

JUNIOR MERCURY

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JANUARY, 1962



Army Rugby Cup for Denbury?

Three successive years?

(SEE PAGE 12)



OUR NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

Three weeks ago I had the honour of taking over command of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, from Lt.-Col. GREGORY. The Regiment's fine reputation throughout Royal Signals and throughout the Army bears testimony to Col. GREGORY's leadership and to the loyal support he has been given by the staff and Junior Leaders at Denbury. On behalf of all our readers I would like to thank Col. GREGORY for his devoted work for the Regiment, and to wish him every success and happiness in the future.

I have similar views to Col. GREGORY on all the important issues which concern the Regiment. As a consequence of this I do not wish, initially, to make any major changes in the organization and training of the Regiment, and I intend to give my full support to the many excellent ideas which Col. GREGORY has introduced over the past two years. I shall give every encouragement to the Band, the Choir, the Highland Dancing Team, and the Social Club. As much Adventure Training and Sport as possible will continue to be included in the training programme.

In the short time I have spent at Denbury I have been most impressed by the enthusiasm and team spirit within the Regiment. The high standards of leadership, training, and education achieved by our Junior Leaders passing out into man service are a credit to the young men themselves and to the officers and NCOs who have taught, guided, and led them. I have also been heartened by the support given to the Regiment by parents and by our friends in South Devon. Your help and interest, so generously given, makes our work so much easier. Thank you also for supporting the 'Junior Mercury.' I know that I can count on your continued support, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the next few months.

As befits a new Commanding Officer at Denbury, I have had an early initiation into the charms and pitfalls of Dartmoor. Soon after starting on the course of the Commonwealth Trophy, I received an accidental baptism in the River Tavy. In the darkness of the next four hours



Lt. Col. A. HOLIFIELD, M.C.

I appear to have discovered—the hard way—a high proportion of the bogs and water-courses on the Moor! However, I have little doubt that Dartmoor has its charms, and I look forward to seeing and appreciating them when the better weather comes round.

I come to the Regiment at a most interesting time. Only a few weeks ago the Army Council decided that Denbury is to be our permanent home. We can now look forward, in a few years time, to the construction of a permanent camp on the present site, complete with modern single and married accommodation, lecture rooms, science laboratories, dining halls, clubs, etc. In the meantime work on several temporary projects, including a new educational block and a new cook-house, will start early in 1962. I will do my best to ensure that provision of permanent married quarters is given a high priority. It is hoped to complete the issue of the new-pattern uniforms to both the Junior Leaders and the military staff early in 1962.

We all welcome the prospect of these material benefits to the Regiment, and I am sure that they will help to make our work in Denbury easier and more pleasant. However, let us never forget that the spirit of a Regiment counts for far more than the conditions under which it lives and works. I shall do all I can to ensure that the spirit of enthusiasm, adventure, and service continues to flourish in Denbury, and I am sure that I can count on the support of you all. Our Regiment has a fine record of which we can all be proud. Let us now go forward together, building on the past to an even greater future.

Alan Holifield



EDITORIAL

First, we take this opportunity to wish all our readers and advertisers a very happy New Year, with our normal acknowledgments to the printing staff of the 'Mid-Devon Advertiser' for having tolerated us for a further 12 months.

Our big news of the month naturally concerns the coming of our new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. A. Holifield, M.C. His own views are on the front page, and on this page we have given a short pen-picture of his life prior to coming to Denbury—with, of course, the usual thought that "life begins at Denbury." We of the 'Junior Mercury' wish him every success in his new command, confident that the Regiment will rise to even greater heights during his tenure of command. One interesting point of comparison between Colonels Gregory and Holifield lies in the fact that, prior to joining the Regiment, Lt.-Col. Gregory had raised and commanded a Gurkha Signal Regiment, and Lt.-Col. Holifield had raised and commanded a King's African Rifles Signal Squadron. Initiative in command is obviously an essential before taking command at Denbury.

For this edition we offer a summary of last term's graduates from Denbury, Part III. of WO II Chandler's exciting escape story of the last war, a full page on canoeing in the Regiment, and our usual sporting coverage.

Our thanks go out, too, for the excellent co-operation which we have received from all the newspaper world of the south-west. The 'Mid-Devon Advertiser,' the 'Herald-Express,' the 'Mid-Devon Times,' the 'Western Morning News,' and the 'South Devon Journal' have all been kind and helpful at all times, and have been a pleasure to work with. We thank all our friends on these papers.

Finally, nearer at home, our thanks to Sgt. Martin, who works all hours of the night to produce photographs for the journal; we do appreciate all this effort. To our cartoonists, Lt. Tysoe and Sgt. O'Connor, our admiration for the way in which they unfailingly come out with the right idea at the right time (see the front page for Mr. Tysoe's impression of the new Colonel arriving in camp, and Sgt. O'Connor's pictorial impression of Dartmoor on page four).

Now to see that the Editors themselves celebrate the New Year in the correct manner . . . "Cheers to you all!"

Lt.-Col. A. Holifield, M.C.

The new Commanding Officer enlisted into the Royal Signals as a Territorial in April, 1939. On the outbreak of war, being under age to go to France, he was employed as an instructor, quickly rising to the rank of sergeant. He was commissioned in October, 1941, and embarked for North Africa with 46 Div. Signals Regiment at the end of 1942. He rose to the rank of Captain in under a year, and subsequently served in North Africa, the Middle East, Italy, and Greece. At the Salerno landings he was commanding the entire network of wireless communications; also taking part in the advance on Rome and in the Battle of Cassino. During this campaign he was awarded the Military Cross (a gallantry award).

Col. Holifield ended the war as a Major, and served in Austria until 1948. Post-war service has included instructional work in Catterick, a period on the operations staff of Northern Army Group, commanding a squadron of 18 Army Group Signal Regiment in BAOR, and a technical staff appointment in the War Office with Signals Directorate.

In 1957 he formed and commanded 1 Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles, in East Africa and, in July, 1960, became British Liaison Officer on the staff of a German/Danish NATO Headquarters at Rendsburg, in North Germany.

Lt.-Col. Holifield served as an instructor at the Kilimanjaro Outward Bound School, and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest mountain) twice, as well as Mount Kenya. He is a very keen swimmer, having represented the Army at swimming, at water polo, also as a cross-country runner. He is also a Corps half-miler (2mins.0secs.), and has done the mile in 4mins. 25secs.

Lt.-Col. Holifield is married, and has three children, Christine (14 years old), David (12), and Jean (9).

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"CHEERIO!"

At the Graduation Parade held on December 11, in typical "Greg's weather," the inspecting officer was The Right Honourable The Lord Roborough, Lord Lieutenant of Devon.

Sixty-two Junior Leaders graduated to Colour Service at the parade, and we must pay our respects to as many of them as we can.

J/RSM Spearman, who knew what he wanted, and invariably got it, will be sorely missed. So, too, will J/SSM Lycett, the term's Best Boy. The band will feel the loss of J/Sgt. Etherton, J/L/Cpl. Baker, and J/Sig. Songhurst, their Pipe-Major, Trumpet-Major, and Drum-Major respectively; and the Scottish dancers must make do without their expert, J/Cpl. Fox.

J/Sig. Hill will be remembered for his captaincy of the rugby team and his two Army winners medals; and with him go three of his henchmen, J/Cpl. Bagnall, stout and true; J/L/Cpl. McKay, who was also an outstanding cross-country runner; and J/Sgt. Round, Eve's right-hand man on the social side.

The basketball team lose Harber, the captain, and a good hockey player; J/L/Cpl. Herod who, with J/Sig. Mason, a noted high jumper, owned a car from time to time, and J/L/Cpl. Keenan, who shared with J/Sig. Blakeborough the honour of being a Regimental comedian.

Other hockey players to go are J/Sgt. Pickersgill, who spent so long in hospital with his injured knee, and J/Sig. "Noddy" Blowers.

J/S/Sgt. Barrett, one of our best boxers, and J/Sig. Watkins, another tough scrapper, have also left us.

J/Sig. Booker leaves with many honours. He won an Army gold medal for the hop, step and jump, played with the soccer team for three seasons, and was in the team that won the rugby cup last season.

J/L/Cpl. Sullivan was the 1961 Victor Ludorum, and J/Cpl. Fendley won the tennis tournament for two years running.

Even J/Cpl. Nicol and J/Sig. Wedgebury, Romulus Troop's strong-arm men, have had to go at last, together with J/L/Cpl. Jones, who has the distinction of having attended three Army Outward Bound courses.

J/Sigs. Hollowell and Tibbs were two original and stalwart members of the 'Junior Mercury' staff; Hollowell was an all-rounder, and Tibbs our champion salesman.

To these, to "Blob" Jobs, and to all others who achieved nothing—except success—we say: "Cheerio; it's been nice having you."



Some of the Outpost March Past.

(Courtesy of Herald Express)

These are the Training Regiments to which the Output are going:

8 SIGNAL REGIMENT		224 SIGNAL SQUADRON			
Cable Jointers		Special Operators			
Blakeborough	Harber	Bagnall	Booker	Fendley	Jerram
Mitchell	Watts	Etherton	French	Keenan	Lindsay
Wedgebury	Wright	Hollowell	Needham	Pope	Sneddon
		Maidment	Murray	Smart	Swift
		Robson	Thompson	Tibbs	Unwin
		Watson		Watkins	
Radio Relay Operators					
Crowden	Lycett				
Rivett					
R. Technicians (Lt.)					
Herod	Smith (23)				
McKay	Songhurst				
L. Technicians					
Hill	Hindmarsh				
T.G. Technician					
West					
		R. Operators		T.G. Operators	
		Barrett	Mason	Coleman	Dixon
				Fitton	Fox
		Elec. Driver		Jobs	Jones
		Blowers	Wiles	Howell	Longhurst
				Nicol	Pickersgill
		Comcen. Operators		Pinder	Round
		Baker	Boisse	Skinner	Spearman
				Sullivan	Wheatley
				Wilson	
				Staff Operator	
				Stevens	

"X" PEDIENCE

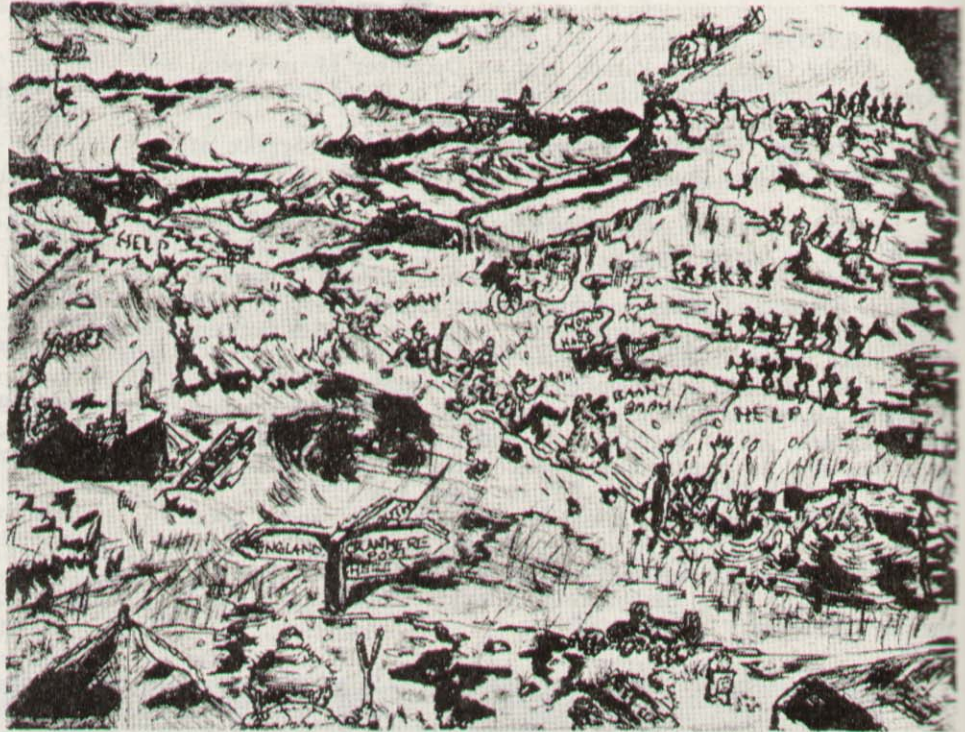
J/Sig. "X" looked round his barrack room happily. It felt really good to be back at Denbury after the Christmas leave. It was pleasant to view once again the old familiar bed-space, to let his eyes feast once more on the shining floor-boards underneath him, and to gaze regretfully at the rather wide joint between the two boards. This had been made necessary because of the advantage gained in being able to raise the floor-boards to sweep the dust under prior to the O.C.'s inspection. Little did "X's" long-suffering troop sergeant, an NCO of patience and understanding, dream that this also constituted a secret cache for smuggled-in liquor; many were the empty Cydrax bottles stashed under there.

There were three or four younger boys in the barrack room this term, suitable material as "X's" audience for some of his juicier reminiscences. They had not been present to gainsay some of his more heroic exploits on various Commonwealth Trophy expeditions over Dartmoor. The Philistines with whom "X" had been condemned to live over the previous twelve months poured scorn over these reminiscences with such calls as "Rubbish," "Twaddle," "Balderdash," and similar meaning, but unprintable, words, and even disparagingly referring to him as "Mr. Bogman." After all, reflected "X," was it his fault if only he and the "Dartmoor Yeti" (Capt. Joyner) really understood the Moor.

Then there was this queer business of making up Junior NCOs. "X" was happy about the present system of a Lance-Corporals' lottery at the end of each term; but he felt that it was most unfair of the Troop Commander to mark "X's" name with a large black cross to ensure that it never got pulled out of the hat.

Putting on his best grin, and smiling in an ingratiating fashion, "X" approached the newcomer over in the next bed, and made his opening conversational gambit.

"Got a fag, chum?"



The newcomer looked rather surprised as he gazed at "X's" blue jeans, green sweater with a few bars of music across its front, and his expensive "Tony Curtis" perm.

"Yes, have one of these."

As soon as smoke was curling comfortably up to the ceiling, "X" began to sound out his new acquaintance.

"Just up from Junior Wing?"

"Yes."

"Well, my name's 'X.' I've been around

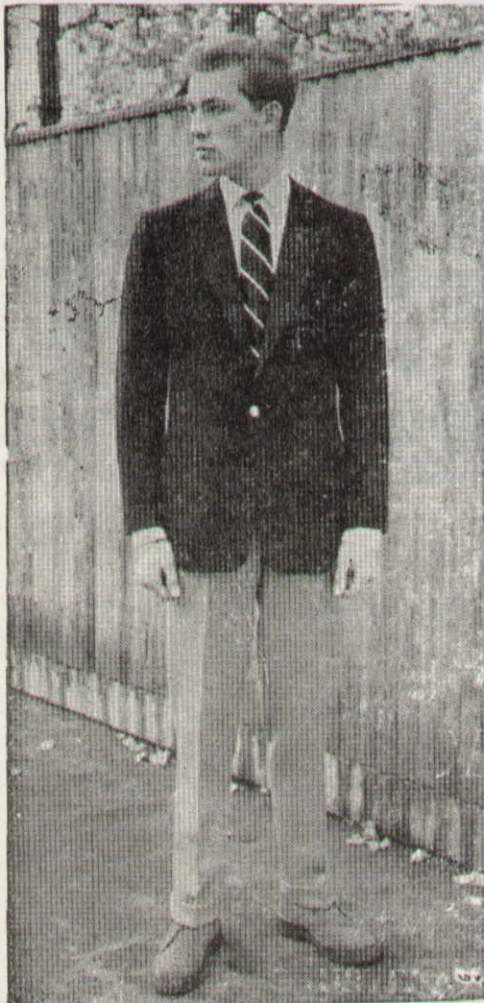
some time, so if I can give you a hand, just let me know."

"That's decent of you."

"Now, Dartmoor; that's the place. It was snowing, there was a blizzard, I had three younger boys with me. You got the situation?"

"Yes; I don't know Dartmoor. I've done most of my climbing in the Himalayas . . ."

There was silence as "X" wandered moodily back to his bed-space.



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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ESCAPE! ESCAPIST!! ESCAPOLOGY!!!

by WO II W. H. E. Chandler, B.E.M.

PART III.

After being arrested for stealing German food, mutiny, and propaganda, I and six others were imprisoned for some months before our trial. Our German guards didn't appear too bad, and we managed to concoct a story to cover our offences. We knew that our only chance was for us all to keep to that story and not break down, otherwise . . .

Being on capital charges, we were interviewed

by our Man of Confidence, a POW warrant-officer, who was trusted both by us and the Germans and acted as a go-between.

We were allowed to choose a German barrister to defend us, from a list of about 18 supplied by the German High Command. The cost of our defence, approximately 1,500 marks (£150), would be borne by our own Government through the Protecting Power, so we were told, and that the trial couldn't take place until it had been notified to the Protecting Power. That was in case we were found guilty and executed.

None of us felt very happy at the prospect, but our British Man of Confidence cheered us greatly because he believed we would get off with a three-year sentence in a concentration camp. We found out later that the life-span of a prisoner in a concentration camp was about a year. It was a good job that we didn't know that at the time!

The day before our trial at the Law Courts in Danzig we were taken in a reserved compartment by train, guarded by three heavily-armed German guards and a ferocious-looking dog. After a night in the cells below the Law Courts we came up next day for our trial.

While waiting, I heard piercing screams in the building that made me shudder. Enquiring from the guard about it, he said two of their soldiers were being courts-martialled for deserting from the Russian front, and that they had been found guilty and were to be executed the following week. It was their wives who were screaming. We were then marched in.

A German courts-martial is not unlike a British one, the only difference I could see being that both the prosecuting and defending lawyer could keep getting up and challenging each other's examination as they went along.

It appeared that we were lucky. We had three civilian witnesses against us but, due to the time-lag before our trial came up, two civilians had gone into the Army, one was taken POW in Italy, the other was severely wounded in Russia. The third witness was an old man of about 60, and he was tripped up in his statements many times by our lawyer. At first it seemed his questions were silly; he was asking the witness how we were dressed; did we have overalls, on, etc.; were we always dressed like that; what time did we finish work;

what time did we start, etc. As we were all dressed differently he had a hard job to describe anything. He kept getting flustered, began contradicting what he had said earlier under our lawyer's examination, and it was evident that the President, and even the Prosecutor, began to lose patience with him.

On the next charge of stealing, we agreed we had some German food, and said that, if they scrutinized the list of food stated to be stolen, they would see that about 28 pounds was sugar. This, we said, was from Red Cross parcels which we left in the stable for two Germans in exchange for German food. As far as we were aware, we were simply exchanging one item of British food for other items of German food which we liked. There had been no stealing by us, but an exchange. If the two Germans had stolen the food in order to exchange for sugar we, unfortunately, were not aware of it, otherwise we would never have accepted it.

In view of the fact that the seven of us said the same, and kept to it under cross-examination, this charge wasn't proved. But as we were caught red-handed with a large round cheese, we admitted we stole it (in fact, there was nothing else we could say). We pleaded that we liked cheese, and found that the German cheese had flavour and quality that we hadn't tasted for years. (This was a fact, as any cheese would be the same after half starving for a couple of years).

Much to our surprise, the last charge of propaganda was withdrawn by the prosecuting officer, and therefore deleted from our charge-sheet.

We then waited while the prosecutor and our defending lawyer argued hotly about what our punishment should be, while the president and members of the court just sat and listened.

This part was quite unlike a British courts-martial.

They were shouting and talking fast but, as far as I could follow them, it appeared the prosecutor wanted us to get nine months each on each of the charges. Our lawyer said: "These men are fine examples of the British soldier. They did not attempt to lie, but openly stated they liked cheese. They were honest about the food they exchanged, they made no attempt to hoodwink anyone or evade justice, and that three months on each charge was more than enough."

After a while the president of the court stopped them. There was silence; we waited as the president and members of the court spoke together.

We were marched forward to face the president, and he announced our sentence: three months only, to be served in a POW camp.

We were marched out.

I began to think out my next escape, which was to be my last. Read about this in the final chapter in next month's issue.

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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

DEAR SIR,—The enclosed cheque covers a five-year subscription. I dare you to catch up with me every month!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We accept the challenge).

To my dear old friends Wheatley and Hopson, and to the members of the 'Junior Mercury' staff, past, present, and future, very many thanks for all your great and painstaking work. I am sure that the present is but a vague shadow of the future.

Good, luck, chums!—Yours, etc.,

LIONEL GREGORY.

December 2, 1961.

TELEGRAM TO RETIRING COLONEL

From: General Officer Commanding,
South-West District.

To: Commanding Officer, Junior
Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

I congratulate you and all ranks of the Regiment on yet another highly successful term of progress during which your reputation has again been maintained. A happy Christmas and great success in 1962 to you all. To you personally my heartiest congratulations on shortly completing such an inspiring and rewarding term of command.

December 4, 1961.

MY HEART IS IN DENBURY

DEAR SIR,—May I take this opportunity, through the pages of the 'Junior Mercury,' of congratulating the Choir on its latest success. I'm sure they all enjoyed the experience, and I hope their hearts are bursting with pride at being allowed to perform among such a galaxy of stars.

I would like them to know that, although I have left the Regiment, I still feel that a piece of my heart remains at Denbury. It is probably closeted under the stage in the cinema where we spent so many agonizing hours in rehearsal.

If, as I get older, I am asked to recall the most satisfying period of my Army service, I shall undoubtedly reply, "Denbury and the Choir." I shall watch its future progress with interest and take pride in the knowledge that I was present at the birth of this unusual child.

My best wishes go to each and every Junior Leader. May 1962 see them reach even greater heights.—Yours, etc.,

DENNIS ROWE (Captain, RAEC).

1st Bn Yorks and Lancs., BFPO 17.

We thank Mr. W. David-Baker, of Totnes, for kindly submitting this and other poems for publication:

TOTNES BOATING SONG

(Melody: "Westering Home")

I know a place on the banks of the Dart.
Its legends and history go back to the start.
That's where I'm taking my old sweetheart.
Up to that old town of Tot-nes.

Down on a lawn in the shade of the trees
There are the tables all laid out with teas.
Come with a welcome and go as you please.
Up in that old town of Tot-nes.

There are leafy lanes and lovers' walks
And seats by the riverside,
Folk climbing uphill and folk running down.
Bridgetown is one side and Totnes the
other side,

Castle and church at the top of the town,
Green is the grass on the banks of the Dart.
That's where I'm taking my sweet sweetheart.
When the bell goes ting-a-ling, then its
time to start

Up the Dart to that old-fashioned town.

Big ships and show boats from over the sea,
Small ships and row-boats for you and
for me,

Waiting for us at the old steamer quay,
Up in that old town of Tot-nes.

There are raspberries and strawberries
And cream made in Devonshire,
Sweet is the air when the tide isn't out,
The nearest approach to a place I call
Heavenshire,

Jackdaws and seagulls all flying about,
Green is the grass on the banks of the Dart.
That's where I'm taking my dear, dear
sweetheart,

When that bell goes ting-a-ling, then it's
time to start

Up the Dart to that old-fashioned town.

RECRUITS GALORE

Congratulations to RQMS Chilvers, S/Sgt.
Foster, and Sgt. O'Connor, whose wives
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COMPETITION

A very simple one this month. Below are 20 questions, with five suggested answers to each. You are required to answer each question correctly.

- 1.—Who was the first woman to fly around the world?
Edith Summerskill, Anna May Wong, Michaela Denis, Amy Johnson, Agatha Christie.
- 2.—What was the name of Dick Turpin's horse?
Black Beauty, Black Bess, Airborne, Pegasus, The Highwayman.
- 3.—Who makes Senior Service cigarettes?
Patrieux, Player's, British-American Tobacco, Wills, Imperial Tobacco Company.
- 4.—Which country is known as "The Land of the Morning Calm"?
Tahiti, Thailand, Korea, Formosa, Sakhalin.
- 5.—Who is recognized as the discoverer of radio?
Pye, Marconi, Bell, Ferguson, Garibaldi.
- 6.—What is the capital city of Australia?
Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra.
- 7.—On which mountain is the Ark supposed to have come to rest?
Everest, Kilimanjaro, Ararat, Sinai, Hay Tor.
- 8.—Which is the fastest four-legged animal?
Horse, greyhound, whippet, tiger, cheetah.
- 9.—Which town is the traditional capital of Wales?
Caernarvon, Cardiff, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Merthyr Tydvil.
- 10.—What are two quarters of a half?
 $\frac{1}{2}$; 1; $\frac{1}{4}$; $\frac{1}{8}$; 2.
- 11.—Which particular vegetable is traditionally served with duck?
Peas, cauliflower, asparagus, cabbage, spinach.
- 12.—Who is the husband of Betty Grable?
Richard Todd, Clark Cable, Harry James, Danny Kaye, Jack Warner.
- 13.—Who wrote Purcell's Trumpet Voluntary?
Jeremiah Clarke, Johann Strauss, Richard Strauss, Handel, Beethoven.
- 14.—What is the Prime Minister's country residence?
Sandringham, The Chequers, Holyrood, Marlborough Hall, Windsor Castle.
- 15.—In which city is the Taj Mahal?
Delhi, Agra, Bombay, Calcutta, Pondicherry.

16.—Which animal is especially good at killing snakes?

Cat, rat, tiger, mongoose, monkey.

17.—What is killing your own father called?

Manslaughter, homicide, fratricide, patricide, murder.

18.—Which motor-car manufacturer makes the "Silver Wraith"?

Daimler, Ford, Rolls-Royce, Hillman, Chrysler.

19.—Who was known as the "Brown Bomber"?

Joe Louis, President Nasser, Dr. Nkrumah, Dr. Crippen, Air-Marshals Harris.

20.—What is the name of a person who explores caves?

Cartographer, soroptomist, cavanagalist, ventriloquist, spelioologist.

Two prizes of books or records are offered for the best solutions. Please address your answers to the Editor, 'Junior Mercury,' Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, Devon, to arrive before February 1, 1962.

TEN TORS LINKED WITH NIJMEGEN MARCHES

On December 7, 1961, the Commanding Officer proudly announced:

"With the approval of the Burgomaster and the people of Nijmegen, in Holland, and the organizers of the 100-miles annual International Four-Day Marches, in which the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Signals participated successfully in the years 1959, 1960, and 1961, the Ten Tors Expedition is conducted in friendly association with the aims and purposes of that famous venture, and always in the hope that youth exchanges will take place every year between Nijmegen and South Devon, to uphold and advance the spirit of both expeditions."

DENBURY, ENGLAND

Junior Wing, on one of their many jaunts on Dartmoor last term, collected a lot of postcards from the Cranmere Pool letter-box, which they duly posted. One whose stamp had been washed off, was sent to the addressee with a new stamp, and the following reply, addressed to Denbury, England, was received from Denmark:

"DEAR JUNIOR WING.—Thanks very much for the stamp on my postcard; it was very much appreciated seeing that the other had been washed off! But I can't understand how you got hold of it in the first place!

Best wishes for a merry Christmas.—

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ROUND THE

"THAT RACE"

Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep,
And doesn't know where to find them.
But leave them alone, and they will
come home,

Wagging their tails behind them.

Well, never mind the lost sheep! They
have all had a happy Christmas reciting to
parents and friends about their part in last
term's little excitement (though most of
the excitement was outside the Regiment).
Now they are back, and probably won't
get lost again.

But of the remainder who completed
the course, congratulations to Iron Troop,
whose patrols made no mistake by speeding
round in under five hours to enable J/Sgt.
Wraith to receive the Commonwealth Trophy
on behalf of his troop from the hands of
Lord Roborough at the end of term parade.

THE WRONG COLOUR

It was the night of a social evening in
the Sergeants Mess. WO I Taylor (RAEC),
in his No. 1 dress, went up to the south gate
to await his partner.

Sentry: What's that you're wearing?

Mr. Taylor: Blues; we've got a party
on in the Mess tonight.

Sentry: I never knew you chaps had
anything blue. I thought you had to wear
red all the time.

Mr. Taylor: I don't understand.

The explanation was simple. The sentry
thought that Mr. Taylor was a Chelsea
Pensioner.

A NEAR MISS

The officers of RHQ, and many others,
had gone down to Newton Abbot station
to bid farewell to the Output. Best wishes
for the future had been uttered, thanks for
the past had been given, firm and flabby
hands had met in the English unsentimental
"goodbye," the doors of the train were
shut, and the guard had his green flag in
his hand. Suddenly, there was a clatter
down the steps as a late-comer came rushing
down. The Adjutant grabbed his bag,
the RSM opened the door of a compart-
ment, and Major Scott helped by pushing
him up from behind.

The train started to move, the carriage
door slammed to. Everybody present
heaved a sigh of relief that the last of the
Output had caught the train.

Suddenly a door flew open and a uni-
formed figure sprang lightly off the moving
train. None other than Major Scott!

TRY ELSEWHERE

Extract from a recent Part I. Order:
"LOST—A tea urn is missing from the cook-
house. Any person in possession of the
urn, or having knowledge of its whereabouts,
should inform the Kitchen Staff immediately."

The assumption that this had been
removed to Alexander Squadron offices,
in company with various car batteries, is
entirely unfounded. A spokesman assured
our reporter that the entire staff, from the
OC downwards, were entirely satisfied with
their present "three-kettle system," and
had no intention of providing their many
visitors with "free char. After all, they
might come back for more."

DENBURY CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Th., 4.—Term starts. Table tennis, 'B'
team v. British Railways (away).

M., 8.—Table tennis, 'A' team v. B 'A'
(home).

Th., 11.—Annual Preliminary Inspection
of Stores and Accounts.

Fr., 12.—Free film, 'Monsieur Vincent'
Adventure Training, Slim Squadron.

Sat., 13.—Soccer, Junior Leaders v. Teign
Juniors (away), League.

W., 17.—Staff hockey, v. HQ 43 (Wx)
Div/Dist. (home).

Fr., 19.—Adventure Training, Alexander
Squadron.

Sat., 20.—JL Hockey v. Torbay Nomads
(home). JL Soccer v. Torquay GS (home),
friendly. JL Soccer v. Milber United (away),
League.

Sun., 21.—Visit of Chaplain-General:
Dedication of Church.

M., 22.—JL Basketball v. YMCA (home).

Tu., 23.—Staff Basketball v. University
'A' (home). Ex. Minerva II., Officers'
Exercise at Taunton.

Wed., 24.—Staff Hockey v. R. Naval
Engineering College (home). JL Hockey
v. RE JL Regiment (Army Cup) (away).

Th., 25.—Choir to sing at British Legion,
Kingsteignton. Table tennis, 'A' team v.
YMCA Falcons (home).

Fri., 26.—Adventure Training, Slim
Squadron.

Sat., 27.—JL Hockey v. Kelly College
2nd XI. (home). JL Soccer v. Paignton
YMCA (home), League.

Mon., 29.—JL Basketball v. North Brook
School (home).

Tu., 30.—Staff Basketball v. St. Luke's
'A' (away).

Wed., 31.—Staff Hockey v. St. Luke's
College (away). JL Hockey v. Royal Naval
College 2nd XI. (home).

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CAMP

TRIBUTE

In the absence of a Staff Scrapbook this month (unfortunately, our Senior Wing correspondent has a trade union mind, which doesn't believe in working during a leave period), we are taking this opportunity to pay our tribute to those noble souls who do that.

Remember, all you good readers, that as you sat at home stuffed with turkey and Christmas "pud," there were a small, but gallant, band left behind in Denbury Camp. There were only about eight of them, doubling up on duty clerks, guard commanders, guard and fire piquet, duty drivers, and duty cooks.

Admittedly there were no irksome parades, not even the excitement of a prisoner or two, but, nevertheless, they were there giving faithful service.

We thank you, Senior Wing!



(Courtesy of Devonshire Press)

Jnr. Sgt. Beaumont receives the Cobb Memorial Trophy from Lord Roborough.

THE "OBERAMMERGAU PIGEON" RACE

Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to coo and fly.

It finally happened! On Monday, December 4, the troop pigeons, heavily guarded and taking their ease in little wicker-wacker baskets, left Denbury and wound up in Taunton, from whence they were to make their own way back.

Up to this time, the pigeons had had no real aim in life. At first there were a few living in the farm, but a workman let most of them loose and they forthwith returned to their original owners. Then coops and hutches began to spring up, beginning with two-bird models and ending with the magnificent pigeon-type apartment house constructed by Sgt. Maher out of other people's timber.

The birds mixed freely in the air, and strange pigeons were seen to descend into Kukri Troop lines in the company of the lawful residents of the place and there stay, to the detriment of other troops' pigeon-keeping activities.

These birds were affiliated to Alexander Squadron and posted to troops.

Subsequent training and attention gradually fitted them for a more active life and so, on that fateful Monday, all were put to the test.

Kukri Troop's champion won, followed by Francisca's and Jerboa's.

The race had a parallel in the Commonwealth Trophy race—except that it took even longer. The last pigeon was returned fit and well from Cullompton on December 18, having apparently failed to get a lift.

THE MAROON LANYARD

Only 36 points separated the first and last positions in last term's Cobb Memorial Trophy competition. The final placings were: Kukri, 82; Romulus, 80; White Swan, 79; Quadrant, 69; Kohima, 68; White Spear, 66; Jerboa, 60; Iron, 56; Francisca, 54; and Javelin, 46.

So Kukri Troop—to whom congratulations—will wear the Maroon Lanyard which White Spear have held for so long.

THE DENBURY CHARGER



Readers of the November, 1961, 'Junior Mercury' will recall a photograph showing J/Sigs. Forster and Lond at work on a wood-carving. This work won first prize in the Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Here it is outside the Balaclava Club.

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Still in step

Naafl has taken a bold step into the front ranks of progressive commerce with the installation of an electronic computer in its modern warehouse at Krefeld, Germany.

Linked with punched tape machines and a battery of teleprinters, the computer produces indents, invoices and stock figures; solves arithmetical problems in thousandths of a second; cuts out tedious clerical work and provides valuable information at the time it is most needed.

Another type of computer has become Naafl's "Paymaster General" and will progressively take on more routine duties dealing with warehouse stocks and issues in the United Kingdom.

One more example of Naafl's aim to keep in step with the Rocket-age Services.

NAAFI plans ahead

THE CANOE CLUB



J/Sig. Dulston constructing the framework of Iron Troop's Canoe

THE CLUB

Every Monday evening the Canoe Shed is a hive of activity, where two boys from each troop endeavour to build the fastest canoe in the Regiment. In this hobby there are no trade union hours, and the noise of hammering and sawing goes on well into the night.

It is the aim of the hobby eventually to equip each patrol with a canoe built by themselves. So far, we have one per troop, with the exception of Iron, Kukri, and Javelin, who have two.

Each canoe requires a great deal of labour and effort to produce. There is over 200-foot run of wood in each one; requiring 26 dozen screws, a tin of glue, and seven yards of canvas to complete a well-finished, clean, trim-looking craft. The standard of workmanship is now very high. No longer are they ugly, ill-shaped looking 'tubs,' but well-finished professional jobs.



J/Sig. Murphy painting Kukri Troop's Canoe

To make an even better canoe, several troops have purchased their own racing skins. The difference in performance has to be seen to be believed. In the inter-troop canoe race, which was held on December 2, both Kukri Troop and Iron Troop, who were first and second respectively, had racing skins on their troop canoes.

Every Friday this term, as part of the Adventure Training programme, expeditions with a dozen or more canoes have taken place. Slim Squadron has taken over Bantham Bay, near Plymouth, and have

had great fun in the surf there.

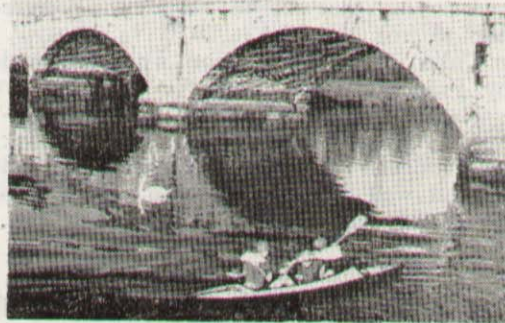
Alexander Squadron stuck to no one place, but roamed the rivers and canals in the area. Romulus Troop, for their expedition, planned a trip down the River Tamar to the new Tamar Bridge. This should have been a great success if they had only remembered to bring some paddles.

Our aims for the future are high. To organize an expedition for a week during the summer holidays over some of the English canals, and to train a team capable of giving a really fine performance in the Devizes-Westminster canoe race.

THE RACES

The canoe races are possibly the most popular event of the term. On the day of the races the whole Regiment moves from Denbury and takes over the River Dart where it flows by the bridge in Totnes.

Prior to this, canoe race pairs have been carefully selected and the troop canoes have been tested again and again, in the sea, in canals and on rivers, and this activity, in fact, forms part of the Regiment's Adventure Training.



"Coming up to the Bridge"

The weather for these sporting meets, is always kind, if a little cold, and the races are run off without a hitch. Without a hitch, that is, on the administrative side. Upturned and 'pranged' canoes bear witness to minor upsets, which are confirmed by life-belted bodies being hauled into the rescue boat or swimming bravely for the shore.

The canoes start from the steamers' quay-side, race up to the bridge through one arch and back round another, and straight to the finishing line, where each pair's time is noted.

The troops with the least overall time race through several heats until a winning troop and a pair with the shortest time are found. The winning troop last term was Kukri, who fought a very close battle with Iron Troop and, in fact, J/L/Cpl Chisholm and J/Sig. Vivian of Iron Troop, put up the fastest time of the day.

Junior Wing pairs representing their troops also race and, to wind up the day, the officers battle with the sergeants in a race which, though seriously contested, usually contains a little light relief.



"Just under-way"

THE BALL

As soon after the exertions of the canoe races as possible, the canoe race ball is held. The first one took place in the Seymour Hotel in Totnes, when the Mayor of Totnes and other guests joined the officers, warrant officers, and sergeants of the Regiment, and all their ladies, in an evening of dancing and fun.

Last term's race, on Saturday, December 2, was followed by a ball in the camp. For a couple of weeks before the occasion, Sgts. Angell, Hendley, Maher, and O'Connor, aided by gangs of Junior Leaders, had chopped trees, shovelled sand, collected nets and rocks and Lt. Tysoe painted great backcloths to transform one of the gymnasia into a kind of enchanted glen. The crowning touch was a woodland stream, with grassy banks running across the gym, crossed by a rustic bridge of phenomenal strength, and containing live goldfish, obtained at great expense, swimming happily around.

2/Lt. Stacey, WO II Hales, and the cook-house staff produced one of their incomparable buffets which satisfied everybody, and with so much left over that even the Junior Leaders who slept in the gym to guard the stock found in the morning too much for them to finish.

As usual, the trophies for the officers and sergeants canoe race were presented. The form of this race has changed every time. The first race of all was not run in canoes, but in cutters, and was more of a comedy affair. The second race was a straight up-and-downer which the officers won, and last term's was the same, but with only two canoes per team; this time, in spite of a serious attempt at sabotage, the sergeants won.



"It Fits!"

Therefore, while Sgt. Angell proudly carried off the ornamental African paddle on behalf of the sergeants team, Capt. Walker was bedecked with the canoe race Clanger by Lt.-Col. Gregory and, as our picture shows, didn't seem able to cast from his mind the use for which this admirable trophy was originally intended.

After a great deal more dancing, the evening was rounded off by some community singing and a play given by the Denbury Players Second Team, consisting of Sgt. O'Connor, who played all the parts, and Mr. Griffiths, who produced the musical effects.

SOCCKER REPORT

SOCCKER ROUND-UP, 1961

The Football XI. has had its most successful year to date, winning the majority of their league and friendly matches with ease. The tragedy of being knocked out in the Army Cup first round, owing to the Royal Artillery by the odd goal in five, is even greater. However, there has been more football than usual, and the soccer enthusiasts have responded to this challenge nobly.

Of particular note have been the performances of our Second XI., who, playing a record number of games, have acquitted themselves well, even taking over first team league fixtures when the occasion demanded, and winning, too.

Now for a few words about the team.

HUNT (Goalkeeper). Steady and reliable, takes the ball well in the air, but weaker on the ground. Excellent anticipation, and fearless in face of a forward rush.

COLLISON (Goalkeeper). More flamboyant than Hunt, but makes more mistakes. When he makes that a cool catch is more useful than a spectacular dive he will be a "class" goalkeeper.

M. NELSON (Full-Back). Steady and stolid, with a good, long clearance. Revels in robust play, but tends to be unimaginative in his passing.

WARD (Team Captain; Full-Back). Enthusiastic and hard-working rather than brilliant. He is easily wounded, but never beaten. His leadership of the side has been excellent.

STANGER (Wing-Half). Hard-working, with unlimited energy. Delights in making an extra man in attack, and scores some good goals, but doesn't always get back to help a hard-pressed defence quickly enough.

CHISHOLM (Centre-Half). Cool and efficient, dominating his own penalty-box, particularly sound in the air. Perhaps he might have made more use of the ball in distribution.

HOLLANDER (Wing-Half or Inside Forward). The most intelligent footballer on the field. Deplored unnecessary exercise, but was usually in the right place. His accurate passing was a joy to watch. However, he tends to get discouraged easily.

SHIELL (Wing-Half). Robust and energetic, with a strong kick and sound tackle, but appears inelegant.

BOOKER (Winger). Three seasons of regimental football, a terrific turn of speed, a class dribbler, and a good shot. Inclined to be greedy, and to sulk when beaten for the ball.

BEAUMONT (Inside Forward). An intelligent footballer, who is inclined to be too delicate in his approach to the game.

G. NELSON (Centre-Forward). Over 40 goals in under 20 matches testifies to his worth. A fine leader of the forward line, with a terrific shot and eye for an opening. If he has a fault, it is that he tends to allow a centre-half to "shadow" him, instead of wandering out into the open spaces.

WILSON (Inside-Forward). The ball player of the team, with all the clever touches in dribble. His distribution is intelligent, but he tends to "hang on" for that split second too long.

PRIOR (Winger). Fast and clever, with a useful angled shot. He is easily bundled off the ball at present, but next year should be a really good player.

GOURLAY (Winger). Fast, with a very good centre. Unfortunately, he can't be bothered to train properly.

Others who have played at one time or another, and been regular second team men, include **WICKS, ORRELL, CAMPBELL, FARQUHAR, FENDLEY, FORRESTER, DOUGLAS, FAWCUS,** and **DAVIES.**

This term will be a term for building up next autumn's cup team. Let it be a good one! Also we will be striving for various local cups and leagues, and, we hope, providing players in some of the representative youth games.

OFFICERS v. SERGEANTS

HOCKEY

OFFICERS MESS v. WOs & SERGEANTS MESS

On a wet and windy day at the end of term a very fast and furious game took place to decide who were the better hockey players (after many bald remarks of "They can't play for nuts").

At the end of the first half having played against the rain and wind, as well as the officers the Sergeants Mess were two goals down. The QM after a brilliant solo run from midfield got the first one and Major Rothwell the second from a pass from the wing.

Five minutes after the interval, Sgt. Hendley scored for the sergeants, having taken the ball into the circle from a long pass up the wing. Sgt. Hall scored the second a few minutes later after some very clever stick-work in the centre and with five minutes to play it looked like being a drawn game when Sgt. Angell picked up a bad clearance from the officers' goalkeeper and promptly put the ball into the net to make the final score 3-2 to the Sergeants Mess.

All in all a very enjoyable game.

RUGBY

A BITTER TUSSLE

Having lost face in the morning by losing a hockey match to the Warrant-Officers and Sergeants, the Officers devised a foul plot to gain their revenge.

Having plied extensive hospitality upon the "other side," a challenge to a seven-a-side rugby match was issued.

With Maj. Wood (the Padre) as referee, and Sgt. Greaves as linesman, the game started. Although there was little free passing or elaborate movements, the game was played hard, and the defences were first-class. The game opened with a dazzling run by Lt. Bonaker, which ended in a try. 3-0 to the officers. After a lot of blood and sweat in the middle of the pack, Sgt. Angell went over for the sergeants.

Just as the padre had the whistle to his lips for a final blast, came a speedy touch-line run by Capt. Hartnett to give them the game, 6-3. Sgt. Grieves claimed that he had run out, and, after certain pressure being applied, the referee disallowed the try. A rather dishonourable draw was agreed upon.

Worthy of note is the fact that both sides surreptitiously tried to "pull a fast one" by playing eight men instead of seven. However, this all worked out in the end. Teams:

Officers.—Lt.-Col. Holifield, Maj. Scott, Capts. Haw, Walker, Hartnett, Constable, Lt. Bonaker, 2/Lt. Stacey.

Sergeants.—Wos II Wheatley, Hopson, S/Sgt. Rose, Sgts. Angell, O'Connor, Smith, Hendley, Mr. Mackenzie (Regimental barber).

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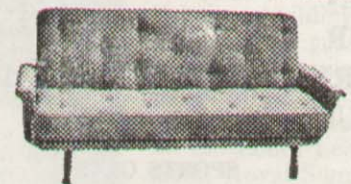
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Back Row: Cpl. Grey, Sig. Milton, Sig. Oliver, Sig. Townsend, Pte. Marriott, Pte. Harvey, WO II Hales
Front Row: Sig. Moorhouse, L/Cpl. Murray, Sgt. Lockyer, Cpl. Henderson, Sgt. Davies. by Sgt. Martin

RUGBY

THREE IN A ROW? RUGBY PROSPECTS, 1962

We have reached half-time in the Denbury rugby calendar after a promising first half. The team which is a mixture of experienced Army Cup players and comparative newcomers to the game has knitted together well, and is now a force to be reckoned with in junior rugby. Four of our victories have been by margins greater than 20 points. However there is no need for complacency, and a great deal of training and practice remains to be done before we can win the Army Cup.

Of last year's cup team, Brister, Wooler, and Hill remained in the backs; with Wraith, Thomas, Parkinson, Round, and Buglass in the pack. Hill, the captain, is leaving at the end of the Christmas term after giving two years of sterling service at fly-half. Round is also departing, and both will be sadly missed. There is no doubt that they will give a good account of themselves in senior rugby.

Let us now analyze the team, starting with the forwards. We are fortunate to have a fine hooker in Thomas, who always gets more than his fair share of the ball in the set scrums, and is like a terrier in the loose. Wraith and Hobson are his prop forwards. Both players are very strong, and play with great enthusiasm. Wraith's experience will be a great asset to the pack, but he is not as yet completely fit. This, however, will be remedied next term. In the second row, Moore, who is tall and strong, has improved vastly over the last term, but he can jump much higher and must keep his eyes "open" when passing the ball back from the line-out. The remaining second row position is vacant; Greenwood is certainly on the short list if only he plays harder in the loose mauls.

The back row of Parkinson, Crook, and Buglass has played well this season.

Parkinson has been moved from lock to open-side wing-forward, where his speed can be used to

better advantage. Crook fills the lock-forward berth and shows promise. He can, however, use his height to greater advantage in the lines-out. Buglass is a much-improved player since last season, but he must learn not to argue with his opponents on the field.

The threequarter line has great capabilities. Kearns and Cooper, in the centre, are both strong runners, but they will insist on holding the ball too long, being forced into making hurried passes. The wing positions can be well filled, the candidates being Wooler, Barnett, and Perry. Wooler, who has been playing at scrum-half for some of the season, is very fast, elusive, and has no fear of tackling bigger opponents. Barnett is of similar build and ability. He could, however, make a good scrum-half—a position of real importance yet to be filled. Perry is a strong runner and has a good tackle. Unfortunately, his handling leaves much to be desired.

Brister, who last year played at full-back, has been converted into a very promising fly-half. He is a fast, strong runner with an accurate kick. He can be the general of the threequarter line, but must learn to pass to the right while moving at speed. The full-back position is vacant at present; possibly Younger can make a go of it if he speeds up!

There are several basic faults which apply to the team in general. There is a tendency to tackle too high, a dislike of falling on the ball, and a certain amount of sluggishness in chasing the loose ball. Some of these faults were improving towards the end of the term, but there is room for further practice.

There is no doubt that this team has great potential, and is capable of playing good, hard, attacking rugby. We must train very hard and concentrate on playing the game as a team, not as 15 individuals. There must be no shirking and no weak links in our chain. We can win the cup for the third time, "so let's get on with it!"

CROSS-COUNTRY HOPES

By Capt. J. W. Joyner

"What price the Army Championships?" asked the Editor, as he asked me to write a short account of how we shall win them on March 2, 1962, yesterday. I asked him to give me 45 minutes to include time for a cup of tea, and he gracefully said: "Oh, yes, tomorrow will do, as I shall need a good typist to read your writing."

The Army Boys Championships consist of one race at Aldershot for Major and Minor Units. We are a Major Unit, and compete with all the Apprentice Schools as well as the other Junior Leaders units. The pattern of results for the last four years is interesting, as the championships were won by A.A.S., Arborfield, in 1958; Infantry Junior Leaders in 1959 and 1960; and the All Arms Junior Leaders in 1961, with a partly-Royal Signals team. They have usually been one or two Junior Leaders Regiments at or near the top, followed by the large Apprentice Schools, followed by the remainder of the Junior Leaders Regiments. It is unusual for more than one or two of the Minor Units to finish ahead of a Major Unit, and such a result indicates a poor performance on the part of the Major Unit.

In 1958 our team finished last of all the Major Units, with 511 points, being beaten by three Minor Units. Our best position was forty-fifth.

In 1959 we finished sixth, being the leading Junior Leader unit after the Apprentice Schools. We scored 220 points, and J/Sig. Bentham finished seventh in 17mins. 37secs.

In 1960 we finished seventh, with 274 points, not quite such a good result as the previous year, but still good. McKay finished eleventh in 17mins. 56secs.

In 1961 we finished eleventh with 361 points. Wooley was sixteenth in 18mins. 50secs.

I predict a considerable improvement for 1962 as our team is, without doubt, better than last year.

Some of the better members of the 1961 team are still with us, and there are some new members who are keener and faster than those who have left. This season, too, they have done more speed training.

If all the members of our team can reach their peak together, on the BIG DAY, there is little doubt that we shall have a better team than ever before and we should at least gain a place.

SPORTS RESULTS

Rugby
Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals 22
Totnes Colts 4

Soccer
Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals
(Hollander 3, Nelson 3, Prior 2, Orrell,
Campbell, Wilson) 4
Paignton YMCA 4

Basketball
Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals 22
Northbrooke School, Exeter 22
Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals 46
Pirates (Exeter) 34
Staff, Junior Leaders Regiment 34
St. Luke's College, Exeter 36
Staff, Junior Leaders Regiment 46
18 Company, RASC 22

This latter game was in the first round of the Army (Minor Units) Basketball Cup, and the second-round match should take place early in the Easter Term.

The Staff of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, are the present holders of this cup for the South-Western District.

JOIN
OUR
CHRISTMAS
CLUB

PERCY HODGE (Sports) Ltd.
104, QUEEN STREET - NEWTON ABBOT
(Next Door to War Memorial)

TELEPHONE
409

SPORTS GEAR

Football.—Surridge Double Crown (as used in 1960 F.A. Cup Final); Slazenger Zig-Zag; Thomlinson T; Webber Premier (all used in F.A. Cup Finals); Wisden International. Football and Rugby Shorts, Hose, etc. Principal makes of Hockey Sticks, Indian and English pattern. Dunlop Hockey Boors; Badminton and Squash Shoes. Johnny Haynes Football Boots; Flier Rugby Boots; Fred Perry Shirts and Shorts for Tennis, Badminton and Squash. Principal makes Badminton and Squash Rackets, Shuttles, etc. Track Suits.

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 Clockwork.
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.