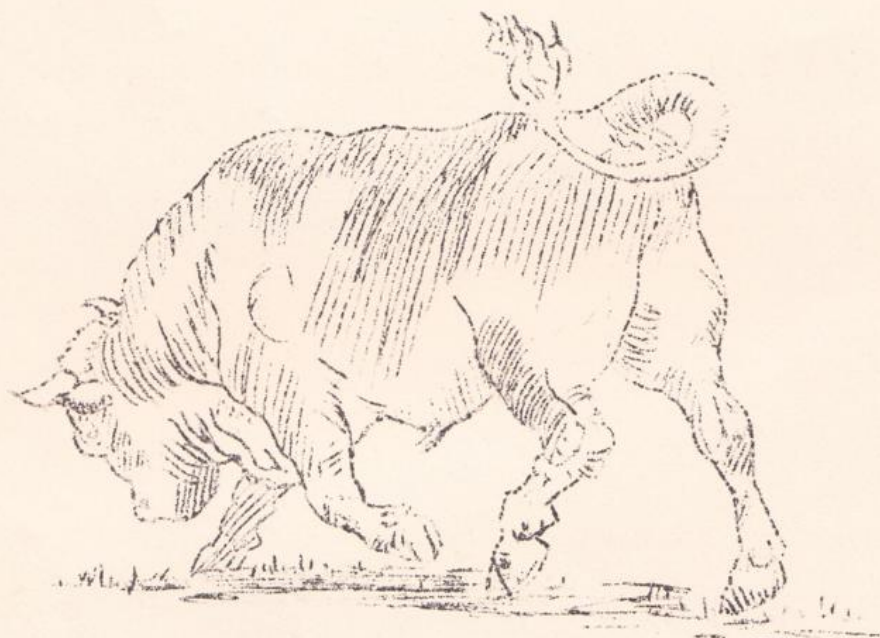


# THE FARMER'S BOY.



THE  
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
of

THE 1st Bn THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S ROYAL REGIMENT  
(BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE)

THE "FARMER'S BOY" SAYS.....

October is running quickly into its last few days ; rain, cold, mud, and darkness lie ahead. But are we downhearted ?

Frankly, yes ! What delight does November offer ? More rain, more cold, more mud, more darkness ! - and more "Farmer's Boys".

The winter season is opening, and with it promise of ease and plenty at the year-end and its abundant feasts.

God ! I wish it was Christmas tomorrow !

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NEXT WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Monday	31st October	Rehearsal for Admin Inspection.
Tuesday	1st November	Annual Administrative Inspection. Football -v- 1 Gren Guards. Arcot Gd.
Wednesday	2nd November	1430 hrs Rugby -v- 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment. Polo ground 1430 hrs Hockey -v- RAPC Training Centre at Devizes.
Thursday	3rd November	
Friday	4th November	
Saturday	5th November	
Sunday	6th November	

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"60 years ago"

"60 years ago", you know the sort of thing the daily papers bring out every so often to convince their readers that "they've never had it so good", to coin a phrase, or that "fings aint wot they used to be" and so on. The "Daily Looking Glass" of October 1900 for instance, might well have been plastering (with great glee and exaggerated engravings) its front page with the dirty deeds of Sir Robert De Logeur who had but one desire and had been caught by the Constabulary standing on the bridge with Angeline at midnight.. "it's the same the whole world over...."

You can probably think of others. The Top people amongst our readers will ruminate with relish on similar offerings tucked away in the voluminous pages of the "T-m-s" and the "T-l-gr-ph"; at the weekend the "Obs-rv-r" keeps us giggling with hysterical accounts of the doings at the Grand Sultan's court, or with tales of oriental treachery at the Palace in Peking (fearfully cunning, these Chinese). Need we say more?

No, to answer our own question; for we can be certain that there was no "Farmer's Boy" coming steaming from the presses 60 years ago. And so we would be hard-pressed as it were, to quote at length from its fading pages. But let's suppose there had been a Battalion newspaper in those gallant days when the soldiers walked round

Tidworth in scarlet and blue; just imagine a "Farmer's Boy" of Edwardian.. or was it Victorian? ..times. Here is something you might have read about at this time of year...

"The most tremendous event during the year was not the Regimental Sports or the Regimental dinner, but the Annual Inspection. It took ten to fourteen days to prepare for, during which time everything was sand-papered, scrubbed and polished. When the great man arrived, the "general salute" was sounded and the "present arms" was given. He walked down the ranks and asked awestruck subalterns the name of this man or that, or who was the oldest or youngest Corporal. He examined all field kits, which, if weather permitted, were laid out on the parade ground. The officers ran away and came back with bundles of manuals and regulations all neatly tied up with string. They were untied and checked in order to ascertain whether each officer and soldier were properly educated, then they were again tied up and kept in this position of rest for twelve months. He poked his nose into every corner and cranny and, having found a mop where a broom ought to have been, was told, on demanding an explanation, that it was a Regimental custom

One most gallant old General inspected us and, because he was rumoured to be a sanitation fanatic, the whole Battalion spent a week leaping around the barrack rooms with

towels, swatting flies and bluebottles. When he finished up at the Officers Mess for Port instead of going in he asked for a ladder so that he could examine the roof and see whether it was in a sanitary condition or not. No-one had thought of the roof and twenty-nine officers below held their breath whilst the old gentleman mounted. On arriving at the top he looked around, then at the tiles in front of him, and grunted, "A bird has been here!", which was duly noted by the Adjutant in his field-message book."

(From "The Army in My Time" by Maj-Gen J.F.C FULLER)

COMMENT

The Quartermaster and his CQMSs were in an awful flap on Wednesday morning. The RQMS had pen and indents poised, and the Accommodation Sgt was about to contact the REs. The MTO had not the right type of transport available!

It had happened! Men were wondering how they were going to cope in their new role. Mobats could be towed, and mortars slung, but the Coy Sergeant-majors were at a loss to know how arms drill could be carried out efficiently under the circumstances! With the Annual Admin Inspection nearing, great scenes were envisaged - ideas of holding the parade on the Polo ground.

However, with much relief, it was discovered that horses were not after all, going to be made a general issue to the Battalion!!

NEXT WEEK'S personality will be next week.



## HOCKEY

WE suffered our first reverse of the season yesterday when we were beaten by 3 goals to one by 18 Fd Regiment, Royal Artillery

This match was due to be played at Tidworth, but because of the bad state of the ground after the recent rain we were unable to do so. However 18 Field Regt came to the rescue and suggested playing on their drill square, which had been marked out for rainy days.

Although it rained heavily from beginning to end, we had an extremely enjoyable and very fast game. We scored first after a good run by Corporal Gaffney (MT). They replied shortly after to even the score, and again, just before the half-time they broke through to make the score at half-time 2-1 to them.

Neither the speed nor the rain eased off in the second half, and although both sides came near to scoring several times, 18 Fd Regiment were the ones to actually get one in the net. Final score 3-1 to them.

An enjoyable game played under conditions that we were not used to. Unfortunately Pte Halliday (A Coy) received a blow on his chin, but pluckily he played on to the end.

Owing to the Annual Admin Inspection there will be no organised game, either on Monday or Tuesday of next week. Next Wednesday we play the RAPC Training Centre at Devizes. BO 1430.

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The second round of the Army Association Football Challenge Cup is being played on Tuesday the 1st of November against the 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards.

The match is being played on the Arcot Ground, kick-off at 1430 hours.

We wish the Battalion team every good fortune in this match, a report of which will appear in next week's "Farmer's Boy".

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

On Wednesday 26th October the Battalion played the 3rd Carabiniers at Shipley Rd Rugby ground, as our own ground has been chewed up by horses hooves after the Army Hunter Trials.

The weather was appalling which made the ball very hard to handle, and meant that the forwards had much more to do throughout the game.

The game started at a brisk pace which continued for the whole of the match. The Battalion played far above its usual standard and the game was very even. Our opponents had played together quite a lot, as was soon apparent in the scrummaging, but nevertheless the Battalion held them very well, with Pte Hill of A Coy hooking the ball more often than his opponent. The ball was still apt to come out of the scrum very slowly and the scrum-half 2 Lt

Macmillan was getting bounced rather a lot. The scrum held the ball two or three times to try and get the opposite wing forwards off-side, but unfortunately the referee only gave us one penalty kick for this. The Battalion was holding the 3rd Carabiniers in the lineouts, but weight and speed combined with fitness gave them the advantage in the loose play.

It was a loose ball played by their forwards which gave them the first score, with the centre going over for a try. Score at half-time was 3-0.

The second half was a ding-dong battle with everyone going flat out. After keeping them off our line for 15 mins or so of this half, they managed to break thro' for a forward to score. The kick failed again, score 6-0. Once again the battle commenced with some very near misses by our side, but luck was not with us for once again a forward broke through and scored under the posts. This time the kick went over the posts to make the final score 11-0. The Battalion had hard luck in not crossing their line. It was a tough and hard fought game, and we did very well to hold the 3rd Carabiniers to this score.

If we play slightly better than this in next week's match against 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, it is possible that we could beat them.

We meet 1st Parachute Regiment in a friendly match on the Tidworth Polo ground next Wednesday, kick-off at 1430 hours.