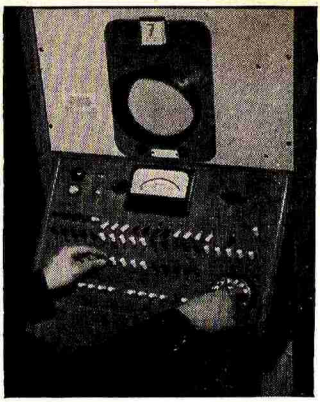
THE THUNDERBOLT



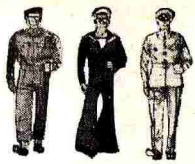
The Journal of the
Junior Leaders' Battalion
Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Winter, 1961



NAAFI **plans ahead**

NAAFI
1921-1961
Forty Years of Service to the Services



Still in step

Naafi has taken a bold step into the front ranks of progressive commerce with the installation of an electronic computer in its modern warehouse at Krefeld, Germany. Linked with punched tape machines and a battery of teleprinters, the computer produces indents, invoices and stock figures; solves arithmetical problems in thousandths of a second; cuts out tedious clerical work and provides valuable information at the time it is most needed. Another type of computer has become Naafi's "Paymaster General" and will progressively take on more routine duties dealing with warehouse stocks and issues in the United Kingdom. One more example of Naafi's aim to keep in step with the Rocket-age Services.

IMPERIAL COURT, KENNINGTON LANE, LONDON, S.E.11 *H.M. Forces' Official Trading Organisation*

Officially Appointed Tailor
to the Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC

NORMAN ROSE
OF ARBORFIELD

Visits this Battalion Every Wednesday Afternoon

VICTORS OF ALDERSHOT
(MILITARY) LTD.

Military cap manufacturers, Badges in gold, silver and bronze
Embroiderers in gold, silver, silk, etc. Medallists, Medal replacements
Belts, sashes, cords, lanyards. Regimental Crests in metal and wood
Flags designed, made and repaired

Telephone: Aldershot 20679

LARGEST STOCK IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND—BLAZER BADGE SPECIALISTS

56 STATION ROAD, ALDERSHOT

JOURNAL

OF THE

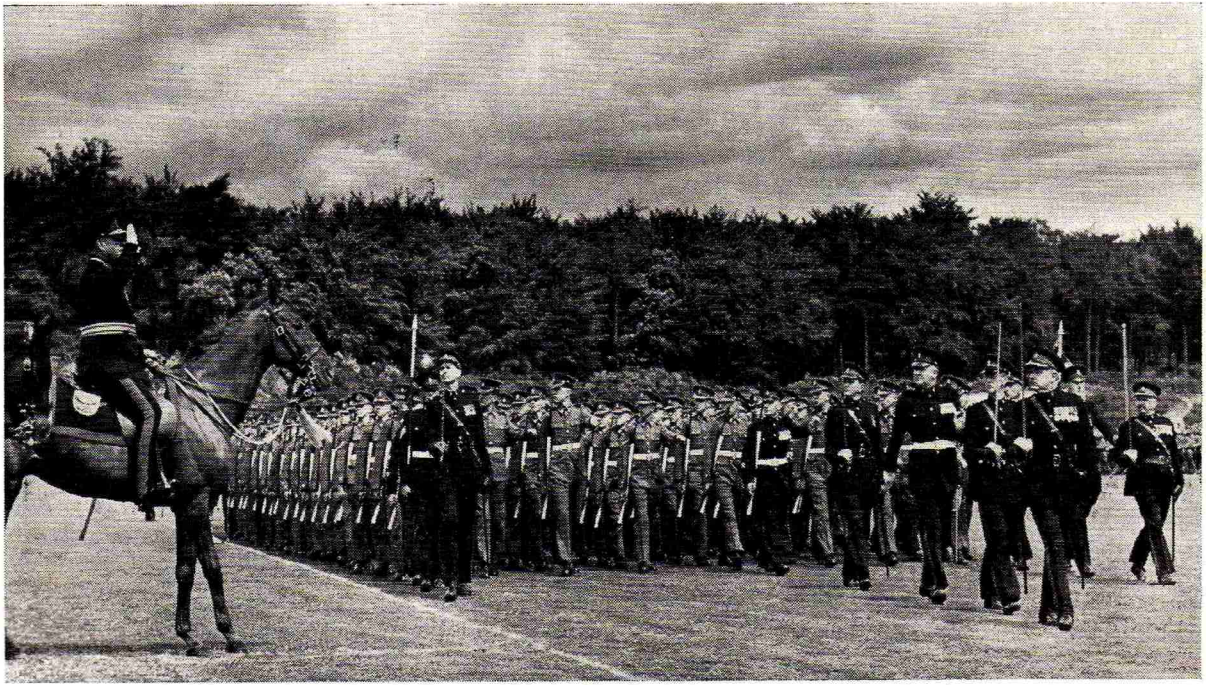
JUNIOR LEADERS' BATTALION ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

VOLUME 1 WINTER, 1961 No. 4

Editor: Lieut. J. B. Gibby, B.A., R.A.E.C.
Financial Adviser: Capt. P. Gibson, R.A.O.C.
Typist: Mrs. P. Ness

CONTENTS

Foreword 5
Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C. 6
Settling In 6
Edinburgh Tattoo 8
Tregantle—Summer Camp 10
Nijmegen Marches, 1961 12
House Notes 13
The Last Jump 23
Sport 25
"Trapped!" 27
Halt! 28
Old Boys' News 29
Blackdown Addendum 33



Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters leading the Junior Leaders' Battalion, R.A.O.C., on the Queen's Birthday Parade, 1961, as they give a salute to the Inspecting Officer, Major-General D. S. S. O'Connor, C.B., C.B.E.

FOREWORD

by the Second-in-Command,

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

The fact that Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., has handed over command of the Battalion, is the sole reason of my writing this Foreword. A more detailed farewell to " Colonel John," as he is affectionately known, appears elsewhere in this issue.

This term is devoted in the main to training in preparation for our annual summer camp, again held for the fourth successive year at Fort Tregantle, Cornwall. The weather at camp was really quite splendid, and when the Battalion returned to Blackdown there were many varied comments heard about " Holidays with pay on the French Riviera."

In addition to Tregantle, we had the added excitement this term of sending the Battalion Corps of Drums to appear at the Military Tattoo, which formed part of the now famous Edinburgh Festival. The Corps of Drums, under the command of Capt. H. McCutcheon, R.A.O.C., duly spent their entire leave in Edinburgh. Many letters of congratulation have been received, as indeed have many words of praise. In addition to representing the Corps very well at this very famous Tattoo, I am sure that all the members of the Corps of Drums will readily admit that they too enjoyed themselves very much and met many people they would otherwise have had little chance of meeting, from the many countries represented at the Tattoo.

Also, during this term, our team for the Nijmegen Marches began their preparation. Capt. Robinson was to be seen at very strange hours, together with his band of hearty individuals, pounding the highways of Surrey and Cornwall. The hard training was, in fact, proved to be well worth while as we were the leading Junior Leaders to finish the course complete, and again received the Gold Medal Award. I would hasten to add that Capt. Robinson was helped by S.Q.M.S. Robinson, who has done this so many times before.

This term too, we introduced the G.C.E. classes as a permanent feature in our educational wing, and it is hoped that the size of this class will gradually increase so that a second class will have to be formed.

The old boys' notes mentioned in the last issue, as you will see are, in fact, very much in being and the Editor will be only too pleased to receive more notes from more old boys and, whilst one mentions old boys, let me hasten to add that the Battalion now has a tie of its own.

The tie—the Battalion colours of black and white flanked on either side by red—may be obtained from the P.R.I. of the Battalion. There are two qualities of tie, one of rayon which sells at 7/– and one of terylene which sells at 11/–. If Money Orders or Cheques are sent, please make them payable to the P.R.I., The Junior Leaders' Battalion, R.A.O.C.

Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C.

It is with great regret that *The Thunderbolt* has to record the departure of the Battalion Commander, Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., into whose hands was entrusted the formation of the Battalion, as such, on July, 1958.



The forming of a Battalion is no easy task, the number and diversity of the difficulties involved a legion, certainly not an easy command for an officer on first appointment as Lieut.-Colonel. It is not intended to list the many virtues which have enabled Colonel Harley-Peters to raise the Battalion to its present high standard, sufficient therefore to say that the same standard is the direct result of his own enthusiasm, energy and devotion to the Battalion.

On behalf of all ranks of the Junior Leaders' Battalion, R.A.O.C., may I tender to Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., our gratitude for all that he has done and our most sincere wishes for his continued happiness and success in the future.

SETTLING IN

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

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

We are nearing the end of our second term in our new location in Dettingen Barracks and the Education Wing has settled down quickly in the excellent classrooms near the sports field. Visitors, however, still manage to track us down successfully and this last term we have had the usual parties of schoolboys, recruiters, headmasters and teachers. In mid-July we were honoured by a visit of the Chief Education Officer, Southern Command, Brigadier R. L. Gadd, O.B.E., M.A. He visited most of our Hobby Groups and spoke to many Junior Leaders. Later on in the term we were further honoured by a visit from the Commander-in-Chief, Lieut.-General R. N. H. C. Bray, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

We welcome these visits. Apart from creating tremendous interest amongst the Junior Leaders, they keep us on our toes and sharpen our wits. Our Hobbies Groups continue to flourish. The summer term saw the formation of the Jazz Club—a group essentially for specialists who know the jargon and who react in all the right ways to recorded jazz music. Next down the list to the hard core of enthusiastic strummers in the Guitar Club who continue to practise

energetically, and some uninhibited and healthy sounds emerge from their hide-away in B Spider.

During the summer the Canoe Club members spent carefree afternoons canoeing on the Thames. Visits were made to Pangbourne, Windsor and Henley. Sgt. Thomas deserves a special mention here. He has worked very hard to make the club a success.

The " hams " of the Short-Wave Listening Group under W.O.II Warburton continue to listen and report. Reception reports have been sent out, resulting in cards being received from stations in the Congo Republic, Aden, Austria, Trucial Oman, several Soviet Republics and the Maldive Islands. There is no truth, however, in the rumour which did the rounds at the time that Jnr. Pte. Brown (" The Professor ") was in touch with Gagarin in his rocket.

The keener members of the Art Group continue to bombard the Army Art and Craft Exhibition organisers with oil paintings and water colours–without much success this year–but full marks for trying.

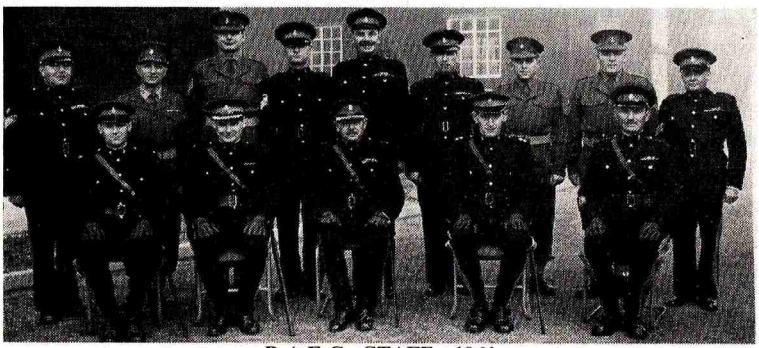
The members of the Model Railways Group under Major Bomford, R.A.O.C., are building an impressive and complicated layout which should be finished very shortly

The Aeromodelling Club and the Model Making Group have been combined this term and bigger and better models continue to come off the production lines.

With an eye to a " hat-trick " of successes we have again entered for the Army Junior Drama Festival with a play entitled " Monkey Island," a rousing story of tough seamen and even tougher officers. Never can the Tela Theatre have resounded to such a welter of violent language (mainly coming from the producer).

This play was presented on December 5th, together with a concert from the R.A.O.C. Staff Band.

Since my last notes we have said goodbye to Lieut. Belcher and Sgt. Titheradge to civilian life and to S/Sgt. Baker on commissioning. We wish them all well in the future.



R.A.E.C. STAFF, 1961

Standing left to right: S/Sgt. Williams, W.O.II Leonard, Sgt. Titheradge, Sgt. Malings, W.O.II Mears, W.O.II Warburton, Sgt. Thomas, S/Sgts. Mercer, Smith. Front row: Lieut. Nelson, R.A.E.C., Major Dock, R.A.E.C., Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., Lieut. Gibby, R.A.E.C., W.O.I Thornton.

EDINBURGH TATTOO

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



With the impressive background of a floodlit castle and a host of performers in uniforms of all types and colours, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of the finest military productions in the World. As a part of the renowned Edinburgh Festival it attracts spectators from all over the globe, all of whom are loud in their praises.

For the Tattoo of 1961 the Battalion was highly honoured to be asked to provide the Corps of Drums, and it was with some trepidation that we set off for Edinburgh early in August to start rehearsals. However, with a great deal of hard work on the part of Sgt. King and the members of the Corps of Drums, we finally achieved the high standard demanded by the Producer, Brigadier MacLean.

The Corps of Drums gave a display of playing and marching, the precision and snap of which gave rise to many favourable comments from performers and spectators alike. In every one of the 29 performances the band kept up an extremely high standard and deserved every plaudit accorded them.

On Monday the 28th of August the salute was taken by Major-General Hildreth, Director of Ordnance Services, and he was extremely pleased with our performance. General Hildreth told the band how valuable their effort was both to the Battalion and the Corps, and prior to the performance he spoke to every single Junior Leader. We were all very proud to see our own Director take the salute. Also present on that evening were our own Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, and Major P. R. Bomford, " B " Company Commander. Both were delighted with the performance, and perhaps a little surprised at the excellence of our own boys.

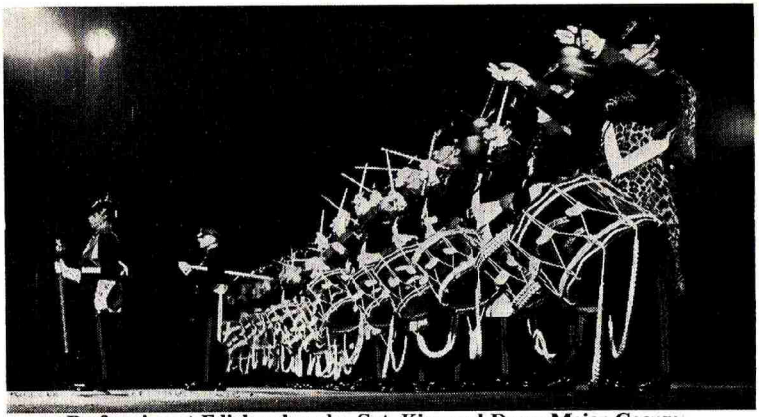
Apart from the Tattoo the Corps of Drums took part in two outside engagements. The first was the Edinburgh Horse Show and the second at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Children. Here, in company with other Tattoo items, we took part in a miniature Tattoo and afterwards went around the beds with sweets, ice-cream, and toys. This was one extra performance which no-one minded doing.

On one of the free days, 24 of the Corps of Drums went on a steamer trip from Craigendoren and visited some of the West Coast

resorts and the Western Islands. This trip was both pleasant and instructive and luckily was blessed with fairly good weather.

On the two occasions when the Tattoo was televised our item came out very effectively and was seen by a great number of friends and relations.

After the last performance it was a weary but well satisfied band who heaved sighs of relief that it was all over. Although it was hard



Performing at Edinburgh under Sgt. King and Drum-Major George.

work it was an experience worth having and it will provide a topic of conversation for some time to come.

Despite the fact that everyone worked hard and gave of his best it is only fair to mention our key men. Sgt. King was untiring and patient (sometimes!). To him goes much of the credit for the standard achieved. Jnr. Pte. Ince was a tower of strength and received many compliments on his playing, and Jnr. L/Cpl. George, the drum-major, was complimented often on his bearing and smartness.

Overall we had a successful and well worthwhile time. The Battalion can well be proud of the contribution made to its reputation in Scotland.

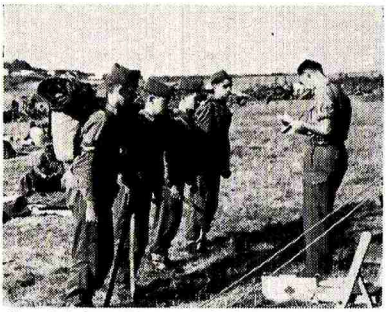
Whatever you do
Don't miss **SOLDIER**
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE
It's only 9d. a copy
WHY NOT SEND IT HOME ?

FEATURES
PHOTOGRAPHS
CARTOONS
SPORT

TREGANTLE—SUMMER CAMP

by LIEUT. J. B. GIBBY, B.A., R.A.E.C.

Summer camp at Fort Tregantle is the highlight of the year's training as far as Junior Leaders are concerned. Bodmin Moor is their testing ground; unless they cross it successfully they can never be regarded as " old sweats " in the Battalion. Junior members of the Battalion anticipate it with anxiety, senior with the unruffled calm of veterans.



Sgt.-Major Pope de-briefing a senior house patrol on Bodmin Moor.

We arrived at Tregantle on 16th June; Junior Leaders' tongues wagged over the task ahead on Bodmin Moor and the wanderings of a ghost on the Fort's battlements. If they shrouded our camp in mystery that first day, mist shrouded it the second, but fortunately just as fear of the supernatural proved unfounded so did those in connection with the weather, for the sun ruled triumphant throughout our three weeks stay.

The first week was spent preparing Junior Leaders for Exercise Seamoor III. This was done on a company basis—setting up camp, cooking, map-reading, etc., valuable training essential as a preliminary to the crossing of Bodmin Moor. All concerned applied themselves conscientiously to their tasks because inter-house competition is fast and furious in the Battalion and any house failing to complete the exercise successfully would find itself in a social situation which even Capt. Boycott would find hard to face!! But no-one was sent to Coventry as a result of Exercise Seamoor III. The Junior Leaders set to their tasks with determination to succeed, and their application of march discipline resulted in many local people offering favourable comment.

One outstanding incident was the way in which a Junior Leader Patrol, under Cpl. Hetherington, rescued a bullock which was up to its neck in a bog near Bolventor. Jnr. Sgt. Pattinson, Jnr. Ptes. Flower, McPhee, Richardson 228, Adams 205, Grey 103, Coleman and Neary improvised a rope from their equipment, and displayed complete disregard for their personal safety in pulling out the unfortunate animal. Their prompt action undoubtedly saved its life.

Casualties were reported immediately to Battalion H.Q. and the R.A.P. dealt with cases immediately. Fortunately such cases were few and far between. Indeed " C " Company can look back upon the exercise with complete satisfaction for the entire company succeeded in reaching Bossiney.

Bodmin Moor did not occupy our time completely. The Inter-House Full Bore Shoot took place on 6th July. It was an excellent

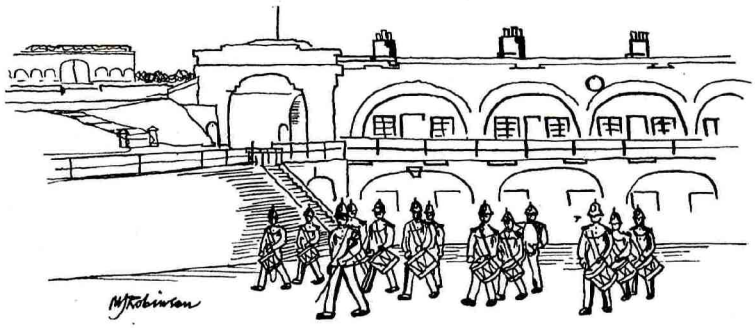
shoot on a delightfully situated range which overlooks Cawsands Bay. Steevens House obviously enjoyed the conditions and are convincing champions. Baker House were runners-up. Jnr. Pte. Walling was the champion shot with Jnr. Pte. Whike only one point behind his score of 74. Jnr. Sgt. Atkins and Jnr. Cpl. Jones succeeded in winning the L.M.G. Competition. Perhaps the most interesting part of the day's meeting was the Falling Plate Competition—always an exciting event. Gordon House won the Junior Leader Competition and " C " Coy. Sergeants beat " A " Coy. Officers in the other shoot despite the fact that the officers were tipped as firm favourites—in Officers' Mess circles anyway!!

The Permanent Staff Cricket Team had a full fixture list during our stay. They defeated St. Germain's, Mount Edgecombe and Torpoint and lost the return game to St. Germain's by only one run. We thoroughly enjoyed the games and were very envious of the Mount Edgecombe cricket ground which overlooked Plymouth Hoe—a most pleasant setting for cricket. Capt. Hopkinson batted well and scored 40 not out v. Mount Edgecombe, and 67 not out against St. Germain's. Sgt. Bollers was also in form with the bat and Cpl. Hetherington bowled well in all matches.

The Corps of Drums was as busy as ever at Tregantle. They beat retreat at the Fort prior to the Officers' Mess Cocktail Party. and before a much larger audience at Plymouth Hoe, by kind invitation of the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, and accompanied the Battalion Church Parade to the Church at Antony where Canon Bernard Benskin conducted the Service.

All in all then our time was fully occupied, but fortunately on occasions we were able to take advantage of the splendid opportunities for recreation that the Cornish coastline offers. Generally speaking we bathed at Cawsands, a small bay ideal for Junior Leaders, and the Physical Training Instructors were able to keep a close watch on their activities from the picket boat.

Undoubtedly, summer camp improves standards of military efficiency and physical fitness, develops self confidence and leaves ample room for initiative. Junior Leaders enjoy it and already the now new " old sweats " are whispering in the ears of the new recruits tales of Bodmin Moor, 1961.



Nijmegen Marches, 1961

The Junior Leaders' Battalion team, Jnr. Sgt. Welsh, Jnr. L/Cpls. Leitch and Reeves, Jnr. Ptes. Ogilvie, Crocombe, Clemow, O'Connor, Hankin, Palmer, Elks, Smith and Ward, have once again successfully completed the Nijmegen Marches, 1961. The photograph



shows the Battalion team together with Capt. M. J. T. Robinson and S.Q.M.S. Robinson about to overtake two members of the Royal Dutch Army on the first day of the marches.

The team succeeded in completing the daily marches of 40 kms. in under six hours, a very creditable performance, and the Battalion is now the proud owner of three Queen Juliana Medals awarded only to those teams that complete the march intact.

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TAILORS AND OUTFITTERS

Gieves
LIMITED

1 HIGH STREET, CAMBERLEY Telephone : 359
27 OLD BOND STREET, LONDON W.1 Telephone : HYDe Park 2276

Portsmouth Plymouth Chatham Dartmouth Edinburgh Weymouth Liverpool Bath
Bournemouth Southampton Winchester Brockenhurst Londonderry Gibraltar Malta

House Notes

"A" COMPANY

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

C.S.M. E. L. POPE

I loathe writing and the Editor always has to bully me (very politely, as he is junior to me) into producing anything at all. Be that as it may—now to current matters. We have had a busy term which included everything from the Queen's Birthday Parade, at which we were very fine and brave (even the G.O.C. agreed with us) to the annual trek across Bodmin Moor. It is these hardships which, considered in retrospect, so endear Army life to the " old sweats." Any ex-Junior Leader asked by his children what he did as a boy will be able to reply proudly " I was a pack-mule in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps."

My house officers have already flogged to death the detail of our activities during the term and it only remains for me to record that most of us survived the term, including Parents' Day, and are now back at work after our long leave feeling fit, (frantic but fit) and facing with comparative calm the prospect of three months of struggle with the bright and eager spirit of youth—yes I do mean it both ways. Many of the underprivileged classes, bank managers, company directors (civil pattern) and Army officers of other units complain bitterly that Junior Leader units have too much leave—they say that boys don't need all this leave—this may well be true—it's not the boys who need it, it's the Permanent Staff. I spent my leave in places like Singapore and Cyprus and met many of my old boys who were sympathetic on learning that I must face a further winter in Blackdown whilst they sail, canoe, swing and generally live it up in a civilised climate.

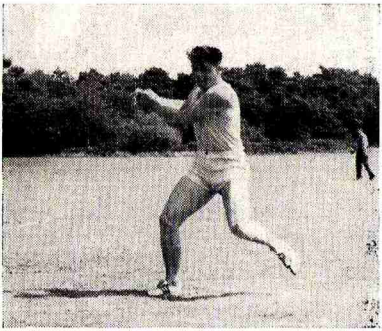
STEEVENS HOUSE

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

SGT. FENTON, R. F.

The long, hot summer has gone, but it wasn't so long nor, except on odd occasions, so very hot. Falling leaves herald the autumn and the approach of winter—and more senior boys.

Now altogether we fared pretty well during the summer term. We won, let's see, the Inter-House Full Bore Shoot and the Cricket Competition and the Drill Competition and provided six Nijmegen Marchers and one Ten Tors Marcher and a—no, no Ban the Bomb variety! A baker's dozen (13) Senior Stalwarts competed in the Commonwealth Technical Training Week Athletics and three of them won medals—S/Pte. Walling a silver and S/Ptes. Hayles and Harris bronze in running events. S/Pte. Clemow deserves mention for his great effort in the Southern Command Cross-Country Championships by running a very good third. Well done Clemow. In addition to his silver medal, S/Pte. Walling became the Battalion



S/Sgt. Harris (Steevens) throwing the hammer at the Battalion Sports.

Champion Full Bore Shot, thereby following the example of his House Boss, Capt. Gibson, in becoming the Small Bore Champion Officer, and the House Ramrod, Sgt. Fenton, in winning the Small Bore Shoot.

We shared the Athletics Cup being joint winners with Hill House in the Battalion Athletics. This was due to the standards test, in which "Hairy Hill" beat "Shiny Steevens," but the result was reversed on the day of joust and tourney—Sports Day. The total scores returned a joint win. We offer congratulations to Hill and wish them well in the future.

From the training angle we also had a very good term. At Tregantle we suffered no casualties (that is among the boys), neither did any patrols lose themselves. This reflects favourably upon their attitude to training since they had most difficult tasks and map-reading problems to overcome. It's a pretty sure thing however, that the House Officer "don't dig dem mo'bikes no mo!"

An exercise during one weekend with some visiting Army cadets collapsed when a motor car, driven by Lord knows who, crashed over the edge of a cliff beneath which Senior House were positioned. The exercise stopped in order to find any injured and to help police enquiries. As this happened about midnight and went on for some time, it was more or less impossible to start again.

That's it for this term except to bid those lads from the Summer House farewell and the new arrivals welcome.

GORDON HOUSE

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

SGT. WOODS, P.

Gordon House has always earned respect on the sports field. With such brawny individuals as Jnr. Sgt. Harris, Jnr. Cpls. Rourke and Brogden and Jnr. Pte. Old we could not fail to do well. It was a rare occasion indeed for us to lose on the rugger field.

Unfortunately, however, the summer term saw us bid farewell to our more prominent sportsmen and we are now in the process of re-building our teams.

If we are now without brawn, we still have brains for we won the House Education Cup this term.

Our marksmen did quite well; we were runners-up in the .22 shoot and third in the .762, and at Tregantle we reigned supreme, producing the winners and runners-up in the Falling Plate Competition.

Ten Tors provided Jnr. Cpl. Williams, Jnr. L/Cpl. Reeves and Jnr. Pte. O'Conner with the opportunity to shine. They certainly did well, and deserve our heartiest congratulations.

Quite obviously, spirit is not lacking in the House and we are all working hard to recapture our former glories in the field of sport.

Let us hope that our newcomers, Jnr. Ptes. Murdoch, Stoker, Pease, Peat, Roberts, Carvin, Isom, Rowe and Sheach, will help us to regain our rightful position at the top of the House Championship.

BAKER HOUSE

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

SGT. MADDOCK, J.

Bakerites old and new wish to put on record " thank you " to S.Q.M.S. Robinson who has left the Battalion on posting to the Regimental Depot.

The House was away to a quick start on the first weekend of term with an exercise appropriately named " Spurs." This turned out to be rather badly timed as it coincided with the F.A. Cup Final and the final day of the Aldershot Tattoo. The exercise was wet but enjoyable and achieved its main purpose to banish the " Beginning of Term Feeling."

In June we set off for Fort Tregantle for the annual Battalion camp. During the first week of the camp we conducted a 48-hr. House Exercise at Fowey. Our numbers had just been made up with eleven recruits: Jnr. Ptes. Boal, Brady, Gosley, Flood, Lodge, Mullarkey, Pickard, Robinson, Smallpiece, Wetherill and Worsfold, and this exercise gave them a chance to settle down. It was during this exercise that Jnr. Pte. Worsfold had a most unfortunate accident in which he damaged his knee. He is now almost recovered and we hope he will rejoin us in the near future. The exercise at Fowey had been the preparation for the annual march across Bodmin Moor and back (Seamoor III). This produced its expected crop of blisters and minor injuries but nothing serious.

In the last weeks at Tregantle, Baker House had its biggest success of the term in coming second in the Battalion Full Bore Shoot. This success was largely due to a very fine shoot by our L.M.G. pair Jnr. Sgt. Atkins and Jnr. Cpl. Jones, who also won the L.M.G. Cup.

In the House Championship our cricket team showed great improvement and did well to finish third. The doubles pairs in the tennis, Jnr. Cpl. Jones and Jnr. Pte. Saville, did well to reach the finals of the knockout competition but were beaten by a more experienced and stronger pair from Mulcahy.

In the Battalion Sports we were rather left behind, our only performances worthy of note being Jnr. Pte. Robinson's win in the shot put, and Jnr. Pte. Brady who came second in the javelin.

Our last notable success was in the Drill Competition when the House came third.

Three members of the House attended the Army Outward Bound School, Jnr. Ptes. Standen and Crocombe and Jnr. L/Cpl. Harris,

all doing quite well. Jnr. Pte. Crocombe also went on the Nijmegen March and must have finished the term a very fit man.

During the term Jnr. Ptes. Lawler, Harris and Campbell gained promotion to Jnr. L/Cpl., Jnr. L/Cpl. Jones to Jnr. Cpl., and Jnr. Cpl. Atkins to Jnr. Sgt. As always a number of Bakerites moved on to Steevens House among them being Jnr. Cpls. Allen and Jones, Jnr. L/Cpls. Carrington and Campbell, and Jnr. Ptes. Gates, Snow, Whyke and McGeough. We also lose Jnr. Sgt. Atkins on his promotion to Jnr. R.S.M.

"B" COMPANY

MAJOR P. R. BOMFORD, R.A.O.C.
C.S.M. K. MAULE

Since our last newsletter, we welcome Sgt. North who must by now consider himself to be the company jack-of-all-trades. We also welcome S/Sgt. Scott who assures me that he is an old hand at this game. I hope you enjoy your stay with us Staff and prove to all and sundry that technical and regimental do mix. We say farewell to Sgt. Luke who has gone to the far distant horizons of "A" Company where to his chagrin he was promptly pushed across to "C" Company. I wonder if he regrets his decision!

My condolences go to Hill House on losing the Champion House Shield. Better luck this term. A real welcome is extended to our 25 recruits, we hope that they will enjoy their stay with us. I trust there will be no mad, hunger-crazed fight amongst three certain house officers, for their bodies.

Congratulations to Body House in doing so well in the Edinburgh Tattoo, we trust there won't be too many letters postmarked from some place north of the border for the "sassenachs" amongst you.

By the time this newsletter is in print Capt. Clifton will be on his way to warmer climes—the looks of envy from the other officers had to be seen to be believed as Capt. Clifton opened "that letter."

Tailpiece—C.S.M. Maule has been wearing a face as black as thunder, he thought he'd saluted the O.C. when he came to the office in his car (it was a white Ford!) in civvies; to his disgust it was a civilian!! This, I should mention, was at 0810 hrs.

BODY HOUSE

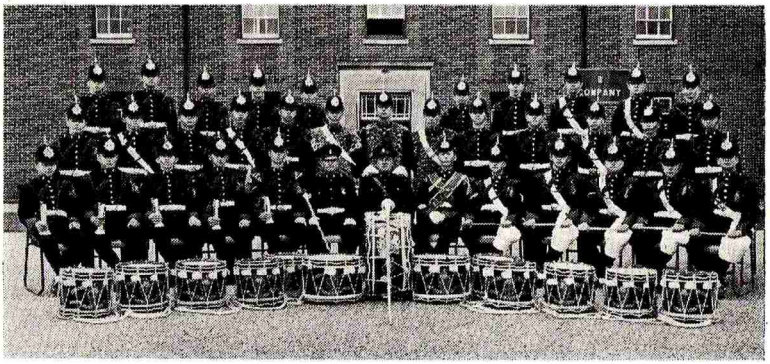
CAPT. H. MCCUTCHEON, R.A.O.C.
SGT. KING, L. N.

The term that has gone has been one of the most successful and satisfying since the House, in its present form, was started, and it is very satisfying that most of the successes were achieved in the purely military functions of the House Competition.

For the second time running we won the Small Bore Competition and the efforts of our shooting team must be highly praised. In the same field but with a larger weapon, Jnr. Ptes. O'Connell and Ince gave a very creditable performance in the Bren-Gun pairs and finished second.

We took the greatest pleasure, however, in winning second place in the Drill Competition, being beaten only by the Seniors of Steevens House. The turnout and drill were very good indeed and the House as a whole did extremely well. The critics were certainly confounded by the result.

In the other competitions we managed to hold our own and eventually finished third in the whole Inter-House Competition, a result which is very pleasing indeed.



The Corps of Drums, 1961

As far as our band functions are concerned we have been fairly busy with engagements at Camberley, Horsham, Southampton, Bramley and of course Edinburgh, a full report appears elsewhere. At all of these places we had an enjoyable time and made a very large number of friends.

We have lost a large number of our old stalwarts to Steevens House, and to Jnr. Sgt. Pattison, Jnr. Cpl. Holmes, Jnr. L/Cpls. George and Lewis, Jnr. Ptes. Adams, Brook, Clements, Flower, Ince, Jenkins, Simister and Urwin we wish all the very best in the future and thank them for all they have done for the House. In their place we welcome Jnr. Ptes. Crowston, Moon, Sexton and Talbot and hope they have a happy stay in the House.

The present term is still young, and whilst not distinguishing ourselves in the competitions to date we hope to improve and climb still further up the Inter-House Competition ladder.

HILL HOUSE

CAPT. B. F. WILLIAMSON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. BOLLERS, J. J.

At the beginning of the summer term we lost the nucleus of our strength to Senior House, in Jnr. Sgt. Phelps, Jnr. Cpl. Stevenson, Jnr. L/Cpls. Renouf and Chaters, and Jnr. Ptes. Rushton, Hill and Walling, whom we wish well in their future careers.

During the summer term the House again kept a good average in

all the House Competitions and narrowly failed to hold the House Championship won by Mulcahy. We can assure them that it won't be for long!



Jnr. Pte. John (Hill House) clearing 5 ft. 4 in. to win the Battalion high jump.

Athletics. The House benefited from training and emerged winners of this competition. Jnr. C.S.M. Thomas, Jnr. Sgt. Hartley, Jnr. L/Cpls. Williams and Stickley, Jnr. Ptes. Rickaby, John, Diggins and Smith 068, are to be congratulated on representing the Battalion, and doing well on Sports Day. Congratulations to Jnr. L/Cpl. Williams on gaining his athletics cap.

Tennis. The House was unfortunate to meet Steevens in the first round and was very narrowly defeated. Jnr. L/Cpl. Langridge and Jnr. Pte. Mann played well, but lost to a better pair. The House ended fifth in tennis.

Cricket. Again the House had a bad draw, meeting the favourites, Mulcahy in the first round, and losing very heavily. The House finished sixth in the competition.

Shooting. Again we were up to standard finishing third in both the .22 and full-bore shoots. Jnr. C.S.M. Thomas represented the Battalion Team.

Cross-Country. The House team, ably led by Jnr. C.S.M. Thomas, Jnr. Sgt. Hartley and Jnr. Pte. Smith 068, ran very well and finished second to Mulcahy House.

In the Drill Competition, Education, and C.O's. Inspection the House was well up to standard and won the latter for the fourth successive time, the N.C.Os. are to be congratulated for their efforts in this sphere. The term was, of course, split up by annual camp in June, which in good weather was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Jnr. Cpl. Borthwick and his merry men are to be congratulated on the achievement of being the best patrol in the Company on the Battalion Exercise. A great deal of time was spent on the beach, where everyone enjoyed a " voluntary " swim under the direction of Sgt. Bollers. One unnamed Junior Private complained bitterly on his " bird-watching " being disturbed by this uncivilized form of training.

Finally we said goodbye to Jnr. Cpl. Steele, Jnr. L/Cpls. Langridge, Williams and Sankey, Jnr. Ptes. Mann, Legge and Harrison to Senior House.

Congratulations to Jnr. C.S.M. Thomas, Jnr. Sgt. Hartley, Jnr. Cpls. Borthwick, Jnr. L/Cpls. Stickley and Chambers on their promotions, and welcome to Jnr. Ptes. Standen, Davies, Day, Jamieson, Butler and Ogden from Recruit House.

PARSONS HOUSE

CAPT. L. N. CLIFTON, R.A.O.C.
S/SGT. SCOTT, J.

The main feature of the summer term was the annual camp at Fort Tregantle. This year we enjoyed perfect weather for the whole period, and were able to carry out a full training programme to the benefit of all concerned. Rumour has it that quite a few sweepstakes were being run on when the House officer would fall off his motorbike!

In the House Competitions we produced varied results, and our final position of sixth did not truly reflect the effort which went into them.

Athletics. The Sports Day produced some good performances, particularly from Jnr. L/Cpl. Cross and Jnr. Ptes. Ogilvie and Rodger, and although we were outclassed in many events we did well to finish fifth. In the standards competition we finished third, which gave us a final placing of fourth in the athletics competition.

Jnr. L/Cpl. Cross and Jnr. Ptes. Ogilvie and Cassidy represented the Battalion in several matches and gave a good account of themselves.

Cricket. We were beaten in the first round of the House Competition, but two subsequent wins enabled us to take fifth place. Jnr. Pte. Atkin represented the Battalion regularly during the term.

Tennis. Our pair surprised everyone by beating Body House in the first round of the competition, and, although beaten by Steevens in the semi-final, ended up in fourth place.

Boxing. Some very spirited matches were fought in the House Competition, and Jnr. Ptes. Bates and Whitby excelled themselves in helping us to take third place.

In the Shooting and Drill Competition we fell from grace, but we shared with Hill House, the Commanding Officer's Inspection Cup.

A piece of stop-press news is the transfer of Sgt. Luke to "C" Company. He has been with Parsons House since it was formed, and has done a great deal for those who have been in his care. In his place we welcome S/Sgt. Scott. We welcome from Watts House Jnr. Ptes. Atkin, Bates, Cassidy, Ogilvie, Scott, and from Recruit House Jnr. Ptes. Burt, Chiddicks, Goddard, Ironside, Laing, Neary, Rodger, Shilton, Tye, Vincent.

The following left us to go to Senior Boys training: Jnr. Cpls. Wells and Richardson, Jnr. L/Cpl. Cross, Jnr. Ptes. Coleman, Gray, Luke, Cassidy, Scott.

"C" COMPANY

MAJOR W. J. STEER, R.A.O.C.
C.S.M. A. N. CARMAN

As predicted in the last issue of *The Thunderbolt* the Inter-House Championship has found its way to "C" Company for the first, but I am certain, not the last time. It was a pretty close finish but Mulcahy House just managed to pull it off with an overall lead of

ten points. It is to be hoped that this term the win will be a more convincing one.

The new term, now begun, has seen an influx of no less than 98 recruits. This rather strained the administrative machinery but by a combination of improvisation and inter-company goodwill they have now been absorbed. The traditional recruits' tea party, arranged by our W.V.S. representative, Miss Sheldon, had to be spread over three days.

The Company welcomes S/Sgt. Sutton and hopes his stay in the appointment of C.Q.M.S. will be a happy one.

MULCAHY HOUSE

CAPT. G. B. HOPKINSON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. NESS, P., B.E.M.

Summer Term. After two terms as runners-up to Hill House we have finally turned the tables on them. After much toil the Champion House Pennant is now with us, and for the first time in "C" Company. It has been a team effort in which all the House has pulled its weight.

Cricket. For the second year we were runners-up, this time to Steevens House. The strength of the side lay in our Battalion players. Jnr. Sgt. Garrod and Jnr. Cpls. Craddock and Wyatt.

Boxing. Our success here was undoubtedly due to the efforts of



MULCAHY HOUSE—CHAMPION HOUSE, SUMMER TERM, 1961

Fourth row: Jnr. Ptes. Yeardley, Hudson, Ryles, Encinias, Brown, Malthouse, Yates, Kelly, Borrows.

Third row: Jnr. Ptes. Crawford, Harding, Gibb, Candlin, Emmett, Finch, Johnstone, Roberts, Cousins, Morgan.

Second row: Jnr. Ptes. Walker, Kirby, Jnr. L/Cpls. Long, Wyatt, Leitch, McGill, Welsh, Taylor, Collar, Mayes, Jnr. Ptes. Jenner, Tanner.

Sitting: Jnr. Cpl. Osborne, Jnr. Sgt. Garrod, Jnr. C.S.M. Bowen, Capt. G. B. Hopkinson, R.A.O.C., Major W. J. Steer, R.A.O.C., Sgt. Walker, Jnr. Sgt. Mitchell Jnr. Cpls. Clissold, Craddock.

Jnr. Cpl. Dunbar who trained and led the team to win the Inter-House Boxing.

Cross-Country. Training each morning under Jnr. Sgt. Garrod reaped rich rewards when we won the Inter-House Cross-Country. There were no stars in the team but all were fit and came up well in the field.

Shooting. This was probably our weakest facet in the competition and more stress must be given to this in the autumn term.

Drill and C.O's. Inspection. We kept up our standard in both these competitions and in the opinion of the onlookers were a trifle unfortunate not to be better placed.

Summer Camp. The highlight of the summer term is always our three weeks summer camp at Fort Tregantle. This year we were blessed with weather more suited to the South of France; this contributed greatly to the high morale and success of Seamoor III.

We completed Exercise Seamoor III without any of the House dropping out—a most creditable performance. Special mention must be made of the new recruits who joined us prior to the exercise and despite, in some cases, considerable hardship they completed the course. Jnr. Sgt. Welsh and his patrol are to be congratulated on being the winning patrol with a most competent performance.

During the summer term we lost several old stalwarts. Jnr. Sgt. Mitchell in particular, who had led the House enthusiastically and competently through the previous term, was a sad loss. However, the change is in name only and we still consider them members of Mulcahy.

Jnr. Sgt. Garrod is to be congratulated on winning the Progress Prize—a well deserved award, and the House, through the efforts of Jnr. Pte. Kelly, again won the Initiative Test Award.

We unfortunately lose quite a number to Senior Boys training this term. We wish them well in their efforts. Jnr. Cpls. Craddock and Clissold, Jnr. L/Cpls. Long and Leitch, and Jnr. Ptes. Brown and Kelly.

H.Q. COMPANY

CAPT. D. A. R. CLARK, R.A.O.C.
C.S.M. D. BINSTEAD

The Editor of *The Thunderbolt* has asked me on at least eight occasions to (using a Royal phrase) " pull my finger out " and produce some notes for H.Q. Company. At last I have settled down to the task.

The Old Order Changeth.

Departures. The following N.C.Os. and men having completed their tour with the Battalion have been posted. They have all served the Battalion well and we wish them good luck and good hunting in the future. Sgts. Korosi, Williams and Wilby, L/Cpl. Mellor, Ptes. Slocombe, Day, Morris, Lowes, Mutter, Andrew and Adair are

now civilians. Cpls. Hann and Scully are in Malaya. S/Sgt. Baker is now Lieut. Baker, S/I Dooley is at the A.P.T.C. School, Sgt. Bradshaw is at Watchfield, and Sgt. Jayne at Beaconsfield.

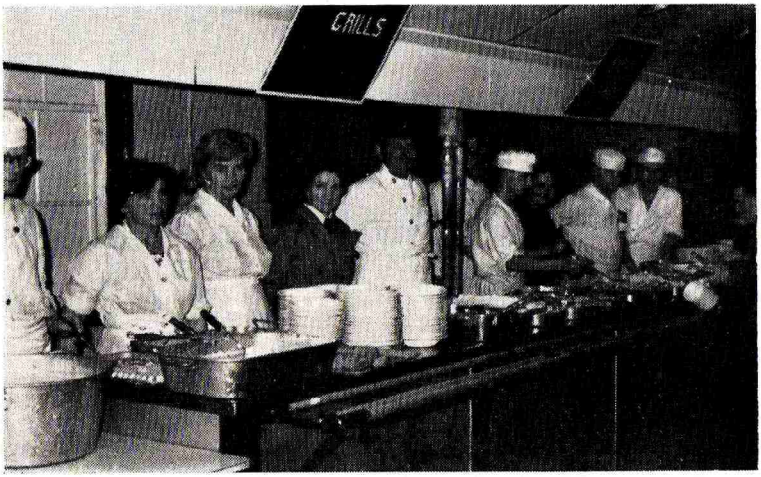
Arrivals. We welcome the following and hope they will enjoy their stay with the Battalion. S/Sgts. Sutton, Scott, Mercer, Duncan and Calvert, Sgts. Hall, Ness, B.E.M., and Page, Cpls. Lamb and Masters, Ptes. Devine, Goodliffe and Ward and Cfn. Young.

Promotions. Promotion is the fortune of the following: to Corporal—L/Cpls. James and Ferguson; to Lance/Corporal—Ptes. Brown, Greasley, Maguire, Waring, Yates, Mould, Powis, Urquhart, Cfn. Young and Pte. Cullingford.

We wish them good luck and hope that this will be the first step on the ladder to a successful army career.

Courses. During the past six months, Pte. Hall has succeeded in changing his trade from general duties, by passing the Drivers' Course at 1 Battalion. Pte. Reid has now changed his cap badge and is back with the Battalion after having successfully completed the Cooks' Course at the A.C.C. Training Centre.

Before closing the H.Q. Company Notes, I should like to pay brief tribute to S.Q.M.S. Earles, R.A.P.C., and Sgt. Marshall, R.A.P.C. Both are leaving this Battalion at the end of the year. Q. Earles is retiring and Sgt. Marshall is being posted to Cyprus. All will agree that pay is probably the item that interests everyone most. Both Q. Earles and Sgt. Marshall have organised the Battalion pay in a most efficient manner during their stay with this Battalion. We wish them both good luck for the future.



The Battalion messing staff await the first onslaught of hungry Junior Leaders on the self-help cafeteria in the dining room.

THE LAST JUMP

by JNR. PTE. COLLAR

My stomach lifted up to my mouth. We were airborne. Some of the lads looked cheerful, others looked as if they knew it would be their last jump. " Stand by! " We shuffled to our feet and stood by the gaping door. Suddenly we were all thrown to one end of the plane, flak raped the sky around us.

As I jumped I was blinded by the glare of a searchlight. The slipstream swung me away from the plane into a crazy spin, then



with a jar my parachure billowed open. It was a wonderful feeling floating down. I could see the canopies of other parachutes below me.

The moon slipped out of a cloud, a glint of metal below me, the staccato of machine gun. The tracer leapt upwards to the circling Beverley; a burst of flame in the nose, then the plane plunged down at ever increasing speed.

Men were still in the plane waiting for the end to come. I shut my eyes, a blinding flash, and it was all over.

I woke up and the night nurse was shining a lamp at me; the operation was over—I was minus my appendix.

WHITBREAD

TANKARD

CRYSTAL
CLEAR

★

★

INVITINGLY
FRESH

WHITES COACHES

Coastal Trips

Theatre Outings

Sports & Social Events



Agents for all London Theatres

156 FRIMLEY ROAD, CAMBERLEY, SURREY

Telephone: CAMBERLEY 3443

SPORT

ATHLETICS

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. B. F. WILLIAMSON, R.A.O.C.

The Athletics Team in the Battalion has done very well considering that at the beginning of term there were few of last year's team available. With the valuable aid of athletics coaches provided by the A.A.A., the team developed well and reached the final of the Junior Leaders Units Championships.

The first competition of term was the Aldershot District Inter-Unit Championships in which we came second to A.A.S. Arborfield in the Youth and Junior Sections; this was an excellent performance considering the size of their Unit Team.



Mrs. T. L. V. Vaughan-Griffith presenting S/Sgt. Harris with a winner's medal on Battalion Sports Day.

The next highlight was the winning of the Commonwealth Technical Training Week Athletics meeting at Aldershot. All competitors did well and all were in the first three places. Outstanding winning performances were as follows:

Jnr. Pte. Walling, Javelin; Jnr. Pte. Hayles, Long Jump; Jnr. Pte. Rickaby, Shot; Jnr. Cpl. Brogden, Discus; Jnr. Sgt. Harris, 440 yds.

The team was presented with a shield by the Mayor of Aldershot, and were congratulated on their all-round performance.

In the preliminaries of the Army Inter-Unit Championships the Battalion Team did well, and although an unfortunate disqualification in the 4×440 yds. relay robbed them of victory, they still qualified for the Army finals. Unfortunately for the Athletics Team, annual camp for three weeks completely upset their training, and the performances in the finals were well below their best, and most disappointing to all concerned. However, to reach the finals was a good performance, and augurs well for next year, as many of the team will still be with us.

On the Battalion Sports Day it was generally thought that the "battle" would be between Steevens House and Hill House, and so it proved to be. In the standards which were run throughout the term, Hill had a lead of five points over Steevens, but Steevens proved just a little stronger on Sports Day, and the final competition ended in an honourable draw.

Jnr. L/Cpl. Williams was the outstanding athlete of the day, winning the 100 yds., 220 yds., and the long jump.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Jnr. Pte. Hayles, the athletics captain, for his enthusiasm and good work throughout the term, which had much to do with the fine team spirit of the Battalion athletes throughout the term.

CRICKET

Officer-in-Charge: CAPT. G. B. HOPKINSON, R.A.O.C.

The season has been rather a disappointment from the fixture viewpoint, several opponents " crying off " at the last minute for varying reasons.

The season started well with a convincing victory over the R.A.M.C. Apprentices by 9 wickets. This was mainly due to some sustained, hostile fast bowling by Jnr. Sgt. Garrod and Jnr. Pte. Brady.

A very pleasant fixture was played against the Permanent Staff. Although defeated, the Battalion bowled and fielded well. However, the bowling wiles of C.S.M. Pope proved too much for the Battalion batsmen.

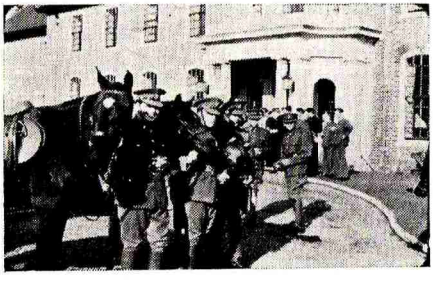
The technical approach to the game this season is much improved mainly due to the great use made of the concrete practise net. Jnr. Sgt. Garrod was a keen, aggressive captain and was well supported by Jnr. Cpl. Craddock the vice-captain, and some excellent bowling performances by Jnr. Pte. Brady. Jnr. Cpl. Briggs, the wicket-keeper, improved with each game and has definite talent in this department. The weakest link was perhaps the batting—on occasions a certain " shyness " to fast bowling was apparent despite intensive practise.

It may be fairly said that the Battalion XI had a good season, unfortunately spoiled by opponents cancelling fixtures. However, the overall standard and ability was higher than last year.

The following were awarded their Battalion Caps: Jnr. Cpls. Craddock and Briggs and Jnr. Pte. Brady.

EQUITATION

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



Riding has progressed at a steady rate since the last publication of *The Thunderbolt*. At the end of the summer term a short display was given to the parents to demonstrate the type of instruction that Junior Leaders were able to receive if they wished to learn to ride whilst in this Battalion.

At the present time, we have five Junior Leaders riding. These have reached a satisfactory stage and are now allowed to go hunting with the Bisley Foxhounds. A further five Junior Leaders will be selected this term to commence riding in January.

The photograph above shows Jnr. Ptes. Snow, Dagless and Rhodes at the meet of the Bisley Foxhounds at the Junior Leaders Battalion Officers' Mess on Wednesday, 25th October. Jnr. Ptes. Davies and Betts are also depicted in the photograph.

"TRAPPED!"

by JNR. PTE. RICHARDSON

John longed to escape. Over the fence, under the fence, through the fence. They were his alternatives. He reckoned that if he could fire the hutted camp office block he could move around the back of the prisoners' quarters and cut through the fence in the confusion that the blaze would cause.

He persuaded a German maintenance worker with a bribe of cigarettes to bring him a can of petrol, and hid it under the floor of the billet. During the following day it seemed that everyone was looking: everyone knew what he intended to do. Time and again he told himself that it was his imagination and he kept trying to push the idea out of his mind.

At last the vital hour arrived: the cookhouse bell clanged loud and clear and everyone disappeared for supper: everyone, that is,



except John. He first collected the can of petrol from his billet, and, being careful to keep to the shadows, he made his way to the square of offices. He then went round all the rooms and checked that he was alone.

He proceeded to pour petrol around the room. He fumbled for his matches. By now he was scared. His shaky fingers were groping for the matches. At last he managed to extract one from the box. Cautiously he lit the match and flicked it into the room. The blast nearly knocked him over but he recovered and raced to the opposite corner of the square and splattered the remaining petrol round the room. This time he threw the match around the door. With great glee he watched the room flare up.

Turning, he found to his surprise and delight that two other rooms were beginning to flare up. Sparks were flying all round. Suddenly a loud report announced that the windows had burst. Then, to his horror, he realised that he was trapped—the exit was bright red with dancing flames. A loud shout on the other side of the rooms indicated that the Germans were attempting to extinguish the fire.

But it had gone too far, John had gone too far. He lost his life, cheated by his own invention, leaving others to dream of " Over the wire, through the wire, under the wire."

HALT!

by JNR. PTE. RHODES

" Halt! " The word froze in the air; it echoed off the surrounding hills and exploded in my ear drums. I saw the lights of torches as they sliced through the darkness of the night. They were like fingers groping to find me. I was worried, as I had never been worried before.

I urged the donkey into a trot. They began to follow. I made the donkey go faster. They went faster. Then the bark of a revolver, and the bright orange flash as it spat out its deadly lump of lead. The bullet screamed over my head. A torch beam found me; the revolver cracked; a hot burning pain . . .

The donkey trotted on alone.

A WELCOME AWAITS AT **KEYS CAFE** FOR **Snacks, Teas, Espresso Coffee, Iced Drinks**

Tobacco and Cigarettes Sold

MUSIC TO SUIT ALL TASTES

OLD BOYS' NEWS

ROUND AND ABOUT

by S.Q.M.S. E. ROBINSON

There has been six months of silence since the last edition of *The Thunderbolt*. However, my appeal to support my page in the last edition was not in vain. Letters from ex-boys are gradually creeping through the post and it is good to open up some of the letters and find some of the good old humour that keeps the cogs of the Junior Leaders Battalion wheel rotating.



" New old boys." Ptes. Whitehouse and Palmer.

Since the last edition of *The Thunderbolt* much water has flowed under the bridge at Deepcut. I have reluctantly settled down to a chair job in the Regimental Depot but was released to accompany the Junior Leaders team to the " Nijmegen March " in Holland and the " Ten Tors " Exercise down in Devon.

News from Overseas Stations

22825663 Sgt. Glenn has been posted to R.A.O.C. Stores Section, 20 Indep. Recce. Flt. R.A.C., B.F.P.O. 1. We are pleased to know that he has recovered from his dose of tonsillitis and that he is as keen as ever to make a success of his career.

23507988 Pte. Dewane H.Q. Ammo. Depot, B.F.P.O. 1, reports; " I just arrived in time for the Admin. Inspection and the Inspecting Officer picked on my block to do the kit-layout, all was well and **no points lost.**

" I saw ' Monty ' yesterday as he disembarked at Kowloon Pier, I saluted and he returned the compliment, I was a bit chuffed to have seen him."

23507267 L/Cpl. Eastwood 17 R.V.D. R.A.O.C., B.F.P.O. 40, writes; " I am settling down to man's service quite well. I like my work and I have taken part in quite a lot of sport since I have been here."

I am sure we all congratulate L/Cpl. Eastwood on his promotion.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

HIGH PRESSURE GREASING

VISIT THE

DEEPCUT GARAGE

(Prop. F. W. Jermy)

Telephone (Day or Night) Deepcut 31

RE-SPRAYS ARRANGED SPARES — ALL TYPES

TAXI AND SELF DRIVE HIRE — CAR INSURANCE

Ron Francis

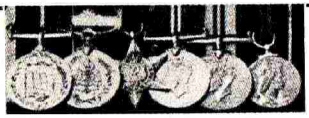
is pleased to announce the opening of a

POLYFOTO STUDIO

at

THE CAMERA CENTRE, OBELISK ST., CAMBERLEY

Telephone: Camberley 2020



WHY WORRY? YOU CAN NOW REPLACE YOUR LOST FULL SIZE MEDALS.

All full size Medals and Campaign Stars of WW II, Army and RAF G.S. Medals with different clasps: Palestine, S.E. Asia 1945-46, Palestine 1945-48, Malaya, Cyprus, Near East, Far East, Arabian Peninsular, etc., Commonwealth Korea, U.N. Korea, New I.G.S. 1936 with clasps 1936-37 or 1937-39, old I.G.S. Medals with different clasps, Coronation E II R 1953, Military Medal and Long Service and Good Conduct (Regular Army) Medals are available. Please write by AEROGRAMME asking for our priced circular.

Regimental/Services Blazer Pocket Badges made to orders and designs.

YOUSAF & CO., WELLINGTON MALL, LAHORE CANTT-13, PAKISTAN

2367180 Pte. Martin 10 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 20, has been in Germany quite a time and he appears to be lapping up the German way of life. He says, " I saw in *The Thunderbolt* you wanted news from ex-Junior Leaders, so I thought it would be a good idea to renew old friendships, I would very much like to join the ' Old Boys Association ' when it is formed."

23507703 Cpl. Manners 10 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 20, reached the semi-finals of the B.A.O.R. Boxing Championships in which he was defeated on points, he also appears to be excelling himself in athletics. In an R.A.O.C. Field Units meeting he won the 400 metres which earned him a place in the I (B.R.) Corps Team. Good show Manners and congratulations on your promotion to Corporal.

23687304 L/Cpl. Robinson Ord. 3 Ord. Directorate, G.H.Q. Farelf, c/o G.P.O. Singapore, sent me some very valuable information about the whereabouts of ex-boys, he is keen to see *The Thunderbolt* in circulation out in Singapore. Again we offer our congratulations to L/Cpl. Robinson on his promotion.

28667731 Pte. Ball Ord. Depot, Aden B.F.P.O. 69, has forwarded a handsome list of ex-boys now in Aden of which I am most grateful. Pte. Ball is tucked away in the Q.M. Stores carrying out clerical and storeman duties; he would like to hear from some of you, he thinks you are all a lot of good chaps.

22225975 Pte. Campbell 656 Lt. A.C. Sqdn., A.A.C., Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, writes; " The aircraft we have are Austers but later we hope to be changing over to helicopters. We have five Recce Flights scattered all over Malaya, so you can see I get about a lot."

You see life in the R.A.O.C. can be exciting also.

23507966 Pte. Robinson 10 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 20, has quite recently been posted to Germany and working in the Technical Stores. Pte. Robinson says, " We have a bit of a scheme coming off shortly that will be a bit of a laugh. It has been raining ever since I arrived."

We hope the rain has not dampened his spirits.

23687537 Tpr. Bourne, B., H.Q. Sqdn., The Life Guards, Herford, B.F.P.O. 15, reports; " It is nine months since I left the Junior Leaders Battalion and I am enjoying my stay in Germany, although I wish I were back with the Junior Leaders Battalion. I work in the Technical Stores and send indents for vehicles and such-like to R.A.O.C. supply units, it is quite an interesting job and I may just as well stay in the Old Corps. I would like to become a member of the Old Boys' Association."

By the way Tpr. Bourne is quite a good typist.

News from the Home Stations

23507785 Pte. Fletcher 16 Para. O.F.P., Ellis Barracks, Farnborough, Hants, has had a very successful season at cross-country running and athletics and states if it had not been for training at the Junior

Leaders he would not have passed the Para. Course and achieved successes at his athletics and cross-country running. In his short time with the Paras. he has been all over England and flew to Cyprus on exercise.

23687295 Pte. Baker 19 O.F.P., Cherry Tree Camp, Colchester, Essex, is working in the central office as a clerk and likes his work. He has recently been to Portugal on exercise. Pte. Baker's younger brother has recently joined the Junior Leaders Battalion.

23507207 Pte. Ward C.V.D., R.A.O.C. Ashchurch, Tewkesbury, Glos, writes, " I have a very interesting job, maintaining vehicles! " Pte. Ward has been doing some early-morning running (7 miles) in readiness for the " Ten Tors," his bivouacing was certainly true to the old Junior Leaders style and the rest of his team would have been lost without his experience.

23507838 Pte. Truss No. 2 Coy., 9 Bn., R.A.O.C. Donnington, Salop, successfully passed his printing course and is now printing away to his heart's content at Donnington. He also seems quite handy at manufacturing his own envelopes.

23687121 L/Cpl. Manning 9 Bn., R.A.O.C. Donnington, Salop. Although L/Cpl. Manning is a poor letter writer I often see him. He is certainly making a success of the career he has chosen and is sitting for his BI trade and if successful he intends to tackle his First Class Education. We offer L/Cpl. Manning our congratulations on his recent promotion.

The following ex-boys have popped in to see me before departing for overseas stations:

23507726 Pte. Astell, 4 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 34
23687483 Pte. Swinburn, 1 (B.R.) Corps, St. Coy., B.F.P.O. 39
23507966 Pte. Robinson, 10 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 20
23507910 Pte. Hinson, 17 R.V.D., B.F.P.O. 40
23687266 Pte. Fallaize, 15 A.B.O.D. (Rear), B.F.P.O. 21
23507964 Pte. Holmes, 15 A.B.O.D. (Rear), B.F.P.O. 21
23687667 Pte. Hyne, 15 A.B.O.D. (Rear), B.F.P.O. 21
23687654 Pte. Ward, Fwd. Stores Depot, Munster, B.F.P.O. 17
23507985 Pte. Passey, Fwd. Stores Depot, Munster, B.F.P.O. 17
23507962 Pte. Munro, 1 Reg. Trg. Bn., R.A.O.C.
23687520 Pte. Pinkstone, 7 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 23
23507558 Pte. Barnes, 443 B.A.D., c/o G.P.O. Singapore
23507176 Pte. Danvers, 28 Com. O.F.P., Malaya
23687652 Pte. Keene, 30 Bn. R.A.O.C., c/o G.P.O. Singapore
23507715 Pte. Johnstone, 30 Bn. R.A.O.C., c/o G.P.O. Singapore
23687731 Pte. Ball, Ord, Depot. Aden, B.F.P.O. 69

23507737 Pte. Webster, 10 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 17

23507615 Pte. Seager, 12 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 36

23507699 Pte. Cross, 20 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 15.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing them all the best and success in their new stations.

We have also had several ex-boys posted in on the permanent staff of the Regimental Depot. The following ex-boys are now with us:

6345470 R.Q.M.S. Addison, 3653478 S/Sgt. Price, 23507904 L/Cpl. Newton, 23297446 Pte. Goodenough, 23687569 Pte. Goodman, 23687236 Pte. Murphy, 23487802 Pte. Johnson, 22825466 Pte. Harris.

Pte. Goodenough and L/Cpl. Wilson (23507677) are in hospital, I am sure you will join with me in wishing them a speedy recovery.

Letters with **news** for the next edition of *The Thunderbolt* will be welcomed.

Letters should be addressed to:

S.Q.M.S. E. Robinson,
The Regimental Depot, R.A.O.C.,
Hilsea Barracks,
Portsmouth, Hants.

BLACKDOWN ADDENDUM

by CAPT. P. GIBSON, R.A.O.C.

452 L/Cpl. Cook at 6 Coy., R.A.O.C., Hong Kong, wants to trace ex-Body House buddies Peter Crick, Leslie Grieves and Tony Halls. How about it fellas?

* * *

588 Cpl. H. Bessey joined on 8th May, 1955, and was in Body. He is now at 15 A.B.O.D., B.F.P.O. 21, and would like to hear from 655 " Widge " White.

* * *

A plea from the B.T.S. at Haslar (Gosport days). 160 Sgt. S. Fountain in 19 O.F.P., B.F.P.O. 17, was great friends with L/Cpl. Ponsonby and L/Cpl. Hurrell. Anybody any idea of their whereabouts?

* * *

489 Pte. Boswell wishes to remind L/Cpl. Vickers, Pte. O'Hara and Pte. Galvin of " Bournemouth and a French loaf." Pte. Boswell is now at H.Q. R.A.O.C., Hong Kong, B.F.P.O. 1.

* * *

A " 1059 " in the shape of S/Sgt. J. Thompson is serving with 17 R.V.D., R.A.O.C., in B.F.P.O. 40. We note with pleasure that

S/Sgt. Thompson has been awarded the B.E.M. Well done. He joined at Parsons Barracks, Aldershot, in March, 1944.

* * *

Another " Old timer." Les Coles, now S.Q.M.S. L. C. Coles of 221 B.V.D., R.A.O.C., c/o G.P.O. Johore Baru, Malaya. Have you any news of any other Leicester " Badgies "?

* * *

That's about it from Blackdown. Should any ex-boy of any year wish to contact past friends then please send a letter to either S.Q.M.S. Robinson or myself. For a regular supply of *The Thunderbolt* send 7/4d. to the following address and you will receive a year's supply post free:

Capt. P. Gibson, R.A.O.C.,
The Junior Leaders Battalion, R.A.O.C.,
Dettingen Barracks,
Blackdown,
Nr. Aldershot, Hants.

News to that address will also ensure inclusion in " Blackdown Addendum."



Where are they now?

Do you know . . .

that in addition to

SERVICE MAGAZINES

Naafi can print your

BOOKLETS

CHRISTMAS CARDS

INVITATION CARDS

MENU CARDS

PROGRAMMES

STATIONERY

and all forms of

REGIMENTAL PRINTING

Please ask our District Manager
for advice or write direct to

NAAFI PRINTING WORKS

LONDON S.E.11

RELIANCE 1200



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".

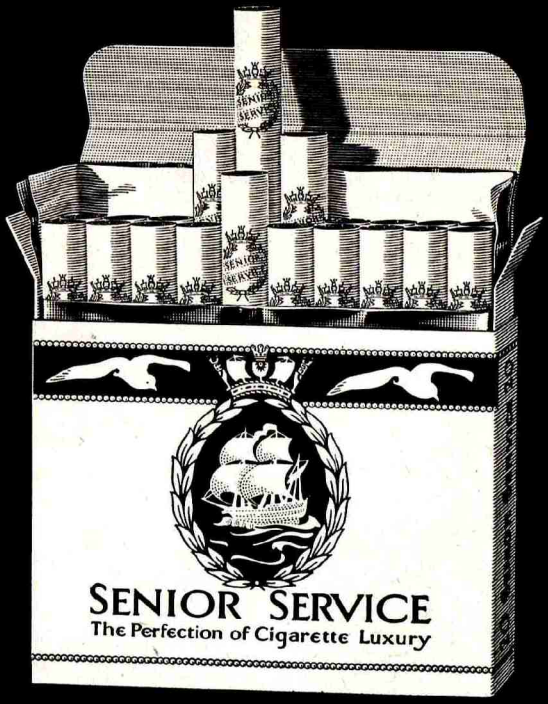
We have an excellent series of leaflets (as illustrated above) which tell in simple language all about Forces Savings.

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 OUTSTANDING CIGARETTE OF THE DAY



WELL MADE • WELL PACKED

TOBACCO AT ITS BEST

ALDERSHOT & DISTRICT
TRACTION CO., LTD.

Coaches for all Occasions

LONDON EXPRESS SERVICE **EXCURSIONS**
PRIVATE HIRE

HEAD OFFICE
ALDERSHOT

Telephone:
ALDERSHOT 23322

OUR ADVERTISERS SUPPORT

THE THUNDERBOLT

SUPPORT THEM!

JOHN JONES & CO. LTD.
(INCORPORATING FOSTER & CO., LONDON) **MILITARY DRESS EXPERTS SINCE 1815**

Dress Wear Specialists ***Sporting Tailors*** ***Breeches Makers***

For over a century—Uniforms and mufti created by us have been the choice among Officers who appreciate the importance of being smartly, comfortably and, at the same time, correctly and economically dressed. **Payment by Subscription Arranged**

33 BRUTON STREET, LONDON, W.1
Phone: MAYfair 7303 *Grams: EQUIPMENTS, WESDO*

OUR REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ALL MESSES AND DEPOTS

Pauline
Ladies Hair Stylist
Registered Hairdresser

Hair Colouring, Cutting and Styling Diplomas

THE PARADE, DEEPCUT, BLACKDOWN, HANTS
Telephone: Deepcut 282