

JUNIOR

MERCURY

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

PAY UP - OWN UP - SHUT UP

These were the three main principles that Viscount Slim urged us to observe when we gathered around the rostrum for his address on Graduation Day, December 8. Elaborating on the second principle, the Field-Marshal urged us never to be afraid of practising Christianity. "If you want to say your prayers in the barrack room, say 'em," he said. "If somebody throws a boot at you, finish your prayers, and an extra one for him; then get up, go over and punch his head."

He went on to remind us of our obligation to the taxpayers of this country who had made our training possible, and reminded us how lucky we were to have such a golden opportunity to develop mind and body.

This visit was a great honour for our Regiment, and made an unforgettable day for us all. Not one of us dreamed that we would meet this great leader of men until the dry, official notice of his pending visit was published early in November. Excitement winged over the camp: the legendary wartime commander of the famous 14th Army was coming to Denbury. We had met him in his books; studied, with our Staff, that masterpiece of campaign writing, "Defeat Into Victory"; read many of the incisive, illuminating talks he gave as Governor-General of Australia; enjoyed the wit and zest for life of "Unofficial History." Veterans of Burma had swung the lamp and told us jungle tales; now we were to meet their great leader in person.

For three mornings before the awaited day the weather was crisp and cold, with white hoar-frost on the fields and Haytor gaunt against a steel-grey sky. But the wind changed and the storm broke almost to the very moment of our inspection. Then, with our uniforms soaked black with the torrential rain and standing rigid against the buffeting winds, Viscount Slim, marching vigorously, talking crisply, was amongst us. In a joking aside to our Padre, the Field-Marshal accused him of not praying hard enough for good weather; but the skies cleared for the address and final march-past.

Our only disappointment was that we could not share the great occasion with our Colonel, unfortunately sick.

The Field-Marshal was taken around our ranks by J/RSM Wilson, appropriately, of Slim Squadron, and later presented him with the Commanding Officer's Trophy and an autographed copy of "Unofficial History." J/Ssm Hawkins received the Commandant Training Brigade Trophy; J/Sig. Waterworth the Junior Award. The Champion Troop of the Regiment is Kukri Troop, and J/Sgt. Campbell received the Cobb Memorial Trophy and Shield on their behalf.



FIELD-MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT SLIM, K.G., taking the Salute at Denbury Camp

by Nicholas Horne



Photo

Nicholas Horne

Viscount Slim inspects the Regimental Pipers and Regimental Band. The pipers had previously escorted the Regimental Standard on to the parade ground. During 1962, the Band and Trumpeters gave 59 public performances. The Parade Drum-Major was Drum-Major A. Yates, B.E.M.

EDITORIAL

A brand-new spanking year and a bright look to 'Junior Mercury.' Please don't call it blue, for it's Brilliant Enamel Blue No. 457. And the ink came from Bristol.

February's journal will be the first of our Troop issues. These special issues will come out in the colour of the Troop featured, and will contain photographs and despatches from affiliated Regiments.

This Regiment is proud that it occupies a special place in the thoughts and wishes of the Royal Signals everywhere. One of the main functions of this journal is to keep the Corps informed of the activities and training of its future NCOs, and we welcome any suggestions, at any time, that help to make this service more efficient.

The editorial staff welcomes three new cartoonists—NigNog, Joskin and Snurp—who will, from time to time, snipe at us all from their drawing-boards. They will be joined by two new special correspondents, Jock Hopper and Tiger Tortripper. The amount of photo coverage has been trebled, and our team of snap-happy Junior Signalmen are covering every activity. J/Sig.

Woodford has been turning in the best prints to date, but many others are making good progress. Most of our young contributors are several terms from Output, so we can expect many more drawings, pictures and articles from them.

Finally, 1963. We at Denbury wish you all a very happy New Year; all parents, guardians, sisters, brothers, sweethearts, friends; every Signalman of every rank, everywhere; all our well-wishers here in Devon, from Plymouth to Exeter, Okehamp-ton to Torquay; the many, many officers and NCOs of our Staff now soldiering on, their work here completed, but their hearts still with us. In short, to all our readers from Catterick to Kuala Lumpur, **LOUD AND CLEAR . . .**

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

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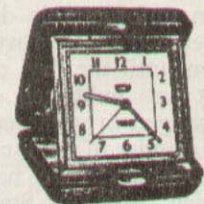
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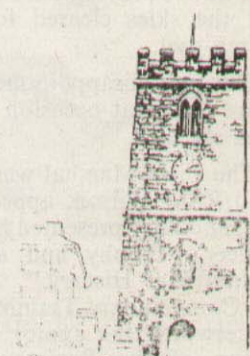
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THE COMMANDING OFFICER ADDRESSES ALL PARENTS

(We print below a slightly shortened version of the C.O.'s address, read in his absence through illness by the Second-in-Command on the afternoon of 8th December.)

I would like to open my report this afternoon by extending to you all a very hearty welcome to DENBURY. December is not a pleasant month in which to travel or, for that matter, in which to attend a parade. I am grateful to you all for bracing the cold and coming to DENBURY, and I hope you will enjoy your short stay with us. I would also like to thank Field-Marshal the Viscount SLIM for honouring us with his presence today. He is a very great man, and a very busy man, and I am proud and grateful that he should have given up his time to visit us today.

My main aim, over the past term, has been to consolidate the training programmes which were introduced last April. Already the new programmes are producing results and our standards in both educational and trade training are rising. The number of subject passes attained in the examination for the Army First-Class Certificate of Education at the end of last term was double that of the previous term, and reached the highest-ever recorded figure for this Regiment of 119. I am certain that this improvement is only the beginning, and I am confident that our subject passes per term in this examination will soon top the 200 mark. I am particularly helped in this by the drive and enthusiasm of my new Senior Education Officer, Major ROGERS, by the very high-grade Army and civilian teachers who have joined the Regiment over the past year, and by the much-improved educational standard of the new intake joining the Regiment.

We have also made good progress during the term in our Royal Signals Trade Training, and I am confident that, by the end of 1963, most of the Junior Leaders graduating to Colour Service will leave this Regiment as Class III. tradesmen.

Although the main effort during the term has been directed on education and trade training, due emphasis has continued to be given to leadership and initiative training on DARTMOOR. Sailing and canoeing on the Dart and the Teign has also continued on an ever-increasing scale. The Commonwealth Trophy Competition for this term took place on Dartmoor at the end of November. The course was similar to that in former years, and 60 patrols, each of six to eight boys, took part in the competition. I am pleased to tell you that, despite cold weather and a thick mist, which reduced visibility at times to a few yards, the competition went off very smoothly and all patrols were clear of the moor within two hours of the stipulated finishing time.

Our Regimental activities and hobbies have continued to be well supported by the boys during the term. The Art hobby has taken a big stride forward, and I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of good, creative artists that the hobby has produced. Junior Signaller AGRELL distinguished himself by producing a very fine wood carving which won first prize in its class in the Army Arts Exhibition. The scenery for the pantomime was produced by the boys and, I think you will agree with me when you see the sets this evening, that they are excellent. The Arts hobby will take a further big step forward next term when our new kiln arrives and we are able to produce our own pottery and earthenware. The printing hobby has been revived this term, under the enthusiastic guidance of Mr. MANN, one of our civilian masters, and already has turned out some excellent work. We are at present negotiating the purchase of an additional printing machine and, if the deal goes through, we shall be able to tackle almost any printing job required in the Regiment. I would also like to say a very special word of thanks to Mr. GRANT, one of our civilian schoolmasters, who has given up so much of his time this term to produce the Regimental pantomime.

Our Regimental Band goes from strength to strength under the devoted guidance of Drum-Major YATES. Despite the constant turn-over of Junior Leaders, the standard remains high and there is never any lack of volunteers. I am sorry that the Band will be unable to Beat the Retreat for you today, as on previous Parents Days, but owing to the time of year, it has not been possible to arrange a performance before dark. During the past year the Regimental Band and Trumpeters have given no less than 59 public performances. I am sure you will agree this is a very praiseworthy effort on the part of the boys, and it is particularly satisfying to reflect that, in giving these performances, the Band has helped to raise many hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds for charity. You will have noted today that our Pipe Band, which is still in the process of being trained and kitted-out, is making excellent progress. My chief worry at present is the provision of sufficient sets of bagpipes for the Band. If any of you have, or know of any sets of bagpipes which could be donated or sold cheaply to the Regiment, I would greatly appreciate your help. Finally, on the subject of hobbies and activities, I am pleased to report the continued successes of the Choir and Highland Dancers. Both of these groups have given many public performances during the term including, in the case of the dancers, an appearance on television.

During the summer term we received three assembly kits for Enterprise sailing dinghies, by the kindness and generosity of the NUFFIELD Trust. These have been assembled, and we now have a well-established sailing club operating on the River Teign at SHALDON. I would also like to thank the NUFFIELD Trust, on behalf of the Regiment, for the magnificent gift of a Regimental coach, which we received last month. We are all delighted with the coach, and I am sure it will be a great asset to the Regiment in the years to come.

The Regimental Church continues to flourish, under the enthusiastic guidance of our new Chaplain, the Rev. J. THISTLE. Although he has only been with us for one term he has quickly made his influence felt and has established a sincere and happy relationship with the boys. Under his guidance 39 boys were prepared for Confirmation and were Confirmed in TOTNES Church last Sunday.

During the past term the Regiment has been very much in the local news regarding the War Department's plans to rebuild the Camp. A deputation of our friends in South Devon visited the War Office on November 14 to present a



Lt.-Col. A. Holfield, M.C., receives the log book of the Regimental bus.

petition that the Regiment should not be moved from DENBURY during the period of the proposed rebuilding. All of us at DENBURY have been greatly heartened by the affection and interest that the people of South Devon have shown in the Regiment, and we are grateful to them for their efforts. In order to clarify the present position regarding the main rebuilding of the Camp, I would like to quote the statement issued by the War Department after the deputation's visit:

"The Minister explained that the first architectural appreciation by Sir Donald Gibson and his staff had indicated clearly that the amount of suitable building land on the site, which was hilly and wooded, was disappointingly small. The Junior Leaders Regiment is big and needed a lot of facilities and therefore a lot of land. The only obvious course was to knock down the existing camp and rebuild on the site. It was indeed difficult to draw any other conclusion. However, the new buildings could not be erected for another five years, since there were many more urgent items in the Army building programme."

The statement went on: "There might be changes affecting the unit over those five years, and in any case the architect commissioned to design the new buildings in, say, three or four years, would be instructed, as part of his brief, to see whether it would not in fact be a practical proposition to rebuild within the site, perhaps using some additional land, but leaving the unit to carry on in the present huts during the rebuilding."

"There were administrative and financial problems, and it would not be possible to decide finally about such a possibility until the architect had carried out a full study."

In the meantime I would like to emphasize that the temporary rebuilding, which is intended to enable us to increase our numbers by a further 150 boys, is going ahead as planned. By Easter a further 24 classrooms and a science laboratory will have been completed and will be available for use. The accommodation is, of course, of temporary wooden construction, but it is pleasant, light and airy, and will be ideal for the purpose for which it is intended.

And now, just a few words about the future. In the coming year our numbers will increase by approximately, to 630 Junior Leaders. The increase will be gradual, but I anticipate that a third Junior Leaders Squadron and two new Troops will be formed at the end of next term. Accommodation for these additional Junior Leaders is now almost completed, and additional staff and training equipment has already been earmarked. The period of expansion should therefore be relatively painless, and I do not consider that it will have any appreciable effect on the life of the Regiment.

I would like to end, as I began, by thanking you again for being here today, and by wishing you all an enjoyable weekend at DENBURY. To those of you whose sons have graduated to Colour Service today, and are here for the last time, I would like to say thank you for the interest you have shown in the Regiment, and I would like to wish you and your boy the best of good health and happiness in the future. To those of you whose boys will be returning to DENBURY next term, may I say how pleased I am that you have been able to attend today, and express the hope that you will come again to DENBURY in 1963.

Alan Holfield

RSM P. CHILVERS, ROYAL SIGNALS

"Pete" Chilvers arrived in the Regiment from 1st Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles, on November 8, 1958, and took up the appointment of SSM Slim Squadron (known in those days as 2 Squadron). He served the Regiment in this capacity until December, 1959, when he took up the appointment of RQMS. He was posted to 21 Signal Regiment on December 4, 1962, on promotion to WO I. (RSM). He will be reunited there with RQMS Palmer (ex-SSM, Alex Squadron).

His main hobbies were hockey and model railways. He was a very keen model railway enthusiast, keeping an extensive layout. Mrs. Chilvers has been overheard on one occasion asking whether it would be better to get tea ready or buy a third class single.

He was presented with his LS and GC while serving with the Regiment.

He left with his wife and four children to spend a week's holiday in London prior to proceeding to BAOR.

During his tour with the Regiment he was also interested in amateur theatricals, and appeared in several productions in the camp.

R.W.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

SIR,—The Association is most indebted to your Regiment for the splendid donation of £66 12s. 3d. to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. This is a first-class effort, and is very much appreciated.

Will you please pass on the thanks of the Chairman to all concerned.—Yours, etc.,

P. M. P. HOBSON, Brig.
General Secretary.

88, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.1.

"PAS DE BASQUE" WRITES . . .

The Christmas term has been a very active one, during which we have given 15 displays. Our highlight was the appearance on the ITV programme, Westward Diary, on November 28. We also had an invitation to the WOs and Sergeants Hallowe'en dance at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, on November 3. This was followed by an appearance with the ladies of Miss De Waal's School at the Torquay annual Festival of Remembrance on November 8. We were also made very welcome at both the Exeter and Torbay Caledonian Societies on November 30, where after giving a display we were invited to join in the dancing.

Miss Pamela de Waal has continued to teach and encourage us, and we have already started preparing for the next series of exams, which we hope to take at the end of the Easter term. We have once again received support from many of Miss de Waal's students, who join us each Wednesday at our social evening, and who have danced with us at the end of term pantomime. We in turn joined them for her annual show at the Palace Avenue Theatre, Paignton, on November 10.

This term's Output saw the departure of J/Sgt. Douglas, J/L/Cpl. Thompson and J/L/Cpl. Walker, who were some of the founder-members of the hobby. We are much in their debt for the loyal and devoted service they have given at over 100 performances, not to mention the necessary amount of rehearsal!! We also say goodbye to J/L/Cpl. Prior.

This term has seen us equipped with doublets and tartan hose and some new belts. This has done much to improve the appearance of the team. We have instituted an end-of-term prize, awarded to the Junior Leader who has made most progress during the term. This term it was won by J/Sig. Peters, of Kukri Troop. Our thanks are due to the leading dancer, J/L/Cpl. Younger, of Quadrant Troop, and our hard-worked storekeeper, J/Sig. Hand, of Kohima Troop, who has had a hectic term fitting dancers and pipers with kilts and the like.

The closing note is to say how sorry we are to see the Junior Pipe Major depart. J/L/Cpl. Bowie has given us wonderful service and a lot of his spare time, all with a willingness and co-operation which we have admired and respected. Our thanks, too, are due to the Pipe-Master, Mr. McDonald Bell, who has kindly played and assisted with the piping requirements.



Photo

Nicholas Horne

Viscount Slim talks to the Junior Drum-Major and Junior Pipe Drum-Major. These appointments are among the most coveted in the Regiment, and Junior Signalmen work very hard indeed for the honour of leading the Regimental Pipes or the Regimental Trumpets and Drums.



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TOUR OF EASTERN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

by

Lt.-Col. L. H. M. GREGORY, M.B.E.

(Col. Gregory left U.K. on June 15th and travelled to Yugoslavia via Nijmegen. The account begins at this point.)

Part 1:—TO THE EAST . . .

YUGOSLAVIA

I arrived at the Yugoslav border through Tarviso and Fusine, in Italy, on August 24. A cold wind greets the traveller at Ratece, the frontier post entering Yugoslavia. I got through the formalities with smiles and many gestures of goodwill, and when the official money-changer indicated that he ran a sideline selling cognac to tourists, I immediately bought a bottle, thus exploiting a situation which made everybody happy.

Apart from the strip of road from Ratece to Ljubljana (65 miles), the outpost through Yugoslavia and up to the frontier town of Devlika (811 miles) is complete. I crossed the frontier into Greece at 4 a.m. on August 26, stopping once in Yugoslavia for a short rest just outside Belgrade. The only conversations I had in Yugoslavia, apart from the formal exchanges at the two control posts, was with a peasant who had breakfast with me on the side of a road outside Belgrade (and succeeded in selling me a melon) and a policeman who very kindly led me through Belgrade and put me on the main road to Greece on the far side. Although the atmosphere was cold and formal, the people were not noticeably unfriendly. It is most interesting to see the manners, customs, transport and dress of the east begin to emerge along the miles as one travels through Yugoslavia and progressively eastwards.

GREECE

The welcome I received at the Greek frontier was friendly and courteous. They nevertheless took a very long time to complete Customs and passport formalities. So much so that one wonders whether there is not something to be said for the rigid formality of Yugoslavia after all. Salonika is gay, overcrowded; old and new. Every aspect of life presents itself in abundance. There is too much traffic, a great deal of noise and a lot of litter everywhere. My immediate impression was that of glorious confusion—but it all seemed to work!

I very much enjoyed the journey through Greece. The air along the Mediterranean coast was warm,

but refreshing, and fruit of every description, luscious and inviting, was available, and remarkably cheap, all along the road. It is a pity that one cannot travel directly from Yugoslavia to Turkey through Bulgaria, because this is by far the shorter route. Nevertheless, in spite of the few extra hours it took me to cover the journey on the coast road, I thought it quite worthwhile, and found the people I met both cheerful and friendly. I reached Edirne on the night of August 26 after travelling 340 miles, mostly over good surfaces apart from a few bad patches, but none over 20 miles. I stayed the night of the 26 in a Turkish hotel in the marketplace; it was dirty, but cheap and friendly. The only western-style hotel (a very good one) had already taken its full quota of tourists.

TURKEY

The road from Edirne to Istanbul improves after 20 or 25 miles, and movement becomes quite fast over a well-surfaced road. The distance is about 150 miles. I had no particular wish to stay in Turkey for longer than was absolutely essential, and so I travelled to Ankara (290 miles) on August 27, and continued to Adana through the same night, a further distance of about 400 miles. On the 28 I completed the journey from Adana to Babelhaver, in Syria (180 miles). There is a great deal of road construction going on in Turkey, but nothing so serious as to hamper a motorist even in an ordinary car. I did notice, as I had in Greece, that the German Mercedes and the American Plymouth and Ford cars are the most popular and appeared to be better suited to rough roads. I certainly did not see a single Vanguard, other than my own, a fact which made me a little sad but, for all that, proud to be its owner.

SYRIA

The formalities at the Turkish-Syrian frontiers were completed with minimum fuss. In fact, at the former, the officials were so busy playing cards that my intrusion was resented and I was hustled out of the place as quickly as possible. The Syrians were a lot more serious and clearly reflected their newly-found freedom. Soon after my arrival in Syria all frontiers were closed, but this was not done as a compliment to me! An Egyptian diplomat absconding from his own Embassy had caused the excitement.

I arrived at Aleppo (79 miles from the border) on the night of August 28, and treated myself to a comfortable room at the Hotel Baron (run by an Armenian called Coco and his Scots wife); very English and most convenient. Coco is a remarkable character and widely connected. He is the source of all information and probably the most influential single figure in Aleppo. When I expressed some dismay at the frontier being closed, and wondered how I might get through, I was advised that the only person who could help was Coco.

As it transpired, I was delayed 48 hours, which gave me time to have a good look at my motor-car and to send some clothes to the laundry. Aleppo is a wonderful old city and attracts the traveller to return, and I shall certainly look forward to spending a little more time there on my way back.

The drive to Damascus from Aleppo is comfortable, but as the road surface is wavy in parts, there is ample scope for a calamity unless one's car is equipped with extra strong springs. I covered the distance (240 miles) in eight hours, and stayed the night at Damascus, claimed to be the oldest city in the world. It is bizarre and cosmopolitan and the meeting place of prophets and religions but, at the same time, it is to the stranger a friendly, hospitable city.

The Military Attache and his wife very kindly asked me to drinks in the evening, and we discussed the route to Baghdad across the Syrian desert, avoiding the main road along the pipeline from Jordan. Local opinion was not in favour of crossing the desert in anything but the sturdiest Landrover, and most people to whom I spoke were strongly opposed to a solo attempt. I was cautioned that it would be necessary to join up and travel in convoy with the Nairn 'bus service operating across the desert, but when I checked on this I found there was no 'bus service the following day.

Never having seen a desert before, I made up my mind to cross alone and left Damascus at five o'clock in the morning, entering the desert from a point north of Douma on the Aleppo road. For about 30 miles there is the semblance of a road, which gradually deteriorates and peters out into sand. Thereafter it is a case of every man for himself and the desert for everybody! There are many tracks moving out in every direction and all of them are very, very dusty. I was most grateful to be seated in a solid British car, equipped with a reliable compass, and it is thanks to this sturdy vehicle that I managed to cross the desert in 16 hours (220 miles) without any serious mishap. The engine suffered a little from over-heating and I was not entirely free of bruises, but we made Ratba by sunset that evening none the worse for a long, hot and bumpy crossing. I would not advise cars other than the Landrover jeep-type, with four-wheel drive, to cross the Syrian desert, and I consider it unwise to undertake such a journey alone.

The Syrian desert is a vast, lonely space and, apart from two solitary outposts and a chance meeting with a small camel-train (with whom I enjoyed a cup of coffee), I met desolation as only a desert can present it. The outposts I mentioned were at Sabaa Bayer and Shebt. These gave me the impression of being military detachments, but the commander in each case was shy to admit the fact. At a place called Jabl el Tanf, about 50 miles from the main Jordan-Baghdad road, all tracks eastwards converge on a tented Customs post supervised by an Iraqi army officer.

The welcome here was rough and discourteous, but understandably so in view of the heat and living conditions. Nevertheless, throughout my stay in Iraq, I found the Army (not a very smart one) strutting about among the population, aggressively impolite at all levels and obviously revelling in the knowledge that the Army is, in fact, the law. The road from Ratba to Baghdad (150 miles) is very good and continues so all the way to the Iraq-Iran frontier.

(Our next issue: Baghdad and Beyond . . .)

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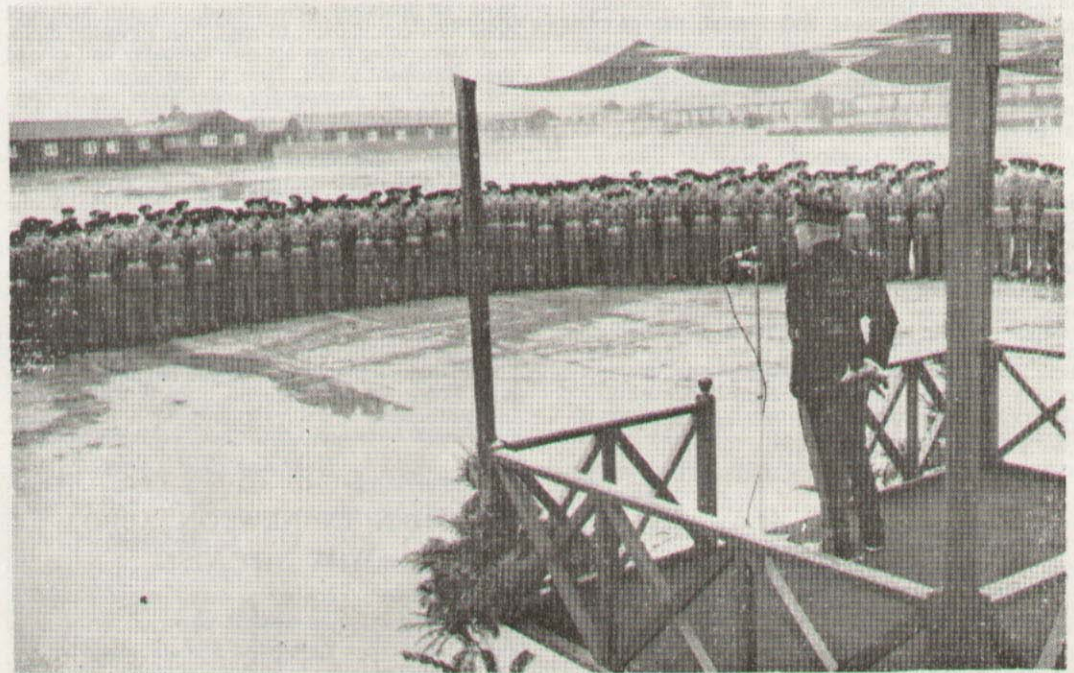


Photograph by Courtesy of Express and Echo, Exeter

★
Field-Marshal Slim presenting
J/RSM F. O. Wilson, of Exeter,
with the Commanding Officer's
Trophy. J/RSM Wilson gradu-
ated to Colour Service with
67 other Junior Leaders on this
parade. The Parade Adjutant
was Capt. B. O. Haw, R.
Signals; the Regimental Ser-
geant-Major, RSM S. G. Pavey.



Field-Marshal The Viscount Slim of Yarralumla and Bishopston, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., addressing the Junior Signalmen of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, at the Graduation Parade on December 8th, 1962.



Photo

Nicholas Horne



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Photo

Nicholas Horne

Field-Marshal Slim inspects his own Junior Leaders of Slim Squadron, escorted by the OC, Major J. K. Heyes, R. Signals. Note the wet square. The parade was commanded by Major M. D. Scott, R. Signals

Photograph by Courtesy of the Herald Express, Torquay



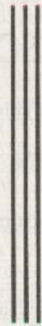
Field-Marshal Slim inspects Alexander Squadron, escorted by the OC, Major J. Clapp, R. Signals.

The Reviewing Officer was met at the camp gates by Maj. W. C. Rogers, M.B.E., M.C., who deputized for the Commanding Officer, suffering from severe influenza.



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R.A.E.C. BENEVOLENT FUND

SIR,—I have just returned from a short absence to learn of the most generous gift which has been made by your Regiment to our Corps Benevolent Fund.

I am writing at once to express personally my deep appreciation of this splendid contribution. I understand that it was raised by a joint effort throughout the unit, and I should be grateful, therefore, if you would tell everybody how grateful I am.

This fund is put to very good use, and has heavy calls upon it. The gift you have made will enable us to meet more adequately the needs of those who turn to us.

Very many thanks to you and all your splendid people at Denbury.—Yours, etc.,

A. L. GADD, Maj.-Gen., CBE, M.A.
Director of Army Education.

The War Office, Lansdowne House,
Berkeley-square, W.1.

RAPC APPRENTICES SCHOOL

SIR,—We are extremely fortunate at our school in that, being the "new baby" among Army boys' units, we have been able to benefit from the experiences of all other Junior Leader units and Apprentice Schools, and our teething problems have therefore been reduced in number.

Our first intake produced 38 boys from all over the country and from overseas. They quickly settle down and, so far, not one of them regrets his decision to join our Apprentices School.

We welcome Lieut. Peter Wheatley to our staff, and consider we were most fortunate to be able to "pinch" him from your staff.—Yours, etc.,

C. ADAMS, Major, RAPC.
Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.

MAJOR A. J. DANCEY

Major Dancey writes and congratulates the 'Mercury' on their last issue.

This magnificent old soldier and loyal supporter of our Regiment is taking a trip. In his own words: "I am shortly off to South Africa for the 63rd anniversary of the Relief of Kimberley, in which, as a youngster of 18, I took part."

On behalf of the Regiment we wish him "Bon Voyage" and the happiest of memories. We look forward to seeing him back home in Torquay in the spring and to hear about this interesting and poignant journey.

CAPT. BARRIE BURKE, ROYAL SIGNALS



Capt. Burke Marching at Nijmegen

By the time this journal is printed, the Regiment will have lost a very popular officer, and White Swan Troop its much-admired O.C.

Capt. Burke joined this unit from the Royal Signals Display Team, which was carrying out a series of engagements in the United States with, in particular, regular performances in New York, prior to his coming to Denbury.

Capt. Burke's last duty for the Regiment was to act as aide-de-camp to Field-Marshal Slim on his recent visit, and he leaves for 248 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron with the thanks and best wishes of us all.

Attractive and vivacious Mrs. Pat Burke will also be sorely missed, and we wish her and daughter Fiona a happy tour in the Far East.

CENTRAL HOSPITAL, STARCROSS

The Secretary writes to thank the Regimental Choir, Pipers and Scottish Dancers for the splendid evening's entertainment they provided for the patients and staff.

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**EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING
1963**

The beginning of a new year is the time for making new resolutions. It is also a time to look ahead; a time of hope and a time for determination to do better.

We must start 1963 with an emphasis on training, and remember that real success is the reward of careful preparation, training and endeavour directed towards the main aim. This is true for the athlete, or games player and for the soldier in his purely military duties.

A soldier seldom marches on his own as his task is invariably performed as a team. He is part of a regiment, part of a squadron or part of a troop or section. One would not expect all parts of the team to be the same age, to have the same experience, or even to have the same physical ability; and yet the team must work as a whole or fail to complete its task.

The fact that it does work is due to training. Training in advance from those who have learnt before; and training during the performance of the task, the more experienced assisting the less experienced, the stronger assisting the weaker, and the junior being introduced to the tasks of the senior from the example set by the senior.

This is the basis of our present patrol system, under which all our "External Leadership Training" is carried out. It is an idealistic system depending on Staff and Junior Leaders all playing their full part. It either works well and produces leaders capable of putting a good example, or it fails completely when no one learns anything—least of all leadership.

There is nothing worse for the morale of a new member of a patrol if older members don't show him how to cook, how to make himself as comfortable as possible, or where they fail to navigate with confidence. A straggling patrol on a cross-country march is usually an unhappy one; a straggling patrol in canoes is a positive menace.

The exercises written for the Easter Term



Left to right—J/Sig. Jock Salvona, J/Sig. Pops Craig, J/Sig. Viv Crudge, J/Sig. John Flux, J/Sig Nobby Noble

have been planned to give scope and opportunity for more thought and preparation in advance. This will require time, but it should be well spent. Let our new year resolution be to learn, to teach, and to assist whenever possible, and let us hope that the result will be an even better team spirit within our patrols, and a higher standard reached. We can thus contemplate Ten Tors of 1963 with the certainty of 100 per cent Regimental team success. J.J.

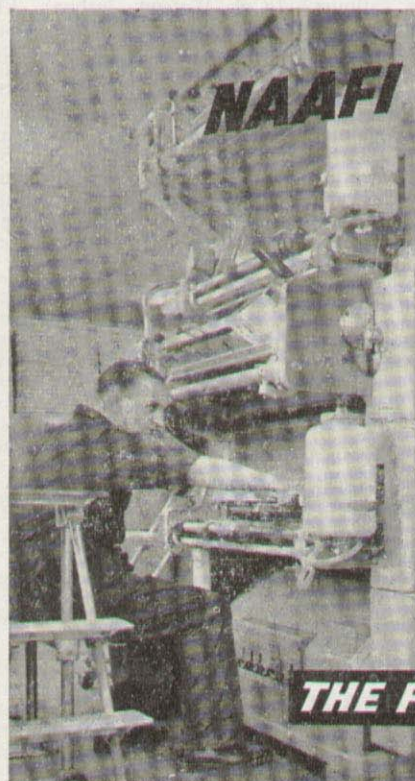
FIELD MARSHAL SLIM: More Presentations

J/Sig. Salter accepted the Signal Officer-in-Chief's Senior Trophy for White Spear; J/Sgt. Greenwood the Signal Officer-in-Chief's Junior Trophy for Romulus Troop. The Gregory Pennant for the best Patrol in the Regiment was awarded to Assegai Patrol and received by J/L/Cpl. Ellison. The First Commonwealth Division Trophy for the winners of the Commonwealth Trophy Race for Adventure Training was won by Quadrant Troop.

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Photo

Capt. Joyner

"BABES-ON-THE-MOOR," the Regimental pantomime, which had its first night on December 8th, was the best-produced show seen at Denbury for many a term. Congratulations to Mr. Mike Grant, Mr. John Griffiths, to the cast of over seventy, and to the many, many helpers behind the scenes who made this magnificent show.

The following Junior Leaders graduated to Colour Service with the Royal Corps of Signals at the Parade on December 8th, 1962, to complete their training in the trades shown:

Technicians

- J/Cpl. Wake
- J/Cpl. Bowie
- J/Sig. Jackson
- J/Sig. Allison

Communication C. Ops.

- J/RSM Wilson
- J/Sgt. Mills
- J/Cpl. Dulston
- J/Cpl. Farr
- J/Cpl. Watson
- J/L/Cpl. Horrell
- J/L/Cpl. Milne
- J/Sig. Fowler
- J/Sig. Orrell
- J/Sig. Pretty
- J/Sig. Skells
- J/Sig. Stephens
- J/Sig. Whitlam
- J/Sig. McKue
- J/Sig. Robertson
- J/Sig. Hubbard

Special Operators

- J/Cpl. Thomas
- J/L/Cpl. Jones
- J/L/Cpl. Ridge
- J/L/Cpl. Thomson
- J/Sig. Lond
- J/Sig. Westwell

Linemen

- J/L/Cpl. Martin
- J/L/Cpl. Riches
- J/L/Cpl. Prime
- J/L/Cpl. Waugh
- J/Sig. Berry
- J/Sig. Craft
- J/Sig. Crossby
- J/Sig. Elgood
- J/Sig. Shiell
- J/Sig. Vaughan
- J/Sig. Warr-Wood
- J/Sig. Langley

Radio Operators

- J/Sgt. Brunton
- J/Sgt. Vivian
- J/Cpl. Salter
- J/Cpl. Chisholm
- J/L/Cpl. Barnett
- J/L/Cpl. Lyon
- J/L/Cpl. Smith
- J/L/Cpl. Walker
- J/Sig. Dickson
- J/Sig. Good
- J/Sig. Holland
- J/Sig. Radford

Telegraph Operators

- J/SSM Hawkins
- J/Sgt. Campbell
- J/Sgt. Douglas
- J/Sgt. McArthur
- J/L/Cpl. Bennett
- J/L/Cpl. Smith
- J/L/Cpl. Prior
- J/Sig. Farquhar
- J/Sig. Gibson
- J/Sig. Lashley
- J/Sig. Richardson
- J/Sig. Strugnell
- J/Sig. Waterworth
- J/Sig. Wilson

Staff Operators

- J/L/Cpl. Cook
- J/Sig. Beckett
- J/Sig. Sheppard

Boxing Medals

Class A: 7st, J/Sig. Paul, Quadrant; 7st. 7lb, J/Sig. McGabe, Jerboa; 8st, J/Sig. Norgrove, Iron; 8st 7lb, J/Sig. Hunter, Javelin; 9st, J/Sig. Whalley, Francisca; 9st 7lb, J/Sig. Henry, Romulus; 10st, J/Sig. Docherty, Kohima; 10st 7lb, J/Sig. Glennon, Javelin.

Class B: 7st 7lb, J/Sig. McKnight, Jerboa; 8st, AT Witherington, Kukri; 8st 7lb, J/Sig. Simpson, Kukri; 9st, AT Turner-Howe, Kukri; 9st 7lb, J/Sig. Le Page, Iron; 10st, J/Sig. McManus, Quadrant; 10st 7lb, J/Sig. Campbell, Quadrant; 11st, J/L/Cpl. Murphy, Kukri; 11st 7lb, 638 J/Cpl. Nelson, Romulus.

Class C: 8st, J/Sig. Davies, Quadrant; 8st 7lb, J/L/Cpl. Hargreaves, Iron; 9st, J/Sig. Martin, Jerboa; 9st 7lb, J/L/Cpl. Cook, Jerboa; 10st, J/L/Cpl. Barnard, Javelin; 10st 8lb, J/Cpl. Gue, Quadrant; 11st 2lb, J/Sig. Radford, Romulus; 11st 11lb, 773 J/Sig. Watson, Jerboa.

Shooting Colours.—J/Cpl. Wathen, Kukri; J/Sig. Tiplady, Kukri; J/Sig. Collison, Francisca; J/Sig. Lee, Romulus; J/Sig. Goffett, White Spear; J/Sig. Roberts, Jerboa.

Trophies and Awards

Mrs. Holifield graciously presented trophies and awards on the afternoon of December 8th, Gradua-Day:

Education: Senior Exam., J/Sig. Nunns (White Swan), book, certificate.

Trade Training.—Most improved Junior Leaders: Radio Operators, J/Sig. Salloway (Javelin), book; J/Sig. Tovey (Jerboa), book. Comcen Operator: J/Sig. Doe (Quadrant), book; J/Sig. Swallow (White Spear), book.

C.O.'s award to Smartest Stick Orderly.—J/L/Cpl. Emmott (Francisca).

Cross-Country.—Winning troop, Francisca (J/L/Cpl. Bennett), Mhow shield; first individual, J/Cpl. Gue (Quadrant), medal; second individual, J/Cpl. Thomson (Romulus), medal; third individual, J/Sig. Glossop (White Swan), medal.

Boxing.—Inter-troop, Jerboa (J/L/Cpl. Cook), shield; best individual, J/L/Cpl. Cook, Metcalfe Cup.

Canoe Race.—Inter-troop, Quadrant (J/Sgt. Brunton), silver canoe.

Pigeon Race.—Inter-troop, Francisca (J/Sig. Colinson), Oberammergau pigeon.

Highland Dancing.—Junior Leader making most progress, J/Sig. Peters (Kukri), book token.

Soccer Colours.—J/Cpl. Chisholm, Iron; J/Sig. Lyth, Iron; J/L/Cpl. Walker, Iron; 637 J/L/Cpl. Nelson, Iron; J/Sig. Farquhar, Romulus; J/Sig. Shiell, Romulus; J/Sgt. Douglas, Kohima; J/L/Cpl. Prior, Kohima; J/L/Cpl. Weeks, White Swan; J/Sig. Campbell, Quadrant. Reaward: 638 J/Cpl. Nelson, Romulus.

Hockey Colours.—J/Sig. Hubbard, Francisca; J/Sig. Hudson, Francisca. Reawards: J/Sgt. Mills, Francisca; J/L/Cpl. Raybould, Javelin.

Rugby Colours.—J/L/Cpl. Smith, Javelin; J/Sgt. Vivian, Iron. Reawards: J/L/Cpl. Barnett, White Swan; J/Cpl. Turner, Kohima.

Cross-Country.—J/Cpl. Thomson, Romulus; J/Sig. Parry, Romulus; J/Sig. Benson, Kukri; J/Sig. Jackson, Jerboa; J/Sig. Waterworth, Quadrant. Reawards: J/Cpl. Gue, Quadrant; J/Sig. Glossop, White Swan; J/Sig. Stephens, White Swan; J/Sig. Martin, Jerboa; J/Sig. Robertson, Jerboa.

Basketball.—L/Cpl. Spree, Francisca; J/L/Cpl. Priestley, Romulus; J/Sig. Wiseman, Quadrant; J/Sig. Craft, Romulus.

Boxing Colours.—J/Cpl. Watson, Jerboa; J/L/Cpl. Hargreaves, Iron; J/Sig. Birchall, Iron; J/Sig. McManus, Quadrant; 773 J/Sig. Watson, Jerboa; J/Sig. Le Page, Iron; J/Sig. Simpson, Kukri; J/Sig. Glennon, Javelin; J/Sig. Henry, Romulus; J/Sig. Parkin, Junior Wing; J/Sig. Ayres, Romulus; J/Sig. Vaughan, Junior Wing; J/Sig. Wickham, Kohima; J/Sig. Liversy, Kukri; J/Cpl. Dulston, Iron. Reawards: 638 J/Cpl. Nelson, Romulus; J/L/Cpl. Cook, Jerboa; J/L/Cpl. Barman, White Swan; J/L/Cpl. Murphy, Kukri; J/Sig. Powell, Jerboa; J/Sig. Trenchard, Kukri; AT Turner-Howe, Kukri; J/Sig. Brown, Quadrant.

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BOXING

Junior Leaders Regiment, R. Signals v. Junior Leaders Regiment, RASC

On December 4, the Regiment was host to a visiting team of boxers from the Junior Leaders Regiment, RASC, and an entertaining evening's boxing was anticipated by those who braved the cold and the fog to watch.

The evening started with a win for the RASC when, in the first bout, J/Pte. Thompson proved too strong for J/Sig. Brown who, despite a gallant effort, lost on points.

The scores were levelled after the next fight, when J/Sig. Simpson took the verdict for a good win in a hard contest with J/Pte. Townsend. J/Sig. Le Page was again unlucky in a very close contest; this was the second fight in succession he has lost on what must have been a very narrow points decision. Le Page started a minor rout, for we lost the next three fights. J/Sig. Watson was knocked out in the second round; J/Sig. McManus did not live up to expected promise—in fact, it was not until the last round that MacManus began to find any answer to the sustained, wild rushes of his opponent, J/Pte. Clarke.

With only two bouts before the interval the Regiment were behind by ten points to eight, but these two bouts were both destined to be wins. J/L/Cpl. Murphy, fighting under a disadvantage of just having had three stitches taken out of his hand, produced his usual strong, hard effort to win on points; and J/Sig. Ayers, after a poor start when he was flustered by the wild rushes of J/Pte. Atterbury, settled down in the last two rounds to gain a points verdict. This was even more praiseworthy as he was conceding 7lbs. to his opponent, which is an awful lot in a 9st. contest.

The second half of the evening started at 12 points each, but again the RASC went into a lead when J/Pte. Holmquest proved much too strong for J/Sig. Birchall. The score was levelled again by J/Sig. Hargreaves who, in the best bout of the evening, gave a delightful display in the use of the left hand against swinging rushes. This win was the beginning of the end for the RASC.

J/Sig. Trenchard followed Hargreaves, and after putting his man down in the first round, finished very strongly to gain a convincing points win. In the next bout J/L/Cpl. Cooke displayed his usual cool, superior brand of boxing which puts him in a class

of his own. The referee stopped the contest towards the end of the second round to avoid further punishment.

J/L/Cpl. Smith fought a hard, keen contest, but was outpointed by J/Pte. Mitchell. Smith shows a lot of promise and, with experience, should develop into a very useful boxer. J/L/Cpl. Burman chalked up the next win for the Regiment when, after delivering some very hard body punches, knocked out his opponent in the second round.

In the next bout J/Sig. Powell again showed the value of body punching against J/Pte. Donnelly, an opponent who looked much too strong for him. Some really heavy punching to the body during the first two rounds weakened Donnelly so much that he was unable to come out for the final round.

In the last bout of the evening, J/Cpl. Watson was outpointed in a very close, hard-fought contest.

The final result was a win for the Regiment by 25 points to 23.

After the meeting, the joint-trainers of the Regimental team, SSI Hendley and Sgt. Smith, said they were very pleased with the show put up by most of our boys. The one or two who had not lived up to expectations were those who had not produced a serious enough approach to their training. Is the lesson learned? G.P.

BLOOMERS FROM THE INTER EXAM

MacDougall's Law

When the sun shines on the earth it rises.

Watch it!

If you don't look out and form a NATO the Russians will creep up on you.

Fruity

A " bunch of fives " is a branch of bananas.

Our Sympathy

Being a teenager is a terrible thing.

QM: For info.

I don't mind the rain down my neck, it's when it gets through the eyeholes I get stropopy. That's the way the jungle leeches get at your feet in Brazil. I think all army boots should be zipped.

Chancellor

A ' trade wind ' can blow hot or cold. At present it is a bit chilly and the HP is affected.

Our Sympathy

I sometimes feel as if I've been a teenager all my life.

Union

The success of the expedition depended on the fact that they all pulled together. Same way of course.

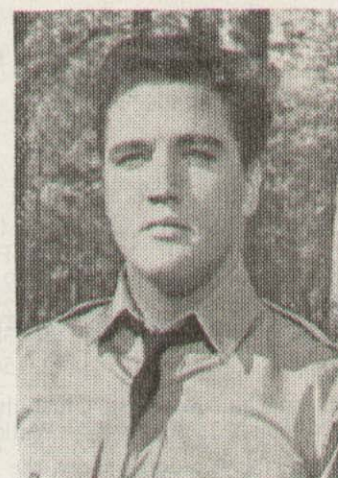
Tan Hunt

The old sun worshippers went out to sea from Peru as at present they come from the smoky places to Torquay and so on.

Appeasement

I sometimes wonder about Mars. If they really want war, I mean.

ODEON NEWTON ABBOT



ELVIS
PRESLEY
AS
KID
GALAHAD

Sunday, January 6, seven days
ELVIS PRESLEY as KID GALAHAD
De Luxe Colour (U)
Sunday 4.35 7.35; Weekdays 2.20 5.30 8.35
Laurel and Hardy—DANCING MASTERS (U)
Last Complete Programme
Sunday 6.15; Weekdays 7.10

Sunday, January 13, for one day
Stanley Baker—HELL DRIVERS (A) 4.45 7.45
Audie Murphy—NO NAME ON THE BULLET (U) 3.15 6.15

Monday, January 14, for six days
STEWART GRANGER, STANLEY BAKER PIER ANGELI
SODOM AND GOMORRAH
In Colour (X)
1.30 4.30 7.35

Monday, January 21, for six days
VIRGINIA MASKELL, PAUL ROGERS THE WILD & THE WILLING
1.35 5.0 8.30 (X)
THE PRIMITIVES (U) 3.30 7.0

Sunday, January 27, for four days
SANDRA DEE, BOBBY DARIN IF A MAN ANSWERS
Technicolor (A)
Sunday 4.55, 8.20; Weekdays 1.35 5.10 8.50
ISLAND ESCAPE
Eastman Colour (A)
Sunday 3.15 6.40; Weekdays 3.10 6.50

Thursday, January 31, for three days
ROBERT RYAN, PETER USTINOV MELVYN DOUGLAS BILLY BUDD
Cinemascope (U) 1.30 4.50 8.10
GAOLBREAK (U) 3.40 7.0

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A Happy New Year from Denbury

SOCCER



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Goals	Posi- tion
League	7	7	0	0	95	6	1st	
Cup	4	3	0	1	21	4		
Friendlies	6	4	1	1	38	19		
Total	17	14	1	2	154	29		

Leading goal scorers: Chisholm 51, Prior 22, Nelson 22, Kelly 12, Walker 10.

As the above records show, the Regimental XI. has had a highly successful season to date. In the league it has been only the final score that has been in doubt, and goals have come at a fast and steady rate. In five matches double figures were reached, the best being 22-0 win over Watcombe Villa 'B.' In this match Chisholm scored 12 goals, and was voted runner-up in Westward Television "Sportsman of the Week."

In the Army Cup, despite our ability and hopes, we were beaten in the semi-final by the odd goal in three at Dover. This, like all the Army Cup matches, was a first-class game in which, had we taken all our opportunities, we must have won. Now we must set our sights on the Devon Cup, which continues next term.

In the friendlies we eagerly await Teignmouth Grammar School to avenge our one hiding of the term.

Next term we shall be building up the team after the departure of several regulars. We are sorry to lose Chisholm, Prior, Douglas Farquhar, Shiell and Walker, who have given up so many Saturday afternoons and played so hard for the Regiment. We wish them the best of luck in their trade training, and hope to see some of them representing the Royal Signals Corps team before long.

Congratulations to Chisholm on establishing a new goal-scoring record of 51 in a term.

Already next term's team has taken shape, and in the two games they have played together it has shown we have good reserve material in the Regiment. With key posi-

tions held by the Nelson brothers, there is no reason why we should not do as well in the second half of the season as we have done to date.

A final word on support. How about some of the 80 spectators who went to Dover giving some local support on Saturday afternoons? More support for the team is always welcome, instead of the few shouts of "Up the Signals." M.W.

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Mountaineers and rock climbers believe that their sport is the finest in the world because it combines three essential qualities: It takes one into surroundings of great beauty and grandeur; it makes one extremely fit; and it has the thrill of mastery over calculated dangers.

The Mountaineering Club within the unit tries to give each member as much experience of all three qualities as possible in its regular Sunday meets. It also tries to perfect the techniques of each individual climber, so that if that person moves on to climb in the more mountainous regions of the world, the skills he has practised on Haytor and the Devonstone may stand him in good stead.

Hay Tor; Hound Tor; Bell Tor; the Devonstone; those have been the venues of our meetings this term. We have 25 names on the roll of club members, and generally have 12 or 15 out at every meet. Unfortunately, three of our real stalwarts graduated at Christmas. However, although lost to us, they will all continue to climb, and we shall undoubtedly meet them again. Some of our new members are discovering talents which they never knew existed; some are discovering new muscles. A few are developing into good leaders and, as a club, we feel confident that we shall grow, not only numerically, but also in experience, for we have plans for trips to Cornwall and holiday climbing in North Wales or in the Lake District.

On one occasion the club almost felt it ought to change its name, for an excursion was made into the bowels of the earth at Pridhamsleigh, near Ashburton. For this trip 23 boys turned up and 21 of them expressed a desire to repeat the experience. It is proposed to accede to their wishes by going into the caves at Buckfastleigh and thoroughly exploring the vast catacomb of



J/Sig. Ian Goodwin of Iron Troop by Lt. Knowles

tunnels which exists therein.

Obviously the greatest spur to club recruitment has been the Adventure Training rock climbing, which is undertaken every Friday. Although little can be done on these occasions in the way of perfecting techniques, it does give boys a first taste of the excitement and thrill of the sport, and certain of them desire to partake of a larger helping. The Mountaineering Club offers this larger portion. We do not claim that we produce expert climbers; Dartmoor does not really have the facilities for such development. What we do is to try and build confidence, skill and strength in preparation for more advanced climbing on to which we hope all club members will move. A.C.

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