



VOL. 2. No. 2.

JULY, 1960

Price 4d.

# RECRUIT - RECRUITER - RECRUITED



THE word "recruit," whether it appears in the form of a noun or a verb, is not without just the slightest suggestion of something sinister. And this is not difficult to understand, because, in the past, recruiting appeared, in some inexplicable way, to be shrouded in a mist of "cunning and trickery"; the recruiter was a fearsome creature with a smooth tongue and the recruit gave the impression of a lost and disowned victim of fortune.

I was thinking about these things the other day when the grocer's assistant asked me: "How is recruiting going on up in the camp?" A difficult question really, because what is actually happening is so very different from the general picture the majority of the public seem to have in their minds, that a simple answer neither comes readily to the pen nor would it be effective in correcting any wrong thinking in this respect.

There are just a few Junior Leaders Regiments in the army today, and they represent, beyond all doubt, an inspired scheme for which not only the War Office, but the Nation as a whole, can justifiably take the fullest possible credit. It is my belief that, here in Denbury, we will very soon have a

waiting list. A waiting list of boys who hope to be considered qualified and suitable for enlisting as Junior Leaders, and after that, to pass the severe probationary stage which circumstances force us to impose in order to maintain the very high standard of Leadership now demanded by the army.

So much interest has been aroused since the publication of the birthday edition of the "Junior Mercury" that a brief statement on what take place in Denbury is worthy of the front page of this issue of the newspaper—in spite of the long exposition offered by various personalities to the Prince of Denbury in the birthday edition.

**DENBURY IS AN ACADEMY.** The students in this Academy are referred to as Junior Leaders and are, in effect, cadet non-commissioned officers, and they are being trained to become warrant officers and non-commissioned officers in the all-regular and Royal Corps of Signals. There are few men today who have not served in one or other of the three Services, and all of them will appreciate the fact that, just as officers have always been trained at Sandhurst for the army, so now the prospective young non-commissioned officer is receiving a very similar training—suited to his special needs. Once this idea is firmly grasped and planted in the mind of the public, then perhaps the grocer's assistant will ask the question repeatedly, but in a different way: "How is Denbury, and are there any vacancies there yet?"

The map of Great Britain you see on this page shows a number of dark patches of varying sizes. They are pins, and represent the homes (in all parts of the country) from which our Junior Leaders come. It requires few words of mine to stress the significance of this, and the possible extent of its influence. We can usually accept an intake each term, and a successful Junior Leader who enlists at the age of 15 years remains in Denbury for about 2½ years. There are no restrictions or stupid and unnecessary discipline. The food and accommodation are of a very high standard and better than in most schools in the country. Training is imaginative and embraces a wide field of subjects and activities, including a large number and variety of hobbies. The emphasis is on LEADERSHIP, with a broad communications consciousness. Pay, in terms of pocket money, is generous, and the staff who run the organization are a carefully selected body of reasonable and civilized people.

In the next, and succeeding, issues of the "Junior Mercury," photographs and other material introducing the life of a Junior Leader to readers will be published and, to begin the series, the current training programme is shown in this edition.

The rules at Denbury are simple: **NO LOSS OF TEMPER; GOOD MANNERS; AND CONSIDERATION AT ALL TIMES.**

Why not come and see the place for yourselves!



by Sgt. Martin

WEEKLY TRAINING PROGRAMME 1960																						
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<b>MON</b>	1	ACADEMIC INSTR		MIL OR TRADE		PADRE		ACADEMIC INSTR		PERSONAL		BAND CHOIR		HOBBIES		FREE						
	2	MIL OR TRADE		ACADEMIC INSTR		FREE		MIL OR TRADE		ADMIN												
<b>TUE</b>	1	MIL OR TRADE		ACADEMIC INSTR		FREE		MIL OR TRADE		INTERIOR		GAMES		DANCING								
	2	ACADEMIC INSTR		MIL OR TRADE		PADRE		ACADEMIC INSTR		ECONOMY												
<b>WED</b>	1	ACADEMIC INSTR		MIL OR TRADE		FREE		GAMES				FREE		SOCIAL CLUB								
	2	MIL OR TRADE		ACADEMIC INSTR		PADRE		GAMES				PAY		FREE		THEATRE						
<b>THU</b>	1	MIL OR TRADE		ACADEMIC INSTR		PADRE		GAMES				PAY		FREE		THEATRE						
	2	ACADEMIC INSTR		MIL OR TRADE		FREE		GAMES				PAY		FREE		THEATRE						
<b>FRI</b>	1	ADVENTURE		TRAINING				ADVENTURE				TRAINING										
	2	ACADEMIC INSTR		ACADEMIC INSTR		HYGIENE		ACADEMIC INSTR		CO'S		FREE										
<b>SAT</b>	7	REGIMENTAL PARADES		SQN DISPOSAL				GAMES FIXTURES				CEREMONIAL GUARD MOUNT		CINEMA								
<b>SUN</b>	7	CHURCH		AERO & CYCLING CLUBS		5		FREE				FREE		CINEMA								

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## EDITORIAL

A welcome to all our new readers. We hope that you are enjoying the "Junior Mercury," and will continue for some time to come. A brief word of explanation to all civilians who have bought their copy at the door of their house.

The ten Troops have each been allotted an area, and, thus, the boy who sold you this copy is a member of the Troop which has "adopted" your area. The aim of this is to foster good relations between the Regiment and the local population, so make an effort, chat to your salesman; he'll be around again next month.

Still at the same price—fourpence—and now a regular 12-page edition. That's good. That's progress. We offer you here a front page devoted to the problems and position of recruiting, and also to give some idea as to what happens to a recruit. The problem of naming the adjoining column has come up again. HQ Sqn were first called Cadre—we had Cadre Cuttings; they were re-named Staff—we changed to Staff Scrapbook. But now they are to be called Senior Wing; any polite suggestions? Our features on Dartmoor and Signals History are continued, and also an interesting account of a boy's journey to London and visit to General Sir Brian Robertson. Entries for our last competition are rolling in.

"Star-Light" is our brand-new feature, with exclusive "Junior Mercury" interviews with the foremost names of the entertainment world. Next month we promise you Arthur Askey and many more. Note the Denbury Calendar on Page 11, where we give our complete programme of events.

On the staff side, a farewell to L/Cpl. Steer, of Senior Wing, who has drawn so many excellent cartoons for us. You will be pleased to hear that he has left a couple to last us over until after his departure. We thank S/Sgt. Thwaites, also leaving us soon, for so kindly contributing another article on Dartmoor.

Finally, a welcome to our staff to J/Sigs. Tibbs and Newman, the former already doing excellent work as our cricket correspondent. Also, thanks to Sig. Cook, who has so painstakingly reproduced the training programme shown on the front page.

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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.

## Staff Scrapbook

Now is the time for all old soldiers to hold their farewell parties! This seemed to be the echo round the spiders of H.Q. Squadron this month. We refer, of course, to the ever-increasing departures of National Service men and, during the past weeks, regulars.

Looking at the Denbury scene through the eyes of one of H.Q. Squadron personnel brings home the fact more clearly than ever that the end of the National Service man is near, and where he once worked, now we find a civilian.

Mass exodus of late might be termed "the trek of the tradesmen," for among those who have left are drivers Jim Brooks, Sid Chester, Terry Hartley, Ginger Powell and Dave McKay; clerks Alan Reynolds, Brian Stevenson (nearly!), Pete Joyce, Ted Pitts and Malcolm Steer. All have made their mark at Denbury during their 18 or so months, but perhaps Reynolds, for his phenomenal luck, and Steer, as H.Q. clerk, will be missed most.

Whitsuntide slipped by almost unnoticed, though Monday afternoon was declared free. The following weekend produced a bombshell for some of the Squadron, though. If things had gone according to Squadron detail, three parades in four hours would have proved something in the way of a record for the staff but, fortunately, there was a last-minute cancellation, which meant just two parades.

As there is a definite air of "movement" about this column this month, a paragraph about the living accommodation face-lift is not out of place. So the painters could do their stuff, the barrack rooms and bunks in turn had to be vacated and this produced many sights of piles of kit moving to and fro, presumably with the owners somewhere underneath! Still, all's well that ends well they say, though some of the older soldiers lost their bunks because "they hadn't long enough to do to move back into them."

Other points of interest include the marriage of Brian Gamble. Congratulations to him and his new wife, Janet. The departure of Capt. Mitchell, who went to Malaya, should be recorded. During his longish stay at Denbury he made many friends, and so, too, did R.S.M. Pavey, now commissioned.

Footnote.—Perhaps the man with the hardest job of the month in the Squadron was the one who inspected Spider 61 during the decorating. Had it been cleaned out or not? A difficult question to answer when painters' tools and tackle are scattered everywhere!

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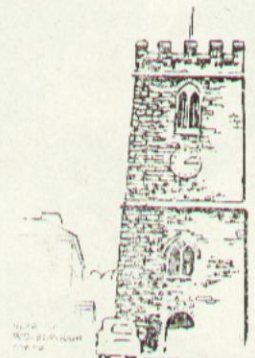
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**W.O. I. J. LATIMER**

The new Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Regiment, W.O. I Latimer, has been a W.O. I now for six years, having recently come from Germany. Before that he had spent some time in Malaya.

On being asked by a "Junior Mercury" reporter for his first impressions of the unit, he emphasized the happy atmosphere. Denbury, he felt, was an ideal situation for a Regiment of Junior Leaders, particularly with regard to its proximity to Dartmoor.

During the last ten years he had seen many ex-boys fitting well into regular units of the Corps, and his own opinion was that they were of a good standard. "When an ex-boy starts in a new unit, he has more confidence than direct entrants. Also, they make better senior N.C.O's."

He was asked a series of questions.

**Affiliations.**—"Troops being attached to regular units is a good idea. The boys are proud to be associated with the Regiments, and the Regiments like it too."

**Sport.**—"I have played regimental soccer, but never at any higher level. Sport is good, provided it is played for the enjoyment which can be got out of it."

**Denims.**—"Denims should have been burned years ago. Boys in B.D. trousers look far better."

**Training Programme.**—"The training programme seems well balanced, but the training programme should not be the ruler of the roost."

**Band.**—"It has reached a fairly high standard, and, being a Scotsman, I am glad the bagpipes are being introduced."

Asked about the function of an R.S.M. in a unit, he replied: "The C.O. is, of course, the most important man in any regiment, but an R.S.M.'s conduct is important to the ranks. The C.O. and the R.S.M. are the most important men in a regiment; but in different circles, and in a different way."

We take this opportunity to wish R.S.M. and Mrs. Latimer a very happy stay with this Regiment, and trust that the Regiment can live up to the high standard which Mr. Latimer requires.

**LT. (Q.M.) F. J. PAVEY**

It was in 1935, when just under 14 years of age, that Boy Pavey enlisted into the Royal Signals. His first four years of army life were spent in "F" Company, which was a company for Signals boys. In April, 1939, Signalmen Pavey left Boy Service. In September, 1958, W.O. I. Pavey was posted back to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, as its Regimental Sergeant-Major.

Now, in June, 1960, the wheel has turned yet another full cycle, as Mr. Pavey is once again posted away from the Boys Regiment; this time leaving as a Lieutenant Quarter-Master for a Signals Regiment in BAOR. He says himself: "One career finishes, another begins. I am glad that the connecting link between the two should have been the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, and that I began and finished my Other Rank service in the boys' regiment."

There are two important morals to be drawn from this potted extract from a very illustrious career. Firstly, to an ex-boy of the right type the "sky's the limit." Secondly, the loyalty that has been shown by Lt. Pavey to the ideal of Boy Service as the finest grounding to a military career.

Of Lt. Pavey's time in this Regiment as R.S.M. little need be said, except to say that he was liked and respected by all ranks—officers, fellow-members of WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, Headquarter Squadron, and Junior Leaders—as a man who was trustworthy, just and yet kindly and, above all loyal to all that he believed in. His beliefs were held sincerely, and he threw himself wholeheartedly into every aspect of life.

Lt. Pavey has been fortunate in having throughout the loyal help and assistance of Mrs. Pavey, who has made many friends in the regiment. Lt. and Mrs. Pavey have three children—two girls and one boy. Readers of the June issue of "Junior Mercury" will recall the delightful picture on the front page of Alexandra Pavey presenting a bouquet to the Princess Royal.

The whole regiment will wish to unite with the staff of the "Junior Mercury" in wishing Lt. Pavey every success and happiness for the future.

**PURE SPECULATION**

TO THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR.—It is with very much regret that I must ask you to publish the fact that references made in the Birthday Edition of the "Junior Mercury" to the Manor House, Denbury, and its future association with the Junior Leaders Regiment was pure wishful speculation, and no offence or impoliteness to the owner was intended.

On behalf of the "Junior Mercury," I would like to offer most humble apologies to Mrs. Hudson.

(Signed) L. H. M. GREGORY, Commanding Officer.

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# "X"-HAUSTION

It was a beautiful spring morning, and even "X" felt cheerful as he walked along the collinade. Then tragedy struck as "X" crashed into his troop sergeant, sending him sprawling into a beautiful bed of carnations. The flowers were completely squashed. Unfortunately, these same flowers had been planted and lovingly tended by this same green-fingered sergeant.

The sergeant's first thought was to knock "X"s block off, but mature reflection brought the realization that "X"s obliteration wouldn't be worth a General Court-Martial. So politely he suggested that this unfortunate J/Sig. would be better off a long way from Denbury.

"X" thought the suggestion over, and decided that the Nijmegen Marches could well prove to be the only answer.

He put this suggestion forward to the Officer I/C, who nearly fainted at the thought of our hero actually taking voluntary exercise. However, after a great deal of pleading he agreed that "X" could go in the party provided no training was done in Devon, neither he nor any other officer would take the responsibility for letting "X" loose locally.

Finally it was decided that "X" should do all his preliminary training in the North of Scotland, accompanied only by wild mountain goats.

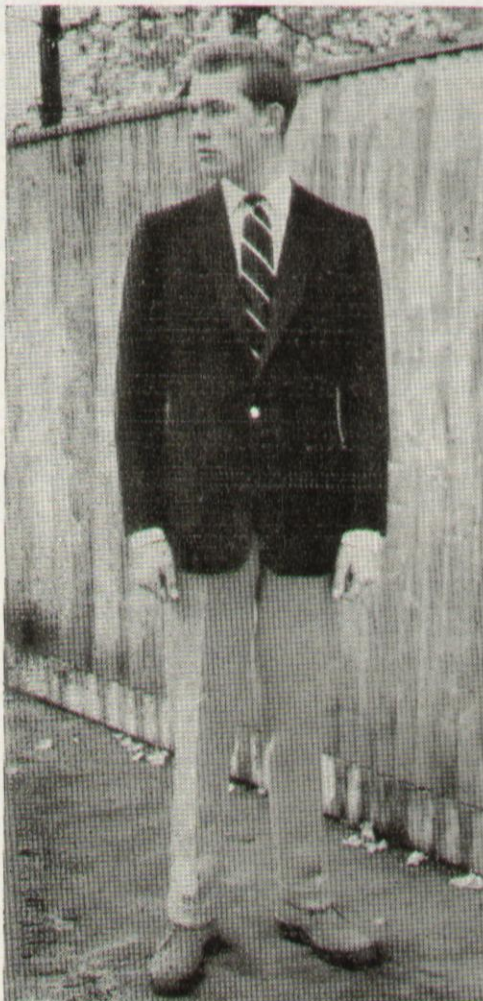
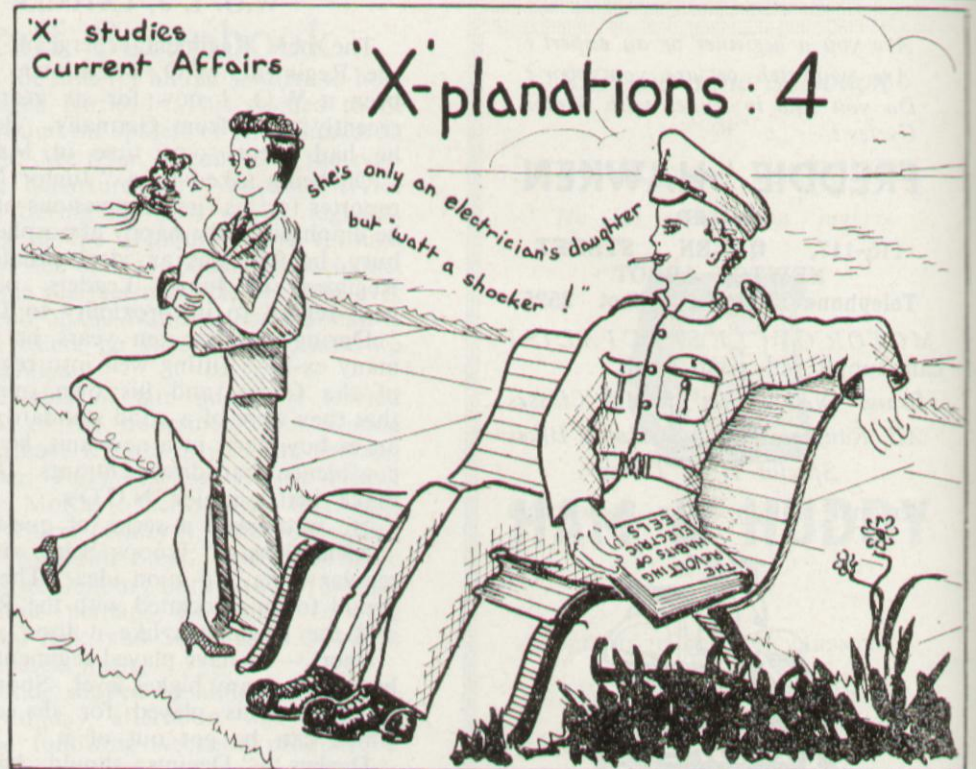
Two months later found "X" trudging through the Scottish Mountains, fondly comparing himself to Dr. "Babs." When he had agreed to train in Scotland he hadn't imagined that he would have to walk there! Suddenly he found himself on the edge of a large loch. Now, "X" never really paid a great deal of attention in class, but somewhere in the back of his mind was the memory of Sgt. Foulds telling him that the shortest distance between two points was in a straight line. As Cpl. Penny had never been successful in teaching him to swim, the only alternative lay in procuring some form of navigable transport.

No boat was visible, but he was sure that a raft could be made out of half a dozen bits of driftwood. Securely roping them together with a method of joining which would have caused horror in Sgt. Petrie's conscientious soul, "X" finally launched himself on the waters. Alas, he hadn't thought of any form of paddle, there were no currents, and very little wind. He was drifting round in circles. Would a sail help? But how to fix his groundsheet into a sail, anyway? Then suddenly he spotted help in the form of Capt. Gregory and Sgt. Young paddling

towards him in a canoe. But what on earth were they doing canoeing on a Scottish loch?

Sgt. Young yelled, "Get out." So "X" leaned over the side of his home-made raft, which proceeded to break into small pieces. There was a shattering roar, a tremendous explosion, and finally a hard bump. "X" felt sure he was dead, but was disconcerted on opening his eyes to find himself lying on the barrack room floor.

Sgt. Young, the Orderly Sergeant, was shouting: "Twice I told you to get out of bed. It's well past Reveille."



## 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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**DARTMOOR—  
LAND OF SUPERSTITION**

A few weeks ago a Dartmoor farmer was asked by a romantic-minded tourist whether he believed in pixies. The farmer quite rightly regarded the question as an insult to his intelligence and credulity, and he pointed out to the visitor that pixies went out with Stone Age man. And yet the same farmer, when he returned to his well-appointed stone farm, recoiled from putting elder on his fire, because it was "unlucky" to burn it. In the same way, many a moor dweller will scoff at tales of Drake's Drum and Uncle Tom Cobley—quite correctly, too—and yet still feel a primitive twinge of alertness when the mists make familiar shapes awry. In short, few people talk about the Dartmoor fairy tales, let alone believe them.

Childe the Hunter, for example is rarely mentioned, although his legend is an interesting one, and probably has a foundation in fact. Childe lived and died on Dartmoor, and near Nun's Cross is Childe's tomb, his mythological resting place. He had a reputation as a hunter, although his prey could not have been more dangerous than a wild bear or a fox. One day he was trapped in mist, and he and his horse floundered in the notorious Fox Tor mines before exhaustion practically overcame them. As a last resort, Childe slaughtered his horse and ate at least some of its flesh before wrapping himself in the warm skin which he had stripped off the carcass. While in this unconventional garb he must have been observed by some intrepid traveller, and the legend of fearless Childe the Hunter was born. Undoubtedly, some persons, with an eye to the tourists' money, perhaps, have perpetuated the legend.

In the same way the pixie and the gremlin are inseparable from Devonshire folk-lore, but it is the visitor who talks of the little folk, and not the local people who regard the pixie in the same way that they regard Santa Claus, as something which belongs to the world their rural mentality has long outgrown.

We all know that Tom Pearse's grey mare was borrowed in order that Uncle Tom Cobley and company could go to Widecombe Fair, and we know, too, that, according to the song, there was a tragi-comical ending in which the tipsy travellers ended in a ditch, contemplating the sight of the grey mare who had, in local terms, "gone on." Yet nobody knows anything concrete about this undistinguished personage; the wonder of the mirage does not extend to the objects that it reflects.

**HISTORY OF THE SIGNALS**

**(2) The Birth of the Telegraph**

In the Introduction to the History of the Royal Corps of Signals (June, 1960) we tried to give readers an idea of early forms of signalling. For many years these simple means of communication sufficed. Armies were generally small and their weapons of very short range.

However, by the end of the nineteenth century (Napoleonic Wars), two main factors were calling for improved communications. Firstly, armies were greatly increased in size, which meant that "the problems of supply and administration were obviously very much greater." Secondly, weapons were developing very rapidly. "The outcome was that, with a far greater fire-power, armies had to be deployed over much larger areas, and maintenance in the field became increasingly complex. Both these factors demanded better communications."

The French were the first to hit on the idea of a "Radiated Telegraph" in 1792. Then, in 1795, Lord George Murray invented a semaphore telegraph. This consisted of six boards which were pivoted so that each could be moved independently by cords into a vertical or horizontal position, providing 63 different combinations. The Royal Navy adopted it to work from the Admiralty in London by permanent relay stations to Portsmouth, Dover, Chatham, Harwich, and Yarmouth. The various Telegraph Hills on ordnance maps still bear witness to the sites, and the system superseded the old chain of beacons. Messages were passed remarkably quickly, each individual signal being re-transmitted as it was received, so that a message between London and Portsmouth, for example, only took a few minutes.

During the first part of the nineteenth century, great advances were being made in electrical science. In 1820, Ampere (France) "proposed an electric telegraph consisting of a voltaic battery, wire, a coil of wire, and a magnetic needle."

In 1835, Samuel Morse (U.S.A.) developed an electric telegraph which worked well. In conjunction with this he invented the famous Morse code . . . which for the first time in history provided a standard system for signals read by ear or eye, and was adaptable to any method of transmission. It imparted a stimulus to the development of visual signalling, which for tactical purposes was to be so important for forward troops of armies up to the beginning of the Great War.

(N.B. All quotations are from "The Royal Corps of Signals," by Maj.-Gen. R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.)

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### GOOD PROSPECTS

DEAR SIR.—I would like to take this opportunity, before leaving the regiment, to say a few words about the boxing team and their prospects of winning the cup for the third year in succession.

Our success in the past has been due mainly to our early efforts to get a team together, fitness, and a good straight left. The overall effect produced, plus the extra boxing ability of boxers such as Barrett, Crowe, Jacobs and Barratt have given us a good, sound team.

Unfortunately, because of their age, the performance of Crowe, Jacobs and Barratt will be denied us in the cup rounds, but their experience will be greatly felt in the training of the new team.

As the Class 'B' boxers are the only class we can assess at the moment, I would like to say a few words about them. In viewing their prospects against their last year's showing, one has to allow for an extra year's growth giving increased strength, etc. Naturally, all will benefit from this, but the one I feel who will most benefit from this is Keenan. He has all the potential of his older brother—height, boxing ability and reach, but his one weakness lays in his rather weak stomach muscles. He reports that he is stronger now in that region, and I can see a good season ahead for him.

Barrett also has sprung a few inches in the last few months, and this, together with his good boxing ability, should secure him an ISBA medal next season. Tucker, always a good prospect, has all the advantages of a good boxer. He is superbly fit, with a useful left. I think the added confidence he will have from experience and maturing will give him the necessary killer instinct which could make him a very fine boxer.

Wooler should do well with the extra year's experience. A very plucky boxer, he has a useful right when he remembers to use it. Lycett, Stanger, Sharman and Wheatley should benefit greatly under Cpl. Thomas's tuition, and I hope the latter has better luck as regards injury next season. Wheatley has that killer instinct which is a great asset, but he tends to slap a bit, resulting in damaging his thumb. If he can steady himself a bit he could do well.

Two new lads have entered Junior Wing this term—Riches and Bailey by names. They look likely lads, and could help to make this class a force to be reckoned with.

Of the Class 'A,' well, your guess is as good as mine, as we have to depend on the

## READERS'

September intake. However, if they are found early in September, it is amazing what can be done by October. With luck, there will be a few lads with part experience among them.

I would like to take the chance to thank Bishop, Rayner, Donnelly, Whitrick, and all the other lads who helped to build up a happy team spirit so essential to success. They gave invaluable help in the training of the team, and I hope that Lt. Frost has as happy a team as I had this past season. It was a great pleasure, and I wish himself, Staff-Sgt. Johnston and Cpl. Thomas all the best in the coming season.

(Signed) STANLEY ROBB.

Dental Officer, Junior Leaders Regiment,  
Royal Signals.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

We were delighted to receive the above letter from Capt. S. Robb (RADC), and take this opportunity of wishing him every success as a civilian dentist.

The Junior Leaders boxing team has had two extremely successful seasons, first under the control of Capt. W. G. Robinson, and secondly under Capt. S. Robb. The Junior Leaders inter-unit boxing championship has now been held for two seasons, and we are the only winners thereof.

Therefore, the "Junior Mercury" takes this opportunity to welcome 2/Lt. Frost as Boxing Officer, pointing out at the same time that he and his team will have a tremendous tradition to maintain next season. **THE CUP MUST REMAIN AT DENBURY**, but we will let Mr. Frost speak for himself.

### FULL OF HOPE

Boxing in this regiment, due to the fine examples shown by many past and present enthusiasts, has gained for the team a reputation not to be taken lightly. Some of last season's stars will, unfortunately, as Capt. Robb observed, be absent this year but their presence will always be welcome during training.

Having been again denied the cup last December, the other regiments are keener than ever before to take it from us this season, so we expect some really hot competition.

But, with the boxing staff driving, and the team pulling their full weight, they can, I am sure, acquit themselves well again this year.

B. G. FROST.

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# CORNER

## FREE TRIP

SIR,—I would like to use the "Junior Mercury" correspondence columns to thank the following, who helped me when I was in London on a recent initiative test. Mr. Hugh McKay, 42, Cleveland Square, a public relations officer in the wine trade; Major Robert Hill, ex Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; L. K. Saunders, Newton Abbot Station Master; General Sir Brian Robertson's secretary; and Sir Brian himself for receiving me.

My scheme was connected with the Nijmegen March, and I went to London . . . but I will start at the beginning.

After a rehearsal for the Queen's Birthday Parade I was told to report to the CO's office. He told me that he was sending me with a letter from himself, to be delivered personally to General Sir Brian Robertson, Chief of British Transport Commission. He also told me that I was to reach London by the courtesy of British Railways, and that I was not to purchase a ticket nor was he going to give me a railway warrant. He said I was to get ready to catch the afternoon train for London, and I collected a No. 1 dress, also other things a person needs when travelling, and set out on my test.

I arrived at Newton Abbot Station and presented my problem to the ticket collector, and he told me to try the Station Master. Mr. Saunders was very interested, and he put me on the next train to London.

I arrived at Paddington Station and, as the CO had told me to spend no money, I was faced with the problem of finding accommodation. Previously, S/Sgt. Yates had given me the address of a Signal unit, the 53 TA Signal Regiment (M), 206, Brompton Road, and told me to call them if I found nowhere else. I rang up the TA centre, and the caretaker, Mr. Hill, said that they had no beds, but he would help me by finding someone who could put me up for the night. When I arrived at the TA, I heard the welcome music of bagpipes (I come from Edinburgh myself), and I met the best boy piper in London, Angus McKay.

His father, Hugh McKay, was there, and he was very interested in my initiative test, and told me he was a public relations officer in the wine trade. He suggested that he could put me in touch with Fleet Street and find out where Sir Brian would be the next morning.

After phoning, he said that Mr. Bremmer, Sir Brian's press man, had told him that he would be at the transport offices at Mary-

lebone Station at 0930 hours. Mr. McKay offered me a bed for the night, and kindly drove me up to the offices the following morning. I dressed in Blues, with my white belt and best boots.

I approached the doorman and told him that I wished to see Sir Brian. He told me that I must see his secretary first. Mr. McKay then left, and told me to phone him if I ran up against any difficulties.

The doorman said the secretary was very amused, and had said he would see if he could arrange for an appointment.

When Sir Brian came in (I recognized him by a sketch given to me by L/Cpl. Steer, HQ Sqn). I saluted him, and he later asked his secretary what a representative of the Royal Signals was doing in his offices. His secretary told him about me, and Sir Brian said he would receive me straight away.

I told Sir Brian that I was sent by Lt.-Col. L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E., and had a personal letter for him. I handed him the letter, which he studied very carefully, and then said he would write to Col. Gregory in a few days, and he would give me a letter of acknowledgment. He asked me a few questions about the J.L.R., R. Signals, and he was very "chuffed" by the way I had reached him. I carried Sir Brian's acknowledgment back to the Adjutant, who was very pleased with me.

I would like to end with a very personal "thank you" to Lt.-Col. L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E., for sending me on a very enjoyable initiative test. Thank you.

(Signed) J/Sgt. EDMOND.

White Swan Troop.

★ ★ ★

EDITOR'S NOTE. The letter which J/Sgt. Edmond brought back with him is printed below:

★ ★ ★

DEAR COL. GREGORY.—J/Sgt. Douglas Edmond duly gave me your letter this morning. I will have the matter looked at, and will do so with sympathy.

I am bound to warn you that the weekends at the end of July are the busiest for British Railways in the whole year, but we will have a look at your problem.—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) BRIAN H. ROBERTSON.

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## ROUND THE

### A PLEASANT SURPRISE

As television showed the Trooping of the Colour to mark the Queen's Birthday, so too did Denbury perform its own ceremony. The parade was all formed up, and then on marched the "Colour," with J/S/Sgt. Tracey as Standard Bearer, escorted by a small contingent of Gurkha pipes and drums. Everybody was pleasurably surprised, and rumour has it that the Gurkhas forming the escort were the most surprised to find themselves there.

After a delightfully brief inspection, the parade continued, to include a creditable *feu de joie* (a rifle salute which comes out with a crackle effect) by the entire regiment.

Doubtless the R.S.M. was pleased that none of his "little men" had fallen out from the parade.

### FAIR EXCHANGE ?

At the beginning of June the Band and Drums performed at Okehampton. Firstly, a few marches on a tennis court at a fete in aid of the World Refugee Year, followed by the Beating of Retreat on a lawn, which wasn't really large enough. Finally, they marched through the streets of Okehampton with a terrific crowd watching them. Here, L/Cpl. Essary appeared at the top of a high clock tower, with the flag of the Royal Signals fluttering above his head.

One of the younger band boys, happening to have the odd spot of cash with him, had a "go" at a couple of the competitions. In the "guessing advertisements" he successfully emerged with a tin of biscuits. Then, at the Tombola stall, he won a bottle of beer. However—stranger than fiction, believe it or not? and we vouch for its truth—he doesn't like beer and therefore exchanged his hard-won liquor for—wait for it—a tube of whitening.

### NEW NAME WANTED ?

Staff Scrapbook is out, so, for this month at any rate, HQ Squadron remains HQ Squadron . . . but officially, and henceforth in our column, the Squadron will be known as "Senior Wing."

The new designation came up quite suddenly "almost out of the blue" (or is that cliché out of place considering the new name?) At any rate, to the onlooker it is easy to see how it was thought up, for it follows reasonably closely to the introduction of "Junior Wing" for what was once "R" Troop.

### ROLL CALL

A reporter carrying out a surprise check of the Regimental Farm emerged with the following inventory:

4 10-week-old pigs  
1 pair pigeons  
2 3-week-old pigeon chicks  
12 cockerels  
23 ducks  
67 hens

J/Sig. Greenhough (Jerboa Troop), who is W.O. II. Philp's right-hand man, told us that the two Wessex Saddleback gilt sows are being bred for breeding, whilst the smaller males are being fattened up for sale.

Improvements are envisaged for the pigeon's home, technically known as a "cote," to enable them to make quicker exits and entrances. At present they are being removed by hand.

The cockerels are being fattened up for sale, and we believe orders have already been received from various members of the Regiment. At present the ducks and hens are being retained for the laying of eggs.

The impression gained of the six Junior Leaders and Sgt. Greaves, who were present at our visit, was one of great attachment to the animals and birds present.

### WHIT WEDDING

Perhaps the best present Regimental Policeman Johnny Nicholls received for his Whit wedding was promotion to sergeant. It came as a last-minute surprise for Johnny, so minutes before the ceremony there was feverish sewing in operation which ended with him making "the March" with "three up."

There was quite a congregation for his big event, and the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, and his Squadron Commander were all there to wish him luck.

His bride, Dorothy Eileen Lilian Davey, was dressed in white, and had four bridesmaids. The ceremony, which concluded with a fanfare from the regimental trumpeters, was held at Wolborough Church, near Newton Abbot, in which town the couple have made their first home.

The reception was held in the camp at the staff bar, and was highlighted by the cutting of the cake, a ceremony performed with the help of the Adjutant's sword. And then the couple were off for their honeymoon to London.

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# CAMP

## "THE BLUES"

Our gratitude goes to 10th Signal Regiment, affiliated to Bruno Troop, for their kindness in donating five trousers and four jackets of No. 1 dress to the regiment.

An appeal to all regiments who have adopted troops was made, with the idea of fitting all the band with No. 1 dress. The 10th Signal Regiment are the first to respond. Since the appeal was sent out, the Corps Committee has approved a grant of £800 to buy scarlet tunics for the band.

However, No. 1 dress is still of great value because, apart from the band, we have a quarter-guard on permanent call—V.I.P.s are here frequently—and the standard bearer and escort for all ceremonial parades wear blues, too.

### THE SILVER SCREEN

A visit to the camp was paid by Major D. F. Willitt, who is Military Film Liaison Officer, one of a pool of officers dealing with Army films.

He is hoping to include many shots of this regiment in a film dealing with methods of entry into the Royal Corps of Signals. "The camp will be ideal for parts of this film," he said, "and I am impressed by the smartness of the boys."

The film is to be made in late July or early September. So, Denbury, don your make-up and prepare for the spotlights and cameras.

### CLOSER CONNECTIONS

Another visitor recently was Major Bovey, the commander of 224 Squadron at Loughborough. This squadron trains Special Operators, and have for the first time received a fair-sized intake of ex-Junior Leaders.

Major Bovey said that this intake was being kept separate, and would be in training for 25-30 weeks. He hoped that the future would see a closer connection between his Squadron and this Regiment.

When our reporter asked if there was any danger of Special Operators becoming redundant, he replied firmly: "I think we will be the last trade to become redundant."

### EXTRACT FROM JUNIOR LEADER'S SENIOR TEST ENGLISH PAPER

"Leaders have several characteristics—they show rigidity, frankness and, above all, humidity"!

## COMPETITION

### THINK HARD

Already answers are flocking in for our June competition, and the Editorial office is planning a super-draw for the end of the month.

1.—This month our first question concerns advertisements. See if you can tell from which advert the following phrases come:

- (a) Clean and Shine Pads
- (b) Given and used by famous people
- (c) Be Snap Happy
- (d) Somebody's mother uses . . .
- (e) Puts life into dry hair
- (f) Prevents that sinking feeling
- (g) Are you a . . . type?
- (h) Drink a pinta ——— a day
- (i) Beat your tiredness peak
- (j) Our belief the finest leaf

2.—A bit of mathematical thought always seems popular, so see if you can find which number, when doubled and then the answer squared, equals the final answer.

3.—What have the Dardanelles and the Hellespont got in common?

Write down your answers on a piece of paper and send them, with your name and address, to the Editor, "Junior Mercury," Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, Devon. Solutions will be checked on July 29th, and there will be prizes of books and records.

### VERY APPROPRIATE

There were two winners for the competition on cricket which appeared in our May issue. Both chose to take books as their prizes.

Appropriately enough, first prize goes to Lt. Whitehead, the officer i/c cricket in the unit, who wins "The Toutine," by Thomas B. Costain. Second prize goes to Sgt. Creek, REME, of the Armoury, who receives "The Sixth of June," by Lionel Shapiro.

The correct answers were:

1. Batsman dismissed with last ball of an over. Last batsman dismissed with first ball of next over. Bowler then takes a second innings wicket with his first ball.

2. If one of the batsmen is a left-hander the condition is satisfied.

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**FIRST VICTORY**

The Senior Wing cricket team recorded their first victory of the season in convincing style at Babbacombe with a five-wicket win over the Imperial Hotel (Torquay) XI.

Four men were responsible for cooking the famous hotel's goose! Opening fast bowlers Planner (2 for 8) and Sykes (3 for 20) made the initial opening, and the home side fell for 85. Our lads passed this total with some big hitting from 2/Lt. Miller (29) and sheet-anchor work by Beaumont, who hit a not out 27.

**SCHOFIELD'S MATCH**

J/Cpl. Schofield, taking five for 14 in four overs, thus helping to dismiss the RAC Junior Leaders for 43 runs, and scoring 37 not out, virtually won the match for Royal Signals. Other noteworthy comments include J/Cpl. Rooke's three stumpings and a diving catch behind the wicket. J/L/Cpl. Fiern hit his first two balls to the boundary; J/Cpl. Schofield hitting a glorious six straight over the bowler's head.

**TOO SLOW**

The Royal Signals entered two teams in the Oddicombe Swimming Gala.

The first, a free-style relay team (Sig. Summers, J/L/Cpl. Fiern, Sig. Cook, and Capt. Davis) came fourth, only missing third place by a fraction of a second. The second team lost a water polo match 10-1 to Oddicombe Swimming Club.

The score in the water polo sounds terrific, but it does not reflect a true picture of the game. Lack of co-ordination, inability to overcome close marking by the opposition, and lack of speed on the part of our own defence were the main faults. Sgt. Spir, lying briefly unmarked on the right-wing, got our only goal at the beginning of the second half, in which we had been out played 7-0.

Team: Sgt. Morrall, Capt. Davis, Sgt. Meekings, WO II Wheatley, Sgt. Spir, J/L/Cpl. Fiern, Cpl. Johnson.

**Compensatory Note.** WO II Wheatley won a beautiful basket of fruit in the raffle.

**SGT. MEEKINGS**

Sgt. Meekings, an ex-Boy himself, is a good all-round athlete. His main sport is basketball, which he has played throughout his service in the highest company. Standing well over six feet, superbly fit, and with a long reach, he is an excellent Guard, proving very frustrating to opponents who complain that there is a "brick wall" between them and the basket. He coached last year's team as far as the army finals, and said that "with a few more real enthusiasts we can win the cup."

Harry Meekings has also played water polo for the Parachute Brigade and rugby for the Corps in Cyprus.

He claims, too, that whilst in Boy Service (1950-52) he threw the discus 158 feet, and that therefore "the boards in the gymnasium showing athletic records are incorrect."

His favourite saying: "You'll break my heart." (Editor's comment: We doubt it).



by Sgt. Martin

**J/SIG. MCKAY**

J/Sig. McKay is an athlete of whom the regiment can really feel proud. At present he holds the distinction of not only being the best long-distance runner in the regiment (winner of two cross-countries), but also being the current regimental record holder in the three miles. Yet he tells us that he had never done any running before joining the regiment.

"Jock" McKay was still under 16 when he won his first regimental cross-country, following this by coming third in the Southern Command Championships, and tenth in the Army Cross-Country Championships. He has his regimental colours.

His time for the three miles was 16 minutes 55 seconds, beating the previous record by one minute. He has also represented the regiment in the mile event, where he has been beaten narrowly (both very exciting finishes) by J/L/Cpl. Garrehy.

To sum up, J/Sig. McKay is small in stature but great in stamina.



by Sgt. Martin

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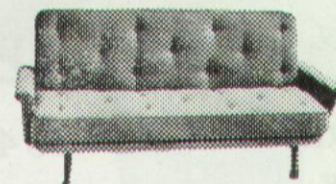
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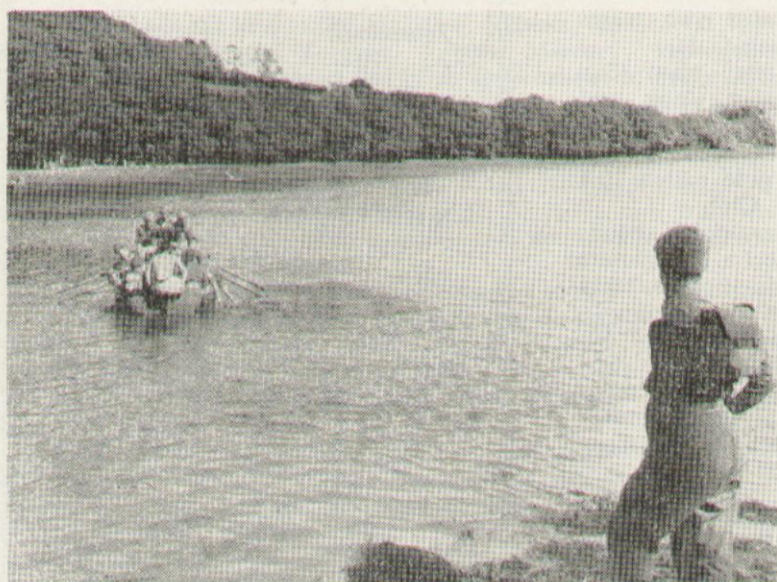
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Nijmegen Marchers fording a River

by Capt. Joyner

### CAPTAIN'S EXAMPLE

The Cricket XI is at last developing the way it should. Previously, so much promise has been shown, but the team has never come up to expectation. Now this year's XI is revealing itself as one of the strongest Junior sides in this area. The record reads—Played 7, won 5, tie 1, drawn 1, lost 0. Another revealing point lies in the fact that in the last five matches played the team has never been bowled out but has declared on each occasion. Victories include both Newton Abbot and Totnes Grammar Schools and both Infantry and RAC Junior Leaders, as well as HMS Figgard 2nd XI.

The captain of the side, J/Cpl. Schofield, has been setting a grand example in his own personal batting, his last four innings yielding 59, 42, 22, and 37 not out, giving him an overall season average of 29.8. Other good innings of the season include 70 not out by J/Cpl. Rooke, 37 by J/L/Cpl. Gallon. (*Editor's Comment:* We apologize for incorrectly referring to him as J/Sig. in our last edition), and 30 by J/Sig. Thompson. J/Sig. Palmer is the most promising of our younger batsmen.

Of the bowlers, J/Sgt. McGibbon still reigns supreme with a total of 32 wickets for 105 runs. Again, J/Cpl. Schofield figures prominently, with 16 wickets to his credit for 66 runs. J/Cpl. Rooke is still a tower of strength behind the wicket, although at times he seems a little slower off the mark than he was last year. In the field, J/Sgt. Tracey, J/Sigs. Thompson and Hill all maintain very high standards.

### A DRAW

Signals batted first against Teignmouth Grammar School and, at 13 for two wickets, there was no sign of the batting that was to come. However, we finally declared at 165 for eight, which included 59 from J/Cpl. Schofield and 70 not out from J/Cpl. Rooke.

In an hour and a half, Teignmouth could score only 49 for four.

### SOUND BATTING

Against Totnes Grammar School, Signals batted well to declare at 122 for seven, and it was pleasant to see J/Cpl. Schofield's 42 well supported by scores of 14, 15, 18 and 14 by J/Sig. Palmer, J/S/Sgt. Tracey, J/Sig. Hill, and J/Cpl. Rooke respectively.

J/Sgt. McGibbon (four for 22) opened the bowling with J/Sig. Haworth, but the complete collapse of Totnes (39 all out) was brought about when J/Cpl. Schofield brought himself on to take five wickets for only 10 runs.

### GOOD WICKET-KEEPING

The Signals' score of 95 included fine innings by J/Cpl. Schofield (22), J/Sig. Palmer (18), and J/S/Sgt. Tracey (11 not out), but the remainder of the batsmen flattered poor bowlers.

J/Cpl. Schofield (four for 21), J/Sgt. McGibbon (three for 18), and J/Sig. White (two for 10) demolished Figgard for a mere 59 runs, taking an hour and threequarters in which to do it. J/Cpl. Rooke deserves praise for the way he handled the occasional wild ball from J/Sgt. McGibbon.

### JACOBS' NEW RECORD

On a showery day in June, the Royal Signals athletics team scored a dual triumph over Newton Abbot and Totnes Grammar Schools. J/L/Cpl. Jacobs, in coming in second in the youths 880 yards, beat his own Regimental record. Other outstanding performances included J/Cpl. Bourgoise winning the high jump (youths), J/L/Cpl. Barrett the javelin (youths), with J/Sig. Hayford second. J/Sigs. Booker and Dagless respectively won the youths and juniors hop, step and jump; J/Sig. Capon the long jump (youths); J/Sig. Beere the shot (youths); and J/Cpl. Viner the hurdles.

J/L/Cpl. Garrehy and J/Sig. McKay ran well in the mile to come second and third, having an exciting battle for second place, but Good (Totnes) was much too good for either of them. Finally, the terrific performance in the 4 x 110 yards junior relay team of J/L/Cpl. Davis, J/Cpl. Smith, J/Sig. Batram, and J/Cpl. Lindsay, who all ran well to pull off an exciting victory.

### RESULTS

High Jump (J)—1, NA (5'); 2, Chambers; 3, Gibbons.  
 High Jump (Y)—1, Bourgoise (4' 11"); 2, NA; 3, Mason.  
 Long Jump (J)—1, NA (17' 0½") (N); 2, Worrall; 3, Howley.  
 Long Jump (Y)—1, Capon (18' 4"); 2, T; 3, NA;  
 Hop, Step, Jump (J)—1, Dagless (37' 4") (N); 2, NA; 3, Couper.  
 Hop, Step, Jump (Y)—1, Bowker (38' 4") (M); 2, NA; 3, Sharp.  
 Discus (Y)—1, T (114' 2"); 2, Bates; 3, Barratt.  
 Javelin (Y)—1, Barratt (124' 4"); 2, Hayford; 3, T.  
 Javelin (J)—1, NA (131' 4"); 2, NA; 3, Young.  
 Shot (Y)—1, Beere (39' 2½") (M); 2, NA; 3, NA.  
 Shot (J)—1, NA (36' 9") (M); 2, Lindsay; 3, Naisbit.  
 100 Yards (Y)—1, NA (10.9secs); 2, T; 3, T.  
 100 Yards (J)—1, NA (11.8secs); 2, Batram; 3, Lindsay.  
 220 Yards (Y)—1, NA (24secs) (E); 2, T; 3, B. Brooke.  
 220 Yards (J)—1, NA (24.8secs); 2, Batram (Q); 3, Smith.  
 440 Yards (Y)—1, T (58.2secs) (M); 2, T; 3, NA.  
 440 Yards (J)—1, NA (57secs) (N); 2, T; 3, NA.  
 880 Yards (Y)—1, T (2mins. 9.9secs); 2, Jacobs; 3, Thurston.  
 880 Yards (J)—1, T (2mins. 18.2secs); 2, Armstrong; 3, Worrall.  
 One Mile (Y)—1, T (2mins. 18.2secs); 2, Garrehy; 3, McKay.  
 4 x 110 Yards (Y)—1, NA (48.8secs) (M); 2, T. (Signals disqualified).  
 4 x 110 Yards (J)—1, Signals (49.8secs) (N); 2, NA; 3, T.  
 110 Yards Hurdles (not counted for competition)—1, Viner; 2, T; 3, Hayes.

### STOP PRESS

A new Regimental record was set up by an athletics team competing in a match at Plymouth on Saturday, June 17th. Our 4 x 110 relay team, placed third out of nine teams, consisting of J/Cpl. Davis, J/Cpl. Smith, J/Sig. Batram, and J/Cpl. Lindsay, were timed at 48.3 seconds.

Denbury Players Club is to be formed to embrace all theatrical activities, including the Thursday Night Theatre. Ideas, suggestions, and applications for membership are welcomed from all, either service personnel or civilians.

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GUNN & MOORE, WISDEN BATS  
(specially selected at factory)

BALLS - LEGGUARDS - WICKET  
KEEPING AND BATTING GLOVES  
CRICKET BAGS AND HOLDALLS

#### ATHLETICS

TRACK SUITS, RUNNING SHOES,  
ATHLETIC VESTS AND SHORTS