators AIII. In this trade manipulative skill is required in both morse and teleprinter operating. In all cases boys who have passed their BIII. at Denbury will receive tradesmen's pay throughout their continuation training. Those boys who fail to pass an operator's rating at Denbury, and who are considered unlikely to achieve this after further training at Catterick, will be re-allocated to other trades such as Radio Relayman, Lineman, etc., which do not require manipulative skill. It is hoped that the number of boys so re-allocated will be very small.

An encouraging consequence of the trade training programme is the authority which has recently been given, at the discretion of the Commanding Officer, for those boys who have reached Junior Warrant Officer rank in the Regiment and who have passed their BIII. trade test, to be granted the rank of lance corporal on the commencement of their Colour Service. It is intended that this procedure will be introduced at the end of the current term.

Junior Leaders who have made above-average progress in their academic studies and have obtained a pass in Mathematics in their Army Certificate of Education, Class I., will continue to be considered for Technician training. Basic technical training will be given to such boys at Denbury in their last term. A boy who possesses the educational background to make a technician normally goes direct to the Army

Apprentices' School at Harrogate, on joining the Army, and does not come to Denbury. Experience has shown, however, that a number of Junior Leaders make very fast progress with their academic studies and it is such boys who will be given the opportunity of technician training. It is important, however, that boys who lack the ability to master the theory of technical training should not be directed into a technical trade. An individual who is able only with difficulty to achieve a TIII. rating is unlikely ever to reach TI. or even TII. classification, and he would be happier and do better on the Operating Roster.

Over the past two years the Regiment has received and installed sufficient equipment to enable the Trade Training programme to be carried through, but we have had a chronic shortage of instructors. We have also learnt that better results are achieved when trade training is concentrated over a shorter period. Training programmes have therefore been revised to increase the proportion of academic studies in the first year and to concentrate most of the trade training into the second year.

Owing to differences in the ages of boys joining the Regiment, it will not be possible to train every boy up to Class III. trade standard whilst he is at Denbury. The training of boys who join the Regiment when over 16 years of age will correspond to that for the younger boys but will end a term or so earlier. Academic training will be the same as for the younger boys but inevitably a part of the trade training programme will be missed. However, requests for extra terms received from older boys will continue to be sympathetically considered and the trade training programmes at Denbury will continue to be phased in with those in the training Brigade Royal Signals. This will enable boys who have had insufficient time to gain a trade rating at Denbury to complete this at Catterick with the minimum of upset.

It is a little early, before this term's trade tests have taken place, to estimate the success of the trade training programme at Denbury. However, it appears that a boy who serves seven terms in the Regiment and who works conscientiously at his trade should have little difficulty in achieving a BIII. rating. It further appears that as the Trade Training Wing gains in experience and efficiency many boys will leave not only with a BIII. rating but with manipulative skills which will put them very well on the way to their BII.

Alan Holmes



The Aero-Modelling Club display their talents. The Club founder and supervisor, Mr. Hugh Price, A.M.I.Mech.E., was formerly a stress engineer with Westland Aircraft, Yeovil. Photograph by Sgt. Stockham

Beaufighter Commemoration Scroll

*The Officer Commanding,
Beaufighter Troop,
Junior Leaders' Regiment.*

The Commanding Officer, Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks of 19th Regiment, welcome all members of Beaufighter Troop on this very happy day of affiliation, 10th April, 1963.

The 19th is very proud of its very fine record in communications, military training and sporting activities, and looks forward to an even finer record from Beaufighter Troop in the years to come.

It is our duty to be thoroughly proficient in mind and body so that we may uphold the traditions of the Corps and serve the Royal Air Force faithfully in our allotted task. Let us strive together to make, and keep, the 19th Regiment and Beaufighter Troop the best, and prove ourselves worthy of the trust placed by our Corps and the Royal Air Force in every one of us.

*W. R. G. HENCHER, M.B.E.,
Lt.-Col., Royal Signals Cmd.,
19th Signal Regiment.*

BEAUFIGHTER TROOP

BEAUFIGHTER TROOP, formed on the reorganisation of the Regiment early in 1963, likes to feel it has now, in just under a year, taken its place amongst its older brother troops at least as an equal and, in some cases, perhaps better!

Affiliation to 19th Signal Regiment in Singapore has not prevented close ties being developed. The question of distance has made liaison visits rather out of the question, at least for the time. Not to be daunted, a first visit to the Royal Air Force Station, Chivenor, has already taken place, and proved a great success. A Regimental parade took place for the presentation of a scroll of affiliation on behalf of Lieutenant-Colonel Hencher and 19th Regiment. The words on this scroll, coupled with the continued interest of 19th Signal Regiment, are a true incentive to BEAUFIGHTER TROOP.

Internally, the troop has taken the names of famous Second World War aircraft to match the "BEAUFIGHTER." The names TYPHOON, SPITFIRE, MOSQUITO, METEOR, HURRICANE, and DEFIANT, were the ones chosen for patrols.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

My first impression of the "dreaded sweat troop" was a highly polished corridor with several people bumping, and praising the Sergeant with rather unrepeatable phrases.

After having a talk in the troop office with the OC, I moved all my kit into the centre barrack room, with three other lads from Junior Wing. The first few days I was a bit lonely, having no one to talk to, only the "blokes" from Junior Wing. But after a while, I began to get to know everyone.

Sgt. Arnold's ideas seemed a bit peculiar at first; giving us inspections and making us wear web belt and anklets, but after a while it just came naturally. So Beaufighter troop isn't such a bad troop after all!

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J./Sig. Alan Gray of Southampton talks about life at Denbury.



Recruiters mixing with Junior Signalmen at the Balaclava Club.

"BO" TROOP

*There they stand as stiff as starch
Waiting for the order to march.
It is not unusual for boots to shine
As Beaufighter Troop marks time.
Once it used to be a parade behind the guard
But that was found not to be very hard.
And now as softly as a mouse
They tiptoe to the cook-house.
Many a time the troop goes "diffi,"
But that is solved within a jiffy.
We all have signed P.1954s
And then go marching to the stores.
First a left turn, then a right
He really gives us quite a fright.
In our minds he should be sold—
The gently steaming Sergeant Arnold.
Our troop OC is quite a laddie
With his little dog called Paddy.
That little thing is always at large,
It makes one think who is in charge.
For the rest of the Regiment, it is a sin
That the Barrack Room Competition we always win.*

*For others to win it is a dream
Because Beaufighter troop is supreme.*

F. BOUGHTFLOWER
M. A. SWAIN



Interlude: A game with the model railway!

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THE BALLROOM DANCING CLUB

The Ballroom Dancing Club, which has a membership of about 50, was started in 1960 by Major Scott, Royal Signals, who gave it very strong support. The instruction for the first two years was very ably carried out by Sgt. and Mrs. Meekings and since then by Sgt. Meekings and Lou Bennett.

Dancing has always been a popular form of recreation, and there is no doubt that many of the older Junior Leaders are now beginning to realise that it is also a social asset, especially if he can ask his O.C.'s wife to dance!

The Club does not profess to turn Junior Leaders or their partners into highly qualified dancers but does its best to teach them the basic steps of the three most popular dances, the Quickstep, the Foxtrot and the Waltz.

If, when passing the Cinema about 9.15 p.m. on a Monday night, you hear "hearty laughter" coming from within, and chance to step inside you will find that the class has been reversed and the pupils will be teaching the instructors the Jive, the Bird and the Liverpool Stomp ???

L. B.



Sergeant Meekings and Lou Bennett demonstrating some tricky steps.

THE 19th REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

19th Air Formation Signal Regiment was raised in England towards the end of 1942 and, some six months later, it moved to India. For the remainder of the war and for a short period after the Japanese surrender the Regiment provided communications for the Royal Air Force supporting the 14th Army in Burma.

This role the Regiment completed with distinction and then moved to Malaya, leaving a Squadron in Burma and a troop in Saigon.

By the end of 1947, Regimental headquarters and four Squadrons were moved once again and firmly established in Singapore, where most of the Regiment is stationed at the present time. The Squadron in Burma and the troop in Saigon were replaced by a Squadron in Ceylon and a large troop in Hong Kong.

In 1964, 19th Regiment has three Squadrons in Singapore and a troop on Gan Island, with small detachments in Borneo and Malaya. Commitments are heavy and include four automatic exchanges, 2,800 telephones, seven manual switchboards, numerous VFT equipments and a grand total of 197 miles of U.G. cable from 8-pr. to 100-pr.

Nevertheless, an excellent reputation is maintained for communicating and for administrative efficiency, and the Regiment has a fine sporting record.



19 Signal Regiment. Operations Troop unloading from a Hastings.

Photograph by 19th Signal Rgt.



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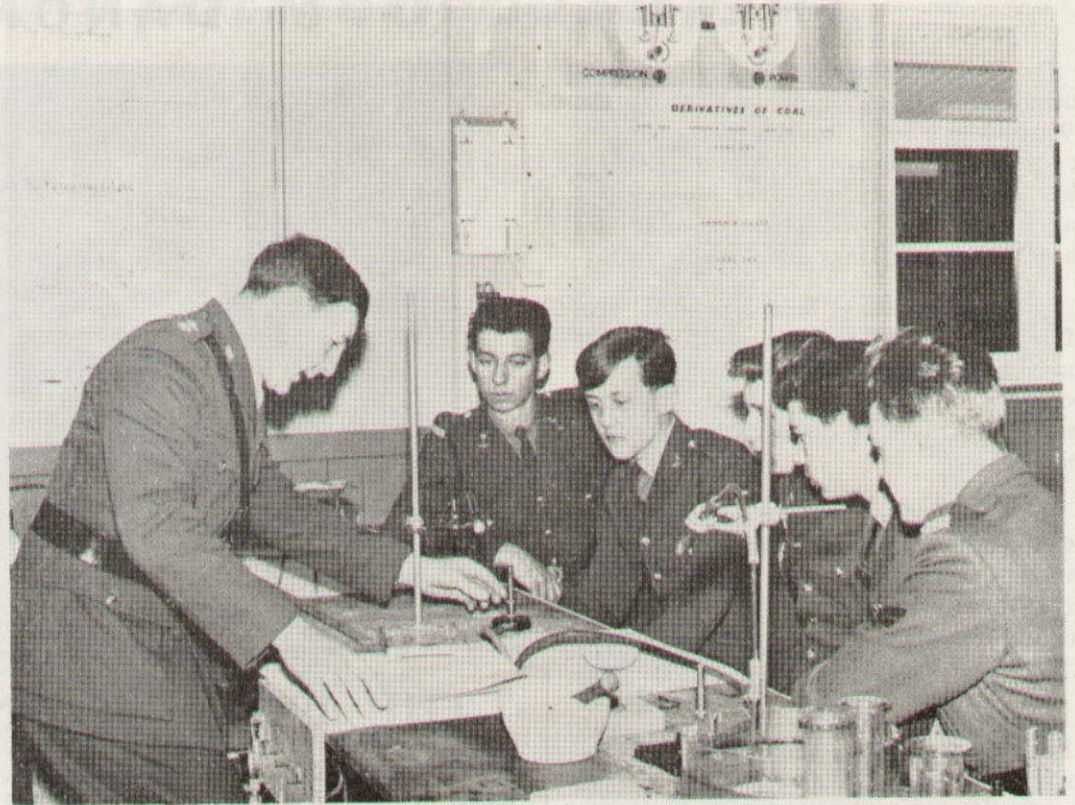
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Photographs by Sgt. Stockham

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RUGBY NOTES

We lost 6-0 to Brixham Colts on Saturday, 1st February. This was a very hard match and the only difference in the two teams, besides at least two years in age, was that our scrum-half was not fit to play and our fly-half, Peters, pulled a muscle very early in the game. Cloake, deputising at scrum-half, played a courageous game, but Enoch and the other forwards decided not to give him the ball from line-outs in order to save him further punishment.

In our next game we just lost 6-3 to Torquay Athletic Junior XV. This was a very good game and, despite the muddy conditions, there was a lot of excellent back play. Cooper and Feegan had their work cut out in stopping one of the Torquay centres, and Harvey at full-back played extremely well.

We then played Exeter Saracens 'A' and avenged an earlier defeat in the season. This win was achieved with a number of the regular players away. Fairhurst played in the backs and showed that his talents would have been a valuable asset to the team during the earlier part of the season. Cloake proved an able hooker in place of the injured Hartrey.

The highlight was our visit to Nuneaton to play the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery. We lost by 30 points to nil but were not disgraced. We were up against an extremely efficient team who played the game in the all-conquering All Blacks style. We had no answer to their machine-like pack and the boot of their fly-half. The latter scored 24 points, 18 from penalty goals and conversions. Feegan and Blackman went close after the interval but this was only a short-lived assault. All the team fought hard to the last seconds of the game, but without possession we could not strike with our main weapon—the backs; thus exit from the Army Cup.

We sent an 'A' XV. to play an RASC XV. at Taunton and the new boys showed up well, particularly Holland on the wing. Charles-

worth confirmed that next year he will be a regular member of the team. We won 26-0.

In our most recent match, against Exeter Colts, our 'A' side did well to hold them to a nine points to three margin. Feegan scored a particularly good try in this match.

Feegan played for the Junior Army XV. against Blackheath in February and Cooper was reserve for the same against the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The Staff XV have been seen quite frequently on the field recently. They beat an Exeter University XV. 37-0, the 6th Trg. Bn. RASC 47-3, and the Royal Air Force, Mount Batten, 8-6. They were defeated 10-0 in the district semi-final by the School of Artillery at Larkhill, but this was a creditable performance. Sgt. Price has strengthened the three-quarters and Mr. Cooksley is playing again. Lt. Atkinson has had some rousing encounters at wing-forward, especially when he took on the whole Artillery pack by himself.

Both teams look forward to the remaining fixtures. Although our successes have been rather limited this season, we have had some great games and it has been enjoyable. The most pleasing aspect of the season has been the success of Enoch and Orton, who only began to play the game this season.

Colours have been awarded to the whole team: Harvey, Wilkins, Cooper, Feegan, Orton, Peters (Capt.), Blackman, Robertson, Hartrey, Pearce, Siggs, McDonald, Bowers, Enoch, and Williams.

Great support has been given by many others, noticeably Watson, who won his colours last season.

All players are indebted to the interest shown by the CO, Major Miller and Captain Finch.

The Bursar's ability to forecast sporting results is not appreciated by the rugby team. M.A.



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THE ARMY JUNIOR BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year the championships took place at the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, from the 4th to 7th March. We had four Junior Leaders entered— J./Sgt. John Le Page, J./Sig. Mike McKee, J./Sig. Freddie Carr and J./Sig. Mike Unwin. Boxing commenced on Thursday afternoon and Mike McKee was the first of our boys to appear in a quarter-final bout, with A./T. Forsythe from A.A.S., Harrogate, whom he beat comfortably on points. Next on was John Le Page in a quarter-final match with J./Gnr. Hackett, of All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment. This was a hard and fast-punching bout with our boy winning on points. Our next match was the first of the evening bouts, Mike Unwin versus J./Gds. Smith from the Junior Guards Coy, in another quarter-final, which Unwin won on points. Freddie Carr had not yet had a bout as there were only four entries in his weight, which meant all four of our boys were through to the semi-finals. Our hopes were running very high.

Later that evening Mike McKee won the first one into his semi-final against A./T. Hancock from A.A.S., Carlisle, after a good bout. Now we were down to three possibles for the finals. The next on was John Le Page in his semi-final with A./T. Cartwright, also from Carlisle. This turned out to be a fairly easy win for him as Cartwright had no answer to the quick counter-punching at which Le Page has become quite expert. We now had our first finalist in three years.

We had to wait for Friday morning for the other two semi-finals. In the first, Mike Unwin received a "walkover" into the finals due to his opponent being declared unfit to box by the doctor. Our second finalist home

and dry. This left Freddie Carr to make it a trio. This he proceeded to do with the finesse of someone who had been boxing far longer than he has. He beat J./Spr. Stanniforth, Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.E., quite convincingly on points with some very good straight left-hand punching.

Saturday evening in the Camp Cinema, the stage was set; an atmosphere of expectation hung in the air. The M.C. was making the first announcement and the finals of the 1964 Junior Championships were under way.

Our first boy was Freddie Carr matched against J./Pte. Ballie of the Infantry Junior Leaders. Bout No. 3 on the programme. The first two rounds were just about even with some very good boxing by both boys. In the third round Carr was holding his own but in the last 30 seconds Ballie found that little bit extra and scored a few quick punches to take the bout with a points decision. So we had a bronze medal for the runner-up.

Three bouts later it was the turn of Mike Unwin, whose opponent was the boy who had beaten him in the Southern Command Final in January, and he was out to get his revenge. Obviously J./Tpr. Fenby of the RAC was the favourite but right from the first bell Unwin went off like a fire-cracker and his straight punching soon began to tell on his opponent. It was clear at the end of the second round that if Fenby was going to win it would have to be by a KO in the third round. This was not to be, as Unwin built up his points lead by some very clever counter-punching every time Fenby attacked. The result: a convincing win on points for Mike Unwin. He had got his revenge for January and a winner's silver medal to prove it.

Our last boy, John Le Page, was not on until late in the second-half of the programme and he was up against one of seven J./Guards who had reached the finals. Five of them had already boxed and lost and Le Page was determined that his opponent, J./Guards Rigg, was going to do the same. When the referee called the two boys to the centre to shake hands the Guardsman stood the tallest by a good ten inches and, of course, had an advantage in reach. Le Page knew what he had to do. Fifteen seconds after the first bell Rigg led with a "one-two" and for a fraction of a second had both arms straight out in front of him. In a flash John Le Page was under them and before Rigg could get his hands back to defend himself he had received four very quick and hard punches to the body, the last one taking all the wind out of him. After this he was more careful and Le Page had to work to make the openings. This he did quite easily and it was obvious that his experience was going to win him the bout. He scored steadily and came out the winner on points.

Mike Unwin and Freddie Carr went off to Oswestry on Sunday as part of the Army Team to train and box against the R.A.F. and Royal Naval boys in the Imperial Services Boxing Association Championships on Friday and Saturday, 13th and 14th March. We wish them every success and hope that they return to Denbury I.S.B.A. as well as Army Champions, as it will be a just reward for all the hard work they have done in training over the last six months.

R. HENDLEY,
S./Sgt. A.P.T.C. Team Trainer.



J/Cpl. "Blondie" Hunt, of Francisca Troop, squares up for hockey practice.

BEAUFIGHTER VISIT CHIVENOR

In November, Beaufighter Troop boarded the "Regimental chariot" for R.A.F. station, CHIVENOR. As you all know, Beaufighter's parent Regiment is 19th Signal Regiment stationed in Singapore.

We arrived at Chivenor at about 1000 hours. We went to a lecture room where an officer told us our time-table for the period we were there, and a lecture on what we were going to see. After the lecture, which lasted about thirty minutes, we were split up into two groups. One group went to the Hunter Flight Simulator and the other one, which I was in, went to the parachute assembly section.

The corporal in charge of the parachutes showed us how to fold a parachute and put it into its pack. One of the lads put almost all the equipment on to show us how it was worn.

The Simulator is a make-believe aircraft with all the controls. When you are inside it is completely blacked out except for them. There is a set of controls outside the "aircraft" which the instructor operates. When you climb, and the engine stalls, the whole aircraft vibrates violently and you alone have to stop it. It was great fun.

Then it was the time we were all waiting for—DINNER. Afterwards, we went to the hangars where we saw one of the famous

Black Arrows and two Blue Diamonds. We saw all the controls and some of us sat in the seats. When we had finished there, we went to some other hangars where we saw some Air-Sea Rescue helicopters. We met a Flight Sergeant who won the George Cross after he had rescued four men from a trawler off the Cornish coast. We saw the interior of the helicopter and asked questions about it. It was very interesting.

The next period we saw the radio shop, about the size of a barrack room, but we only spent a few minutes there.

Then we went to tea. We had about thirty minutes to spare and we all said goodbye, boarded the "chariot," and arrived back at camp about nine o'clock.

"SPECKS" MARTIN

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	P	W	D	L	For	Ag.
League	5	3	0	2	23	14
Friendlies	4	2	0	2	14	8
Devon Cup	1	1	0	0	6	0
	10	6	0	4	43	22

The results bear out that, although the standard of Regimental football remains high, that of the opposition has greatly improved.

The three friendly matches have been hard fought and produced good football. Torquay G.S. completed the double over us with a 4-1 win at Denbury and one of the hardest matches of the season, against Totnes G.S., was lost 2-1. The latter team probably had the strongest attack our defence has had to meet, and the score reflects the sterling work put in by the defence.

The new 4-2-4 system this term has led to a new style of play which, so far, has been successful when the full 1st XI. has been playing. It was clearly demonstrated in our 6-0 Devon Cup win when Bonnett in goal had an easy afternoon. This system calls for four defenders, who stay on the edge of the penalty area rather than marking individuals. This then makes the opponents do all the work but seldom allows them to get inside the penalty area. Ample proof of its efficiency was seen at half-term when a weakened 1st XI. had to revert to a normal defence and then lost 6-1 to a team we had previously beaten by an identical score.

This term has also seen several 2nd XI. fixtures. To date they have lost one league match, but had a good win 4-3 over Totnes



J/Sgt. Bonnett moves out to cover his goal

Photograph by Sgt. Stockham

G.S. 2nd XI., and were unlucky not to have had a bigger score. They also had a comfortable 8-2 win over Kingsbridge G.S.

Besides league fixtures and friendlies against Newton Abbot G.S. to come, we are still interested in two County Cups. On Saturday, 7th March, we meet Torquay Rovers in the semi-final of the South Devon Cup, a win to be rewarded by the final being played at Plainmoor (Torquay United) towards the end of the term. We are also due to meet Dartington YC soon to decide who shall represent South Devon in the all-Devon Youth Cup semi-finals. Last year we were beaten in the semi-final so this year our aim is to reach the final.

Leading goal-scorers this term are: Vaughan 14; Mackie 9; Hamer 5; Kay 5.

M.W.

INTER-TROOP CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITIONS

Just in case some members of the Regiment find it increasingly hard to come higher up the order in the termly cross-country run, I show a few figures as consolation for them.

In the last few terms the standard has increased tremendously. As an example, if you were to come in the 80's in Easter 1964, you would have probably been in the first 20 in Easter 1963. The following chart shows the increase over the last five terms:

Term	Xmas 1962	Easter 1963	Summer 1963	Xmas 1963	Easter 1964
1st home	24.10	24.10	25.02	24.17	23.20
2nd "	24.52	25.10	25.31	24.25	23.24
3rd "	24.57	25.14	25.37	24.47	23.31
4th "	25.12	25.35	25.54	24.57	23.49
5th "	25.42	25.41	26.03	25.03	24.13
6th "	25.46	25.44	26.04	25.10	24.22
10th "	26.05	26.08	26.27	25.24	24.42
20th "	27.07	26.50	27.02	26.03	25.15

Number who beat:	25 mins.	26 mins.	27 mins.	30 mins.	35 mins.	40 mins.
	3	9	19	1	6	25
				0	4	18
				4	50*	80*

* Approximate figures.

So if you have any desire to get a medal then you need to train in future for below 23mins. 30secs. If you are content with up to 20th position then be prepared to beat 25mins., a time which would have gained you a medal up to last term.

A prediction: The Inter-Troop record will fall again and again, down to 22mins. and about 100 persons will beat 25mins. for the course. "Keep Jogging"



The Start of the Denbury Stakes, Spring 1964, won by Millfield School

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SPORTS GEAR

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FISHING AND SHOOTING

B.S.A. .22 Rifles and Meteor Airguns. Webley Airguns and Pistols. Original Airguns and Pistols. Airgun Pellets. Shot Guns, 12-bore and .410. Shot Gun Ammunition; .22 Ammunition. All principal makes of Fishing Tackle; Sea, Salmon and Trout, Coarse Fishing.

INDOOR GAMES AND TOYS

Dart Boards and Darts (Unicorn, Dorwin, etc.) Meccano, Hornby Dublo, Hornby Cloekwork, Dinky and Corgi Toys; Bendy Toys. Bayko. Lego. Table Tennis Equipment. Revell, Airfix, etc., Plastic Construction Kits and a large selection of Indoor Games and Toys for girls and boys.