



Graduation Day April 1961 – with the first output



Back: A Needham - Pete Skinner - W Hindmarch - 4 - 5 - Jimmy Sneddon - J Robertson - C Jerram - 9 - A 'Sandy' McArthur - 11 - John Watkins
13 - Bill Hill - 15 - Bob McKay - John 'Yogi' Blakeborough - Alan Dixon - John Smart - 20

Centre: P Capon - J Howell - Pete Booker - 24 - 25 - Fred Songhurst - T Baker - 28 - A Hollowell - G Farmer - John Sullivan - M 'Taff' Hall - Stan Gill

Front: 34 - JLCpl Mick Willoughby - Pipe Major JCpl Bob Etherton - JSgt Jim Roger - JSSM B 'Bugs' Bourgoise - Lt David Whitehead - Sgt Stanley Tearse
Sig (JSgt) P Livingston (O) - JCpl J Lycett - Drum Major M Crowley - Sig Ian 'Ginge' Hutton (O) - JLCpl Brian Davies

Extract from Junior Mercury – Jul 61

A TRIBUTE TO SGT TEARSE AND LT WHITEHEAD Troop Sergeant and Troop Officer Commanding White Spear Troop

White Spear Troop has been champion troop for three successive terms now, never coming lower than second place since it was formed two years ago. The cry up goes up throughout the Regiment. "White Spear again.."

But what is White Spear Troop? What makes it tick? Who is responsible for their remarkable success?

The answer is easily found. Their team spirit and enthusiasm was instilled by two people – Sgt Tearse and Lt Whitehead. Without them there would never have been a White Spear Troop. I would like, on behalf of the Troop, to pay this tribute to them before we finally leave to our respective duties.

Lt Whitehead, a young officer, full of active, energetic enthusiasm, has mothered and doctored his Troop, placing it above all in his life. He always listened to any troubles, no matter how minor, and made each boy's personal welfare his responsibility. He never pushed a boy into anything, but encouraged him. He wasn't a strict disciplinarian, yet he had something in him, which made the boys discipline themselves. During the last two years he has sacrificed his own time and enjoyment to make sure each boy in the Troop was happy. A great believer in self-leadership, he gave everyone the chance to prove his capabilities, from the underdogs to the better lads. He never once lost his patience or temper, but accepted each situation no matter how serious, with precise efficiency. A truly loyal and sincere officer who was forever sacrificial so that the Troop could benefit. Each boy in the Troop understands and respects him and wish him best wishes in his future commands.

Sgt Tearse, a name admired and respected throughout the entire Regiment. Words cannot easily illustrate the feeling the Troop has for Sgt Tearse. A man who can put such a feeling into a Troop so that the Troop feels they must succeed because Sgt Tearse wishes it. He never said a thing would be done – he advised us as a father to his children. This instilled a feeling of pride throughout the Troop. We used to hate drill, yet Sgt Tearse taught it so unlike a Drill Sergeant that we enjoyed it. On and off the square always quiet, unperturbed and his wonderful rare virtue of patience with boys gained him unequalled admiration from the troop. A terrific sense of humour; a sense of discipline, quiet but very firm. He always took a keen interest in each

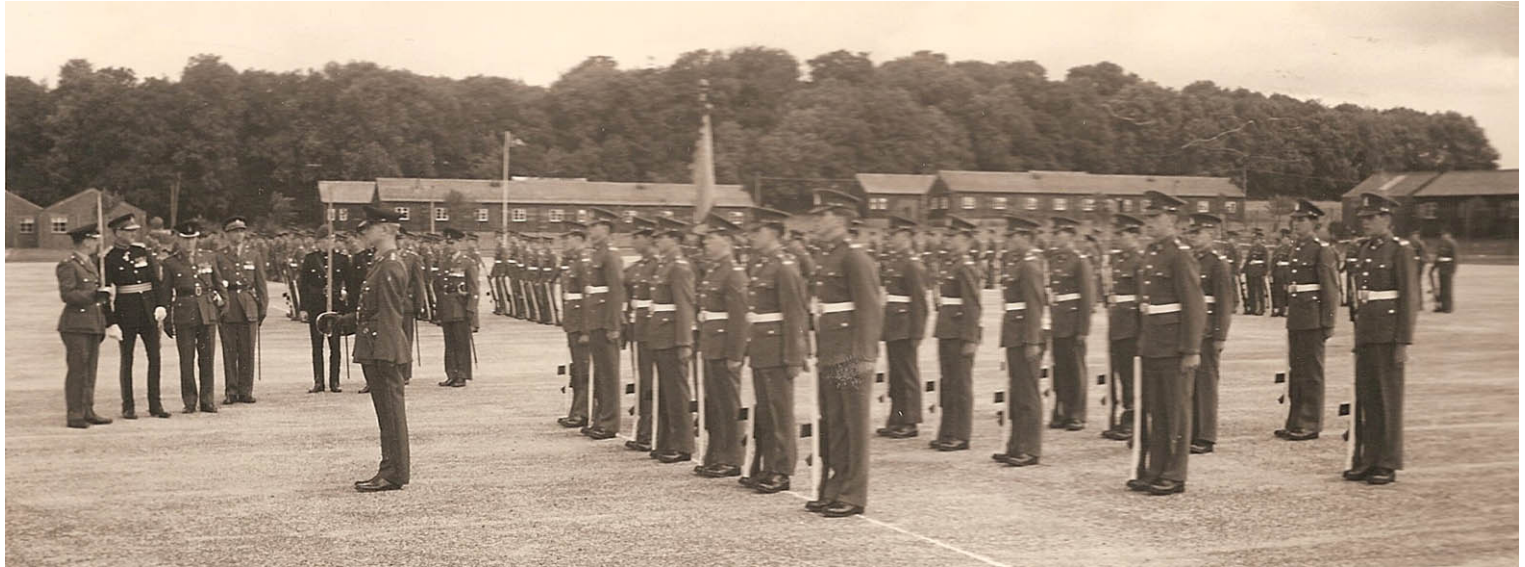
boy's activities and always got what he wanted for the troop. The troop knows he is proud of them, but the troop is also proud of a wonderful Troop Sergeant.

To Mr Whitehaed and Sgt Tearse – thanks for everything. You've earned the respect and love of 42 lads who will never forget you.

J/RSM Bourgoise

NB – White Spear won champion troop for a fourth time in July 1961 but the title did not pass again until December 1966 when White Spear won again for the first time since then, however then all troops were disbanded and the Cobb Memorial Trophy was never presented again – now stored by Royal Signals Property at Blandford – please go to the last page of White Spear Troop 1966 for trophy images taken in 2005

Graduation Day – 9th August 1961



General AMW Whistler Signal Officer in Chief is the Inspecting Officer

Can you help with more photos?