

JUNIOR

# MERCURY



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

## GRADUATION DAY

9th APRIL, 1963

★

The Regiment was honoured by a visit from Mr. James Ramsden, M.P., the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War, who kindly undertook the duties of Reviewing Officer. During his address, Mr. Ramsden said: "There never has been a time when reliability, speed and accuracy of communications was more important, whether it be a 'hot line to Moscow,' a world crisis in Cuba, or the movement of our mobile reserve."



*Pictures by courtesy of Herald Express, Torquay.*



Above: The March Past. Left: The Regimental Pipers. Below: Junior Squadron Sergeant-Major Greenwood receives the Commandant Training Brigade Trophy. (See also back page).



## SPECIAL WHITE SPEAR TROOP EDITION

(SEE CENTRE PAGES)



Picture by courtesy of Express and Echo, Exeter.

Devon and Cornwall schoolmasters seeing life at Denbury. Major Malcolm Scott, Second in Command and Chief Instructor, explains how Junior Signalmen are taught teleprinter operations., to (left to right) Mr. J. C. Hayes, careers master of Shelley School, Crediton; Mr. W. Richards, careers master of Axminster School; and Mr. J. D. White, Axminster Head Master.

DEAR EDITOR,—Another year has passed since my last letter, so this prompts me to renew my annual subscription.

Cpl. Feirn (ex White Swan) and myself from Romulus Troop have been in Aden over fourteen months now. We are not alone as ex boys, here at 254 Sig. Sqn., there are fourteen at present, the oldest leaving Denbury Xmas 1960.

We have just been joined by WOII Eldridge, who was at Denbury in 1958, before leaving to be posted at the All Arms School, Wales.

Recently our Quartermaster, S/Sgt. Toye left us to join you at Denbury, we wish him the best, along with you all at Denbury, we often wonder where some of the old lads are, and we still haven't found out what my Troop Officer Lieut. Wagstaff RAEC is up to these days!

G. JENKINS,

254 Signal Sqn., Aden, B.F.P.O. 69.

Dear Colonel,

May I on behalf of Mr. Wayt and myself offer our thanks for the most enjoyable and informative day spent with you yesterday.

I was particularly impressed with the attention paid to the academic side of the boys' training.

It is apparent that you will be producing not only good soldiers but also men who on discharge will have much to offer future civilian employers and the communities in which they settle.

I now feel in a position to assure any parents of a prospective entrant that they need have no qualms about a boy's welfare in any respect.—Yours, etc.,

P. F. PRYCE,

(Cornwall Education Committee),  
Delaware County Secondary School,  
Gunnislake, Cornwall.

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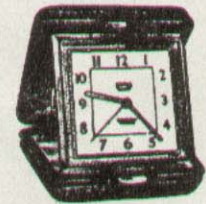
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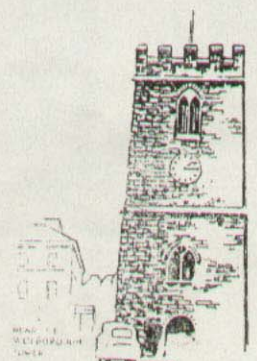
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# THE COMMANDING OFFICER ADDRESSES ALL PARENTS

*On the afternoon of Graduation Day Lt.-Col. Holifield addressed parents in the Globe Cinema. For those unable to attend, we print below his address in full.*

Once again it is my pleasure to welcome you to DENBURY, and to report on the term which is now ending. I would like, on behalf of the Regiment, to thank the Under-Secretary of State for War, Mr. JAMES RAMSDEN, MP, for coming to DENBURY and carrying out the duties of Reviewing Officer on the Graduation Parade. I know that he is a very busy man, and we are all most grateful to him for giving up so much of his time to be with us here today.

As you will understand, the winter terms are never easy, and this term has certainly been no exception. We had more than our fair share of snow in January and February and, as a consequence, our outdoor training programmes were completely disrupted. Within the Camp we had many problems with our heating system and, outside, our activities were restricted by ice and snow on the roads. I would like to pay a special tribute to my staff, civilian and military, who carried on so loyally and efficiently despite all these difficulties and who never failed, despite the appalling road conditions, to report for duty each day. The snow and the extreme cold greatly restricted our sport and adventure and for a greater part of the term it was not possible to use the playing fields, to exercise on Dartmoor, or to canoe on the local rivers. The boys were naturally disappointed at this restriction on their out-of-doors activities, but we were able to offer some compensation by arranging two Squadron weekend camps for the boys in March. We were also able, during February and March, to organize relief expeditions on the fringe of DARTMOOR, in which parties of Junior Leaders carried fodder to sheep cut off in the snow.

During the term the weekly instruction of non-swimmers at TORQUAY Baths continued whenever road conditions permitted, and I am pleased to report that, of 60 boys under instruction, 48 have graduated above the non-swimmer stage and three can now be classified as swimmers.

In March, one Junior Leader was awarded the Award of Merit for life-saving, and five Junior Leaders passed the Bronze Medallion. We also achieved two gold, three silver and five bronze awards in the RLSS Personal Survival Tests. I am trying very hard at the present time to persuade the War Department to install a small indoor pool within the Camp so that the training of all boys in swimming and personal survival may be put on a more satisfactory basis.

As you will know, it is now one year since I introduced the new training programme at DENBURY. It will take another year before the full fruits of the new programmes can be seen, but already there are welcome signs of a rising standard on both the academic and trade training side. Our number of subject passes in the Army Senior Certificate of Education rose from 191 in 1961 to 378 in 1962, and the number of complete passes in the Army Intermediate Certificate for the corresponding years rose from 140 to 217. Our Trade Training has also made good progress and I am hoping that, as from the end of next term, a proportion of the Junior Leaders graduating to Colour Service will leave DENBURY with a trade rating. The increased emphasis on trade instruction and education has not been achieved at the expense of leadership training, and there has been no reduction in the time allotted to this. The results achieved during the term by Junior Leaders from DENBURY at the Army Outward Bound School, TON-FANAU, show that our standards in leadership are being well maintained. A total of 16 boys attended the course during the term and, with the exception of one boy who was discharged with a broken arm, all passed the course and four received an above-average grading.

During the term, ceremonial pipe banners were presented to the Regiment by 1st Signal Regiment, which is affiliated to JERBOA Troop, and 2nd Signal Regiment, which is affiliated to KOHIMA Troop. The Regimental Pipers were honoured to carry the banners on parade this morning, and I have arranged for these and all the other pipe banners to be placed on display in No. 1 Gymnasium later this afternoon. At the end of last month the Regiment was presented with a ceremonial dagger, a Skeen Dhu, by Messrs. Potter and Co., to be awarded each term to the Junior Pipe Major. The Skeen Dhu was presented as a memorial to Miss Graham-Jones, who died earlier this year. Miss Graham-Jones, who was a member of the staff of Potter and Co., had always taken a very great interest in the Regiment and had gone to great pains and effort to help us in equipping our Regimental Pipers.

Hobbies and activities in the Regiment have continued to expand during the term. The art hobby, under the guidance of Mr. TYSOE, has now acquired a potter's wheel and kiln, and we hope to start a pottery next term. Thanks to the enthusiasm and drive of Mr. MANN, another member of our civilian teaching staff, the printing hobby has made great strides, and has carried out a lot of excellent printing jobs for the Regiment. An excellent example of this work is the programme for the parade this morning, which was printed by Mr. MANN and his Junior Leader assistants. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Stephen Boyes, a good friend of the Regiment in NEWTON ABBOT, we have recently been able to purchase, for a nominal sum, a commercial type-printing machine, and we are at the present time installing this in the new printing hobby room. Once this press is installed and working, we shall be able to tackle a very wide range of printing work within the Regiment.

You will remember that, at the end of last term, I referred to the proposed changes in the establishment of the Regiment. These changes have now been generally agreed and, as from tomorrow, two new troops—to be known as BEAU-FIGHTER Troop and LION Troop—and a new Squadron—MONTGOMERY



The first patrol of White Spear Troop discusses the rout with the Commanding Officer on Commonwealth Trophy day.

Squadron—will be formed. It will, however, take some time to reach our new ceiling of 630 Junior Leaders. We must ensure, despite the increased numbers, that the standard of boy admitted to the Regiment is kept at its present high standard.

The additional buildings which were erected in the Camp during the winter are now ready for occupation, and I hope to bring them into use at the beginning of next term. Although the new buildings are of wooden-hutted construction, they are excellent for the purpose for which they are intended, and will provide us with much-needed additional classroom and laboratory accommodation.

Last week the NUFFIELD Trust notified me of yet another gift to the Regiment. The Trust has agreed to purchase eight fibre-glass canoes for us at a cost of £360. I need hardly say what a great boon to the Regiment these canoes will be. I would like to express, on behalf of us all at DENBURY, my very sincere thanks to Lord NUFFIELD and the magnificent Trust he has established, for the outstanding generosity that has been shown to us on this, and so many other, occasions. I feel that very few people outside the Services realize the immense part that the NUFFIELD Trust plays in looking after the welfare of the Service man and the massive scale of the assistance provided for us.

And now a few words on next term. The Regiment has a very full programme of training and activities planned for the summer, and my problem has been to cram into the 14 weeks concerned all the many things we wish to do. The big event will be the Ten Tors Youth Expedition which will take place over Whitsun. The entry list, which continues to grow each year, is now closed, and we have limited the entry to 1,500 young people. Helping to organize the Expedition will prove a valuable exercise for the Junior Leaders, and although the Expedition will call for many extra hours of work from us all, I know that the effort will be very well worthwhile.

The Regiment is also proposing to send a party of 50 Junior Leaders to the NIJMEGEN Marches at the end of July. Royal Signals Junior Leaders have been associated with the NIJMEGEN Marches for several years, and I am delighted that the War Department has honoured the Regiment this year by nominating us as one of the two Junior Leaders Regiments to represent the British Army.

This evening the Junior Leaders have arranged a concert for you here in the Cinema. This has been prepared by the boys, completely on their own and without the help of the Staff. I am sure they will put on a good show, and I hope you will all be here to enjoy it at 8 p.m.

It is now my pleasure to call on my wife to present the prizes, after which I have arranged for the Regimental Choir to give a short recital. I regret that I have had to cancel the display by the Highland Dancers, but this is due to the Paignton Festival which takes place shortly after Easter. Most of our dancers will be taking part in this, and I feel it only right, as they will be returning several days early from leave, to let them go on leave a few days before the end of term.

After the choir have performed, we will move across the road to No. 1 Gymnasium, where I hope you will join my wife, the Staff and I informally over a cup of tea. Thank you again for coming to DENBURY. I hope you enjoy your short stay here, and I wish you all a safe journey home and a very happy Easter.

*Alan Holifield*

## LION AND BEAUFIGHTER

At a special ceremony at Denbury on Wednesday, April 10, 1963, two new troops were inaugurated. Troop flashes, balaclavas and flags were presented by the Commanding Officer.

Lion Troop is the 'offspring' of 9 Signal Regiment which is commanded by Lt. Col. D. D. Fairman, OBE, Royal Signals, and its troop colour is silver-grey. This famous unit can trace its origin back 38 years and has served continuously in the Middle East. The regimental emblem is the Lusignan Lion. Richard I of England (Coer de Lion), in 1191, transferred Cyprus to Guy de Lusignan, the displaced King of Jerusalem, as compensation for the loss of his Holy Land crown. The Lusignan Lion can still be seen in Cyprus, in the Old City of Famagusta and on a coat-of-arms on the walls of Kolossi Castle.

The parent unit of Beaufighter Troop is the distinguished 19th (Air Formation) Regiment commanded by Lt. Col. W. R. G. Hencher, MBE, Royal Signals. The troop colour is, very appropriately, sky-blue. The 'Beaufighter' is the aircraft shown in silhouette on the regimental flashes and flags. Junior Leaders of this troop will soon learn that this aircraft was the fiercest, swiftest, most tenacious and reliable fighter 'plane of the war, and all who flew 'em loved 'em. Now some 50 young men will strive to live up to this reputation.

The Troop Commander of Lion is Lt. J. M. Gray and it is in Slim Squadron.

The Troop Commander of Beaufighter is Lt. G. A. Maude and it is in Alexander Squadron.



Lt. Col. A. J. Woodrow, MBE, assisted by the Commanding Officer, presenting a pipe banner to the Regiment from 1st Signal Regiment. On the left, watching, is Capt. P. G. Rogers, ex-OC Kukri Troop.

### FOUR RENOWNED TROOPS FORM NEW SQUADRON OF ILLUSTRIOUS NAME

The new Montgomery Squadron has been formed from four troops existent at Denbury for some years now. They are as follows:

**FRANCISCA TROOP**, affiliated to 28th Signal Regiment, commanded by Capt. M. F. H. Coleman.

**JAVELIN TROOP**, affiliated to 22nd Signal Regiment, commanded by Lt. A. J. Field.

**IRON TROOP**, affiliated to 3rd Signal Regiment, commanded by Lt. A. C. M. Prince.

**JERBOA TROOP**, affiliated to 1st Signal Regiment, commanded by Capt. E. Pickup.

'Junior Mercury,' on behalf of the Regiment, welcomes Major Wright, Officer Commanding Montgomery Squadron and Lts. Prince and Field, to Denbury, and wishes them a happy tour with Junior Signalmen.



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## GRADUATES

The following Junior Leaders graduated to Colour Service with the Royal Corps of Signals at the Parade on April 9, 1963, to complete their training in the trades shown.

**Technicians.**—JL/Cpl. Bauwens, Shaw, Dewhurst, Perkins, J/Sig. Wiseman, Tunks, Wiscombe.

**Radio Relay Men.**—Sgt. Keogh, Cpl. Spree, L/Cpl. Green, Cowling, Merrick, J/Sig. Binns, Smith, Hatton, Dyhurst, Tiplady.

**Linemen.**—J/Sig. Douglas, Healy, McGookin.

**Telegraph Operators.**—J/SSM. Greenwood, J/Sgt. Barnard, J/Cpl. Hargreaves, Mawer, J. Hill, JL/Cpl. Harp, J/Sig. Mitchell, Noizot, Lyth, Salloway, Dixon, Salvona.

**Radio Operators.**—J/Sgt. Hewson, J/Sig. Quinn, Warboys, Perkins, Ridley, Powell, Sykes.

**Staff Operators.**—J/RSM Jakins, J/Cpl. Richardson, Hassall, JL/Cpl. Younger, Burdes, Dean, Benson, Couper, Holton, Procter, Chapman, Maloney, Winder.

**Communication Centre Operator.**—J/Sgt. Castle, Laming, J/Cpl. McLeod, J/L/Cpl. Allen, Monton, J/Sig. Castle, Davies, Robertson, Brumfield, McKechnie, Paton, Berrington, Chaffey, Lingard, Wellington, Martin.

**Special Operators.**—Cpl. Allison, L/Cpl. Birchall, J/Sig. Mandy, Wraith.

## PRIZE GIVING

**Education.**—Best Result Junior Exam, Xmas Term: J/Sig. Waterworth (Quadrant); Inter: J/Sig. Chambler (Javelin); Senior and certificate: J/Sig. Morrill (Jerboa).

**Senior Education Certificate:** J/Sig. Marchant (Iron); J/Sig. Gilchrist (Francisca); J/Cpl. Burman (White Swan); J/Sig. Wiseman (Quadrant); J/Sig. Taylor (Francisca).

**Best Progress, Xmas Term:** J/Sig. Douglas (Javelin); J/Sig. O'Flaherty (White Spear).

**Trade Training.**—Most Progress, Alexander Squadron Radio Operator: J/Sig. Boizot (Kukri); Alexander Squadron Comcen Operator: J/Sig. McKechnie (Romulus); Slim Squadron Radio Operator: J/L/Cpl. Mullins (White Spear); Slim Squadron Comcen Operator: J/Sig. Woodcock (Jerboa).

**Hockey Pollard Cup.**—Inter Squadron Competition: Alexander Squadron, J/Cpl. Raybould.



White Swan Troop have been visiting farms again. This time it is Mr. Scott's at Ogwel Village.

**Cross Country Mhow Shield.**—Inter Troop Competition: (White Spear) J/Sgt. Hewson. Individuals: 1st, J/Sgt. Gue (Quadrant); 2nd, J/Sig. Glossop (White Swan); 3rd, J/Sig. Glennon (Javelin).

**Rugby London Bridge Royal Signal Association Cup.**—Inter Squadron: Alexander Squadron. Glossop Cup.—Inter Troop: Kohima, J/Sgt. Clifton.

**Shooting—Commonwealth Division Cup.**—Inter Troop: (Romulus) J/Sgt. Nelson; Best Individual: J/Sig. Lee (Romulus); Runner up: J/Sig. Tiplady (Kukri).

**Basketball Colours: New Awards:** J/Cpl. Cooper (Quadrant); J/Sig. O'Flaherty (White Spear); J/Sig. Tyler (White Spear). Re-Awarded: J/Cpl. Spree (Francisca); J/L/Cpl. Priestley (Romulus); J/Sig. Wiseman (Quadrant).

**Cross Country Colours: New Awards:** J/Sig. Parry (Romulus); J/Cpl. Benson (Kukri); J/Sig. Jackson (Jerboa); J/Sgt. Barnard (Javelin); J/Sig. Glennon (Javelin); J/Sig. Taylor (Kukri); J/Sig. Emmerson (Kukri); J/Sig. Docherty (Kohima); J/Sig. Fearley (Romulus); J/Sig. Collister (Francisca); J/Sig. Moger (Javelin); J/Sig. Waldron (Jerboa); J/Sig. Drew (Junior Squadron); J/Sig. Wood (Junior Squadron).

**Shooting Colours: Re-Awarded:** J/Sig. Tiplady (Kukri); J/Sig. Lee (Romulus).

**Boxing Colours: New Awards:** J/Sgt. James

(Kukri); J/Sig. McKnight (Jerboa). Re-Awarded: J/Cpl. Burman (White Swan); J/Cpl. Hargreaves (Iron); J/Sig. Le Page (Iron); J/Sig. Powell (Jerboa); J/Sig. Simpson (Kukri).

**Highland Dancing: Most Progress:** J/Sig. Wood (White Spear).

**Army Arts and Crafts Competition, 1962.**—Sculpture and Wood Carving: First Prize: J/Sig. Agrell (White Spear).

**Life Saving: Bronze, Silver, Gold:** J/Cpl. Emmott (Francisca); Bronze, Silver, Gold: J/Cpl. Haylock (Kukri); Silver: J/Cpl. Smith M. (Francisca); Bronze: J/L/Cpl. Telford (Francisca); Bronze: J/Sig. Willis (White Spear); Bronze: J/Sig. Douglas (White Spear).

**Commanding Officer's Stick Orderly:** J/Sig. Wood (Kukri).

### ST. MARY'S HALL, NEWTON ABBOT

A performance by the boys of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, will be given on Wednesday, May 15, commencing at 7.15 p.m. Performers will include the Regimental Band and Choir, the Scottish Dancers and the Down Beats.

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# WHITE SPEAR TROOP

The name 'White Spear' is taken from the badge of the regiment to which we are affiliated—7th Signal Regiment, who are stationed in BAOR.

The Editor has asked me to take this opportunity to explain to those of our readers who don't yet know our troop organization at Denbury the typical structure of White Spear Troop. The troop consists of six patrols, of approximately six boys each. The patrol is commanded by a Junior Lance-Corporal. The six patrols are administered by a Junior Sergeant, this term J/Sgt. 'Tex' Ellison, and by two Junior Corporals, Walker and Mitchell. The troop is supervised and run by two members of the permanent staff: an officer, Capt. J. W. Swindells, and a Senior NCO, Sgt. Doug. Livermore. As far as possible the boy NCOs are made to carry out the normal day-to-day running of the troop. They are guided by two members of the staff. Here in White Spear the boy NCOs do all the planning necessary for adventure training, games and other activities in which they take part.

Like most other troops, we partake in all the activities of the Regiment. This results in a wealth of talent within the troop, and it is something we pride ourselves on that we are always prepared to take on any job or duty that comes our way, whether it be comperes for concerts, scenery painters, or simply a case of some small assistance to a department in any way. I would add that most of these jobs are performed voluntarily! Besides the many local activities, the troop has entered the Nijmegen marches and sent lads to Norway ski-ing. Last term L/Cpl. Goffett did particularly well on the skiing course, managing to return unbroken pairs of skis and legs to Denbury.

The question invariably arises as to what White Spear is noted for. What have been its successes and failures?



L/Cpl. Keeping and Pike Patrol on the Commonwealth Trophy Expedition.

It would be petty to outline these, because the real achievement in White Spear is not easily seen as a figured result. Within the troop runs a spirit of continuous optimism, willingness to try at anything and everything and, above all, a sense of humour. We have never set out to covet any one trophy at the expense of our efforts in other directions. The variety of our activities causes the troop to meet each event with a different approach. This calls for teamwork and troop spirit. And it is in this that White Spear feels that it has few rivals.

Last term Lt. Martin ("Aqualungs") Gray arrived to learn from L/Cpls. Mullin, Bonnett, Murray, Hodge, and Signalmen Jones and Rees, the finer points of troop management before herding them off to the lion's den. We are proud that some of the spirit and humour of White Spear goes with them, and we wish the new Lion Troop happy days and successful outings in the future.

Finally, a few explanatory points for those newly with us from Junior Wing:

- 1.—Contrary to common rumour, Sgt. Smiler Livermore DOES sleep before descending on the troop in the early hours.
- 2.—Animal noises from Tex Ellison's bunk ARE his bagpipes.
- 3.—J/Cpls. Walker and Mitchell ARE NOT leaving the troop to form the variety act of "Wee Geordie and Big Thumper."
- 4.—The troop colour IS rose and NOT knicker-pink.
- 5.—An estimate HAS NOT been received for mowing Taffy Smith's hair.
- 6.—Showman Reegan IS NOT under contract to the London Palladium.

Capt. JOHN SWINDELLS.

Pause for "nosh." From left: J/Signalmen Hall, Murray, le Couillard, J/L/C's Hodge and "Lofty" Elliott.



On the Assault Course: Bate, Aggrell, le Couillard, Mason.



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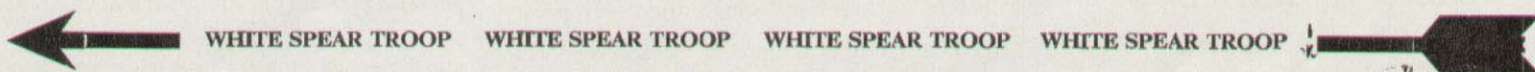
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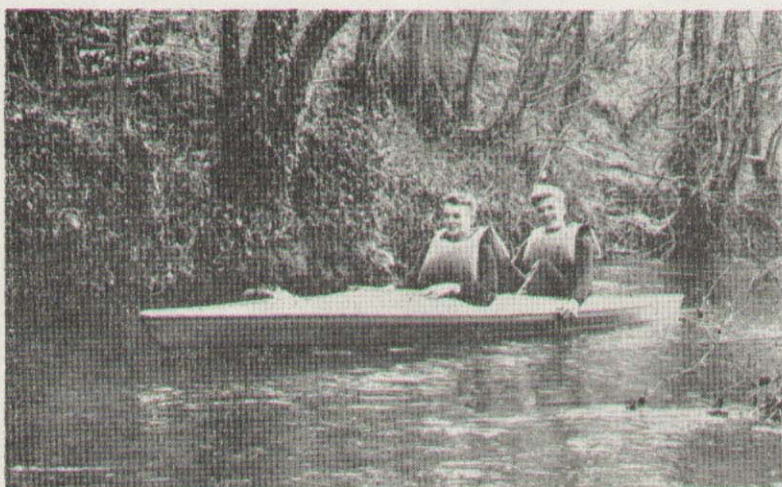


J/Sig. Bate checks direction.



Sabre Patrol, led by J/L/C Derek Birch (with beret) takes stock. Note the new combat dress. From the left: Mason, Aggrell, Bate, Wren, Birch, Tees, Pitfield, Swallow.

Plunkett and "Farmer" Wymbs, canoeing on the River Lemon.



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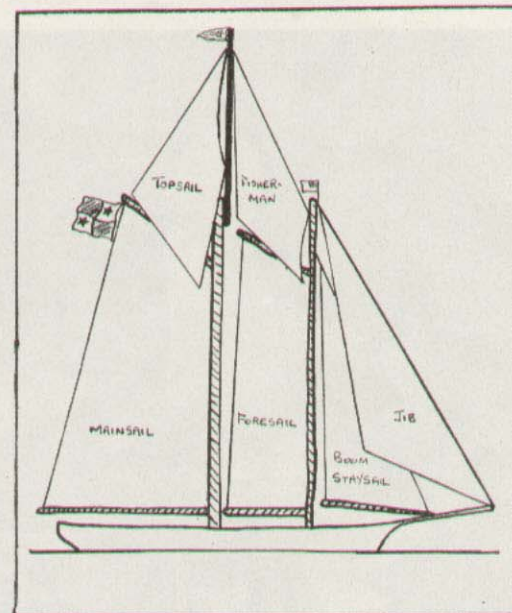
### "TAURUA AND FIVE"

This is the story of a voyage from Singapore to Malta in a small sailing vessel. To be able to appreciate the magnitude of the task, a little knowledge of the ship and her capabilities is necessary.

"Taurua" (Polynesian for "Morning Star") is a gaff rigged schooner. She is 45 feet long and displaces about 16 tons. For those unfamiliar with the schooner rig the diagram shows the sail plan and points out a few names of various parts of the ship. The design of the ship is basically a miniature of the trading schooners popular on the East Coast of the United States about 100 years ago, many of which displaced as much as 200 tons. She was built in Hong Kong in 1961 for an American business man now resident in France.

The sailing characteristics of a schooner are ideal for "off the wind" passage making. This means that as long as the ship is sailing a course such that the wind is blowing from any direction aft of the beam she will move easily and quickly. Should the wind move forward of the beam the ship becomes less efficient rapidly until a point where the angle between the course and wind becomes 75 degrees or less, the ship will not sail. This means that wide tacks must be made either side of the course.

The story begins in March, 1962, in Singapore where "Taurua" had been left by her owner in the care of Major L. D. Line, a well known Royal Signals sailor in small craft, who had promised to deliver her to a Mediterranean port by the 1st, January, 1963. No port had been specified but the aim was the South Coast of France. Major Line's first task was to form a crew, and after many weekends sailing in the waters around Singapore and Malaya he shortened the original list of applicants from fifteen to five. I was among the fortunate, and sailed as mate. The other members of the crew were Staff Sergeant Fred Orr, a radio technician (heavy) from Comcan; Leading Aircraftman Dick Leston, an airframe fitter in the Royal Air Force; and Miss Patsy Gaze whose father was serving as a Flight Sergeant with the RAF in Singapore. Fred was the engineer and his responsibilities included the 1500 c.c. auxiliary petrol engine and all pumps, lamps and other mechanical devices on the ship. Dick's responsibilities as bo'sun were the paint



and varnish work and general appearance of the ship. Patsy was the cook. As mate I helped the skipper with navigation and also looked after the all ropes, wires and fabrics of the ship. Sails were repaired by the Skipper.

After a fortnight of loading stores, and generally preparing the ship for sea, the great day arrived. At 1000 hours on the 15th August, we left our anchorage at the Royal Singapore Yacht Club on the first, and longest, leg of the voyage, 3500 miles to the Seychelles Islands. This route had been chosen because of the favourable SE Trade Winds blowing South of the Equator at that time of the year. In order to get to them we first had to sail 600 miles down the coast of Sumatra against light headwinds to the Sunda Straits, which is the stretch of water between Java and Sumatra. This was a tiresome business of tacking, dodging tropical squalls and getting used to the habits of the ship, and took 13 days. Eventually we found ourselves in the treacherous Straits where tides run fast, and winds do not blow true. We navigated past the famous volcanic island of Krakatoa, and suddenly found ourselves in the open ocean in the mid morning of August 28th. A high ocean swell was running, a true force five breeze blowing, and we were making good 6 knots with 2900 miles of open sea to go.

For the first two days the wind was on the beam and we sailed under foresail and staysail alone. Then the wind came aft, and we set twin staysails on booms projecting sideways from the anchor winch. This device was one of the skipper's design, and saved wear on the fore and aft sails, which would otherwise have been rubbing against the standing rigging. The twin staysails were made of old canvas given to us at Singapore, and were often lowered for repair in the first few days. This, then, became the general pattern of our sailing for the next three weeks. One or two minor incidents took place, but nothing serious.

One night, when we had sailed about a thousand miles out into the Indian Ocean, we spotted a small light. Before running up on the light we nearly collided with a small float with a stick on it, and we found that we had run into a Japanese fishing fleet. The light was in a small boat which had been

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launched from a parent vessel. We later passed within a few miles of the parent ship.

Shortly after this near miss, we were joined by Hector. Hector was a large sea bird whose identity we were unable to ascertain accurately. He seemed well fed, and only wanting to come for a ride. He sat at the end of the main boom, and occasionally walked along it to have a chat with the helmsman. He was quite talkative and appeared interested in the course, as he spent many minutes at a time peering at the compass card. After three days Hector left us. He had travelled about 500 miles with us in that short period, but was not disturbed at this fact, and he flew off in a Northerly direction. It is believed that these Ocean birds see very little of land, and may visit it only once every two or three years to breed.

Early one morning when we estimated we were about 800 miles from the Seychelles, I was on watch at the helm, when to my horror the steering mechanism failed. Both staysails were dropped rapidly, and the ship hove to. On inspection it was discovered that a large casting had broken in the drag arm mechanism and the wheel had no physical connection to the rudder. We had no spare parts for the steering gear, but we did have a tiller to put on the rudder head for direct steering. This was rigged in half an hour, and we were again on our way.

A little later, when we attempted to start the engine to carry out some routine battery charging, we found that a short circuit in the system had flattened the battery. Hand starting was the next move, but as we had never tried this before, we had some difficulty. Eventually we broke the casting which held the starting gear to the engine block, and we were now engineless. This was no great worry as the Trade Winds would blow true for another six weeks or more, and we only used the engine in calm seas or sheltered harbours.

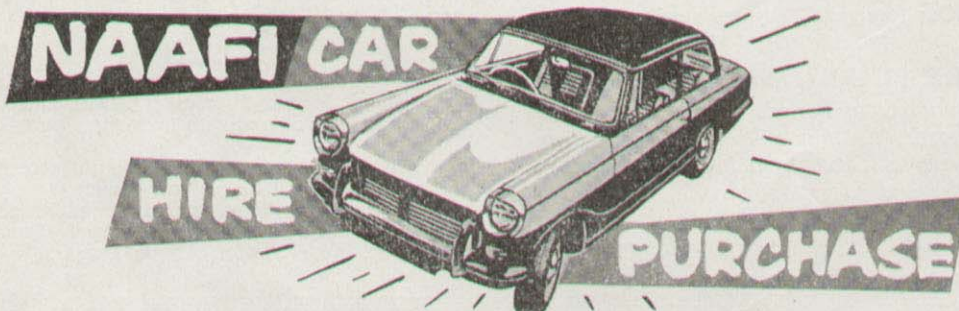
Every day at 1830 hours (we arranged our ship's time so that it got dark at 2000 hours) we held "happy hours." During the day one or more of the watchkeepers was sleeping, but when "happy hour" came the whole crew laid aft to the cockpit where the helmsman sat, and a bottle was produced. It was on the 37th day, just before happy hour,

that the skipper said that land should soon be visible. It was spotted fine on the port bow 50 miles away just as the happy hour bottle was opened. Mahe, principal island of the Seychelles, lay before us after 38 days and 3500 miles.

We sailed up on Mahe during the night rather quicker than we expected as the wind increased a little. When we could see the lights of Port Victoria, the town, we hove to and waited for daylight. Dawn broke and another brilliant tropical day began. The beautiful islands were all around us, large granite outcrops on which vegetation clung and somehow grew.

We unrigged the twins and set all plain sail. We approached Port Victoria with caution as the harbour entrance was guarded by a small island on which a coconut plantation stood. The chart showed several coral reefs to the South, but the Northern entrance had deep waters. We rounded St. Anne's Island and there lay the quay ahead of us. We dropped the mainsail to reduce speed and rounded up in front of the Shell gasoline and oil store at the end of the quay. The starboard anchor was let go, and "Taurua" came to rest. With flags fluttering bravely we signalled the letter "Q" for customs and health clearance. A crowd on the quay was watching us with some interest, while we waited. The Port Captain's launch came alongside bringing the Port Captain, the Doctor and Customs officials. After clearance we were allowed to go ashore in our dinghy "Taurua Iti" (Taurua's little one). I rowed Fred ashore and Dick returned with Iti to fetch the others. While he was putting the skipper and cook ashore a large launch flying the flag of the Hotel des Seychelles, stopped and gave them a lift. The owner, Gerry Le Grand, was aboard and invited us to his hotel on the other side of the Island, an invitation we gratefully accepted. Here we had a bath, beer and a good meal before accepting Gerry's offer of rooms at a reasonable rate.

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## FROM BLACK TO ROSY HUE

White Spear Troop has an interesting past, one with which I am proud to have been associated as OS J Troop.

Like its opposite number, Francisca Troop, it has been through several experimental stages. I understand that shortly before I arrived at Denbury in 1957, "F" and "J" were "holding Troops," a separate stage between what is now Junior Squadron and the Basic Squadrons.

At the time I arrived, J Troop had formed from "Intake," and rose as one body through the Junior Troop to the Senior Troop stage.

I took over when it became the Senior Troop in 2 Squadron, and was at the same time made the 2 Squadron Trade Troop. The Trade Troop system lasted five terms, from January 1958 until July 1959. The present system started in Christmas Term, 1959, when I handed over the J Troop buildings to the new OC White Spear Troop, with regret, for J Troop had built up a considerable reputation. At that time our troop colour was black and, long before anyone else, we had a troop flag, the skull and crossbones. We had been champion Senior Troop for three terms, a really glorious fiddle.

We had won the trophy on the first of the terms, and from then onwards pulled off a draw with F, thus retaining the cup and allowing both troops to go on leave a day early. In those days and extra day's leave, plus the privilege of wearing a lanyard on denims, were the reward and sign of winning the trophy.

We had built up something of a reputation at athletics and cross-country running, too, and in addition we completed a 50-mile three-day trek at the end of each term.

Our final fling took place at the summer camp in 1959 at St. Anthony's Head, when the whole troop camped for a week longer than anyone else, preparing the camp site and destroying snakes in readiness for the rest of the Regiment. I was never quite sure whether we were given this task because it ensured our being out of the way for just that much longer. It was in the summer of 1959 that the new White Spear Troop was formed in R Troop (now Junior Squadron).

Once again they were to be experimental and, of course, very special.

R-Troop colour was rose-pink, and the new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. L. H. Gregory, MBE, decided to create White Spear Troop from one intake. Their new OC, Lt. David Whitehead, was appointed to R Troop, and he literally handled his new troop from their very first day in the Regiment.

June 12, 1959, was their great day, when they were inspected by HRH The Princess Royal. We all thought they were to be called "The Princess's Own," at least, for she was most interested in them, but it was not to be; and White Spear Troop moved up to take the place of J Troop in 2 Squadron the following term. The boys of J Troop were posted back to their original basic troop to make way.

So the Rosy Pinks of R Troop replaced the Black of J Troop, but with a difference when the balaclava was introduced. As a special honour they were entitled to wear a white "turree," a privilege which I am sorry to see, is rapidly becoming forgotten.

White Spear Troop grew in strength and were to become champion troop at the end of the Easter term, 1961. They held this position until most of the original troop had been posted.

Capt. JOHN JOYNER.

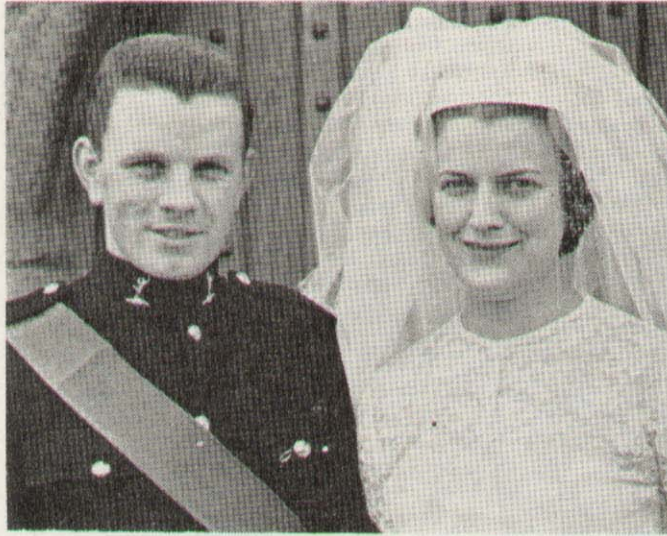


Photo: Courtesy of the Mid-Devon Advertiser.

SGT. K. O. DAVIS and  
MISS M. L. WARD

There was an Easter wedding at St. Michael's Church, Kingsteignton, when Sgt. Kenneth Owen Davis, of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, married Miss Margaret Louisa Ward, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Ward, of 30, Fore Street, Kingsteignton.

The best man was Sgt. J. Maher and the groomsmen were Mr. B. Soper (cousin of the bride) and Drum Major A. Yates).

The reception was held at the Passage House Inn, Kingsteignton, and the honeymoon is being spent touring Wales.

Sgt. and Mrs. Davis will make their home at 1, Vicarage Hill, Kingsteignton.



Photo: Courtesy of the Express and Echo, Exeter

"Our turn next" say the visiting Headmasters and Careers Masters of Devon and Cornwall

### SHAKESPEARE ON SOLDIERS—2

*I am not yet of Percy's mind, the Hotspur of the north; he that kills me some six or seven dozen of Scots at a breakfast, washes his hands, and says to his wife, 'Fie upon this quiet life! I want work.'*

(Henry IV)

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## AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Regiment now has a radio amateur station currently active on the amateur wavebands. The station has only been active this term although the present radio hobby club was formed in April, 1962, with the posting in of Sgt. J. Akehurst who is licensed by the GPO as G30AZ, and operated from Ipplepen. A transmitting licence is held on behalf of the Regiment by Sgt. J. Akehurst and the unit call sign is G3PYZ. With Sgt. Akehurst's operating ability and behind-the-scenes paper and telephone work by Capt. Weiner the Club can really claim that they are now on the map. Activity has so far been limited due to lack of equipment but a start has been made this term to put the JLR ON THE AIR.

We now possess an AR88 receiver and a 50 watt transmitter giving us coverage of three of the nine wavebands available. Voice or, as we call it, fone contacts have so far been made with the following countries:—Panama Canal Zone, (S. America), Finland, Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Russia, Austria, Rumania, Poland, Italy and Ireland. Morse or, as we say, CW contacts have been made with most European countries and also several states of America and Canada.

We have received some QSL cards confirming these contacts and are expecting many more in the near future. All contacts made from this station are confirmed by the dispatch of a QSL card to the station contacted via a central bureau. In charge of the QSL cards from this station is J/Sig. Freeman-Pannet who as time goes by and our contacts increase will be increasingly busy writing out QSL cards for dispatch. Other members of the club are Messrs. Allison, Robbie, Smith 841, Whalley and Farndon. We would like to mention that J/Cpl. Allison has for the past three months been attending weekday technical instruction at the Torbay Amateur Radio Society HQ in order to qualify for his own licence. As he is posted at the end of the term we will not have the benefit of a club member with his own licence but we wish him all success in the examination when he takes it and we hope to have a contact with him from distant parts.

The club is hoping to obtain a grant from the Nuffield trust to enable us to purchase a high power transmitter covering all the amateur frequencies thus really putting the JLR on the air. If we obtain this equipment we will be able to enter the various contests, etc., which take place at weekends, such as CW contests, low power, long distance contests and to work for such certificates as:—

WAC Worked all continents.  
WAZ Worked all Zones.  
WABC Worked all British countries.

and many more.

We are always on the lookout for other Royal Signals operated stations and have already had a voice contact with the 1st Signals Regiment in Germany.

Future activities include a weekend in March atop Yes Tor with a low power transmitter and an efficient aerial when it is hoped that many contacts will be made throughout the world.

As a sideline to amateur radio operating members of the club have been commended for providing wireless communications at outside events such as boat regattas and power boat trials, etc., and as members of the club wish for return visits to these events this year it can be safely assumed that a good time is had by all (I did).

In future issues of The Mercury we will keep readers informed of our current lists of countries, etc., contacted via the call sign G3PYZ (The Voice of Denbury).

BCNU

## A WEEKEND ON GREAT MIS TOR

Early in the term it was decided to hold a weekend operating the unit amateur radio station from a high position on Dartmoor. It was eventually decided to operate from Great Mis Tor at an approximate height of 1700 ASL.

We left Denbury at 1500 hours with all personnel and gear stowed aboard a borrowed one ton vehicle. Arrival at the tor was at 1630 after a very bumpy ride up the track leading to the tor. The truck was unloaded and went away with instructions to collect us on Sunday, 31. As the truck disappeared out of sight J/Cpl. Allison informed all that we had forgotten our tables and chairs. We pressed on regardless and soon had the operating tent erected. Aerials were the next problem and an hour or so was spent trying to erect four 34ft. masts to support wire aerials. As members of the club can testify they have a nasty habit of bending into a U shape when nearly erected in the vertical position. However, we succeeded at last. Our first meal cooked by Smith 841 and Cpl. Allison was then eaten (no complaints either).

At about 8 p.m. we made our first call on the air and we were answered by a station in Wiltshire followed by a station in the Rhonda Valley. The station was then closed down for the night.

During the night the wind tried to uproot the tent and aerials but thanks to some excellent erection by the boys they stayed put. On Saturday over 40 voice contacts were made, the first being with G30FV operated by Sgt. D. Jack of the Royal Signals and stationed at Colchester. This was the renewal of an old friendship for Sgt. Akehurst as we were stationed together in Tripoli a few years ago. Capt. Weiner the O.i/c Radio Hobby paid us a visit on Saturday and was soon sitting crossed legged on the floor like the rest of us. During the course of the day contact was made with "The Catterick Amateur Radio Society" the HQ station of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. During the course of this contact the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate amateur radio club came on the air and joined us and a very nice three way contact followed for nearly one hour. Other amateur radio stations operated by Royal Signals personnel followed and we contacted the School of Artillery at Larkhill and G3PMZ the station of Liverpool University O.T.C.

During the late afternoon we contacted G3NCZ located near Preston. As this was near the home of J/Sig. Smith more interest was taken and eventually J/Sig. Smith was able to have a conversation with the operator at G3NCZ and they both discovered that they have passed each others houses many times. An invitation was extended to Smith to visit G3NCZ when he is next on leave. On Saturday evening contact was made with Poland on voice and an amateur station near Munich in S. Bavaria operated by a member of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. We also contacted stations in the U.S.A., the areas being New York, Ohio, Maryland and Massachusetts. This completed operations for Saturday. On Sunday before dismantling the station contact was made with a personal friend at Looe in Cornwall and Romney Island. We arrived back at Denbury at 1230 in time for lunch.

The members of the club taking part were J/Cpl. Allison, Smith 841, Farndon, Whalley and F. Pannet who all said they had enjoyed themselves. Mention must be made of our Chief Cook and Dishwasher, Smith 841, who on Saturday evening served us with a very tasty mug of soup. This started at Tomatoe but due to an excess of water had to be rethickened with a packet of Oxtail. The resulting flavour was excellent and Smith is applying for the patent to call his brew, Oxtoe.

ODEON  
NEWTON ABBOT

Monday, May 6th, for three days

Horst Buccholz Jose Ferrer

NINE DAYS TO RAMA

1.35 4.55 8.15

(A) De Luxe Colour Cinemascope  
SNIPERS RIDGE (A) 3.40, 7.00

Thursday, May 9th, for three days

Kenneth More Dana Wynter

SINK THE BISMARCK

(U) 2.05 5.20 8.35

Gregory Peck—THE GUNFIGHTER

(A) 3.45, 7.00

Sunday, May 12th, for seven days

BARABBAS

(A) Technicolor Technirama

Anthony Quinn Silvana Mangano

Arthur Kennedy Katy Jurado

Harry Andrews

Sunday 3.45 6.45

Weekdays 1.30 4.40 7.50

Monday, May 20th, for three days

Melina Mercouri Anthony Perkins

PHAEDRA

(X) 1.40 5.00 8.20

WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES

(A) 3.35 7.00

Thursday, May 23rd, for three days

Tyrone Power Marlene Dietrich

WITNESS FOR THE

PROSECUTION

1.00 (Sat. only) 4.45 8.30

James Stewart—THE FAR COUNTRY

(U) 2.55 6.45

Sunday, May 26th for seven days

Tony Curtis Suzanne Pleshette

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(U) Technicolor Panavision

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4.40 8.00 (Sunday)

THE BRAZEN BELL

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# BULLY OFF!



When the weather finally broke, and games were once again possible the team, under J/Cpl. Raybould were faced with a large backlog of fixtures to be played off. Practice games against the staff and a team from Torbay Hockey Club provided good grounding for the rigours of the Army Junior Tournament.

Round one was against the RASC Junior Leaders from Taunton. Signals showed their superiority by scoring a goal in the first half, and the defence held off several promising attacks from the RASC. Matchplay experience and fitness proved too much for the boys from Taunton in the second half and they crumbled before us, to give Signals a 3-0 victory in the first round.

The second round was against the RAOC Junior Leaders at Blackdown. The score, this time on a grass pitch, was 1-0 to Signals who unfortunately had two goals disallowed.

This took us to the semi-final against the Junior Leaders Regiment RE at Old Park Barracks, Dover. On a hard pitch similar to our own, but a little the worst for wear after the frosts, Signals played a good and exciting game in the first half.

The Sappers opened the scoring with a cracking good shot from the edge of the circle but this did not put the boys from Denbury off their stroke. Following this, several good attacks by the Signals pierced the Sapper defence to the circle, but by lack of quick decisive shooting these attacks failed to produce goals. After half-time something went wrong with Signals' play, and we were not playing the same game as we had done before. The Sappers scored three more goals, two being straight from the textbook. If it had not been for some good "keeping" by Abraham the score would have been even higher. So we are out of the Tournament.

Far from being downhearted, the team are to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final stage. Next year we will do better. It is hoped to play a few games during the summer term against some of the South Devon Clubs, and so keeping our hands in (and feet out!) we look forward to next season with enthusiasm.

Many thanks to "Buck" Angell who has given such cheery encouragement and advice to the team and also those faithfuls who take hockey as their hobby but do not always get a place. MJLB

**Hockey Colours:** New Awards: J/Sgt. Keogh (Francisca); J/Sgt. Barnard (Javelin); J/Cpl. Richardson (Javelin); J/L/Cpl. Tofield (Kohima); J/Sig. Havlin (Kukri); J/Sig. Abraham (Kukri). Re-Awarded: J/Cpl. Raybould (Javelin); J/L/Cpl. Adams (Kohima); J/L/Cpl. Monton (Kukri); J/Sig. Spring (Javelin); J/Sig. Hodson (Francisca).

# SOCCER

## SUMMARY OF 1962-63 SEASON

After the promising start last term in League and Cup football, it is a disappointment to have so little to show in the way of cups at the end of the season. We came so very close to getting into the Army Cup Final when the eventual winners, the Engineers, beat us. In the League all seemed well set for our third successive league title. We had not dropped a point and had an excellent goal average. Then, in one black weekend, the league title was lost. Due to casualties on Commonwealth Trophy weekend, teams lost two vital games, both by the odd goal, to Milber and Paignton in two of the hardest games of the season. The nails were finally put into our league coffin by losing 7-2 to Upton in our last home fixture. The final match was won 12-1 against one of the most sporting sides in the league, Watcombe Villa.

Due to bad weather early in the year, the Youth Cup fixtures fell behind and as we are still in the semi-final of this competition, there is still a chance of some cup glory. The incentive of a possible final next term on Plymouth Argyle's ground should be encouragement to win the semi-final.

All in all it has been a good season, with plenty of goals and good football in the first half of the season. With most of the present XI. available next season, we must aim to do even better.

In closing, we wish Lyth, Wicks, Kelly, and Maver, who will have left by next season, the best of luck in their future Army service, and thanks for their good work on the field in the past.

## Summary of Season

	P.	W.	D.	Goals		A.
				L.	F.	
League .....	14	11	0	3	114	15
Cup .....	5	4	0	1	29	5
Friendlies.....	7	4	1	2	40	26
	26	19	1	6	183	46

## Leading Goalscorers

Chisholm, 55; Nelson, G., 33; Prior, 22; Kelly, 14; Walker, 10; Mawer, 7; Nelson, M., 6; Douglas, 6; Mackie, 6.

On going to press, we learn that the Regiment has been drawn to play Plym View Boys Club in the Devon semi-final. The match will be played at Ivybridge, on a neutral ground, on Saturday, May 4.

**Soccer Colours:** New Colours: J/Sig. Harding (Romulus); J/Sig. Keeping (White Spear); J/Sig. Vaughan (Kukri); J/Sig. Mawer (Romulus); J/Sig. McKenzie (Kukri); J/Sig. McKie (White Spear). Re-Awarded: J/Sgt. Nelson (Romulus); J/Cpl. Nelson (Romulus); J/Sig. Campbell (Quadrant).

## RUGBY

**Rugby Colours:** New Awards: J/Sgt. Castle (White Swan); J/Sig. Feegan (White Swan); J/Sig. Lyth (Iron); J/Sig. Clifton (Kohima); J/Sig. Watson (Kohima); J/Cpl. Younger (Quadrant); J/Cpl. Cooper (Quadrant); J/L/Cpl. Williamson (Romulus); J/Sgt. Greenwood (Romulus); J/Sgt. Keogh (Francisca); J/Sig. Perry (Javelin).



Picture by Courtesy of Mid-Devon Advertiser, Newton Abbot.

The Inspection. Mr. James Ramsden, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War, is escorted by (left to right) Capt. W. Simpson, Parade Adjutant; Lt. Col. A. Holifield, Commanding Officer, and Maj. M. D. Scott, Parade Commander.

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

### FISHING AND SHOOTING

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

### INDOOR GAMES AND TOYS

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