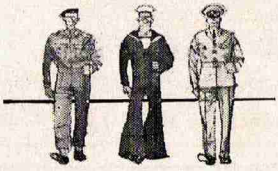
THE THUNDERBOLT



The Journal of the
Junior Leaders' Battalion
Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Spring, 1961

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JOURNAL

OF THE

JUNIOR LEADERS' BATTALION ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

VOLUME 1 SPRING, 1961 No. 3

Edited by Lt. J. B. Gibby, B.A., R.A.E.C.

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WINNERS, ARMY MUSIC AND DRAMA FESTIVAL, 1960-61

Left to right, standing: Jnr. Cpl. Bowers, Sgt. Williams, Major R. Dock, R.A.E.C. (Producer), W.O.I Thornton, W.O.II Leonard, Jnr. Pte. Hill. Left to right, sitting: Jnr. L/Cpl. Toop, Jnr. Pte. Saville, Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., Jnr. Pte. Clements Jnr. Pte. Brown.

(Refer to Hobbies Section, Page 48)

FOREWORD

By the Commanding Officer,

LT.-COL. J. W. HARLEY-PETERS, R.A.O.C.

One of our main activities this last term has been the consolidation of the move from North Frith, as the term drew to a close the Education Wing finally settled in to the spiders in Dettingen East and the Battalion can now look forward to settling down in more comfortable and suitable surroundings. The fact that the whole move has been achieved without any interruption to the training programme indicates the cheerful way in which all ranks have knuckled into the extra work involved.

The Spring term is usually devoted to extra Adventure Training activity and this has been no exception, weekends have seen numerous House and Company schemes always enthusiastic and usually very wet. The Battalion scheme " Humpty-Dumpty " at Easter was successful in its function as a test of the standards achieved.

The Battalion now looks forward to Summer and the Annual Camp which again is being held at Fort Tregantle, Cornwall. Many old boys and staff will recall happy and amusing memories of Tregantle and I am sure the next copy of *Thunderbolt* will maintain this tradition.

Very shortly the Old Boys' Association will be fully launched and I hope all ex-members of the Battalion, staff and boys will receive word, but I cannot emphasise too much the importance of passing on all the information you possibly can. Thanks to a herculean research task by the officer in charge of records and his staff we are now in a position of having full details of every ex-boy who is still serving, the formidable task of opening this register and maintaining it is being undertaken by S.Q.M.S. E. Robinson who has now moved to the Regimental Depot, Hilsea, and who would be more than grateful for news and notification of changes of address and rank.

Finally and briefly in order to keep within the limitations of space set by the Editor I should like all our readers and subscribers to know of the steady success of *The Thunderbolt*. Its advertisers are increasing, always a healthy sign in the publishing world, a fund of articles are submitted and it is felt that it is really performing its task of keeping us all in touch. The Editor would now welcome news and articles from ex-boys, particularly from overseas, the value of such articles to the present Junior Leader, hungry for information in order to carefully consider his future choice of theatre, cannot be exaggerated. May I wish all every success and my appreciation on behalf of the Battalion for your support to the journal.



Major E. B. Reason-Challinor

E.R.D., R.A.O.C.

This term, with much regret, has seen the transfer of Major E. B. Reason-Challinor from the Regular Army, to the Army Emergency Reserve of Officers. It is over 23 years ago this November, 1937, that in common with many thousands of other young men, he joined the ranks of the Territorial Army, prompted no doubt by the anxiety those other crises produced, and to share in the great spirit the T.A. offers. Posted to the 69th Brigade (Royal Warwickshire Regt.) Royal Artillery T.A., Birmingham, converted from Infantry, as were many other regiments at that time, shortly before the outbreak of war in May, 1939, he was commissioned into the Supplementary Reserve of Officers and posted to his first Regular Regiment, the 23rd Field Regiment R.A., at Exeter.

Proceeding with his regiment as part of the British Expeditionary Force to France on 3rd October, 1939, with the famous 51st (Highland) Division, he saw active service in the Maginot Line until, on 12th June, 1940, whilst his regiment were fighting a rearguard action covering the evacuation at Dunkirk they were overrun at St. Valery. Many were captured including the Major who served as a prisoner of war in Bavaria until the longed-for day of release came in April, 1945, with the arrival of General Patton's American Force.

After transfer to the R.A.O.C. in the United Kingdom in September, 1945, he was promoted to Captain in November, 1945, and posted to C.O.D. Boughton. In 1946 he went back to Germany on the Staff and saw service in Hanover, Hamburg and Bielefeld. Returning home in November, 1949, he was posted to C.A.D. Corsham where he was promoted Major and commanded 15 Company R.A.O.C.

In being posted to 5 B.O.D. Tel-El-Kebir in 1952, he saw further overseas service, until returning home in January, 1956, to command 18 Company R.A.O.C. at C.A.D. Buckingham. He came to Blackdown two years later on the disbandment of the Depot at Buckingham, being posted to 1 (Regular) Training Battalion to command H.Q. Company.

As with many others the long hardship of prison camp had left its mark on his health, and early in 1959 he was admitted to King Edward VII Sanatorium, Midhurst. After 6½ months he made a complete recovery, and was posted to this Battalion to become the popular Commander of the then recently-formed " C " Company. All ranks of the Battalion, and in particular past and present members of his Company, which he steered from the nursery to successful maturity, wish him good health and every success, both in civilian life and in his new command in the A.E.R.

The Importance of Sport

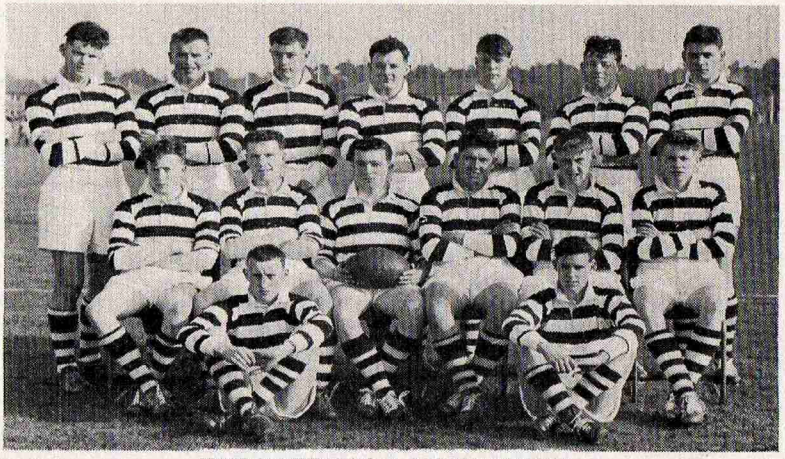
by

MAJOR T. L. V. VAUGHAN GRIFFITH, R.A.O.C.,
Second-in-Command

How often one used to hear members of the civilian community refer somewhat scathingly to the amount of time the Services devoted to sport. Today this is not the case. Industry and commercial business houses have at long last appreciated the value of sport to their organisations. Why? What has caused well-established concerns to devote large sums of money to the laying-out and the equipping of first-class sports fields? There are many reasons but I will merely highlight those which, to my mind, are the most important.

Firstly, to take part in sport one has got to be reasonably fit both mentally and physically and surely this is one of the most important requirements of any soldier. Mental alertness and physical fitness sharpen up one's reactions, and in this modern age the Army demands more than ever before, that those who serve their Queen must, of necessity, be physically fit, mentally alert and capable of making a quick decision.

The time when the soldier merely carried out orders is past. The



THE BATTALION RUGBY TEAM
WINNERS OF THE ALDERSHOT AND DISTRICT LEAGUE
SEASON, 1960-61

Back row, left to right: Jnr. L/Cpl. McHoul (Steevens), Jnr. Pte. Old (Gordon), Jnr. Cpl. Brogden (Gordon), Jnr. Cpl. Johnson (Steevens), Jnr. L/Cpl. Rourke, (Gordon), Jnr. Cpl. Harris (Gordon), Jnr. Cpl. George (Body). Front Row: Jnr. Pte. John (Hill), Jnr. Cpl. Henderson (Parsons), Jnr. Sgt. Jones (Parsons), (captain), A/T Noble (Parsons), Jnr. Pte. Smith (Hill), Jnr. Pte. Davies (Gordon), Sitting: Jnr. Pte. Smith (Hill), Jnr. Pte. Coombs (Parsons).

advent of the nuclear age has caused units in the field to disperse over very large areas, the result of which is to place a far greater degree of responsibility on the more junior ranks. Therefore, mental alertness and physical fitness of a high order are essential. To a lesser extent the same requirements exist for those employed in commerce and industry.

Secondly, taking part in games teaches self-discipline, without which the normal code of discipline cannot be achieved. There is nothing more trying on a wet, cold day, than to be brought down hard on the rugby field, and then to have some giant place a boot of immense proportions on one's face. The immediate reaction is to get up and try and place one's own boot where it hurts most—this action, needless to say, is not covered by the laws of the game!

However, all games, whether it be rugby football, association football, boxing or what you will, teach a man self-discipline, and having acquired this art of self control, the discipline required in the Army, and in fact in any organised community, is a relatively simple and logical function, understood by the majority of people, although I admit there are exceptions!

Thirdly, sport and all it entails, fosters team spirit, the feeling that a man gets of being an essential part of an organisation, large or small, in which he has to play a very important part upon which others may well depend. The Army, after all is a team; it does not matter what cap badge one is proud to wear, each and every unit of the British Army relies to a lesser or greater extent on some other unit, and therefore, here in the Junior Leaders' Battalion, where the young man is introduced to this vast and complex organisation of the Army, sport plays a very important part of his training.

The team spirit is fostered from his early days in the Battalion where we have Inter-House competitions, Inter-Company competitions and so on, until those who are more gifted, or perhaps more determined than their brothers-in-arms, eventually prove to be good enough to represent the Battalion in the various Inter-Unit, District, Command and Army competitions. This then is very briefly why the Army considers sport to be just as important now as ever before, why, in fact, commerce and industry have fallen into line with the Services and gone to great lengths to expand their sports facilities. The value of team spirit, self-discipline, mental and physical alertness to a civilian organisation is no longer underrated, in fact firms with good sports facilities consider the amenities offered to be a very important recruiting factor and do much to persuade the young and active man and woman to enter the firm.

In conclusion, I would say that sport has always been a recruiting factor the Services has considered to be very important. However, over the years, the competitive spirit has become so intense, that units have been inclined to concentrate on the "gladiators" in their midst, regrettably, at the expense of the average player. I hope that with the end of National Service the average games player

or athlete will be encouraged to participate frequently in the sporting activities of his unit, and so be in a position, if asked by his civilian friends, to say that the opportunity for sport in the Army is not exaggerated in the recruiting literature published.

"MOVE TO THE RIGHT"

S.E.O's. Notes for the Easter Term

by

MAJOR R. DOCK, R.A.E.C.

Towards the end of the Easter term and immediately following the examinations, the time arrived for the very welcome move of all the Education classes, accommodation stores, and equipment to the new and splendid location in Dettingen Barracks.

On these occasions it seems one can always rely on the British soldier, whether he be Junior Leader, Warrant Officer or Subaltern, to display just that extra amount of initiative, low cunning, and native inventiveness which is so desirable in minor upheavals of this nature. Anticipating this and also the difficulties of obtaining sufficient transport, and basing my judgment on the fact that the Junior Leaders would prefer " lugging " their desks around than sitting at them, I felt that on this occasion a little " self help " was justified to effect the move of the frightening number of desks and chairs, cupboards and lockers we seem to have in the Education Wing.

Thus it was, that on the mornings of the 28th and 29th March, a remarkable collection of strange bogeys, creaking trolleys, detached trailers, and stray carts was cajoled from the more remote corners of Battalion lines by resourceful staff and Junior Leaders to be pressed into service for the move.

This assortment of " buggies " flanking the desk and chair-laden " crocodiles " of Junior Leaders proved as effective a way as any of " moving house " and provided yet another colourful and enlightening commentary on the remarkable antics which some of our young men get up to. For instance, it seems that our chaps, not to be outdone by the American University which managed to pile 64 of its students on to a single divan bed, made a fair bid for championship honours when at one time at least 35 robust Junior Leaders were seen to be seated triumphantly on top of a pile of desks which themselves were balancing precariously on a small trailer measuring no more than six feet by four.

Nor undaunted was the minute Junior Leader who struggled manfully along under the weight of an enormous terrestrial globe, looking very much a veritable Atlas. Unashamed neither was the recently-joined recruit, who was seen midst his chair-bedecked and weight-laden comrades carrying—a small box of coloured chalk—he's learning fast! Then there was the Junior N.C.O. who, using a

blackboard easel, in the true oriental style as an "A" frame, managed to transport, to the delight of his chums, a minor mountain of stacked desks—a posting to M.H.E.U. seems indicated in his case.

Although we lost neither chair, desk, nor Junior Leader as a result of the move, some very strange things happened during it. Electric bulbs which started their journey as healthy 500-Watt monsters (special illuminations for the art room) became strangely transformed into miserable 100-Watt bulbs when we arrived at Dettingen Barracks. Strongly-tufted and upright sweeping brushes seemed to wilt under the strain of the long trail to the new location and arrived bald, broken and decrepit at the far end. I wonder if the fact that the " crocodiles " passed their own barrack blocks had anything to do with these strange transformations?

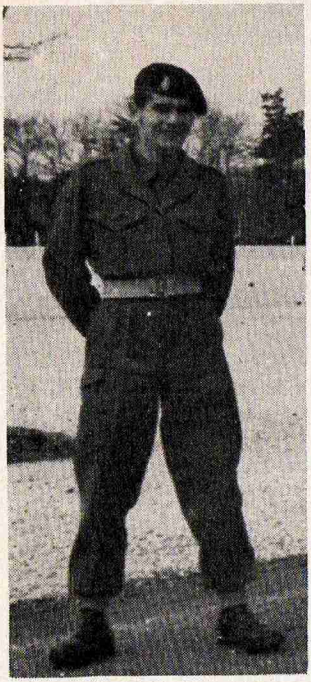
And now we have arrived. The instructors are enjoying the centrally-heated spaciousness of their new rooms and undoubtedly very pleased that the " fire lighting " era is past for ever: boxes coal soldiers', pokers fire, and tubs coal round, will be returned to the Quartermaster's department promptly, without any regrets, and the jealously guarded hoards of kindling wood and coal will be willingly given to the Company offices to use.

I confidently anticipate that these excellent conditions will be reflected in the improved work next term done by both Junior Leaders and instructors and I look forward to the future transformation of these huts into colourful and interesting classrooms each having its own distinct atmosphere. This will call for resourcefulness and ingenuity from both instructors and Junior Leaders. Let's see what we can do.



Junior Leaders on an educational visit to the International Camping Exhibition held at Earls Court.

Blackdown Soldier's Saturday Stroll



Pte. Anderson

After a lot of wild talk one Wednesday lunchtime, Pte. Anderson of the permanent staff claimed that he could walk to London in nine hours without any training. This claim was quickly decried by other clerks present at the time. This resulted in Pte. Anderson offering to substantiate his claim.

As a consequence, the following Saturday found Pte. Anderson setting off from the unit guardroom at 1230 hours. Cpl. Jayne had offered to check on the authenticity of the walk and was subsequently to be found hitch-hiking home to get his father's car. On this trip he saw the walker stepping out smartly at Sunningdale, the time being 1400 hours. Staines was reached quite quickly in three hours, Hounslow following soon afterwards at 5.0 p.m.

The pace began to slow a little there, due to large blisters forming and Pte. Anderson could be seen at one point sitting on a garden wall applying plasters to his feet. Chiswick was not reached until 6.0 p.m. followed by Hammersmith at nearly seven. The pace by now had dropped to barely 3 m.p.h. but the early burst of speed over the first 15 miles or so enabled him to reach Charing Cross by 9.0 p.m., a time of eight and a half hours for the 32 miles.

As he got into the car to be taken home by Cpl. Jayne, Pte. Anderson commented, " My —— feet, they're killing me! "

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House Notes

"A" COMPANY

MAJOR E. F. L. MACEY, M.B.E., R.A.O.C.
C.S.M. E. L. POPE

In my last notes in the Christmas edition I wrote of the joys of the open-air life—I should have kept quiet about it—since then we have spent so much time in the open that I am firmly resisting the impulse to further enlarge upon the bucolic delights of exercise " Humpty Dumpty " (logically enough an Easter Egg remarkably reminiscent of the curate's).

This has been a busy term, Gordon and Baker Houses have had some " new boys " drafted in to bring their numbers nearer to the level required for competitive effort. Steevens, being the Senior House are always up to full strength (usually a little over-proof). The general standard of progress amongst the boys has been good—I always prefer the Spring and Summer terms for the increased development and maturity produced in the boys by the wider range of open-air activities. I am looking forward, personally, to the Summer Camp (my fourth) as the general standard of performance has tended to go up each year and anyone in this type of Regimental employment deserves and needs every encouragement to the particular degree of dedication so necessary for our work.

STEEVENS HOUSE

CAPT. P. GIBSON, R.A.O.C.
SGT. FENTON, R.

In the beginning a false rumour must be dispelled, that is, in the last edition of *Thunderbolt* 'twas said that the chair of Senior House was occupied by the bewhiskered gent above. Thus a dastardly lie. That intrepid birdman—Capt. R. King—still maintained his position as the Officer i/c House until his departure for the Airborne Company R.A.O.C. at Watchfield just before Christmas. "A many happy landings and goodly wind " to him.

The House dispersed by last term leavers venturing into the wilds of Army life, vacated bedspaces that were soon to be greedily consumed by the new term leavers. To all who have passed through our portals we wish well and do exhort them to visit us whenever they have the opportunity.

Now the present. We have quite a number of members in the present House who have won various medals from competitions outside the Battalion. Firstly, Messrs. Spence and Swinburn won runners-up medals in the Aldershot and District Basketball Competitions, whilst Jnr. L/Cpl. McHoul and Jnr. Cpl. Johnson won Aldershot and District winners rugby medals. Still with the Aldershot and District Competitions, Jnr. Sgt. Ostell, Jnr. Pte. Hinson, Jnr. Pte. Forvargue and Jnr. Pte. Atkinson were in the winning team

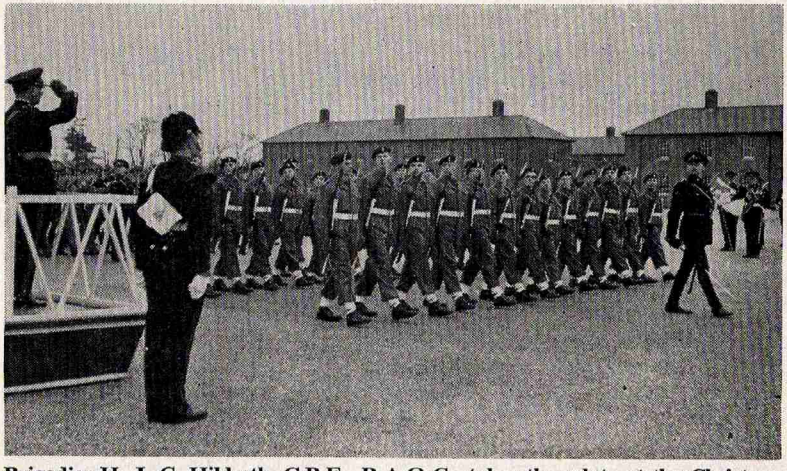
at football and in the boxing tournament Jnr. Pte. Lugg and Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown finished as runners-up. Further to this, Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown was runner-up in the Southern Command Boxing Tournament. In the cross-country field, Jnr. Pte. Thornton was third in both Aldershot District and Southern Command in addition to gaining his Battalion Cap. Another Battalion Cap is Jnr. L/Cpl. McHoul—for rugby. Congratters to all these stalwarts.

The more advanced training of Senior House was to culminate in exercise " Johnny Walker." It involved a march of some 14 miles to and from the training area at Hankley Common and various tactical exercises during the two days spent out. All went well until . . . the green!

The day was bright, the sun was warm and insects buzzed contentedly in and around the heather of Hankley Common. Through the heather troops of Steevens moved into their exercise positions—the stage was set for the beginning of " Johnny Walker III." The exercise commander stood solitary on an open piece of ground and raised his Verey pistol towards the blue Surrey skies to fire the green flare that was to be the start of the exercise. Up it soared and at its zenith was taken by a breath of wind into a path that was to lead to a hillside of heather. Three hours later the Fire Chief said, " Let it burn."

So the next day, after a fruitless battle with the fire, we returned to Dettingen.

But whist—what tidings? 'Tis said that we are going to that place over Easter. Oh well—that's the way it goes.



Brigadier H. J. C. Hildreth, C.B.E., R.A.O.C., takes the salute at the Christmas Passing-Out Parade, 1960, as Steevens House march past.

GORDON HOUSE

CAPT. F. L. M. FOY, R.A.O.C.

SGT. WOODS, P.

We started off this term with rather an exclusive House of only 24 members. Although everyone enjoyed the spaciousness most had comments to make about having three " room jobs " apiece.

We were sorry at the end of last term to have to say farewell to Jnr. Sgt. Simmons, Jnr. L/Cpl. McHoul, Jnr. L/Cpl. Watson and Jnr. Ptes. Munro, Buckle, Hyre, Fallaize, Hawkins, Keene, Lugg, Madden and Murphy. Although we missed their experience at the beginning of this term, a new " hard-core " has now developed to replace them.

Last term we won the Rugger Cup in the House Competition, and in spite of our heavy losses in manpower to Steevens House we repeated the performance this term. Rugger has thrived in the House under the leadership of Cpls. Harris, Brogden and Rourke.

We have not repeated last term's Hockey Cup win. We have sadly missed Jnr. Sgt. Simmons and Jnr. L/Cpl. Watson. Gordon has always been a rugger House, much to the cost of the soccer team, but we are pleased to report that at last we look like having a good team—next season will tell!

Most House members had mixed feelings this term when " Jnr. Pte. Whackey " got an honourable discharge to a civilian kennel.

We welcome to the House Jnr. Ptes. McMenamin, Mitchell, Jarvis, Dolan, Reeves, Davies, Brabin, Saunders, Soar and Nockles. We hope they are as pleased to join us as we are to have them. Most have already settled down, and a few already look like members of the " hard-core."

Our congratulations to Jnr. Cpl. Brogden, Jnr. L/Cpl. Gaunt and Jnr. L/Cpl. Sparrow on their promotions.

A few weeks ago the House went out on its weekend exercise " Wet Weekend." In spite of our pessimism, the weather favoured us, and a good time was had by all. Because of the melee on the night exercise over the box of " secret weapons " I was forced to put into practice the judgment of Solomon. I was obviously successful, for in less than two minutes patrols were again on speaking terms.

As the magazine is now on sale to ex-Junior Leaders we would like to wish all ex-Gordon House readers the best of luck, and hope to see them again when they are next in the U.K.

BAKER HOUSE

CAPT. P. J. FIELD, R.A.O.C.

SGT. MADDOCK, J.

Having quietly moved from North Frith to Dettingen and being well and truly " dug in," we continue to reflect on the past, report on

the present and project the future. Our social, educational and military schemes are gradually being developed into a pattern—a varied one at that.

During the last couple of weeks of last term we paid a rather interesting educational visit to the British Museum. By the judicious mixture of business and pleasure it was rated a success on both counts. Socially we ran a House trip to see Cliff Richard at the London Palladium. The success of this trip was in dispute. But it would seem that a tradition has been established and the House have organised a trip to see " The World of Suzie Wong " at the Prince of Wales Theatre towards the end of this term. The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Museum and the Imperial War Museum are also earmarked for attention.

From the military point of view we still press on. Cross-country runs in P.T. kit and boots are gradually being accepted as " the thing " in Baker House. Otherwise we follow a similar pattern to the remainder of the Battalion. During the term Jnr. Cpl. Allen and Jne. Pte. Lawler have both tackled outward bound courses with good spirit and hard work, both earning good reports.

Recently the House staged exercise " Peep Hole " in preparation for the Battalion exercise " Humpty Dumpty." Exercise " Peep Hole " was conducted in the Danewell Hill area. Within limits it was completely successful. Some credit for which must be taken by the weather and " The Inns of Court Yeomanry " (T.A. London) who both played their parts admirably.

Because of the dictation of circumstance some House achievements and personal credit must be reported several weeks after happening. But I feel that it is only fair that such achievement and credit take a proper place in Baker House Notes. During the Battalion prize-giving at the end of the Winter term, in the field of equitation Jnr. Pte. Snow won the Commanding Officer's Whip. Our only education prize was gained by Jnr. Pte. Crocombe whilst Jnr. Pte. Hinson secured one of the four Battalion soccer caps. The St. Albans Cup for initiative was claimed by Jnr. Pte. Davies 600. Perhaps the highlight of the afternoon (from our point of view) was when Jnr. Sgt. Hayles representing Baker House, accepted the Commanding Officer's Inspection Cup.

We failed miserably to offer serious competition for the Ross Drill Cup. As a parting thought it is fitting that on behalf of Baker House congratulations are extended to Jnr. L/Cpl. Atkins on promotion to Jnr. Cpl; Jnr. Pte. Jones and Jnr. Pte. Prior to Jnr. L/Cpl. We also wish the best of luck to those who have left us and joined Steevens House in preparation for Man's Service: Jnr. Cpl. Webster, Jnr. L/Cpl. Griffiths and Hunter, Jnr. Ptes. Simpson, Arnold, Ball and Hinson.

A welcome is also extended to our four new " Bakerites " Jnr. Ptes. Stephenson, Butcher, Thacker and Williamson.

"B" COMPANY

MAJOR P. R. BOMFORD, R.A.O.C.

C.S.M. K. MAULE

This term we say goodbye to Capt. Thompson who looked after the interests of Hill House during the Autumn term. He will be sadly missed for his enthusiasm, both for his House and in the field of sport. He has left us to attend the Ammunition Technical Officers' Course at Bramley and is now at the R.M.C. of Shrivenham and we wish him the best of luck in his studies. In his place we welcome Capt. Williamson, late of the O.O's. Course and 16 Para. O.F.P. Capt. Williamson has already made his mark at rugger and will be a welcome successor to Capt. Johnson.

We welcome to " B " Company the lucky 13 recruits who prematurely left " C " Company to make way for more keen types. Congratulations to Jnr. Pte. Booker in achieving the distinction of being best recruit. The passing-out parade was held on 17th February and all did extremely well under the ever-watchful eye of Sgt. Bollers. At last we have moved to rather better accommodation in Dettingen Barracks, with the exception of Hill House our lone sentinels in North Frith. They await a General Post to enable them to move; in the meantime they are getting in some good practice for route marches to come. In moving, the Company B.H.Q. has inherited some flower boxes and the C.S.M. has now turned head gardener and lovingly tends his flourishing array.

Congratulations to Sgt. Luke on doing so well on his drill course—I don't suppose that Parsons House join me in these salutations! Two of the House Officers seem to spend most of their spare time ploughing through such enlightening reading as Staff Duties, Infantry Battalion in Battle, and other such literary gems, could it be that there is a promotion exam. in the offing?

BODY HOUSE

CAPT. H. M. MCCUTCHEON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. KING, L. N.

Despite our heavy losses to Steevens House at the beginning of the term, the House is almost up to full strength again and everyone is tackling his job with new enthusiasm and verve. We welcome the following new members to the House and wish them a pleasant stay with us:—Jnr. Ptes. Collings, Firth, Guest, Hendley, Lowbridge, MacDonald, McPhee, Middlemass, Palmer, Stuart, Thompson and Urwin.

From a military and recreational viewpoint the term has been busy and successful. So far we have come top at .22 shooting and have won second place in both hockey and soccer. The basketball and rugby teams have not done quite so well but they deserve great credit for the spirit they have put into their games.



MEMBERS OF THE CORPS OF DRUMS WHO WILL BE PERFORMING AT THE EDINBURGH TATTOO
Left to right: Jnr. Cpl. George (Drum Major), Jnr. Cpl. Ince, Jnr. Pte. Jenkins, Jnr. Cpl. Balchin, Jnr. Pte. Ruck.

From the Corps of Drums point of view we are also having a busy time. At the moment we are preparing for the Edinburgh Tattoo, an event in which we are extremely proud to participate, and everyone is looking forward to August. This Tattoo is world-famous and it will be a great experience for the Corps of Drums to take part. In addition, of course, we have our usual programme of summer engagements, so a busy time is envisaged for next term.

The following members of the House have been promoted to the ranks shown and we congratulate all of them: Jnr. Sgt. Underwood, Jnr. Cpls. George and Ince, Jnr. L/Cpls. Balchin and Pattison. We also congratulate an ex-member of Body House, in the person of Jnr. R.S.M. Wild, on his elevation to this well-deserved appointment.

To all ex-members of the House who are leaving at the end of the term we wish God-speed and the very best of luck for the future.

HILL HOUSE

CAPT. B. F. WILLIAMSON, R.A.O.C.
SGT. BOLLERS, J. J.

I took over Hill House from Capt. J. J. Thompson in January of this year and quickly realised that I was very fortunate to take over a House imbued with plenty of spirit and pride in the fact that they were once again House Champions. It seems that we will be keeping

the Championship for good one of these days if Sgt. Bollers has his way!

During the Christmas break Sgt. Bollers, Jnr. Sgt. Phelps, Cpl. Stevenson and Jnr. Pte. Quinn, enjoyed themselves immensely on a ski-ing trip to Italy. Sgt. Bollers and Jnr. Cpl. Stevenson intend going on another ski-ing holiday in Norway at Easter, and we hope that they will enjoy their trip.

Official initiative tests for Jnr. L/Cpl. Steele and Jnr. Pte. Borthwick were held this term, to Hastings and to Portsmouth, and seemed to be enjoyed despite a fitful night's sleep in a hedge!

The sporting record this term is again up to standard. With hockey, basketball and football finished, the House eagerly awaits the finish of rugby, and the remaining competitions—full-bore and small-bore shoot, drill, C.O's. inspection and cross-country. In rugby the team are fourth in the competition and Jnr. Ptes. Smith 354, John, Smith 068, Williams and Walling have represented the Battalion. In basketball the House finished in second place and Jnr. Sgt. Phelps, Jnr. Ptes. Williams and John have represented the Battalion. In hockey the House again finished third after many hard games, and Jnr. Cpl. Thomas has represented the Battalion. In football the House again ended third, and has been renamed " Celtic " after a certain member of the House had watched and commented on their performance! In cross-country Jnr. Ptes.



THE CHAMPION HOUSE 1960-61 (WINTER—EASTER TERMS)
Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., flanked by Capt. B. F. Williamson, R.A.O.C., (House Officer) and Sgt. Bollers, J. J. (House Sergeant) pictured with it's N.C.Os.

Smith and Renouf have represented the Battalion, and we have high hopes of being successful in the Inter-House Competition. The remaining competitions are dependent on the expert help of " Bongo " as Sgt. Bollers is affectionately known.

Congratulations to Jnr. Sgt. Phelps, Jnr. Cpls. Thomas and Stevenson, Jnr. L/Cpls. Hartley, Steele, Renouf and Chaters on their promotion, and welcome to Jnr. Ptes. Cutler, Giblett, Fawcett, John, Rickeby, Chambers, Smith, Mitchell and Schiller to the House—may they soon settle down to the life and spirit of Hill House.

The House thoroughly enjoyed the Company exercise, especially Jnr. Sgt. Phelps who spent half his time walking in the wrong direction! However, all the patrols did well, and are to be congratulated on their efforts to decide in which direction north lay—the answers would have confounded a university professor!

In conclusion, I would like to dispel the rumour that Capt. Williamson and Sgt. Bollers had a duel in the woods to the rear of the house—Jnr. Pte. Mann please note for future reference!

PARSONS HOUSE

CAPT. L. N. CLIFTON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. LUKE, R. W. J.

Winter term, 1960, saw us finish in our lowest ever place in the House Competition, mainly due to lack of numbers. However, this term things are looking a lot brighter, and an influx of new recruits has made things much easier. The Junior N.C.Os. under Jnr. Sgt. Jones have put in a lot of good work and are helping to get the House back to its previous high standard. The most notable achievement this term has been Sgt. Luke's success on the drill course, and he did extremely well to be awarded a " B " grading. The weekend exercise at Crowborough proved a very useful preview to the forthcoming Battalion exercise, and the Parsons House patrols showed that they have absorbed some of their training during the term. The current craze in the House is chess, and 11 members have joined the Chess Club. It is hoped that this will lead to a marked improvement in their mental ability. In the sporting field the House has had many notable successes.

Rugby.

The honours this term go to Jnr. Sgt. Jones, who was selected to represent the Corps against the R.A.M.C. In addition to Jnr. Sgt. Jones we have also had Jnr. Cpl. Henderson, Jnr. Ptes. Coombs and Richardson, and A/T Noble representing the Battalion. In the House Competition we are at present near the top of the table.

Boxing.

Jnr. Pte. Whitby did very well this term to reach the Army Championships and was only narrowly beaten in the final of his weight. Jnr. Pte. Martin was runner-up in the finals of the Aldershot District Championship.

Cross-Country.

The team did well to finish fourth in the Inter-House Competition at the end of last term, and with several new runners in the House it is hoped to improve on this when the next race takes place. Jnr. Ptes. Cross and Whitehouse represented the Battalion this term.

Hockey.

There has been a great improvement in the record of the team, thanks to the enthusiasm of Jnr. Cpl. Wells, and several members are developing into quite useful players. We finished fifth in the House Competition this term.

Football.

The team has suffered a setback this term with the loss of several star players and it will take some time to mould a new team together. Jnr. Cpl. Henderson was our only representative in the Battalion team this term.

With many of the House Competitions still to come it is difficult to say how the House will fare this term, but with the new spirit prevailing we shall give a good account of ourselves.

Leavers at the end of the Winter term, 1960, were Jnr. Cpls. Clarke and Siswick, Jnr. L/Cpl. Barr, Jnr. Ptes. Passey, Holmes and Robinson, all to Senior House.

We welcome A/T Noble who joined us from Harrogate, and the following from Recruit House:—Jnr. Ptes. Bodham, Ford, Reed, Scott, Brown, Carr, Harris, Hellewell, Gollop.

"C" COMPANY

MAJOR W. J. STEER, R.A.O.C.

C.S.M. A. N. CARMAN

Having handed over the second-in-command appointment to Major T. L. V. Vaughan-Griffith, I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to command Charlie Company. Although it is the Junior Company I am sure that the time is not far short when it will begin to make its presence felt like the lusty infant it is. In the current Inter-House Competitions both Mulcahy and Watts Houses have frequently shown they are capable of springing surprises. The time may not be too distant when the champion House is to be found in "C" Company.

At the time of writing the Company is preparing to spend the Easter weekend on the Hankley Common training area. This affords an opportunity for surplus energy to be diverted into pleasant worthwhile activities (but no Hankley Pankey!).

WILLIAMS HOUSE

CAPT. R. M. JOHNSTON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. BRADLEY, A.

Williams House ceased to exist on 10th March, 1961. During its existence several hundred recruit Junior Leaders completed their

training in Williams House. The House Officer during this time was Capt. Johnston and House Sergeants successively Sgt. Bennelick, Sgt. Bradley and Sgt. Britcher, with Sgt. MacGregor acting as locum tenant during the absence of Sgt. Britcher on a drill course. Sgt. Bradley, the longest serving, left in early January, on a well-earned posting to Malaya. Reports from him show that he enjoyed the sea trip out and is rapidly becoming absorbed in the social and sporting life out there.

Sgt. Britcher, his successor, was filling his shoes very successfully when he had to go off to Pirbright on a Guards' drill course. We wish him all the best on this course. On 10th March 32 recruits passed-out from Williams House into "A" and " B " Companies. The parade was taken by Major W. J. Steer, R.A.O.C., and the best recruit was Jnr. Pte. Smith. By coincidence, the parade was watched by L/Cpl. O'Hara, now serving with the Special Air Service. O'Hara was the first Williams House best recruit, 18 months ago, and served with 16 Parachute Brigade before going to the S.A.S. A feature of this squad was that four recruits were sons of R.A.O.C. serving personnel, including three from Rhine Army. Eight new recruits came in after this date but they will receive training in Watts House.

Jnr. Pte. Smith and Jnr. Pte. Davies of Williams House have been playing regularly for the successful Battalion rugby XV, whilst Jnr. Pte. Nockles joined Jnr. C.S.M. Bowen on the Battalion .22 shooting team. Jnr. C.S.M. Bowen is to be congratulated on his promotion to that rank. He has served Williams House well since its formation. He, too, was best recruit in his intake.

With the break-up of Williams House, the youngest in the Battalion, Junior N.C.Os. and Sgt. Britcher will join new Houses. We wish them well in their new colours and also to Capt. Johnston on posting from the Battalion.

MULCAHY HOUSE

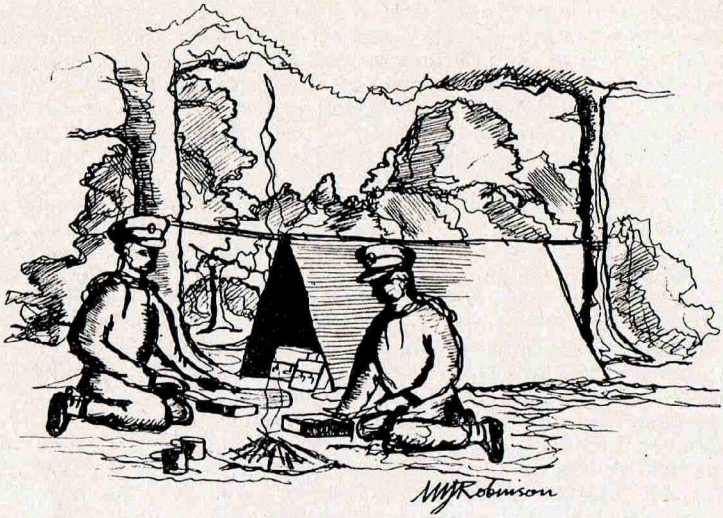
CAPT. G. B. HOPKINSON, R.A.O.C.
SGT. WALKER, J.

Since our last rendering we have moved across the road into Dettingen Barracks, and have now settled down in our new accommodation—which is conveniently close to the Naafi.

Winter Term.

The Winter term was certainly our most successful to date, at the end of which we finished second in the Inter-House Competitions. Our outstanding achievements in this respect were undoubtedly our greatly improved performance in the Inter-House Drill Competition and our achievement of winning the Inter-House Soccer Cup again.

Mention here must be made of Jnr. Sgt. Wilson who led the House in a very mature and enthusiastic way. The results obtained are to a great extent due to his efforts in producing such a happy spirit in the House.



Weekend Exercise

Easter Term.

The Easter term has also been a creditable one so far, and we are at present second in the competition with several contests still to be decided. For the second term running we have won the Inter-House Soccer Cup. This term we were undefeated in the league and produced the incredible goal average of ten goals. Our defeat of Parsons House by 23—0 is a new Battalion record.

Jnr. L/Cpl. Dunbar is again one of the Battalion's most consistent boxers and he is to be congratulated on some excellent performances. Jnr. L/Cpl. Wyatt gained the Company's first " B " grading on the outward bound course—no mean feat on such a difficult and physically exacting course. Jnr. Cpls. Garrod and Briggs and Jnr. Pte. Howley were the mainstays of our soccer success and all represented the Battalion.

Jnr. Cpl. Osborne and Craddock have both left the House on promotion. They are now with Williams House instructing the recruits arriving in the Battalion.

In February we took part in an excellent Company exercise on Hankley Common during which we had a night operation against " Ali Ben " Carman and his trusty Arabs, and finished with a map reading treasure hunt, won by Jnr. Cpls. Briggs and Garrod. Jnr. L/Cpl. Mayes was invited to take a dip in Hankley Lake and assures us that he will not again be late on parade! The *Camberley News* visited us on location and we subsequently appeared on the front page (where else?).

Earlier this term we said farewell to our Company Commander, Major Reason-Challinor, on his retirement. We in Mulcahy House all appreciate his efforts for us and wish him every success in civilian life.

The House spirit this term has again been excellent mainly due to the efforts of Jnr. Sgt. Mitchell and a fine set of Junior N.C.Os. backing him up. The House Officer has now achieved his aim this term—he can now understand what Jnr. Pte. Lunt is talking about!

The following are congratulated on their promotions:

Jnr. Cpl. Mitchell to Junior Sergeant, Jnr. L/Cpls. Garrod and Briggs to Junior Corporal, Jnr. Ptes. Mayes, Wyatt and Craddock to Jnr. L/Cpl.

WATTS HOUSE

CAPT. M. J. T. ROBINSON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. PARKER, R.

" Under new management " could be the motto of the House this term. Capt. D. A. R. Clark left to take over as O.C., H.Q. Company and Sgt. Britcher departed to act as guide and mentor to the new recruits. Capt. M. J. T. Robinson and Sgt. Parker arrived to " take over " in the manner of Clore and Cotton, the House and all its merry men.

During the earlier weeks of term, and in the gloom of wintery mornings, shadowy figures have emerged from No. 6, rubbing their eyes and stretching their limbs prior to staggering away to the gymnasium to commence their sport training. Amongst these stalwarts, one could find Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant, Jnr. Ptes. Gardiner and Bates, all Battalion boxers who represented the Battalion in the various tournaments, and Jnr. Ptes. Ogilvie, Clemow, Dippnall and Hankin who represented the Battalion in the Aldershot District, Southern Command and Army Boys' cross-country races.

On the field of sport Watts House have played hard and well. The basketball team succeeded in winning the Inter-House Competition. Our congratulations must go to the team—Jnr. Ptes. Whike, Stickley, Gardiner and Hankin who were ably led by their captain, Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant. The cross-country event was also won comfortably by Watts on 28th March. Congratulations to Dippnall, Hankin, Maw, Whike, Palmer, Grant, Ogilvie and Clemow.

In the other sports competitions, our representatives played well and succeeded in gaining the following positions: rugger, second; shooting full-bore, second; hockey, eighth; soccer, sixth; shooting small-bore, second; cross-country, first. Although we didn't win these competitions mention must be made of the following players: Jnr. Ptes. Scott, Lever and Cassidy, who played well in the soccer matches, and Jnr. Ptes. Palmer, Waite and Stickley, who led our rugger team into second position.

In the shooting matches, Jnr. C.S.M. Bowen, Jnr. Cpl. Hogg, Jnr. Ptes. Atkin and Stickley managed to emulate " Annie Oakley "

and we again achieved second position in both full- and small-bore events.

Regimental training has been carried out by the House during the term with our usual verve and vigour. We carried out a most successful exercise on Hankley Common at the end of February. This exercise will be remembered by three main events:

(i) The ingenuity of Jnr. Ptes. Cassidy and Stickley who succeeded in entering the objective on night exercise in the back of a truck.

(ii) The " map reading " of one syndicate who entered the final check point at an angle of 180 degrees from the correct approach.

(iii) The photograph of some of our illustrious members which appeared in the *Camberley News*. We were all very surprised the lens didn't splinter.

We are now awaiting the beginning of exercise " Humpty Dumpty " with bated breath.

Promotions.

During the term Jnr. Pte. Grant was promoted to Jnr. L/Cpl. and Jnr. L/Cpl. Hogg was promoted to Jnr. Cpl. Congratulations to these N.C.Os.

We must also welcome Jnr. Cpl. Osborne and Jnr. L/Cpl. Chaters who joined us from Williams House.

In conclusion the House would like to thank all those Junior Leaders who leave for Senior Squad, for all the hard work they have produced for the good of the House and Company. Best of luck to Jnr. Ptes. Sandall, Nicholls, Paton, Waite, Clemow, Hankin, " Big " and " Little " Palmer.

H.Q. COMPANY

CAPT. D. A. R. CLARK, R.A.O.C.

C.S.M. D. BINSTEAD

For the benefit of parents I should first explain the role of H.Q. Company. Our Company consists of the majority of the permanent staff of the Battalion and our task is to ensure that the administration of the Battalion runs smoothly. We staff the Q.M. Stores, we cook all the meals and maintain the dining halls, we drive the motor transport, the R.S.Ms. " Commandos " keep the Barracks clean, our pioneers carry out minor repairs, we are responsible for issuing the pay, we staff the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. In fact, without H.Q. Company the Battalion would cease to function.

Owing mainly to the run down as a result of the finish of National Service the Company strength has diminished quite considerably. At Christmas, although NOT a National Serviceman, we lost Capt. B. Hurr, the O.C. He departed to serve once again in the deserts of the Arabian Peninsular. Since the beginning of the year we have lost the following: Sgts. Strutt, Mackenzie, Ripley, Hall, L/Cpls. Carr, Lawson, Fudge, Carr, Ptes. Binns, Barnard, Sykes, Newbury, Laughton, George, Dickens, Reed, Thompson, Carr, Lorryman, Lumsden and McLeod.



H.Q. COMPANY BASKETBALL TEAM—WINNERS INTER-COMPANY KNOCKOUT COMPETITION, 1961

Standing, left to right: Capt. D. A. Clark, R.A.O.C., Cpl. Mellor, Lt. J. Lewis, R.A.E.C., Pte. Fletcher. Sitting: Cpl. Heatherington, Lt. J. B. Gibby, R.A.E.C., Sgt. Weatherstone.

All these soldiers have served the Battalion well in their own trade and we are indebted to them for the cheerful manner in which they spent their National Service with this Battalion.

In the field of sport, we cannot claim to be Goliaths. This is due in the main to the difficulty in raising teams, because most of the time at least 50 per cent of the staff are working. However, our basketball team, consisting of Lt. Gibby, Lt. Lewis, Sgt. Wetherstone, Cpl. Hetherington, L/Cpl. Mellor and Pte. Fletcher did extremely well in beating the remainder of the Battalion in an Inter-Company tournament for the Gomer Shield. The final between " H.Q." and " C " Company was very exciting, " C " Company leading until the last few minutes when H.Q. made a superb recovery and secured the shield.

The following have been posted in during the term and we hope their stay with us will be a happy one: W.O.II Mears, R.A.E.C., S/Sgt. Smith, R.A.E.C., Sgt. Malings, R.A.E.C., Ptes. Shipton, R.A.O.C., and Ward, R.A.O.C.

Congratulations to the following on their promotions: L/Cpl. Morris to Corporal, Ptes. Mould, Powis and Wozencroft to Lance-corporal.

The following are to be congratulated on obtaining their A.C.E. Third Class: L/Cpl. Wozencroft, Ptes. Hall and Reid.

Christmas in Holland

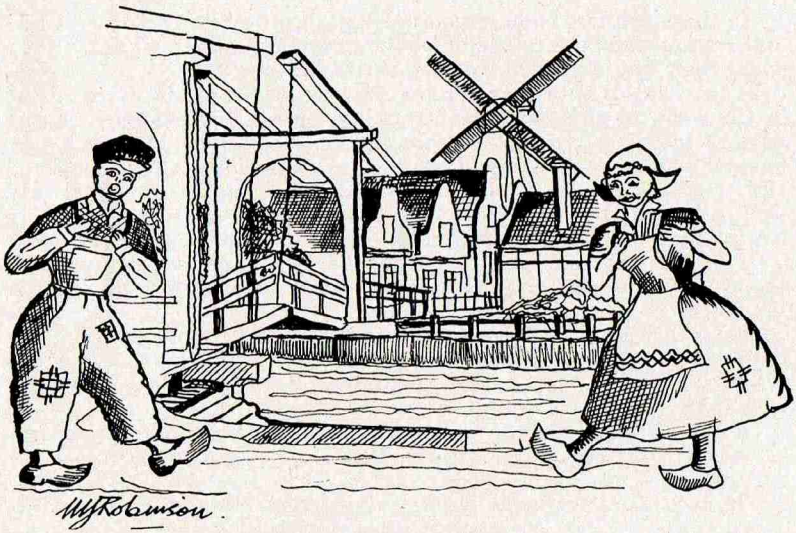
by

JNR. PTE. O'CONNOR

On 16th December I left England for 14 days holiday in the Netherlands. I left London at 2100 hours by the night train and proceeded to Dover. At Dover after going through the customs, I boarded the channel steamer and four hours later I was treading French soil at Dunkirk. From there I made a five-hour journey to the Belgian capital, Brussels, where I had to change trains before proceeding to Antwerp. One more change at Roosendad and I was at Nijmegan, my destination.

When I arrived at Nijmegan, one of the first things I noticed was the Christmas preparations. In England, some of the big stores have Father Christmas distributing presents but in Holland this is not so. Instead the children are given presents on the 6th December, Saint Nicholas's Day. But apart from this Christmas events are virtually the same as those in England. However, I will endeavour to point out some minor differences to you.

On Christmas Day most Dutch families eat rabbit or, as they say in Dutch, " konijn," for their Christmas dinner. This is preceded



by a soup called " snert " which is pea soup with sausage. It is a special winter dish. With the Christmas dinner over, everyone settles down to a quiet Christmas afternoon at home, or perhaps they take a stroll in the park. They do not go to pantomimes or ice-shows, for Christmas is essentially a family affair.

Football is not played in the Netherlands over the Christmas period. There is no religious significance to this as Dutch professional clubs play their games on Sundays.

Now let me talk about the Dutch people. Englishmen tend to think that the Dutch are very fair-skinned but this is not so. In fact the only difference between the appearance of Dutch and English people that I noticed is that the girls tend to wear shorter dresses and their stockings are of various types and colours—red, black and yellow, etc.

In Holland they don't have public houses as we know them. They have a " Cafe—Restaurant—Hotel " and this includes a bar. Incidentally most places stay open until the early hours of the morning—quite a change from Blackdown!

During my holiday I went to Jonkerbos where there is a cemetry for Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives in World War II. The land in which they are buried is tended by the Dutch people. There are countless graves at Jonkerbos and in order to find out who's buried there, there's a book with a list of all the names of the soldiers and their regiment. There is also a visitor's book.

I certainly enjoyed my Christmas holiday and I must admit I was sorry to leave Holland. I wished my host " Een Gelukkig Nieuw-Jaar " (A Happy New Year) and commenced my journey. It was an eventful one, for I had to pass through Belgium at the time of the national strike. Brussels Midi station was packed with soldiers —six guarding each platform. In the street, cars were overturned and general chaos prevailed. Policemen were working overtime.

However, thanks to the international train service I was able to make my way to Dunkirk. Here I caught the boat to Dover and arrived home at 1330 hours, 30 hours after leaving Holland.

Officially Appointed Tailor

to the Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC

NORMAN ROSE

OF ARBORFIELD

Visits this Battalion Every Wednesday Afternoon

Six Days in Bonny Scotland

by

JNR. PTE. THORNTON



It should have been an early morning start but Q. Robinson had great difficulty in rousing the trekkers. The party consisted of S.Q.M.S. Robinson, Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown, Jnr. Ptes. Thornton and McGill.

It was an eventful journey. Jnr. Pte. Thornton decided to give his kit a good airing by leaving the straps of his rucksack dangling through the door of the train. At Waterloo we were confronted by our favourite R.S.M. and Mrs. McCann. He looked almost human with his broad Irish grin! During our brief stay in London, we visited the Historical Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. We went down into the crypt and visited the Memorial Chapel to the late Dick Shepherd, brother of the late Colonel Shepherd of the Corps.

At Carlisle, S.Q.M.S. Robinson left the train for some liquid refreshment and only just managed to scramble aboard before it set off again. Incidentally, he had our tickets!

Eventually we arrived at Inverness and headed straight for the town where we enjoyed a bacon, egg and tomato breakfast. Indegestion risked, we quickly explored the town and then proceeded to Wick where we decided to stay for the night. Unfortunately, as it was Hogmanay, we had great difficulty in finding accommodation. People were very reluctant to take in boarders over this festive season and we were forced to take shelter in the Station Hotel. Our pockets became much lighter but, with the comfort and food we enjoyed, we considered it worthwhile.

On New Year's Eve, we set off for John o' Groats, a distance of 17 miles. Although the weather was cold, we had the wind in our favour and we made good time. On arrival, we were invited to tea by local residents. We saw the starting point of the Billy Butlin walk to Land's End, and visited the Last House and the Last Shop. We gazed down at the Island of Stroma and the Orkneys and were amazed to find that we could see seven lighthouses from one point—a fantastic sight!

We returned to Wick and attended a church service at the old parish church. We called in at the boarding house at which Q. Robinson had stayed on the first evening of his long walk from John o' Groats to Land's End. Naturally it was a great reunion and we were treated very well indeed.

From Wick we moved to Beridale and continued on foot to Helmsdale.

Although the roads were slippery, generally speaking the weather was in our favour. On the walk we saw Scotland in all its beauty. Above we could see snow-capped mountains and below we looked through valleys and glens on to the very calm, grey sea off the Scottish coast. It was a hard but enjoyable walk; we covered 11 miles non-stop in just under two and a half hours.

On arrival, we soon tucked into a loaf of bread and we are still doubtful as to how many cups of tea Q. Robinson had.

Our short stay in Helmsdale was very enjoyable. Similar to Wick, the buildings are of very old design and there was no sign of modernisation. Again we found the people very friendly and hospitable. It was here that Q. Robinson mislaid his hot-water bottle—but surely he *couldn't* suspect Junior Leaders?

A sign that our holiday was drawing to a close was that we began to smoke Woodbines as apart from Senior Service. Well, all good things have to come to an end, but although Blackdown tugs at our hearts irresistably we were loathe to leave " Bonny Scotland " and we all look forward to another visit.

SPORT

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Officer-in-Charge : CAPT. R. M. JOHNSTON

The second half of the rugger season has been very successful—perhaps the most satisfying feature is the number of young players who have been promoted to Battalion rugby.

The weather in January was bad and in fact the only game we had in that month was against R.E.M.E., the Blackdown team winning 9—0.

In February we beat more attractive teams, first R.A.S.C., 12—3 and R.E.M.E. 25—0.

The Junior Challenge Cup second round tie was played at Blackdown on 20th February. In this game our forwards excelled themselves and it was only by sound defence and snapping up second chances that the R.E. Junior Leaders Regiment went through to the next round, beating us 12—3.

The next game was an important shield match played at Crookham in cricket weather. Our forwards, who included Cassidy for the first time, dominated the game and permitted the backs, particularly Jones and Harris, to score freely, the final score being 31—5 in our favour—Harris converting five tries from difficult positions. An interesting fixture with one of the Companies of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, resulted in a heavy defeat, 25—3, for our team; but our players, particularly McHoul and Palmer in the pack, kept trying and benefited from the experience.



Lt. J. B. Gibby, R.A.E.C., jumps for the ball in the Hill Cup Final against Bramley. No. 9 is Jnr. Sgt. Jones who played for the R.A.O.C. XV this season.

Against the A.C.C. Apprentices we had difficulty fielding a side owing to injuries and illness but as the fate of the rugby championships depended on this game, our players made a great effort and we won by 11 points to eight. A feature of this game was the number of new players who came to light and Williams and Walling showed their worth by scoring invaluable tries.

We have, therefore, won the rugby section of the Aldershot District Shield Competition—for the second successive year in fact. Since the inception of this league competition, we have won seven out of eight fixtures. This is due in great measure to the efforts and keenness of Jnr. Sgt. Jones (Captain) assisted by Jnr. Cpl. Harris and Jnr. L/Cpl. McHoul, and the great spirit shown by all players.

It was fitting that Jnr. Sgt. Jones should win his way into the Corps side against R.E.M.E. as a hooker. Another " ex-boy " Cpl. Richards of Bramley, besides playing all games this year for the Corps, was reserve for the Army side in one match.

Besides these Junior Leaders' fixtures, several players assisted the permanent staff side in friendly fixtures and the Hill Cup. McHoul, Davies, Harris and Jones played frequently and in the Hill Cup final Jnr. Sgt. Jones was outstanding. It is indeed unfortunate that we have to utilise this excellent hooker in the Battalion team as fly-half.

The Battalion rugby team has been improving steadily over the past two seasons and it is hoped that under the guidance of Capt. Williamson, a Corps player, the standard of football will improve and that ex-Junior Leaders will soon feature in the Corps rugby team in greater numbers.

HOCKEY

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. L. N. CLIFTON, R.A.O.C.

The season has been marred by bad weather, and the inability of other Junior Leaders' units to raise teams owing to the shortage of players and moves to other locations. The proposed Aldershot District League had to be abandoned with only a few of the fixtures completed. The Battalion played two matches against the R.A.M.C. Apprentices' School and won both by 5—0 and 2—0. In the Army Junior Leaders' competition we met the Infantry Junior Leaders and were defeated 3—1 after an exciting game. Jnr. Sgts. O'Shaugnessy and Underwood, Jnr. Cpl. Danvers and Jnr. Ptes. Ankin and McGuiness played with the permanent staff team in the Bari Cup and gave a good account of themselves. In the House competition, Steevens once again swept the board and were undefeated, with Body House a close second. Hockey has a keen following in the Battalion and several good players are developing ready for next season. It is hoped that some summer games will be played to keep them in practice.

Junior Leaders who have represented the Battalion during this season are:—Jnr. Sgts. Simmonds, Underwood, O'Shaugnessy, Jnr. Cpls. Thomas and Danvers, Jnr. L/Cpl. Holmes, Jnr. Ptes. McGuiness, Wheelhouse, Williams, Ankin, Nicholls, Avellano, Lugg, Hiddlestone and Borthwick.

GLIDING CLUB

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. R. M. JOHNSTON, R.A.O.C.

The Gliding Club of the Junior Leaders' Battalion R.A.O.C., the only one of its kind in the Army, continues to grow in experience and reputation. The Army Gliding Club has recognised the potential of our Junior Leaders and is giving them every facility to learn to fly and what is more important, to meet on equal terms the country's big names in the gliding world.

Each week Sgt. Walker and his select group of gliding novices go to Lasham to receive instruction from the Army instructor at the Gliding School. In addition to these instructional periods our Junior Leaders can spend weekends or full-time courses at Lasham. At present, due to the generous support of P.R.I., our gliding enthusiasts are enjoying this support free of charge and we hope that this can be continued.

Besides receiving flying tuition at Lasham, our members have

participated fully in social events and the very necessary maintenance work to be carried out on gliders and club buildings.

In January we visited an exhibition organised by the National Gliding Club in Chelsea. Here we had an opportunity of seeing new, and expensive gliders, and discussing latest developments in the sport. We have been asked to provide officials and ground crew for the National Gliding Championships at Lasham in May. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a week-long gliding festival.

It is appropriate that our Battalion should be the first to enter this sport, as the role of the Corps in the future is very dependent on Air Supply. Many R.A.O.C. personnel are serving with Airborne Forces and the Army Air Corps, among them Capt. E. Shepherd, R.A.O.C., the Army gliding champion. It is likely in the future that many of our glider-trained Junior Leaders will want to serve with these units.

At present the active members of the club are Sgt. Walker, Jnr. L/Cpl. Chaters, B., Jnr. L/Cpl. Chaters, T., Jnr. Pte. Hawkins, Jnr. Sgt. Jones, Jnr. Sgt. Pickett, Jnr. Pte. Liddiard. There is a long waiting list for the few vacancies which will occur, and the permanent staff is showing increased interest—L/Cpl. Howson, Pte. Taylor, and several senior ranks have been out to Lasham.

The new gliding club is still in its infancy, but it is hoped that it is the beginning of an interest in gliding which will find its way to many R.A.O.C. units in the U.K. Gliding is not an expensive sport in the Army and facilities are easily accessible particularly in Aldershot District and Bicester Garrison.

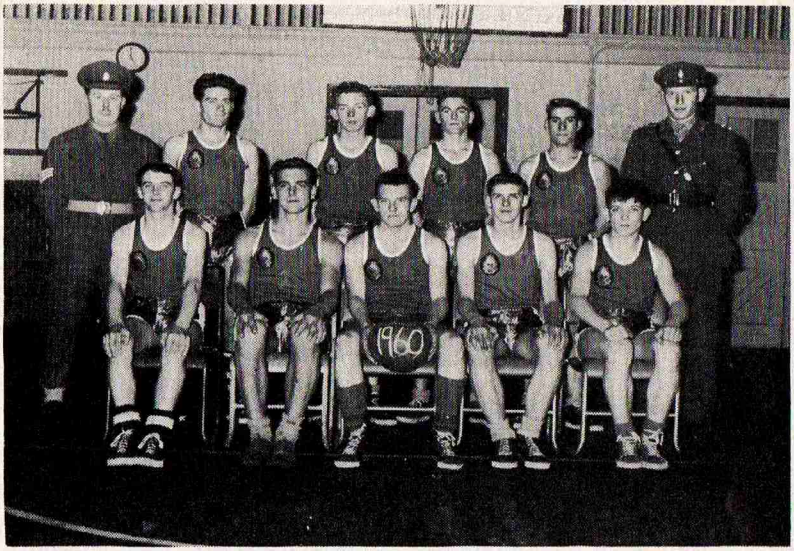
BASKETBALL

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. J. B. Gibby, R.A.E.C.

The basketball team have enjoyed a very successful season for they were runners-up in the Aldershot and District Junior Leaders' Basketball Competition. This was no mean feat for the champions, Junior Leaders' Battalion R.A.S.C., went on to become runners-up in the Army Championships. We lost to the R.A.S.C. by the narrowest of margins, 22—21, in a most exciting and enjoyable game.

We look forward to winning the Army Championships ourselves next season and will be playing throughout the summer to achieve our aim. We have lost the service of three stalwarts in Jnr. Cpl. Moore, Jnr. Ptes. Pickering and Parkinson. The first named has already made his mark in senior basketball with 1 Battalion. We wish all three well in the future.

Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant is the current skipper. He is both talented and enthusiastic and trains hard and consistently under the watchful eye of Sgt. Weatherstone who gives up a lot of his spare time to coach the team. Jnr. L/Cpl. Mayes has improved tremendously at



BATTALION BASKETBALL TEAM—RUNNERS-UP ALDERSHOT AND DISTRICT LEAGUE, 1960-61

Rear, standing: Sgt. Weatherstone, Jnr. Cpl. Spence (Steevens), Jnr. Pte. Johnson (Mulcahy), Jnr. Pte. Mayes (Mulcahy), Jnr. C.S.M. Walls (Baker), Lt. J. B. Gibby, R.A.E.C. Sitting: Jnr. Sgt. O'Shaugnessy (Steevens), Jnr. Pte. Pickering (Steevens), Jnr. Cpl. Moore (Steevens), Jnr. Pte. Parkinson (Steevens), Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant (Watts).

guard as has his partner C.S.M. Walls and Jnr. Pte. Swinburn has developed into a first-class right attack.

Jnr. Ptes. Stickley, Emmett, Whike and Gardiner are improving their games steadily and should do well next season.

Watts House won an excellent Inter-House competition, remaining undefeated. Hill were runners-up with Mulcahy a basket behind at third. Generally speaking the standard of House basketball has advanced by leaps and bounds.

An interesting feature of last season was the introduction of Inter-Company knockout competition. " C " Company met H.Q. Company in the final and it proved to be " a cracker." " C " Company looked handsome winners ten minutes from time, thanks to some fantastic shooting by Grant, but H.Q's. change in tactics (they brought a man out from the zone) proved decisive and H.Q. ran out winners by 35—31. They were presented with the Gomer Trophy by Major T. L. V. Vaughan-Griffith, R.A.O.C., and received medals.

Next season we hope to enter the Aldershot and District Men's

League, combining our permanent staff, and Junior Leaders' Teams.

If enthusiasm remains at its present high level, as I am confident it will, we should do well in this new venture. Certainly, we are all looking forward to it.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant and Jnr. Pte. Swinburn on being awarded Battalion caps this season.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. M. J. T. ROBINSON, R.A.O.C.

Although the Battalion team has not won any trophies this year, we can safely say that the team has progressed from strength to strength. The first event of the year was the Aldershot District Championships held on the 2nd February at Crookham. Both the "A" and " B " teams ran extremely well and Jnr. Pte. Thornton, Steevens House, is to be congratulated on achieving third place in the race—a fine performance which meant we brought at least one medal home.

Following the Aldershot District event, hard training was carried out by the team, under the benevolent eye of S.Q.M.S. E. Robinson, in preparation for the Southern Command event held at Larkhill on 15th February. The position of the team in this event was third. Our best individual runners were Jnr. Pte. Thornton, third; Jnr. Cpl. Clarke, fifth; Jnr. Ptes. Ogilvie, 15th and Cross, 17th.

The main event of the season was the Army Boys' Championship, 1961, held again at the R.A.M.C. Depot, Crookham, on 3rd March. The final result of this race was that the Battalion team achieved tenth place out of the 14 teams that ran. Although our position appears to be a lowly one, it should be noted that we succeeded in beating all our old rivals from the Aldershot and Southern Command Championships. This must surely indicate that the team has settled down and improved considerably in their performance.

The Inter-House Championship was held on Tuesday, 30th March. The result was as follows: first, Watts; second, Steevens; third, Mulcahy.

Well done Watts House!

Battalion Cap.

Jnr. Pte. Thornton has been awarded his cross-country cap. Congratulations to him for his fine performances in this most gruelling sport.

SWIMMING

Officer-in-Charge: 2/LT. I. C. BELCHER, R.A.E.C.

During the past term the Battalion team has trained each Friday evening at the Aldershot Military Bath. Matches were difficult to arrange because of the short time allotted to us but we defeated the Apprentice Chefs Company by 22 points to 19 and look forward to a return match. The standard has gradually improved and Jnr. Ptes.

Pingstone, Crocombe and Down are worthy of special mention at back-stroke, crawl and breast-stroke respectively.

Jnr. Pte. Leitch has been awarded a bronze medal for life saving and Jnr. Pte. Lamont a bar to his medal. Jnr. Ptes. Malthouse, Ryles and Lowrey have been awarded learner certificates. Congratulations to them all. With summer approaching we look forward to some open-air swimming and opportunity for training in less crowded circumstances.

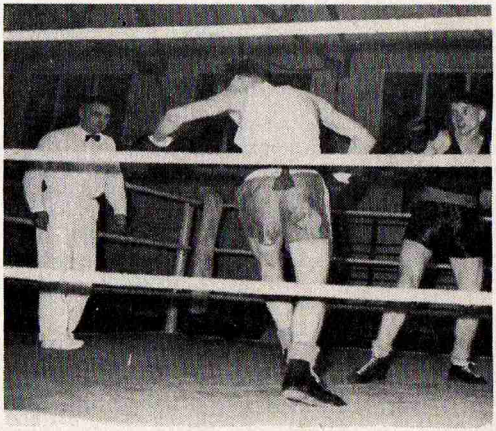
BOXING

Officer-in-Charge: LT. J. LEWIS, R.A.E.C.

This term, with the exception of the Aldershot District Competition, has been one of individual championships and not team events. As has been expected following last term's indifferent performances, this term was again one of moderate success.

The first event on the calendar was the Aldershot District Junior Individual Championship, which is also a team event, being part of the Aldershot District Shield Competition. We just won by 24 points to the R.A.S.C.'s 23 points. As an event it was not a success because of the lack of entries; amongst our boxers, Jnr. Ptes. Bates, Jary and Jnr. L/Cpl. Dunbar all gained titles without stepping intothe ring. Jnr. Pte. Johnson 914, won the Class "A" nine-stone championship without much trouble and Jnr. Pte. Whitby K.O.'d his eight-stone opponent in Class " B " in immaculate style with a very good solar plexas punch. Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant also won in his usual aggressive style. Amongst the losers Jnr. Pte. Davies was again very unlucky to lose and two newcomers Johnston and Jary showed up quite well.

The Southern Championship followed quickly on at the end of January. Here Jnr. L/Cpl. Dunbar showed good form in winning his title at 8 st. 7 lb. Class " B." Unfortunately, again the entry was poor with the result that our lightweights had no opponents which once more resulted in Jnr. Pte. Bates getting a title without a fight and also Jnr. Pte. Whitby. Amongst our losers Jnr. Pte. Gardiner fought well as did Jnr. Pte. Jary and Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown and Jnr. Pte. Hendy put up a game display although



Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant (Watts), knocking out his opponent in a match between the Junior Leaders' Battalion R.A.O.C. and The Junior Guardsman Company.

well beaten. Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant also suffered his first defeat and was perhaps a little unlucky to lose a close points decision.

Our entry in the Army Junior Championship was quite small this year being only eight as detailed below:—

Class A: 7 st., Jnr. Pte. Bates.

Class B: 8 st. 7 lb., Jnr. L/Cpl. Dunbar; 8 st., Jnr. Pte. Whitby; 10 st. Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant; 9 st. Jnr. Pte. Gardiner; 10 st., Jnr. Pte. Edwards.

Class C: 9 st. 7 lb., Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown; 10 st. 8 lb. Jnr. Pte. Jary.

Perhaps the best personal display was by Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown 914, who boxed his old rival Jnr. Trdsm. Ismede, R.A.M.C., and lost a very close points decision. The best performance was by Jnr. Pte. Whitby who lost in the final of his weight again on a close points decision. Our two main hopes, Jnr. L/Cpl. Dunbar and Jnr. Pte. Grant both lost in the semi-finals. Dunbar was the victim of a very peculiar referee's decision, which undoubtedly lost him the championship and Grant was beaten on points by a very strong boxer. Jnr. Pte. Bates was obviously ring-rusty in his fight but should develop well next season with more contests.

This season is now ended and many lessons have been learned. The team was undoubtedly fit, but had many new and inexperienced members, who although displaying plenty of guts and enthusiasm, had not the necessary skill. Boxing will continue as a hobby through the summer and it is hoped that the deficiencies in skills will be learned during the close season in preparation for next year.

There is also a new individual trophy which has been generously presented by C.S.M. Carman, and is for the most aggressive boxer. The winner this year is Jnr. L/Cpl. Grant who, although relatively new to boxing, has shown that agression is undoubtedly a major factor in winning bouts.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. M. J. T. ROBINSON, R.A.O.C.

Once more we can report that the Battalion XI has had a most successful season. We succeeded in winning the Aldershot District Boys' Association Football League and so gained five points towards the District Shield Competition.

During the term, we have continued to play in the Woking Junior League and the results have been most gratifying. We have won all but one of our matches and we are at present lying in second position. The match we lost was at the beginning of the season and was probably due to an over indulgence in Christmas " pud." and port wine during the Christmas vacation, however, following this defeat we settled back into normal form and we produced victory after victory.

We have played four friendly matches during the term, the results of which are noted below.

Junior Leaders R.A.O.C.	11	v.	A.C.C. Junior Tradesmen	1
Junior Leaders R.A.O.C.	4	v.	R.A.M.C. Junior Leaders	1
Junior Leaders R.A.O.C.	4	v.	A.A.S. "A" Company	3
Junior Leaders R.A.O.C.	5	v.	R.A.S.C. Junior Leaders	1

These results I feel indicate that the team continued to play extremely well.

Of the players, I feel the following should be mentioned for having consistently good games. Jnr. Pte. Forvargue, our goalkeeper, who has succeeded in keeping the opposition at bay. Jnr. Ptes. Atkinson, Munro and Jnr. L/Cpl. Pattison are all players who have played hard and well.

Battalion caps were awarded this term to Jnr. Pte. Forvargue, Jnr. Pte. Atkinson and Jnr. Cpl. Garrod, in recognition of their sportsmanship and energy both on and off the field. Congratulations to these players.

Mulcahy House were the winners of the Inter-House Football Competition. This was a richly deserved victory and the House team is to be congratulated on producing fine football.

SHOOTING, SMALL-BORE

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. D. A. R. CLARK, R.A.O.C.

Aldershot District Junior Leaders' Competition.

The following Junior Leaders represented the Battalion in the Aldershot District Junior Leaders' Competition: Jnr. Sgt. Pickett, Jnr. C.S.M. Bowen, Jnr. Cpl. Hogg, Jnr. Pte. Watson, Jnr. L/Cpl. McGann, Jnr. Ptes. Hayward, Hawthorn and Barr.

The shoot took place on Tuesday evening, 25th March. The results will not be known until after the end of term. The team put in many hours of practice under the expert eyes of Sgt.-Major Pope and Sgt. Bradshaw, and it is hoped that the result will be a just reward for the amount of effort put into practice.

Inter-House Small-Bore Competition—Winter Term, 1960.

The shooting wizards of Hill House were removed from their pedestal by Watts House and reverted to second place. Watts shot extremely well and are to be congratulated on their victory. Steevens House would have won the competition but they were not eligible to enter.

The individual winner was Pte. East, Steevens House with Jnr. L/Cpl. Barr of Parsons House the runner-up, their scores being 47 and 46 respectively out of an H.P.S. of 55.

Inter-House Small-Bore Competition—Easter Term, 1961.

This event was held on the evening of Monday, 24th March. The shoot consisted of grouping, application and snap. Teams consisted of three riflemen and one to fire the pistol from each House.

The result was a win for Body House who have at last proved that they can use their rifles as well as their bugles. Watts House were runners-up and Hill House third.

The Body House team consisted of: Jnr. Cpl. George, Jnr. Pte. Lewis, Jnr. Pte. Hawthorn, Jnr. Pte. Clements.

The individual small-bore winner was Jnr. Cpl. Thomas of Hill House with Jnr. L/Cpl. McGann of Gordon as runner-up. Both scored a total of 48 out of a H.P.S. of 55.

R.A.O.C. Rifle Association Small-Bore Shooting Competition.

During the term the Small-Bore Club under the guidance of W.O.II Pope fired off several matches. The results will not be known until next term.

Inter-Unit Matches.

On Thursday, 9th February, a team of six consisting of: C.S.M. Pope, Cpl. Jayne, Jnr. L/Cpl. Jones, Jnr. L/Cpl. Hogg, Jnr. Pte. McGann and Jnr. Pte. Lewis competed in an enjoyable afternoon match against 14 Battalion R.A.O.C. Didcot. The result was a win for 14 Battalion.

SHOOTING, FULL-BORE

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. D. A. R. CLARK, R.A.O.C.

On Monday, 20th March, we fired off the Mulcahy and Parsons non-central competitions. The team representing the Battalion consisted of: Capt. F. L. M. Foy, R.A.O.C., C.S.M. Pope, Sgt. Fenton, Sgt. Woods, Sgt. Fishwick, Cpl. Jayne, Cpl. Tharme, Jnr. Pte. Barr and Jnr. Sgt. Pickett.

The result will not be known until next term.

The Battalion will be entering a team for the R.A.O.C. Central Meeting at Bisley in April and the Aldershot District Meeting in May.

Inter-House Full-Bore Competition—Winter Term, 1960.

The Inter-House Competition was won by Hill House with Baker House the runners-up. Hill were the runners-up the previous term and have shown that their high standard of shooting is consistent.

Steevens House would have won the competition by 96 points. However, owing to the fact that they spend a large proportion of their training time on the range and that the House consists of all the senior boys, they are not permitted to compete for the trophy in either the full-bore or small-bore Inter-House Competition.

The Individual winners were:

RIFLE:		
Battalion Champion Shot	Jnr. Pte. Diviney	Steevens House
Runner-up	Jnr. Cpl. Walling	Hill House
L.M.G. PAIRS:		
Winners:	Jnr. Cpl. Dicketts	Steevens House
	Jnr. Pte. Sutton	Steevens House
Runners-up:	Jnr. Cpl. Mitchell	Mulcahy House
	Jnr. L/Cpl. Boyce	Mulcahy House

D.O.S. CUP:

This cup is awarded to the member of the senior squad who averages best on rifle, L.M.G. and S.M.G. on the annual range course.

Winner:	Jnr. Pte. Diviney	Steevens House
Runner-up:	Jnr. Pte. Bourne	Steevens House

Inter-House Full-Bore Competition—Easter Term, 1961.

The Competition was once again won by Hill House with Watts House being beaten into second place, Watts nearly achieving the Spring Double by being second in both full- and small-bore shooting. The members of the Hill House team were:— Jnr. Cpl. Thomas, Jnr. L/Cpl. Steele, Jnr. Ptes. Williams, Walling, Brown and Hill.

The individual results were as follows:—

RIFLE:

Battalion Champion Shot:	Jnr. Pte. Walling	Hill House
Runner-up:	Jnr. Pte. Hayward	Gordon House

L.M.G. PAIRS:

Winners:	Jnr. Pte. Avery	Steevens House
	Jnr. Pte. Forvargue	Steevens House
Runners-up:	Jnr. Pte. Swinburn	Steevens House
	Jnr. Pte. Henson	Steevens House

The result was a win by only one point and this was as a result of a fire-off after a dead heat. Good Shooting!

D.O.S. CUP:

Winner:	Jnr. Pte. Avery
Runner-up:	Jnr. Pte. Watson

EQUITATION

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. D. A. R. CLARK, R.A.O.C.

Riding in the Easter term has been progressing well. Unfortunately our allocation of horses has now dropped to five, twice weekly, and as a result the number of Junior Leaders being taught to ride has decreased by over 50 per cent. The following Junior Leaders have been riding during the term: Jnr. Sgt. Pratt, Jnr. Cpls. Goodman, Hogg, Jnr. L/Cpl. Griffiths, Jnr. Ptes. Snow and Livingstone.

Jnr. Cpl. Hogg, Jnr. L/Cpl. Griffiths and Jnr. Pte. Snow managed to spend a day's hunting with the Bisley foxhounds on the occasion of their meet at the R.A.O.C. Officers' Club at Blackdown. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day's hunting and can surely claim to be the first Junior Leaders to hunt with foxhounds as a sport arranged by their Battalion.

The Commanding Officer's Whip for the Christmas term, 1960, was awarded to Jnr. Pte. Snow for his improvement in riding and his enthusiasm for horsemanship.

We were hoping to send a party of Junior Leaders to the Army Three-Day Event at Tidworth this year. Unfortunately, this event is being held in the middle of the Battalion block leave at Easter, so we shall not be able to attend.

Plans are being made for a party of 15 Junior Leaders to spend a week's pony trekking in the Lake District during the summer block leave in August. The trek will cover about 130 miles and include visiting 12 lakes. The party will bivouac each night and prepare and cook their own food.

The winner of the Commanding Officer's whip for the Easter term, 1961, was Jnr. Cpl. Goodman of Steevens House. He has shown keenness throughout the term and has improved his riding considerably. On several occasions he has shown courage whilst riding a rather temperamental horse.

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN ITALY



Jnr. Sgt. O'Shaugnessy takes the lead.

At 0500 hours on Sunday, 11th December, 1960, a party of two officers, two Sergeants, and 12 Junior Leaders left Blackdown on a ski-ing expedition to Sulden in the Italian Tyrol. The plan was to pick up two Microbuses at Ostend and drive across Europe to Italy, taking three days on the outward journey and two on the return. The party was divided into two groups; two Officers and six Junior Leaders who took bus No. 1 and who planned to return from Sulden on 21st December, and two Sergeants and six Junior Leaders who planned to stay on until 27th December.

The road from Ostend to Brussels is modelled on the autobahns, and we were bowling along in fine style when bus No. 2 overtook bus No. 1 and disappeared into the distance. This was the last we saw of each other until we arrived at our overnight stop. No. 1 bus had to do a little gear changing in Brussels, it was found that they had travelled from Ostend in third gear! From Brussels we proceeded by a series of badly signposted roads across Belgium, through a small part of Holland, into Germany and arrived at 17 Rear Vehicle Depot, Monchen Gladbach at approximately 2300 hours. Here we spent a comfortable night and felt very much refreshed when we set out at 1030 hours the next day.

During the day of the 12th we travelled by way of the autobahns via Cologne, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe and Stuttgart to Ulm in South Germany. Here we met with bus No. 1 at a roadside restaurant where we discovered that Sgt. Bollers had mislaid his passport at Monchen Gladbach. We had earlier passed an American Army Unit, and Capt. Thompson decided to call in and phone 17 R.V.D.

to send the passport on to Sulden. The Americans were very interested in our expedition, and ended up by offering us bed and breakfast. Feeding in the Sergeants' Mess Room was quite an experience, and everyone enjoyed a typically American meal.

From Ulm we crossed into Austria by way of the Fern Pass, with its rather terrifying drops on either side. The journey across Austria proved quite uneventful until we reached a place called Pfunds. Whilst turning a sharp, narrow bend, No. 1 bus encountered a very large tanker coming the other way, and although a gallant effort was made to drive the bus up to the wall, the tanker took the offside door handle off and dented the coachwork. The business of explaining the whole thing to the Austrian Police took over three hours and cost 30/-. We couldn't decide whether this was a fine or merely bail!

Meanwhile, No. 2 bus had found a gasthof in which to stay. No. 1 party went on over the Resia down into the valley at Spondigna and spent the night at a gasthof at Prad. On the 14th December, both parties drove up the mountain road to Sulden and arrived at the Pension Dangl in the afternoon. The distance we had covered was 734 miles.

Sulden is 6,000 feet up at the head of a valley and is a typical Tyrolean village. The season had not really started when we arrived, but we managed to obtain the services of two ski instructors for the party. A lot of hard work was put into preparing the slopes, and this involved mainly tramping the soft snow down to form a close-packed surface. In spite of the fact that there was almost too much snow—it snowed almost every day we were there—we spent six enjoyable days with excellent ski-ing.

At the Pension Dangl we found Maurice Baudet, a representative of the Wayfarers Travel Agency through whom we had booked this expedition. His knowledge of the language and local customs proved of great value and his cheerful clowning kept us entertained throughout our stay. Herr Dangl, the proprietor of the Pension, was a most patient man who understood a fair amount of English. His knowledge of the vernacular was undoubtedly improved by our presence!

When the 21st December arrived, the first party were loath to leave but nevertheless set out on their return journey. The next news we heard was that they had left behind the vehicle documents which had been found in one of their rooms. We decided that we should attempt to catch them up before they reached the frontier. When we finally reached the frontier it was found that they had managed to cross without much difficulty. On the return back to Sulden we picked up a party of guests who were stranded in Spondigna due to the inability of the postbus to negotiate the climb on the snow-covered roads. We managed the climb with the help of four Junior Leaders standing outside on the rear bumber to increase the weight on the rear wheels. Although it was bitterly cold, they managed to keep their spirits up by singing at the top of their voices.

The next day the second party started to make the most of a further five days in Sulden. They enjoyed nearly four hours sunshine each day and the training carried out during the first week was put to good use on the ski slopes. They derived a great deal of pleasure from watching the antics of those newly arrived in trying to keep upright.

One evening we decided to drive to another hotel where they were holding a dance but unfortunately the vehicle was completely frozen to the ground and in the attempt to free it, the clutch was finally burnt out. The next day a mechanic arrived and adjusted it so that Sgt. Williams could drive it to the nearest garage 18 kms. away down the valley. After a perilous, nerve-racking journey, he found, when the engine was removed to renew the clutch, that the clutch-plate had disappeared and that he had driven on the rivets. However, three hours later the return journey was made with a new clutch-plate and restored confidence.

Christmas Eve was spent quietly at the Pension with a customary drink of Gluwein (a type of mulled wine) and fancy confectionery served after the dinner. At 2330 hours all the visitors went to the Midnight Mass in the village church. Christmas Day itself was spent on the ski slopes.

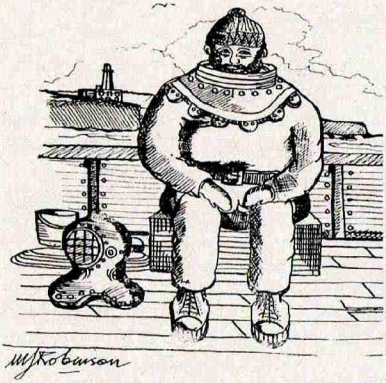
The second party left Sulden on the 27th December, and, after driving all through the night, arrived at Monchen Gladbach in time for lunch on the 28th. After an enjoyable evening and a restful night, we set out for Ostend. The journey proved to be a race against time in order to catch the afternoon boat, and the excitement was heightened by running out of petrol 14 kms. from Ostend. However, with the help of a Road Patrol we arrived with only ten minutes to spare, to find that there was no boat sailing due to the strike. It seemed unlikely that any boat would leave during the next few days, so we loaded up the bus and drove to Dunkirk to catch the night boat to Dover.

After a smooth crossing the party landed at Dover at 0600 hours. Being a day overdue fresh transport arrangements had to be made, but after some hectic phoning it was all fixed up and the party arrived safely at Blackdown.

Our thanks are due to all those who helped us on our journeys to and from Italy, thereby assuring the success of the expedition. I don't think anyone who took part in it would have missed the experience, in spite of the fact that at one time some of us wondered if we should ever see England again.

The No. 1 bus was driven by Capt. Thompson with Capt. Clifton as relief driver and navigator with J/C.S.M. Wall, Jnr. Sgts. O'Shaugnessy and Picket, Jnr. Cpls. Clark, Carrol and Henderson as passengers.

The second bus was driven by Sgts. Bollers and Williams (R.A.E.C.) with Jnr. Cpls. Sims, Phelps and Johnson, Jnr. L/Cpls. Stevenson and McHoul and Jnr. Pte. Quinn as passengers.



SECRETS OF THE SEA

by 23507909 JNR. PTE. TAYLOR

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GUITAR CLUB

Officer-in-Charge: 2/Lt. I. C. Belcher, R.A.E.C.

The Guitar Club started at the beginning of term with a small but enthusiastic group of eight. Finance did not permit a large group but three guitars were purchased to enable us to make a start.

Under the tuition of L/Cpl. Harvey practise began and after early teething troubles reasonable sounds are now being heard. Six chords have been mastered (four more than Elvis Presley can claim) and three tunes can now be deciphered if the ear is sharp enough.

Jnr. Pte. Diggins has been extremely useful as he is the only Junior Leader with much experience of the guitar and plays lead with the group as well as partnering Jnr. Pte. Saville on some mournful duets.

Now the " sore finger " stage has passed we look forward to greater progress next term.

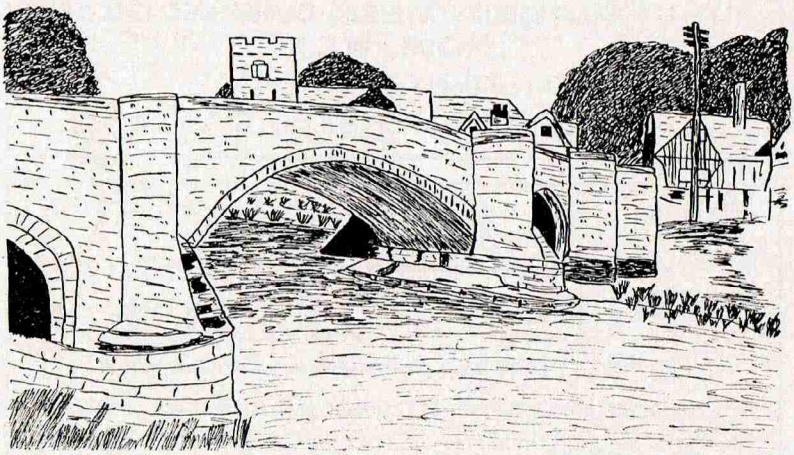
ART GROUP

In Charge: W.O.I L. Thornton,

This term we lost the valuable services of Sgt. Stephenson, R.A.E.C., to the sketching group, on his return to civilian life.

In the painting group the loss is felt of Jnr. L/Cpl. R. D. Slade who is now in the senior squad. He was a very enthusiastic member and won two prizes in Army Arts and Crafts Exhibitions.

The group has, however, two very promising chaps—Jnr. Pte. Sandall at ink drawings and Jnr. Pte. Butler at landscape paintings. We are hoping once again, to keep up the good name of the Battalion by entries in the autumn exhibitions.



Drawing by Jnr. Pte. Sandall

MODEL RAILWAY GROUP

In Charge: SGT. TITHERADGE, D.

This term the Group has concentrated on completing the extended new circuit of last autumn. During the Christmas leave, certain sections of the track were badly damaged by damp weather and this necessitated replacement.

An impressive single-line viaduct was constructed which now results in an alternative route for the "down" line. An electric-diesel locomotive and train was built from kits—a new venture this—and special attention is at present being paid to rural and urban scenic effects to give the railway a more realistic appearance.

Perhaps the most notable achievement has been the complete sectionalising of the two circuits and all adjacent sidings and tracks, and this results in each of the seven locomotives being able to be controlled independently.

Future plans include electrically-operated semaphore signals and centrally-controlled junctions.

NEWS-SHEET PRODUCTION

Officer-in-Charge: LT. J. B. GIBBY, R.A.E.C.

The Battalion news-sheet *The Leader* is now a regular feature in Battalion life. Its editor, Jnr. Pte. Howley has had a very successful term of office. Under his guidance the standard of the news-sheet has improved considerably. The group has produced a fortnightly six-page issue and for the first time has been solely responsible for printing the paper. Jnr. Pte. Worsfold has done a lot to improve *The Leader*—his headings and cartoons are of a high standard.

Jnr. Ptes. Collar and Palmer are quite expert in the art of conducting an interview, but when the editor required them to interview Sgt. Bollers, their confidence diminished to its lowest ebb, a coin was tossed, and it was a shaky Palmer who approached THE HILL HOUSE SERGEANT!

Jnr. Pte. Hill has produced regular crossword puzzles—a popular feature of *The Leader*—because correct solutions reap a 5/- Naafi voucher reward. He also deserves praise for working the flat-bed printer for he frequently emerged smeared in ink from head to foot—so much so that a certain officer was heard to enquire whether we had started a "Black and White Minstrel Show Hobby Group."

Jnr. Ptes. Cousins our sports editor and Yates our typist, complete a workmanlike group.

STAMP COLLECTING

In Charge: SGT. MCKENZIE, K.

This term the club has been engaged on two distinct tasks. Jnr. Ptes. Hallett, Cooke and Betts have undertaken an exhaustive cataloguing of our collection of approximately 5,000 stamps.

Meanwhile Jnr. Ptes. Wright and Daniells have been working on

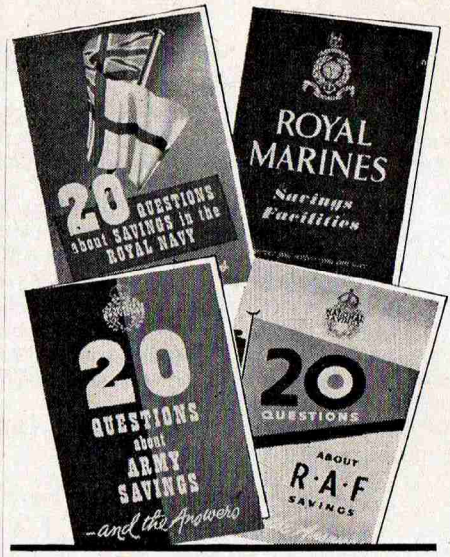
the 1,500 Penny Reds that we bought at the beginning of this term. They have built up a sheet of Penny Reds which is complete except for one stamp. A sheet consists of 240 stamps, and each stamp has different letters on the corners which enables you to identify its position on the sheet. They are now busy sorting out a copy from each plate used in the printing. So far they have found 118 out of a total of 152. A stamp from Plate No. 77 is worth £700—they're still looking!

RADIO-BUILDING

In Charge: SGT. WILLIAMS, G.

This group has been functioning as a hobby in the Battalion for the past three years under the guidance of Sgt. Williams, R.A.E.C. The aim of the hobby is to remove some of the magic of that box of tricks which snatches music out of the air. This is achieved by the Junior Leaders themselves building up radio receivers from a lot of parts. The kits range from a simple transistor-crystal set to a five-valve three-wave-band receiver suitable for use with a record player. After completion and satisfactory testing of the kits, they may be purchased by the makers.

From time to time members of the group are called upon to find out why a commercially made receiver suddenly ceases to function or answer the plaintive cry, " Can you fix this, I turned it on and it doesn't work! "



A MESSAGE
from the Chairman of
HER MAJESTY'S FORCES SAVINGS COMMITTEE

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY started saving, you should try to develop the savings habit while you are in the Services.

There are excellent facilities for saving in all Units of the Services in every part of the world — in fact the slogan of H.M. Forces Savings Committee is " Wherever you serve, you can save ".

We have an excellent series of leaflets (as illustrated above) which tell in simple language all about Forces Savings.

Why not write for a copy of the leaflet which applies to your Service? Write to me personally:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders
GCB, KBE, MC, DFC, MM.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee
1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

The group of ten meets every Tuesday and Thursday in a small workshop which at one time in its history used to be a telephone exchange.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In Charge: S/SGT. BAKER, E.

We have emerged from the dark depths of winter into the sunlight and the box cameras are beginning to re-appear.

This term we have concentrated on the processing side of the business, particularly in the making of our own developing and fixing solutions. For this we are indebted to Pte. Anderson (permanent staff) who has put in a lot of voluntary hard work.

The standard of work in the group continues to improve and we have been commissioned by the Editor of *Thunderbolt* to produce photographs for future editions of the magazine.

Jnr. Ptes. Dagless and Carr, both of Baker House (appropriately!), have worked extremely hard this term, the latter being awarded the Hobby Prize for his tremendous enthusiasm and fine efforts.

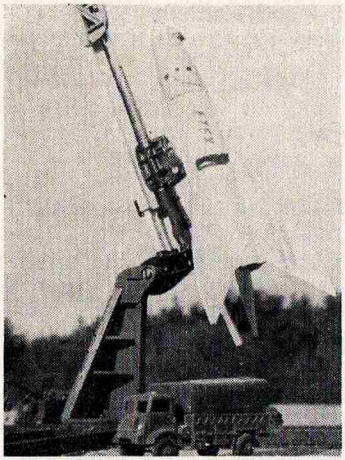
SHORT-WAVE LISTENING

In Charge: W.O.II H. WARBURTON

At the conclusion of our first year of operations, we look back with satisfaction at the results achieved. Over 140 countries have been logged on the amateur wavebands, and our first verification cards are in from Nigera, Scotland and England. Reports are out to many other countries, including several behind the Iron Curtain. English being the accepted International language of radio, it is reasonably easy to log foreign stations in spite of the awful tortures to which English is put. The club now boasts three communication receivers and three transceivers of the Army Type 38. It is now a common sight in Blackdown to see my space men with headphones, packs and aerials wandering around mumbling small nothings into a throat microphone.

With the acquisition of an ex-Army Receiver R107, we shall be launching out into the field of commercial and national radio by monitoring the whole of the short-wavebands, identifying such exotic stations as Radio Ecuador, Radio Brazzaville, etc. The members of the club, 12 in number, are now fully aware of the fact that there is a great, wide world outside Blackdown.

Jnr. Pte. David Brown is still our strong right-hand man and has been awarded the Hobby Prize for this group. Other stalwarts are Jnr. Ptes. Maskell, Kelly, Smith, Barber, Selfe, Atkins and Candlin.



" Interplanetary Space Service "— Product of the Aeromodelling Group.

AEROMODELLING CLUB

In Charge: SGT. WOODS, P

Who says the Russians will be first on the moon? Alongside this article is shown the Junior Leaders' Battalion moon rocket on the launching pad prepared for firing. Trial launchings have already been made and rumour has it that other hobbies are producing sandbags, etc., for protection purposes.

Although this is the Aeromodelling Club, we have now branched into the boat-building business as well. Three boats are being built and we hope they will be ready for exhibition at the end of term.

Congratulations to Jnr. Pte. Turner of Mulcahy House, who, in his first term in the club has earned the distinction of having made most progress this term.
NOTE: BEWARE OF LOW-FLYING ROCKETS.

DRAMA

Officer-in-Charge: MAJOR R. DOCK, R.A.E.C.

The Drama Group has been both active and successful for the past two years. Their productions of " In the Zone " in 1959 and " The Pearl " in 1960 were outstanding and earned them the Army Festival of Music and Drama Shield on *both* occasions.

This is no mean achievement, for 11 teams competed from both Junior Leader and Apprentice Schools. Lt.-Col. Mullins, R.A.E.C., who judged the competition, pointed out that a great deal of credit must be given to the producer, Major R. Dock, R.A.E.C., for, inevitably, his enthusiasm and ability lay solid foundations for successful performances.

Jnr. Pte. Bowers, as Bill in " The Pearl," was outstanding to such an extent that he won the award for the best individual actor in the Festival. He was well supported by Jnr. Pte. Lugg, ideally cast as Samson, an Irish seaman, and by Jnr. Pte. Clements who was most realistic in the role of an Italian cook.

Jnr. Ptes. Hill and Saville and Jnr. L/Cpl. Toop, formed the remainder of a well-balanced cast.

Credit must also be given to the " back-stage boys," W.O.I Thornton, W.O.II Leonard, Sgt. Williams, and Jnr. Pte. Brown.

The Drama Group look forward to the next Drama Festival when they hope to complete a hat-trick of successes.

THE EXECUTION

by

JNR. PTE. MORETON

He realised what a fool he had been not making the necessary precautions. The job had sounded easy enough. He remembered Jacque's exact words. " This job is of vital necessity to our allies. It is an easy task. It is simply to place a time bomb at a strategic point on the ' Chateau ' bridge. The guards pass at 2200 hours and at two-hourly intervals after." He had then outlined the plan.

Pierre sat in his cell in German H.Q., Dieppe, near the coast of France and wondered why the guards had arrived at such an opportune time. His mind wandered back to four days ago.



2300 hours. The bomb was set for 2345 hours. His fingers worked swiftly, attaching the bomb to the steel framework which was the main supporting structure of the bridge. Finished! He breathed a sigh of relief as he climbed the bank. " ALT." The staccato sound of a German voice rent the silence. He stopped and strong hands gripped his arms and bundled him up the bank into a van.

From that moment until now he had sat in his cell awaiting execution. Burning and painful torture has been inflicted on him. Endless questions had been thrown at him but he had not betrayed his comrades. Now the time of his execution was near. He heard

continued on page 51

OLD BOYS' NEWS

ROUND AND ABOUT

The privilege is mine to add a new page to *The Thunderbolt*. Our intention is to publish news from ex-Junior Leaders stationed at home and abroad. Since *The Thunderbolt* now has a wide circulation, it is felt that this new venture will help to maintain contact with those who have passed into Man's Service.

We all have great ties with the Junior Leaders. Many a time I have heard someone say: " I wonder where old so-and-so is now? " —this is where this page in *The Thunderbolt* will come in useful. I am sure that our efforts will make this page a medium of news from all ex-Junior Leaders.

You will appreciate that until our new page is well established news will be limited. However, for our first page, news from Sgt. Glenn and L/Cpl. Manners. 22825663 Sgt. Glenn is stationed at H.Q. 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group, Hong Kong, B.F.P.O.1. Sgt. Glenn often writes and without doubt intends to make the career he has chosen a success. He left us in 1958 and was posted to Chilwell and often speaks of the old days in Joslin House and his favourite sergeant—Sgt. Fenton.

23507703 L/Cpl. Manners is now serving with 10 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 20, Germany. He left us last Autumn term. We all know him as a great sportsman, excelling in boxing. In his last letter to me, he told me that he was in full-time training for the B.A.O.R. Provisional Boxing Championship. We wish him every success and look forward to publishing news of this in our next edition. He is also making a success of his career, having attained his First Class Education and First Class " B " Trade.

I am awaiting a reply from 22825975 Pte. Campbell, who left us last Summer term. He is now stationed with R.A.O.C. Stores Section, Att. 656 Lt. A.C. Squadron, A.C.C., Noble Field, c/o G.P.O. Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

Pte. Tress left for overseas on the 17th March, 1961, and has promised to write—don't forget Tress! Back to the Home Stations. 22825788 L/Cpl. Priest, 17 Battalion R.A.O.C., " B " Company, Bicester, Oxon, and 23507207 Pte. Ward, 12 B.V.D., C.V.D. R.A.O.C. Ashchurch, Gloucester, still owe me letters. I will be pleased to hear of their successes at sport and work and of any happy memories they cherish of the Battalion. I would also like to know when they left us and what houses they represented. Snaps will be welcomed and if you know of any other ex-Junior Leaders, if you can get them to write to me, letters should be addressed to:—

S.Q.M.S. Robinson,
Regimental Depot, R.A.O.C.
Hilsea Barracks,
Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

the slow, deliberate steps of his guard's jackboots echoing in the passageway, the sound of the key in the lock and the creaking of the large iron door. Slowly he walked up the passageway into the huge courtyard. He took his last look at life. The blindfold was placed over his eyes.

The report of his captor's rifles shattered the quiet of the dawn. One more brave and courageous resistance fighter went to his martyr's death.

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