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AUGUST, 1960

Price 4d.

# PARENTS' DAY

*"In the dust of defeat, as in the laurels of victory, there is a glory to be won for the man who has done his best."*



*Junior Leaders Regiment,  
Royal Signals,  
Denbury Camp,  
Newton Abbot,  
Devon.*

Tel. Ipplepen 361

22nd July, 1960.

*Dear Mothers & Fathers,*

Your sons welcome you to Denbury, and the Officers and I join with them in wishing you a very happy stay with us. You may rest assured that we will do everything possible for your comfort and entertainment. In a very special sense Denbury belongs to you, for without your sons there would be no Denbury—and this is your day.

As the Commanding Officer responsible to each one of you for the training and general welfare of your sons, I want to ask you, as I did last year, to continue to give us all the help you can. I do not refer to material help, but to that other and much more important kind of help which sustains us when our spirits flag and our hearts become a little low—when some trick of circumstance makes us despondent or downhearted. It is at such times, in particular, that your affection and your encouragement represent a source of strength which is very important to us, and without it the measure of our success would be very limited.

To imagine that there is some form of magic in the make-up of the instructors and teachers at Denbury that will overcome every difficulty without stress and strain is to attribute to us ordinary human beings graces that few saints can claim. The business of Junior Leadership cannot be carried on without a mixture of triumph and tragedy, success and failure. All that we can hope to do is to meet each situation frankly and act with courage and good sense. When a Junior Leader falters he has a right to invoke the immediate support, understanding and help of his leaders, but they may not always be able to give him the particular brand of help he needs. It is then, when kindness, persuasion, firmness, and, finally, the threat of punishment have all failed that we must turn to you; for, happily, family pride and a mother's love are as potent a mixture today as ever they were in reinforcing the nobler motives of the young.

I am extremely grateful for all the help that you have given us, and I am terribly proud to be the Commanding Officer of your sons. There is nothing that we will not do to advance their training towards a thoroughly successful career in the Royal Corps of Signals. Please continue to take an active

interest in all that is happening in Denbury, read the "Junior Mercury," and encourage your sons to greater endeavour so that the things they have accomplished so far may fade into nothing when compared with the achievements that still lie ahead. Let us make this an exclusive club, with membership especially open to the brothers of your sons and to their friends. The best passport to Denbury is the recommendation of an ex-Junior Leader.

I want to take this opportunity, in your presence, of thanking all our friends in the South-West for their many kindnesses. Without their friendship and active interest, life at Denbury would be very lonely and the prospect of our staying here permanently much less secure. During the last term over 1,500 copies of the "Junior Mercury" were bought, each month, by local well-wishers. This alone reflects considerable interest and is most encouraging. Gifts frequently appear, such as a guinea from Mrs. Sadgrove, of West Oggwell, who could not come to our Balaclava Fair, but nevertheless wished to be associated with it. Unexpected contributions towards our Band Fund from Miss Paine and others, the gift of an Outward Bound hut from Sir Ralph Rayner, the opportunity to act as stewards for the BMA Meeting at Torquay (very thoughtfully made possible for us by Dr. Roy Midgley, the Chest Consultant at Hawkmoor), and the resulting gift from the BMA of 50 guineas, with a charming letter from Sir Alfred Porritt, the President of the Association, are numbered among the grace-notes of our living. The money we received from the BMA is being used to finance the printing of posters and booklets for the Ten Tors Expedition.

Then we have Lady Sylvia Sayer's generous consent to our using any part of her excellent writings on Dartmoor to further the cause of leadership pursuits on the moors. Now a tennis cup has appeared from the Midgley family and a Maltese Cross from the people of Bovey Tracey—originally erected for their Seventh Centenary Charter Celebrations at Bovey, and which has since been transferred to Denbury Cross—in the centre of the camp, and bears a commemorative plaque.

I have just heard from the Newton Abbot Council that they intend giving us an illuminated scroll to take with us to Nijmegen for presentation to the Mayor of that town, and a further promise that they hope to present a banner to the Regiment next year, bearing the arms of Newton Abbot. All these things spring from the hearts of sincere Devonians in whose county your sons have found a second home—a home, I pray, that will never crumble.

You may be interested to learn what the Corps has done for us since you were here last year. First, we received gifts of 10 to 15 guineas for the Band Fund from each Regiment that has adopted a troop of Junior Leaders. This was followed by a cheque for £250 from the 25th Signal Regiment on disbandment and has enabled us to equip the Pipes section of the band. From Germany a replica of the Berlin Bear (Bruno) presented by the 10th Signal Regiment. From Malaya a beautiful ornamental kukri (Gurkha knife), a gift from the 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. A delightful painting of Dartmoor especially commissioned by the previous Commanding Officer (Lt.-Col. R. G. Baker), and a

handsome barometer contributed by the late Second-in-Command (Major Dunkley) are among the prized possessions that now belong to us. The Training Brigade from Catterick is responsible for the magnificent adventure training trophy that presides over a spirited inter-troop Outward Bound competition every term, and for the presentation of three excellent portraits of H.R.H. the Princess Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royals Corps of Signals.

The Corps Committee, not to be outdone by any of the aforementioned gifts, sent us a cheque for £830 10s. for the band to be dressed in scarlet tunics, and they also agreed to provide us with a silver canoe to be used for the inter-troop canoe race every term (Totnes-Dittisham). This announcement arrived at the same time as another, from a private source, which may enable us to stage an inter-troop pigeon race from London to Denbury every term, with a silver pigeon as the prize.

For our part we have tried to do our best whenever called upon for assistance. The band, including the pipers, have been active at Catterick, Exeter, Paignton, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, and Bovey Tracey. The band is 56-strong. The Physical Efficiency display team has given performances at Teignmouth, Exeter and Bovey Tracey, and the choir of over 100 appeared for the first time at Bovey Tracey on July 7th. In addition, a "Right and Wrong" Drill Squad had a "go", most successfully, at Bovey Tracey on July 9th. Tomorrow, the choir, the band, and the Physical Efficiency team and, possibly, a Scottish dancing section, are scheduled to perform at Hawkmoor Chest Hospital as part of their 25th anniversary celebrations.

*Continued Page 2, Column 2*



*by H. Rivers*

J/R.S.M. Worrall salutes you

## EDITORIAL

A big welcome to all parents—it's grand to have you here in camp. Take this chance, have a really good look round the camp, find out the type of life your son leads here. Meet his instructors, talk to them, and realize that they have the interests of YOUR son at heart. Then, if you haven't met us before, MEET the "JUNIOR MERCURY." We are not a more friendly form of Regimental Part I. orders, nor are we a comic illustrating Army life; we don't claim to be anything in ourselves except just a "window on life at Denbury." To a member of the Regiment we are there to put his life into perspective, to prevent him becoming obsessed with his own little world, and to explain what is happening all round. To past members of the Regiment and other Service readers, Regular Signals in particular, we provide news and views of the younger generation. To Devonians we serve to explain to them just what is happening at "that army camp down the road." However, it is to you Parents that we provide a guarantee that the life which your son is leading is the right life, and that he is being taught to do those things which will make a "man out of him."

Our front page this month takes the form of a special letter to all parents, personally written by the Commanding Officer, and of interest to everybody as an indication of progress. Page Three gives the story of the first Commonwealth Trophy competition, as well as introducing you to "Paddy." Do you believe in witches? No? Well, read S/Sgt. Thwaites' latest article on Dartmoor (Page Five). Perhaps you are interested in Mountaineering (see Page Six). Have you ever met Arthur Askey? Our reporters have, and tell you all about him in Star-light (Page Ten).

Finally, the Staff. First, a hearty welcome to Sgt. "Dave" Lisle (RAEC) on the Editorial side of the Journal. As an Oxford University English graduate he should ensure a rise in the literary standard of the paper. Secondly, to J/Sig. Keenan (Francisca Troop). Although of no such great literary ability, he has already shown enthusiasm and keenness which stamps him as a useful member of the Staff.

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2. The views expressed herein are not necessarily official War Office or Army policy.
3. All communications should be addressed to The Editor, "Junior Mercury," Denbury Camp, Nr. Newton Abbot, Devon.

## PARENTS' DAY

*Continued from Front Page*

Next term the choir will make a new and most exciting contribution at many local occasions, prefacing each performance with their signature tune, "Begone Dull Care." The band will appear in scarlet and blue and the pipers will wear the tartan of the Clan Grant, to which the Countess of Seafield has given her whole-hearted approval.

We have had a good term. Health has been excellent, and in spite of the weather there have been remarkably few disciplinary cases! I can report only one complaint from the local authorities, and that was for a Junior Leader dropping an unexpended fish and chips packet at the 'bus terminus in Newton Abbot. He paid a fine of £3, and the Regiment has since actively engaged itself in collecting litter from divers corners of Dartmoor.

While at Denbury I hope you will get to know as many of the staff as possible. Meet the chaplain, the doctor, and the WVS lady. Ask your sons to introduce you to their Squadron Commanders and Troop Leaders. Try and find the time to have a jolly good look at Denbury.

Many parents and guardians who live in the North will not be present today. I hope they will receive their copies of this newspaper at the same time as you do, so that they may join us in spirit and accept our greetings and good wishes from Denbury.

Finally, and most important, a word about your sons. As I write this letter, 72 of them are on the graduation roll for adult service. They go out to serve the most beloved boss in the world. Not for them a chairman, or a manager, or a director, or a board of governors, but the Queen herself. And, all being well, they will bring new life to her army.

We cannot, all of us, win prizes. Some do who have not tried very hard; others don't who have tried their best. The parents, staff and Junior Leaders together cannot work miracles. We cannot fill in a successful football coupon every week, or send a Junior Leader on an initiative test to the moon; but there is something we can, and should, do, and the means to do it lies, not within our pockets, but in the minds and hearts of each one of us. We can decide, here and now, to make Denbury a great and lasting place. There is only one question, a simple one, that we must ask ourselves: "Have I done my best?" And in an honest answer to it lies the key to the next term and the future.

*Yours sincerely,  
Lancel Hesjory.*

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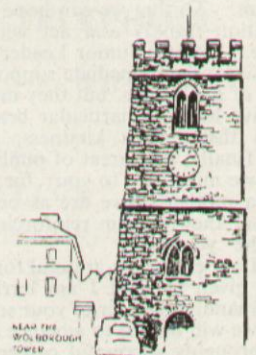
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**ANZIO WIN TROPHY**

The sun was blazing down as ten Troops, at 20-minute intervals, left the Battle Camp near Okehampton to compete for the Commonwealth Trophy. The Commonwealth Trophy is a magnificent trophy, originally presented by the Commonwealth Division Signal Regiment to the Training Brigade, and passed on to us by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.

The course took the form of a 13-mile (unless you wandered) trek through six check points. The first check point took us up to over 2,000 feet to Yes Tor, the highest tor on Dartmoor. Then through Lints Tor to Fur Tor, the Queen of the Tors. From there a straight march to Cranmere Pool (which was not always found so easily), and up to Okement Hill and Oke Tor, ending finally at Rough Tor.

Anzio Troop was the winning Troop—the only Troop whose Troop Officer was unable to participate. Sgt. Turner, who led his Troop, commented afterwards that “most of my Troop are on the Nijmegen March and they led the way. I had difficulty in keeping up with them.”

However, looking at Sgt. Turner’s long legs we wondered if he wasn’t perhaps being over-modest! On the whole, once blisters had healed up, most people seemed to have enjoyed it.

**“PADDY”**

Miss Stella Watts-Moses, known to us as “Paddy,” joined the WVS (Durham) in 1958. After four months work among refugees, she was transferred to North Germany, working with the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards at Fallingbostal. She moved back to Catterick with that Regiment a year later, and helped for some time in the NAAFI Club.

At first she was doubtful about a posting to a Junior Leaders unit, but now, after six weeks, she declares: “I love it; everybody is so friendly.”

The Social Club, at present, she feels to be “rather flat,” with just a weekly dance. She aims, therefore, to make it a really thriving concern, her present ideas including a paper-back library, whist drives, competitions, “something for everybody.”

Opinions among the boys about Paddy ranged from “Cor, she’s a smasher!” to “She’s got some ideas, but then newcomers always have.” So there you are, Paddy, you’ve made a good start. Keep it up.

**FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS**

The Denbury Theatre Club is scheduled to produce a comedy-farce in the opening weeks of next term. It is entitled “The White Sheep of the Family.” Our reporter returned from a rehearsal wildly enthusiastic about its prospects, and prophesied an even more hilarious success than “One Wild Oat.” The cast appear to be all criminals (purely in a dramatic sense), with a sprinkling of clergy and police.

The producer is Sgt. Port, who has a wide range of theatrical work to his credit. Mr. S. E. Stacey, of Lower House, Denbury, obviously an experienced actor, is a member of the cast, and told our reporter: “I am enjoying every minute of it. I am very interested in the camp and all that happens here.”

Next term a Christmas pantomime is scheduled, and for this actors, stage hands, prop-men, effects creators, etc., are required. Those interested please contact Sgt. Port, who can find a niche for everybody.

**WHITE SWAN—NO SWAN**

HYSTERECTOMY, OTORRHINOCARINGOLOGY, and RACHOTOMY are familiar expressions to the boys of White Swan Troop, who have just completed ten days work in Torquay with the British Medical Association at its Annual Conference. Their duties were mainly as stewards and wireless operators, but they soon found they had to cope with such difficulties as wireless operating over Torquay’s hilly terrain and sending a search party to Exeter for the Bishop’s sermon. These snags overcome, they proved themselves equally efficient operators when a party of 20 Swedish girls was “picked up” by J/Cpl. Nuttall in the same building.

The boys found the Preliminary Debate (held in the Town Hall, which was the main conference room) very interesting, while the doctors in their turn showed great curiosity as to the working of the Troop’s A40, A41, and CPR 26 sets. During the conference, films of various treatments and surgery were shown, and exhibitions of the scientific and medical side held; but the highlight was the visit of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, President of the BMA, when a closed circuit TV broadcast of a live operation was presented. Most boys stood up well to the unusual spectacle (“Coo, it’s far better than the horror film at the Odeon, sir!”); one notable exception being Sgt. Cooley, who found that Mitral Valvulotomy and lunch did not mix.

The chairman of the meeting has expressed his gratitude to the CO, and complimented him on the bearing, turnout and behaviour of the Junior Leaders.

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# "X" - DAY

J/Sig. "X" was in despair. A surprising letter had just arrived from Mum, saying that she and Dad were coming down on Parents Day. Previously this disaster had been averted owing to "X" having a mate in RHQ (now, alas, demobbed), who had always refrained from sending out their invitation.

"X" shuddered as he imagined their reactions when they discovered that he wasn't the Staff-Sergeant they supposed him to be; nor the choir's leading tenor, nor captain of the Shooting Team. What would they say when they found that he was languishing in Inter. 1 for the fourth successive term, when they were wont to speak with such pride of "our son, studying for his GCE, Advanced level"? What about end-of-term reports which "X" had so successfully intercepted? A word from "X"'s Troop Sergeant would soon make it quite clear that their prodigy had not been the CO's permanent Stick Orderly for the past three terms, nor had he relinquished the honour of being Regimental Standard Bearer, solely to give a younger boy a chance.

"X"'s first thought was to go absent—take his summer leave just a little earlier than anybody else. After all, this would only be obeying the orders of Sgt. Angell, who only yesterday had told him to, "Get out of my sight and never come back again!" However, a memory of what his Troop Officer had threatened next time he was on orders made this scheme impractical.

Sickness? Alas, the MO only allowed him 60 sick parades a term, and those had all been used upon parades and stupid rehearsals.

Outward Bound? No, that meant hard work, exercise and responsibility. Three things that "X" did not allow himself to think about.

No, there was no help for it. He would have to be in camp. Could they be stopped from coming? Floods might isolate Denbury—but not in July. The whole camp might be quarantined—a second Plague?

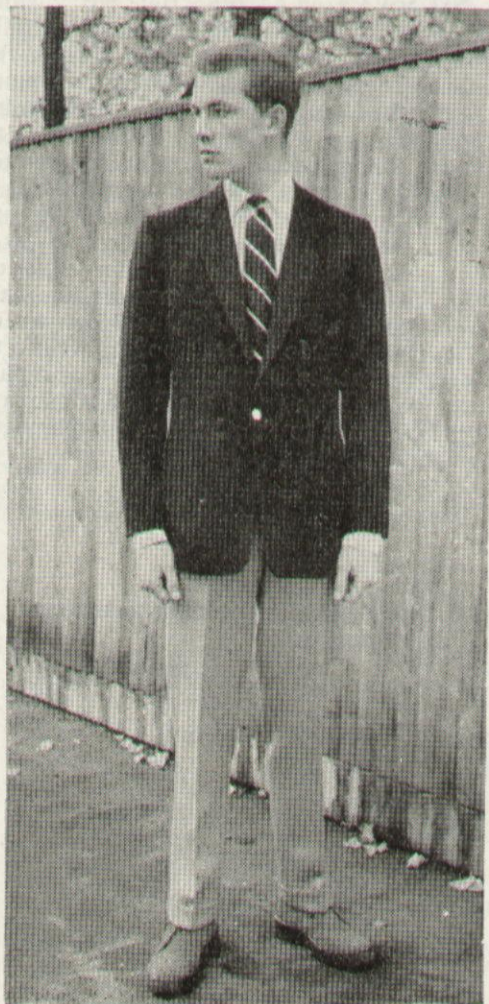
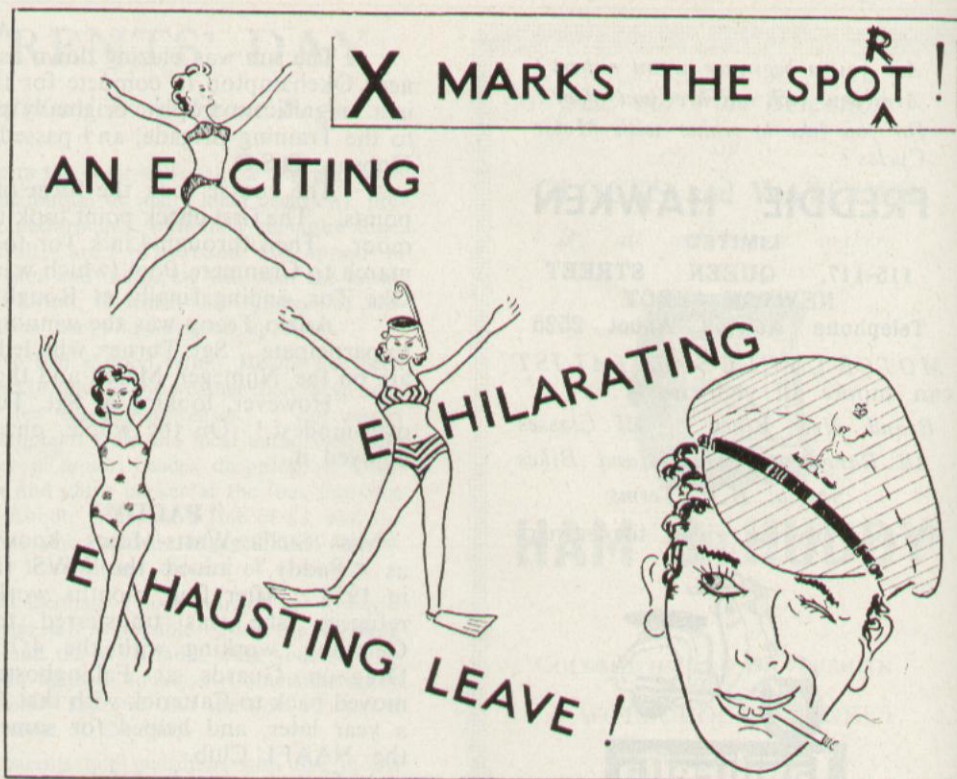
Then inspiration came. "X" would write a letter home, forging the 2 i/c's sig-

nature, explaining that Parents Day was cancelled. Having written the letter (in best Inter. 1 style) he found he couldn't remember the address, which wasn't surprising, as he had never written a letter home before. Anyway, he didn't have a stamp

Time passed. "X" sunk deeper into an abyss of despair. He began to neglect his normal activities. He stopped drinking, smoked over 50 "nub-ends" a day, and even found himself on Parade by mistake. Things began to get really serious when his girl friend—a Junior Lady if ever there was one—was able to date him outside the

Odeon instead of inside ("it's cheaper meeting 'em inside").

Finally, three days before the fateful day, "X" could stand it no longer. He passed the fags round, and appealed to his mates in the barrack room to stand by him. Whereupon they all burst into hysterical laughter. Slowly it dawned on "X" that his mother couldn't have written that letter. She wouldn't begin, "My darling son," nor finish "Your loving Mother." In his happiness at his reprieve he even made the mistake of passing the fags a second time. Roll on Parents Day.



## Off-duty smartness

Gieves have been making uniforms from Wellington's day onwards. But here's proof that we know a thing or two about clothes for off-duty wear. The illustration shows a single breasted blazer in serge or hopsack with cavalry twill trousers

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**DO YOU BELIEVE ?**

"And that bain't true, neither," was the contemptuous remark of the Devonian when he and a friend were discussing a spectre seen on Dartmoor. And he was right, too, for there was no spectre and never had been. The image reputedly seen near Belstone Rocks was in fact an optical illusion caused by the sun shining through a light drizzle, and being reflected through the water-vapour. No, regrettably, there are no spectres, no giant hounds, no ghosts to be seen on the moors. But despite this, the alert traveller can hear conversations about witches and local superstitions which can give him food for thought.

The West Country man's dread of the supernatural is deep-seated and real, as with most people, and it takes a definite form—fear of the darkness. At South Tawton, for example, the limestone quarries, now abandoned, have deep, black pools of water which no local inhabitant will visit after sundown. And, odd though it seems, in common with most country-folk, the West Country villager avoids the dark loneliness of the remote countryside. At least one moorland farmer steadfastly refused to walk in darkness through a great larch wood. "I should meet the Devil if I went that way," he said—and he said it quite seriously.

It is difficult to say when a person becomes a witch; at which age, after which qualifications have been secured; these are obscure points, but the fact remains that a person can be locally admitted to have the "look" or the "charm," and so to qualify as a witch. In the old days, of course, the witch was ducked or scolded, nowadays he or she is socially ostracized and avoided. The concept of magic is not easy to grasp, and may seem incredible, but as long as certain "coincidences" recur, the idea of witchery will not easily be dismissed. In his book "Devonshire," St. Leger-Gordon tells how a farmer whose hands were covered in warts made some purchases at an ironmonger's in Tiverton. The ironmonger, noticing the warts, offered to cure them. The offer was accepted and the ironmonger rubbed the hands with his own. Within a week the warts had gone. Similarly, a cottage child who suffered from sore eyes met a witch in a narrow lane. The witch (an old crone) noticed the eyes, examined them, and then spat in them. The "cure" was immediate and complete.

Yes, we may laugh and scoff at these tales, as our mood takes us, but who can explain them away? Why shouldn't we believe in witches, after all?

**Staff Scrapbook**

Staff "flap time" is here again. It's always the same just before leave, but when the big Summer break nears, superhuman efforts are needed all round to get the Regiment packed off on holiday on time. Clerks are probably the worst hit. Last-minute Nijmegen and end of term competition candles have been seen burning in the RHQ office windows well into the night, while Squadron offices with leave problems and duties struggle along as best they can.

No fewer than 16 National Service men are experiencing their last pre-leave rush, and of the 16 there is an unusually high number of sergeants. Six in all will no longer be with us for the Winter term. They are, of course, all RAEC personnel.

The full list of departures is: Sgts. Segal, Spir, Lancaster, Soutar, Morrall and Foulds; L/Cpls Scripps, Needham, Moore and Essary; Sigs. Bailey, Spier, Whybrow and Adams; Ptes. Cooper and Toogood.

With the introduction last month of the designation "Senior Wing" for HQ Squadron came suggestions for a new name for the column, but as we try to deal with all the Staff and not just "Senior Wing," it's thought that perhaps "Staff Scrapbook" is the best. Nevertheless, it brought some amusing notes on new names.

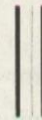
Footnote. It has been noted that the Regimental pony Rebel has taken a liking to bikes—both motor and push. Several times the animal has been seen apparently trying to mount one or the other near the Orderly Room. Bike owners please note!

**PRINCIPAL EVENTS: CHRISTMAS TERM**

- Sept. 2. Term starts.
- 7. Tennis Tournament (Singles).
- 14-17. TEN TORS.
- 19. Boxing Training begins.
- Oct. 8. Ceremonial Retreat (in full dress) Denbury.
- 29. Canoe Race (Totnes-Dittisham).
- Nov. 8. Choir to London.
- 18. COMMONWEALTH TROPHY.
- Dec. 1. Drill and P.E. Competitions.
- 2. Shooting Competition.
- 3. CO's Barrack Room Inspection.
- 5-10. Examination Week.
- 13. Pigeon Race (London-Denbury).
- 15. Presentation Parade.
- 16. Term ends.

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## READERS' CORNER

### REAL APPRECIATION

The following letter from Sir Arthur Porritt, KCMG, KCVO, CBE, MA, LID, MCh., FRCS, President, British Medical Association, is printed by kind permission of Lt.-Col. L. H. M. Gregory, MBE. (Article on Page Three refers).

DEAR COLONEL GREGORY.—May I, on behalf of the Association, thank you for the extremely efficient way in which the members of the Junior Leaders Regiment, under the able direction of Captain Hancock, undertook the stewarding arrangements for our meeting.

It was indeed a happy suggestion that the Army should carry out this duty, which is normally done by medical students when the BMA meets in a University centre. I hope that the Signalmen gained useful experience from this peace-time exercise.

We are indebted to all who contributed to the success of the meeting, and I should be glad if you would convey our appreciation to all the Army stewards concerned.

I have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £52 10s. for your Regimental Funds.

With renewed thanks.—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ARTHUR PORRITT, President.

British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, London, WCI.

### MOORS AND MOUNTAINS

DEAR SIR.—Having spent some two and a half years walking over Dartmoor and one year over the Welsh mountains, I would consider it an honour to add my words to those of my friends from Tonfanau and Denbury.

I don't think Jnr Gnr Ryder's time, which was on a road walk, can possibly be compared with the Dartmoor route given, which is over very difficult going in places.

However, whilst the bog and water of Dartmoor can make going very difficult, I have never been stopped from moving forward. In the mountains the high winds, heavy with sleet and cloud, and liable to blow one off one's path into a fall of several hundred feet, have on several occasions forced me to stop and pick another more sheltered path. The mountains offer a far greater challenge. I have come to love them both and, if I could, I would join any party walking on either.

Dare I say it, however. I am more attracted to Dartmoor although, I hope, not because of my own arguments!—

(Signed) T. G. H. JACKSON, Maj.  
2nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 22.

### FORMATION OF A MOUNTAIN CLUB

By Major R. W. Nye

For over two years now, members of the Regiment have been doing a certain amount of rock climbing. This is understandable, because Haytor, which has a number of good climbs on it, is visible from the Camp on most days of the year, and several other Tors also afford pleasant climbing.

This term, however, has seen more activity than ever before in this sphere. The first weekend of the term, Sgt. Cavey and I attended a Climbing Meet in Cornwall run by the Junior Leaders Regt., R.A.C. We returned with the resolve to try and start a branch of the Army Mountaineering Association in the Regiment. Sgt. Segal was very keen, and the Quartermaster, too, soon proved himself a great enthusiast.

Most Sunday mornings saw a group of strangely-clad individuals, apparently held together by the ropes wrapped around them. Hound Tor and Haytor became familiar to about 40 members of the Regiment. Observing Baden-Powell's famous motto, a first-aid kit and folding stretcher always accompanied the group.

Seeking fresh fields to explore, I then visited the Dewerstone Rock, a formidable block of granite rising vertically from the River Plym for close on 200 feet. I was fortunate to have as my guide Rear-Admiral K. M. Lawder, R.N. (retd.), a youth of 67 years of age who first explored the Dewerstone and still climbs it with great skill. We spent a pleasant day on a number of climbs excellent for the quality of the rock and for the greater height than the Tors afford.

Then came the Army Mountaineering Association Meet for Junior Leaders, held near Zennor, in Cornwall. Five Junior Leaders and five members of the Staff attended from the Regiment (Lt. Worsley, Sgts. Cavey and Segal, Dvr. Cook, J/L/Cpls. Wraith and Barratt, J/Sigs. Main, Mooney and Hollander, and myself) and, although the weather was disappointing, the weekend passed too quickly.

A second visit was made to the Dewerstone Rock during the summer camp period. The purpose of this was to introduce some more members of the Regiment to the area. This object was achieved and the day passed very pleasantly. Some of the instructors from the Outward Bound School, Holne, were there too, but they were tackling the main rock face, whereas our party confined itself to easier routes. Nevertheless, the

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exposed top pitch of Route 'B,' a very difficult climb of some 150 feet, provided sufficient excitement for most people.

On June 20th, a meeting was held to form a Regimental Mountain Club. This was attended by about 20 people interested in climbing. As a result of this meeting, and another one on June 28th, the following Committee was elected: President, Lt.-Col. L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E., Royal Signals; Chairman, Maj. R. W. Nye, R.A.E.C.; Secretary, Lt. (QM) J. Worsley, R. Signals; Junior Wing representative, J/Sig. Hollander; 1 Sqn representative, J/Sig. O'Connor; 2 Sqn representative, J/Sig. Terras; Senior Wing representative, Sgt. Segal.

The Club is now firmly established, and plans for future activities include a "Meet" in Cornwall during the last week of the Summer leave, all-day visits to the Dewerstone Rock, and a visit to either North Wales or the Lake District next term. Judging by the enthusiasm and progress of some of the members, the Regiment's branch of the Army Mountaineering Association may claim a first ascent or two at a later date.

**COMPETITION**

A man is placed in a room which has only two doors—one leading to freedom, the other to certain death. With him are two men who know which door is which. One of them always tells the truth, the other always tells lies (although the man doesn't know which). He is allowed to ask one question, the answer to which will tell him which door to choose. What is the question he must ask?

Send your entries to the Editor, "Junior Mercury," Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, Devon, before August 30. There will be prizes of books and records.

**KEEP IT UP**

There were no less than 15 correct answers to our June competition, and a draw resulted in the prizes being won as follows:

- 1.—A record ("No Wheels"/"A Girl's Work is Never Done," by the Chordettes), to Mrs. Pratt, of Newton Abbot.
- 2.—A record ("I'm Ready"/"Margie," by Fats Domino), to J/Sig. Edwards, of Bruno Troop.
- 3.—A book ("Campbell's Kingdom," by Hammond Innes), to J/Sig. Graves, of Quadrant Troop.

The correct answers were:

1. Mr. Butcher—baker.
- Mr. Baker—hosier.
- Mr. Hosier—dyer.
- Mr. Dyer—butcher.
2. 888 — 88 — 8 — 8 — 8 — 1,000.
3. East and West Pakistan are divided by India.

**BAND AT LARGE**

During June and July, any Troop Officer who gets time for more than the barest exchanges of pleasantries with any member of the "Band and Drums" can regard himself as extremely fortunate, for our Band's list of engagements during the Summer period looks like the fixture list of a touring cricket XI. Here lies Regimental publicity at its best—a smart and colourful group of Junior Leaders, representing the Regiment and entertaining the public at the same time.

Arising at 0430 hours, the Band embussed at 0600 hours, and endured a 6½-hour journey to Southsea. In the heat of the afternoon they gave a counter-marching display, and in the evening they were on again, performing a Retreat of the very highest standard. Even S/Sgt. Yates was seen to blush as the MC congratulated him on training the Band "to such perfection."

At Dartmouth the Band first entertained a vast crowd, and were then vastly entertained themselves when a fish fryer in a fish and chip shop caught fire, occasioning the services of the fire brigade.

At the Babbacombe Fete a cricket match was in progress on the ground where the Band were due to play Retreat. The crowd booed the cricketers, who refused to move. Everybody suggested that the Band should press on regardless, but S/Sgt. Yates decided that would only be asking for trouble. The Band therefore performed in a nearby car park.

After a long journey, including three changes on the train, an exhausted Band arrived at Catterick, where they gave a Sunday performance at an Old Comrades Reunion before about 1,000 spectators.

At Paignton the Band arrived just in time to hear entertainment star KEN DODD (read our interview in "Star-light") open the fete. Here again the Band excelled themselves with their Beating of Retreat. The crowd perhaps spoiled it by crowding a little too close, but this gives an idea of the enthusiasm which is shown by spectators.

During the past twelve months the "Band and Drums" have improved tremendously. Musically they have probably achieved as high a standard as can be hoped for without professional expert guidance. However, there are times when their general appearance, dressing and marching in particular, could be smarter. The introduction of bagpipes lends colour and glamour, but it is hoped that the improvement of the pipers will be maintained. They are young (in a piping sense), and have a long way to go.

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## ROUND THE

### RATHER WETTING

Despite lack of rain, many prominent One Squadron personages contrived to get wet at 1 Squadron camp. After all had enjoyed an excellent barbecue on the beach, the whole Squadron rose and descended on 2/Lts. Rigamonti and Plummer. Without undue ceremony these two were bundled into the sea. Deciding that discretion was the better part of valour, the Commanding Officer, Maj. Bound, Capt. Gregory and Rogers immediately stripped off and rushed voluntarily towards the sea. There, with an entire squadron escort (a howling mob of Junior Leaders) they bathed.

**Question 1:** Do One Squadron appreciate Sgt. Angell's methods of getting campers "to rise and shine" every morning?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question 2:** When SSM Hopson is unable to go on the Nijmegen March, is his faithful dog, Jock, an adequate substitute?

**Answer:** Yes.

### WINGS OF SONG

The Regimental Choir's first public performance took place at Bovey Tracey as part of the celebrations commemorating the seventh centenary of Bovey Tracey's Charter.

The performance took place in the open air, and, being on the fringe of Dartmoor, the choir started its round-Britain song tour with "Widcombe Fair," hotly pursued by "The Minstrel Boy," "Charlie is my Darling," and "Land of my Fathers" (in English). "Gaudeamus Igitur" (in Latin) provided an academic surprise, and the whole programme was rounded off by "Land of Hope and Glory." Enthusiastic applause from a large audience followed each item.

### SIR WALTER RALEIGH

A team of 12 Junior Leaders, led by S/Sgt. Johnson, Cpl. Haughton and L/Cpl. James, gave a gymnastic display on Teignmouth sea front before a crowd of nearly 2,000 people. The display was in three parts, with table exercises, parallel bar and high horse work. There were two tableaux and some individual displays by S/Sgt. Johnson.

The boys all worked well but, unfortunately, the display was made very difficult because of rain which made the horse and springboards very slippery. Sgt. Angell, among the spectators, helped considerably by throwing his raincoat over the springboard.

### RECRUITS WANTED

Do you belong to Denbury's Anti-Litter League? If not, why don't you join? Maj. Lane, President, Secretary and Founder, explained the simple rules to us. If everybody in the Regiment were to pick up three pieces of paper, and never drop any more, then Denbury would be litter-free.

So, potential Anti-Litter Leaguers—to the stoop, pick up your three pieces of litter and persuade two friends to do the same, then you are a member!

### BOY-MEETS GIRL

During summer camp Two Squadron were preparing for a beach barbecue, bonfire, sing-song, grub and booze. Suddenly, WO II Rodriguez looked towards the sea catching sight of three cutters pulling in, loaded with girls. Seeking to escape by land, his eyes encountered a further horde of girls advancing down the cliff. Trapped!

It was the Brixham Sea Rangers and Girl Guides come to the same beach for a bonfire and sing-song to celebrate their jubilee. The obvious thing was to combine forces; their wood was added to our bonfire, Sgts. Tearse, Young and Osborne in their capacity of song-leaders had the control of sopranos as well as basses, and Cpl. Harris (ACC) performed a modernized version of the loaves and fishes miracle with hot dogs and doughnuts.

Needless to say, a great time was had by all, and many friendships made, which we prophesy, will last for some time to come. At the end of the evening it was grand seeing couples springing up from all round, like the animals assembling for the ark. J/Sig. Fowler dressed as a Chief Petty Officer of the Sea Rangers will be remembered for some time to come.

Footnote. In olde days a ladye gave her knighte a glove to remember her by, but a noticeable absence of Balaclavas on next morning's Works Parade suggests that a new custom is developing.

### HIDDEN AWAY

Iron Troop had an enjoyable weekend visit to their affiliated Regiment, 3rd Signal Regiment, at Bulford for their Regimental weekend. Highlights included a visit to Stonehenge, an air display, a Light Aid Detachment demonstration, a Camouflage Race, and a Band Concert.

All the troop enjoyed the weekend, and wished they could learn to make themselves as invisible as the vehicles in the Camouflage Race did.

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# CAMP

## FLYING VISIT

Six officers and six WO's and Sergeants from the South Midland Signal Regiment (TA), Birmingham, recently visited the Regiment. They were on Summer Camp at Exmoor. At one time Maj. Lane was their Adjutant, and Lt. (QM) Pavey their RSM. WO II Chandler was also stationed there for a time.

Maj. Reid-Jones, the 2 i/c, told our reporter: "I am very impressed by the cleanliness and smartness of both the camp and the boys. The facilities are all here. You should do great things at Denbury."

## THREE GIRLS

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. Milner (Church Army) on the birth of their daughter, ANN CATHERINE (7lbs. 4ozs). Also to Capt. and Mrs. S. Robb on the birth of their daughter, SUSAN MARY (7lbs. 6ozs). Also to Capt. and Mrs. G. A. Bowyer on the birth of their daughter, SUSAN ELLA (8lbs. 8ozs).

## TEN TORS

About mid-day on Monday, June 27th, Junior Leaders returning to Denbury from Summer Camp were surprised to see two weary hikers entering the camp. A closer inspection beneath the rucksacks, sunburn and dust, would have revealed the SEO and Capt. Joyner, who were on the last leg of a reconnaissance of the Ten Tors course.

The route will not be disclosed until the competition begins with a fanfare of trumpets at Haytor on September 15th. Detailed plans are in hand, however, and it is hoped that there will be a large number of entries for this event. Already several organizations have asked for details, and our publicity campaign has not yet started.

When asked by our reporter for a statement about Ten Tors, Major Nye said: "The three main requirements will be: (a) good navigation; (b) carefully planned kit so that essentials are taken but the weight is kept to the minimum; and (c) ten good walkers with the will to keep going."



A Typical Cookhouse Menu."

by Capt. Bowyer

## DURING THE PAST MONTH

1. Junior Wing have now got their own pair of pigeons, which they are naming The Duke of Ogwel and the Earl of High Week.
2. RSM Latimer, hearing a phone ringing in the public telephone booth, answered it. He was surprised to hear a young lady asking for "J/Sig. Peanuts"—she knew no other name.
3. An Orderly Officer was amazed at being woken at 0100 hours by a pyjama-clad sergeant begging to be released from a pair of handcuffs—alas, he had no key!
4. A T.C.V. hit a lamp standard in Torquay. Members of Kohima Troop from the back of the truck assert that "the lamp-post rose up from the pavement and hit us."

## GO-KARTS AT DENBURY

Mr. B. Callard, of Torquay, and Mr. Hutchinson, of Dawlish, both own Go-Karts, but were unable to create any real interest in them owing to lack of a track. However, due to the kind offices of Maj. Rothwell, the drill square was made available, and many Junior Leaders were given the chance to "Have a Go."

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# STAR-Light

Lancashire comedians have been the main attraction at the Pavilion, Torquay, recently, with ARTHUR ASKEY topping the bill one week and KEN DODD the next.

The first show included some stunning imitations by GEORGE MEATON, who, using only a microphone, brought to our astonished ears the sounds of a submarine diving, a train entering a station, and a motor-bike race. JILL DAY, too, was a great success, yet even she was unable to entice one of the Junior Leaders on to the stage. Then came ARTHUR ASKEY, greeted with a great cheer by the audience; he went on to prove, by his cheerful personality and inimitable insect songs, that he fully deserved every decibel.

"Polish" was the key-word for KEN DODD's show. He kept the audience laughing with his various sketches, alternating with such accomplished performers as the delectable JANIE MARDEN, LINDA BALL, THE EIGHT STARETTES, and THE RAIN-DROPS, while the brilliant GEORGE MITCHELL SINGERS kept the show moving.

KEN DODD, a great believer in live entertainment despite his TV success, offered us a drink as soon as we entered his dressing-room. When we asked him how on earth he managed to make his hair stand on end, he told us that it was naturally thin-rooted, and constant washing made it highly manoeuvrable. Once he tousled it by accident on stage, which raised a laugh, so he has kept the antic as a gimmick. THE EIGHT STARETTES were very pleasant to interview; the average age of the girls is 17-18 (except for Miss Hale, their leader, who would not disclose her age), and for most of them it is their first job since leaving dancing school. For

attractive 17-year-old LINDA BALL this is her second show.

When we interviewed ARTHUR ASKEY he told us: "I was born in Liverpool. I won't say which year, but it gave the century a nasty 'turn.' I was in Liverpool Cathedral Choir until they found me out, when I started entertaining wounded soldiers. Then my voice broke (perhaps you heard the bang), so instead of singing ballads I started singing comic songs. During the first World War I served in the Army for six months in the Far East (at Great Yar-

mouth). During the Second War (and this is a true one) I was asked by the Navy to go to Portsmouth. When I arrived I found they had put out the red carpet for me, and I was asked to inspect a Guard of Honour and make a speech. It was not until five years later that I discovered the W.R.E.N. had made a mistake—the man they should have invited was Maiski, the Russian Ambassador!"

Footnote. The Ken Dodd Show is running at the Pavilion for the complete summer season.

## AFTER NIJMEGEN TRAINING



★	What is Ten Tors ?	.....	A Youth expedition across Dartmoor
★ ★	Who can enter ?	.....	Patrols of ten (16-18 years old)
★ ★ ★	Girls too ?	.....	Yes, but teams must not be mixed
★ ★ ★ ★	When is it ?	.....	15th September, 1960
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Where do we meet ?	.....	Denbury Camp, Devon
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	When do we meet ?	.....	1400 hours on 14th September, 1960
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	How far is the Course ?	.....	55 miles—covering Ten Tors
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	How long should it take ?	.....	36 hours
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	How much will it cost ?	.....	One guinea fee, plus £1 bus fare money for each patrol
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	What is the prize ?	.....	None. It is not a race
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	What is its purpose ?	.....	For the youth of the world to meet and enjoy Dartmoor together
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	Accommodation ?	.....	Tentage for camping must be brought
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	And . . . ?	.....	A Jamboree all day on 17th September, 1960

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**HIGH HOPES**

The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, are the current holders of the Army Boxing and Rugby Cups, and the South-West District Basketball Cup. In addition, their cricket and hockey appears to be too good for most local and service teams. However, there is one sport which does not appear to be so healthy—the “British national game,” Association Football. Last season's record gives a dismal story of defeat. Knowing that Sgt. Peake, recently emerging with success from an F.A. coaching course, had some ambitious plans for next term, one of our reporters went to interview him.

Sgt. Peake believes, above all else, that the best way to become proficient at any game is to play it, and play it regularly. With this in mind he has arranged a very full fixture list for next season. The usual fixtures with local Grammar Schools and Service XIs are retained; we are entering for all Army Cup competitions, too. In addition we have entered a team in the South Devon Youth League, which starts

in mid-September, and is open to all youth teams under 18. At present there are about ten clubs entered, as widely spread apart as Brixham, Torquay and Teignmouth. Sgt. Peake said: “Sometimes it may be necessary to put out two teams on the same day, but that's good, not bad.”

Asked about players, he talked about his nucleus—J/SSM Butcher, J/Cpls. Bourgoise and Schofield, and J/Sig. Rooney), but confessed to being worried about a goalkeeper. “I am going to hold a series of Regimental trials at the beginning of the season. Out of nearly 500 there must be at least 30 good soccer players.”

Our reporter asked Sgt. Peake what successes he would most like his team to achieve. He smiled. “Naturally, a good run in the Army Cup. If we could win that we wouldn't hear quite so much about Rugby,” he said.

Finally, Sgt. Peake compared the crowded touch-lines at Rugby matches with the lack of spectators at Soccer. “Success counts, and we aim to get it, but support and faith at the beginning would be a real help,” he said.

**J/L/CPL. BARRATT**

The story of J/L/Cpl. Barratt's rise in the boxing world during the 1959-60 season was sensational. He told our reporter that the first time he ever donned boxing gloves was in the inter-Troop Championships to beat Donnelly, a Regimental boxer. He was then picked for the Regimental team at middleweight. He went on to win the Southern Command Championships, next the Army Championships, and finally the Imperial Services Boxing Association Championships, before losing on points in the ABA quarter-finals. He has had a total of 14 fights, of which he has won 12, including six knock-outs.

“Pete” Barratt has represented the Regiment on the Athletic Field in the Discus, the Javelin, and the Pole Vault. He is a keen swimmer and water-polo player.

Barratt is an example to any young sportsman in the way he accepts both victory and defeat in the same smiling way.



by Sgt. Martin

**SIG. GOODCHILD**

Sig. Goodchild is a National Service man who works in the Armoury. The passion of his life lies in motor-cycles. He was only 14 when he first had a bike—“to see how it worked.” At 16 he owned a BSA 250c.c., and joined the Whitley Motor-Cycle Club. At first it was “trials” that fascinated him, but at 18 he had an AJS 500c.c., and began to take part in local “Scrambles.” He came seventh out of 20 riders in the Junior Unlimited, fifteenth out of 55 in the Eddie Beason Trophy, and twentieth out of over 70 riders in the Red Cross Trophy.

After demob, John Goodchild tells us he hopes to get a BSA 500 Gold Star, and “Scramble” seriously. “It's the excitement, the timing and the balance required in cross-country riding that appeals, but you must know how much you can do,” he said.



by Sgt. Martin

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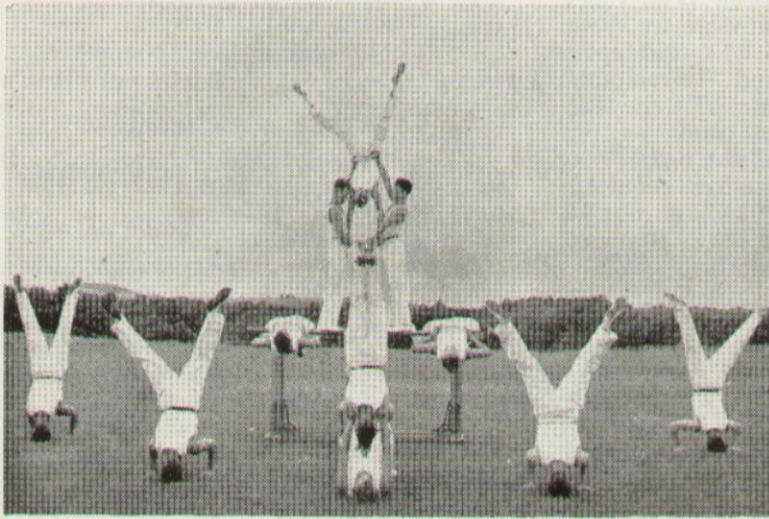
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## ARMY INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ALDERSHOT



P.T. Display Team's Tableau

by Sgt. Martin

### ONLY THIRD

Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, entered an Athletics team for the Lisna-breeny Cup, held this year at Bramcote, Nuneaton. The final result was:

- 1, 3 Junior Leaders Regt., RAC, 53½ pts;
- 2, Infantry Junior Leaders Bn., 47½ pts;
- 3, Junior Leaders Regt., R. Sigs., 42 pts;
- 4, Junior Leaders Regt., RA, 37 pts.

Two events were won by our teams—the Long Jump (J/RSM Worrall, 17' 1", and J/Sig. Capon, 16' 8"), and the Shot (J/Cpl. Lindsay, 42' 3½" and J/Sig. Beere, 39' 5½").

In the 4 x 880 yards, in which we were second to the Infantry, J/Sig. Fendley ended the first leg in fourth position, J/L/Cpl. Armstrong pulled us up to second place, and then J/Sgt. Gardner ended the third lap with a narrow lead. J/L/Cpl. Jacobs had a terrific tussle with the Infantry runner, finally being beaten into second place by a very narrow margin.

In the 4 x 440 yards, in which we were second to the RAC, J/L/Cpl. Gray finished his lap in third position, J/Sig. Sullivan moved up to second place, which was held by J/Sig. Lees. When J/Sig. Broadberry-Brook took over for the final lap he had a lot of ground to make up over the RAC runner, but despite a tremendous challenge he was not able to remedy the deficiency.

Congratulations to J/Sig. Chambers for his High Jump, which equalled the Regimental record of 5' 3".

### DRAMATIC ENDING

A very depleted XI playing the return match v. Infantry J/Ldrs at Plymouth lost by one wicket. The team's play reflected the absence of J/Cpl. Schofield (the captain) and J/S/Sgt. Tracey in Germany, and J/Sig. Thompson sick. J/Cpl. Bourgoise, J/Sigs. Dixon and Broadbent made initial regimental appearances. The Regiment batted first. J/L/Cpls. Gallon and Fiern started reasonably, but never looked really comfortable, and the Regiment soon slumped to 47 for seven. A ninth-wicket stand of 15 between J/Sigs. White and Haslam enabled Signals to reach 62. J/Sgt. McGibbon (acting captain) and J/Sig. Dixon got highest scores of 12 apiece.

When the Infantry went in to bat they lost a wicket with the first ball, and then, in spite of the worst fielding display of the season, the Infantry slumped to 32 for seven, but the bowling then lost its accuracy and within half an hour the score was 61 for seven, with Infantry wanting only two runs to win. With the first two balls of the next over, McGibbon (five for 25) took two more wickets—61 for nine. Four balls left! In the next over, bowled by Haslam, the first ball was a wide and the scores were level. Next ball was played to the slips; the batsmen ran, the ball was thrown to the bowler's end with the batsman at least five yards out. Alas, the ball was dropped, the batsman was home, and we had suffered our first defeat of the season by only one wicket.

### RESULTS

#### Youth Finals

J/L/Cpl. Jacobs, 880 yds, 4th, 2m. 9.4s.  
J/Sgt. Gardner, 880 yds, 5th, 2m. 9.4s.  
J/L/Cpl. Garrehy, mile, 10th, 4m. 54.6s.  
J/Sig. Mason, High Jump, 4th, 5' 1".  
J/Cpl. Bourgoise, High Jump, 8th, 5' 1".  
J/Sig. Booker, Hop, Step, Jump, 1st, 39' 2½".  
J/Sig. Beere, Shot, 1st, 44' 4½".

#### Junior Finals

J/Sig. Daglass, Hop, Step, Jump, 4th, 39' 9½".

#### Other Entrants—Youth

J/Sig. Digweed, 220 yds, 26s.  
J/Sig. Robertson, 220 yds, unplaced.  
J/Sig. Broadberry-Brook, 440 yds, 56s.  
J/Sig. Sullivan, 440 yds, unplaced.  
J/Sig. McKay, Mile, 4m. 56.6s.  
J/Sig. Capon, Long Jump, 16' 11".  
J/Sig. Sharp, Hop, Step, Jump, 34' 11".  
J/L/Cpl. Bates, Discus, unplaced.  
J/L/Cpl. Barratt, Javelin, 128'.  
J/Sig. Sharman, Shot, 37' 3".  
J/Cpl. Viner, 110yds hurdles, 16.6s.  
J/Cpl. Heyes, 110 yds hurdles, 16.9s.

#### Other Entrants—Junior

J/Sig. Couper, Hop, Step, Jump, retired hurt.  
J/Cpl. Lindsay, Shot, unplaced.  
J/Sig. Chambers, High Jump, 5' 1".  
J/Sig. Batram, 220 yds, 25.7s.  
Youth 4 x 110 yds relay (Digweed, Staines, Capon, Robertson) disqualified in heat.  
Junior 4 x 110 yds relay (Smith, Kitchingman, Batram, Lindsay) third in heat, 48.4s.

### TWO GOLD MEDALS

The Army Individual Championship results are the best overall results we have had for many years. There were more entrants, and therefore more disappointments, but the results were good.

Our two Gold Medallists, Booker and Beere, are especially to be congratulated. Both have worked hard; Booker has improved greatly and his run-up is at last correct. Beere's shot-put was only half an inch below the Regimental record.

Three new Regimental records were achieved by our athletes at Aldershot. Jacobs' time in the 880 yards final sets up a new record, bettering his own record of last season for the second time this year. Garrehy's mile in his heat (4mins. 52.1secs.) sets up a new record time for that event, as does Viner's 16.6secs. in the 100 yds hurdles.

Both Booker and Beere achieved a "Three A's Grading, Second Standard" by their distances, and Broadberry-Brook a "Three A's Grading, Third Standard" by his time in the 440 yards. Other noteworthy performances included McKay's personal best in the mile (the first time he has got below five minutes), and the time of 48.4secs. of the Junior Relay team—the best of the Junior Leaders relay teams—but well below the standard of the Apprentice Schools.

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