

VOL. 1. No. 10.

MARCH, 1960

Price 4d.



1 SQUADRON AT SIR RALPH RAYNER'S HUT, HALDON.
by J/Sig. Wraith.

Outward and Inward

OUTWARD and Inward—ever onward the tide of progress flows towards the beaches of success. By a most generous gesture Sir Ralph Rayner, an ex-Senior Officer of the Corps, has placed at the disposal of the Junior Leaders' Regiment an Adventure Training Headquarters on his estate at Ashcombe 9 miles from Denbury. There have been many suggestions as to the naming of this delightful log cabin and among them are "Denbury Castle" and "Denbury Palace." However, this is a decision we can leave for the time being and perhaps Sir Ralph himself may think of a better name. The photograph on this page is not good, but neither was the day that No. 1 Squadron under Captain Michael Hartnett chose to set out upon a night expedition based on the new Headquarters. The photograph records the 1 Squadron flag flying at the masthead and Sir Ralph Rayner, wearing his Leaders' Balaclava, talking to Captain Hartnett and some members of his Squadron.

An event such as this releases a whole flood of ideas but to pick out one that could be implemented at once and to good effect: Junior Leaders will be required henceforth to walk fully equipped to Ashcombe once during their stay at Denbury, and have their names placed on the panel of leadership on the inner walls of Denbury Palace, or whatever it is to be called. Thus, like Buddha on his pilgrimage to Benares, each Junior Leader will dedicate himself to leadership "in the cause of Peace."

If ideas assault the conscience, then indeed we have just witnessed another happy event,

for the Adjutant reports that the day after Sir Ralph gave us this new headquarters, the Second-in-Command was found feverishly turning over the pages of the RED BOOK and there, in the Summer Term Summary, saw that we had done nothing about the Regimental Farm. The Adjutant continued: "He shot out of the door, raced across the car park, leaped into his car and was seen screeching out of the main gate like a man possessed. He returned shortly and, for the first time in his life, spoke politely to the Quartermaster and persuaded that astonished officer to hand over a wooden shed behind the Sports pavilion, and into it he hurled 2 pigs, 75 chickens, 6 bales of hay and W.O. II Philp, R.A.E.C. Only then did he explain himself, briefly and to the point: "You are the Farm Master and this is the Farm—Got it!"

Philp, it is reported, was much too bewildered to say anything and before he could marshal his faculties, in trooped a line of Junior Leaders who announced that they had come to join the farm hobby! Meanwhile, the Second-in-Command returned to his office, put his feet on his desk, called for "Tea" in a loud confident voice, and spoke to a "short" officer taking over the duties of Second-in-Command from him, these immortal words: "The great thing, old boy, is to get things done and we don't tolerate anything 'lavatory' at Regimental Headquarters."

We talked about ideas earlier and it is perhaps as well to return to them, for that very evening the Commanding Officer looked up into the eyes of a calm and contented Second-in-Command and said: "I think it would be a great idea to have a pigeon loft in the farm and each troop might be encouraged to have a few pigeons of its own so that once a term an inter-troop pigeon race from Whitehall to Denbury could take place carrying a message of greetings to



J/SIG. GREENHAUGH FEEDING THE PIGS.
by Sgt. Martin.

the Regiment from the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The award for the winning troop could be a silver pigeon." You may get some measure of the resilience of the Second-in-Command who, in spite of the flickering lights in his eyes, said very quietly, almost in a whisper, "Where do I get the silver pigeon?" "Ask our readers," said the Commanding Officer, "After all the Junior Mercury has a circulation of 1,500 and I am quite sure some one among that number must be interested in pigeons. Infer that the silver pigeon could be given the name Prince of Denbury, or something like that. In fact" he added "If some noble benefactor were to follow Sir Ralph Rayner's example and give us not only a silver pigeon but a pair of live pigeons as well, we might name them the Prince and Princess of Denbury."



Now, there is something to think about. The Second-in-Command has not spoken since and it is for his sake and out of consideration for the deeply troubled state of his heart and mind that this appeal is now made to all readers of the Junior Mercury. Any would-be donor might, of course, be suspicious and hesitate to offer a silver pigeon, thinking perhaps that another appeal

Continued on Page 6, Col. 1

The Commanding Officer and all Ranks of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, offer their condolences to Mrs. Shipcott on the tragic demise of her husband, W.O. II. Norman Shipcott, on 20th February, 1960, at Denbury Camp.

EDITORIAL

NO unit in the Army can expect to stand or to fall by its sport alone; there are many more important things—this is after all the season of the Annual Administrative Inspection—yet sport is probably the most effective method of publicity. It is an indication of the team spirit within the unit, the will to work together, and to apply the lessons of life. This year will long be remembered for its successes in sporting fields. For the Junior Leaders, we have their boxing—two years in succession Cup-winners—in Basketball—we have won the S.W. District cup, and hope to progress further—in Rugby—where we are already successfully through the first round of the Cup, and very hopeful of winning it. The Staff too are doing well, in Soccer—as S.W. District champions, and hoping to go a lot further—in Hockey—where we were a little unfortunate to be defeated in the District final—and in Basketball—unlucky to lose to the eventual District winners, but still good enough to beat most of the local teams round here. Keep it up Signals, this is a healthy indication of success.

Adventure Training is a very important side of life at Denbury Camp, and plans for the Ten Tors Competition are quietly forging ahead. See Page 5 of this issue for the human side of these plans.

Next month we will be presenting our greatest scoop—an exclusive series of interviews in Disc-ussion. J/L/Cpl. "Ted" Smith, our musical editor, was feeling "bored with the same old thing every month," so arrangements were made and he set off on a special type of initiative scheme. Our April DISCUSSION tells the story of his trip to London and Brighton, culminating in interviews with three prominent stars of stage, screen and radio.

We still have artist troubles, and once again thank L/Cpl. Steer for his cartoon, and welcome Captain Bowyer to the long list of those who have portrayed "X"'s adventures—a junior reporter said, "Cor... didn't think he'd got it in 'im." Finally we give a very warm welcome to our two new reporters J/Sigs. Parrott and Palmer, already hard at work and promising extremely well.

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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.

Cadre Cuttings

ONE WILD OAT

ON the 18th and 19th February the Denbury Players treated us to their first production—"One Wild Oat," a farce by Vernon Sylvaine. The play was an excellent choice, first class entertainment, well presented and well designed. The *Globe Cinema* was nearly packed on both nights and those who missed it deserve nothing but sympathy.

Captain Rowe, as Alfred Gilbey, held his cast together well, and turned in a brilliant piece of comedy acting. 2nd-Lt. Shepherd, Lt. Wagstaffe, Mrs. Diggle, Mrs. Chilvers and Jane Priest all played difficult parts well with fluency and poise. Captain and Mrs. Mitchell, Sgt. Diggle, L/Cpl. Steer and Mrs. Yates all made the most of their supporting roles. However, if we may pick out the highlights, performances of outstanding merit were given by R.Q.M.S. Chilvers as the dignified butler, who was also in a privileged position as an old family retainer, and by Mrs. Gurden as the adventuress out for money as a blackmailing sideline.

The set was well designed, and the production polished—credit to Major James, Mr. Grinder, and all others behind the scenes—and the whole performance added up to a very bright presentation.

Criticisms lie in the charge of inaudibility at the back of the theatre, particularly on the part of some of the ladies; and a general tendency to gabble the lines without waiting for the laughter from a previous joke to die away. This last, undoubtedly due to lack

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of experience, showed a lack of "feeling" for the audience, who consequently missed one or two very funny lines.

To sum up:—"PLEASE, DENBURY PLAYERS, GIVE US ANOTHER SHOW—THE SOONER THE BETTER."



"ONE WILD OAT."

L. to R.—2/LT. SHEPHERD, MRS. DIGGLE, R.Q.M.S. CHILVERS, SGT. DIGGLE, CAPT. ROWE, MRS. CHILVERS, MISS PRIEST, LT. WAGSTAFFE.

by Sgt. Martin.

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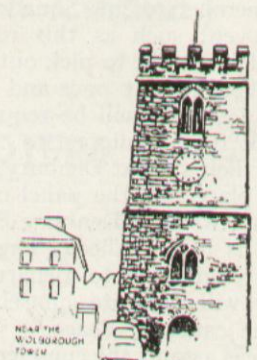
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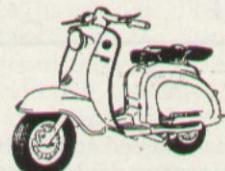
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DARTMOOR RANGERS

THE normal saying in the British Army, "never volunteer for anything," doesn't always hold good in a Junior Leaders' Unit—there are good things going as well as bad. One weekend eight Junior Leaders of 1 Squadron volunteered for a hike across Dartmoor with the Dartmoor Rangers, a youth club based on Ashburton, devoted to rambling over Dartmoor. There were eight Rangers, all boys about 16 or 17, with their leader, Mr. Lee.

They left Okehampton at about 0830 hours, on Sunday morning, down to Cranmere Pool, and on to Fur Tor, where they had a short rest, dinner at Wistman's Wood, on to Two Bridges, and Child's Tomb, and by the time that they approached Duck's Pool it was getting really dark.

"The last part of the trek down to Bittaford Bridge was murder," J/Sig. "Bob" Sharp (Anzio Troop) told *Junior Mercury*, "it was dark, bitterly cold, everybody was very leg-sore, yet we seemed to be increasing rather than decreasing our pace. I was pleased that I could walk 36 miles up and down Dartmoor's Peaks for 13 hours, and still live." He added, "I was glad to get back to camp for a hot meal."

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ROUND THE CAMP

SUPER CAMOUFLAGE

THE Third Signal Regiment were down on an exercise near Okehampton, and consequently invited Iron Troop, their own Junior Leaders, to be their guest for a day.

Iron Troop's day was a very full one. First we had a talk given by Lt.-Col. Brett, their C.O., and then out to a deserted piece of moorland. To our horror soldiers materialized from nowhere, and we realised that all the bumps in the ground had been camouflaged vehicles. During the morning the camp was visited by Maj.-Gen. C. H. P. Harington, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the G.O.C. of 3 Division. The afternoon saw demonstrations of breaking camp quickly, and taking cover from an air attack.

An outstanding feature of the day lay in the easy comradeship soon achieved by members of the two regiments. The R.S.M., W.O.I. Buesnel had tea with Iron Troop and was positively assailed by a flood of questions. Finally he gave up, and said, "I would be delighted if all Iron Troop can visit us during the Regimental Weekend in July."

There the matter stands.

MONDAY MORNING BLUES

THE Corps of Drums have at long last allowed Pedro the Fisherman to drown himself in the more sophisticated music of the St. Louis Blues. Monday morning Reveille has been further brightened by the new Reveille "Rock." Perhaps by the time of the Nijmegen Marches they will be performing "Forty Miles of Bad Road?"

LONG SERVICE

Two heavy losses in permanent staff over the past month are noted in the departures of R.Q.M.S. Irving and Sgt. Douth.

"Bender" Irving had just over 3 years with the Regiment, most of it as 1 Squadron S.S.M., finishing his tour as R.Q.M.S., to which job he has now gone at the Signals Depot. He will be remembered affectionately, by many thousands of boys, for his patience, fairness and understanding. A good footballer and cricketer, he was keenly interested in all sporting events, and a regular participant at all regimental functions.

Sgt. "Taff" Douth was an old stager—nearly 5 years—with memories of the Beverley Days. He arrived as a Corporal, and during his stay worked as an instructor in both 1 and 2 Squadrons and Junior Wing, as well as fulfilling miscellaneous functions such as the Dining Hall, Sports Store and the Armoury. We wish him the best of luck in Cyrenaica.

"F" WIELD THE AXE

AT times inter-troop rivalry can run very high, particularly on the Rugby Field, as was shown recently when White Swan Troop were defeated by Francisca Troop. In the evening at 2 Squadron Concert, an exciting quiz between Jerboa and Kohima Troops was suddenly interrupted by the appearance on the stage of J/Sig. "Tiny" Gooding, bearing Francisca Troop's flag, followed by J/L/Cpl. "Mike" Coope and J/Sig. "Chris" Thompson bearing a blackboard with an enormous White Swan (Mucky Duck) with the Francisca Axe at its neck and blood dripping off—and the score, 19—5, printed in big numerals. Needless to say their reception from 2 Squadron was indignant, but they carried it off well.

GURKHA VISITORS

THE erstwhile "D" Troop, now re-named Kukri Troop, is affiliated to the Gurkha Signals Regiment and this month two of their officers, Lts. (Q.G.O.) BIRBADADUR RAWAT and CHANDRABAHADUR RANA, visited this Regiment.

They attended various social functions—"The Concert was excellent and very enjoyable," and had a good look round camp—"English boys compare favourably with Gurkha boys." Asked about the weather, with snow falling fast, they answered "No Comment."

WHY NOT?

THE following suggestions for the improvement of (Sgt.) Mor(r)al(l)e within the Regiment, are submitted for the gentle consideration of those concerned:

1. All officers should carry crutches instead of walking sticks.
2. White Wine should be served in the cookhouse instead of coffee to prevent Junior Leaders complaining that there is no sugar in the tea.
3. That Sgt. Rose should be fitted with a suppressor to prevent interference with the Officers' Mess T.V.
4. That the Television Toppers be invited to take drill parades, enabling the R.S.M. to have Saturday mornings off.
5. That P.T. should be held in the barrack rooms (in bed) so that classes won't be late going to the gymnasium.
6. That 35s—20s—35s should instruct in the classrooms to give W.O. I. Braithwaite sufficient time to breed rabbits.

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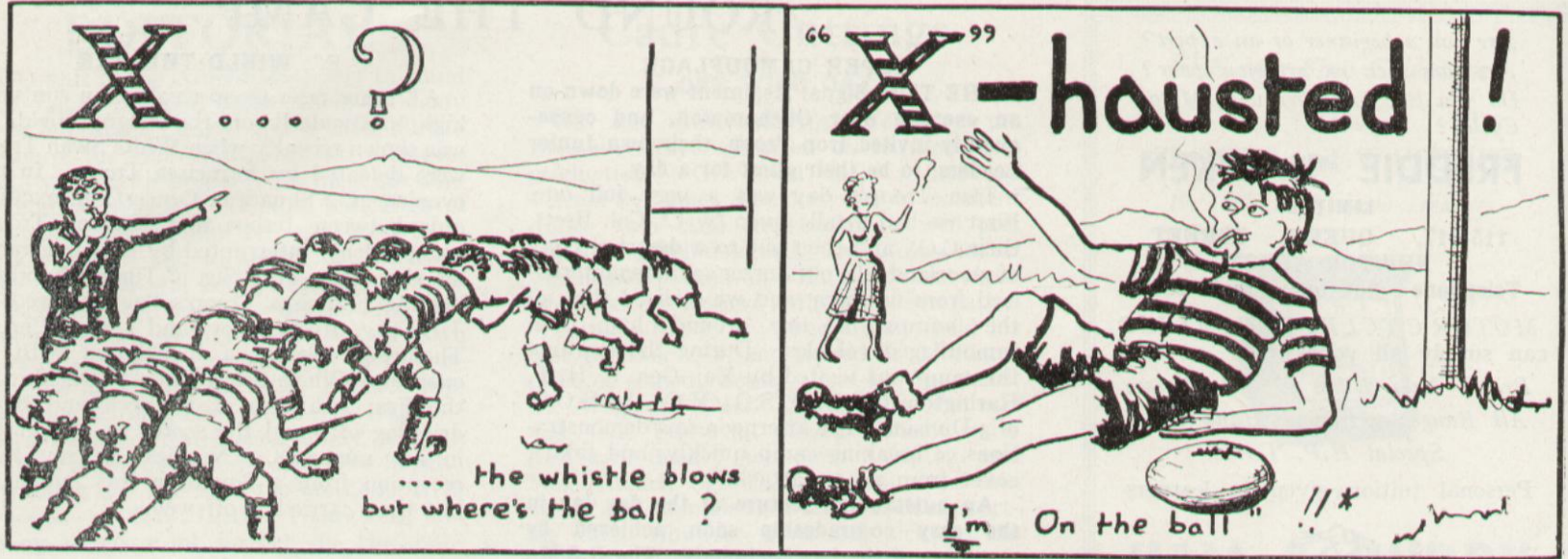
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“X” ON SPORT

J/Sig “X”s Troop Sergeant was sick—the M.O. called it “liver trouble,” but he felt it was “too much X.” On a sports afternoon there was an arrangement which suited all parties. “X” did private cross country training—this satisfied the Troop Officer who visualised a budding Emil Zatopek sweating it out over difficult country; it suited the Sergeant who had an hour’s peace, and it pleased “X” who ran energetically into the woods, settled down comfortably for an hour with a packet of fags and the latest Hank Jansen, and then sprinted back into camp.

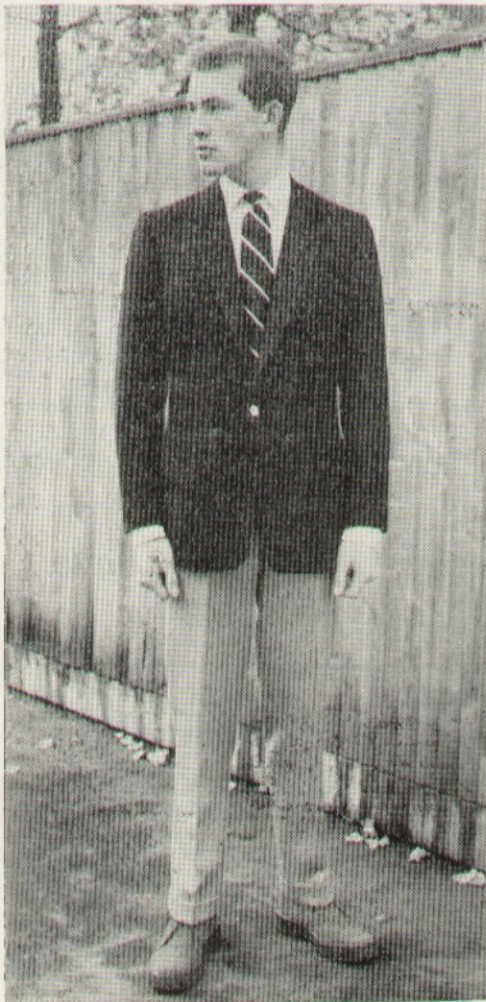
With the Troop Sergeant sick, his relief, a raw and uninformed youth who knew no better put “X”s name down at three quarter to play in the Troop Rugby Team—in a League match too! At first “X” was displeased, and considered an attack of turble-flimitus (a peculiar disease known well to the M.O., which afflicts his faithful follower regularly on parade mornings). Then he thought again “No. A League match, I can’t let the Troop down.” So his disease was pushed into the background ready for the next Saturday.

The whistle blew. Captain Hancock waved the two scrums down. A quick heel.

The scrum half passed to the fly, who passed to the first centre, and then to “X.” A side-step, a swerve, a dummy, a quick acceleration, and “X” was clear and racing for the line. Alas, the whistle blew for a try at the other end, and Captain Hancock required all his patience to explain to “X” that “you have to have the ball too.”

At half time the score was 28—0, and “X” left the field with a mysterious ankle ailment brought about by the Troop Rugby Captain kicking him hard.

Now all is well. “X”s Sergeant is back. Cross country training is in full swing. The Troop once more lead the League table.



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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READERS' CORNER

REDECORATION

Dear Sir,

It may interest regular patrons of the *Globe* cinema to know that some improvements are being attempted. The drab interior is due to be repainted this year. We expect to obtain a new set of curtains costing over one hundred pounds and to renovate the proxinium arch. It is hoped in time that a new roll up type of screen will be provided. There are however Financial difficulties when a theatre has to be used both for Live and Film shows. The films come from the Army Kinema Corporation Library and over a period of time we receive every film in the library. If we ask for more Western films now, we shall in the earlier part of the year have none. The films are suited to audiences in the many A.K.C. Cinemas throughout this country and beyond and are not selected specially for Junior Leaders'. On the whole we receive a very good selection of up-to-date films. The A.K.C. is non-profit making and the losses they sustain on the *Globe* Cinema is covered by profits elsewhere. Like the Cinema Industry outside they have found it necessary to raise prices everywhere to balance their accounts.

C. M. TOWNSEND.
Bursar.

A HAPPY BAND

THE following simple letter from Lt.-Col. J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D., the Commanding Officer of 25th Signal Regiment, tells of a great and generous parting gesture from some of our friends in Catterick.

"I am enclosing a cheque for £250 as a contribution from the men of this Regiment towards the cost of equipping your Band. As you know we are disbanding in July, and the suggestion that this money should be given to your Regiment came from the men themselves. I hope that you will find it possible to carry some small remembrance of this gift on the Drum-Major's sash."

The whole Regiment will join with the Band in thanking Lt.Col. Eagle and his men, the memory of whose liberality will help to keep their memory green in our hearts after their Regiment has passed on.

The money will be devoted to buying a new and suitably inscribed Drum-Major's sash, a Trumpet Major's horn, bagpipes and equipment to complete the piping section of the Band, and if possible, two fanfare trumpets.

FILL THE GLOBE

Dear Sir,

On weekend cinema performances at the *Globe* there are always many empty seats, which means that it probably does not pay. This is almost certainly due to the fact that many boys with money in their pockets like to go out at the weekend rather than stay in camp. Wouldn't it be a good idea to sell tickets to the cinema on Friday's pay parade? Then performances could be later in the week when more boys could see the films.

Yours truly, B. HIVES.

TEN (Too Many) TORS

by J/L/Cpl. Zimmer (Kukri Troop)

THE Commanding Officer, with the Senior Education Officer, had planned a trip over "the Ten Tors." The *Junior Mercury* decided that such an important exercise ought to be reported, and therefore added a fit (or supposedly fit) reporter on to their strength. Here is his own account of the trip

"We left camp early one Wednesday morning with Major (the C.O.'s dog) jumping joyously around us. During the walk Lt.-Col. Gregory was vainly trying to bring Major to heel, but with little success. Major Nye suggested that a higher pitched voice might prove more successful. Therefore for the next mile or so we had to contend with the C.O. sounding rather like an out-of-work opera singer.

Arriving at Hay Tor Rocks we found a party of girls from Holne Outward Bound School engaged in rock climbing." (*Editor's comment*—surprisingly the report doesn't end here !).

"From then on it seemed all walking—up and down, until finally we camped down for the night—a hot meal and coffee being very acceptable.

The next day was bitterly cold; it started to snow, and the monotony of the walk was only enlivened by the C.O. falling into a bog.

Late afternoon found us on top of a Tor, brewing up something to eat. It was snowing heavily, and finally we decided to give it up, and go home. Thirty-two hours had passed since leaving camp, and we had only covered seven of our "Ten Tors."

The questions remaining to be answered are: Are Ten Tors too many? Is the time limit too short? Were these the wrong Tors? Was the course too hard? Was it the weather's fault?"

STAFF SCRAPBOOK

THE Camp, and the Staff in particular, suffered a great loss since our last edition. We refer of course to the late W.O.II. Shipcott who collapsed and died on Saturday, 20th February.

Although he was comparatively new to the job of Squadron Sgt.-Major—he had been at the job for only 45 days—he had already become a popular figure. At 35 one might have expected many more years of valuable service would have been his to give. The loss was felt more keenly too for, being on the verge of the annual Administrative Inspection, the Squadron was looking to him for guidance.

The snow that fell during February emphasised that Winter had not yet had her fling; we could still expect those icy winds to prevail. On this note, special thanks should be given to the job of work done by the working parties who daily have to work in conditions far from warm. Two National Servicemen who were part of the camp's team of outdoor workers completed their two years this month and now L/Cpl. Norman Davis of Southampton and Sig. Ron Hogan of London can sit round their home fires warming themselves with the thoughts of pals still on duty.

Another bunch of new faces around Junior Wing during the month meant more than the usual amount of work for L/Cpl. Brian Stevenson of Wakefield. During his Junior Wing service he has seen eight previous intakes with last term's topping the bill. Nearly 60 recruits were his worry in one wave; and the term brought over 80 Junior Leaders to Newton Abbot.

Dealing with an unusually large number of the Staff this month were L/Cpl. Ron Mills and his men at the M.R.S. Reason: It was "jab" time again. Despite rumours to the contrary, the Staff lived through their ordeal by needle though the heavy snowfall on the day didn't help matters at all.

A popular promotion this month was that of Sgt. Yates to the dizzy heights of Staff Sergeant. Following the award to Staff Yates of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) during January the promotion comes as further evidence of work at Denbury.

Footnote: Service done and service to do is always a talking point within the Squadron and perhaps it was lack of this valuable asset that was the cause the other day of a slight embarrassment to one new member.

We do not know whether the Signalman in question thought the man in blue with a peak cap was an officer or not but we are sure he will not salute the postman again during the next 17 or so months or so.

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DISC-USSION

"Pretty Blue Eyes," (Top Rank Label), the latest release by Craig Douglas, is a grand follow-up for his previous disc hit record, "Only Sixteen." Another new release is "Voice in the Wilderness" by Cliff Richard. Marty Wilde has a new record on release, "Bad Boy." A not-so-new record is "Why" by Anthony Newley, which has also been recorded by Frankie Avalon. Michael Holiday, Britain's answer to Pat Boone, has another carefree song record out entitled "Starry-eyed."

A lot of "oldies" have been rocked-up recently, prominent being "Eternity" by Sarah Vaughan, which has been nominated as Radio Luxemburg's Record of the Week, and Connie Francis' latest recording of "My Souvenirs."

You will remember Wink Martindale, the boy who made "Deck of Cards"; he has just released a new one in "Life gets tedious." A singer we hardly hear of this side of the Atlantic is Martin Rainwater, who has recently recorded "Half Breed" on the M.G.M. Label, and after this we should be hearing a lot more from him. By the title of Adam Faith's new record it seems as though he didn't get the girl he was trying for on "What do you want?" as the new disc is entitled "Poor Me."

Gene Vincent, interviewed in last month's Discussion, has a new release, "Wild Cat" which is already a top selling disc after only a few week's release.

For all modern jazz enthusiasts a new instrumental has recently been recorded for the I.T.V. series "Johnny Staccato" Its name? "The Staccato Theme" of course.

A vast number of people like their music to have rythm. Spanish music has rythm. Therefore one would expect a vast number of people to like Spanish music: but they don't. Perhaps the rythm is too complex, perhaps the orchestral colour is too vivid—who knows? But one thing is certain, the lover of Spanish music will be moved to ecstasy by Falla's "Three-cornered Hat," scintillatingly and superbly played by the Suisse Romando led by Lonsermet (Decca LXT. 5357). This suite is exciting, explosive and oddly astringent.

OUTWARD and INWARD—Cont. from P 1.

may follow for lots of little silver pigeons to be presented to individual competitors, etc., etc., etc.; but not so!

A single silver pigeon will suffice, and the name of the benefactor will be recorded faithfully and he may live to be honoured as a man who inspired the Junior Leaders' Regiment to extend its function beyond the mere training of Junior Leaders for the regular Regiments of our Corps, and to embrace in addition the training of junior pigeons.



ANSWER TO COMPETITION

THERE were three winners to our January competition. All of whom have received prizes. They are, in order of merit:

- 1st. Sgt. D. G. Tayler. (9th Queen's R. Lancers).
- 2nd. Thomasina Daw. (Kingsteignton).
- 3rd. Mrs. Pavey. (Kingsteignton).

The correct answer was that Sig. NOTSGREEN was guilty. The clue lay in Sig. Alibi's alibi for his friend; as he volunteered the information that at the time of the theft Sig. NOTSGREEN had been playing chess with him. Yet previously it had been quite obvious that no-one knew at what time the stores had been broken into—except of course the criminal.

PLEASE HELP

IN order to build up the Regimental Museum, the Museum Master would be glad to receive, or arrange collection of, any military exhibits which readers might have available.

Communications should be addressed to the Museum Master, Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot. (Ipplepen 361).

DO YOU REMEMBER?

AN article is printed underneath, which we regret to say is full of mistakes—albeit deliberate mistakes—, we want YOU to read it through and tell us of the mistakes. Send your "correct version" to "The Editor," *Junior Mercury*, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, S. Devon. Before 26th March, 1960.

"A series of popular comedies in recent years has been the "Doctor" series. The first one was "Doctor in the House," the only one in Black and White. It tells of a young student doctor, Dirk Bogarde, with his fellow students, played by Terry Thomas and Kenneth More. He gets off to a bad start with James Robertson Justice, the Chief General Practitioner at the hospital. He is fined for falling through the hospital superintendent's skylight after seeing a girl-friend, Susan Pavlow in over the roof. He passes his examination at the second attempt and becomes a surgeon. Their College Mascot, a stuffed vulture, is stolen and they appear in Court in connection with it's recovery. The end of the film shows him delivering twins on a boiling summers night."

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BASKETBALL SUCCESSES

IN the Basketball Jamboree held at Denbury Camp with the R.A.C. and Infantry Junior Leaders we acted inhospitably, but very satisfyingly, in severely trouncing both our opponents to carry off the South West District Cup.

J/Cpl. Sharp and J/Sig. Rooney were the outstanding players, in a class completely above anybody else competing, and Rooney especially delighted with his cheeky "dummies" and accurate basket-work. If only these two would fit more into the framework of the remainder of their team, instead of relying on solo and dual runs, we could have a truly great side.

In a civilian cup-tie the Staff Basketball side, strengthened by Rooney and Sharp, defeated an Exeter University team. As usual Sgts. Angell and Meekings were outstanding defensively, and Sgt. Creek scored prolifically. With W.O. II. Wheatley and Sgt. Jamieson on court the long hard pass was used to create openings, whereas

the two boys relied on sheer fitness and speed. Both methods proved effective and it is useful to have such contrasting styles of play at our disposal.

The Junior Leaders team did well to defeat Teignmouth G.S. after being down at half-time. J/Cpl. Rooke and J/Sig. Broadbent made a promising debut with the team in this match.

AT LAST

THE boys registered their first table tennis win of the season by beating the Gas Board, 6-4. Johns and Cattermole gave the team a flying start by winning the first two games. Despite this the score slumped to 3-4. Then in a tense finish Sharp pulled up from a seemingly impossible position to win in 3 sets. Then Johns won, and finally Johns and Cattermole combined well to win the doubles. It is pleasing to report that the boys fought with grim determination for every point, and a repetition of this form should ensure further successes.

MAJOR NYE

Major Nye was only 20 years old when he was sent on a course with the Commando Mountain Warfare Command. He loved the life, did well, and was retained as an instructor. Since then he has climbed round Gt. Britain and in Cyprus, but the area around Tryfan in N. Wales is his favourite; only about 3,000 feet high it can be dangerous in snow and ice.

Major Nye is a keen member of the Army Mountaineering Association, and hopes to encourage boys from this unit to take up mountaineering seriously.

"The essential qualities for a climber are physical fitness, team spirit, judgement and courage," he said, and then added with a smile, "Don't try to climb mountains that are too big for you. It is important to know your own limit."



By Sgt. Martin

J/SIG. CROWE

J/SIG. CROWE has had a distinguished boxing career, both in civilian life and in the Army. Before joining the forces he had been a member of the Stirling Amateur Boxing Association, winning the Scottish and Western District Championships.

In his first year in the Royal Signals he helped us to become the first winner of the Junior Leaders' Boxing Cup, as well as becoming Southern Command Champion, Army Champion and I.S.B.A. Champion. This year we won the cup again, and he has already regained both Southern Command and Army Championships.

Jock Crowe is naturally an aggressive boxer, relying on speed and ferocity to overwhelm his opponents. Rather reluctant to train too hard, he naturally relies on a quick finish. He is a hard hitter with both hands, and a neat performer in the ring.

We wish him luck this year, and hope that he will go right to the top.



By J/Sig. Wraith

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"THE COOK'S FOOTBALL XI."

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THOMPSON PLAYS WELL

How fitting that J/Sig. Thompson should be the one to score the winning try, enabling the Regimental Rugby XV to pass into the second round of the Army (Junior Leaders) Cup. It was especially appropriate as "Chris" Thompson at full back was the man of the match. Under shocking weather conditions, with driving rain sweeping across the field, he fielded and kicked his team into safety.

The Signals beat the Infantry Junior Leaders, 6-3. There was no score in the first half, when we had the wind driving into our faces. Soon after half-time, the ball came out cleanly as far as J/Sig. Jones, the outside centre (an achievement in itself, so bad were conditions for handling), and from 25 yards out he coolly dropped a goal. Two minutes later, before the cheering had died down, the Infantry equalised with an unconverted try. About ten minutes before the final whistle we were pressing with a series of 5 yards scrums, when suddenly Thompson flashed between J/Sigs. Gooding (scrum half) and Hills (fly half) to batter his way across the line with three men hanging on to him.

For the rest—full marks to all the pack who fought like tigers to make victory possible, to gallant Gooding, and to winger Broadbent and Hills who both kicked so intelligently. It was a forward battle, and well did our forwards serve us.

ONLY TWO CHAMPIONS

With three reigning Army Champions (J/Cpl. Finch, J/Sigs. Jacobs and Crowe) still in the unit, and the Junior Leaders Cup in our hands for the second year in succession we expected a prolific crop of champions this year in the individual events.

At the Southern Command championships we emerged with J/Sigs. Crowe and Barratt (2 Sqn.) as champions, and with J/Sigs. Russell and Wheatley as beaten finalists. To console us there were J/Sig. Jacobs (unfit), J/Sig. Tucker (over-weight), and J/Sig. Barratt (1 Sqn.), (late for the weigh-in, all unable to take part).

At the Army championships all seemed very hopeful with J/Sigs. Crowe, both Barratts and Tucker all in the finals—J/Sig. Jacobs having been beaten in the semi-finals by an opponent whom he had previously defeated.

Tucker lost the final to a very strong opponent, Barratt (1 Sqn.) was disappointing, he seemed lifeless, made no attempt to attack, and deserved to lose. Crowe won his second Army Championship in succession with a second round Knock-out—a beautiful right hander—and Barratt (2 Sqn.) won on points.

Well done Crowe and Barratt, and best of luck in the I.S.B.A. Championships.

RUGBY FOOTBALL:

J/Ldrs. XV 9, N. Abbot (Jnrs.) 11. J/Ldrs. XV. 3, Teignmouth "A" 0.
J/Ldrs. XV 27, R.A.C. J/Ldrs. XV 6. J/Ldrs. XV 6, Inf. J/Ldrs XV 3 (Army Cup)
J/Ldrs. 2nd, 28, R.A.C. J/Ldrs. 2nd, 0. J/Ldrs. 2nd XV 0, Inf. J/Ldrs. 2nd XV 3.
J/Ldrs. XV 0, Exeter Saracens 3. Winners 7-a-side Tournament, Francisca Tp.

HOCKEY:

J/Ldrs. & Staff XI 2, (Gregory, Rothwell). B.R.N.C. Dartmouth 3.
Staff XI 1 (Rothwell). H.Q. S.W. District 0. (Army Cup, S.W. semi-final).
Staff XI 1, (Gregory). R.A.C. J/Ldrs. Staff XI 2. (Army Cup, S.W. Final).
Staff XI 4, (Angell 2, Hartnett 1, Creek 1). Wessex Bde. Dep. 1.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL:

J/Ldrs. XI 3, (Bougoise, Rooney 2). Newton Abbot G.S. 6.
Staff XI 7, (Cook 4, Scott 3). R. Sigs. Comcan 0. (Army Cup, S.W. Final).
J/Ldrs. XI 3, (Bougoise, Armstrong, Schofield). Newton Abbot G.S. 1.
Staff XI 8, (Cook 3, Sturch 2, Eckersall, Scott, Chester). 1 P.R.D., R.A.S.C. 2.
(Army Cup, S.W. Semi-Final).
J/Ldrs. XI 3, (Bougoise, Booker, Rooney). Dartington Hall 7.
Staff XI 19, (Cook 6, Scott 6, Sturch 4, Stapenell 2, Chester 1). Torquay Co-op 0.
J/Ldrs. XI 1, (Rooney). Totnes G.S. 2.
Staff XI. 19, (Cook 7, Scott 6, Sturch 6). St. Marychurch 2.

BASKETBALL:

Basketball Jamboree (S.W. Dist.). Staff & J/L rs. 45
R.A.C. J/Ldrs. bt. Inf. J/Ldrs. 22-14. Exeter Univ. 20.
R/Sig. J/Ldrs bt. R.A.C. J/Ldrs. 28-10. J/Ldrs. 26.
R/Sig. J/Ldrs bt. Inf. J/Ldrs 39-27. Teignmouth G.S. 15

STOP PRESS
BOXING: J/Sigs.
Crowe and Barratt
have both won
I.S.B.A.
Championships.

TABLE TENNIS:

Staff 1. Falcons 9. J/Ldrs. 3. Gas Board 7.
Staff 4. Vampires 6. J/Ldrs. 6. Gas Board 4.

CROSS COUNTRY:

Southern Command Championships:

Team events: 1, Inf. J/Ldrs.; 2, R.A.O.C. J/Ldrs.; 3, Signals J/Ldrs.
Individual placings: 3, J/Sig. McKay; 9, J/L/Cpl. Garrehy; 10, J/L/Cpl. Bentham.

THE CUP AT LAST

AT Taunton, in the Final of the South West District (Minor Units) Army Cup, the Staff Football XI defeated the Signals XI from COMCAN, Gloucester, convincingly 7-0.

The Staff took a long time to settle down, a noticeable fault throughout the season, and many chances were missed during the opening stages of the game. Then Sig. Cook finally hit the target after a general mid-field scramble. Just before half-time Cook scored a second with an angled shot from the left wing.

As we had been playing with the very pronounced slope, some expected a reversal of fortune in the second half. However the Signals clicked into gear, with first Sig. Scott converting a centre from Dvr. Chester, a third from Cook, a penalty from Scott and yet another each from Cook and Scott completing the scoring.

The whole team played well and Cpls. Penny and Eckersall were outstanding as general foragers and schemers, Sgt. Morrall proved an absolute "Rock of Gibraltar" in defence, with Sgt. Angell as his usual steady self.

Team: Summers, Webb, Morrall, Penny, Angell, James, Chester, Eckersall, Cook, Scott, Sturch. Reserve: L/C. Stapenell. Trainer and Coach: Sgt. Tearse.

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