

THE FARMER'S BOY.



THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

OF

THE 1st Bn THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S ROYAL REGIMENT

(BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)

"THE FARMER'S BOY" says

Now that the first rugby football trial has taken place all three major winter sports that the Battalion plays are in full swing. The soccer team has played a number of matches and should begin to settle down, although it appears there are still many weaknesses. The hockey team has won its only match convincingly but was given a scare on Tuesday in a trial game by a scratch team of rugby players and others. The rugby team should be a strong one. But although those who play the games are very keen, very few members of the Battalion support the teams when they are playing against other Units. A few vociferous supporters make all the difference to the spirit and determination of a team. Why don't you come and watch the matches, as advertised in Battalion Orders and in "Next Week's Activities" below ?

We were very glad to see the party from H.M.S. VERNON here. They seemed to be enjoying themselves a great deal and entered into all parts of their training and entertainment with great enthusiasm. We hope to see more of them here amongst us.

This is the third edition of the "Farmer's Boy". We believe that it is being read throughout the Battalion with considerable interest. But there are still only a few people contributing articles. If you have anything interesting to write about let us have it or even come and talk about it to one of our reporters.

NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

MONDAY	3rd October	1800 hrs Rugby football training.
TUESDAY	4th October	VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR. 1800 hrs Rugby football training. Captain to Major Promotion examination.
WEDNESDAY	5th October	1430 hrs HOCKEY -v- 1st Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers (away) 1400 hrs Rugby trial
THURSDAY	6th October	1800 hrs Rugby football training
FRIDAY	7th October	
SATURDAY	8th October	
SUNDAY	9th October	Sponsored Church Service.

NOTE :

During this week Major Stone and a large party are acting as Umpires on Exercise "New Year" in East Anglia with 19 Brigade.

THE ASSAULT PIONEERS' VISIT REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Last Thursday, the Assault Pioneers took the afternoon off to visit the Regimental Museum of the Royal Berkshire Regiment at Brock Barracks, Reading.

This was a most interesting visit, showing the history of that fine Regiment from its formation to the final laying up of the Colours at the Royal Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Museum is arranged in sections, according to events and periods, and we could well have spent far longer going over it.

During the evening Corporal Kew 'led' the Platoon to the Railway Tavern, where mine host Mr Dick Jarvis (an ex Royal Berkshire man) made us welcome in a most appropriate manner.

Next morning almost the whole Platoon was suffering from 'sore heads' - some tribute to their fine time!

RELUCTANT HEROES ON THE SCREEN

The scene is a bleak and boggy stretch of ground near the coast at Lulworth. Almost half a mile away stands a solitary farmhouse and barn.

A resolute band of Fantasians are holding the farmhouse against us and it is for the stalwart members of 3 Platoon, assisted by a troop of tanks, to exterminate the defenders (fellow members of 3 Platoon).

The Platoon arrived on Monday morning and drove out to the scene of battle. When they got off the truck and formed up as a Platoon in full battle order, the film director ...

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(affectionately known as "Puppy", or when everyone was a little bored, something worse) came up to the Platoon Commander and said, "If you'll excuse the criticism: quite honestly, I've never seen a cleaner or smarter looking crowd of chaps. You could'n't get them looking a little more scruffy and battle worn, could you?"

And so the platoon was given the order to dirty themselves up, and with cries of delight (and some of them horror) the chaps rolled around in the dirt and the Platoon Sergeant having discovered a very deep and very muddy puddle formed the platoon up and marched them through in single file.

We then got down to some serious acting & for the next hour we threw ourselves into a ditch (well lined with thistles) with looks of grim determination etc, on our faces (in most cases invisible through the mud) while the Cameramen took spectacular close-ups of No. 5 rifleman crawling into a fire position.

Various other scenes were taken in which we moved behind tanks and in front of tanks, and in some cases almost underneath tanks! The climax of course came when, No 3 Platoon, still remarkably fit (considering some of the hazards which in the film, it will appear, they've encountered) overtake the tanks in front of the farm, and put in a final assault. Half way through, the Fantasian defenders come out with arms above the heads and surrender.

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THIS
WEEK'S
PERSONALITY

R.Q.M.S. VG SNELLING, M.M.

(When our reporter visited RQMS Snelling, he found it very difficult to draw from him the details of his very distinguished military career. This much, however, was found out from other sources!)

RQMS Snelling served with the East Yorkshire Regt, the Parachute Regt, and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment before making his home in the Wiltshire Regiment. He has served in Palestine, India, Burma, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, and Cyprus.

During the war he served in Burma as a guerilla attached to the famous "V" Force, and whilst serving with them he won the Military Medal. He also served in North West Europe during the war.

As early as 1942, he held the rank of CSM with 151 Parachute Bn.

More recently he received a Commander-in-Chief's commendation whilst serving in Cyprus. He represented 2nd Bn Wiltshire Regt at shooting in 1947 and 1948.

HOCKEY

THE match against 25 Field Regt, R.A., which was to have been played on Wednesday, the 28th September, was cancelled at short notice by them and we were unfortunately unable to get another outside fixture.

However, on Tuesday, the Battalion team took on the Rest with the surprising result of a draw at 2 goals each.

The Battalion Team were handicapped by having to stick to the rules but even so, credit must be given to the Rest for a very good performance.

It was perhaps, unfortunate that the Adjutant was in goal for the Rest as two of the Battalion forwards, both from the Orderly Room, wisely put discretion in front of winning thereby limiting the result of the game but no doubt securing peaceful co-existence in the Office.

Next week we play the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers at Bulford on Wednesday the 5th October -bully off at 1430 hrs.

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The Battalion football team played two East Wilts league fixtures this week. On Monday evening they played 25 Field Regt RA at home, and on Wednesday the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop.

The game against 25 Field Regt RA resulted in a 4-1 win for the Battalion. L cpl Brown and Pte Bramley of the Signals Platoon were playing their first games for the Battalion team. Both played quite well, with Lcpl Brown...

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at centre-forward, scoring two good goals.

The game was played under ideal conditions and should have produced some good football. Although the Battalion side played well, there was still a lack of constructional play by the half backs. The forward line was led very energetically by Lcpl Brown and he was a constant worry to the 25 Field Regiment Defence.

The Battalion were the first to score, Lcpl Brown scoring with a good left foot shot. He followed this up with a very fine solo effort just before half time. After the change of ends play became very scrappy and 25 Fd Regiment took advantage of a mix-up between our goalkeeper and the Defence to score their first goal. This pulled the Battalion team together a little, and they went on to score another two goals through Harold and Chiverton, the two Bn wingers.

Although a satisfactory win, the Battalion team still has much to do in getting 100% fit and in learning how to play good fast direct football. Marking is too lax and passes too often go astray.

The game against the Army Air Corps Centre was an improvement on the teams' Monday evening display. Although the score only resulted in a 1-1 draw, play was fast and entertaining to watch. Conditions were not good, it rained for most of the game and the ball was very heavy. There were some changes from the side which played on Monday. Sgt Bourton replaced Pte Heath in goal, Pte

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Turner (Signals Pl) came in at right back, Pte Nisbett (QM Staff) at right half, and Sgt King moved to left half.

Once again the Bn scored first. Lcpl Brown headed a very good goal from a well taken Chiverton corner.

This proved to be the only score of the first half although the Bn team had several good opportunities to increase their lead. Some very fine goalkeeping kept them out.

Play in the second half was very exciting. Play moved quickly from one end of the field to the other. There were plenty of chances to score at both ends, but fine goalkeeping by both goalkeepers kept the score down. The Army Air Corps eventually levelled the scores. Their goal could have been prevented. It resulted in loose covering by the defence.

Sgt Bourton made a good save from a penalty awarded to the Army Air Corps, late in the second half.

During the last 15 minutes the Bn could have won the game. Chance after chance were missed through over-eagerness and poor finishing.

It is unfortunate that so many changes are being made in the Battalion team at the moment, but it is necessary if the best possible Battalion team is to be found to represent us. It is hoped that the team will be settled very soon, and that they will be able to settle down and play together. More support is required at home fixtures to give the team encouragement and confidence.

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They have been dressed in boiler suits, black webbing, jack-boots, and Jerry-type helmets, and one of them has the best part of a bottle of coffee essence poured over his head as blood, and it looks gruesomely realistic.

3 Platoon is victorious and so another day of film acting is ended and the men move back to their rather uninviting barrack rooms. Tidworth is now being described as paradise and nostalgia is overcoming them. It will be a long time before a member of 3 Platoon complains about the food or his barrack room (You hardened grumblers take note - there are people worse off than you.).

We returned on Wednesday, and no doubt the next few days will be spent removing mud and generous layers of mud.

VISIT OF THE CPOs and POs OF HMS VERNON TO THE WOs & SGTs MESS...

Last Friday by various means of transport there descended on the Sgt's Mess 20 CPOs and POs of HMS Vernon. The purpose of the visit was a dinner in their honour on Friday night, a Social Evening on Saturday night, and on Sunday a visit to the Range to 'watch' the Wiltshire ERA Meeting, followed by drinks in the Mess.

The visit started in the most conservative way with the formal dinner greatly enjoyed by the Navy, and ended with 4 POs serenading the Regimental Sergeant Major outside his house at 1900 hrs on Sunday. (It is understood that although the RSM's children thought that..

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Christmas had arrived in advance it failed to impress Mrs Hodges!

There is now no doubt in the minds of the Mess Members that the affiliation between HMS Vernon and the Battalion is a very good thing. The Navy were thoroughly impressed with everything they saw, in particular with the Dining table, its silver and the dinner itself.

The myth about the Navy always drinking rum was shattered by the fact that over 600 pints of bitter were sold over this period in the Mess.

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OFFICER'S CHALLENGE VASE COMES TO THE BN

2/Lt J.M. MACMILLAN won the Officer's Challenge Vase at this year's meeting of the Wiltshire County Rifle Association. The Meeting was held on Sunday the 25th September on Bulford Ranges and was administered by the Battalion. The Vase which 2/Lt Macmillan won was first presented in 1864 and is competed for annually by Officers of service units raised in Wiltshire. The only other officer at present serving with the Battalion who has won this trophy is the Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Woolnough won the vase first in 1949, and again in 1951. Another distinguished officer who has won this vase is the Colonel of the Regt, Major General B.A. COAD C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who won the trophy in 1937 and 1938.

At the presentation of prizes Brigadier Platt thanked the Bn for all its help.

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In order to recover from the "At Home" the Signal Platoon willingly moved to Hythe on Monday the 5th September. When we arrived we were billeted with the 1st Bn The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and during the day we worked at the Signal Wing at the School of Infantry.

Both the Queen's Own and the Signal Wing provided us with everything we could possibly want.

We spent our working time either in classrooms or on exercises with wireless and line. The final exercises tested not only our skill at handling the sets, and equipment, but also our ability to understand the RSOs Exercise instructions. Somehow they all worked very well indeed!

We returned to Tidworth in time to put 29 men through the Signal Classification test on Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th September. To prove that our time at Hythe was not wasted all but three made the grade, and the remark by the Testing Team from the Brigade Signals Sqn was that the standard was above average.

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RECCE PLATOON COURSE

For the past two weeks the Recce Platoons of the Battalions of the 1st Guards Bde Group have been taking part in a course run by Headquarters Royal Armoured Corps, 3 Division.

The aim of the course was to prevent the recurrence of the 'mass slaughter' of Recce platoon vehicles that took place on Exercise "Stormy Petrel". (We were not on this Ex, we hasten to add).

The Platoon was taught 'the tricks of the trade' of observation.

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and practical vehicle movement with demonstrations by the 9/12 Lancers.

The course was thoroughly enjoyed and taught us a great deal and, it is hoped, will result in our sections not becoming casualties in the first hour of the next Battalion exercise.

EXPERIMENTS WITH GAS

On Monday 26th September, 1960, 4 Cpls and 17 Ptes from C Coy under 2/Lt Long went over to the Joint School of Nuclear, Chemical, and Ground Defence in Winterbourne Gunner to help with experiments on the head harness of the new respirator.

The aim of the experiment was to simulate in 4 days the wear an average soldier would give the respirator during a period of about 5 years. The first step after the initial fitting was into the gas chamber to find out which respirators needed adjusting and two unfortunates, Pte Grimes and Pte Puttock, were soon feeling most uncomfortable as their respirators were not fitting properly. However we were informed afterwards that the new gas, known mysteriously as 'C 6', and very potent indeed was quite harmless, for despite their efforts at the Experimental Centre, they had been unable to kill anyone with it - as yet!

For the next two days a party of 5 men under the watchful eye of Cpl Mellon were made to dig an Infantry Command Post 7'6" deep.

Respirators had to be taken off once in every 5 minutes but only kept off for 5 seconds before being put on again,...

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Meanwhile the rest of the party did their normal platoon training - route marches, section fire and movement, and map reading etc, taking their respirators on and off every 5 mins. The reason for taking the respirators off so regularly was to find out how much the elastic would stretch with this continual handling.

On Wednesday we divided into two teams: captained by Cpl BURGESS and Lcpl OPENSHAW; and twice competed against each other around a difficult and dangerous home-made obstacle course in the gymnasium. In the afternoon we again competed against one another but this time over the Tidworth Assault course, which was very wet and slippery. All the time, of course, we were wearing respirators. On the final day we were taken to the Research Station at Porton, where, after a little trouble getting past the Security Police Guard, we were introduced to the "Hot house". Here under extreme temperatures like those found in the middle of a hot summer's day in the tropical jungles of Malaya, we were made to double up and down for 20 minutes in PT kit, again wearing the respirators, this time, however, removing them every two minutes!

After lunch having visited a Museum to see the effects of kit exposed in a recent nuclear explosion, it was back to the Gas Chamber. This time Pte Smart was the unfortunate one whose respirator did not keep out all the gasses. However, the others were not to get away with it, because for the last minute all respirators were taken off before the door was

when the door was opened we shall never know.

The cheerful co-operation of all of us, we were told, largely contributed to the successful conclusion of the experiments.

Such was the impact made by those who took part in the experiment as guinea-pigs that we won't be surprised if we are asked to sleep with respirators on before long. We would, but only on one condition - that we wouldn't have to take them off every 5 minutes!

SKI-ING ROTHIERMERSHUT HUT 1961

A ski-ing party of about 20 will be going to Scotland in Feb 61 for 3 weeks. No experience is necessary; as instruction will be provided. The cost per person will be about 50/- per week. This includes accommodation and food will be provided. If anyone is interested in joining the party will be please contact 2 Lt I.G. Spence - C Company.

TAIL - PIECE Smash Hit

After many years Cpl Moore, our Bn Shoemaker, has won the final of the "conkers" championships. It is thought that he was using a leather "conker" securely tied to a NAAFI bootlace. Lcpl White was the unfortunate runner-up, but we are not certain of this fact as Cpl Moore, in his final "swipe", exerted so much power behind the swing that it knocked Lcpl White off his feet. It is claimed by some that the "conker" could have been smashed by this most unfortunate tumble! "Conkers", however will continue until the trees around the Bn Square have ceased to bear fruit.

The REME Finals are due in the near future, and Pte Nash should bear this in mind, particularly after Lcpl White's accident!