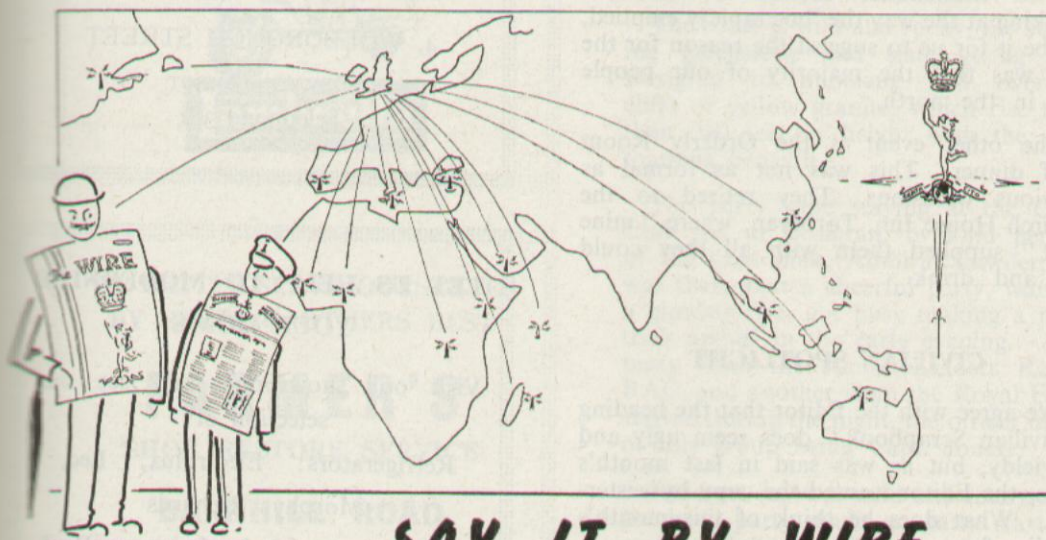


VOL. 2. No. 11.

APRIL, 1961

Price 4d.



SAY IT BY WIRE

If Junior Mercury were to meet Wire walking around Eccleston Square their conversation might go something like this:

J.M.: Hullo, big brother! You're out early this month.

Wire: Good morning, little Jimmie. I'm always out early, unlike yourself! But tell me, what brings you to London?

J.M.: Primarily to see you, big brother, and to commiserate with you on your failing health.

Wire: What's that? Failing health? I'll have you know I'm very popular, I'm perfectly presented and just you see how well dressed and smart I am. Everybody admires me, but (reflectively) I must admit that I am a little worried about my general health these days. The food is a little dull, and I have no option but to eat whatever the Corps provides for me, you know.

J.M.: Yes, I thought something was troubling you. But, never mind, big brother, do cheer up. Things can't be bad all the time.

Wire: They certainly couldn't be worse, and it has gone on for long enough.

J.M.: It surprises me to hear you say that. Surely the sources of supply available to you offer an infinite variety of contributions. Indeed, your agents are renowned communicators and are active all over the Commonwealth and Europe. Day and night their ceaseless function goes on, and from it you ought to reap the benefit of a rich, limitless, stimulating, exciting and interesting diet.

Wire: Ah, yes! That is true, my young friend. They are widely scattered and active, indeed they are, but too frequently they forget

about me, and usually at the very last minute some unfortunate miscreant is detailed to send me a few crumbs and that is how I subsist.

J.M.: Tut! Tut! That makes me very sad. Tell me, big brother, at the best what should happen?

Wire: O now! Listen to me, JM. If every single one of my agents, loving and honouring the Corps as they should, were to expose the outward signs of their pride and esprit de corps in the person of my health and physical condition I should feel like a king and look like an emperor. My figure would be the repository of our prosperity and my person would be reproduced many thousand times for the consumption of the multifarious members of All Arms and Services, for then I should represent the **fountain of all knowledge** and the **source of all information**. Food from the Orient, drink from Europe.

J.M.: In what way can I help you, big brother?

Wire: Well now, let me see. You sent me a nice little portion last month. Your pigeon for April might be nourishing. How many copies of my likeness appear in each of your Troop huts? Tell me that, eh?

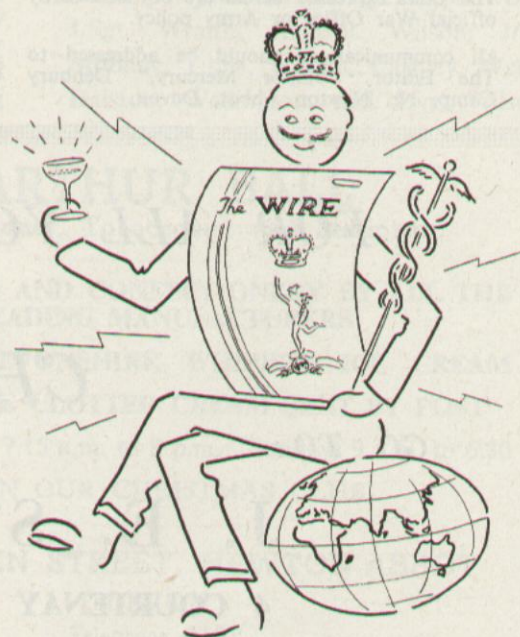
J.M.: Only three each, I'm afraid. But I have informed my manager that unless he does something about it soon I shall just run away and stay away, and all his threats of **inward bound** will not frighten me. So there!

Wire: That's the spirit, my boy, and if everybody will do the same I shall have nothing else to worry about. But what about the parents of all your Junior Leaders? Are they not interested in me? I am the future of their sons. I am the symbol of their ambitions and I am the soul of their inspiration. I am their guiding star, their family album, their private diary. I am "**their eyes of the world**"—well, at least I think I am.

J.M.: Bravo! bravo! It's good to hear you speak like that, big brother. I follow you now: lots of people are interested in me and since I am going to be you they must be awfully curious about you. And I can learn, something about all the places I may see, and everything I am going to do by studying you.

Wire: That's the stuff, young Jimmie; be a good follower first to be a good leader afterwards. You're learning fast. So leave now like a good chap and tell every Junior Leader, PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE (and their parents) that they cannot love my corps without they first love me. *Certa cito, old boy!*

Junior Leaders and readers of the Junior Mercury may order the Wire (1/3) through the Editor of the Junior Mercury



EDITORIAL

Easter-tide is always a pleasant time of the year. Spring weather and summer in the offing; Easter Eggs and a spirit of joy everywhere. This year, for the first time, Denbury Camp will present an unfamiliar appearance. Normally we find the camp deserted and everyone on leave, whereas this year we are working through the Easter period, with the prospect of leave in a fortnight's time. In "Chaplain's Corner" the Padre has given us a timely reminder of the religious aspect of this season.

A noticeable gap in the 'Junior Mercury's' layout for this month lies in the absence of a Readers' Corner. The reason? We haven't had any letters! This prompts us to wonder whether our readers are getting into a rut; isn't there anything happening which interests them? Have you no suggestions, complaints, or other talking points?

This month's front page is an unusual one, but a symbolic one. "The Wire" is the journal of the Royal Signals, the 'Junior Mercury' as a reflection of life in Denbury Camp is its little brother, and the relationship should be a close one.

The sports side of this month's journal is naturally taken up largely by rugby, with the achievement of the team in appearing in the Rugby Cup Final for the second year in succession. By the time you read these words the result will be known and, we hope, published in our Stop Press columns. Now we can only trust that the news will be good news.

We welcome as replacements to Sgt. Moss two new replacements on the executive side. Sgt. "Jock" Donald, Royal Signals, who has taken over the business and distribution side of the journal, and Staff Quartermaster-Sergt. "Topper" Brown, Royal Army Pay Corps, who has assumed responsibility for the accounting side of the 'Junior Mercury.' We thank them in advance for undertaking these rather onerous tasks, and look forward to a pleasant association.

1. All material in this Journal is copyright of "Junior Mercury" unless otherwise stated, but may be reproduced with the written permission of the Editor.
2. The views expressed herein are not necessarily official War Office or Army policy.
3. All communications should be addressed to The Editor, "Junior Mercury," Denbury Camp, Nr. Newton Abbot, Devon.

SENIOR WING SCRAPBOOK

With Senior Wing employment chart now showing a far greater number on the civilian side, it looks as though we will have to combine our notes. Looking into our crystal ball (not Q.M. issue) of the future—unless we can get some of our National Service stalwarts to sign on and collect their bounty, we will be fading out and handing over completely to our civilian staff. Of course, to help the guard situation we could ask for permission to sign on our ever-increasing population of dogs. Separate bunks would have to be provided for them to avoid bloodshed.

Two items which have now become a feature of Senior Wing every term occurred this month. One of them was the weekend trip. This did break with tradition as its members voted that, as we had not received enough rain in Devon, they would like to go to Manchester instead of London. Looking at the way the 'bus rapidly emptied, far be it for us to suggest the reason for the trip was that the majority of our people live in the north.

The other event is the Orderly Room staff dinner. This was not as formal as previous occasions. They retired to the Church House Inn, Torbryan, where "mine host" supplied them with all they could eat and drink.

CIVILIAN SPOTLIGHT

We agree with the Editor that the heading "Civilian Scrapbook" does seem ugly and unwieldy, but as was said in last month's issue, the Editor wanted the copy by yesterday. What does he think of this month's heading?

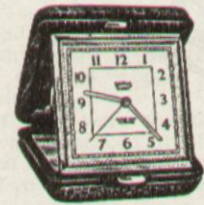
The Spotlight this month falls on Mr. L. J. Bickley. Joining the Regiment in September, 1960, he has been employed in the R.H.Q. as Part II. and III. Order Clerk. Mr. Bickley enlisted in the R.A.F. as a Technical Apprentice in 1924, and served for 26½ years, for the last ten years he held the rank of Warrant Officer. During his service career he has been to many parts of the world, including Iraq, India, and Egypt. For a short period he was with the Fleet Air Arm in the days of the old-fashioned biplane of wood and canvas. Since leaving the service he has been "mine host" in various parts of Devon, but feels happily settled now that he has once again returned to the service environment.

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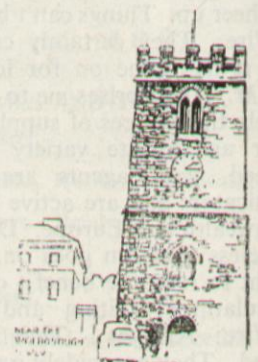
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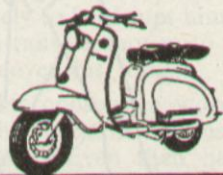
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CORNISH WEEKEND

On Friday, 3rd March, 1961, the Regimental Mountaineering Club, represented by Major Nye, Capt. Worsley, and nine Junior Leader members, left Denbury by road to tackle some cliff climbing in Cornwall. Major Nye travelled in front of a three-tonner with Dvr. Wilson, who had made heroic, but unsuccessful, efforts the previous night to get a TCV on the road. Capt. Worsley and J/Sig. Tibbs travelled in comparative comfort in the former's car, being (they said) anxious to get there first so that they could prepare for the arrival of the main party.

Their objective was the cliff area at Bosigran, between Zennor and Pendeen on the north coast of Cornwall near St. Ives; an area, which, during the recent controversy about the resumption of tin mining at Zennor, has rightly been described as possessing great natural and unspoilt beauty.

The coast is wild and rocky, the surrounding greenstone and slate giving way at Bosigran to imposing and overhanging cliffs of yellow granite, which rise to more than 300 feet in height with the Atlantic foaming beneath.

The party were staying at the Climbers Club hut at Bosigran, by kind permission of the Custodian, Admiral Lawder, and it was there that a cheerful party, warmed by a glowing fire, got busy making a meal on their arrival in the early evening. A small party from the Junior Leaders Regiment, RAC, and another from the Royal Fusiliers, arrived during the night, the officer in charge of this group being Capt. Jones.

The next day was mild and sunny, and the Denbury party made an early start in the nearby Halldrine Cove, where some preparatory climbing practice and abseiling was done. During this the climbers were fortunate enough to get a good view of a seal which remained swimming close inshore for some time. After watching the climbing for a few minutes with curiosity in every whisker, he disappeared—possibly to tell his friends about the performing humans he had seen.

The afternoon saw the group starting on more serious work on the Bosigran Ridges, which provide about 400 feet of mixed climbing to very difficult standard, with airy situations, tricky traverses, and a variety of ups and downs. The route is better known as Commando Ridge, so called because it was used for Commando training

during the last war. A plaque to commemorate this is fixed in a prominent place at the top of the ridge. J/Sgt. Wraith and J/Sig. Mooney, who are well on the way to proving themselves qualified to become full members of the Army Mountaineering Association, each led a rope very capably up the whole of the ridge. And, indeed, the whole party climbed very well on rock which was more difficult and more exposed than some of them had experienced before.

After an evening meal everyone went out for an evening's relaxation. The majority found their way to St. Ives, strangely quiet out of the summer season, but as quaint and picturesque as its many resident artists could wish.

Sunday was another bright and sunny day, and the party split into groups in the area of the main cliff face, some climbing Alison's Rib (very difficult), The Gendarme (difficult), and the majority also climbing the well-known Black Slab on the main face. This is an exciting climb with a difficult rock pinnacle in the middle section and an exposed slab above coated with a black material (schorl) which gives the climb its name. During this climb an occasional dash of spray could be felt from the sea below. This proved a distinct encouragement to all performers to devote due care and attention to their holds. During the morning J/L/Cpl. Wilson showed that he was capable of leading a rope, and J/Sig. Tibbs proved that he had not lost his touch either. J/Sgt. Wraith and J/Sig. Mooney both led a rope up Black Slab, and are the first Junior Leaders from this Regiment to lead this climb.

It was then necessary to return to the club hut as the return journey to Denbury had to be started during the afternoon. After a good meal, supplemented by "goodies" prepared by Mesdames Nye and Worsley, the party prepared to leave. Nine Junior Leaders were quickly seated in the truck, leaving Major Nye and Capt. Worsley to wash the dishes and clean up.

But not for long. The situation was quickly adjusted, and half an hour later the three-tonner, complete with nine perspiring Junior Leaders, set out in bright sunshine to return to camp.

The party was Major Nye, Capt. Worsley, J/Sgt. Wraith, J/L/Cpl. Wilson, J/Sigs. Mooney, Tibbs, Waugh, Cashley, Webster, Dalston, Wellington, and Dvr. Wilson.

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"X" - PULSION

Someone had blundered in putting J/Sig. "X" on guard. The RSM was the first to realize this when, on the ceremonial guard-mounting, "X" tripped over his rifle, hooking his bayonet on the seat of a comrade's trousers. Fitfully, WO 1 Latimer prayed to the leprechauns and pixies, whilst a morbid character in the MT broke into a mournful Highland lament. "X's" Troop Officer just stared from a distance and pondered on the advantages of hari-kari.

Unperturbed, but still rather incredulous that he had not been selected as the C.O.s stick orderly, "X" retired from the square. True, there had been polish stains on his S.D., and even a few holes here and there, but if the Army wanted bulled footwear, what else could they expect!

However, his finest hour was yet to come!

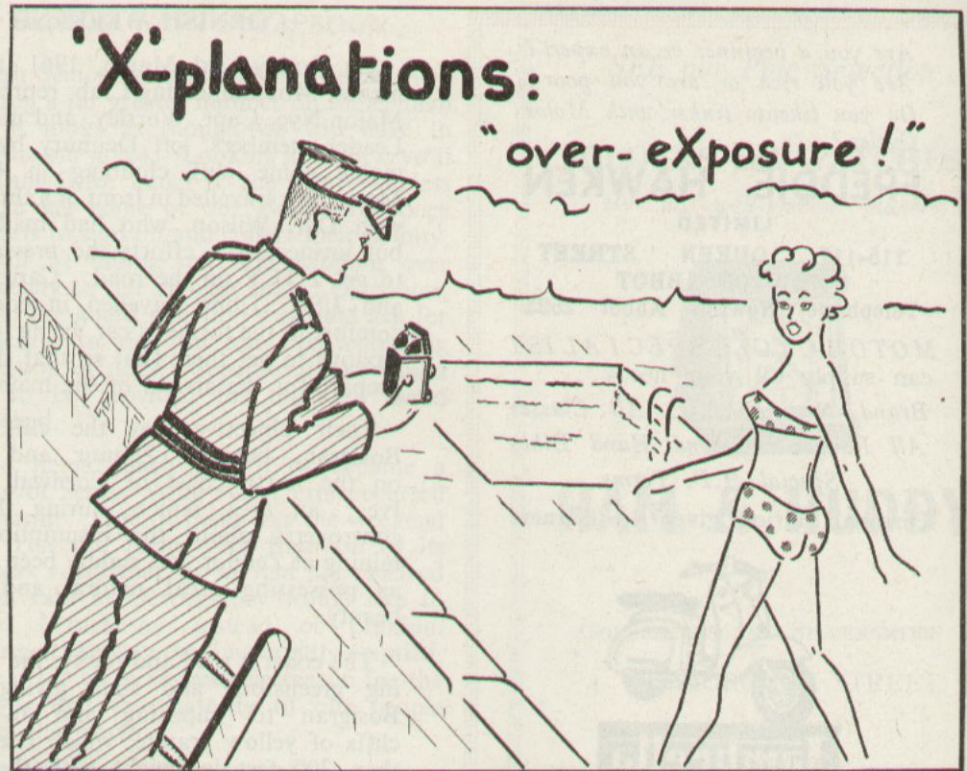
His first victim was a harmless National Service man dawdling through the twilight on his way to the Church Army. As the MO explained to the Medical Board months later, all his patient saw was some wild apparition, swinging a fearsome club, which appeared out of the shadows. His comrades put the whole thing down to either the D.T.s (but a National Service man doesn't get paid enough for those luxuries) or the "Green Hounds" sent directly from the Devil (most likely explanation).

For his part J/Sig. "X" conscientiously scrawled neatly in his notebook: "Suspishus figer seen moving round the armery—when challenged made no reply"; and, as an afterthought, "was armed with S.L.R."

Satisfied that duty had been done, J/Sig. "X" rejoined his mate at the South Gate.

"X" was in the middle of a quiet drag when an expensive limousine pulled up at the gate. "X" glanced inside and glared savagely at the lone civilian, a debonair character with a gaily-coloured cravat and Tyrolean hat.

"Your business and identity?" snapped "X."



"Don't play games; let me through," impatiently answered the figure beneath the Tyrolean hat. The feather in it shook at his words as if to emphasize them.

There was still no move from "X," so the driver motioned "X's" mate to open the gate. The car had got up to the gate when "X" slammed it to, denting the car's front bonnet violently.

Then the Tyrolean hat began shouting at "X" in a language that must have been Hindustani—anyway, it was unprintable. The feather positively quivered.

But "X" remained unmoved. He had the situation well under control and knew exactly what to do at this stage.

He turned to his mate. "Call the Adjutant," he ordered imperiously.

"I am the Adjutant," said the Tyrolean hat.

It wasn't until Staff-Sergeant Yates was tenderly tucking "X" up into a nice cool cell that "X" was able to reflect on the rapid transition from the chosen guardian of the camp's security to his ignominious position as inmate of the Inward Bound Club.



Off-duty smartness

Gieves have been making uniforms from Wellington's day onwards. But here's proof that we know a thing or two about clothes for off-duty wear. The illustration shows a single breasted blazer in serge or hopsack with cavalry twill trousers

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DARTMOOR

11.—GHOST OF CRANMERE

To Junior Leaders, Cranmere Pool is a spot on Dartmoor, with no water in the pool, which can be difficult to find. There is, however, one old Dartmoor legend which suggests that it may be haunted.

In the latter years of the seventeenth century, seafaring was a dangerous life; apart from the perils of the sea there was also the risk of being captured by Turkish pirates. One of the tasks of the Mayor of Okehampton was the organization of a fund to provide ransom to relieve Turkish prisoners. When Benjamin Gayer, a prominent ship-owner, was Mayor, he had a large fund for this purpose.

Following the news of a shipwreck, which was likely to bankrupt him, he secretly converted the ransom money to his own use in order to cover his losses.

However, his conscience worried him so much that he became seriously ill, and eventually died. Even then he could not rest in peace, and his uneasy spirit began to haunt the neighbourhood. The people of Okehampton objected strongly to these spiritual visitations and asked for relief. The Archdeacon and 23 other members of the local clergy ordered the ghost to depart, but to no avail.

Finally an old moor man, formerly a sailor, addressed the spirit of Benjamin Gayer in Arabic, compelling the spirit to assume the form of a colt. Still acting under instructions from the ancient seafarer, the best horseman in the town was engaged to ride this colt, and a new bridle and bit were procured for the purpose.

Strict instructions were issued that under no circumstances was the colt allowed to gaze behind him during his journey. Accordingly, colt and rider set off across Dartmoor on a very light rein.

Approaching Cranmere Pool, the rider urged the colt into a gallop down the steep slope, and then, as they neared the water's edge, slipped from the colt's back, removing the bridle and bit. With a mournful and despairing cry, the colt plunged into the depths of Cranmere Pool, which in those days was quite deep, and has never been seen since.

The records of the town show that a gentleman by the name of Benjamin Gayer was the Mayor of Okehampton on four separate occasions during the years 1673, 1678, 1684, and 1694. Have you ever met Benjamin Gayer at Cranmere Pool?

HISTORY OF THE SIGNALS

10.—WARTIME DEVELOPMENTS

Russia's entry into the war on the Allied side did not have such an immediate direct effect on the army as did the participation of Japan and the United States. There were many problems extending over the fields of communications and radar which required urgent solution if the British and United States forces were to fight alongside. "The United States Signal Corps was administratively more self-contained than Royal Signals, as it handled its own supply and maintenance of technical equipment."

Planning for operations in Normandy (Overlord) "indicated that to launch the expedition a large signals centre would have to be built for a combined headquarters at Portsmouth, and this was put in hand and used in Aug., 1942, for the Dieppe raid."

In North Africa, length of communications presented new problems to the British and American forces involved, and there were notable technical advances. "The permanent line arteries built behind Eighth Army from Cairo to Tunis and behind First Army from Algiers to Tunis were eventually linked together. Great progress was made also on both the North African and Middle East lines of communications in the multiple use of corner systems on the same route."

Like Operation Overlord in Normandy, Operation Husky for Sicily and Italy presented its own signals problems. Owing to the amount of damage inflicted, "the civil telecommunications system had to undergo major reconstruction before it could be of any military value. . . . The most valuable asset would be the underground cable, since it inter-connected most of the important communications in Italy."

In the meantime, warfare in the Far East was still raging, with the long-distance penetration raids carried out by Wingate's "Special Force" of Chindits. The main objects were in destroying the far-flung Japanese lines of communication, and although material success was costly, the raids were terrific morale-boosters.

"Signals organization for these raids was based mainly on portable wireless sets for reconnaissance and internal communications, with light cables and telephones carried in addition. Brigade headquarters were equipped with direct wireless links to the operational base and to the supporting aircraft dropping supplies, and homing sets were provided to guide aircraft to airstrips."

All quotations are from "The Royal Corps of Signals," by Maj.-Gen. R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

There was once a little old man who was very lonely and nervous. His eyes blinked and his hand trembled so that he rattled his cup and saucer, and his knife and fork on his plate distressingly. He often missed his mouth and slopped his food over the table or his clothes. Now this poor man lived with his married son because he had nowhere else to live. His daughter-in-law knew that old in-laws should not have to be tolerated in any woman's home.

"I can't have this," she said, "it interferes with a woman's right to happiness." So she persuaded her husband, and together they took the old man and led him to the corner of the kitchen. There they set him on a stool and gave him his food in an old earthenware bowl. From then on he always ate in that corner.

Now he became more lonely and unwanted, and he trembled more than before. One day his fumbling hands dropped the bowl and it smashed on the floor.

"You are a pig," said his daughter-in-law, "and now you will eat out of a trough like one," and she gave him his food in a small pig-trough from that day.

Now this young woman and her husband had a son, of whom they were very fond. He was five years old. One supper-time when he was called into the house he was a

long time in coming, and he had with him some pieces of wood and a couple of nails which he was trying to put together.

His parents wondered what he was doing. "I'm making a trough," he said, smiling up at them for approval, "to feed you and Mamma out of when you are old."

They looked at each other for a while. They could not speak, but tears came into their eyes, and without a word they went to the corner and gently led the old man to the table. They sat him on the most comfortable chair and gave him a fine supper on a plate. And he became a member of the family again.

★

BAND NEWS

A WARM-UP

Summertime is traditionally the busiest time of the year for the Band and Drums, but this year the pleasing weather is giving them an early start.

First they will have played at the replayed Cup Final at Rackerhayes on the afternoon of Friday, 24th March (by which time this copy will be at the printers). The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, entertained us with their band at Bovington, so naturally the compliment must be repaid.

Secondly, the Band will be assuming its usual prominence on the occasion of the Graduation Parade, April 11th.

Finally, the townfolk of Newton Abbot are once again to be awakened by the merry din of the trumpets and the steady "rock" of the drums as the Band leads the Regiment down to Newton Abbot Station to bid farewell to the Output.

We also hear news of impending changes in the Regimental Retreat procedure, but more of that next month.

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COMPETITION

Most of us have television sets—or at least access to a television set—and whereas some watch haphazardly, others are more selective. Here we are merely talking generally about some of the more popular series, and ask you to identify them. Discussion will be more round the background to the programmes rather than asking for detailed knowledge. Even if you can't identify each of these, you will pick up some interesting points about various popular programmes.

Send your answers to the Editor, 'Junior Mercury,' Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, Devon, before Monday, 30th April, 1961. There will be a choice of prizes of either books or records.

DO YOU VIEW ?

1. Father and Son

Here a son produces his father, having done so at least 60 out of the 75-plus times they have been on BBC TV. Here is a quotation from the son talking about his father's show: "There's a kind of sympathetic understanding between us that helps a lot. Only once have we ever really been 'het up' with each other. You see, I've been interested in my father's shows from the age of four, when he began taking me round the country for his Sunday night —."

"I know what he can do, and what he can't. And he knows I know."

To which show are we referring ?

2. Your Sweetheart ?

A lady who has over 20 years of broadcasting experience, who can still rely on charm and personality to put over a grand show. Her husband is Harry Lewis. Her story is one of singing success, in words and music. Who is she ?

3. Not Just for Children

This is the second children's hour serial about the same family. Admittedly the action takes place in the early 1900's, but this tends to add to its general charm rather than detract from it. The family consists of Dad and his six children, which includes one pair of twins. The children have a friend next door, Albert, who gets them into plenty of trouble from time to time.

With which family is the series associated ?

4. Travelling with Nature.

A young man went to Cambridge University with Peter May, England's cricket captain. Since then he has travelled all over the world, mostly in connection with the animal world. He is celebrated as a TV personality, and has won world acclaim, being televised by the BBC, also in Canada, Australia, and on the Continent. He is famous, too, as an author, revealing a delightful style and an irrepressible sense of humour. Incidentally, he is the younger brother of a well-known actor and film star.

Well, those were easy enough !

February Winners

Our February competition was a simple one. Sgt. Jones made the greater profit. Only statement (e) was certainly true, in saying that some of the Londoners prefer playing soccer.

Correct answers were received from Keith Holloway (whom many will remember as ex-Iron Troop) and Michael O'Donoghue, from Dartington, near Totnes. As prizes Holloway will receive a book, "Ladies Won't Wait," by Peter Cheyney, and O'Donoghue the record "Hunky Dinky Doo"/"The End," by Earl Grant with the chorus and orchestra.

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ROUND THE

HOWLERS

Educationally, Junior Leaders at the time of writing are on examinations, and our reporter went round to check on prospects. Instructors provided the following examples from the pre-examination tests.

Current Affairs

"To oppose N.A.T.O., S.E.A.T.O. was formed, S.E.A.T.O.'s members being Russia, China, Malaya, and Korea."

One potential candidate listed Africa, India, and Pakistan as prominent members of the European Common Market.

Another candidate commented on Israel's refusal to join Nasser's United Arab Republic.

Many candidates talked at length about the "TRAIL" of Lady Chatterley's lover.

Asked to comment on the Wolfenden Report on Sport, one answer read: "The Wolfenden Report this year was on homosexuality, and it recommended that it should no longer be a crime."

A reference to the Chinese "Naturalist" Government was also appreciated.

U.N.O. was formed in 1945 "to take over the DERELICT League of Gentlemen."

English

Asked to write an essay on the controversial topic "Is the Cinema Doomed?" one opening sentence read: "In my OPIUM the cinema is and is not doomed."

From a punctuation passage: "Pat was sorting out mail in the Carlisle Post Office when a stranger entered and RAPED the counter."

The concluding sentence to a discussive essay: "These are my reasons, and I shall stick to them unless I have proved myself wrong."

Science

"In a modern cell the depolarizer is kept in a Moslem bag." (So much better than the old-fashioned muslin bag!)

Geography

Question: Why is wheat not grown on a large scale in the Honiton area?

Answer: There are no large scales in the Honiton area.

General Topics

Question: What do the letters Q.M. stand for?

Answer: Choir (Quire) Master.

Question: What do the letters C.I.G.S. stand for?

Answer: Cigarettes.

TALENT OF IMAGINATION

In the recent talent competition held in the Globe Cinema, J/L/Cpl. Etherton and J/Sig. Blakeborough emerged as winners. They put on a comedy turn in two parts. First Etherton appeared as a small child holding the hand of his imaginary mother, in a commercial TV "take-off" of a new-style distemper. Then Blakeborough appeared riding on an imaginary motor-cycle, and had great difficulty in loading an imaginary musket. By this time the audience must have been puzzled as to who was mad—they or their entertainers. Still, like many things in White Spear Troop, IT'S ALL IN THE MIND. However, everybody enjoyed their act, which was well above the normal standard of troop buffoonry.

Second prize was won by the Jukes, a skiffle group starring J/Sigs. Croy, McKay, Lindsay, and Moore. An organization reminiscent of the Black Diamonds, with more musical sense, but lacking a singer.

The last prize was won by a new pair of entertainers entitling themselves "The Musical Barber," and starring J/Sigs. Kearns and Pinder—"shades of Geronimo."

MIDNIGHT PARADE

It was quarter past twelve in the morning's earliest hour when the Orderly Sergeant received an anonymous telephone call informing him that there were females "all over the camp." By a brilliant piece of detective work the call was traced to a certain of Slim Squadron Junior/Senior NCOs attending a party at the W.V.S. flat.

The RSM decided to award a fine to the jokers in question, but declined to tell them immediately of the nature of this fine. A few days after the culprits were awakened at precisely the same hour as the original telephone call by the Orderly Sergeant.

Attired in track suits and boots they proceeded on a six-round course of the drill square. It is fair to note that they appreciated the "cutlet for cutlet" approach, and each in turn ran ahead, mounted the saluting dais and received the appropriate compliment from their comrades. Such was their effort that the senior member stripped down to boots and PT pants before the end.

Footnote.—To ensure fair play, the Orderly Sergeant covered the full course himself in his car, with his headlights playing on the runners.

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CAMP

NORWAY VISIT

Lt. Whitehead is taking a party of seven Junior Leaders (four from Alexander Squadron and three from Slim Squadron) on a visit to Norway. This will be the third in a series of exchanges between the School of Signals at Jostermoen, Norway, and this Regiment. In the spring of 1959 Capt. Robinson took a party of Junior Leaders to Norway, and the same autumn Maj. Rothwell was responsible for a party of Norwegians at Denbury.

Lt. Whitehead's party sailed from Newcastle on March 4th, arriving in Oslo on the morning of the 6th. Monday morning is set aside for sight-seeing in Oslo, and then they entrain for Jostermoen, near Lillehammer.

On arrival they will be issued with a complete set of equipment, plus skis. During the first week they will listen to lectures from Norwegian Signals, and commence ski-ing lessons. The second week their ski-ing should be sufficiently advanced to do some military training, and in the final week they are hoping to join the School of Signals in an exercise on the Gstaad mountains.

The party will sail from Oslo during the last weekend in March, arriving back in time for the end of term competitions.

Editor's Note. Our May edition of 'Junior Mercury' will include a full account of this visit written by one of our reporters who is at present in Norway.

"SEE HOW THEY RUN"

A covey, a gaggle, a shoal, a pride—these are well-known collective terms for groups of this, that, and the other. But what word are we to use for a collection of clergymen? Whatever we favour, whether a 'concourse' of clerics, an 'effusion' of ecclesiastics, or a 'clutter' of the cloth, the batch we are to see in "See How They Run" at the end of May will be sure to produce a laughter.

This farce in three acts by Philip King will be presented by the Denbury Players under the guiding hand of Capt. D. G. Rowe. A riot of rehearsals has already demonstrated that the laugh-appeal of this piece is irresistible. Mirth prevails at all points. The situations involving mistaken identity, ruffled dignity, and studied theatricality are generously peppered with delicious niblets of near-slapstick.

The action of the play takes place in the Vicarage at Merton-cum-Middlewick some time during the war, so look out for some light-hearted prods at our own service. If you have to report sick next morning with aching sides, don't say you haven't been warned. You have a treat in store. Don't miss it!

THE SECRET

Members of Kukri Troop were intrigued by a certain locked room. Sgt. Maher was seen to go into there often and stay there for long periods. Members of the troop followed him around awaiting their chance. Finally one day it came. The door was left unlocked. What was in there? TWO PIGEONS. All ready for the Inter-Troop Pigeon Race. One boy complained bitterly: "He thinks more of those pigeons than he does of us." Sgt. Maher's reply: "But there's something lovable about a pigeon."

JUNIOR COUNCIL

The Junior Leaders Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment have now secluded themselves from the "herd" with the aid of a red canvas screen in the dining hall.

Here, under the mystic title of "Junior Council," the NCOs dine in privacy, unseen by the remainder, to meditate in perfect peace.

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also take advantage of it. Dividend or discount is payable on the majority of items and the maximum credit charge is only a penny in the pound each month. Payments may be made weekly, fortnightly or monthly. There is no problem about postings; an agreement signed in the United Kingdom can be transferred to any Naafi shop anywhere. Ask your shop manager for details.

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DISC-USSION

"Are You Sure," sung by the Allison's, which is at present suspended in the top ten, made an unsuccessful attempt to win for us the Eurovision Song Contest.

They were, however, placed second, making Britain the runners-up in this contest for the third year.

Elvis is doing very well, thank you, because he doesn't have a "Wooden Heart." This is a pleasant record with a mixture of English and German—which shows why Presley topped the German hit parade with this for some three months.

Matt Munro has climbed into the top ten with "My Kind of Girl." This is my kind of record, and this young man, who made his mark opening an L.P. for Peter Sellers, has really made the grade.

If the eagerly-awaited film "Exodus" proves as good as the theme music it should prove a goldmine. The music is a magnificent orchestral piece, and easily the best thing since "Summer Place." Well worth listening to, and a "must" for my turntable.

Reigning champions, the Everly Brothers, are precariously perched on top whilst "Walking Right Back," and our own Cliff Richard tells us about his "Theme for a Dream," a number in the "Travellin' Light" and "Livin' Doll" style. Cliff, like his American counterpart Elvis, is proving that he can sing, and first-class jobs they are making of doing just that.

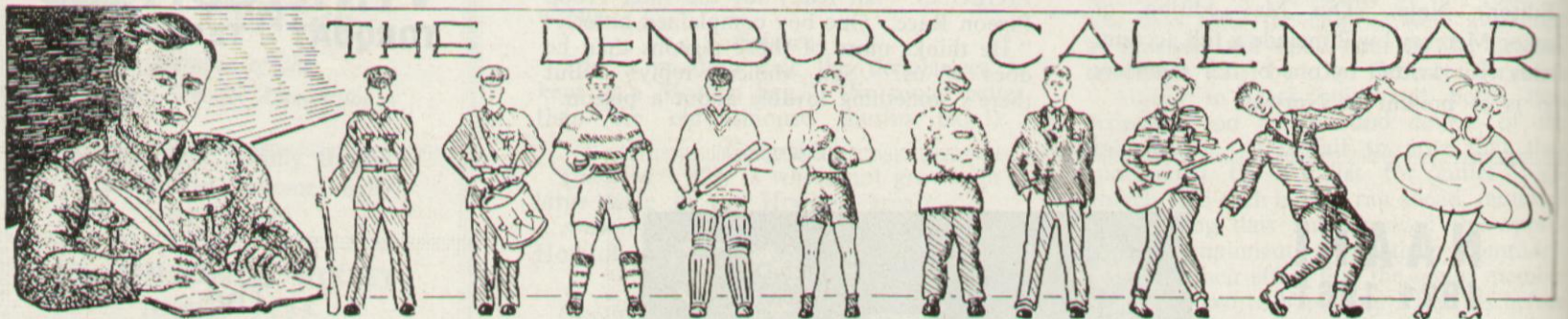
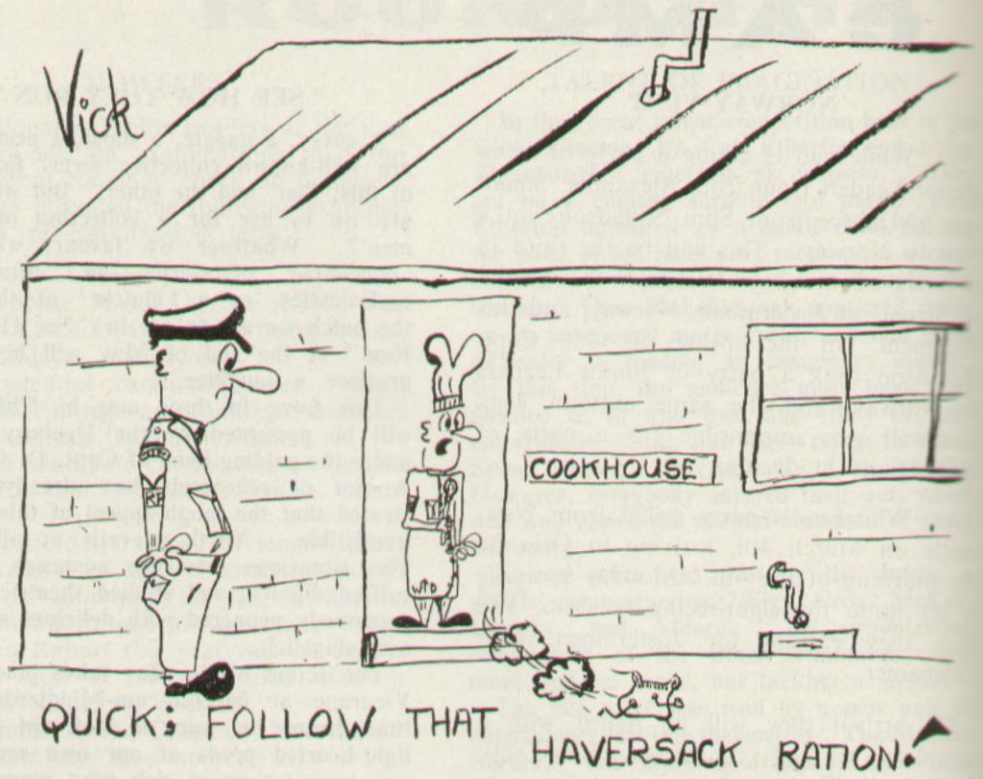
America's "poperoo," Connie Francis, tells us that it was "Many Tears Ago" "Where the Boys Were." Two excellent recordings for this versatile young woman. Hi-yo record-away, "Pitdown Rides Again," a rocked-up version of the "William Tell" Overture, by the Pitdown Men, has the earmark of a winner. In our L.P. parlour we find that once again Elvis is back with an L.P. of this title and also "G.I. Blues." Both are well worth listening to, and each has several vintage Presley-type numbers

intermingled with the now squarish Elvis. "South Pacific" still retains an honoured place in the list, and represents first-class musical value for money. A jewel of considerable lustre is "Shirley"; this young Red Hot Mamma sparkles on every track. Wonderful! A second that set my ears flapping, feet tapping, and voice humming is John Barry's "Beat Girl." This terrific recording of film music deserved a better film. This record has the lot for the rockers. The theme tune—kid stuff really—goes, as

do the Adam Faith vocals.

Other tracks give us some terrific jazz. While for the futuristic, "A.D. 2000" is a haunting melancholia that sets shivers going. A "must" for any record library, this 18-track L.P. was composed by John Barry, and this young Yorkshire man with his seven or his orchestra has really got something.

Our classical recommendation this month is "Lanza Sings Caruso." The late Mario is in great voice.



APRIL, 1961

Sat.,	1	SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION	Denbury
		The intention is to provide some relaxation, training and interest for members of the M.T. Section. There will be five tests to be performed in one-tonner and three-tonner Bedfords.	
Sun.,	2	EASTER SUNDAY FAMILIES SERVICE	St. George's Church
		Following the service, the Chairman of the Bovey Tracey Charter 700th Anniversary Celebrations Committee will unveil a plaque on Denbury Cross. The Regiment will then March Past.	
Mon.,	3	INTER-SQUADRON RUGBY MATCH	Denbury
Tues.,	4	COMMONWEALTH TROPHY	
		The termly inter-Troop race across Dartmoor, in which every boy in the Regiment participates, involving radio procedure, stamina, and map-reading ability.	
Wed.,	5	INTER-SQUADRON BASKETBALL JAMBOREE	Denbury
Thurs.,	6	Inter-Troop Drill Competition Inter-Troop Hockey Semi-Finals	
Fri.,	7	Commanding Officer's Inter-Troop Barrack Room Inspection Competition	
Mon.,	10	Inter-Troop Hockey Finals	
Tues.,	11	GRADUATION PARADE	
		The Parade will be taken by Major-General J. H. Cubbon, C.B.E., Commander 43 (Wessex) Div. District	
Thurs.,	13	TERM ENDS	

FOOTBALL

NOT SIGNALS DAY

The Southern Command (Minor Units) semi-final of the Soccer Cup was played on Wednesday, March 1st, at Denbury, between Junior Leaders Regiment, R. Signals, Staff XI. and RAOC, Corsham. The weather was brilliant, but the Staff did not match up to it.

Dvr. Townsend put the Signals in the lead with a fine goal from a good pass from Cpl. Penney about 15 minutes from the start; then RAOC equalized. L/Cpl. Stapenell scored in the 32nd minute, but this was all. In the second half, with a strong wind and brilliant sunshine against the Staff, they struggled to maintain their slender lead against steadily overpowering opposition.

After a quarter of an hour of the second half had passed the Ordnance equalized and quickly went into the lead against a tiring Signals XI. Now RAOC were firmly on the goal trail and scored two more fine goals to make the final score 5-2.

This was not Signals' day. They played the better football, but just didn't have the finishing touches. Sig. Scott missed an open goal, L/Cpl. Cook was caught continually offside, and Sgt. Angell never really dominated the centre. Outstanding players were J/Cpl. Hine and Sig. James, and Cpl. Summers gave a fine display of goalkeeping.



by Sgt. Martin

SGT. LOCKYER

Sgt. Lockyer, now in the Army Catering Corps, first joined the Army in 1939 as an 18-year-old regular soldier in the Royal West Kent Regiment. During the war he fought with his Regiment in France, Malta, and the Dodecanese Islands, before being captured by the Germans and spending eighteen months as a prisoner-of-war. Older members of the Regiment will remember a proud Sgt. Lockyer being awarded his medal for 18 years Long Service and Good Conduct on parade.

His favourite sport is soccer, and whilst stationed at Aldershot he played regularly with Farnham Town Reserves. Since arriving at Denbury he has been playing with the Newton Abbot Spurs, and is one of the leading lights in the Cooks XI.—“still capable of showing the youngsters a thing or two.”

A SMALL GROUND

The Junior Leaders Football XI. lost their match to Torquay Grammar School 4-2. J/Ssm Bourgoise and J/Sig. Booker were the scorers for Signals.

The team as a whole played well below their normal standard, for which Torquay's midget-sized pitch can be partially blamed. One player who deserves mention was J/Sig. Wilson (Francisca Troop), a new member of the team, who played a great game, providing encouragement for next year.

THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

By their 10-2 victory over Nutbush Rovers, the Junior Leaders Football XI. made sure of winning the South Devon Youth League. Although they have two more matches to play, they cannot now be caught by any other team.

J/SSM. BOURGOISE

J/SSM Bourgoise is an all-round sportsman who dabbles at everything—“except boxing, which I detest.” He has been a regular member of the Regimental Football XI. for the past two seasons, and was recently honoured by his selection for the South Devon Youth League. Before joining the Regiment he had played regularly for Jersey (Channel Islands) Youth XI.

In the summer he concentrates on the high jump—and won that event in the triangular event between the Regiment, Totnes and Newton Abbot Grammar Schools last summer.

“Bugs” Bourgoise has a fine display of medals for football, swimming, road running, and athletics. For next term he says: “I want to try playing a bit of cricket, just for a change.” During his time here he has proved conclusively to all would-be sportsmen that to play games well you must be fit.



by Sgt. Martin

HOCKEY

BRIEF CUP APPEARANCE

On March 2nd, the Staff Hockey XI. made their first and only appearance in the Army Cup.

Their quarter-final opponents and hosts at Devizes were the RAPC Training Centre XI.

The match was played on the nearby Police ground, which left little to be desired.

Battle commenced from the opening bully and raged up and down the field with extreme fury.

Both sides had shaky moments but neither side had scored by halftime.

After the interval the pace increased and the Staff almost scored with a shot which hit the upright and went the wrong way. Just before the end a Pay Corps shot from an oblique angle hit the upright and went in. This was the only goal, and the Staff were defeated but not disgraced.

ONLY RUNNERS-UP

The final of the Southern Command Minor Units took place at Larkhill on March 10th. There the Staff Hockey XI. met CAD, Bramley, and their Waterloo.

CAD Bramley were somewhat flattered by the score—5-0 in their favour—for although superior they were not worth so great a margin.

However, defensive lapses are usually expensive, and this game ran true to form. At least three goals were “given away” in this manner. The most glaring occasion was when a forward was allowed to “tee up” his ball at the edge of the circle, pick his spot and shoot without hindrance.

Apart from this, the Staff played hard and, with luck, might have snatched a consolation goal or two. Finishing was, on the whole, rather weak.

So the Staff left Larkhill with nothing—except a few painful memories and an odd thought of what might have been.

GUNNERS TOO SMOOTH

Defeat tastes bitter, but sometimes becomes an addiction. This, unfortunately, seemed to be the case with the Staff Hockey XI. in their last cup match—the semi-final of the Command Major Units on Taunton School ground on March 20th.

The old rhythm had gone and much of the zip with it.

The team as a whole looked jaded compared with the superb combination of the School of Artillery.

The pitch was first-class, and most of the school must have been watching.

By halftime the Gunners were two goals up, the second of which was a real beauty.

After the interval, despite dogged resistance, it was only a matter of time before more goals came. They came. One, a neat push past the advancing ‘keeper; another, a ricochet off a back’s leg; the last an easy tap-in after the ‘keeper had been beaten by the bounce.

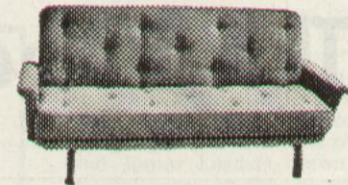
Five goals without reply took the Gunners into the final—and good luck to them.



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BASKETBALL

TWO DOWN

Two friendly fixtures, on a home and away basis, both ended in victories to the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, over our Staff basketball team. The first, at Denbury, was a free-scoring match, 58-42, showing both sides to be weak in defence. The Staff's points were evenly divided amongst Sgt. Creek (14), Capt. Burke (10), Sgt. Jamieson (10), and WO II. Wheatley (8).

In the second match, Dartmouth piled further ahead to win 61-31, with only Sgt. Meekings (11) able to find the basket.

WHEN IS THE DECIDER ?

A new series of basketball fixtures with the Royal Marines from Lympstone, home and away, ended in a draw. At Denbury we defeated them comfortably 51-14, with Sgt. Meekings scoring 24 points and Sgt. Creek 18. It is worthy of note that this is the only time since winning the South-Western District Basketball Cup that the whole team has played together.

Royal Marines, however, obtained their revenge the following week, defeating us 34-25 in a closely-fought battle. Signals were missing Sgts. Creek and Angell on this occasion. It is hoped to have the decider in the not too distant future.



Forwards in the thick of it

by S/Sgt. Wilson

RUGBY

WELL DONE THE RUGBY XV.

INTO THE FINAL

Denbury Camp was bathed in sunshine on the occasion of the Royal Signals Junior Leaders playing their counterparts from Tomfanau, the All Arms Regiment, in the semi-final of the Army Junior Rugby Cup.

The last occasion on which these two teams had met was in the final of this competition last year, when the Signals were victorious 9-3.

Both teams started off a little nervously, and for the first quarter of an hour Signals were mainly on the defensive. Then All Arms scored from a penalty and Signals sprang into life. Signals forwards started to "get a grip" with some ferocious play in the loose, with J/Sig. Farmer prominent. J/Sig. Robertson came nearest to scoring, being brought down inches short of the line.

After 20 minutes of play the Signals captain, J/Sig. Hill, playing at fly-half, equalized with a beautiful dropped goal.

Again All Arms scored from a penalty, but Hill replied with an equally successful penalty to level the scores at 6-6.

By now the Signals forwards had a firm grip on the game, and it was Hill who initiated the movement which J/L/Cpl. Jacobs completed with a fine sprint up-field, including a body swerve which left two would-be tacklers sprawling, to score the only try of the game.

Despite further attacks from Signals, the All Arms spoiled successfully, and the final score of 9-6 was sufficient to see the Signals into the final.

CUP FINAL DRAW

Even as the two XV.s representing the RAC Junior Leaders Regiment and the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, ran out on to the field it was obvious that the only drawback to a classic cup final lay in the wind. The pitch was nearly

flat, spectators were roped off well back, there was no brilliant sunshine to confuse the players, the ground was not too soft—perfect for open rugby, except for strong cross-wind.

For the first 10 minutes RAC pressed, then the Signals forwards rallied with a great "take," in which J/L/Cpl. Yates, J/Sigs. Wraith and Farmer were prominent. The ball was scrambled into touch on the RAC 25-yard line. It came out cleanly from J/Sgt. Genge to J/Sgt. Feirn, a dummy scissors between J/Sig. Lyons and Hill, enabling Hill to make the outside break, then through to centre J/L/Cpl. Jacobs to J/Sig. Booker, who scored in the corner.

This try put heart into the forwards, who throughout the game played magnificently in the loose, yet could not get the ball back from the tight scrummages. J/Sig. Robertson nearly scored soon after from a kick ahead, but had not the speed. The RAC equalized with a scrappy try.

In the second half Signals forwards kept the play inside the RAC's 25, but could not clinch the matter. It was the same in extra time, though in a spasmodic attack RAC came nearest to scoring but were unable to ground the ball satisfactorily.

So to the replay at Denbury!
Man of the match? Difficult, as all the XV. played well, but our vote goes to J/Sig. Robertson for some really solid tackling, tireless foraging in the loose, and excellent covering in defence. For RAC, their outside-half showed himself as their danger man with some fine breaks and long kicks—despite THAT WIND.

STOP PRESS

NEXT: REPLAY THE REPLAY

For the second time in a week the Junior Leaders Regiments of the Royal Signals and the Royal Armoured Corps battled the Rugby Cup Final out

BOXING

INTER-SERVICES CHAMPION

Congratulations to J/Sig. Tucker, who won the Imperial Services Boxing Association bantamweight championship, 1960-61. In these championships Tucker showed admirable consistency in knocking out both the RAF and the Navy champions in the second round.

His next stage was in the ISBA Cadet Championships, which is concurrently the quarter-finals of the Amateur Boxing Association championships. Here he fought against last year's ABA champion, who is a Devon ATC boy. However, Tucker's opponent had too much experience for him and the referee stopped the fight in the first round.

STOP PRESS—Continued

for a drawn game. The replay of the Bovington game was played at Rackerhayes, Newton Abbot, on Friday, March 24th.

From the start Signals moved straight into the attack, and J/Sig. Hill narrowly missed a dropped goal in the opening minutes of the first half. The RAC missed a penalty kick under the posts, and the game swayed to and fro.

In the second half Signals forwards predominated, but were unable to score. Just before full-time Hill repaid the earlier compliment by missing an easy penalty straight between the posts, having the mortification of seeing it hit the upright.

During extra time both sides, although obviously tired, pressed hard, but even the extra ten minutes yielded no score.

The feature of the game lay in the excellent covering and hard tackling of both XV.s. Both packs played well and hard, but despite the Signals ascendancy in the right scrummages (well done, Thomas), the RAC wing-forwards allowed Hill no room in which to move.

J/Sig. Lyons for his hard tackling, J/L/Cpl. Yates for some fine lineout play, and J/L/Cpl. Jacobs for his intelligent punting to a perfect depth, all deserve special mention.

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