

JUNIOR

MERCURY

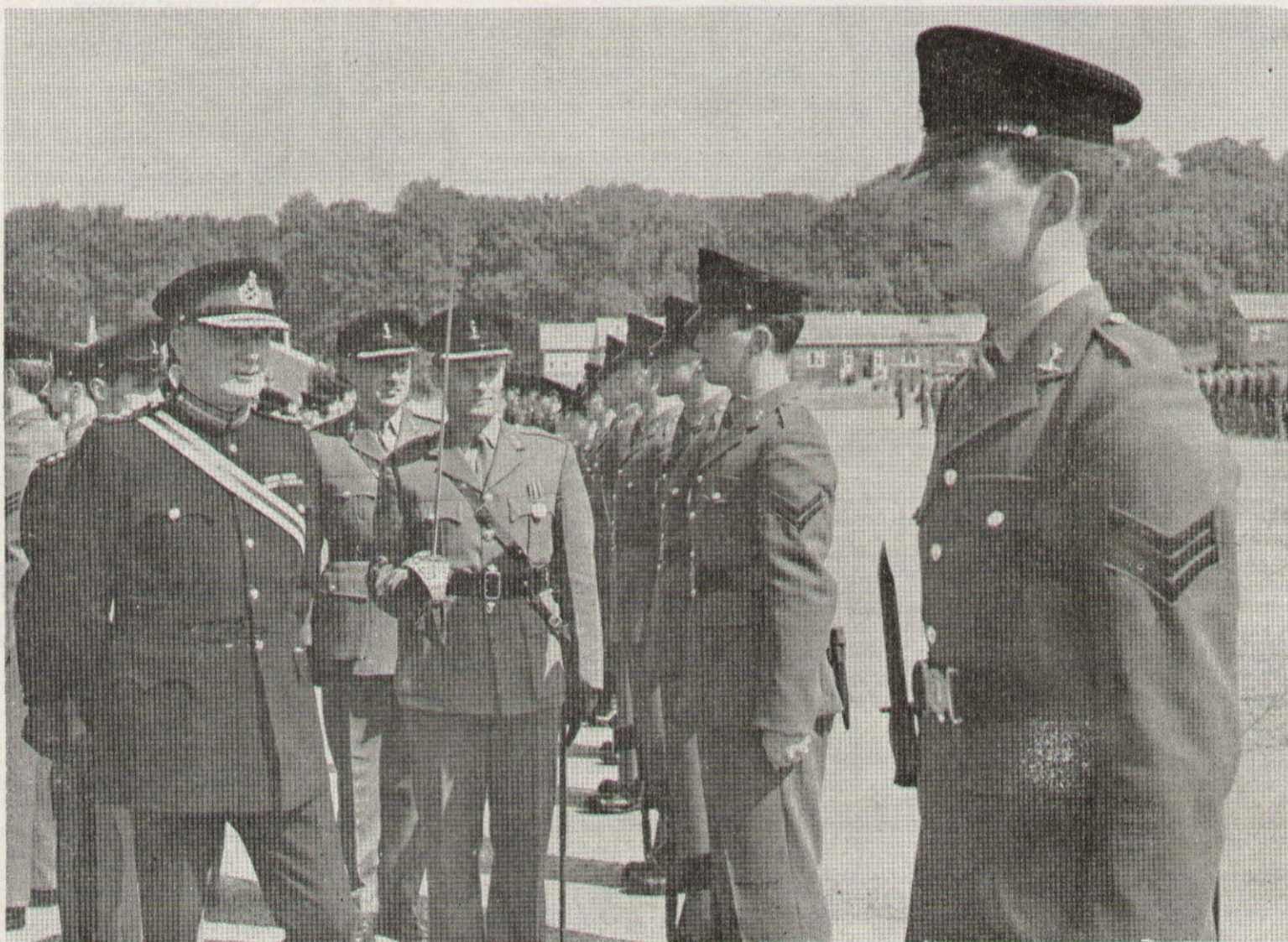
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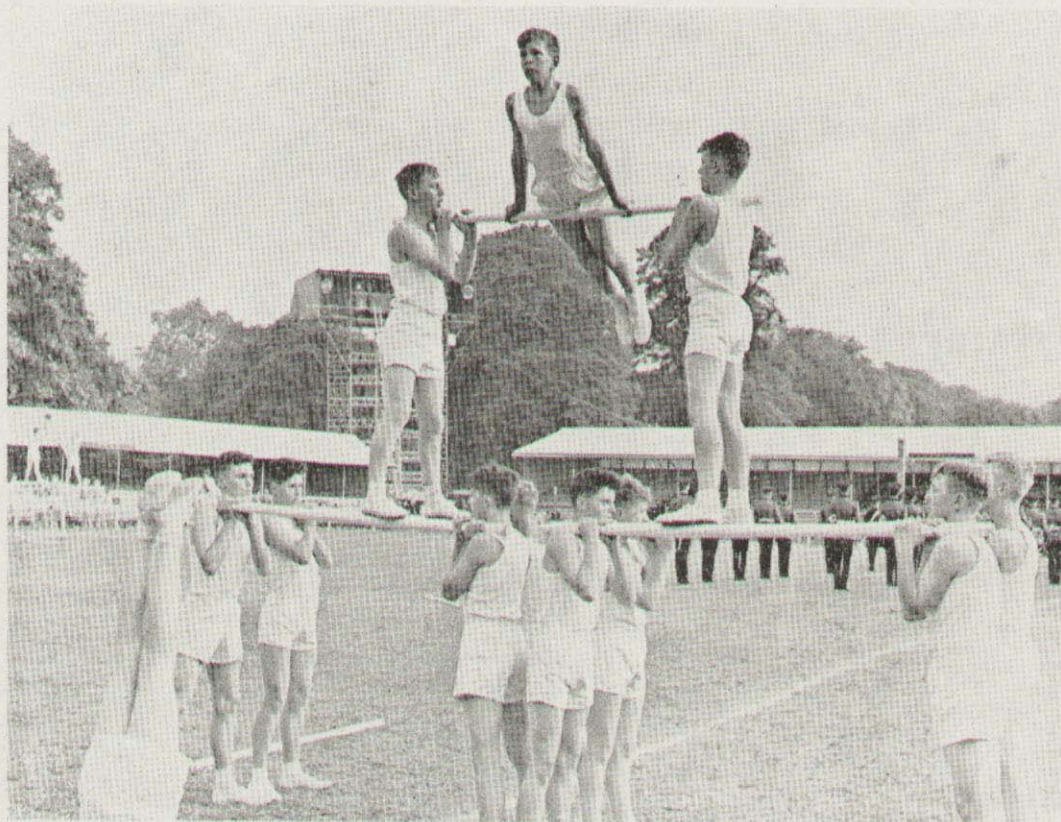
The Journal of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, S. Devon



by Nicholas Horne

The Reviewing Officer, Major-General F. J. SWAINSON, O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief,
inspects the Regiment on Summer Graduation Day.

IRON — CHAMPION TROOP



Bath Tattoo. The display of physical skills by Junior Wing was a tremendous success.

Dear Colonel Holifield,

On behalf of the Newton Abbot Rotary Club, I wish to thank you very warmly indeed for all the co-operation and assistance that we received from your Unit during our recent Fete. The Fete itself must be accounted a success, both financially and socially, and certainly a great gathering from Newton Abbot was present, to meet, to recreate, to spend and to swell the funds for such a very good cause.

We had nothing but praise for the men of your Unit, who gave up their time in so many directions. The country dancers and gymnasts proved to be not only good at their job, but pleasant and delightful youngsters with whom to deal. The standard of their performance was not only high, but the tone and manner in which they performed, their turn-out and bearing can only be a credit to you and the Unit. The NCO's in charge of the various events were most pleasant and helpful, and it is obvious that the influence they have on the youngsters for whom they are responsible can only be of the highest order. Our thanks are due to the young men who manned the P.A. equipment for many long hours and also, to the various members of your staff who

were involved with transport and the organisation of equipment.

We have always been able to count on Denbury Camp as being a friendly Unit to which we can turn for help, and once again we found that the assistance you were able to offer us was invaluable.

Again, on behalf of each one of us, very many thanks to you and your Unit for helping to make such a fete possible.

Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH MURRAY, Hon. Sec.,
Fete Committee, Newton Abbot Rotary Club

Dear Editor,

It is difficult to express how much we look forward to receiving the "Junior Mercury," how proud we are to have had two sons selected as R.S.M.'s of your Regiment, and that both have gained their commissions from your Regiment. It is an honour which few can boast.

We wish the Regiment everything that is best—for only the best is good enough for a Unit with a tradition such as yours.

Yours sincerely, F. W. PAVEY (Major).

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WE PRINT BELOW THE TEXT OF LT. COL. HOLIFIELD'S
TALK ON THE AFTERNOON OF SUMMER GRADUATION DAY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my pleasant duty to welcome you to DENBURY and to report on the life of the Regiment over the past term. I hope you enjoyed the Parade this morning and that the arrangements for your reception, accommodation and feeding have proved satisfactory. It is not an easy task to accommodate 500 parents and relations in addition to 530 Junior Leaders, but we are delighted to have you with us. I would like to thank the Signal Officer-in-Chief, General SWAINSON, for coming down to DENBURY to-day and reviewing the parade. Despite what you read in the newspapers, senior officers in the War Office are kept very busy indeed. We are all very honoured and most grateful to the General and Mrs. SWAINSON for finding time to be with us to-day.

The big event of the term has been the Ten Tors Expedition which took place over Whitsun. Each year the Expedition grows bigger and on this, our fourth Ten Tors, over 1,600 competitors took part, of whom just over 1,000 completed the course. We could in fact have accepted more than 2,000 competitors, had we not decided to place a ceiling on numbers. I hope, however, that it will be possible to accept more entries in 1964 and that we shall then, for the first time, exceed the 2,000 mark. Next year will be the fifth Ten Tors and I feel it is fitting we should plan to make it the biggest and best ever. As you will have heard, the 1963 Expedition went off very well, and the Regiment received much favourable press and television publicity. This year, many of the administrative tasks which were previously undertaken by officers and senior NCO's of the permanent staff were carried out by the Junior Leaders. I am pleased to say that the boys undertook these duties very efficiently and I received many letters of congratulation after the Expedition, on the boys' efforts. The Regiment entered 12 patrols, each of six boys, one from each Troop, for the Expedition. All of these patrols completed the 50 mile course in the specified time and 11 of them won Ten Tors medals for covering the distance without any individual falling out.

A contingent of 45 boys from the Regiment, accompanied by Captain JOYNER, and a small number of the Permanent Staff, took part last week in the NIJMEGEN Marches, in Holland. The trip proved an enjoyable, if strenuous, one. The boys marched very well indeed and I am proud to say that all 45 completed the 100-mile march.

During the past week my entire recruit Squadron, together with a contingent from the Regimental Corps of Drums, has been providing a Mass Physical Display at the Bath Tattoo. I hope that many of you saw a television broadcast of the performance last Wednesday evening. The boys did very well indeed and both Junior Squadron and the Corps of Drums were a great credit to the Regiment and to Royal Signals. It has been a very busy term for the boys of Junior Squadron, who have carried out all their normal recruit training in addition to the special practices for the Tattoo. These boys, who joined us on April 30th, have proved a first-class intake and I am sure that those of you who are the parents of these lads must be very proud of them. I know that many of you will not have had the opportunity of seeing the Junior Squadron Display either on the television or at the Bath Tattoo and so I have arranged a performance this evening, just before the Corps of Drums Beat the Retreat.

Whilst on the subject of recruits and intake to the Regiment I would like to say how well our recruiting is going for next term. Although it is over six weeks before the next intake reports, we are already almost full. I have raised my intake target to 120 boys and already more than 100 high-grade boys have been accepted. This number has been reached without any lowering of standards and we are continuing to be very selective, taking only one in five of those who come forward.

Early last term we brought into use the new Education Block, laboratory and art room, and a number of new trade training rooms. The new accommodation, together with a considerable amount of new equipment, has enabled us to make a big stride forward and I am confident that our Army examination results this term, which are not yet to hand, will prove the best ever. On the trade training side we reached an important landmark earlier this month when eight Junior Leaders passed trade tests as Class III Radio or Communication Centre Operators. The boys in question have qualified two terms ahead of schedule or, to put it in another way, have reached trade standard in less than two-thirds of the time laid down in the syllabus. Next term a considerably larger number of boys should qualify as tradesmen, and by Easter, 1964, when the output will have had the advantage of the full two-year training course, I hope that all boys will be trade qualified on leaving DENBURY.

During the term our activities, sports and hobbies continued at a very high pressure and our Corps of Drums, Highland Dancers, Pipe Band and Choir performed at many weekend and evening fetes, rallies and other charity events. The pipe band under our civilian pipes-instructor Mr. McDONALD BELL, made particularly good progress and has proved a very popular attraction at local shows. Our Highland Dancing Team continues to improve in standards and numbers, and earlier this month the boys gained 42 proficiency medals in examinations for the Scottish and Highland National Dancing Standards. A new activity this term has been the Gymnastic Club, which started from scratch in the Spring and is now able to produce a very professional gymnastic display. You will see something of the Gymnastic Club in a few minutes' time but I regret that owing to shortage of space on the stage the normal programme has had to be somewhat curtailed. I would like to emphasise that all the activities and hobbies in the Regiment are held out of normal training hours and do not impinge on the training programme.

The Regimental Athletics Team this term has not been quite up to the standard of last year. However, we came second out of five teams in the Area Junior Athletics Championships and sixth in the Army Junior final at Aldershot. We have a number of very promising young athletes in the Regiment and I propose



The Commanding Officer, R.S.M. and the Nelson twins, share a joke at a meeting of the Junior Council.
by Sgt. Stockham

to keep athletics training going all through the coming winter in order to help these young lads to reach their full potential in the summer of 1964.

Our swimming team has been unable to train this term owing to the closure of the TORQUAY baths. However, we managed to raise a water-polo and freestyle relay team from the Staff and the boys. The water-polo team won the District Championship for the second year running and the relay team, having won the District Championship, went on to become runners-up in the Southern Command Championship at Aldershot last week. The War Department appreciates our urgent need for a swimming bath in the Camp and the Ministry of Public Works is at the present time preparing plans for the construction of a small indoor pool. I have proposed that this should be constructed in one of our drill sheds. The War Department is naturally anxious to keep costs down to a minimum, but I am hoping that the pool will be large enough not only for the training of non-swimmers, but also for the coaching and training of good swimmers and for water-polo. I have suggested, if WD funds cannot be made available to provide a pool big enough to meet all these requirements, that I should endeavour to raise the extra sum required from within the Regiment.

This leads me on to the perennial question of the future of DENBURY Camp. There is still uncertainty regarding the eventual home of the Regiment and the date of rebuilding. These decisions are, of course, well above my head. I can only say that little is likely to happen either regarding moving or rebuilding for a number of years. In the meantime there are no plans to build even a small number of quarters for the permanent staff and we shall continue to be accommodated in 100 or so furnished houses spread over SOUTH DEVON.

Our term ends on Thursday, but at least two major events will be taking place during the holiday period. The first of these is a trip to BAOR by more than 80 boys of the Corps of Drums and the Highland Dancing Team. The party will visit the Royal Signals Regiments in Germany and will give a large number of displays during the tour. The visit is a repeat of a highly successful tour which took place in 1961. It should be of great value to the boys, who will have the opportunity of visiting foreign countries and of seeing for themselves how the British Army lives and works overseas. It will also do much to strengthen the friendly liaison which already exists between this Regiment and the regular Regiments of the Corps.

The second expedition during the holiday is one organised by Lt. ADAMS of WHITE SWAN TROOP. He has arranged to take a party of Junior Leaders to TANGIER. The boys will make their own way there and back, travelling in pairs. Lt. ADAMS has arranged shipping each way across the Channel and there-after the boys will find their own way. The trip should prove an excellent and enjoyable test of initiative for those taking part.

And now I would like to call on my wife to present the prizes. After the prize-giving, there will be a short display by the Highland Dancing Team and the Gymnastic Club, and at the conclusion of the second display I hope you will join the permanent staff and myself in the Gymnasium for tea.

Thank you all for coming to DENBURY to-day and please accept on behalf of the staff and myself, our best wishes for a most enjoyable visit and a safe return to your homes.

Alan Holifield



NIJMEGEN. Alexander Squadron overtakes the "mixed" team from Israel.

NIJMEGEN, 1963

Nijmegen is a large university town in Holland of about 120,000 population. It is an important marketing centre and has many light industries.

It is probably the oldest town in Holland, but after being in the "front line" for six months of the 1939-45 War much of the original city was completely destroyed before being recaptured from the Germans by the First Canadian Army and 20th English Corps in February, 1945.

Nevertheless it has made the most remarkable recovery and is now a fine modern city with scattered here and there a few really beautiful ancient buildings which render a deep sense of tradition to a city which is a curious blend of the old and the new.

The sense of tradition is the basis of the real spirit of Nijmegen causing so many to visit the city again and again.

The people of Nijmegen are particularly friendly towards the soldiers of Canada and Great Britain on account of the part played by these nations in the recapture of the city from the Germans.

Holland has a marching tradition, and one of the major Dutch marching festivals, the "Four Days March" has been centred on Nijmegen since 1908. It became international in 1928, and apart from the war years, has been held annually ever since. About 1,800 persons of all ages march a prescribed distance, depending on their age, and what they carry, on each of the four days.

Teams of soldiers normally march 40 kilometers (approximately 25 miles) carrying 22lbs. of kit each day, over a variety of road surfaces which have two things in common. They are very hard and rather hot.

To those who query the expense and effort required to take a team to Nijmegen on the grounds that 25 miles a day can be marched just as well in the U.K., one can only ask: "Have you been and done it?" If they have and still think it better to march at home then they either marched with their eyes shut and their ears blocked or they are sadly lacking in imagination and any emotional sense of great occasion based on tradition and human endeavour.

Nijmegen demands much more than 25 miles a day.

It demands good marching, smart appearance and courtesy towards those who watch, particularly the children who in their enthusiasm often get in the way and take delight in hopping along beside you grasping you by the hand as you pass through their local town or village.

It demands a greater effort of team singing than you would normally be prepared or able to give, in reply to the genuinely friendly applause you receive. How often have I heard a team member say: "Come on, we must give them another song." And you do; so that at the end of the day your throat as well as your legs and feet feel in need of rest.

Our three teams at Nijmegen this year, a total of 50 in all, represented Alexander, Slim and Montgomery Squadrons. They did exceptionally well and maintained the Regimental tradition of 100% success despite the extreme weather conditions of excessive heat and heavy rain. Their dress and marching was smart, their singing whole hearted and continuous, and their manners excellent.

Off duty in Nijmegen, No. 2 dress with side hats was the rule, and I was complimented on the boys' behalf on their behaviour and appearance.

We maintained a steady pace on the first two days, but on the third and fourth day we let ourselves go and few other teams could keep pace. This was also in accordance with tradition, for fitness at Nijmegen is expected of the Juniors Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.

Relations with other teams were excellent even when confined to ribald comment as we overtook them.

The Alexander team kept meeting the renowned Israeli mixed team noted for their good looks, charm, singing and dancing. They marched in front of them, they marched behind them, they marched beside them, they sang their songs, though they could not claim to match their good looks.

On another occasion they enlisted a civilian girls' team as Junior Ladies, and marched in the manner of the Israeli team (ladies in the centre) for about 15 kilometers.

Our final march-past was a fitting climax to four days' effort.

We marched-in as part of the first British contingent to assemble at the changing point. Slim and Montgomery Squadrons arrived at Cuuk so early that the Pontoon Bridge had not been completed and they had to catch a ferry.

For the march-in we changed into No. 2 dress with leather belts and were without doubt one of the smartest and certainly the largest British Unit.

We were greeted with tremendous applause for the whole of the last five kilometers as we passed through the tightly packed roads and streets. Just before the saluting dais I was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Burgomaster's Wife (Lady Mayoress). Others received more personal tributes but I felt that this gift to me on behalf of the boys was a real measure of the respect and esteem they had earned.

The one sad break with tradition at Nijmegen was the ruling that we should not wear Balaclavas. We did make sure that they were seen as we carried them slung over a water bottle.

Regret that we were not wearing Balaclavas was expressed at all the official functions I attended. It was also expressed by various English speaking spectators who asked me why not, as well as by members of other teams who remembered us from earlier years.

This year a new tradition was instituted by the Command Secretary, BAOR, who provided Union Jacks for all British Service teams. An excellent idea giving colour and identification to British teams.

This official recognition of the value of the spectacle at Nijmegen leads me to hope that perhaps our Balaclavas may once again be worn there. After all what are they but our personal flag identifying troop and squadron and lending colour in a traditional manner to our Regimental Contingent.

Nijmegen 1963 was a Regimental success. It was a success because every boy made up his mind to go, saved up and paid all his expenses himself, trained to take part, and then achieved what he set out to do in accordance with Regimental tradition at this very traditional international festival.

JOHN JOYNER

TRADE TRAINING IN THE REGIMENT

The First Tradesmen from Denbury

Two years ago it was not the aim of the Regiment to produce tradesmen at the end of a Junior Leader's stay in the unit. In those days all boys were given a general background to trades within the Corps. This had certain advantages in that it gave each boy an insight into the primary skills, that is Morse and teleprinting. A Junior Leader would alternate each term between the two skills. The training was intended more as an attempt to get each Junior Leader up to a similar standard to that of an infantry signaller, rather than fit him to a particular trade within the Corps.

The big disadvantage of this training was seen when the Junior Leader graduated to man service. At his trade training regiment, whilst he was well ahead in his military attributes, he was no more than an equal, in his trade, compared with the normal regular enlistment. It was primarily with the aim of helping Junior Leaders overcome this inferiority that it was decided to aim at training every Junior Leader up to Class III trade standard one of two trades, whilst still at Denbury.

The two trades to be taught were to be those of Radio and Communication Centre operator. However, although only two trades could be taught at Denbury every Junior Leader still had an equal opportunity at the end of his training to go for an A or T Trade. In other words it is hoped that many of the Radio Operators will go on to become Telegraph Operators or Special Operators or Staff Operators. Comcen Operators could become Telegraph Operators or Staff Operators. At the same time certain selected Junior Leaders, suitably qualified by passing their Senior Education Test could opt for technician training. At the other end of the scale certain Junior Leaders would not make the grade on either of the skills and would leave here as potential linemen, radio relaymen, electrician driver, etc.

The new trade training syllabus came into effect in the Summer term, 1962. The syllabus was based on that used by 24 Signal Regiment at Catterick. Due to the fact that Education, Games, etc., were also taking place, the syllabus was spread over five terms. This meant the first Junior Leaders to complete the syllabus would do so in December, 1963.

The first two terms were not easy. Frequent frustration was met by lack of equipment, classrooms and instructors. It speaks highly for the few instructors last year that the standard of training remained high and kept up to schedule. This period also saw a steady stream of instructors spending a short time in Military Training Wing before moving on to fill up an urgent Sergeant vacancy in a troop. This in turn led to a better understanding in the requirement of each others job and a clear liaison between instructors and troops, several



Teleprinter Operators in Training

by Sgt. Stockham

becoming affiliated to troops and helping on Adventure Training Days, etc.

Starting in the Easter, 1963 term a new venture was taken on in the Regiment. Up to then the output would consist of up to a dozen potential technicians. With the increasing improvement in the education results it was anticipated that the number of technicians might increase. In order to give them a better start on their courses at 8 Signal Regiment it was decided to start special technician training. The Commanding Officer of 8 Signal Regiment generously loaned us an instructor for this new venture and so a few more Junior Leaders were able to gain further benefit from their trade training at Denbury.

It is worth pointing out that not only Junior Leaders benefited from the increased trade training in the Regiment. With the instructors of the new trade structure in the Corps, many permanent staff found they needed to convert or re-classify. Here again Training Wing ran courses, so many hours a week, in order that the staff should not lose out by being in a Junior Leaders Regiment.

It was the Easter, 1963 term when events began to move faster. Equipment, classrooms, and instructors were at last materialising, and visits were also arranged to Southern Command Signal Centre to see a Communications Centre in action. It was during this period that Capt. Weiner, the OC Training Wing, began to live in the Quartermasters' pocket. It is fortunate that we have such a long suffering QM and an excellent staff. No matter what the request, it was promptly dealt with. From this time on the QM's yard could be seen bulging at the seams as teleprinters, reperforators and exchanges arrived. Even the arrival of tons of equipment on Graduation Day only caused slight mutterings on the part of a certain SQMS. It is also understood that a TC 10 exchange passed through.

In the Summer, 1963 term, after months of asking by the Commanding Officer, release notes began arriving for the issue of mobile radio stations. With these, the training can take on a far more practical outlook. It is of the utmost importance that tradesmen leaving Denbury should be good field, not classroom, operators. To date we have the radios, batteries and trailers released. It is to be hoped that before very long we shall have the vehicles.

The Summer 1963 term turned out to be a historic term for Denbury. Mainly through the perseverance and enthusiasm shown by the instructors, plus an extra effort by certain Junior Leaders it became possible to hold a trade board at Denbury in July. It should be noted that this is one complete term ahead of expectation. It was decided to allow all Junior Leaders in the senior classes, who had passed their respective skills during the term, to have an attempt at the Trade Test.

The Trade Board was held on the 10th, 11th and 12th of July. Although all those sitting had managed to read the test speeds on Morse and teleprinter earlier, test nerves led to many failures.

Those that failed need not worry unduly. That they were considered suitable to sit the Trade Board is all credit to themselves. In fact, by the end of the Trade Test we had seven Radio Operators and one Comcen Operator who were successful. A special congratulations to Beesley of Kukri Troop who was the only one to pass without a retest in any subject.

Much was learnt from the Trade Board both by those who sat it, and the Training Wing itself. With this experience and a hard term's work by the Xmas output, our results in December should be much better.

In closing, thanks are given to the following for all their assistance in helping us reach our goal. They include the Training Brigade, Inspectorate of Trade Training, 8 Signal Regiment, 24 Signal Regiment, Major Skeen and Major Shaver of War Office. Within our own Regiment those who gave much assistance were the QM department and all ex-Training Wing staff. Finally, to the present Training Wing Instructors—seriously—you're all doing a grand job.

Captain M. R. C. WEINER, Royal Signals.

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Iron Troop crack oarsmen check in with the Troop Commander before taking to the water.



The Cliff Haul—Mansands Bay in background. J/L/C Viv Crudge, J/Cpl. White, J/Sig. Harmston, J/Sig. Craggy Craig and Harry Waugh.



IRON MEN ALL

1. *Lieutenant Prince is cross-country mad
But all in the troop think this is bad;
When around the course we are slogging
ACM can be hard shouting "Keep jogging."*
2. *Sergeant Leslie is a Judo fan,
He practises any time he can,
But now in the Dozo he acts very coy,
As his arm was injured by Signalman Joy.*
3. *Next in line comes our Sergeant Reid
Who I think a short haircut doth need,
But on Monday he is everyone's friend,
Until troop funds come to an end.*
4. *Corporal White is output this term
He is rather thin like a newly born worm,
He is also witty, helpful and kind,
For mickey-taking he does not mind.*
5. *Now comes Corporal Wright, the athletic type,
He jumps over bars at a very great height,
Our Bob is a lad and knows some good jokes:
He is also very good at scrounging the smokes.*
6. *Leo is a very satirical beast
He hates all officers to say the least,
He really hates all of them—
Especially our dearest ACM.*
7. *Corporal Norgrove does gymnastics,
He does this hobby with a load of spastics,
The highest mark he got for his test:
Could this mean that he is the best?*
8. *From Guernsey comes Corporal "Fatty" Le Page,
He prefers tomatoes to onion and sage;*
8. *Corporal Turner, whose nickname is Plonk,
No-one knows why it could be his conk,
He collects all the diffies for the Troop,
This really does make his eye-brows droop.*
10. *Lance Corporal Hadrick is a curly haired bloke,
He comes from the land of the Geordie Folk;
Tich is beside me as I write this verse—
If I put anything nasty, I need a hearse.*
11. *Now my story must come to an end
Because this pen Leo no more can lend;
Most people know me as plain, 'orrible Sludge,
But my name, actually, is Cedric Crudge.*

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Message received from CO 3 HQ & Signal Regiment, Lt. Col. T. W. Baynes, MBE, Royal Signals. Commanding Officer and all ranks of 3rd Signal Regiment send greetings and best wishes to the Junior Leaders of Iron Troop especially on the occasion of their own issue of Junior Mercury.

Reply by Lt. A. C. M. Prince, Royal Signals. The Troop Commander and all Junior Leaders of Iron Troop thank the Commanding Officer and all ranks of 3 Signal Regiment for their kind wishes, and are glad to say that the Troop has become Champion Troop of the Regiment, thus keeping up the high standard set by our parent Regiment: 3 Signal Regiment of the Strategic Reserve.

N.B. It is also hoped in the future for the Troop, or some members of it, to visit Bulford and see the Strategic Reserve Signal Regiment "At Home."



Top left: Breakfast, J/L/C's Tich Hadrick and Val le Page.

Top right: Snakes alive! Zoological interlude at Mansands. J/Sigs. Alan Flux, Burt Walker, Watty Watson, Helmet Freeman, J/Sgt. Reid, J/L/C Le Page, J/Sig. Harmston.

Bottom left: Sgt. Leslie is the Regiment's judo instructor.

Bottom right: J/Cpl. Chalky White, Sgt. Bill Leslie, Lt. A. C. M. Prince, J/L/C Leo Marchant, J/Sgt. Gen Reid, J/Sig. Shiny Harmston.



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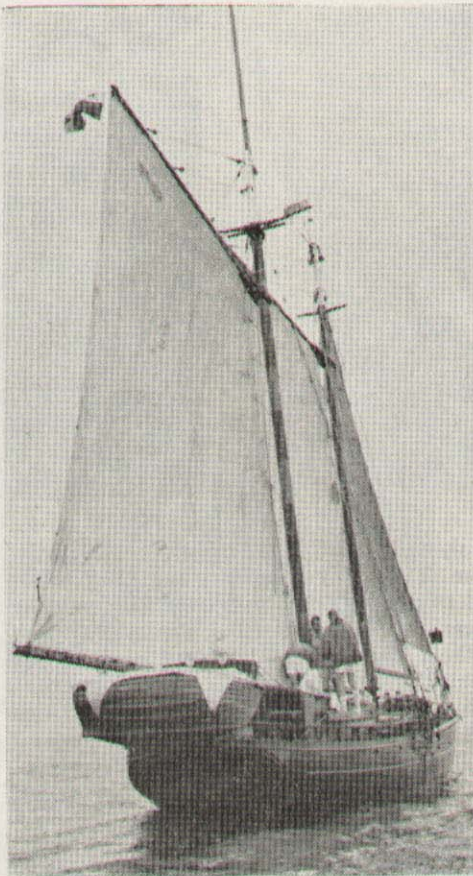


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LT. MIKE BYGRAVE

FINAL INSTALMENT

We had left "Svea" in Ismailia, as her owner was to spend the winter there, and so we signed on the two New Zealand boys, Jim and Harry. They were to be of enormous assistance to us in the Mediterranean gales we were to encounter later.

The weather was getting colder now, but the wind held fair for a week. Then it happened. We were off the entrance to the Adriatic Sea when the first gale hit us. It was from the North West, and we were unable to make any progress into it at all. We hove to, the boom staysail set and sheeted in hard, and the wheel lashed to windward. This kept the ship's head about 100 degrees off the wind and we travelled sideways at about one knot. We were quite safe as the fine big seas were not breaking. We had plenty of sea room to wander, and the only course now was to wait for the gale to blow itself out, keeping a watch out for steamers. Several passed us including the Commando Carrier, HMS "Bulwark," proceeding very slowly towards Malta. This gale lasted about 24 hours, during which the centre of the depression causing it passed by quite closely. This meant that we were right in the thick of it.

When the wind moderated a heavy swell still ran for another two days and progress was slow. Eventually the sea became quite calm and the weather settled except for several small squalls. These squalls gave us plenty of sail-changing practice, as they all produced a high wind which lasted for about a quarter of an hour. We arrived in Malta early one morning in the first week of December, and clearing Customs quickly, we tied up to the harbour wall in Grand Harbour, Valetta. The following day we moved to the Malta Garrison Sailing Club in Marsamxett Harbour, which is the next creek North of Grand Harbour.

Externally, the ship was in bad shape. All the varnish work was bare and much of the topsides paint had peeled. The week in Malta was spent painting and varnishing until "Taurua" was again smart and "Bristol fashion."

We set sail at midday on the 15th December, bound for Toulon. Outside the harbour the wind was force five, Nor'westerly. This was difficult, as to clear Malta we had to sail almost North-West through the Malta Channel and alongside the Sicilian Coast. As night fell we soon had other worries. The wind force increased, and we gradually shortened sail. Finally we were hove to with a full gale on our hands, but once again, through prudent seamanship, we had as much sea room as was possible in the Mediterranean for a Nor'westerly gale. This gale blew for a day or so, and finally the wind veered Northerly and we were able to make up some of the lost ground. Progress was slow and when Malta again appeared it was decided, after a meeting of the crew, that time was running short, and with the predominant wind being North-West, we would need a month or more to do the last 600 miles. We headed back to Malta.

We arrived six miles from the harbour entrance at dusk, with a fresh breeze blowing and a heavy sea running. Through binoculars we could see that the waves were breaking across the entrance to both harbours, and a high speed night entry would have been unwise and dangerous.

The decision was made to heave to and wait until daylight. During the night, however, the wind force increased and the ship again began to walk away Eastwards from Malta. This gale caused by a low pressure trough lying across the Mediterranean, and roughly along the Italian West Coast, lasted three days and nights before moderating. "Taurua" found herself 75 miles away from Malta when the gale finally blew out.

When the gale moderated, we set a course for Malta, and were frustrated three more times by short-lived gales produced by minor depressions. Finally we entered Marsamxett Harbour at 0100 hours on Christmas Eve to the relief of the services personnel in Malta, and also to our own. We were a tired, and slightly battered, crew that sipped rum in the main cabin that Christmas Eve morning.

After the Christmas festivities which were bestowed upon us all over the Island, the owner flew to Malta. We handed him his ship, and he told us that he was glad we did not get to Toulon as there were several severe feet of snow there then. We too felt a little happier but still disappointed at failing to reach the final goal.

We went our separate ways from here. The skipper, Fred and I flew to London, while Dick hitched a ride to England in an RAF Comet. Patsy followed by RAF aircraft later. Harry and Jim were signed on by the owner to live on board, look after the ship and sail her to the South of France in the Spring.

And so the story ends. A failure—yes, but to have completed 8,000 miles under sail without major mishap or damage made us feel that we had achieved something, if not the final objective. (THE END)

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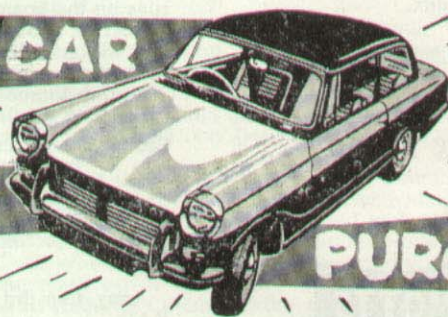
Nijmegen '63. Captain Joyner is sitting on the right. A further picture has been held over until our next issue.



Pamela de Waal's dancers were a great success at the effervescent end-of-term review.

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The following Junior Leaders graduated to Colour Service with the Royal Corps of Signals at the Parade on July 30th, 1963, to complete their training in the trades shown.

Technicians.—J/Sgt. Nichols, J/Cpl. Burman, J/Cpl. Fisher, J/LCpl. Hadrick, J/LCpl. Taylor, J/Sig. Joy, J/Sig. Morrith, J/Sig. Simpson.

Clerk Technicians.—J/LCpl. Lawlor, J/Sig. Metcalf, J/Sig. Spring.

Radio Relay Men.—J/LCpl. Root, J/LCpl. Murphy, J/LCpl. Bate, J/Sig. Jepson, J/Sig. McDonough, J/Sig. Smith.

Radio Operators.—J/Cpl. Buckman, J/LCpl. Gonsales, J/LCpl. Lawrence, J/LCpl. Marchant, J/Sig. Brown, J/Sig. Hall, J/Sig. Hornston, J/Sig. Hodge, J/Sig. White.

Telegraph Operators.—J/SSM. Clifton, J/SSM. Tivenan, J/Sgt. Elliott, J/Sgt. Reid, J/Cpl. White, J/Cpl. Gilchrist, J/LCpl. Beesley, J/LCpl. Cross, J/LCpl. Gethin, J/LCpl. Thomasson, J/Sig. Birchall, J/Sig. Gregory, J/Sig. Lally.

Linemen.—J/Sgt. Wathen, J/Cpl. Anstey, J/Cpl. Jones, J/Cpl. Priestley, J/LCpl. Dalgleish, J/LCpl. Trenchard, J/Sig. Andrews, J/Sig. Raybould.

Special Operators.—J/SSM. Gue, J/Sgt. Groves, J/Cpl. Smith, J/Sig. Farmer, J/Sig. Murray, J/Sig. Word, J/Sig. Weeks.

Communications Centre Operators.—J/RSM Hails, J/Sgt. Moss, J/Sgt. Wicks, J/Cpl. Harding, J/Cpl. Mitchell, J/Cpl. Russell, J/LCpl. Douglas, J/LCpl. Turner, J/LCpl. Mephram, J/LCpl. Wright, J/Sgt. Button, J/Sig. Elliott, J/Sig. Hall, J/Sig. Jones, J/Sig. Walker.

Staff Operators.—J/Sig. Bryant, J/Sig. Butchers, J/Sig. Maloney.
Electrician Driver.—J/Sig. Kelly.

SUMMER PRIZE WINNERS

ATHLETICS

Victor Ludorum: J/SSM. Michael Tyrel Gue, Plympton, Devon.

Inter Troop Championship (Jerboa): J/Sgt. John Trevor Nichols, Bournemouth.

CROSS COUNTRY

Inter Troop Competition (Iron): J/Sgt. James William Reid, Gainsborough, Lincs.

Individual: 1st, J/Sig. Alan Roy Drew, Cinderford, Glos.; 2nd, J/LCpl. Noel Michael Humphries, Leeds, Yorks.; 3rd, J/Sig. Trevor John Taylor, Moseley, Birmingham.

SHOOTING

Inter Troop Competition (Beaufighter): J/Sgt. Maurice William Nelson, Northallerton, Yorks.

Best Shot: J/Sig. Michael John Collision, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. **Runner Up:** J/SSM. Michael Joseph Tivenan, Trimdon Grange, Co. Durham.

TENNIS

Winner of the District Junior Championship: J/Cpl. John William Hamer, Fleetwood, Hants.

CANOE RACE

Inter Troop Competition (White Spear): J/Sig. William Maxwell Mackie, Stepps, Lanarkshire.

EDUCATION—BEST RESULTS

Senior Test.—J/LCpl. Robert Geoffrey Woodford, Wickford, Essex; J/LCpl. John Herbert Tovey, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey.

Intermediate Test: J/LCpl. Keith William Hall, Northwood, Middlesex.

Junior Test: J/Sig. David Keith Hartrey, Barnstaple, Devon.

Military Training Prize for the first Junior Leader to obtain a BIII Trade Rating whilst at Denbury: J/LCpl. Michael Adrian Gabriel Beesley, Southborough Kent.

Military Training Prize for the first Junior Leader to pass COMCEN BIII Trade Test whilst at Denbury: J/Sgt. David Emllyn Moss, Llanybyther, Carmarthen.

TRADE TRAINING—MOST PROGRESS

Alexander Squadron: Radio Operator: J/SSM. Michael Joseph Tivenan, Trimdon Grange, Co. Durham; **Comcen Operator:** J/Cpl. Mallroy Cooper, Nottingham.

Slim Squadron: Radio Operator: J/LCpl. John Valentine Le Page, Castel, Guernsey C.I.; **Comcen Operator:** J/Sig. David Sinclair Watson, Rosyth, Fife.

MOST IMPROVED HIGHLAND DANCER

J/Cpl. David Anthony Hand, Norton-on-Tees, Co. Durham.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S STICK ORDERLY

J/LCpl. Alan Henry Connolly, Slough, Bucks.

MEDALS—ATHLETICS

Open Pole Vault: 1st, J/Sig. John Mountford, Aylesham, Kent; 2nd, J/LCpl. Robert Trevor Bath, Birmingham; 3rd, J/Sig. Ralph Leon Howard, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Youth High Jump: 1st, J/Sig. David Anthony Beresford, Bolsover, Derbyshire; 2nd, J/Sig. William Maxwell Mackie, Stepps, Lanarkshire.

Youth Long Jump: 2nd, J/Sig. John Harry Spencer, Hornchurch, Essex.

Youth Triple Jump: 2nd, J/Sig. Michael John Collison, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Junior Discus: 2nd, J/Sig. Gordon Thomas Wilkinson, Coventry.

Youth Discus: 2nd, J/Sig. Royland Enoch, Auckland, Co. Durham.

Youth Shot: 2nd, J/Sig. Royland Enoch, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

Junior Javelin: 1st, J/Cpl. Kenneth Murphy, Chatham, Kent; 2nd, J/Cpl. Peter Gilmore Root, Millhill, London N.W. 7.

Youth Javelin: 2nd, J/Sig. Christopher Michael Blackman, Perranporth, Cornwall.

Youth 220 Yards: 2nd, J/Sig. Michael Patrick Kennedy, New Barnet, Herts.

1st Youth 880 Yards, 1st, Youth Mile, 3rd, Open Hurdles: J/LCpl. Anthony Glossop, Hackenthorp, Sheffield.

Junior Mile: 1st, J/LCpl. John Edward Banks Pratt, Wilts.

Open Three Mile: 3rd, J/Sig. Albert Edward Parry, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.

Winner: Junior 220 Yards, Junior 100 Yards, Junior Triple Jump: J/RSM Ronald Hails, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Second: Junior 880 Yards, Junior Long Jump, Junior High Jump, Holder of the Regimental High Jump Record, 5' 4": J/Cpl. Raymond Charles Fisher, Birkenhead.

COLOUR AWARDS—SUMMER TERM, 1963

SWIMMING

J/Sig. Michael Henry Joseph Bowers, Battersea, London; J/SSM. Michael Rodney Clifton, Clifton, Yorks.; J/Sig. Ronald Charles Regan, Fareham, London; J/SSM. Michael Rodney Clifton, Clifton J/Sig. Stewart Adam Robertson, Caversham, Reading; J/LCpl. William Napier Sharpe, Falkirk.

RE-AWARDS

J/LCpl. Barry Campbell, Lymington, Hants.; J/Sgt. Maurice John Emmott, Leeds.

CRICKET

J/LCpl. Arthur Walter Hunt, Fakenham, Norfolk; J/Sgt. Michael Mawson Raybould, Leeds, Yorks.; J/SSM. Michael Joseph Tivenan, Trimdon Grange, Co. Durham.

RE-AWARDS

J/Sgt. Maurice John Emmott, Leeds; J/Sgt. Paul William Wicks, Ruislip, Middx.

ATHLETIC COLOURS

J/Cpl. Roger Andrew Burman, Birmingham; J/Sig. Alan Roy Drew, Cinderford, Glos.; J/Sig. George Michael Emmerson, Brighton, Sussex; J/Cpl. Raymond Charles Fisher, Birkenhead; J/RSM. Ronald Hails, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; J/Sig. David Roddy Kelly, Lochore, Fife; J/Sig. Dennis Parkin, Sunderland; J/Sig. John Perry, Port Talbot, Glamorgan; J/Sig. Shaun Peters, St. Ives, Cornwall; J/Sig. Norman Leslie Siggs, Fishborne, Chichester, Sussex; J/Sig. Michael Bernard William Smith (958), Colchester, Sussex; J/Sig. Trevor John Taylor, Merely, Birmingham; J/Sig. Colin Wile, Blackhall Rocks, Co. Durham; J/Sig. Geoffrey Allan Willis, Guildford, Surrey; J/Cpl. Robert David Wright, Donnington, Wellington, Shropshire; J/Cpl. Malcolm Dockerty, Ferrybridge, Yorks.

ATHLETICS RE-AWARDS

J/LCpl. Barry Campbell, Lymington, Hants.; J/SSM. Michael Rodney Clifton, Clifton, Yorks.; J/Cpl. Mallroy Cooper, Nottingham; J/SSM. Michael Tyrel Gue, Plympton, Devon; J/Sig. Rycherde A. Hogarth, Hartpury, Glos.; J/Sig. Timothy Kenneth Jackson, Hazel Grove, Cheshire; J/LCpl. John Arthur Colin Knell, Holsworthy, Devon; J/Sig. Peter Morrith, Edware, Middlesex; J/LCpl. John Ernest Peter Phillip Telford, Corhama, Wilts.; J/Sig. Tom William Wilson, Keighley, Yorks.

CROSS COUNTRY (GREATEST IMPROVER)

J/LCpl. Norman Edward Bailey, Swanley, Kent; J/Sig. John Arthur Plunkett, Birmingham; J/Sig. Robert George Joy, Ringwood, Hants.

TENNIS COLOURS—AWARDS

Re-Awards: J/LCpl. John William Hamer, Fleetwood, Lancs. **Awards:** J/Cpl. Keith Edward Russell, Portsmouth; J/LCpl. Ian David Turner, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS

1st, J/Sig. Alan Roy Drew, Cinderford, Glos.; 2nd, J/LCpl. Noel Michael Humphries, Leeds, Yorks.; 3rd, J/Sig. Trevor John Taylor, Birmingham.

CRICKET

Army Cup 2nd Round—AAS Arborfield.

The second round of the Cup Competition was played at Denbury against the Army Apprentices School Arborfield and started at 1030. Sgt. Emmott won the toss, elected to bat, and Sgt. Roybould and L/Cpl. Hunt opened the innings. They started well, Hunt's wicket not falling until 34 runs were scored. Emmott was sent back to the Pavilion being run out after facing only one ball. Howard then joined Roybould and between them pushed to score along 101 before Howard was caught on 24. 35 runs were completed shortly afterwards and the innings closed at 111 for five.

Arborfield went in to bat, with Emmott opening the bowling. The first wicket fell to Wicks with two runs on the board, and two more fell, to Emmott at 24. At 30, two more wickets fell to Emmott and at 58 two wickets fell to Wicks. At this stage, the team made a good recovery and pushed the score along to 77 before Emmott took the last wicket and we were through to the 3rd round of the competition.

Scores: Junior Leaders Regiment R. Signals 111 for four declared

(Roybould 49 n.o., Howard 24, Hunt 18).

AAS Arborfield 77

(Emmott 5 for 30, Wicks 3 for 31).

Army Cup 3rd Round—Junior Leaders Regiment RAC.

The RAC Headquarters ground was the setting for the 3rd round of the competition. Roybould, Captain for the day, won the toss and went in to bat with Hunt. They both looked unhappy at the wicket and with only two runs on the board Roybould was run out. This seemed to spell disaster for the rest of the team and the scoring rate was slow, although wickets were falling quickly. Sgt. Wicks then came in with only eight runs on the board and after playing himself in carefully, proceeded to send the ball to the boundary whenever possible. In a short space of time he scored 27 runs which included one 6 and two 4's. A very noble effort. After Wicks was dismissed the innings soon closed with the score at 38.

With Emmott away, it meant Wicks and Roybould doing all the bowling and although they both bowled well, it was 33 before the first wicket fell to Roybould. The RAC soon passed our total of 38 without any further loss.

Scores: Junior Leaders Regiment R. Signals 38

(Wicks 27).

Junior Leaders Regiment RAC 42 for one

(Roybould one for 22). P.H.

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WATER POLO

At Taunton Public Baths, the Regimental water polo team retained their title of S.W. District champions.

In the morning they met RASC Junior Leaders Staff/Boys team. This match was played throughout at a great pace and was quite an exciting spectacle. Until the third quarter there was not a lot to choose between either side, the scores being level at four goals each. The scores for Denbury were, so far, Holifield 2, Constable 1 and Lang 1.

After two minutes of exhilarating play in the last quarter an excellent goal by Colonel Holifield almost decapitated the RASC goal keeper. This lead inspired the Denbury team and after some brilliant passing movements two further goals were scored by Lang and the match was won.

The final score was seven goals to four and this victory was a great triumph because the Denbury team lacked training owing to the temporary closure of Torquay baths.

In the afternoon session the Regiment met the RASC.

Inspired by their victory in the morning they started with extra zest, soon showed a marked superiority over their opponents, and eventually completely over-ran them.

The final score was Denbury 14-RASC 2. The Regimental goal scorers were: Lang 7, Holifield 6, and Rogers 1.

SOUTHERN COMMAND CHAMPIONSHIPS
Denbury 5; 3rd. Bn. Para. 7.

Regimental goal scorers: Holifield 2, Lang 2, Constable 1. Outstanding players, Campbell (goal), Bowers (back).

SOUTHERN COMMAND RELAY

Denbury was second. Team: Robertson, Lang, Cuthill, Bowers, Holifield, Constable.

J.C., Lt.



Major-Gen. Swainson
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RQMS Ray Wombwell
with the
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(Not Sunday)

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Sunday, September 15th, one day only
HARRY BELAFONTE ROBERT RYAN

Odds Against Tomorrow

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Ben Johnson
FORT BOWIE
3.15 6.30

Thursday, September 19th, for six days
(Not Sunday)

ALBERT FINNEY SUSANNAH YORK

TOM JONES

(x) (Adults Only) 2.15 5.10 8.10.
Also
THIS IS GUERNSEY
4.25 7.25.

Sunday, September 22nd, one day only
JAMES CAGNEY DON MURRAY

Shake Hands with the Devil

4.35 8.00.
Rory Calhoun Gloria Grahame
RIDE OUT FOR REVENGE
3.15 6.30.

Thursday, September 26th, for three days
CORNEL WILDE JEAN WALLACE

LANCELOT & GUINEVERE

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John Bentley
THE FUR COLLAR
3.40 7.00.

Sunday, September 29th, for four days.

MARGARET RUTHERFORD
BERNARD CRIBBINS RON MOODY

The Mouse on the Moon

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Pedro Armendariz Jacqueline Sassard
SONS OF THUNDER
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The Reviewing Officer, Major General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, presented the following prizes:

Cobb Memorial Trophy and Shield, awarded to Iron Troop.

The 7th Signal Regiment Shield, awarded to Francisca Troop.

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Senior Trophy, awarded to White Spear Troop.

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Junior Trophy, awarded to Kukri Troop.

The Bengal Tiger, awarded to Montgomery Squadron.

Commonwealth Division Trophy, awarded to White Spear Troop.

Gregory Pennant, awarded to Mons Patrol.

Commanding Officer's Trophy awarded to J/RSM Hails.

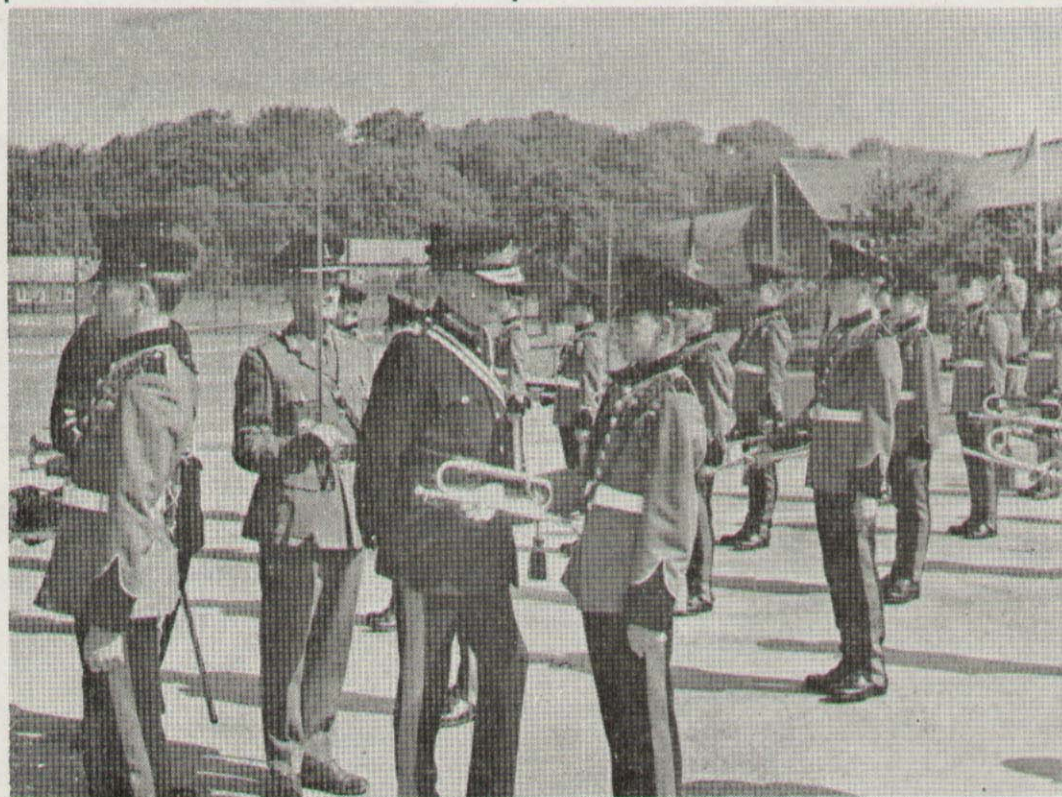
Commandant Training Brigade Trophy, awarded to J/SSS. Tivenan.

Junior Award, awarded to Best Recruit of Junior Squadron, J/Sig. Wells.



by Nicholas Horne

Below: Major-General Swainson, escorted by the Parade Commander, Major John Clapp, with the Regimental Trumpeters.



Above: The Signal-Officer-in-Chief accompanied by Lt.-Col. Holifield and Lt. Philip Hodges meeting parents after the parade.

SUMMER GRADUATION PARADE APPOINTMENTS

Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. A. Holifield, M.C., Royal Signals.

Parade Commander: Major W. J. Clapp, Royal Signals.

Officer Commanding Alexander Squadron: Captain J. Westlake, Royal Signals.

Officer Commanding Slim Squadron: Major J. K. Heyes, Royal Signals.

Officer Commanding Montgomery Squadron: Major H. Mc. I. Paterson, Royal Signals.

Parade Adjutant: Captain J. W. Swindells, Royal Signals.

Regimental Sergeant Major: RSM D. Haughney.

Junior Regimental Sergeant Major: J/RSM. R. Hails.

Drum Major: Drum Major A. Yates, B.E.M.

Junior Drum Major: J/LCpl. Hopkins.

Junior Trumpet Major: J/Cpl. R. Fisher.

Junior Pipe Major: J/Sig. I. Smith.

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