


# THE ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

# JUNIOR LEADERS IN THE R.A.O.C.

By far the best way of entering the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, is to join as a Junior Leader between the ages of 15 and 16½. The earlier one joins the better, because there is then more time for trade and regimental training and for enjoying all the advantages which the Junior Leaders Battalion can offer. Now what are these advantages?

First of all, the whole aim of training in the Battalion is to prepare the Junior Leader for N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank in the Corps. He is considered to be a potential N.C.O. from the day he arrives in the Battalion and for this reason all the activities within the Battalion are designed with this aim in mind.

Great emphasis is placed on giving Junior Leaders sufficient educational training to qualify them for the rank of Sergeant or above in their future career in the Corps. Thus a wide range of subjects is taught. Many Junior Leaders are able to pass their Army First Class Certificate before they leave the Battalion. This thorough grounding in education will be of benefit to them, not only in their Army career, but also later in civilian life.

A lot of time is devoted to the physical fitness of the Junior Leaders. This is achieved by a full programme of sports, games and adventure training. These activities enable the Junior Leader to use his initiative and to develop his powers of courage and leadership. In the field of sport, the Battalion has enjoyed many successes, particularly in football, boxing, rugby, canoeing and shooting.

Adventure training takes various forms. For example, the Battalion holds weekend exercises in the Isle of Wight, Cornwall and Wales. During the holidays, expeditions are organised to Scotland for ski-ing and climbing, and to the Continent for ski-ing and canoeing. The Battalion also enters a team in the famous Nijmegen marches, in Holland, with success. Character building plays an important part in the life of the Battalion because the Junior Leader must first and foremost prepare himself to become a good soldier as well as an efficient tradesman.

Another important feature in the syllabus is the voluntary selection of a hobby. Almost any hobby can be taken up, at no cost to the boys, ranging from canoe building to stamp collecting. The Battalion Corps of Drums is also very popular and in recent years has established itself throughout the country, playing twice at the Royal Tournament and representing the Corps in many festivals and carnivals from Cornwall to Caithness, as well as in Germany.

The Battalion enjoys an excellent welfare service and has a full-time W.V.S. representative who does much to create a homely atmosphere and assist the Junior Leaders in their problems.

The Battalion is divided into "houses" each with its own television room and recreational facilities.

To the Junior Leader who takes full advantage of the training and facilities which are available, promotion prospects in the Corps are very good and he is assured of an interesting and successful career. His prospects of promotion to a commissioned rank are probably higher than in any other arm of the Service. A large proportion of the Quartermasters and Ordnance Executive Officers serving in the Corps to-day are ex-Junior Leaders. This door is always open to a Junior Leader and it is, in fact, his goal.

Further information and terms of service for Junior Leaders, can be obtained by writing to the Commanding Officer, Junior Leaders Battalion R.A.O.C., Blackdown, near Aldershot, Hants.—or by visiting the nearest Army Information Office.



Adventure training plays an important part in the life of a Junior Leader. Here, two of the boys set up bivouac for the night on Dartmoor.







Boys who are interested in joining the R.A.O.C. as Junior Leaders are always welcome to visit the Junior Leaders Battalion at Blackdown, near Aldershot. This picture, together with those on the preceding page show two potential Junior Leaders visiting the Battalion. Needless to say, they were so impressed with what they saw that they later joined the Battalion.



R.A.O.C. Junior Leaders being taught how to handle a light machine gun.

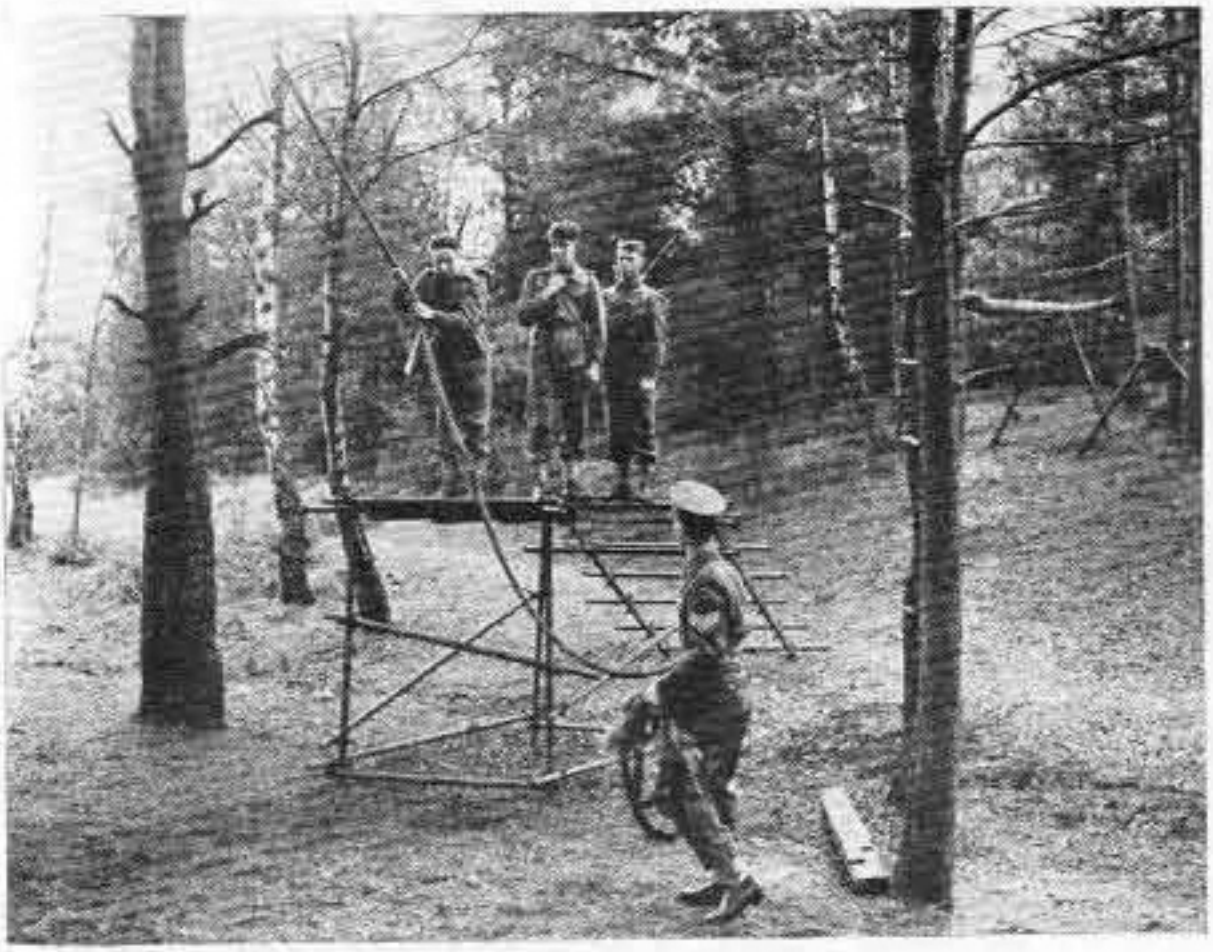




There are excellent facilities for hobbies in the R.A.O.C. Junior Leaders Battalion.



Junior Leaders on a cross-country map reading exercise.



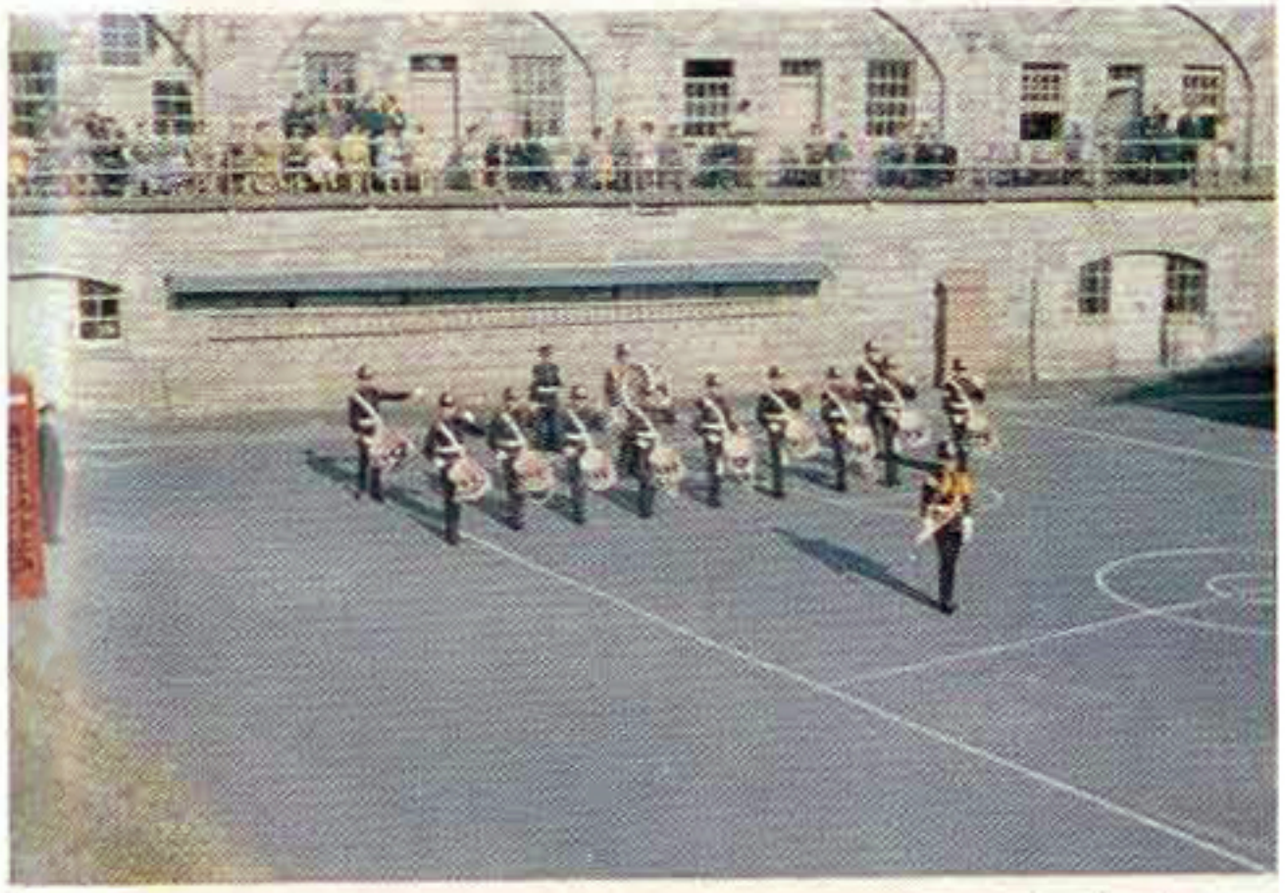
Junior Leaders on the "assault course". This type of training is an excellent aid to physical fitness.



The display of "toy soldiers," given by the R.A.O.C. Junior Leaders Battalion was always in great demand at tournaments and tattoos.



R.A.O.C. Junior Leaders in the Nijmegen Marches. In 1960, the Junior Leaders' team, under Lieutenant J. Stevens and Warrant Officer Robinson, entered the adult competition. They won the team award for the second year running and all members obtained individual medals, or bars in the case of those who won medals in the previous year.



The Corps of Drums of the R.A.O.C. Junior Leaders Battalion beating retreat at Plymouth. For three weeks every year, during the summer, the Junior Leaders go to camp in the Plymouth area, which enables them to carry out adventure training in Devon and Cornwall.



Two of the R.A.O.C. soldiers who entered the "march of the century" sponsored by the *News of the World*.



A Junior Leader Sergeant comes in for much good humoured criticism as he mends a puncture during a Junior Leaders cycle outing.



R.A.O.C. soldiers enjoying a climb in the Cairngorms in Scotland.



All major units in the R.A.O.C. have qualified Army Physical Training Instructors on their staff.



Junior Corporal David Quinn, whose home is in Bradford, Yorks., explains to some of his admirers what life in the Junior Leaders Battalion is like. This photograph was taken at a recruiting exhibition near Corporal Quinn's home town.