

JUNIOR

MERCURY

Volume 6 Number 9

MARCH, 1963

Price 5d.



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



DENBURY RETURNS TO NORMAL: LEFT: Sgt. Gue, of Quadrant Troop, the Regiment's outstanding runner; TOP: Confidence Training; BOTTOM: A rest after the climb. Note that there is still plenty of snow remaining on Dartmoor.

KUKRI TROOP ISSUE

(SEE CENTRE PAGES)



Miss Eve Davidson (WVS) presenting prizes at the Social Centre on St. Valentine's night.

EDITORIAL

The theme of our front cover this month is "Back to Normal." Rigger, soccer, hockey; running, climbing, map-reading; marching and hill walking. All returned to Denbury with the thaw. The snow will remain on parts of Dartmoor till Easter, but in only a week or two the Devon lanes will be yellow with primroses, and in a month the first bathers will be taking a quick plunge from one of the many small beaches within a half-hour's bus ride from camp. There is surely no better place where a young man can train, study, play, than between the moor and the sea in South Devon. Soon there will be sailing, camping, canoeing, and yet another new activity at Denbury—this time archery. Mr. Price and the SEO, Major Rogers, are hoping to make a start very soon. We have been canoeing, of course, on the Dart and the Teign and the Exe since the Regiment came to South Devon six years ago. And the Sailing Club's old Redwings have now given way to the new Enterprises, thanks to the generosity of the Nuffield Trust. Soon we shall see them for the first time

tacking round the Ness, the magnificent red cliff at Shaldon, into Tunnel Beach.

Work goes on apace in the Regiment, making preparations for the Ten Tors Youth Expedition. Junior Signalmen will once again at Whitsun be hosts to over a thousand young people from all over the country who will climb ten of Dartmoor's tors in thirty-six hours, spending one night camping en route.

But back to the present, and March is an examination month. Desks will be lined up rank upon rank in the gymnasium and mental fever will grip the Regiment for a week. This will be followed by the termly competitions and, finally, once again, Graduation Parade, and some eighty young men will begin a new phase in their careers with the Royal Signals.

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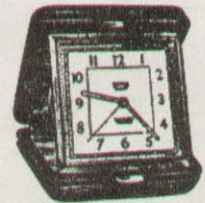
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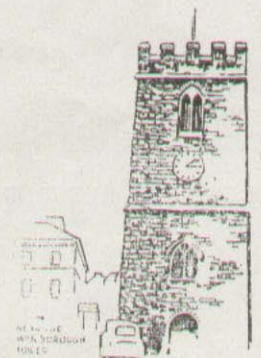
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GETTING MARRIED — by *The Commanding Officer*

Over the past 50 years the average age at which young people in Britain get married has fallen steadily and at the present time most young men are married in their early twenties. This trend for early marriage has been recognised by the Army and a soldier is now eligible for the full rate of marriage allowance and entitled to married quarters from the age of 21. For Officers, however, the qualifying age for marriage allowance and quarters is fixed at 25.

The law also appears to regard 21 as a reasonable minimum age for marriage because it requires the consent of parents to be given where young people wish to marry under that age.

I feel it is important that the older Junior Leaders, who may be "going steady" with girl friends, should guard against rushing into marriage, at least until they have finished their trade training and completed their first overseas tour. Girls, bless their hearts, set their hearts on marriage and a home of their own, just as surely as Junior Leaders strive for a regular non-commissioned rank. Both these ambitions take time to achieve and I do not believe that a period of waiting in either case does any harm. Choosing a partner for life is not an easy matter and certainly not a step to be embarked on lightly at a tender age. For this reason I think that engagements should not be rushed and

should never be entered into at least until after all training has been completed.

Young people frequently excuse early engagements on the grounds that they want to tie up their partner so that he or she will not be taken over by some third person. This is, of course, nonsense. If a girl's affections can only be retained by an engagement ring she isn't much of a girl anyway. If she falls for another chap and wants to cut loose, then an engagement won't stand in her way.

Remember that one of the main foundations of a successful marriage is a good job with prospects for the husband, leading to a well provided-for and happy home. No girl would wish to marry a failure and the right sort of partner would prefer to see her husband-to-be firmly established in his career before she places on his shoulders the responsibility of a wife and family.

Alan Holmes

THE COMMANDING OFFICER COMMENTS . . .

DANCING

We are organising a Saturday night dance in NEWTON ABBOT on 23rd March. If, as we hope, the dance is a success, we hope to arrange further dances.

HMI's

A team of HM Inspectors of Schools will visit DENBURY in May 63 to inspect the regiment. The inspection will look into all aspects of training and administration including education, trade training, physical education and messing.

REBUILDING PROGRAMME

Owing to cuts in the Army building programme, the rebuilding of DENBURY CAMP is unlikely to start for at least a further five years.

GERMAN TOUR

A tour of BAOR by the Band and Dancers during the summer holidays is planned and the Commanding Officer is in correspondence with Regiments in Germany to arrange accommodation.

TEN TORS

Planning for TEN TORS is going ahead well and over 1,000 entries have been received. A kind offer of help came from the TORBAY Motor Club has been accepted with thanks.

MR. JAMES RAMSDEN, MP

Mr. JAMES RAMSDEN, MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War has kindly consented to act as Reviewing Officer at our end-of-term Graduation Parade on Tuesday 9th April, 1963.



BIG BULLS . . .



. . . AND LITTLE BULLS



Left to right—S/Sgt. Vallack, W.O.II de Lacey, and S/Sgt. Pilling chatting to GCE students outside the Library

THE LAST OF A LONG LINE

This month, another link between the present-day army and the past will be broken when the R.A.E.C. becomes an all-officer Corps, and we say 'Good-bye' to the last of a very long line of Warrant Officer and N.C.O. Instructors. The line goes right back to 1675—almost 300 years—when the King's Own Regiment appointed a 'Schoolmaster' to serve with the Regiment in Tangier.

From then until 1846, the education of the soldier and his children was carried on more or less unofficially according to the wishes of the Regimental Commander. In 1846, the Corps of Army Schoolmasters was officially established by the War Office. It was

not until 1919 when their designation changed to the Army Educational Corps that officers appeared in the Corps. In 1946 the distinction 'Royal' was added.

Many of the Non-Commissioned Ranks have already gone on to become commissioned or to make new careers in other Arms and Corps. The time has now come for us to say 'thank-you' for past services and sincere 'best wishes' for the future to W.O.II de Lacey and S/Sgts. Pilling and Vallack, the last of the long line so far as this Regiment is concerned.

W.O.II. de Lacey like so many of his fellows came to the R.A.E.C. having already built a distinguished career in other Corps and Regiments. His story is typical of many.

He was educated in France and after qualifying as a teacher taught for a time in Metz before coming to England.

In 1940, he enlisted into the Royal Sussex Regiment and after basic training was posted with rest of his company to the Queen's Westminsters, the Motor Battalion of 11th Armoured Division. Later in the War, he transferred to the Royal Artillery and was selected to work on the development of Counter Mortar Bambardment (now known as Locating Batteries R.A.). He spent the latter part of the War in the uncomfortable and to most of us, unenviable job of Observation Post Warrant Officer with 53rd. (Welsh) Divisional Artillery. He leaves the Army to go into business on his own account.

S/Sgt. Pilling intends to emigrate to New Zealand and work with the Forestry Commission there. S/Sgt. Vallack has been accepted for training as a qualified teacher at St. Luke's College, Exeter. We wish them all happiness and success in their new careers.

Major Rogers, Senior Education Officer.

TOBOGGANS ON DENBURY HILL

On Monday night, the eleventh of February, a furious din was heard coming from the White Swan Troop lines; each patrol was making a toboggan. Some were long and streamlined, some as fat as tugs, some looked more like kipper boxes or tin trays. The amateur carpenters and blacksmiths were in big demand and work went on late into the night.

The next morning, conditions were perfect. Denbury Hill was covered with deep, even snow, hard frozen and glistening. But either we were all too fierce or our workmanship wasn't what it should have been, as the toboggans broke under the strain. Then Lieut. Adams had a brainwave. When we returned to camp for a meal we collected a good supply of planks for on-the-spot repairs.

However, on returning to the peak of Denbury Hill it was soon found that the best fun of all was to take a plank, run with it, then fling yourself forward and on to it, making a fast head-on run down the slope.

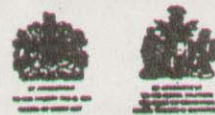
This was more like it, and after fierce competition, 2 Patrol finally set up the fastest time.

J/Sig. 'Sons of' Harrison.



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GUEST OF THE ROYAL NAVY

On Monday the fourth of February, I joined H.M.S. Ark Royal. The channel was smooth but visibility was poor, so at first it was doubtful if we would put out to sea. During the morning I was told how to find my way about from deck to deck and mess to mess, also I was shown to the mess to which I was allocated (2U2 which means that it is on 2 deck, in uniform section and on the port side of the ship). After dinner, I drew my bedding from the bedding store and borrowed a camp bed from one of the gunners whom everyone calls "Tweekers." At 2.30 p.m., we sailed from Plymouth and within an hour the Ark Royal was well out of Plymouth Sound.

By about 6 p.m., I was feeling rather sick, and even though the old hands were telling me that the sea was like a duck-pond, it felt to me as if we were in the middle of a tremendous gale, so I went to bed.

On Tuesday morning, I went on to the island (that is the deck above and at the side of the flight deck, where all the flying, communications and bridge work is centred and controlled from) and was shown round the radio and teleprinting rooms. After about half an hour, I was taken to the bridge where I watched the two Buccaneers landing. While I was on the bridge, I had the catapult mechanism explained to me. About the same time, the new Hawker P1127 vertical take-off jet was supposed to land, but it was considered too risky due to bad visibility and owing to the fact that it is the only one out at the present moment. A sit did not land, it flew round the Ark Royal a few times.

In the evening, a force 9 gale blew up when we were off Guernsey, but it blew itself out overnight. On Wednesday morning, I was taken around the turbine, boiler, refrigeration plant, engine and gear rooms. Although they were all very interesting, I didn't understand a thing that I was told about them, due to the intense heat and noise. One thing that I learned is that one has to watch out when climbing up the ladders, or one's head will get banged with a mighty impact. Like mine did!

In the evening I went to the Chief Petty



HAWKER P1127

by J/Sig. Thompson

Officer's Mess with Chief Petty Officer Smale, A.B.C.D.I. (who is commonly known by all on board as Sam, and it is mainly thanks to him that I was able to make this trip).

The following morning I went on to the island again and watched the Buccaneers, helicopters and Gannets taking off and landing. In the afternoon I attended a film and lecture on decontamination which was very interesting. During the evening, the Ark Royal anchored about three miles of Teignmouth.

The following day at 6.45 a.m. the Ark sailed rapidly away from land.

At 12 noon, we heard that the Hawker P1127 was going to land, so Sam gathered his camera and we both dashed onto the island. When we arrived, the deck (zero four deck) was full of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers, so there was very little room; but all the same, Sam got his photos, as he stood in a radar scanner platform.

The new Hawker looked like a huge flying saucer, floating very slowly above the Ark Royal and it seemed very hard to believe that this was the sleek object that we had seen streaking through the air at a few hundred miles per hour just a couple of minutes ago. Still, there it was, just above the flight deck, it stopped and began very slowly to descend (on its vertical swivel jets). At last it was down, then it slowly moved

forward and was up in the air again. To the astonishment of the onlookers, it started going backwards, and quite fast too, but eventually it landed to be taken down the lift into the spacious hangars. This aircraft is not much to look at, but its performance is astounding and must be seen to be believed.

During the afternoon, Chief Smale took me to see the anchors and operating machinery. All this was very interesting, although there was not much to see. In the evening we again anchored approximately three miles off Teignmouth and at 7.15 a.m. the next day, which was Saturday, we sailed out into the English Channel to meet a tanker, R.F.A. Tidellow, at a pre-arranged rendezvous, to take on fuel and fresh water, at the same time steaming out towards Weymouth.

At approximately 1.30 p.m., H.M.S. Ark Royal dropped anchor in Weymouth Bay. As the sea was quite choppy, a civilian fishing vessel was chartered to take the men ashore, but to get on board this vessel, we had to go down a scrambling net which was hung from one of the star-board weather decks. Eventually this tricky task was completed and with all hands on board the small fishing boat swiftly steamed away from the Ark Royal to Weymouth Quay.

Junior Signalman J. A. Thompson,
Kohima Troop.

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TROOP

TOP FOR FOUR TERMS

Many people on first hearing the name Kukri are liable to think it is spelt as COOKERY and consider it's the troop which supplies the camp meals. The KUKRI however, is very much unlike this, being a very formidable weapon. It is the national weapon of the Gurkhas, a tough wiry race of fighting men who live in Nepal. The KUKRI is a short heavy knife with a broad curved blade about twenty inches long.

KUKRI Troop is attached to the 17th GURKHA Signals Regiment and first obtained the Cobb Memorial Trophy and became Champion Troop of the Regiment under Captain P. G. Rogers and Sgt. Johnny Maher, in the Easter Term of 1961. The Troop has held this trophy for four terms now. Captain Westlake has been with us for nearly a year and Sgt. Johnny Maher for nearly three years. They have done a great deal of work in getting the troop in its top position, and under their supervision the boys of the troop have no doubt that the Cobb Memorial Trophy will again be won by Kukri for the fifth term running.

J/Sgt. Bob Joy.

Our pictures show the Champion Troop of Denbury at work and play. Kukri lads revel in challenging conditions

KUKRI STEW



SGT M. AND CAPT W.

When Capt. A. G. Rogers left, we were Champion Troop, and the classical remark at the time was "You won't see Champion Troop again now that P. G. has left." We were not daunted by this, because we knew that with our new troop officer (an equally handsome individual may I say) we should attain an even higher standard of efficiency.

Our wise thoughts were correct, we still attained an impeccable standard for all the competitions and came out reigning supreme. When and if, some "infidel" takes our position away from us, I don't think we will stand and shoot them down, we will be pleased to know that some other Troop has reached the Kukri standard of efficiency.

Although all this hard work takes up a lot of our time we still enjoy ourselves. The boys congregate at the South-gate at week-ends ready to "crawl" into Newton Abbot and other nearby towns for some form of entertainment. Some of the boys use their arms for supporting their girl friends; yet others only use the wrist and elbow in lifting drinking vessels. Cups of course. We like our coffee.

No matter what any other Troop boasts, I do not think that any Junior Leaders Regiment could have a better, happier, smarter and more efficient Troop than ours, and this is due, above all, to our having a Troop Officer and a Troop Sergeant who are a perfect match, and do everything possible for their Troop.

G. N. N.

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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 Pakistan via Nijmegen.
The account begins at this point.)

PART 3— RAWALPINDI TO MADRAS

RAWALPINDI

On arrival I reported to GHQ; as it happened the Army Commander was away so I missed seeing him that day but I arranged to see him on my return journey, after my interview with the President.

I toured the Army Apprentices' School and was very impressed with everything I saw. The Apprentice training is modelled on the kind of scheme we have in the United Kingdom for Service Apprentices, but as there is only one school here it caters for all arms and services. I gathered that in time it is hoped to combine the Air Force and the Army. With regard to the purpose of my visit, I again received warm and enthusiastic assurances that everybody would support the idea of a Commonwealth College and Expedition when it was formally launched.

JHELUM

I arrived in Jhelum on September 25 in time to have a long meeting with Lt-Col Mohamad Sardar Khan, of the Army Education Corps, who is the Commandant, before lunch. Sardar Khan is a Pathan, a dedicated and very forthright man. He told me briefly that it distressed him to acknowledge that his establishment was no longer called King George V. He felt that this was an unnecessary destruction of tradition which drew his establishment away from its Royal connections. He was very concerned about the standards of English Masters made available to some of the schools and he also felt that a gesture of some kind would stimulate Commonwealth feeling in the School. Undoubtedly such feelings were there but they remained buried under the surface.

LAHORE

I travelled to Lahore from Jhelum the same day (September 25) and having reported myself to the British High Commission, moved on to Sarghoda to see the renowned Mr. Catchpole and his PAF Public School. My impression of the PAF Public School is that it must be one of the most expensive establishments maintained by any service organisation in Pakistan. The layout is superb; the boys are extremely well cared for, and Mr. Catchpole, who has been teaching in this part of the world for the last thirty years, is a revered figure, not only in Pakistan, but also in Dehra Dun where he taught some of the Generals now serving in both the Pakistan and Indian Armies. To win the support of this conservative gentleman was most reassuring and I have asked him whether I might spend a day or two with him in Sarghoda on my way back to refresh my own thinking from his store of wisdom and experience.

On September 29 I spent a very pleasant hour with the Vice Chancellor of the Punjab University and several members of his staff and later met officers from the Students Union. The morning's discussions were so successful that I was asked to talk to the Union again later. At this second visit the President informed me that I could expect whole-hearted support from the students of the University and that he would be prepared to offer me 200 names without even consulting their owners.

I was privileged to meet Mrs. Azam who is head of the Physical Education Games and Sports for girls in West Pakistan. It was from her that I learned that a number of lady teachers and girl students had recently gone to Abbotabad to an arranged camp to take part in elementary mountaineering and hill climbing. A film which had been taken of this was shown to me and I was much impressed by it. Hitherto I had not mentioned girls participating in the Commonwealth Expedition but I was now able to do so and Mrs. Azam assured me that there would be unlimited support from the girls, provided that their part in the Expedition was not too severe.

DELHI

I arrived in Delhi at 10 p.m., on October 2, the date originally agreed. I met a Mr. Reddy, Secretary of the All India Youth Congress, and several young people who had recently attended a gathering where there had been much talk but nothing positive had been done. On the subject of the Commonwealth Youth Expedition I was asked through what media it would be launched. I did not know for certain as I was merely carrying out a kind of individual reconnaissance, but said that it would be sponsored by the Royal Commonwealth Society, planned and organised by a Commonwealth Council and the whole being under the patronage of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. I did mention of course that the Royal Commonwealth Society does not have a branch in India or Pakistan—as far as I know. With regard to The Commonwealth College, I saw this being allied to the functions of the British Council jointly with similar bodies of other Commonwealth countries, the Governorship and expenses shared equally by all and Her Majesty the Queen, as head of the Commonwealth its patron.

I was asked a lot of questions about the Commonwealth College and its function and I could only answer speculatively that it would provide courses of up to six months of an "Outward and Inward Bound" nature. There would be no specific programme of instruction or qualification at the end of each course, and its main purpose would be to help young men and women to discover themselves and to make friends.

I called on the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University (Mr. Desmukh) who was one time Finance Minister. He was in favour of the Commonwealth Body historically and traditionally and felt that such groupings leading towards the greater international community of nations was a first class idea and one which he had always supported. Consequently he thought the Commonwealth College a good idea if it could be clear of politics. The Expedition he said, apart from cost, would be a very good thing.

MADRAS

I left Delhi for Madras on October 22 (16,000 miles) and arrived in Madras at 2 o'clock on Friday the 26, the eve of Deepavali. I crossed the Penganga on a locally constructed raft built for the occasion because the bridge was not complete. The enterprise cost me Rs. 80/- but it was a great adventure.

I had lunch with the First Secretary (Mr. Lee) on Saturday and lunched with Mr. Patterson, the DHC on Sunday. All along the route the British Council has been extremely kind and helpful and I hope that I have managed to cause them as little embarrassment and trouble as possible.

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On October 30 I am due to visit the Madras University and to call on the GOC. Next I go to the King George V School in Bangalore and on to the National Defence Academy near Poona. Following that I visit Bombay University and return to Delhi on November 10. I am to go to Malaya before Nepal and expect to be there on or about November 24.

GENERAL

I sense a wind of change in India and Pakistan. Both countries have indulged themselves well and the cry of independence is becoming feeble in view of world events. Foreign help and visits have increased in size and variety and, even perhaps because of this, there is a wish to preserve the relationships and traditions of the past and to build on them. These things are jealously guarded and interference in them is firmly resisted.

If anything the European Common Market has stressed the complacency of the Commonwealth family and I cannot help feeling that Britain, having almost by accident, found herself in a bargaining position with Europe, the Commonwealth and America has won for herself the secret admiration of other commonwealth countries in spite of their very natural anxiety for the solidarity of the whole.

It would be impossible to include in these notes all the little incidents and conversations which have strengthened my conviction that now is the time for Commonwealth enterprises. Apart from Universities, Academies and schools I have talked with taxi-drivers, tonga wallahs, sweetmeat merchants, waiters, club markers and so many others. They all confirm the views I have expressed, each in his own different way.

Lancel Gregory.

Colonel Gregory is now on his way back from the Far East and the Regiment wishes him an equally eventful trip home.

THE ELUSIVE 'PHONE BOX

Have you ever looked for something that isn't there? The first thing that you tell yourself is that you haven't looked properly. The second thing that you are in the wrong place. The SSM and L/Cpl. Buckman said we'd been given the wrong map reference. When in doubt, ask a policeman. There not being one about, we asked a kind old lady.

We found it in the end, but afterwards, when we asked, it said it hadn't been hiding.

J/Sig. "Lofty" Jarman. (Jerboa Troop).



ST. VALENTINE'S DANCE 1.

On Wednesday, February 13, the Social Club held a St. Valentine's Dance. The Club room was redecorated with "heart and cupid" motifs. On Monday and Tuesday, Eve could be heard muttering about being up to her neck in "bleeding hearts" and it was obvious from the decoration that she and members of the committee had been busy preparing the room.

The dance was well attended and got off to a good start with music from records, the disc-jockey being "Charlie" from Javelin Troop.

Some of the music for dancing was provided by the Downbeats, it being their first public appearance this term. The Downbeats have two new members, "Spud" Wellington, of White Swan Troop, and Frank McDonough of Junior Squadron, who ably assisted founder members Adrian Mead and Paul Wicks in their interpretation of some very lively music.

The Regimental cooks provided an excellent supper, this being evident by the small quantity of crumbs left over. During the supper break, the Padre was seen at the drum kit gaily beating out the tune to accompanying records.

The C.O. said that he hoped to arrange dances in the town later on, with music provided by the Downbeats. The 2i/c indicated that a permanent

home would be found for the group so that the kit would not have to be kept in the back of a Mini-tin.

The Downbeats played the final numbers for the dance and Sgt. Davis thanked them for providing the music, and Eve and "Spud" for their decorative efforts. "Foo Foo"

ST. VALENTINE'S DANCE 2

The dance started at eight o'clock and there was a big attendance from the very start.

The Comanding Officer, Major Scott, and the Padre made early arrivals.

The food was demolished in double quick time, and if some of the "gannets" had been as keen to clear up afterwards as they were at polishing off the scoff, Eve would have had an easier time.

The decorations were first-class. It is a wonder we were not all soaked by blood from all the giant "bleeding hearts."

The Downbeats came in for a terrific reception later in the evening and got really "sent" with Paul Wicks belting out the lyrics. The Colonel was so impressed that he told us that he would consider allowing them to fulfill outside engagements.

Winners of the Twist Spectacular were Cpl. Young and his attractive partner.

Miss G. Chapple won the draw.
J/Signalman Deb Reynolds, and
Topper Topping (Kohima Troop).

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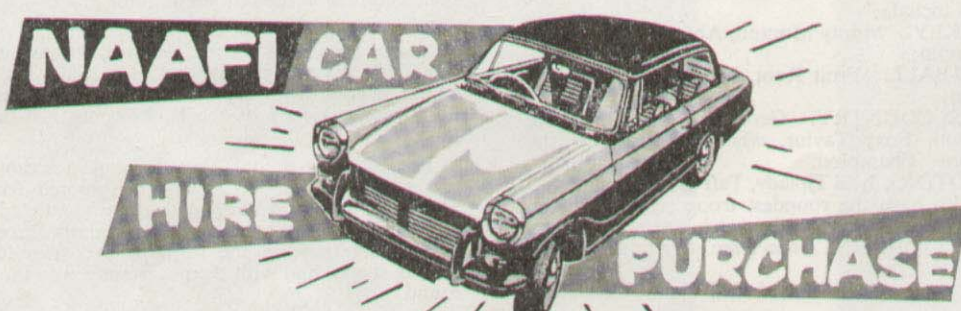


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TEAMWORK

I arrived in this Regiment with many doubts in my mind, my opinion of ex-boys was low and I wondered what I would encounter. My doubts were further increased by my introduction to Kukri Troop, their bulky and popular troop sergeant describing them as "a right lot of wasters." However, I was soon to realise that he was joking, and since then I have had reason to adjust my opinion of ex-boys.

The boys of Kukri Troop have shown me the value and the ability of boy soldiers. They have shown that boys, can, by their enthusiasm, attain standards of smartness and efficiency seldom seen in man-service. Much of this enthusiasm is carried by the competitive spirit which exists in this Regiment. There are many who denounce the Cobb Memorial Competition as a waste of time and "cup-hunting." I think the standards seen in this Regiment disprove this. Without competition standards would fall.

The Cobb Memorial trophy and the competitions which make it up are a test of the basic military skills that can be expected of a soldier. My only regret is that the inter-troop shooting competition and the Commonwealth Trophy do not count towards the Champion Troop Award. This is not because I think that Kukri Troop would win them and further add to their glory, but because I am sure the standard of shooting and map-reading within the Regiment would improve. We in the army may well have need of an improvement in these skills if the present cold war should ever "hot-up."

Since my arrival in the Regiment, Kukri Troop have remained Champion Troop. Many persons both military and civilian tend to shower congratulations on the Troop Officer and Sergeant. I would like to take this opportunity to explain that although troop officers and sergeants can exert a guiding influence, the real effort is made by the boy NCO's and Junior Signalmen. It is they who make the real effort, and it is they who can win or lose a competition.

Well done the boys of Kukri Troop!

"it ain't the individual, nor the army as a whole, but the everlasting teamwork of every blooming sole." (KIPLING).

Capt. JACK WESTLAKE.

Dear Col. Holifield,

May I express my appreciation for the co-operation which you and your staff have shown in the recent emergency, particularly for supplying vehicles and men for delivery of urgently needed supplies, and the offer to supply and deliver hot meals to stranded persons wherever required.

Yours sincerely, RONALD GREENWOOD
Chief Constable of Devon.

SIR,—Thank you for my "Junior Mercury." I look forward each month to the copy being sent to me. I feel it keeps me in touch with the life my son is living.

What I do miss these last few copies is the "Round the Camp" page. It gave the feeling of fun that runs through the camp and helps us to know how they enjoy life there, or even otherwise. You see, it's the little things of life that count a great deal.

I like the idea that you have started. I hope it means you will take each troop in turn, then we shall all have an opportunity to see pictures and read articles of our own boy's Troop.

Nothing gives parents the feeling of their son's nearness more than reading about camp affairs.

Many thanks for all the time and trouble getting together articles for so excellent a purpose.

We look forward to, and thoroughly enjoy reading every copy. Your efforts are very worthwhile.—Yours, etc.,

MRS. MORRIS, Peterborough.

(Editor: Thank you for your kind letter. It is the kind of encouragement we like to receive. The "Round the Camp" page has been discontinued in favour of including more articles from our Junior Leader reporters. We hope you enjoy them).

IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW

We have thirteen bandboys in our Troop, the most in the Regiment. They include Leading Trumpeter "Hotlips" Fisher, and Cymbal Major "Grins" Beesley, who does a good job ensuring that they are both banged at the same time.

We also take a wide interest in Regimental Sports. They include:

HOCKEY. Monty Monton, Abe Abraham (goal)
Pete Havlin;

FOOTBALL. Fruit Root, Maca McKenzie, Nip Vaughan;

CROSS COUNTRY. Geordie Benson, George Emmerson, Foxy Taylor, who incidentally is the Singapore Champion.

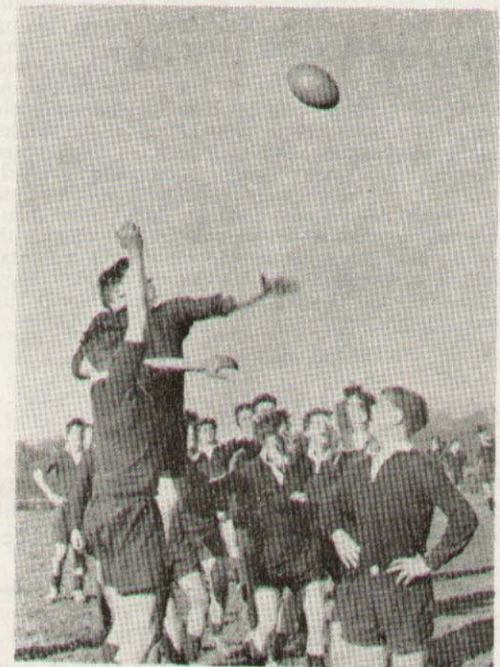
SHOOTING. Ivan Tiplady, Taff Wathen (captain).

We also have the roundest troop sergeant in the army, and the most "fly" lawyer in the army, which helps us a little. So I don't see why other Troops should boast.

J/Cpl. Taff Wathen. KUKRI.



M. Castle gets it out



Denbury jumps high

SAPPERS UNDERMINE DENBURY

The hopes of the Rugby Fifteen of progressing further into the Army Cup this season were dashed when they met the Royal Engineers at Denbury. In a tough, if somewhat uninspiring match, the Sappers managed to snatch a 9-3 win, six of their points coming in the last ten minutes.

It was unfortunate for the home side that its usually fiery and hard working pack seemed to have an off day. As a result of this and of a somewhat haphazard service from the base of the scrum, the undoubted superiority of the backs could not be put to its full use.

The Sappers scored first through a scrambling try in the corner. Clifton then scored for the Signals, after which developed a hard battle for the vital points needed for victory; the visitors succeeded in securing these in the form of two tries in the closing stages, and with them a passage into the next round.

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SIGNALS, 3 pts.**

At Torquay on Saturday, February 9, 1963

The Torquay team contained five of their second fifteen players which gave a lot more experience to their team.

There was no score at half time after much scrappy and purposeless play. In the second half both packs played better with Feegan and Greenwood outstanding for Signals. Hartry had great difficulty with his opposite number who persistently swung without being penalised.

The Torquay half backs were allowed too much room and the Signals forwards were not trying to get through the line-outs when Torquay had possession.

Castle and Lythe tackled effectively in the centre, whilst Perry on the Signals wing had good runs, but failed to finish them off. A little more determination would have produced at least one score.

Signals opened the scoring in the second half when the Torquay scrum-half failed to hold a quick lead on his own line and Williams nipped through to touch down. Younger failed to add the points. Torquay replied minutes later with an uncovered try after a line-out and some ragged defence on the Signals line.

Ten minutes from time, Younger failed to field a difficult goal and a Torquay player was up to score to the right of the posts. The kick failed.

Cooper, the Signals Captain, was always dangerous whilst in possession, but he had great difficulty in dictating the play whilst everyone favoured the boot.

**JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT ROYAL
SIGNALS, 3 pts. ; NEWTON ABBOT COLTS, 0 pts.**

At Denbury, Saturday, February 16, 1963

The ground was in perfect condition for the match. The spectators enjoyed a game played at a fast pace and with much spirit and fire shown by both sides. In the first half there were many quick determined threequarter movements ended by hard tackling and the good covering of the back row forwards.

M. Castle playing in his debut for the Regiment, and his first game as a scrum half, showed much promise.

The Signals pack out-shoved the Newton pack and often got the ball despite the fact that the Newton hooker was a Devon Youth player.

Feegan, Greenwood, Clifton and Hartry were outstanding in the loose mauls. Pearce also in his first game for the Regiment played extremely well.

The home team was ahead when Younger landed a penalty from 30 yards after an incident in the scrum.

At half time Signals were three points up and in the second half both Lyth and Perry were tackled near the Newton line after exciting movements in which all the backs joined in.

Newton Abbot attacked strongly in the last quarter of an hour but were thwarted by the good covering of the Signals back row and the hard tackling of the backs.

Signals held on to their lead without adding to it. The result being a fair indication of the difference between both teams.

SHAKESPEARE ON SOLDIERS—1

*Come, I'll be friends with thee, Jack ;
thou art going to the wars; and whether
I shall ever see thee or no, there is nobody cares.*

(Doll Tearsheet to Falstaff, Henry IV,2)

**PRESCOTT POUNDS KRAUS
EX-JAVELIN J/SGT. WINS AGAIN**

Johnny Prescott, the unbeaten Midland heavy-weight champion knocked out Paul Kraus (Germany) for a sensational third-round win when they met at Smethwick.

Johnny, an ex-J/Sgt. of "G" Troop, who left in 1956 was Regimental Welter-weight champion at Denbury. He gave a fine all-round performance in stopping the German who depended mainly on a dangerous left swing. But once Prescott had sized him up, he severely punished him with vicious hooks to the head.

The ex-Denbury boy is now a leading contender for the British and Empire crown and his combination punching is the envy of his profession.

The fight was over in 2 min. 48 secs. when Kraus was finally stunned by a crisp right hook.

**SOUTHERN COMMAND JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS 1963, JAN. 29—30**

This year ten boys took part in the competition. Although there were less entries than last year, we produced a better overall result.

The preliminaries took place in the Boxing Gymnasium of No. 1 Training Regiment R.E., and the finish at the Military Boxing Stadium, Aldershot.

J/Sig. Ayres lost his semi-final to J/Tpr. Jackson of the R.A.C., who was a little too strong for him.

J/Sig. Watson also went out in his semi-final to A/T.L/Cpl. Mason of the R.A.M.C. J/Sig. Trenchard had his bout stopped in the second round, his opponent A/T Young of the A.A.S. Aborfield being much too strong for him. J/Sig. Le Page won his semi-final against J/Pte. Ward of the R.A.O.C., but was beaten in the final by J/Tpr. Abbott of the R.A.C. who had a great advantage in reach. J/Sig. James lost a very close final on points to J/Pte. Lormor of the R.A.O.C. J/Sig. Simpson won on a KO in the second round against J/Pte. O'Connell R.A.O.C. In the first round he took some heavy punches whilst weighing up O'Connell but in the second round he proved himself to be the better boxer making all his punches count and using all the openings left by his opponent. The punch that won him the bout was a beautifully executed right hook to the head. The punch was copybook perfect.

J/Sig. Henry was well beaten by J/Tpr. Marsden, R.A.C., who was much cleverer and faster. J/Cpl. Hargreaves beat A/T Wainman, A.A.S. Arborfield in his usual classic style, using all his skill as a boxer against a scrapper, making all the openings and using good combination punches. The final bout of the evening was between J/Sig. Powell and J/Tpr. Kirk, R.A.C. This was a real "stand up and fight" effort. Both boys standing toe to toe swapping punches one for one with neither of them giving ground.

They both worked so hard in the first two rounds that they had very little energy left for the last and it was anyone's guess who was winning at this stage. Powell found that little bit more energy almost KO'ing Kirk halfway through the round but finishing up the winner on points.

A very creditable performance by all of them, giving the Regiment:—

Three Command Champions:
J/Cpl. Hargreaves.
J/Sig. Simpson.
J/Sig. Powell.

and three Runners-up:
J/Sig. James.
J/Sig. Henry.
J/Sig. Le Page.

S/S H.

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Monday, March 18, for six days

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THE L-SHAPED ROOM

(X) 2.15, 5.10, 8.05

Spike Milligan on

TREASURE ISLAND W.C.2

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Judy Garland Dirk Bogarde

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Leslie Phillips

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Weekdays 2.15, 5.25, 8.35

MacDonald Carey Philip Friend

STRANGLEHOLD

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Weekdays 3.50, 7.05

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BIG BOUNCE



Lt. Pearce shows the way on the new trampoline.

A HEALTHY MIND IN A HEALTHY BODY

The physical training staff in the Regiment, under QMSI. Pictor, certainly live up to the motto of the Army Physical Training Corps although at times their patience must be sorely tried.

To further this aim a trampoline arrived at the beginning of the term for the use of the Gym Hobby, and it has proved a very popular exercise under the expert guidance of Lieut. Pearce. The beauty of rebound tumbling (not trampolining) is that it develops co-ordination between mind and body and general fitness whilst the person enjoys himself completely, in fact, the first things the boys are warned against, is trying too hard.

Not only is the trampoline used within the gym but it is hoped to use it as a centre-piece in the Regimental P.T. Display Team. This will be composed of boys in the Gymnasium Hobby, and will give displays all over South Devon. Their appearance in the Bath Tattoo will really put them in the public eye, and we predict they will be in great demand.

The hobby has been going for two terms now and the number of boys wishing to join the hobby was surprising, especially the fact that most of these boys have had previous experience and revealed a wealth of talent. A visit to the gym will find them hard at work (work is hardly the correct word) under capable instruction, improving their fitness and discovering that they are able to do exercises

which they would have thought impossible a week or so ago. Commented J/Sig. Dryhurst: "Its great fun and it really keeps you fit." If there are any boys who are gymnasts they should enquire about joining. They are promised an interesting time.

What of the future? QMSI. Pictor hopes that the famed display team of the APTC will give a display at this camp; however, they are in great demand and we will be fortunate if they do give us a display. The training given to the boys here will certainly stand them in good stead in man's service and maybe they will fill the gap left by national servicemen as Physical Training Instructors in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Finally a vote of thanks to QMSI. Pictor and his staff for providing potted team sports in the gym when the weather has been bad. These have been very popular and we hope they will continue. Boys have been known to go in grumbling and come out of the gym with comments like: "Well if thats P.T. give us more." TAKE NOTE PLEASE.

J/SIG. LAWRENCE.

CROSS COUNTRY

DEVON COUNTRY LEAGUE

The last of the Devon County League races was held at Plymouth on Saturday, 16th February '63. This race was won by J/Sig. Gue and the Denbury A team chose a close second to Appleton Youth Club. This makes them the winners of the County Youth League.

ARMY CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP 1963

The occasion will be remembered for many years on account of the severe ice bound path on the new course at Blackdown which gave the route the quality of an obstacle course and reduced the runners to crawling on hands and knees.

For the ten Junior Leaders from Denbury it will be doubly memorable for they can now recall their days at RMA, Sandhurst. They will remember lording it in the RMA coach. They will also remember their separate bedrooms with basins in each, and bed made down. One member of the team will also remember being ordered to take his "something or other hand" out of his similarly described pockets. The member of the staff who yelled was too far away to realise that he was addressing a Junior Leader and not an Officer Cadet, or no doubt he would have apologised.

The team finished 13th out of 16 at the championship, a disappointing result considering the local successes. Spikes would have helped, but possibly any team capable of finishing at all on that course did well and we look forward to 1963-64 with an older but largely unchanged team.

J/Sgt. Gue once again did well to finish 9th in a total field of 128.

Those who remember Maddison of Javelin Tp. Gribb of Jerboa and Stevens of White Swan will be pleased to hear that the first two are running in the Men's Championships for 24 Sig. Rgt. with Stevens in reserve. 24 Signal Regt. are Northern Command Champions this season. Scotland, ex-Jerboa Troop, now in 216 Signal Squadron turned up as usual to encourage our team.

S.W. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our first important race of this term was at Taunton. The Junior Leaders Regiment, RASC, played host to competitors from six counties in the South Western Cross Country Championships.

Unfortunately the weather was very bad. The snow was soft and the runners exposed to biting winds furthermore our team was handicapped by the lack of spikes which proved invaluable to the other runners. In spite of these disadvantages the "A" team finished sixth out of eight teams. Sgt. Gue came ninth establishing himself as a very capable runner against some of the best runners in the South West. J/Sig. Docherty (Kohima) surprised everyone by doing far better than expected especially as it is his first term in the team.

As for the newcomer to the team, Gethin, shows plenty of promise for the future. Its a pity he is output this term.

We would like to thank the Junior Leaders Regiment, RASC, for being such good hosts and for making the events go so smoothly. One disappointment was that Bruce Tulloh the well-known runner retired from the Senior Race.

DENBURY STAKES

The Denbury Stakes organized by the Junior Regiment, Royal Signals at Denbury took place for the second time this season on Wednesday 13th February, '63. This event, inaugurated in 1961 appears to be growing more popular amongst local schools.

J/Sgt. Gue finished 6 seconds behind Naile of Hele School, Exeter, in 15 mins 57 secs and the full results are published below:

1st, Hele School, Exeter, 84 points; 2nd, Denbury A, 103 points; 3rd, Seale-Hayne, 113 points; 4th, King Edward VI Grammar School, Totnes A, 150 points; 5th, Torquay Grammar School, 154 points; 6th, Teignmouth Grammar School, 168 points; 7th, Denbury B, 256 points; 8th, Junior Soldiers Wing Wessex Brigade, 271 points; 9th, Tornes B, 319 points.

We look forward to even bigger and better races next season and hope that HMS Fisguard and certain schools absent on this occasion will be back with us again.

There were 6 teams on 8th February, '61; 9 teams on 15th November, '61; and 7 teams on 24th October, '62.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

DEVON YOUTH CUP (AREA FINAL)

On Saturday, February 16, the Regiment met Milber United in the area final. Being the first fixture to be played at Denbury this year, both teams were eager to get cracking. We got off to a good start with a goal in the first minute from Kay. Although Milber only fielded ten men they gave our team plenty of work and after ten minutes an opportunist goal by the visitors levelled the score. Our defences were caught napping frequently and it took another 15 minutes to settle down. Then after a goalmouth scramble, Kelly scored, closely followed by a powerfully shot goal by Nelson from over 30 yards. Further goals by Kay and Nelson before half time enabled us to change over with a 5-1 lead.

Over-confidence in the second half was the reason for several missed chances, plus excellent covering by the Milber defence. Further goals by Kay, Kelly and Nelson (penalty) meant a win by 8-1 and a place in the Devon Cup Semi-final.

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