THE THUNDERBOLT



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

Winter, 1960

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

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION
55 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.I

To provide all ranks of the Corps with assurance coverage for all duty and private activities anywhere in the World, during times of peace and war.

CREAMLINE MOTOR SERVICES
BORDON, HANTS Telephone Bordon 404

Comfortable Modern Coaches

for your

Outings, Theatre Parties, Matches, etc.

THEATRE TICKETS BOOKED AND
MEALS ARRANGED BY REQUEST

JOURNAL

OF THE

JUNIOR LEADERS' BATTALION ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

VOLUME 1 WINTER, 1960 NO. 2

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

CONTENTS

Foreword 3

The Thunderstorm 4

Holiday in France 5

The Catch.... 6

Exercise Canalboat 7

The Nijmegen Marches 9

Boy 11

An Irish Escapade 15

Senior Education Officer's Notes 16

Training the Soldier Tradesman 17

House Notes 19

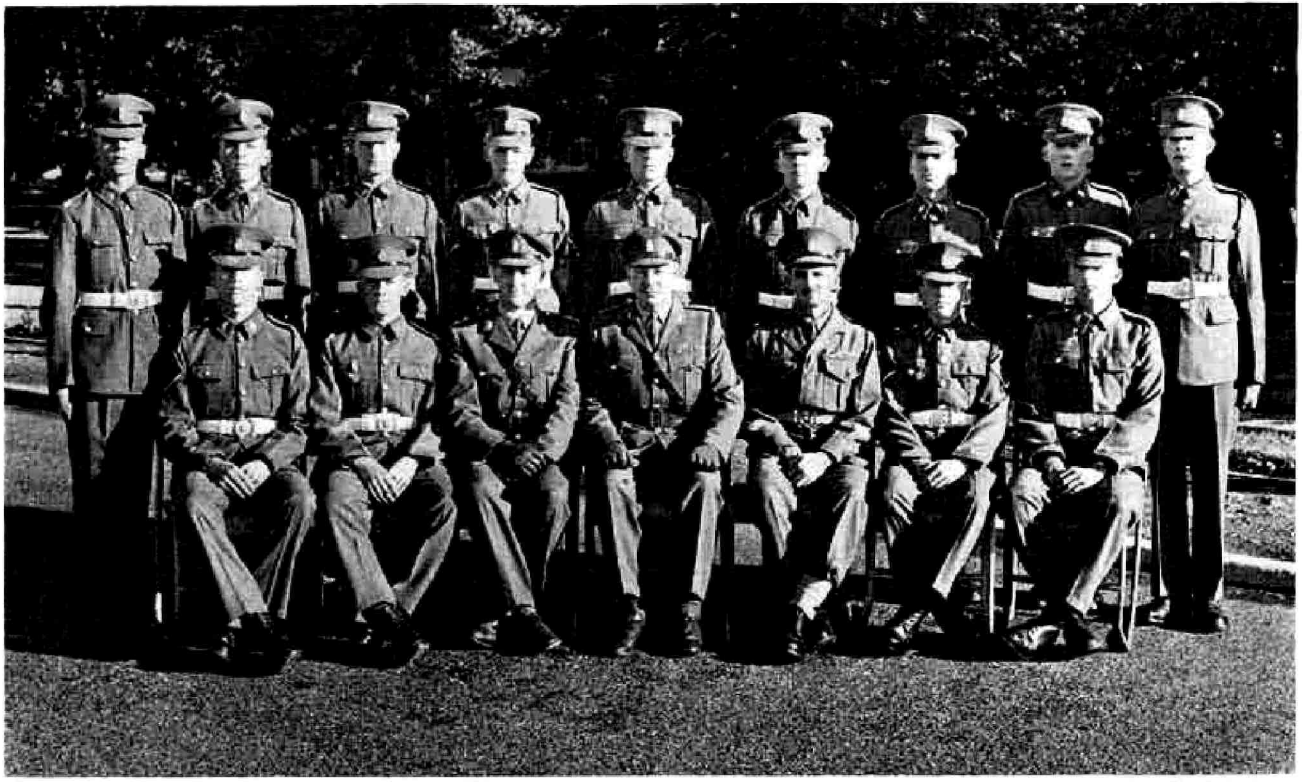
Sport 31

The Corps of Drums 40

Animal Thoughts 43

Hobbies 45

Acknowledgments 52



1960 NIJMEGAN MARCHES TEAM

L. to R. standing: Jnr. Pte. Murphy (Gordon House), Jnr. Pte. O'Connor (Gordon House), Jnr. Pte. Keene (Gordon House), Jnr. Cpl. Allen (Baker House), Jnr. Pte. Bidwell (Body House), Jnr. L/Cpl. Henty (Parsons House), Jnr. Pte. Baker (Steevens House), Jnr. Pte. Coulson (Baker House), Jnr. Pte. James (Baker House).

L. to R. sitting: Jnr. L/Cpl. Bourne (Steevens House), Jnr. Pte. Williams (Gordon House), Lt. Stevens, Lt.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, S.Q.M.S. Robinson, Jnr. L/Cpl. Richie (Steevens House), Jnr. Pte. Martin (Steevens House).

FOREWORD

By the Commanding Officer,
LT.-COL. J. W. HARLEY-PETERS, R.A.O.C.

In my foreword for the last edition of *The Thunderbolt*, I mentioned that the journal depended for its ultimate success upon the degree of enthusiasm received from its readers in the shape of purchase, criticism and contribution.

I am sure it will be agreed, after reading this second edition, that there has been some encouraging response to my plea. Demands for the journal were most encouraging and world wide, which reflects the happy position that ex-members of the Battalion are interested to hear how things are going on and find this one of the best ways of keeping in touch.

I will not enlarge upon current events to any great extent as the following pages cover every aspect of our activities since last summer. There are, however, two points I should like to mention which do not appear to be reported upon elsewhere.

Of these, the first I consider to be the most important is the formation of the Old Boys' Association. This has been under consideration for some many months and I feel can contribute most valuable support to those present in the Battalion and also to those who have passed on into the ranks.

One of the aspects of having been a Junior Leader in the Corps is that you are never forgotten, whilst this hitherto has probably referred to one's progress in educational, technical and therefore promotion progress, the object of this Association is to add to these aspects the social side.

The success of such a venture inevitably depends upon the Battalion's knowledge of where the ex-member is serving, and whilst this can be obtained by research with the co-operation of the Officer in Charge of our Records Office, it would be of great assistance, particularly to me if ex-members of the Battalion (Staff and Junior Leaders), could write personally to me. It is not proposed to form this Association on a basis of any subscriptions, the bond between those in the Battalion today and those who have passed on will be a Battalion tie and a permanent invitation to come back for special occasions and in fact any occasion which presents itself. Its success depends ultimately on the interest of you all.

My second piece of information is the news of our imminent move to Dettingen Barracks. This as most readers will know has been until this month the home of the Regimental Depot who are now on the move to the ancestral home at Hilsea. The Battalion in a way which is not entirely illogical, takes over their Barracks. The move undoubtedly will provide us with many advantages which need not be related in detail, for Dettingen must be known to us all. Within a very short time we shall be happy to be in a position to welcome all ex-Junior Leaders in what I feel certain will be more comfortable and happier surroundings.

May I extend on behalf of the Battalion to all our readers and particularly ex-members of the Staff and all ex-Junior Leaders a very Happy Christmas and New Year in the part of the world the Corps has placed you in 1960.

THE THUNDERSTORM

The bright blue sky begins to cloud over and the sweet morning air becomes a tormenting humid oven. The majestic old oak on the horizon stands stark and alone with its leaves still through the loss of the cool breeze. Surging black clouds now fill the sky.

No birds are singing. Leaves are stilled and the air is hushed. Then against the backcloth of clouds the drama is enacted. A darting fork of lightning flashes across the sky and the magnificent oak is mortally wounded. The thunder rumbles its applause at this feat of nature. The storm rages for an hour in which fallen leaves are thrown viciously from door to door in the village street.

Then like a veil being lifted the relieved clouds roll away. The air is refreshed; the grass is lush and green and the birds sing again. But something is missing—the old oak lies dead like a felled giant, as it is.

23507909 JNR. PTE. TAYLOR.



Holiday in France

or

The Adventures of a Hitch-Hiker

I arrived at Dover two hours late for the midday boat to Calais. Consequently a quick change of plan was required and I headed for Folkestone to catch the four o'clock boat to Calais from there. That I boarded the boat at all must be attributed to my Irish " gift of the gab " (although I have not kissed the Blarney Stone yet), for passages were almost entirely reserved for train passengers from London.

At approximately 6.30 I placed my right foot on French soil for the first time. I headed towards Paris. Although I am broad minded I was astonished by the appalling state of Calais sanitation. To continue with my journey—I travelled to Paris via St. Arras sleeping in my tent at night. A French cow did not strengthen Anglo-French relations when it pulled down my tent in the middle of the night!

I met an American from Texas after leaving Calais and he was with me when I reached Paris. Just outside Paris we spent a night in a Youth Hostel where I slept next to an unfriendly Italian who insisted on shouting out something about Mussolini during the night. I didn't appreciate this because sleep seemed to be the only thing which was reasonable at that time.

The next day I visited my pen friend's home. Her name is Ghislaine Généchal which she abbreviates to " Gigi." Unfortunately she was on holiday in the South of France. However, after doing a sightseeing tour of Paris I determined to go to the South of France to see her. On leaving Paris my thoughts flooded back to L'Arc de Triomphe and the illuminated Eiffel Tower shining down on Paris.

I journeyed to the south via Fontainbleu, Lyons and Avignon, along the Rhône Valley on the N7 which is the French equivalent to the M1. At Avignon I parted company with my American friend who headed towards Italy where he hoped to see the Olympic Games. (Incidentally, recently I received a card from him from Malaga in Spain from where he intends to go to Morocco—quite a globetrotter!)

I met my friend Gigi in Cannes who found accommodation for me in a hotel which had its own private beach. It was ideal for sunbathing but I had to be cautious because I have very fair skin. Having read so much about the South of France, of how wonderful it was at Nice and Cannes I hesitate to add that I was disappointed. However, I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed bathing in the warm sea there which was considerably warmer than when I entered it at the Isle of Wight with Sgt. Bollers.

After five days, I parted with Gigi and made my way towards the Spanish border where I wanted to make acquaintance with the Basques who live in the upper Pyrenees. I was successful to an extent because a local in one of the villages demonstrated their war cry to me, and very frightening it was too!

After leaving the Basques I kept off the main roads and lived on fruit which was in abundance, and helped to stretch my slender financial resources.

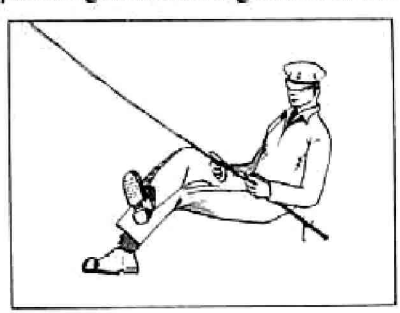
I reached Bordeaux and headed for Lyons where I had a pre-arranged reunion with Gigi who took me to Paris in her car.

From Paris it was a simple matter to reach London via St. Loqua, Dieppe and Newhaven—the end of an eventful holiday. In conclusion I would advise would-be travellers to the Continent to join the Youth Hostel Association and to handle their money with care as foreign money seems to drain away even faster than English.

23507826 Jnr. Cpl. Carroll.

THE CATCH

An hour passed by during which I ate the haversack rations which I had managed to obtain from the cookhouse the day before. Suddenly, I caught sight of a pike float quivering and bobbing about in the water. I left my meal and watched intently as it moved. The float crept away and re-appeared, and again it moved, but with a dart this time. I picked up the rod and "struck." The fight was on, and as I played the fish there were trembles of excitement rushing up and down my body. The struggle went on for about three quarters of an hour until the fish, a nice pike of about eight pounds, came to the gaff. I landed it, and with the help of a spring gag and a pike disgorger I unhooked it. Threading a cord through its gills, I hung it to a branch of a nearby tree.



23687020 Jnr. Pte. Whitehouse.

EXERCISE CANALBOAT

Visit by Junior Leaders to Belgium—August, 1960

A new sphere in Adventure Training was opened up this Summer with a canoeing expedition to Belgium. Because of the lack of experience of such an expedition it was decided to keep the time factors within strict limits and as a result the party was away for an overall nine days. As things turned out the actual canoeing side of the trip went very smoothly and it was the administration to and from Belgium which caused most heartache and searching.

The five canoes borrowed from the Southern Command Pool at 1 Training Regiment R.E., were loaded together with numerous stores and finally the party squeezed aboard the one three-ton truck on the afternoon of 28th July. The party comprising of Lt. J. Lewis, R.A.E.C., Capt. R. M. Johnston, R.A.O.C., Sgt. Walker, Jnr. L/Cpl. Brown 914, Jnr. L/Cpl. Dunbar, Jnr. Ptes. Nightingale, Hyre, Hutchins, Palmer and Thomas left Blackdown at 1600 hours in order to get the night ferry from Dover to Ostend at 0145 hours, 29th July.

The Blackdown-Dover trip was uneventful and the first problem of loading the canoes on to the ferry had to be faced. Apart from when Hyre's name was called out near the crane loading the canoes, the operation was successful.

Dawn of the 29th July saw us struggling from the quay at Ostend to the nearest canal about half a mile away. Any future trip will be advised to carry the very bare essentials. Our equipment was severely restricted but even so the overall weight was far too much. The great need is light weight camping equipment for trips of this nature.

Our aim was to reach Bruges and stay there the first night. Progress was well in hand until Sgt. Walker and Jnr. Pte. Johnson decided to experiment with canoeing upside down. The resultant drying-out process decided us to spend the first night at Oudenburg. by now the technique of purchase by sign language was well in hand—except for the one common word " pils," which was quickly becoming a firm favourite. That night the Heavens opened and so the next day was also spent largely drying kit. However, it did serve a useful purpose in that the whole day was spent " messing about in boats " and handling techniques were considerably improved.

During the afternoon of the 30th July we bade farewell to Sgt. Walker and Jnr. Pte. Johnston who left via canal for France—a week-end trip—in fact we didn't see them again until our last day in Belgium. They seemed to have become somewhat involved in local affairs!

On the 31st July we moved up canal to Bruges and, after some preliminary scouting for a camp site, made firm friends with one of the canal bridge attendants, who insisted that we camp on a public park next to his bridge. This he assured us would be quite in order, and so we decided to make it our permanent site and make daily



expeditions from there. During the course of the next four days, trips were made down the Zuis Canal to Damme, around the canals of Bruges, north towards Ghent and east to Zeebrugge. Apart from these expeditions time was also found to explore Bruges itself in detail by day and by night. One particular attraction was a five-day festival which was a great eye-opener to many on continental drinking habits.

On the 3rd August the biggest surprise was when on returning from the trip to Zeebrugge the camp had disappeared. We were greeted by our friend from the bridge, who, having cursed the police uphill and downhill told us we had been moved on—he was most apologetic. A new camp had been found by those on duty a little out of town, which meant a larger walk for our evening beverage.

On our last day we moved back to within easy striking distance of Ostend. Our final celebrations and francs were spent either in the local bistro or, for the better off, in Ostend. It was on this day that Sgt. Walker returned to the fold and spent the evening entertaining the locals on a borrowed guitar.

The journey back marred the whole operation, as first the Belgium officials then the English proved themselves most dogmatic about canoes and the rights and wrongs concerning their movement. However, at long last the final obstacles were overcome and we eventually arrived back in Blackdown at 0100 hours, 6th August. The canoeing side and social life were a thorough success, but the administration and Customs procedure are aspects definitely requiring early consideration on future trips.

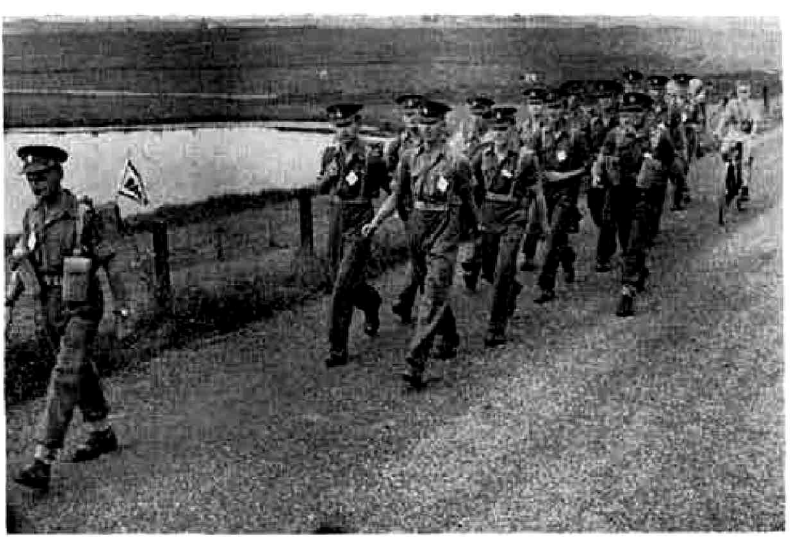
THE NIJMEGEN MARCHES

A very familiar sight around Blackdown during the last few months has been the team from The Junior Leaders' Battalion training for the 1960 Nijmegen Marches under the supervision of Lt. J. B. Stevens, R.A.O.C. and S.Q.M.S. Robinson; the latter fresh from his 1,000-mile John O'Groats to Lands End march.

The Nijmegen Marches started in 1909 with a total of 45 military participants and are now annual international events attracting over 13,000 entrants from over 19 different countries. Unlike most of the other junior military participants the team from the Junior Leaders' Battalion decided to march a distance of 40 kilometres each day for four days and carry full kit amounting to 11 pounds. A total distance of 100 miles was therefore covered during the period of the marches and each day a different route was taken through the attractive countryside around Nijmegen. Something was thus seen of the towns of Arnhem, Elst and Wychen—names well known to those Corpsmen who served in Holland during the war.

During the marches the accommodation and food is provided free by the Dutch Government and the Junior Leaders slept comfortably on straw palliasses and fed on Dutch Air Force food. The marches start at varying times each day from 0450 hours to 0845 hours and each team has eleven hours to complete its chosen distance.

The marches took place this year in rather more dismal weather than usual, but this was not sufficient to dampen the enthusiasm of



Nijmegen Marches, Holland, 1960. Twenty-five miles each day.

either the many Dutch people who travelled some distance to cheer the marchers on at the little villages and towns on the route, or the team of The Junior Leaders' Battalion whose smartness, discipline and morale received many favourable comments from other Commonwealth teams.

On the last day the Junior Leaders received the honour of being invited to march into Nijmegen behind the band of the Scots Guards, followed by the team from the Apprentice Chef Wing A.C.C., and were seen by thousands of spectators and many Senior Allied Officers who had travelled to Nijmegen especially to watch the March Past.

All the 14 members of the Battalion team that started the Marches completed the course without casualty and of these Lt. J. B. Stevens, S.Q.M.S. Robinson, Jnr. L/Cpl. Ritchie and Jnr. Ptes. Bidwell, Martin and Williams marched for the second time. The Battalion was once again awarded the Queen Juliana's Medal for teams that finish intact.

Not only have the Junior Leaders benefited greatly from meeting troops from other nations at Nijmegen, but they have also proved through their determination and endurance under adverse conditions that they have the qualities that are required for future N.C.Os. and Warrant Officers of our Corps.



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

Boy

A description of life as a boy soldier of the Corps in 1947

by

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

In the early evening on the 13th day of January, 1947, a lanky, pallid youth of 15 years gazed a little dolefully at the red-bricked jungle of double-storey barrack blocks that was Parsons Barracks, Aldershot. A notice board informed the world that here was the Enlisted Boys' Training Wing, Royal Army Ordnance Corps—the E.B.T.W. The 15-year-old walked timidly through the severe blocks to where another notice board—" Orderly Room "—pointed to a green door of chipped paint and woodwork. I knocked on the door.

A voice of unfiltered gravel and rusty ball bearings bade entrance. A few tables littered with papers stood on a floor of brilliant polish and was being polished even further by a youth of my own age clad in a khaki uniform covered in brass buttons. His cap bore a sparkling strap and his boots glistened with a polish of unfathomable depth. I learnt later he was a " janker-wallah."

" Oo are you ? "—more gravel and bearings. They belonged to another brass-buttoned uniform bearing three white stripes, and the words emanated from lips that presumably had eyes above them behind the scimitar-like peak.

I gave my name, I signed some papers and was given a brown book. " That's your AB 64 Part 1," said the lips, " You'll get yer number later." White-stripes, who was apparently the Boy Company Orderly Sergeant instructed the floor polisher to get me bedded down. I was now Boy Gibson.

Our route to a barrack room was via the bedding stores. There I received " four blankets and one u/s—one bolster, single, horsehair —one cover, mattress—two plates—one mug—one set K.F.S.—sign 'ere." In answer to my enquiry about sheets, pillows and pillowslips I was told that in the Army there were no such animals. Nor were there. I signed.

The strength of the E.B.T.W. was somewhere in the region of 70 boys, the whole unit being housed in two barrack blocks. One block had all four rooms occupied by boys whilst the other block had only the two upstairs rooms as living accommodation. The two downstairs rooms of this block were the O.C's. Office/Orderly Room and Bedding Stores/C.Q.M.S. Stores respectively. In addition to this there was a quiet room for the boys in a nearby wooden hut and a Naafi canteen some 400 yards away. An occupied barrack room was known as a " Castle " and bearing the name of a famous castle in the British Isles. It was to Caernarvon Castle I was taken.

Caernarvon Castle—the stark, stony structure of the original castle could hardly have appeared more forbidding to the most wretched prisoner, than the room that carried the renowned name

appeared to Boy Gibson on that dank, January evening. Another chipped door gave entrance to the room and from within a dismal view presented itself. Three low wattage bulbs gave a dull light to the interior immediately beneath their sockets, but the light did not filter to the far reaches of the room. There were some 12 beds in the room, all occupied with the exception of one and now that odd one had an owner. The room inmates were engaged in various activities —some polishing, some writing, more polishing, one gawking—me.

Supper—cheese and potato pie washed down with cocoa containing no milk—and then back to the Castle to explore the unlit corners. At 9.30 p.m. (soon to become known as 2130 hours) the Castle door opened with less ceremony than that of many centuries ago, to admit the Boy C.O.S.

" Stand by yer beds." Gravel. Roll call. " Get inter bed." More gravel—we went in, the lights went out, the door slammed. Night. A match flickered and a cigarette glowed red in the darkness and friendly banter of my comrades was tossed from one side of the room to the other. The blankets scratched and the horsehair bolster pricked and the bar across the centre of the telescopic bed made the whole sleeping arrangement uncomfortable. Of a sudden the door burst open again and the three bulbs transformed themselves into arc lights as the Boy C.O.S. switched on the lights. A full portion of gravel and rust told us to shut up and get to sleep and that the next boy to even squeak would be charged. The cigarette smoker had his name taken and was given seven days C.B. on the following morning. It transpired that smoking amongst boys was strictly forbidden.

After being kitted out (no pyjamas) I found myself parading with the remainder of Caernarvon Castle, the junior Castle, and I the most junior of that. I was told that I would not be allowed out of barracks until I had completed at least a month of service and only then if my kit was up to the required standard for that stage of training. I also found that I would be required to send my civilian clothes home since no boy was allowed to wear them until he reached man's service.

The normal day-to-day routine ran along the same lines term after term. That was:—

Parade at 0800 hours followed by a rigid inspection and 45 minutes drill. Classrooms or P.T. until lunch, during which a room inspection was carried out.

After lunch a parade at 1400 hours with no inspection but with 45 minutes drill.

More classrooms or P.T.

The classrooms periods consisted of either educational or trade training. As far as the evenings were concerned, there were no organised activities except shining parades and cleaning kit for the following day. This had a high priority since anyone checked three times during one week was charged.

Wednesday afternoons were dedicated to sport and Saturday afternoons were free. Each and every Sunday morning, however, was a church parade and preparing kit for that took up some of Saturday afternoon. Fortunately there was no room inspection on Sunday morning so beds could be made down. There were, of course, no weekend passes of any description. Pay Parade took place on Thursday morning and was the main occasion where extra drill was awarded for idle pay drill and saluting. At the pay table a boy drew 7/– a week, plus a soap coupon and a Naafi sweet coupon. This was due to rationing that was in force in 1947 but unfortunately had the effect of giving birth to Black Market in those commodities. In fact the pay of a boy was 10/6d. a week but 6d. was stopped for haircuts and 3/– was kept in credit for him against the end of term leave.

Regulations were most strict. The morning muster parade was no quick cap, face, belt, boots inspection, but a very detailed affair. Backs of collar badges and shoulder titles were expected to glisten as much as the front. Second best boots were required to shine as highly as the best pair so that one always had a polished pair to wear. The parade took the form of three squads. The senior squad, the intermediate, and the junior squad. There was also an untidy squad for those who were not so skilled at the art of kit cleaning, but this stood to one side of the parade and was given extra attention on the inspection. In charge of each squad was a Boy Sergeant, the highest boy rank, who was directly responsible to the C.S.M. In overall command was the O.C., a captain. The inspections were carried out either by the O.C., C.S.M., or the Boy Sergeant (or in the case of the senior squad, the lance-coporal who had been a Boy Sergeant). The Boy Sergeants seemed to make it a matter of honour that their inspections were more feared than those of the adult ranks. In this they were most successful. There was in operation a Check Parade system which was likely to become the first step on the road to C.B. If a boy was checked on parade he would have to appear on Check Parade on the evening of that day at 1800 hours, dressed in best S.D., white belt, best boots and carrying second best boots.

A further check on this parade produced a charge the following morning. The inspection would be carried out by the Boy C.O.S. after which there would be some 30 minutes foot drill in extremely quick time, thereby not only working up a lather but ensuring that the rest of the evening was spent on kit, since the drill took a toll of the best kit turnout. The morning room inspections carried with them the same system of Check Parade except that one stood by one's bed dressed in best kit, etc., with the bed laid out for morning inspection. If that had been a full kit layout, one was hard put to it to produce the layout by the time required, usually 1930 hours. Once again, a further check produced a charge.

For idleness of drill during the week, or any business connected with drill (e.g., not standing to attention to a Boy N.C.O.) an extra

drill parade on Saturday afternoons was all the rage. All defaulters attended the extra drill parade on Saturday afternoon.

Life as a Boy revolved around two points, to wit, obtaining one's educational and trade certificates and keeping out of trouble. The first point was relatively simple to attain, whereas the second required a great deal of care since there were always pitfalls to trap the unwary. Once undergoing C.B. a boy had to exercise great astuteness in order not to become the holder of a season ticket. This was due in the main to the vigourous defaulters parades superimposed upon the normal routine described above. The defaulters' weekday time-table was as follows:—

Parade Guard Room 15 minutes after reveille properly washed, etc., dressed in second best S.D.

1300 hours—parade Guard Room dressed as above.

1730 hours—parade Guard Room dressed as above.

1830 hours—parade Guard Room dressed in denims for work until 2000 hours or parade at quick intervals in various forms of dress until 2000 hours.

2000–2030 hours—allowed in canteen.

2100 hours—Staff Parade dressed in best S.D., white belt, best boots, etc.

Recreational evening periods as such did not exist although occasionally visits to various places of interest were arranged. The visits were well organised but due to transport difficulties they usually involved a journey by train. This was not very popular since it involved standing in threes on platforms. On two occasions it was necessary to travel by underground railway in London and both marching through the subways and standing in formation on the platforms were even more unpopular. Be that as it may, however, it was, of course, very necessary.

Thus a boy navigated his way through two or three years until the happy day arrived when the final term was upon him. The term system operated in very much the same way as it does today. When the final term arrived, the boy, by now a third-class tradesman and having his second-class education certificate with possibly a part of his first-class, moved into the passing-out squad. This had immediate benefits, namely S.D. and white belts were withdrawn and B.D. was issued for permanent wear, the Senior Boy was allowed out until 2359 hours, distasteful rank " Boy " was dropped and one became " Private," and probably the most looked forward to privilege was being allowed to smoke legitimately.

A Senior Boy was a very proud person. The uniform distinction to a large degree was responsible for this. As soon as B.D. was donned the Senior Boy came into prominence and was regarded with a kind of awe by the more junior boys. On parade the Senior Squad would take pains to show those " damn juniors " what was what and off parade they would keep very much to themselves and discouraged too friendly relations with the remainder of the Wing.

On passing-out parades only 70 boys and a band section were in attendance. No rifles, merely inspection and a march past.

There then is an outline as life as a boy soldier of the Enlisted Boys Training Wing in 1947. The only relaxation of the Franciscan-like austerity was the issue of sheets, pillows, pillowslips and pyjamas somewhere towards the end of 1947 or beginning of 1948. Such harshness was not without its humour, although mostly in retrospect. One memorable event was the case of the " packet of five." As mentioned earlier smoking was forbidden amongst boys. Most boys however, smoked in secret and for the purpose of concealment would buy five Woodbines in a flat paper packet. The packet would fit neatly and unobtrusively beneath the crown of the S.D. cap. A morning arrived when the C.S.M. ordered " Hats off for haircut inspection."

Some three dozen of us with packets of five on our heads received 14 days C.B. And so . . .

0615 . . .

1300 . . .

etc., etc.

AN IRISH ESCAPADE

On the night of 2nd August, a party of two sergeants and five Junior Leaders left England for a camping holiday in the Irish Republic and were met on arrival in Dublin by Jnr. Cpl. Hillan who also joined the party.

After a brief look round Dublin, the party left by train for Tipperary. On arrival they were mistaken for a party of tinkers(!) and caused a great stir. Sgt. Clarke counted at least 50 children watching the setting up of camp.

The main party camped at Tipperary, while Sgt. Clarke and Sgt. Bollers set off to reach Killarney by way of Kilmallock and Mallow. In Doneraile they were invited to supper by Lady Doneraile, who showed them over her 18th-century house and brought out her silver-ware in their honour. Lady Doneraile also showed them a scroll given to each signatory to a petition demanding the beheading of Charles I. The signature at the top was that of Oliver Cromwell.

After walking through the Balahoura mountains, in which there are a large number of old castles, Sgt. Clarke and Sgt. Bollers went on to the Puck Fair at Killorglin on the south-west coast. This is an annual hiring fair for farm labour and a great deal of cattle buying and selling goes on. A very carnival atmosphere existed for three days and the sergeants found themselves quite exhausted at the end of it.

The main party of Junior Leaders had a pleasant time at Tipperary and the local inhabitants proved very friendly. They were referred to in the personality column of the local paper, and even received a mention on Radio Eire. In fact they had such a good time that they have all made arrangements to return there during Christmas leave.

SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER'S NOTES

By Major R. Dock, R.A.E.C., Senior Education Officer

It is sincerely hoped that a good number of parents receive and read *The Thunderbolt* and I feel this might give me an opportunity of giving parents, and indeed the more recently joined recruit, the pattern of Educational Training in this Battalion. Many parents I am sure are not altogether clear about this business of Army Certificates of Education and as it is a little complicated I will try to make it clear.

When a Junior Leader first joins the Battalion he is put into Recruit House where he has his first taste of Army life. During these first few weeks of training he receives no formal educational instruction. In the fourth week, however, he commences education for six periods a week, during which time he is given various tests to establish the level at which he should study later. At the end of his Recruit Training he is given an examination in the Junior Certificate of Education. If he passes he will commence his full-time education in the forms studying for the Intermediate Certificate. Full time education usually means the whole of each morning except Saturday and Sunday. The educational goal of the Battalion is to pass out a Junior Leader with at least his Intermediate Certificate. If he obtains this before passing out he is put into a form studying for the Senior Certificate. As this is nearing G.C.E. standard by that time most of the Junior Leaders are " fully stretched " and some find Senior work a little beyond them. A word about the tests themselves. The Junior Test consists of English, Arithmetic and a General Paper (including a section on General Science). All these subjects have to be passed at one and the same time, the pass mark in each case being 40 per cent. The Intermediate Test consists of Outdoor Map Reading, Written Map Reading, General Studies (with a section on General Science) English and Arithmetic. It is only the last two subjects which have to be passed together at any one examination. The rest can be accumulated in any order at successive examinations—hence the complications. In the Senior Forms, the Junior Leader normally studies three subjects from the following:—English, Arithmetic, Mathematics, General Science, Current Affairs and Map Reading. He is allowed to pass these subjects one at a time. In order to obtain the Senior Certificate of Education a Junior Leader must pass a total of five subjects. Junior Leaders who do well in the Senior Examination are given individual tuition in selected G.C.E. subjects. The possession of the Junior, Intermediate, and the Senior Certificate exempts the Junior Leader from having to take the equivalent examinations whilst on man's service. These equivalents are the third-, second-, and first-class Certificates of Education. The third-class Certificate is the educational requirement for promotion to corporal, the second-class to sergeant and the first-class to warrant officer.

Although I have written at length about certificates of education I do not want to give the impression that the attaining of these

certificates is the sole educational aim we have in the Battalion. In common with all other forms of training here our general aim is to develop to the full the potential of each individual Junior Leader—examination successes measure only one aspect of this development.

As well as the more formal academic subjects the Junior Leader is encouraged to take up a hobby. With over 20 hobby groups to choose from no one should be left uncatered for.

The days of " Their's is not to reason why " are gone forever. Our modern all-Regular Army needs alert, energetic, technically competent young men, who are the link between the Army and the Nation, and confident in the part that they and their Corps or Army has to play in the defence of the free world.

TRAINING THE SOLDIER TRADESMAN

By Major W. J. Steer, R.A.O.C., Second-in-Command

DISCIPLINE

At a Corps exercise a few years ago there was a lot of discussion on how the discipline, bearing and regimental training of the R.A.O.C soldier could be improved. It was pointed out that the regimental standard of our soldiers in the pre-war regular army had always been uniformly high. The task of the corps was the same then as it is now—to provide the fighting soldier with all his needs. A possible explanation was provided by an " ex-boy " who said that when he joined the Corps he was given such a bashing for the first six months that he was able to " free-wheel " for the next 12 years. There may be a lot of truth in this but let us examine the subject more closely.

In any organised force whether it be the three services or the police force or the fire service a code of discipline is essential if each is to function efficiently or, indeed, function at all. In the Army our code of discipline is contained in the Queen's Regulations. We are also subject not only to the civil law of the country but also to military law contained in the Army Act which is passed by Parliament each year. These laws and regulations have been formulated over the years as a result of experience and have one aim in view—the efficient functioning of the fighting machine.

The existence of a high standard of discipline in a unit simply means that the rules and regulations are hardly ever broken. This highly desirable state of affairs can be achieved in two ways. It can be achieved by imposing punishments so severe that the people are kept in line by fear. This is discipline imposed by force. Or it can be achieved by individuals understanding the need for rules and regulations and willing to conform to them. This is self discipline and is much to be preferred.

The need for imposing discipline by force will, to a large degree be governed by the standard of intelligence among the members of a unit. The higher the intelligence the greater will the tendency to self discipline.

A lot of indiscipline is very often due to a failure to know what is

right from what is wrong. A good example of this is the case of an individual who, on seeing a packet of butter on a table in the dining hall, removed it with the probable intention of having buttered toast in the barrack room (in contravention of Battalion Standing Orders). But he was discovered and charged with an offence. When asked if the butter was his own property he replied " No, I found it in the dining hall." He was then asked if he intended to return it. He replied, " No I intended to keep it." It was then pointed out to him that this constituted stealing and he was a thief. At this he was obviously shaken because he honestly believed that if he saw something lying around without obvious ownership it was his for the taking. In other words he didn't know right from wrong.

Now in our Corps particularly a high standard of personal honesty and integrity is absolutely vital. Sooner or later young N.C.Os. will find themselves in positions where they are responsible for the safe keeping of many thousands of pounds worth of stores and equipment. They will have to control civilian labour and be confronted with many problems for which they will have to find a solution. All this requires men with high personal standards of conduct and a deep sense of justice. They will have to know their job.

So it will be realised that achieving a high standard of discipline is not simply matter of being given a " bashing " for the first six months and " free wheeling " for the following 12 years. It is achieved by a system of training which moulds character, gives a sense of values and so produces not only a first-class soldier but also a first-class citizen.



Exercise Jungle Greed. Jnr. Ldrs. queuing for rations.

HOUSE NOTES

"A" COMPANY

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

C.S.M. K. S. MIDDLETON

During the Autumn term we have undergone our usual share of pain and pleasure and, like Tess of the D'Urbevilles we were not always sure at the time, which was which. In retrospect these two aspects tend to merge and gradually become tinted with the rosy hue of tribulation safely passed.

Exercise " Jungle Greed " is a good example of this. I am by now almost convinced that I enjoyed every minute of it. Being awakened before dawn by the birds coughing in the mist around one's bivouac; sitting up in bed and being smacked in the face by a wet tent roof only 18 inches above the ground and then, determined to start the day well with a show of cheerfulness and good humour, rolling out of the blankets into four inches of surprisingly warm rain water. Then the joys of cooking over a heavily smoking fire of wet sticks painstakingly gathered in the rain on the previous evening and carefully squeezed out, and lighted at the twentieth attempt with damp matches. To say nothing of the refreshing wash in an ice-cold trout stream with the high pitched shrieks of one's fellow sufferers giving ample evidence of shared enjoyment.

None of these things would be lightly undertaken by any normal person but we are super-normal and these things are the common currency of a soldier's life and therefore quickly become an almost unnoticed part of the background except for the soldier's traditional tendency to lie and boast of his sufferings.

The exercise was a considerable success—rather to my surprise—because the weather could only be described by a four-letter word (which the Colonel won't let me use in this article). And everyone arrived tired and wet but cheerful at the pre-arranged rendezvous.

The round of activities has been as intense as always and to those already well established have been added two more, gliding and the pentathlon, two apparently simple words which cover a considerable amount of frenzied activity. Gliding is carried out under the auspicies of the Army Gliding Club and as a Company Commander I see little of it but it is occasionally brought to my notice in my role as P.R.I. by the receipt of Bills, for payment, bearing cryptic comments such as:—

Thirteen launches plus one Towing Cable Break at 2/6d. each.

Which conjures up a highly coloured mental picture of my lads at work.

Pentathlon, as our readers will know, involves the Junior Leaders concerned in a complex series of evolutions embracing horse riding, cross-country running, swimming, fencing and pistol shooting and those Junior Leaders who put up their names in the confident expectation of a " skive " have been most surprised.

The bonfire celebrations were a great success—all Junior Leaders being convinced that that chap Fawkes had something worth celebrating.

The Annual Administrative Inspection took place on the 28th November and I overheard a junior lance-corporal explaining the necessity for the inspection in these terms:—

" We have to have Admin. Inspections in the Army to make sure that everything is up to scratch once in the year anyway."

A frighteningly clear grasp of the situation in one so young and innocent. All in all we continue to press on and I am well satisfied with the progress made, although we never seem to have enough time for all the dozens of activities in which we are involved. In this unit we must not only teach boys to use their leisure constructively we must also teach them to value it when they get it.

BAKER HOUSE

S.Q.M.S. E. Robinson, Acting House Officer

Sgt. Maddock, J.

Baker House has for some time been under the guidance of S.Q.M.S. Robinson. We have said farewell to Lt. J. B. Stevens who has returned to the humdrum of civilian life at Bristol University, and have recently acquired a new House Officer, and welcomed Sgt. Maddock as House Sergeant. We are still very fortunate in retaining the valuable services of S.Q.M.S. Robinson.

At the time of writing we have all returned rather wet from exercise " Jungle Greed " in the Ashdown Forest, but in good spirits and with surprisingly little sickness other than sore feet.

Baker House has had an indifferent season in most sports so far, but has begun to pick up recently. Successes have been few so far, but the House is definitely on the upgrade. We congratulate Jnr. Ptes. Arnold and Fovargue on representing the Junior Leaders' Battalion Soccer XI in most matches. We are sorry to note that Jnr. Pte. Gilpin is in hospital following an injury on the soccer field; we wish him a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Jnr. Sgt. Hayles on promotion to that rank, likewise to Jnr. Cpls. Webster and Allen, and to Jnr. L/Cpls. Atkins, Griffiths, Carrington and Proudlove.

We say farewell to Jnr. Sgt. Vince to Man's Service and Jnr. Pte. Jones on discharge.

Before we close we extend a hearty welcome to our own new T.V. set in the hope that it will be treated well during its long stay here! !

GORDON HOUSE

Capt. F. L. M. Foy, R.A.O.C.

Sgt. Woods, P.

Our last notes took us up to the move to Tregantle. The old timers who were down there in the Summer of '59 were disappointed this year with the weather. Whackey enjoyed an illicit trip to Cornwall,

and seemed to grow as much as some of the smaller members of the House. The House outing was spent in Torquay and this time the town elders had no complaints over the disappearance of hand-carts.

Since the end of last term many new faces have appeared in the House, and even more of the old familiar ones have left. We welcome Jnr. Ptes. Hallett, Lamont, Munro, O'Connor, Williams and Murphy, most of whom were " old soldiers " before they came from Steevens House. We hope they will enjoy Gordon House as much as they did Steevens.

We were very pleased to welcome at the beginning of this term Jnr. Ptes. Bond, Cooke, Cornick, Hayward, Rhodes, Spear and Turner, our last bunch of " nigs " from Williams House, and congratulate them on getting a posting to us. We extend to them a hearty welcome and hope they will enjoy being part of us. We also welcome from " C " Company Jnr. Pte. Hawkins complete with camera, who, although he does not swell our ranks on many Battalion parades, does provide us with excellent photographic records, and has managed to get the House to the front in the Corps Christmas cards.

We were sad to say farewell to Ptes. Williams, Quinn, Snelling, Harrison, Baker, Robinson, Schiff and Bryan who left us at the end of last term after passing out, we wish them all the best in their future careers.

With the forming of Steevens House for Senior Boys, we have also lost the valuable experience of all our older members. Those transferring to Steevens House this term were Jnr. Sgt. O'Shaughnessy, Jnr. Cpl. Richie, Jnr. Cpl. Whittington, Jnr. L/Cpl. Cross, Jnr. Ptes. Smith, Alderman and Addison.

Congratulations to Jnr. Sgt. Simmons, Jnr. Cpl. Harris, Jnr. Cpl. Evans, Jnr. L/Cpls. Watson, Brogden and Buckle on their promotions. At the time of writing we have just returned from exercise " Jungle Greed." Again the weather was against us, but the only grouse from one member of the House was no matter how he tried he couldn't route his patrol from Ashdown Forest Area to Leith Hill, via Redhill. Jnr. Pte Old found the messing excellent and was seen at one time on Leigh Hill munching four lamb chops from the end of a rather blackened stick.

STEEVENS HOUSE

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

SGT. FENTON, R.

Steevens House as a normal training house went out in a blaze of glory at the end of the Summer term by winning the coveted Champion House Competition. All of its members were posted to other houses of their own choice in order that Steevens could become the Senior House where all last term Junior Leaders could live and train together.

Before writing of the fortunes of the new House, a few memories

of the old demand recording. During the latter part of the Summer term, 25 members of the House under Jnr. Sgt. Walls represented the Battalion in the Aldershot District Junior Leaders' Challenge Shield Competition for drill, and despite good displays from their rivals, won fairly comfortably.

This high standard reflected the House spirit which was the key-note throughout the term, and it was just this spirit that achieved a steady high level of military training and sport all through the term as the Competition results show:—1st in C.O's Inspection and basketball, second in athletics, drill and small bore and third in cricket and full bore shooting.

Congratulations to Jnr. Sgt. Walls for his promotion to Jnr. C.S.M. and to Jnr. L/Cpls. Henson and Hayles for theirs to Jnr. Sgts. All are leaving the House. Congratulations too to Hayles for his athletics performances and to Jones for his education results.

Now to the new Steevens House! This began with 56 Jnr. Leaders. and has, half way through the term, been reduced to around 50.

It has turned out to be a far more satisfactory way of training Jnr. Leaders, than the previous method and under the firm hand of Sgt. Fenton the House is forging a definite character of its own.

Because of the advantage the House would have in the Inter-House Competitions due to the age and experience of its members the House will not compete in the competition overall, but will do so in its various sections to provide the House with competitive sport. So far the House heads the basketball and rugby leagues, and is doing well at soccer and hockey.

As this is my last term as O.I/C. Steevens House, and in fact in the Battalion I would like to wish all past and present members of the House good luck . . . and thanks.

" B " COMPANY

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

C.S.M. K. MAULE

A number of changes mark the progress of " B " Company. Firstly we say farewell to Major Steer who has handed over the reins to Major Bomford. Major Steer has left to be 2I/C of the Battalion. We also welcome Capt. Thompson to the Company and Hill House after completing his O.O's. course and before he leaves for a year's blood, sweat, toil and tears to learn all the ins and outs of ammunition. The writer having been through the mill himself, knows only too well!

The Summer camp has already been dealt with in detail so it will be sufficient to say that " B " Company enjoyed themselves, except on the day(s) that the rain came.

Congratulations to Capt. Clifton on his well-earned promotion and a welcome to Jnr. Cpl. Sims after his long sojourn in Hospital. We also welcome the new recruits from Williams House.

At the end of October we indulged in a very damp weekend exer-

cise in the delectable countryside of Ashdown Forest. We learnt a lot about keeping dry with the minimum of extra gear, and also to cope with fresh as opposed to compo rations. We all still have a lot to learn about map reading—date of printing of maps and date of construction of new estates and airports seem to have a startling effect on the reading of maps!

PARSONS HOUSE

CAPT. L. N. CLIFTON, R.A.O.C.
SGT. LUKE, R. W. J.

The House did not do as well as had been hoped during the Summer term, mainly due to having nine of the Junior Leaders on Senior Training and thus lost to the House for many activities. This was particularly noticed at cricket and tennis.

However, in the Athletics Competition the House did well to finish fourth and some very good performances were put up by Jnr. Cpls. Clarke, Catchpole and Moore. Although we did not win the C.O's. Inspection we can at least claim success on one score—the Colonel was able to see the whole House at each inspection! In the .22 competition we finished third after a close match.

An enjoyable three weeks were spent in Cornwall in spite of the weather, and the House showed up quite well on the Bodmin exercise. Whilst at Tregantle the Inter-House full bore shoot took place, but we did not do very well and finished up seventh.

The House lost 15 members at the end of the Summer term—nine to Man's Service and six to the Senior House—so that there are very few now who have been with the House since its inception. However, the new recruits are showing promise and things look healthy for the future.

During the Summer term the House did quite well educationally and the following were awarded progress prizes for their work:—Jnr. Cpls. Siswick and Clarke, Jnr. Ptes. Barr, Holmes and McGuiness. Jnr. Pte. Barr was also awarded the Adjutants Cup as the best full bore shot in the Battalion.

We wish good luck to those that passed into Man's Service at the end of the Summer term, namely Jnr. Cpl. Catchpole, Jnr. L/Cpls. McCusker, Jeffrey, Lambert and Jnr. Ptes. Grout, Kerr, Dawson, Mills and Whiting. At the time of writing we are pleased to note that Catchpole has been promoted to lance-corporal on successfully completing his Cadre course in 1 (Reg.) Training Battalion.

To Jnr. Cpls. Hillan and Moore, Jnr. L/Cpl. Haddock and Jnr. Pte. McGuiness, Mullarkey and Turner, who have passed into the new Senior House, go our wishes for a successful term.

We are taking time to get into our stride this Autumn term, but the future looks quite good and we are hoping to do well in the cross-country, drill and .22 shooting competition.

HILL HOUSE

CAPT. J. J. THOMPSON, R.A.O.C.

SGT. BOLLERS, J. J.

On the first day of this term I quickly realised I had inherited a House inspired by an adventurous spirit.

Stories of good times in luxurious hotels with a splendid feminine hostess for Jnr. Cpl. Carroll; canoeing in Belgium from Jnr. Cpl. Johnston and Jnr. Pte. Thomas; cycling in Belgium and France (mainly on the beaches) with Jnr. L/Cpl. Seager, Jnr. Ptes Rushton, Stevenson, Sutton and Mann. We hope to increase the range during the Christmas holidays with a party to Austria and maintain the link with the Emerald Isle and Tipperary in particular.

Official initiative tests by Jnr. Cpl. Walling and Jnr. L/Cpl. Slade to a Yorkshire pit, and Jnr. Ptes. Davidson and Sankey to the Manchester Ship Canal were excelled in achievement only by Jnr. Pte. Rhone's unofficial escapade to John o' Groats. Can you imagine travelling from Inverness with an irate Sgt. Bollers as escort!

Because the concert at Kneller Hall (Military College of Music) in September was rained off, the House had an enjoyable evening doing Richmond instead. We all enjoyed our big bangs and bangers on bonfire night. The new T.V. set is now installed, and and an educational visit to the Science Museum is being planned.

We are glad to hear from many ex-Hillites and would like to congratulate ex-Jnr. Sgt. Swain, who after passing out in 1959 is already an acting sergeant A.E.

In the sporting world the foundation for a strong bid for the champion house are being firmly laid. Soccer—played six, won four, drawn two. Rugger—played seven, won four, drawn one, lost two. Hockey—played five, won two, drawn two, lost one. This record must be maintained by constant progress at education, drill and the C.O's. Inspection. Remember the record since 1959: champions twice and runners up once.

Two final news items—we have now recovered the House mascot, Jnr. L./Cpl. Barnes's bike, from Cove. The weekly ceremonial of rest on your arms reversed will now be discontinued. Secondly the whole of Room 3 now have their dinstictive hair-do., very close crew cuts with the usual George guarantee.

In conclusion, after three and a half years with the Battalion I would like to stress the opportunities in education, training, sport and friendship which you must grasp and develop whilst you are here. The House is only as good as its members and each man must continue to give of his best and keep up the cheerful keen spirit now established. Let Major-General Sir Basil Hill, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., be your inspiration. Mentioned in dispatches three times, capped nine times for England at rugby, whom he captained twice, twice a member of the winning R.A.O.C. Golf Army Cup team—a fisherman of note, 50 years' service in which it has been said, " I have never heard a word said against him and I expect he never made an

enemy. He was a great Christian gentleman. He was essentially a soldier and he looked like a soldier."

Stop Press: The rumour circulating in the Battalion that Capt. Lane presented his car to the House should apply to Sgt. Williams for confirmation. The House would like to place on record their best wishes for the future to Capt. and Mrs. T. R. Lane, and convey their thanks for instilling in so many of us the spirit of adventure and desire to travel.

BODY HOUSE

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

SGT. KING, L. A.

Since the publication of the last Journal the complement of the House has undergone many changes due to the passing-out parade and the transfer of the Senior Squad to Steevens House. However, we have been well " topped up " from Williams House and I am hoping that in the near future the Corps of Drums will be back to its former standard of excellence. Some of the younger Junior Leaders are already showing some promise.

We are still kept reasonably busy with outside engagements and we had a most pleasant tour of Belgium and Germany during Summer leave of which a full account is given elsewhere.

In the field of sport our achievements have not been so noteworthy as in former terms, although the hockey team is still managing to keep at the top of the league. One of our top sportsmen, Jnr. L/Cpl. Arnold, of boxing fame, has unfortunately spent most of this term in hospital; a loss to both the House and the Battalion, and we wish him a speedy recovery. However, we are still providing some of the talent for the Battalion boxing team and we hope to see some of our representatives in the important competitions of next year.

Sgt. King has just returned from the Guards' Drill Course at Pirbright and we await with some trepidation the chasing that he has faithfully promised. There should, at any rate, be some improvement in the House standard of drill (there had better be!).

The following are to be congratulated on their promotion to the ranks shown:—Jnr. Cpl. Atkinson, Jnr. L/Cpls. Ince, Godden, Arnold and Stevens.

" C " COMPANY

MAJOR E. B. REASON-CHALLINOR, E.R.D., R.A.O.C.

C.S.M. A. N. CARMAN

This term we received 48 recruits for training which in comparison to previous intakes is a large one. The majority settled down quickly and made very good progress. They thoroughly enjoyed an exercise in the Woking area, bivouacing, field cooking, done in the open and some general training. The weather was good for them, unlike the torrents prevailing during the Battalion exercise in Ashdown Forest, Sussex, for the rest of the Company who none

the less did extremely well. Williams House gave a great show on their passing-out parade. They were very well turned out indeed and worked splendidly together during the entire parade. Congratulations to Jnr. Pte. Lewis—selected as best recruit.

This time I am very pleased to have been allocated the majority to remain in my Company with Watts and Mulcahy Houses. We have recently got 12 more recruits who are shaping up very well and making good progress.

Mulcahy and Watts have now existed as established training houses for a little over a year. They did very well indeed at Summer camp in Fort Tregantle and on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall—their first annual camp with the Battalion in fact. We learnt a lot and had some very good fun. In the field of sport we have continued to make very good progress especially in soccer, shooting and boxing, and in the latter I am very proud to say that we had 11 out of 15 stalwarts representing the Battalion against the Junior Guardsmen Company when we were victorious against an excellent team.

Morale is very high, of course. We send our heartiest greetings to Battalion Headquarters and our sister Companies, H.Q., "A," and "B" for a very Happy Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year.

MULCAHY HOUSE

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

SGT. WALKER, J.

The Summer term was a good one for the House. We acquitted ourselves creditably in all Battalion activities. Consequently we reached our highest position to date in the House Competition—fourth. We finished runners-up in the cricket competition and provided two regulars for the Battalion cricket XI, Jnr. Cpl. Garrod and Jnr. Pte. Craddock. Our main improvement this term must undoubtedly come in the drill competition.

The Winter term has started well and we have had join us from Steevens and Williams several new members. Steevens in particular provided us with a nucleus of seasoned junior N.C.Os. and privates.

The highlight so far this term has been the Battalion exercise "Jungle Greed" which took place in the Ashdown Forest area. Much will obviously be printed elsewhere about the exercise, even so I feel a comment, "that the weather left a lot to be disired" will have to be made!

Another point which became apparent as the exercise progressed was that the House Officer's proficiency on a motor bike leaves much to be desired. Jnr. Pte. "Paddy" Ward was kindly offered a lift at one point in the exercise and is now considerably more nervous and paler. (The combined *load* of H.O. plus H.S. eventually proved too much for the motor cycle and it gave up the ghost.)

In the sporting world we continue to hold our own.



"C" COMPANY BOXING TEAM
INTER-COMPANY BOXING CHAMPIONS

Jnr. L/Cpl. Mayes, Jnr. Pte. Grant, Jnr. Pte. Hiddleston, C.S.M. Carman, Jnr. Pte. Malthouse, L/Cpl. Brown, Major E. B. Reason-Challinor, Jnr. Pte. Gardiner, Jnr. Pte. McGill.

Soccer.

We are defending our Inter-House Cup strongly. We have now gone seven games without defeat and are three points clear at the top of the league table. Our outstanding player is undoubtedly Jnr. Cpl. Garrod and he is backed by a team of good solid footballers.

Hockey.

This term our hockey stalwarts with newcomers Nichols and Wheelhouse have improved greatly. It is good to see this improvement and keenness in one of the less popular games. Jnr. Ptes. Nichols, Wheelhouse and Hiddlestone have all played for the Battalion XI this term.

Basketball.

We have also achieved our best results to date in basketball under the guidance of Jnr. L/Cpl. Mayes. Mayes, Emmett, Johnson and Ramsay who are who all regular members of the Battalion team.

Boxing.

"C" Company, for the next Battalion boxing match against Junior Guardsmen Company, provide all but three contestants, which is a very fine effort. Mulcahy are providing four boxers in the "C" Company contingent. They are Jnr. L/Cpl. Mayes, Jnr. Ptes. Dunbar, Candlin and Wyatt.

Rugby.

In the Inter-House Rugby sevens we are improving steadily and are now lying fourth in the able. A good effort is this after a bad start. Credit must be given to Jnr. Cpl. Mitchell for this improvement.

Cross-Country.

This sport has been mainly confined to Battalion fixtures this term. However, we have provided one of the outstanding performers in Jnr. Pte. Thornton.

The House this term is pulling together really well under Jnr. Sgt. Wilson and we hope to better our position yet again in the Inter-House Competition this term.

WILLIAMS HOUSE

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

SGT. BRADLEY, A.

The present Williams House is the largest Recruit House ever in the Battalion The smaller squad instructed by Sgt. Bradshaw passed into the Battalion on 7th October. This squad has been billetted in " B " Company because of pressure on accommodation in " D " Block. This is not desirable but we hope that future intakes can all be accommodated under one roof.

The junior squad, 48 strong, instructed by Sgt. Bradley, is settling down quickly and has reached the third week of full training. This squad passed out on 4th November.

The House will carry out its Outward Bound Exercise on weekend 28th-29th October, when the rest of the Battalion is tramping the Sussex highways and byways.

Williams House had a moment of glory when the Commanding Officer selected our garden for the " Gold Medal " in the House Garden Competition.

No mean feat this when one recalls the blatant efforts of one House Officer to employ a temporary flowery paradise.

Jnr. Cpl. Bowen has been promoted L/Sgt. of Williams House—a real success story, as he was best recruit in recruit training only a year ago.

Other new arrivals include Jnr. L/Cpls. Samples, Chaters, and Elkes, while Jnr. L/Cpl. Taylor earns promotion to Jnr. Cpl.

In January we say goodbye to Sgt. Bradley who goes to Malaya on posting. We wish Sgt. and Mrs. Bradley and family *bon voyage* and a happy stay in the Far East. We will miss Sgt. Bradley who has been an inspiration to new boys in the Battalion with his keenness, his sense of humour and his sporting ability.

WATTS HOUSE

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

SGT. BRITCHER, P. R.

Summer Term.

At the beginning of the term emphasis was laid on field training in order that the House would be up to standard for exercise " Sea-

moor II." On Monday, 13th June, we moved down to Tregantle. This was a new experience for all but two members of the House. The annual camp can be classed as successful for this House in many ways. First the exercise on Bodmin Moor went well which showed that many week-end exercises had paid dividends. Secondly, the House seemed to enjoy the intense swimming training which was carried out at Cawsands every afternoon whilst we were in the fort and the evening visits to nearby Plymouth. Thirdly to finish off the camp in good style the House won the Inter-House shooting competition. Much credit for this must go to Sgt. Britcher for the keen interest he takes in weapon training instruction in the House and also to the able leadership of Jnr. Pte. Mount the team captain. Not only did the House Shooting gladiators do well but the whole House succeeded in passing their annual range course, seven of whom obtained a possible.

Drill.

On our return to Blackdown all effort was turned on to the Drill Competition. Many not so popular hours were spent on the drill square but the result announced after the competition showed that the effort made had been worthwhile. Watts had moved up to third place and joined the " experts " of Hill and Steevens House. We look forward to meeting them again on the square at Christmas.

Cricket.

Our cricket team enjoyed the season although success was not for us this year. Jnr. Pte. Ankin, our House Captain, played regularly for the Battalion and his left-handed batting should be a great asset to the Battalion Team next season.

Swimming.

We were most unfortunate in having the swimming gala cancelled at the end of term. In Jnr. Sgt. Pratt, Jnr. L/Cpl. Goodman and Jnr. Ptes. Pingstone and Palmer we had the basis of the Battalion swimming team in our House and we were certain of success. We look forward to next season.

Athletics.

Once again in athletics as soccer and cricket we were not so good. C.S.M. Nightingale took part in all the Battalion matches running in the 200 yards. In the Battalion sports day competition our three milers Jnr. Ptes. Grant, Ogilvie and Pingstone ran superbly as a team and all came in within the first six places.

Boxing.

Watts House did well in the inter-House boxing although the cup was out of our reach from the start because of the shortage of boxers in certain weights. Even so Jnr. Pte. Grant showed a great deal of " guts " when he fought Jnr. Pte. Baddeley who was the Army and Imperial Services Junior Champion. Jnr. Pte. Stickley fought well

and Jnr. Pte. Beattie surprised even himself by battling his way into the finals. Jnr. Pte. Gardiner was unfortunate in breaking his thumb in the trials and was unable to take part in the Competition.

Promotions.

During the term Jnr. Pte. Edwards, Jnr. Pte. Bourne and Jnr. Pte. Toop were promoted to Junior Lance-Corporal. Jnr. L/Cpl. Pratt was promoted to Junior Corporal.

Old Order Changeth.

At the end of the term we lost the following Junior Leaders to Senior Squad Training in Steevens House.

Jnr. Cpl. Boyd and Jnr. L/Cpl. Bourne who both did very well on Outward Bound course whilst in the House.

Jnr. Pte. Mount who captained the House full bore team.

Jnr. Pte. Pickup who held a regular place in the Battalion football team.

The members of Watts House wish them all success in the future.

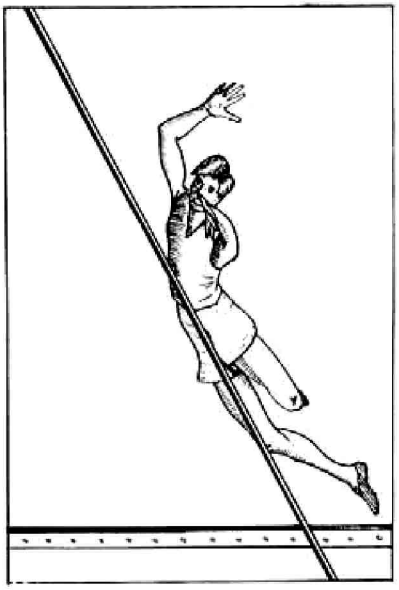


Watts House Full Bore Team Summer 1960

Winners Inter Huose Full Bore Competition

Back Row Left to Right: Capt. D. A. R. Clark, R.A.O.C., Jnr. Pte. Cassidy, J., Jnr. L/Cpl. Bourne, B. W., Jnr. Cpl. Pratt, F., Sgt. Britcher, P. R.
Front Row: Jnr. Pte. Hogg, K. W., Jnr. Pte. Mount, T. P., Jnr. L/Cpl. Edwards, C., Jnr. Pte. Nicholls, D. R.

SPORT



ATHLETICS SUMMER TERM

O.I/C Capt. R. King, R.A.O.C.

The Inter-House Athletics Competition for the Summer term was in two parts, the Sports Day and a Standards Competition run throughout the term. This raised the standard of athletics in the Battalion to its highest level yet.

The unit came second to a very strong R.A.S.C. team in the Aldershot District Junior Leaders' Challenge Shield, but unfortunately this was no real test of the Units respective athletes' strengths as the competition was confined to youths only (under 17 years) and our main athletic powers happened to be in our older chaps. In this match, however, especially good performances were put up by Hayles, Cross, Walling (Hill) and Harris (Gordon).

All other matches that we took part in with our full team we won quite comfortably.

A good day was had by all at the Battalion Sports Meeting despite dubious weather. Exceptional performances were produced by Hayles (Baker), Dicketts (Steevens), Cross (Steevens) and Fovargue (Baker) and W.O.I Thornton won the Old Soldiers' Race for the second successive year!

Congratulations to Jnr. Cpl. Dicketts (Steevens) for his steady improvement during the season and for winning the R.A.O.C. Junior Leaders' Open 100 yards; to Cross for some excellent performances and, of course to Hayles for his Army record, Army Championships and A.A.A. silver standard.

Basketball. O.I/C Lt. J. B. Gibby, R.A.E.C.

Junior Leaders have shown enormous interest in basketball this term and as might be expected the additional enthusiam has led to improved standards of play.

1st Team.

We have only lost one match to date—the R.A.S.C. Junior Leaders beating us in a thrill-packed game by 22 points—21 points. In our other league games we defeated the Apprentice Chef Company by

33 points—13 points and the R.A.M.C. Apprentices by 46 points—14 points. We look forward to revenge in our next clash with the R.A.S.C. and with it a chance of winning the League Championship.

In friendly matches we have defeated the R.E.M.E Apprentices ("B" Company), R.E.M.E. Junior Leaders, R.A.S.C. Junior Leaders and the Battalion permanent staff side.

Jnr. Cpl. Moore (Steevens) skippers the side and has enjoyed a successful season. His shooting has been extremely accurate and he set up a record 31-point personal tally in the match against the R.A.M.C. Apprentices. Jnr. Pte. Pickering (Steevens) has been the rock on which many opposing attacks have floundered, and this together with his shooting ability makes him a player with a future in basketball. Jnr. Ptes. Grant and Pickering always play sound games, the former at left attack and the latter at right guard. Jnr. C.S.M. Wall on right attack is a good handler and passes the ball swiftly and accurately but his shooting ability is not up to the general team standard as yet but he is making every effort to improve this deficiency.

2ND TEAM.

The second team have had comparatively little match practice due to the fact that few Junior Leaders' Battalions can produce a second string. They lost narrowly to the Apprentice Chef Company and rather heavily to the Battalion permanent staff side. Jnr. Cpls. Mayes and Spence are keen performers and one anticipates that they will take their place in the first team next term. Jnr. Ptes. Swinburn, Johnson and Emmett also reveal promise.

In conclusion it is fitting to mention that an excellent team spirit exists, and a deep sense of loyalty lies between the first and second teams. Bearing these factors in mind, there is no reason at all why the Battalion should not win the Aldershot and District Junior Leaders' Basketball League.

Boxing. O.I/C LT. J. LEWIS, R.A.E.C.

Boxing began early this term with an inter-Company match on the 20th September. The main object was to sort out any new potential for the coming season's team and individual competitions.

The match was so arranged that the eliminations were boxed in the afternoon and the finals in the evening. Unfortunately as Companies failed to fill all the weights the afternoon's elimination bouts were restricted to four only. However, the evening provided twelve finals which produce some really good spirited contests. Amongst the best bouts were Jnr. Pte. Whitby v. Jnr. Pte. Dunbar and Jnr. Pte. Edwards v. Jnr. Pte. White 787. Light entertainment was also provided. Short and squat Lunt leapt at lean and hungry Feauviour for three continuous rounds, eventually winning on points. Another bout with a slap-stick flavour was that between Jnr. Pte. Guest and Jnr. Pte. Brown 914. The referee was forced to disqualify Guest as he was in danger of hanging himself on the ropes. The winning

Company was " C " Company with eight bouts won, " B " Company was second with four bouts and "A" Company third with three bouts. As a spectacle there was plenty of variety with the class " B " boxers showing most style and the class " C " most originality.

CLASS B

Weight

8 st.	Whitby (" B " Company) lost to Dunbar (" C " Company) on points.
8 st. 7 lbs.	Lunt (" C " Company) beat Feauviour (" B " Company) on points.
9 st.	Gardiner (" C " Company) beat Andrew ("A" Company) on points.
9 st. 7 lbs.	Gould ("A" Company) lost to Balchin (" B " Company) K.O. second round.
10 st.	Edwards (" B " Company) beat White 787 ("A" Company) on points.
10 st. 7 lbs.	Johnson 956 (" B " Company) lost to Mayes (" C " Company) on points.
11 st.	Martin (" B " Company) lost to Holdon (" C " Company) T.K.O. first round.

CIVILITY : SERVICE : SATISFACTION
may be relied upon at the
DEEPCUT
POST OFFICE
(G. ROTHWELL)
CONFECTIONERY : TOBACCO : STATIONERY
We have the finest selection of Greetings Cards in the District

Officially Appointed Tailor
to the Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC
NORMAN ROSE
OF ARBORFIELD
Visits this Battalion Every Wednesday Afternoon

CLASS " C "

8 st.	Craddock (" C " Company). Walk over.
8 st. 7 lbs.	Proudlove ("A" Company). Walk over.
9 st.	Lugg ("A" Company) beat McGill (" C " Company) K.O. first round.
9 st. 7 lbs.	O'Connor ("A" Company) lost to Malthouse (" C " Company) T.K.O. first round.
10 st.	Guest ("A" Company) lost to Brown 914 (" C " Company) disqualified.
10 st. 7 lbs.	Johnson 488 (" C " Company) lost to Henderson (" B " Company) T.K.O. second round.

Cross-Country Running. I/C S.Q.M.S. ROBINSON

Once again the cross-country team have found their old form having won all runs to date. Our team this term is made up of complete new faces representing most of the houses in the Battalion. The success of the team is due to the excellent team work and spirit, they are all volunteers and devote a lot of their own spare time in keeping fit.

Jnr. Cpl. Clark (Parsons) and Jnr. Pte. Thornton (Mulcahy) are our star runners. If they maintain their keenness they should have no difficulty in qualifying for the Boys' Championships. Results are as follows.

R.A.O.C. v. Guards won.
R.A.O.C. v. A.C.C. won.
R.A.O.C. v. R.A.M.C. won.
R.A.S.C. v. R.A.O.C. won.

Equitation. O.I/C CAPT. D. A. R. CLARK, R.A.O.C.

During the Summer term riding classes took place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Instruction was given in the indoor riding school on most afternoons during the early part of the term and later when the riders became more proficient, jumping instruction was given in the paddock. Occasionally we manage to forget instruction for the afternoon and enjoy a pleasant hack over the local training areas.

The riders take a pride in their turnout and have been complimented on several occasions on the high standards they have attained. The reason for wearing two chinstraps for riding was excellently demonstrated by the O.I/C Riding when his " Herbert Johnson " fell off and landed in the middle of a large muddy puddle on the tank training area and thereafter had to ride home with, as one would have said, " an 'orrible wet muddy 'edd."

At the end of term after the passing-out parade a small gymkhana was held on the sports field. Some local members of the Staff College Branch of the pony club gave us the competition we needed

for a selection of mounted games in which they showed their superiority on these small, handy and faster ponies. In the show jumping event Jnr. Ptes. Snow and Griffiths did well on Moonshine and Caesar, Pte. Snow and Moonshine only obtaining four faults. At the conclusion of the gymkhana the Commanding Officer's whip was presented by General McVittie to Jnr. Pte. Griffiths who had been selected by the Commanding Officer as the Junior Leader making most progress in riding during the term.

During the summer leave the O.I/C riding attended the advanced Army Saddle Club Instructors' Course at Melton Mowbray. Jnr. Ptes. Griffiths and Snow of Baker House were both taken as grooms for three weeks each and during the time learnt much of stable management and had several hours in the saddle.

The following Junior Leaders have learnt to ride during the term :—

Jnr. Pte. Finnie (Steevens)
Jnr. Pte. Chalmers (Steevens)
Jnr. Pte. Griffiths (Baker)
Jnr. Pte. Snow (Baker)
Jnr. Pte. Gaughan (Body)
Jnr. Pte. Rowley (Hill)
Jnr. Pte. Hawkins (Hill)
Jnr. Pte. Griffiths 362 (Hill)
Jnr. Pte. Hogg (Watts)
Jnr. Pte. Smith (Watts)



[Photo by Jnr. Pte. Hawkins (Gordon)

Major-General C. H. McVittie, C.B.E., presenting the Commanding Officer's whip to Jnr. Pte. Griffiths of Baker House. Griffiths is mounted on the R.A.O.C. Saddle Club's " Caesar."

Pentathlon. O.I/C Capt. D. A. R. Clark, R.A.O.C.

Pentathlon training is now well under way. Training for each event is carried out twice a week.

The pentathlon, for the benefit of parents who are not familiar with this sport, is a competition which took place in the ancient Olympic Games and the winner of the pentathlon was considered to be the *Victor Ludorum* of the games. When the modern Olympics were founded in 1912 the classical events of discus, javelin, jumping, running and wrestling were replaced by a modern pentathlon of riding, fencing, shooting, swimming and running. The competition now takes over five consecutive days and each competitor is required to compete on a points system against all the other competitors. This Battalion is aiming to put a team of three into the Army Modern Pentathlon Championships in April–May, 1961.

Riding Event.

Competitors are required to ride a strange horse across 2,500 metres of countryside negotiating about 15 to 20 obstacles on the course. Jnr. L/Cpl. Griffiths has now been riding for nearly a year and is coming on well, the remainder of the pentathletes have much ground to cover in a relatively short time available.

Epee Fencing.

Each competitor must meet each other in one bout which is decided by one hit with the electric epees. Sgt. Bradshaw of the permanent staff is shaping up well in this event. Although training is now carried out in our own gymnasium we intend to visit the Aldershot Fencing Club each week to get the necessary competition.



Three of the Battalion Modern Pentathletes training with pistols in the miniature range. Left to right: Jnr. L/Cpl. Goodman (Watts), Jnr. L/Cpl. Griffiths (Baker), Jnr. Sgt. Pratt (Watts).

PISTOL SHOOTING.

Twenty-five metres, 20 rounds, any pistol or revolver. This is considered by many to be the most difficult of the pentathlon events as it requires very steady nerves at this competitive level. One shot off the target would completely upset the score. Jnr. L/Cpl. Griffiths is doing extremely well so far. Major E. Macey, M.B.E., is training the team in this event and has had Griffiths under his hand for several months now. With Major (Marshal Dillon) Macey at the reins in this event we can have absolute confidence in the success in the shooting.

SWIMMING.

Three hundred Free Style is ten lengths of the Aldershot Command baths. This distance must be covered in about six minutes to obtain a reasonable score. Jnr. Pte. Pingstone of Watts House is our strong swimmer at the moment and he spends much of his swimming time encouraging and coaching the others, Jnr. Sgt. Pratt is also a promising swimmer.

RUNNING.

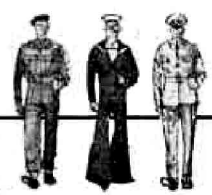
Four thousand metres (or two and a half miles) over rough country. For this event we are fortunate in having W.O.II Robinson (famous in the Corps for his little walk with Dr. Barbara Moore from John o' Groats to Lands End), to train the pentathletes.

The pentathlon is a sport that requires a good all-round standard in each event. The events are interesting and of the nature that appeals to most young men. This is the first opportunity the Corps





NAAFI and YOU



"Food for thought" . . .

R.A.F. Dishforth and R.A.O.C. Donnington. These were the stations originally selected for an experiment which could revolutionise Service catering.

Naafi was given the entire responsibility for providing, cooking and serving all the meals for officers, senior N.C.O's. and men at both places. The quality and variety of the food and the general standard of the service continue to receive high praise from all ranks. The success of the experiment has resulted in Naafi's contract being extended to other military establishments. Another example of Naafi's Service to the Services.

IMPERIAL COURT, KENNINGTON LANE, LONDON, S.E.11

The Official Canteen Organisation for H.M. Forces

has had to encourage modern Pentathlon and therefore those taking part have a high standard to set for those that follow later.

Rugby Football. O.I/C Capt. R. M. Johnston, R.A.O.C.

The Battalion First XV kicked off another season on Thursday, 15th September with a very convincing win 44—0 against R.E.M.E. We cannot, however, expect to meet such weak opposition during the rest of the season, particularly during the Army Junior Cup. The First XV has lost a number of key players who will be very hard to replace especially at scrum half. Keene was unlucky enough to injure his leg during the opening match but we hope to have him back again soon.

Camberley Rugby Club has invited a number of our players to turn out for them this season and we hope that this will help to raise the standard of football even further.

In the second match of the season against A.C.C. we had another run-away win scoring 35 points without reply. This was followed by a similarly convincing win v. R.A.M.C. 44—6. These games, however, were not in the Shield Competition and in the first match in this year's series on 20th October, we scraped home by one point against R.A.S.C. nine points to eight. This game was surprisingly good considering the awful conditions and the R.A.O.C. tried to open up the game almost too much. In the loose Jnr. Cpl. Hams and Jnr. L/Cpl. McHoul were outstanding while Turton, Dicketts and Skipper Alderman in the backs made the most of every opportunity.

The next Shield fixture is with R.A.M.C. when we hope to have the team back to full strength.



(Photo by Jnr. Pte. Hawkins (Gordon)

Jnr. Cpl. Harris (Gordon), watches Jnr. Pte Alderman (Steevens) being tackled. Jnr. Pte. Rourke (Gordon) waits in vain.

Battalion Soccer. O.I/C Capt. J. J. Thompson, R.A.O.C.

The Battalion team this term is unbeaten in the Aldershot District League having a goal record of 27 for and seven against. In the Woking League we were beaten early in the season by Westerfield and Woking Youths but have since beaten West Byfleet, Combined Churches and Bedser Youths, by handsome margins.

In the first round of the Boys' Army Cup v. the R.A.M.C. at Crookham the team were in top form and won 7—3. Jnr. Pte. Pickup scoring four. However, the team was knocked out in the next round by the Junior Leaders Regiment Signals, Newton Abbot, who scored three times. Kicking downhill in the first half, the team were unlucky to lose since they had their chances on numerous occasions in the second half when they had the slope in their favour.

In the Richards Cup six Junior Leaders were in the Battalion XI which beat C.A.D. Bramley 4—0 and did so well against older and more experienced men. The defence is sound, having the confidence of a stout hearted and proficient goalkeeper, Jnr. Pte. Fovargue (Baker House), two strong full backs and skilful and tireless half backs.

The Battalion " B " team is also unbeaten whilst the " C " team ably led by Jnr. L/Cpl. Seager (Hill House), has a fine spirit and has been beaten once.

This promises well for the future.



Standing (left to right): Capt. J. J. Thompson, R.A.O.C., Jnr. Pte. Hartley (Hill), Jnr. Cpl. Atkinson (Body), Jnr. Cpl. Walling (Hill), Jnr. Pte. Fovargue (Baker), Jnr. Pte. Arnold (Baker), Jnr. Pte. Munro (Gordon), Jnr. Pte. Pattison (Body), Sgt. Wilby, R.A.E.C.

Kneeling (left to right): Jnr. Pte. Cuckling (Williams), Jnr. Sgt. Ostell (Hill), Jnr. Cpl. Hinson (Capt.) (Williams), Jnr. L/Cpl. Garrod (Mulcahy), Jnr. L/Cpl. Briggs (Mulcahy).

Absent: Jnr. Cpl. Higgs (Steevens), Jnr. Pte. Pickup (Steevens).

THE CORPS OF DRUMS

At the invitation of the D.O.S., Rhine Army, the Corps of Drums of the Battalion spent 16 days in Belgium and Germany, sounding Retreat at a number of R.A.O.C. installations.

Under the command of Capt. H. H. McCutcheon, R.A.O.C., assisted by Sgt. L. King and with W.O.II Warburton as interpreter and general guide, the party travelled by road from Blackdown to Dover on 8th August. The Commanding Officer had delivered a few parting words of advice beforehand. It may have been coincidence or even expert planning that caused us to share the boat to Ostend with 400 Scouts and several tribes of St. Trinian type schoolgirls. Whichever way it was, the problem of how to keep the Junior Leaders occupied during the crossing solved itself. We know of one Body House " masher " who found himself with five dates on the same day in different parts of the country!

At Ostend we were met by an officer of 15 A.B.O.D. (rear) with whom we were to stay until 14th August. A 32-seater coach and a three-tonner were at our disposal for the entire tour, and the journey to Emblem via north Brussels was quickly over. The Junior Leaders settled down to their first night on Belgian soil after a midnight meal, and awoke refreshed ready to do battle with the female population of Lier. Only one parade was done here on the evening of the 9th at H.Q. Advanced Base. The salute was taken by the Commandant of 15 A.B.O.D. (Rear).

During the remainder of the week, the Band was shown round various sections of the Depot and 16 Base Vehicle Depot, thereby getting a good idea of the vastness of the Ordnance organisation. One morning was spent touring the General Motors Corporation assembly plant at Antwerp. This was an extremely well-conducted tour, and it was fascinating to watch the complete cycle from the unloading of parts from the makers, to the driving off of the finished article at the other end of the line. Two afternoons were devoted to seeing the sights of Antwerp (who said Danny's Bar?). On one thing we are all unanimous—Belgium is a very expensive place!

Sunday, the 14th, saw us making the 300-km. journey to Munster. It was a fine, sunny day, ideal for travelling through eastern Belgium, the narrow neck of Holland and the northern Rhineland.

We were the guests of 6 and 11 Infantry Brigade Group O.F.Ps. at Nelson Barracks, and a good audience appreciated the Retreat on the Monday evening. A reporter from the 2nd Division magazine *Keynotes* took a number of photographs for eventual publication. Copies of the magazine have been received in the Battalion. The Tuesday morning was spent in examining the old city, much rebuilt since the war. Our next stop was Detmold, a delightful little town in the old state of Lippe, as guests of 20 Armoured Brigade Group O.F.P. A good programme had been arranged for Wednesday morn-



Brigadier H. L. Prentis, C.B.E., D.O.S., B.A.O.R., accompanied by Capt. H. McCutcheon, R.A.O.C. and Jnr. C.S.M. Chandler, speaking to members of the Corps of Drums during the recent tour of Germany.

ing, during which the Junior Leaders were shown the workings of the Army Air Corps. Great interest was shown in the helicopters and Austers of the unit, but an even greater interest was shown in the beautiful sky-blue beret worn by the A.A.C.

After a Naafi break, a number of demonstrations were put on by 3 Royal Tank Regiment, with Junior Leaders climbing under, over, into, and out of Centurions, Crusaders, Half-tracks and Ferets. The afternoon Retreat in " Wembley Stadium " was very well attended by an appreciative audience, and made a fine picture in a truly grand setting.

Thursday started very badly, weather-wise, and we departed for Dortmund in heavy rain. However by lunchtime, the rain had ceased and a diversion was made to the Mohne Dam where the Junior Leaders spent an hour on the top of the famous structure. 1 (BR) Corps Troops O.F.P. were the hosts at Dortmund, and again a tour of interest had been arranged. We were shown some of the equipment of a Guided Weapons Regiment, R.A., Fantastic to say the least. Retreat on the Friday evening was very well done indeed and surprised some of the more sceptical of the old soldiers!

The last long move to Munchen Gladbach included a visit to 3 Greenjackets, The Rifle Brigade at Wuppertal. The Commanding Officer of the Regiment had very kindly arranged a programme of music by the Band and Bugles. It must be said that a very large number of young eyebrows were raised when the Band struck up the Bugle March "Mechanised Infantry"—at Rifle Brigade pace! Heavy rain unfortunately curtailed what would undoubtedly have been an excellent programme. In return, the Battalion Corps of Drums put on a show in the gymnasium. The experienced Bandsmen of the Rifle Brigade were most impressed and it was obvious that the Bandmaster was casting covetous eyes on our Bugle Major, Jnr. Pte. Ince.

17 Vehicle Battalion, R.A.O.C., the final hosts of the tour arranged a private luxury coach for a trip down the Rhine Valley on the Sunday. A large number of the Junior Leaders took advantage of this, and stops were made at Cologne, Bonn and Coblenz before the turn around was made at the famous Lorelei Rock near St. Goar.

This was to be the busiest part of the tour, with Retreat being sounded at 15 A.B.O.D., Viersen on the Monday afternoon, 3 B.A.D. Bracht on Tuesday evening. At Viersen, the entire staff of the Depot were given time off for the show, and an audience of over 1,000 gave the Band an excellent ovation, after which all were given lemonade and sandwiches in the new Sergeants' Mess. The final Retreat in Ayrshire Barracks, which was again well-attended, made a fitting climax to a very good tour. The D.O.S. addressed the Band afterwards and expressed his appreciation of their efforts.



Corps of Drums in Germany.

The long trip to Ostend was made in good time, and before boarding the boat, all said their goodbyes to our two very genial drivers Gunther and Franz, who had driven us so very ably around the Continent.

It was a very tired and hungry party which pulled into Blackdown late on the night of the 24th of August, but all will agree that it had been a very fine trip. Our thanks are due to all the units in Belgium and Germany for their really excellent arrangements and hospitality.

W.O.II WARBURTON, R.A.E.C.

ANIMAL THOUGHTS

The Lion is a noble beast
Especially before a feast
Of flesh and blood and bone;
But pussy is by far the sweeter,
Smaller, less to feed and neater,
Cheaper much to own.

The Horse as well, has dignity
When not in your vicinity
With iron-shod hoof and teeth.
A clothes horse, though, will never roam
And stand stock still with mount at home
And folds up like a leaf.

23507909 JNR. PTE. TAYLOR.

PLEASE PATRONISE OUR ADVERTISERS

★

The advertisers help to make your journal possible—make it worth their while by supporting them

HOBBIES

ART

The Group entered four paintings in the Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition held in London this Autumn. Jnr. L/Cpl. Slade, the oldest



Major W. J. Steer, R.A.O.C. and Capt. H. McCutcheon, R.A.O.C. watching Jnr. Pte. Slade putting the finishing touches to one of his paintings during a Hobbies period.

member of the Group entered two oil paintings, and Jnr. Cpl. Johnston and W.O.I Thornton water colours.

The Group will always make welcome any Junior Leader who feels he has talent or an inclination towards this fascinating hobby.

Sgt. Stephenson, R.A.E.C., who was in charge of the Sketching Group left the Battalion recently and we are hoping to find some interested person to replace him.

GLIDING CLUB

The first Junior Leader Gliding Club in the Army was formed in this Battalion at the end of July.

For a number of years the Army Gliding Club has provided inexpensive facilities at Lasham airfield for instructional and recreational gliding for Regular and T.A. personnel and cadets of R.M.A.S.

We are, however, the first Junior Leaders' Battalion to take advantage of the Army Gliding Club's excellent facilities.

So far six Junior Leaders, one sergeant, and one officer have taken to the air and competition is intense to see who will gain the first coveted " wings " of the qualified solo pilot.

Capt. E. Shepherd R.A.O.C., is the chief flying instructor at Lasham and a very successful member of the Army Gliding Team. Perhaps in a few years we may see further R.A.O.C. representation on the Army Team as a result of the training received at Lasham.

If present enthusiasm is any guide it is more than a possibility.

MODEL RAILWAYS

The Model Railways Hobby Class has acquired a new home this term. Formerly sharing the Woodwork Centre, our enthusiasts are now to be found in their own room behind Classroom 12.

The move was found to be desirable and of course, necessitated the splitting of track and sidings, of model villages and countryside. However, we can now plan ahead with a more definite and a complex circuit measuring some 20 feet by 15 feet is to be laid out. Each member of the class has been allotted his task towards the building of the railway thereby stimulating effort and team spirit.

For even further in the future there are plans for a shunting yard running quite independently from the main circuit and so the models will endeavour to reflect the whole scene as viewed from a carriage window.

BATTALION NEWS-SHEET

This term *The Leader* has really made its presence felt. In the past the paper appeared three times per term on average, but now it is published weekly. It is quite a lively little newspaper and covers general Battalion news, presents personalities to its readers, contains a cartoon, a regular sports page and an entertainments page.

Jnr. Pte. Hawkins (Gordon) is the Editor of the paper and has filled the post capably. The Sports Editor, Jnr. Pte. Howley (Mulcahy) has managed to present his readers with a lively page and Jnr. Pte. Collar (Mulcahy) produces a weekly cartoon.

Jnr. Pte. Lugg (Gordon) dabbles quite effectively in short stories and crossword puzzles and Jnr. Pte Palmer (Watts) is our roving

reporter in search of general Battalion news. Jnr. Ptes. Yate (Mulcahy) and Nicholls (Mulcahy) are our typists. The newsheet production group have a fine team spirit and often work outside official hobbies periods in order to produce *The Leader*. Jnr. Pte. Yates, our chief typist, deserves special mention for this. The team are proud of their efforts and justly so.

PLASTIC MODEL MAKING

Much interest has been shown in this hobby and some very good work has already been done. Our most ambitious project—a model of the clipper *Cutty Sark*—will be the centrepiece of what promises to be an excellent display.

PHOTOGRAPHY

This term, the acquisition of a Zeiss camera has made the group rather more camera conscious than of late. Some enthusiasts of the box type are finding out for the first time all about aperture, focus and depth of field. A number admit to never having heard of them before.

So far the main emphasis has been on the indoor use of the camera, particularly for portrait work, using floodlights. First results indicate that there are no immediate prospects of this unit producing a Baron or Armstrong-Jones.

We are still labouring under difficult conditions, the chief being the lack of power points, necessitating the operation of lights, enlarger and drier from one electric light socket.

However, all are working hard on all aspects of photography in an endeavour to improve constantly, whilst obtaining a great deal of pleasure from this creative art.



Photograph taken by Sgt. Clarke, R.A.E.C.

RELIEF MODELLING

Our comparatively new hobby has successfully completed its first venture—a scale model of the Derwentwater area in the Lake District.

As some of our group had first-hand knowledge of the area, the structure was necessarily developed from a map of a scale of one inch to the mile and enlarged 24 times.

The model gives a detailed and realistic picture of the area.

SHORT WAVE LISTENING

Introduced by W.O.II Warburton, R.A.E.C., during the Spring term, the Group now has 12 very active members. Briefly, the idea is to log transmissions from amateur radio stations throughout the world on the frequencies in the 10-, 15-, 20-, 40-, 80- and 160-metre bands allocated to amateurs. Two receivers of ex-Admiralty pattern are used, and there is a selection of three aerials.

There is something of a thrill in listening to the voice of an amateur who may be simply Charlie Evans who has his transmitter in a garden shed in Little Twittering, or who may be in a tent on a remote island in the Pacific Ocean, simply for the purpose of putting that island " on the map " from a radio viewpoint.

A log is kept of all stations heard, and the object is to log as many countries of the world as possible. To date 81 countries have been logged including such exotic places as Mexico, Uzbekistan, Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand, Malaya, Uruguay and Kerguélen Island. The group is a member of the International Short Wave League and will be participating in various competitions during the coming months.

Jnr. Pte. David Brown is chief mechanic, and his aptitude for putting things right is greatly appreciated from a monetary point of view. Jnr. Pte. Hogg is the only other member who has been with us since inception.

During the Thursday morning periods, when radio reception is not at its best, the group practices inter-communication with " 38 " sets, the " walkie-talkie." Two groups of four go out with a set to each group, whilst the remaining four man the Base Station. Contact is maintained with Base from where all instructions are forthcoming. Eventually, when all members are adept at both patrol and base operating, we shall have a treasure hunt with all clues and instructions given by radio. Finally there is no truth at all in the rumour that the B.B.C. are interested in our aerial pole. The only offer has come from a prospective pole-squatter in " C " Company.

BATTALION STAMP CLUB

During the year many new stamps have been purchased and the Club is now in the process of building up a reasonable collection.

The collection when completed will be strong in the following countries:—Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Poland, Belgium and United States.

The collection is quite weak on general world coverage, and all gifts of stamps to the Club will be gratefully accepted.

SHOOTING FULL BORE

Full Bore training started during the cold, wet month of February, when we had three items to worry about. Firstly selection of the team, secondly, fire off for the Mulcahy Shield and the Harold Parsons Trophy, the latter of which we were the holders, with the No. 4 Rifle and lastly training with the SLR. These together with the cold, wet and miserable weather ensued quite a problem, but was



Battalion Full Bore Team 1960

Back Row: Jnr. Pte. Delph, T., Jnr. L/Cpl Smith, J., Sgt. Fenton, R., Lt. J. Bloxham, A.C.C., Capt. H. McCutcheon, R.A.O.C., Capt. G. B. Hopkinson, R.A.O.C., Capt. T. R. Lane, R.A.O.C., Jnr. L/Cpl. Hayles, R., Jnr. Pte. Clarke, J.,

Front Row: Jnr. Pte. Matthias, G., L/Cpl. Pigeon, E., Sgt. Bradshaw, K., Lt.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., Commanding Officer, C.S.M. Middleton, K., Team Captain, Capt. D. A. R. Clark, R.A.O.C., O/C Shooting, Sgt. Luke, W., Cpl. Jayne, T., Jnr. Pte. Jones, P.

soon overcome and interest and enthusiasm of all went up and up and eventually the Battalion formed quite a fair team from practically scratch.

We fired off for the Mulcahy and Parsons Trophies on Caesars Camp "A" range on Saturday, 19th March, not a good day for shooting but time was short, so we had to continue. Our final placings in these non-central matches were: Mulcahy, fifth; Parsons, eighth.

Now we had the No. 4 Rifle out of the way we settled down to some serious shooting with the SLR and formed a team to proceed to the RAOC Rifle Association at Bisley (the home of good shots) and the Aldershot District Small Arms meeting at Ash Ranges. Then came our next problem, the new Stirling, but this was overcome by the prowess and interest shown by the younger members of our team.

Unfortunately the Easter Block leave and the Corps meeting clashed, but the Battalion team, after a week's break, returned to camp in good spirit and ready to go. By this time the new handbook was out, and new practices on the 1959 figure targets had to be practiced.



Sgt. Bradshaw, K.,
Corps Champion Shot, 1960

We went to Bisley for this meeting on 25th April and familiarised ourselves with the surroundings, which were somewhat new to our younger members. This did not daunt the spirit and enthusiasm. Teams were entered in every competition. The most outstanding performance was by Sgt. Bradshaw who won the R.A.O.C. Individual Championships, so for the first time the Battalion sport, the Mathew Bowl (Individual Champion), the Knockles Trophy (Highest warrant officer/sergeant in the Individual Championship) and for the third year out of four years we have the training centre trophy for the highest warrant officer/sergeant of Blackdown Garrison. A very good effort which resulted in Sgt. Bradshaw being selected againfor the Methuan team training and also training with the Army VIII—no mean achievement!

Jnr. Pte. Matthias won the Junior Leaders' Individual Championship with Jnr. Pte. Clark second and Jnr. Sgt. Silver third.

From Bisley we proceeded to Ash on the 3rd May for the District Shoot. Although we brought back no silver the team showed that they had benefited by experiences gained from the Corps meeting.

Sgt. Bradshaw qualified for the District Fifty and finished 11th. Jnr Pte. Delph finished 15th in the lance-corporals' and privates' match, a good effort against the strong opposition; i.e. Infantry and Paras. Jnr. Pte. Clarke was second in the District Junior Leaders' Competition. Jnr. Pte. Matthias was fifth in the Sub-Machine Gun match for lance-corporals and privates (an outstanding effort)—all being better off with prize money in their pockets.

Outside competition shooting is at an end except for Sgt. Bradshaw who, during Summer camp went to the Army meeting. We concentrated on Inter-House Competition on our Summer camp, Tregantle Fort, on 13th June.

The competition this year was improved upon and an LMG and rifle match was fired off with some good results, Watts House of "C" Company being the eventual winners. Jnr. Pte. Barr of Parsons House with a score of 111 being the Individual Rifle winner and Jnr. Sgt. Holtby and Jnr. Pte. Chalmers of Steevens House with a combined score of 40 being the LMG Pairs winners. After the Inter-House Competition we had an Inter-House Falling Plate Competition. After some good runs Mulcahy "A" team were the eventual winners by beating Mulcahy "B" team in the final.

On Saturday, 18th June, the Officers *v.* Sergeants Falling Plate Competition was held in which the sergeants eventually came out the winners.

A good season, with better prospects and a better start for 1961.

SHOOTING SMALL BORE—1960

R.A.O.C. Small Bore Championship.

We started off 1960 by entering the R.A.O.C. Championships. L/Cpl. Pigeon did extremely well in achieving fifth position and being selected to represent the R.A.O.C. Sgt. Black was 21st and Sgt. Bradshaw 29th. In the R.A.O.C. Boys' Championship, Jnr. Pte. Durrant won with a score of 184. Jnr. Cpl. Dicketts was a close second with 183 and Jnr. Pte. Nogg third with 181. In the inter-unit match (the Baker Cup) we entered two teams.

"A" Team

Sgt. Bradshaw 97 L/Cpl. Pigeon 97 Sgt. Black 96 Jnr. L/Cpl. Dicketts 87 Jnr. Pte. Durrant 89	Finished 11th

" B " Team.

Jnr. Sgt. Silver 88 Jnr. L/Cpl. Snelling 91 Jnr. Pte. Kitwood 87 Jnr. Pte. McHale 87 Jnr. Pte. Olden 74	Finished 12th

In March we said goodbye to Sgt. Black who left the Battalion for Kenya. Sgt.Black had taken a keen interest in running the Battalion Small Bore Club and spent many evenings on the miniature range, training and encouraging members of the Battalion. Sgt. Bradshaw the Corps champion Full Bore shot has taken over the running of the club from Sgt. Black.

Aldershot District Junior Leaders' Competition.

Every Monday evening the members of the Battalion Small Bore Club train in the miniature range. Their keenness showed dividends in the Aldershot District Shoot for the result was a victory for the Junior Leaders' Battalion R.A.O.C. with the R.A.S.C. Junior Leaders in second place.



Battalion Small Bore Team 1960

Left to Right Back Row: Jnr. Pte. Matthias, G., Jnr. Pte. Durrant, A., Jnr. Pte. Mulligan, E., Jnr. Pte. McHale, J., Jnr. Pte. Hogg, K., Jnr. Pte. Clarke, Jnr. L/Cpl. Lambert, B.

Front Row: Jnr. Pte. Delph, T., Lt.-Colonel J. W. Harley-Peters, R.A.O.C., Commanding Officer, Sgt. Bradshaw K., Team Captain, Capt. D. A. R. Clark, R.A.O.C., O/C Shooting, Jnr. Pte. Dicketts, J.

The Inter-House Small Bore Competition (Easter Term, 1960).

In the competition we departed from the conventional form of shooting and went in for shooting fired from different positions, standing, kneeling and lying. Hill House came out top with Parsons a close second. In the individual competition two Junior Leaders had equal scores, this required a shoot off for first place and Jnr. Pte. Wilson became Battalion Small Bore Champion with Jnr. Pte. Delph in second place; both Junior Leaders being members of Body House.

The Inter-House Small Bore Competition (Summer Term, 1960).

The competition itself was again a surprise shoot with emphasis laid on being able to fire from any position and capable of success against snap targets. Once again Hill House came out on top this time with Steevens lying second and Parsons third. In the individual competition Jnr. Pte. Thomas of Hill House came first with 51 points out of a possible 55, with Jnr. L/Cpl. Jeffrey of Parsons second with 49 points.

Small Bore is a very worthwhile sport with plenty of opportunity for competitive shooting. The Battalion Small Bore Club meets every Tuesday evening in the Miniature Range and new members are always welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge having received the following:—

"The Trumpeter," Winter, 1960—
Journal of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery.

"The Junior Sapper," Winter, 1960—
Journal of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Engineers.

"The Waggonette," Winter, 1960—
Journal of the Junior Leaders' Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps.

Pauline

Ladies Hair Stylist

Registered Hairdresser

Hair Colouring, Cutting and Styling Diplomas

THE PARADE, DEEPCUT, BLACKDOWN, HANTS

Telephone: Deepcut 282

H. J. HARTLEY LIMITED

FAMILY BUTCHER AND FISHMONGER

QUALITY · SERVICE · SATISFACTION

YOUR LOCAL TRADER WILL SERVE YOU BEST!

Your orders and recommendations respectfully solicited

3 THE PARADE, DEEPCUT

Tel. Deepcut 64

Do you know . . .

that in addition to

SERVICE MAGAZINES

Naafi can print your

BOOKLETS **MENU CARDS**
CHRISTMAS CARDS **PROGRAMMES**
INVITATION CARDS **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

THE
MINDEN HOUSE LAUNDRY LTD.
FARNBOROUGH STREET, FARNBOROUGH

Are very proud to have been the appointed launderers and dry cleaners to all the R.A.O.C. Officers and Sergeants Messes in the Blackdown district for many years.

For High Quality Laundering
Special Shirt Service
Super "Fluff Dry" Bag Wash
Best Quality Dry Cleaning

COLLECTIONS AND DELIVERIES IN ALL DISTRICTS

Telephone: 859, 2572

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

A WELCOME AWAITS AT
KEYS CAFE
FOR
Snacks, Teas, Espresso Coffee, Iced Drinks
Tobacco and Cigarettes Sold
MUSIC TO SUIT ALL TASTES

Published by The Junior Leaders' Battalion R.A.O.C., Blackdown and printed by NAAFI, Kennington, London, S.E.11