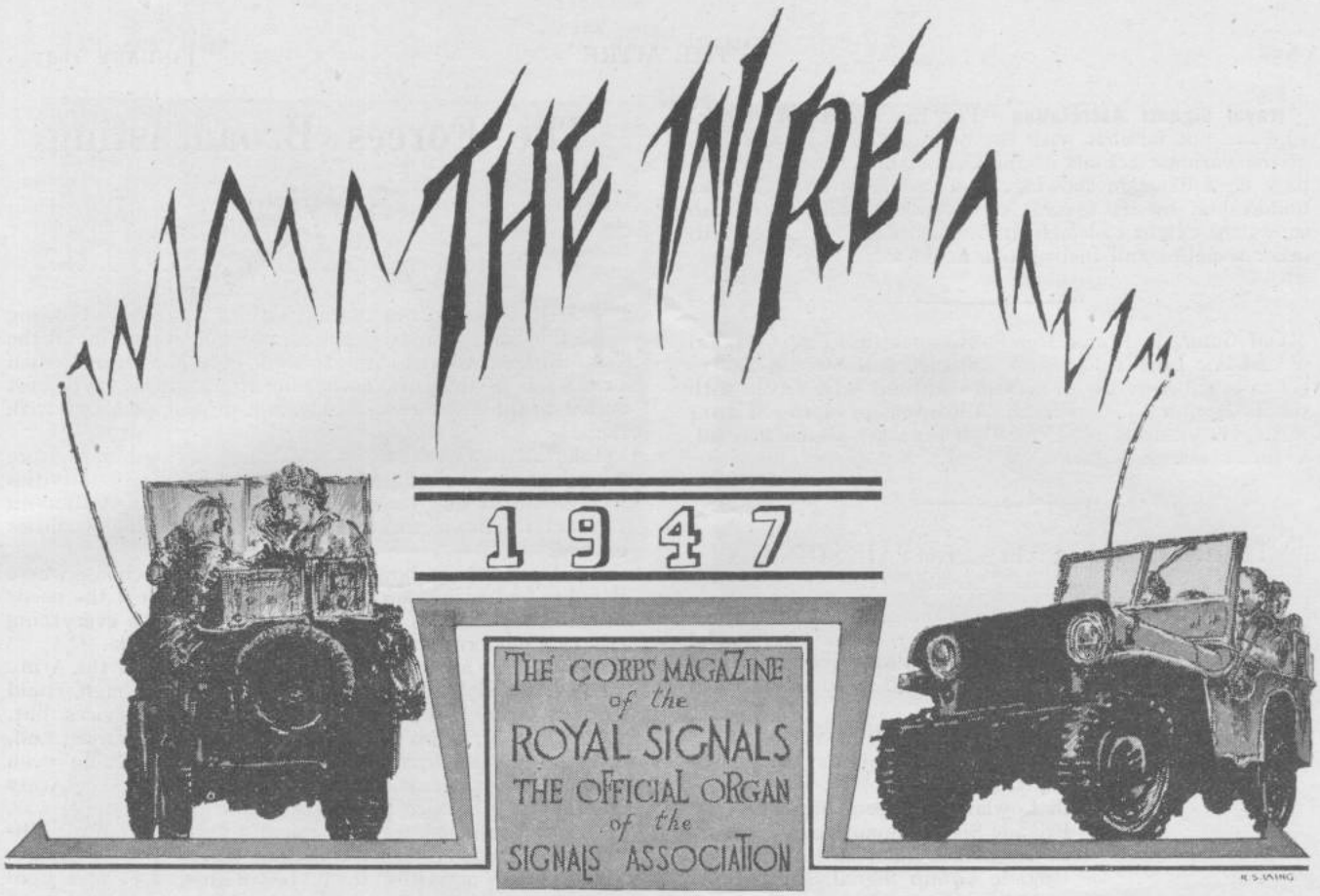
# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 3 JANUARY 1947

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## Wishing all our Readers every happiness in 1947

# Editorial

In our November issue we asked contributors of Unit notes to ensure that they were sent in time to arrive at this office by the 16th of every month in order to permit prompt publication. At present, many contributions are arriving just after this date, with the result that their appearance in THE WIRE is unavoidably delayed for at least a month.

We want the news from Units to be as up-to-date as possible when published and therefore remind readers that the 16th is definitely the last day of acceptance for the following issue, and it is advisable when despatching copy to allow for a possible unexpected delay of several days in transit.

**Amateur Radio.**—There must be a fair number of wireless enthusiasts among our readers who have now resumed their pre-war transmitting activities in the "ham" field, as well as others who are making a first start in this interesting branch of radio. As will be seen from some of our contributors' notes, a few individuals have already announced their anxiety to "QSO" kindred spirits.

We shall be glad to publish in THE WIRE lists of amateur stations with particulars of call signs, frequencies, etc., for the benefit of readers who would like to use this magazine as an aid to establishing first radio contact with Corps members, past and present, who are now "on the air." Details should be sent on a postcard addressed to the Editor and marked "Radio."

**Honours and Awards.**—The following is a summary of the honours and awards gained by members of the Corps from September, 1939, until VJ-Day, 1945 :

| OFFICERS | | OTHER RANKS | |
|---|---|---|---|
| K.C.B. | 1 | M.B.E. | 36 |
| C.B. | 9 | G.C. | 1 |
| C.B.E. | 58 | M.C. | 1 |
| D.S.O. | 10 | D.C.M. | 27 |
| O.B.E. | 183 | M.M. | 396 |
| M.B.E. | 299 | G.M. | 1 |
| M.C. | 80 | B.E.M. | 378 |
| G.M. | 1 | | |

ALL RANKS

Mentioned in despatches .. Not counted, but in the vicinity of 3,000.

**Royal Signals Association.**—For the benefit of readers who are not familiar with the organisation and activities of the various sections of this Association, we publish on page 84 a diagram showing the responsibilities and tasks undertaken by its several subdivisions. The chart also shows the extent to which the Association co-operates with other societies and institutions in its work.

Old Comrade Frank Merchant, sometime Pay Corporal of 2nd Air Line Telegraph Company, R.E., would like to get in touch with any of his Old Comrades who served with the Telegraph Units, R.E., in Limerick, prior to the 1914 war. His address is: Roseleigh Cottage, Madeira Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

## TERRITORIAL UNITS, ROYAL SIGNALS

The following is a list of some of the major Royal Signals Territorial Units to be raised in the re-formed Territorial Army. The names of further Units will be given at a later date and it is hoped that addresses of all Headquarters will then be available.

| Command | Formation |
|---|---|
| **Scottish :** | 51st/52nd Scottish Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | 30th Lowland Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. |
| | 26th Highland Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron. |
| | 50th L. of C. Signal Regiment. |
| | 264th Scottish Beach Brigade Signal Squadron. |
| **Northern :** | 49th (North Midland) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | 9th Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. |
| | 21st Corps Signal Regiment. |
| | Army Signal Regiment. |
| | 51st Air Formation Signal Regiment. |
| **Western :** | 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | 23rd Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. |
| | 22nd Corps Signal Regiment. |
| | 10th Air Support Signal Unit. |
| | 50th Air Formation Signal Regiment. |
| **Northern Ireland District :** | 107th (Ulster) Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron. |
| **Eastern :** | 161st Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron. |
| | 162nd Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron. |
| | Headquarter Signal Regiment. |
| **London District :** | 56th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry). |
| | 44th (Home Counties) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| | Army Signal Regiment. |
| | Signal Reporting Squadron. |
| | 51st L. of C. Signal Regiment. |
| **Southern :** | 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |

# The Forces Broadcasting Service

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. J. WILSON, O.B.E.

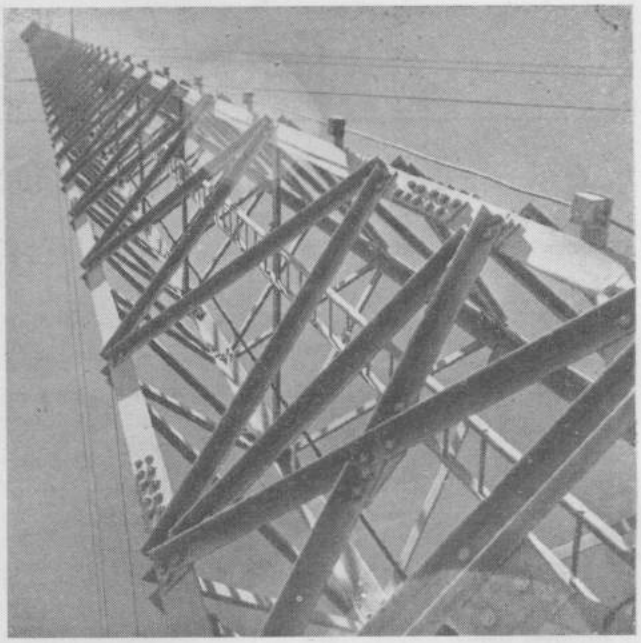
THE Forces Broadcasting Service was evolved during the war so that Service men and women in all the different theatres of war should be able to enjoy British broadcasts of authentic news, entertainment of a type best suited to their particular needs, and to provide a link with home.

Like all new services of this sort, its beginnings were very humble and at first (as early as 1941) its activities were confined to "buying" a limited amount of time on the air in those theatres where broadcasting facilities existed.

An Army in war, however, cannot pick and choose where it fights and so it soon became apparent that if the needs of the troops was to be met, broadcasting, like everything else in a modern Army, would have to be mobile.

It would be as well to state here that those of the Army who possessed broadcast receivers selective enough, could listen to the B.B.C. short-wave Overseas Services but, unfortunately, these were very few and far between and, moreover, topographical difficulties made listening even under the best circumstances rather unreliable. The Army Broadcasting Service (as it was called in those days) was, therefore, designed to supplement by relay and by self-originated programmes the normal services of the B.B.C.

Its mobile activities really began in C.M.F. and from 1943, until the collapse of German resistance in Italy, the Army Broadcasting Service maintained mobile stations which followed close behind the armies and provided continuous daily broadcasts for even the front-line troops who were in a position to be able to listen to them. The



325 ft. Marconi mast for JCPA, Beit Jala, Palestine

experience gained during the early part of the Italian Campaign was invaluable from a planning point of view, and so, when the continent was invaded by the B.L.A., mobile transmitters, studios and trained broadcasters to

"O.B." Van, F.B.S., M.E.L.F.

Mobile Transmitter with power generator and Studio components, C.M.F.

Final Amplifier of the Cairo Forces medium wave transmitter

Interior of Mobile Studio Unit

operate them followed in their appropriate sequence the invading troops.

Concurrently with mobile operations, static stations were set up to cover the base and L. of C. areas and, in particular, in South-East Asia a powerful 100 kw. station was planned to supplement the 7.5 kw. transmitter which operated from Ceylon to give short-wave coverage to the whole area of operations. This last station, the building of which is a story in itself, came on the air after hostilities with Japan had ceased, but has proved of great value in providing for the very scattered garrisons in Burma, Malaya, Hong Kong, etc., and also the troops stationed in India.

Behind the actual Field Broadcasting Units existed a complete organisation to provide recorded programme material, equipment and trained broadcasting personnel.

When the war ended, it was apparent that British garrisons and occupation forces overseas would remain for some considerable time and so, instead of fading out at the end of hostilities, Forces Broadcasting found itself faced with the formidable task of continuing its activities on practically the same scale as during the war, but with many difficulties to overcome. Many of the personnel who so ably manned the war-time stations in due course left the Services and returned to their civilian job in the broadcasting world and the loss of the many experienced and talented broadcasters has been one of the greatest problems to overcome. However, thanks to the assistance of the B.B.C. who have, in certain cases, seconded members of their staff to fill some of the key positions, and to the assistance given by the R.N. and R.A.F., and to the keenness and enthusiasm of those remaining—Forces Broadcasting still operates on the same scale, in fact, on a rather increased scale to-day.

It has now become a very integrated inter-Service concern and although it is still controlled by the War Office, through the Director of Army Welfare Services, both of the other

two Services are represented not only on the station staffs, but also give assistance in the direction of the Service as a whole.

A broadcasting service operating remote stations in many different parts of the world has to rely to a very large extent on recorded programmes to supplement direct relay of B.B.C broadcasts from the U.K. and so, from the start an organisation had been set up in London to provide for this need. This is known to-day as O.R.B.S. (The Overseas Recorded Broadcasting Section). Originally part of E.N.S.A., it is now part and parcel of the Forces Broadcasting Service organisation and produces five to six hours of high-grade recorded programmes weekly. The processed discs are flown direct to Overseas Commands and maintain an up-to-date service of variety, light and dance music, and feature programmes.

The Forces Broadcasting Services overseas publishes a Forces Radio Journal giving details of programme schedules for all the various stations operated within the Command concerned.

A tribute must be paid to the B.B.C., with whom the closest liaison exists. The General Forces Programme is scheduled and re-scheduled by direct contact with the Forces Broadcasting Service stations overseas so as to ensure that the programmes specially designed for Service listeners are heard at the most suitable times. Advice and assistance is always readily forthcoming on technical matters, and a link with all three Services maintained by an Inter-Service Advisory Committee which sits once a month.

The following is a list of Forces' broadcasting stations:

| | Power | W/L. m. | Freq. Kc/s. | Times of Transmission. Local Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **B.A.O.R.** | | | | |
| B. F. N. Broadcasting House, Hamburg—Programmes by landline to: | | | | |
| Elmshorn .. | 10 kw. | 274 | 1095 | 0657—0003 |
| ,, .. | 50 ,, | 41 | 7290 | ,, |
| Langenburg .. | 20 ,, | 274 | 1095 | ,, |
| Herford .. .. | 20 ,, | 219 | 1366 | ,, |
| Berlin .. .. | 1 ,, | 274 | 1095 | ,, |
| Hanover .. | 10 ,, | 242 | 1240 | ,, |
| **C.M.F.** | | | | |
| Udine .. .. .. | 1 ,, | 207 | 1447 | 0655—0830 |
| | | | | 1030—2300 |
| Relay Stations (landline from Udine): | | | | |
| Trieste .. | 400 w. | 211 | 1420 | ,, |
| Padova .. | 400 ,, | 249 | 1204 | ,, |
| Graz .. .. .. | 400 ,, | 249 | 1204 | ,, |
| Relay Stations (landline from): | | | | |
| Graz to Vienna | 800 ,, | 345 | 868 | ,, |
| Vienna to Klagenfurt .. | 400 ,, | 530 | 565 | ,, |
| **M.E.L.F.** | | | | |
| Egypt: | | | | |
| Cairo (Mena) .. | 1 kw. | 316 | 950 | 0630—2300 |
| Kabrit (Canal Zone) | 250 w. | 215.4 | 1393 | ,, |
| Palestine: | | | | |
| Beit Jala .. .. | 1 kw. | 377.4 | 795 | ,, |
| ,, ,, .. .. | 7.5 ,, | 41.55 | 7220 | ,, |
| Relay Station: | | | | |
| * Haifa .. .. | 250 w. | 277.8 | 1080 | ,, |
| Iraq: | | | | |
| Basra .. .. | 500 w. | 313.5 | 957 | ,, |
| ,, (Indian Troops) | 250 ,, | 345 | 870 | ,, |
| Cyrenaica: | | | | |
| Benghazi .. .. | 1 kw. | 360 | 833 | ,, |

NOTE.—In addition 2½ hrs. daily on Athens (Greece) Radio.

**S.E.A.C.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Radio S.E.A.C.: | | | | |
| Colombo .. .. | 1 kw. | 88.36 | 3395 | 0600—2230 |
| ,, .. .. | 7.5 ,, | 49.38 | 6075 | ,, |
| ,, .. .. | | 16.88 | 17770 | 1400—1500 |
| ,, .. .. | 100 ,, | 19.84 | 15120 | 0600—1400 |
| ,, | | | | 1500—1730 |
| ,, .. .. | | 25.48 | 11770 | 0900—1000 |
| ,, | | | | 1400—1500 |
| ,, .. .. | | | | 1800—2230 |

## SEARCHLIGHTS AT KINMEL

The night is still . . . a gentle breeze
Creeps softly in the whispering trees.
The stars upon the vaulted sky
As diamond dust on velvet lie.
Between the hills, a chain of light,
A train crawls slowly through the night.
A dog howls sadly and the sound
Drifts through the air for miles around,
Like ripples spreading on a pond
To break upon the bank beyond.
Noise heard at night upon a hill
Makes the deep silence deeper still.
I stand awed, breathing scents wind-borne:
The world stands waiting for the dawn.

Then swiftly through the shrouded dark
Pierce silver pencils, brilliant, stark . . .
Like jealous fingers as they pry
Into the secrets of the sky,
Or desecrate with garish light
The sacred mysteries of the night.
They flicker, waver, sweep and soar,
Gaunt beacons of a world at war.

There was before a gentle breeze,
A chill wind rushes through the trees,
And withered leaves slide rustling by.
A star falls, dying, from the sky.
I walk on, weary, hungry, cold . . .
I feel a thousand aeons old.

ANON, AT 2 S.T.C.

**Publications Received.**—We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

United Services Review, December.

St. George's Gazette, October and November.

The Journal of the Royal Army Service Corps, November.

R.E.M.E., December.

The Catterick Express, Christmas Number.

# Major-General G. G. Rawson,

## C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

The list of officers who can claim to be founders of our Corps is very small and, of these, Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., is the chief.

He was D.A.A.G. (Signals) in A.G.7 at the War Office at the time the Corps was formed in 1920 and he was holding the highest Signal appointment at the War Office at the outbreak of the war of 1939-45.

Those of us who recall the organisation, establishments and equipment of the 1938 period well enough to compare them with those of the campaigning years 1939-45 will bear witness to the magnitude of the change. Those of us who had the benefit of using the machine must pay tribute to General Rawson who had to bear the burden of work involved in planning, at a time when policy was not firm, knowledge and experience was scanty and there was little production power to provide equipment.

The team at S.D.6, later to become the Directorate of Signals, the War Office, must have been a happy one with a robust philosophy.

That description fits every unit or staff which General Rawson has ever commanded or led. There must be hundreds of officers and N.C.O.s who think of the units in which they served with him as happy ones.

At work or at play General Rawson presents a calm confidence which is most reassuring to his partners and discouraging to his opponents.

As an athlete he is a ball-games player of the first rank. He played cricket and lawn tennis for the Army and hockey for the Army and for Kent. He was also a good swimmer and won the Army Diving Championship in Egypt.

Geoffrey Grahame Rawson was born in 1887 and educated at Cheltenham and Woolwich. Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1908 he joined the 1st Cable Company at Aldershot in 1910 and afterwards " A " Signal Company, in which he commanded No. 4 Section.

He took " J " Cable Section to France in 1914 and experienced the usual trials of a subaltern signal officer.

In 1915 he was promoted temporary major and shortly afterwards became Assistant Director of Signals, 12 Corps, with which formation he went to Salonika.

A good ear and a useful touch on the piano made A. D. Signals a welcome guest in any mess. It would be unfair to attribute to him the authorship of all the verses of the "M.C.O. Song" which commences:

If on the General's toe you've trod
You'd better make your peace with God
And hang your head in honest shame, etc., etc.

But he knew them all.

In May, 1918, he was posted to A.G.7 at the War Office and reverted to the rank of brevet major. At this time the Signal Service was still part of the Royal Engineers. There were no colonels commandant or Corps Committee, who might be able to give advice, and Major Rawson had to tackle all the "A" problems involved in the formation of the Corps, ranging from details about badges to establishments.

In 1923, Major Rawson went to Egypt where, for his five-year tour of duty, he commanded No. 3 Company, Egypt Signals.

In 1928 came promotion to substantive lieutenant-colonel and appointment to command 2nd Divisional Signals, then stationed at Aldershot.

On completion of his tenure of command, Lieutenant-Colonel Rawson was promoted colonel and shortly afterwards was selected to be the first Colonel, Chief Instructor, School of Signals. During the next four years he led and encouraged the study of the recent developments in communications and their application to the problems which would confront the signal officers of all arms of an army in the field.

Nobody could know then that as Brigadier S.D.6, which was his next appointment, he would see so many of those studies put into practice.

In 1937, S.D.6 was the highest Signal appointment at the War Office. It was a small branch consisting of a brigadier and two staff officers, and not until May, 1941, did it become the Directorate of Signals. Brigadier Rawson was promoted major-general and became the first Director of Signals, remaining in the appointment until 1942, a five-years tour of duty which saw the development of the Corps from its Regular Army size to the magnificent machine which was now ready to be polished for its part in the final campaigns.

He became Inspector of Signals in 1942 and took his kindly help and advice to harassed commanding officers who were facing their problems of the period.

In December, 1944, General Rawson retired from the Army but, happily, not from the Corps. Having been made a colonel-commandant he became a member of the Corps Committee and he also became chairman of Royal Signals Association. In both these capacities he brings his kindness and knowledge to the continued service of the Corps.

# THE POST

By Brian Thomas

IT was a perfectly good and inoffensive post; made of timber about four inches square. It stood about four feet out of the ground and was much beloved by a small brown donkey, who usually ran loose about the place and found it very useful for dealing with a tickle which he could not reach otherwise. The post stood in a prominent position and Simpson must have passed it two or three times a day for several months before it penetrated his consciousness and he became aware of its existence. He would not have noticed it even then if it had not been directly in the probable line of advance of a Very Senior Officer, who was to inspect the barracks next day.

"What's that for?" Simpson asked of his Sergeant-Major, who was accompanying him on a preliminary tour in search of possible causes of official displeasure. "It looks rather untidy."

The Sergeant-Major regarded the offending object as though he, too, had only just become aware of its presence. "Dunno, sir," he answered guardedly, as though he expected the admission to unloose a sea of troubles. "It's been there some time, I should say. Shall I send for the Quartermaster-Sergeant and see whether he knows?"

"Yes, do," Simpson agreed, "and, while you're at it, you might ask the Reis. He's been about here longer than anybody."

The C.Q.M.S. came, and saw, but was unable to add to the sum of human knowledge. "Don't remember seeing that in the Barrack Schedule," he remarked, "but I expect it's on charge as something or other. Shall I go and look it up, sir?" He made as though to retreat to the security of his office, but intercepted a look from the Sergeant-Major which caused him to change his mind.

The three held a consultation, while soldiery were sent in search of the Reis. Various theories were put forward as to the purpose of the post, ranging from a hitching-place for officer's chargers in pre-mechanisation days to a support for a water stand-pipe, but all were defeated by the fact that the wood showed no holes, marks, or other indications that anything had ever been attached to it. The meeting was unanimous on one point: In a country where timber of any sort is at a premium, this tempting morsel must have enjoyed some form of official protection to have remained in position so long.

The Reis bustled up, full of rather overheated importance, and there was a breathless hush while the Oracle pondered the question put to him. At first, his round, cheerful face remained expressionless, then it seemed to split into a happy grin. "Yes, yes, I knowing!" he exclaimed. "Water, fire, hsss!" He bent down and went through the motions of turning on a tap.

"Fire hydrant, by jove!" Simpson almost shouted. "Why didn't we think of that before?"

"Where is it?" demanded the Sergeant-Major, who was a realist and not given to counting his chickens too soon.

There was a bleak silence. The Reis registered acute depression, and all eyes scanned the adjacent area of sand and grass-tufts, in the hope that extensive digging operations might not be necessary.

The Sergeant-Major broke the silence. "All right, sir," he said, with the air of one who has reached a great decision. "I'll see to it." Simpson sighed with relief and passed on.

The following morning, when the Great Man arrived at the spot, there was no chance of ignoring the post; it simply blared at you in a new coat of red paint. The Sergeant-Major, at the head of the procession, stode past it with the fixed expression of one who is not to be turned aside by frivolous enquiries. One face of the post was adorned with the following legend, neatly printed in white:

"F.H., 42 ft."

To Simpson's horror, the Great Man paused when he reached the post, and gazed at it with a far from friendly eye. "Ah, Simpson," he began, in a rather frosty tone, "I seem to remember that when I was here last, I instructed your predecessor to remove these old fire-posts. The whole system was altered two years ago and they might be misleading."

*Join the*

***Signals Association***

*(See page 84)*

# HOME STATIONS

## No. 1 DEPOT REGT., ROYAL SIGNALS

### No. 1 SQUADRON November.

The Squadron is now settling down in its new location near Pocklington, after its move from Great Ayton, and we are now beginning to recover from the teething trouble which beset us when we first arrived here. Perhaps our biggest difficulty was the impression that we seemed to be intruders, disturbing the ghosts which we felt must inhabit this former R.A.F. aerodrome. Everything was so silent and peaceful compared with the noise that once must have roared among the buildings, that it seemed sacrilege to break the quiet of this former scene of bustling activity.

Even now when we hear announcements over the Tannoy broadcasting system, we often think of the occasions in the not-so-distant past when the loudspeakers summoned aircrews to their planes to take off on a raid against the enemy.

Our break with Great Ayton has not been complete, for quite a surprising number of the Cadre spend their week-ends off-duty visiting old acquaintances there. All of us who were at Great Ayton still cherish happy recollections of the hospitality of the people there.

Quite a large number of men have been passing through our hands recently, and hardly a day passes without some of us seeing someone we knew overseas who has just finished his Python leave, and who now depends on our tender mercy as to his future unit.

Re-engagements and re-enlistments also are flowing through in fair numbers and people we thought were comfortably settled in Civvy Street are now back among us, polishing their ribbons and service stripes.

### No. 2 SQUADRON

Whilst the time for our move from Knayton to Pocklington draws near, " B " and " C " releases are slackening off, but " A " Release Control with its other task, repatriations, is flourishing to an extent equalled only by the rush last Christmas and New Year of Age and Service Groups 24 to 26.

For ten consecutive days ending 9th November large drafts of Groups 42 and 43 left here on " A " release. Up to and including 9th November our total released through the "A" release office was over 11,000 and December will see the departure to Civvy Street of one of " A " Release's seasoned pioneers. He is Sergeant R. V. " Taffy " Davies (31 D.V.6), " A " Release's chief clerk. " Taffy " joined the office in January, 1946, when it was situated at Hutton Gate, Guisborough.

Sergeant Davies, who is more or less an institution here, will be greatly missed for his cheerful and methodical way of dealing with what can be a highly tantalising task.

Whilst many pass through, the number who take notice of the " A " Release staff's motto: " **A** Regular **E**ngagement **L**ooks **E**xtremely **A**ttractive, **S**o **E**nlist **S**oon," appears from recruiting figures to be very small.

### No. 3 SQUADRON

**Past.**—The " Tater Picking " is now over. During the last two months, Stoneybrough has been besieged by farmers of all shapes and sizes, they came in their motor cars and their tractors; they came wearing " bow-legged breeches " (real horsey men) and they came on their bicycles. Volunteers were easy to get and it should be placed on record what a fine job of work they did in helping the farmers get the crops in. (But wasn't it a headache for the Sergeant-Major!)

**Present.**—Drafts are still coming and it is amazing where they all come from, for every train seems to bring somebody. The Pay Staff are just about worn out, some of them having gone grey, some lost their hair and the officer i/c Pay has even lost his moustache!

Thirsk United are still trying to beat us at soccer, but it is no good as " Wee Tich " Thompson always manages to produce a winning team.

**Future.**—Very soon this Squadron will be leaving Thirsk to join the Regiment at Pocklington. The streets of Thirsk will no more resound with the screams of the troop carriers and the cheers of the " Pythons " as they proceed on leave. It is with a sad heart that we leave Thirsk and the friends that we made during our stay here. May we say to them all: " Goodbye and good luck."

### No. 6 SQUADRON

No. 6 Squadron is now settling down and fighting its administrative battles in Pocklington.

A large number of paper missiles have arrived on 6 Squadron's battlefield and they received the consideration they deserved.

Pocklington is a quiet, sleepy village, invaded nightly by hordes of pleasure-seeking signalmen. We have not yet plumbed the pristine depths of Pocklington's night life, but rumours are rife. It is suggested that many are busily engaged " putting their feet under tables "—this does not include Sergeant Freemantle—his feet are too big.

The Sergeants' Mess has made many connections through the " Town Patrol."

No 6 Squadron has torn a strip off the R.A.F. from Melbourne—we won 5 to 3. Corporal Whettleton scored four of these goals.

We are looking forward to Christmas, counting the days and, as always, " pressing on our butts."

## SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

### REGIMENTAL WING November.

If you want to know what the other arms of the Service are doing about signalling come to the Regimental Wing of the School; same location as before: that collection of antiquated huts flanking the tarmac square facing the H.Q. Officers' Mess, where pre-war courses wagged their flags in the snow to their hearts' content.

Flag-wagging, amongst other things, has now been abolished and the students spend most of their time learning wireless equipments and procedure and how to teach these subjects to their own regimental signallers. It sounds dull, but it is not really; most of the work is of a practical nature and, though Catterick weather does not always help, every effort is made to get outside the classroom for as much of the instruction as possible.

The Wing is divided into two categories now: an artillery category and an infantry category. The artillery category is run by a gunner major—a well-known figure in Catterick

with his plum-coloured beret, ably assisted by two captains and a team of assistant instructors. The oldest inhabitant amongst them is our B.S.M. Baker, whom many of you will remember in the School in pre-war days. He is very popular in the Wing, particularly on those occasions when he appears in Wing plays as "Gunner Bloggins" the sanitary bloke. The infantry category is commanded by an infantry major with a similar team of enthusiasts to assist him. It is a larger party than the gunner one and is made up of four infantry squads and one specialist squad, the latter being responsible for the instruction of students from motor and M.G. battalions, R.E., R.A.S.C. and R.E.M.E.

The R.A.C. do not subscribe at all to the Wing as they used to in pre-war days; they run their own show down in the R.A.C. School at Bovington which, in a lot of ways, is a pity. We lose by not having their views to incorporate in our training, particularly on schemes and they lose, too, because, of course, our instruction in signalling is better than theirs. (That is our opinion, anyway! "Tic Toc" please note.)

Do not forget if you have any gunner, infantry or sapper pals who want to become good signalling instructors, send them along; courses designed to meet all needs; try our "Signalling from First Principles" or "Signalling Without Tears." The painless methods of Messrs. Taylor and Ripley, Inc., have never been known to fail. In any case those of you who are serving overseas would do well to remember that the Regimental Course offers you a golden opportunity of snatching another 11 weeks in the United Kingdom!

J.E.A.

## No. 1 OPERATORS' TRAINING REGT.

November.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—It is a pleasure to be able to have a small space in our own Corps magazine once again so that we can keep in touch with friends everywhere. Our comfortable little Mess is still situated in the old Depot area of Baghdad Lines, not far distant from Kemmel bus terminus and we offer a welcome to all friends, whether stationed nearby or just "passing through," at any time.

Many of our oldest members have left the service but amongst personalities still with us are R.S.M. Hart, R.S.M. Douglas-Beverage (we have two R.S.M.s because the change-over of R.S.M. Hart is still unsettled after "someone" tried to ship him away after 26 years in the Corps), R.Q.M.S. Vigurs, "Jock" Robson (P.M.C.), "Busty" Gillott (the Baron), S.Q.M.S. Sayer, "Just" Deegan and many others.

As many readers will know, Catterick Camp is being brightened up with new entertainments and we do our share to offer regular socials and dances to all who would like to come and, despite beer shortages, we have never reported an empty cellar, and our cosy bar is a regular rendezvous for members and friends. On these occasions, we often get to know how all our friends are keeping and with the Xmas season, 1946, so near, we send our best greetings to you all and hope the coming year will be prosperously happy.

**Boxing.**—In the Signals, Catterick, Individual Novices Championships only one of our representatives won his weight. He was Signalman F. Walker, who won the bantamweight title. In the Catterick Sub-District Team Campionship we were beaten very decisively by 59th T.R., R.A.C. Our lack of success in these events may be partly excused by the fact that owing to injuries and other causes we fielded teams far weaker than our best would have been.

Although for the time being we have no competitions outside the Unit we hope to keep boxing alive throughout the winter by further competitions within the Unit and friendly matches with other units.

## No. 2 OPERATORS' TRAINING REGT.

November.

Struggling through that beautiful winter season of Catterick, where the rain falls daily, the wind blows consistently and the sun is a stranger to us all we, in our first appearance in the Corps magazine, greet all signal units at home and abroad.

Like many other units we are making our post-war debut. From Prestatyn to Catterick and thence to Scarborough and back to Catterick again. We have moved and seen many changes in faces, places, C.O.s, C.I.s, P.R.I.s and Companies to Squadrons, but always the same 2 O.T.B. at heart although 2 O.T.R. in name.

A few of the stalwarts and men elsewhere will recall such names as Lieutenant-Colonels Roberts, M.C., A. R. Reeder, M.B.E., Majors De Freece, Clubb (N.A.C.), Captains Plummer, Jenkins, Nelson, Murphy, Sergeants Coward and Neighbour, Frank Vicary and others too numerous to mention. A few of the older hands still remain but only a few. We regretted their leaving us but the demand has been more pressing elsewhere. Demob. under A.S.Gs has dealt us a bitter blow and for those who have gone we wish them every success in the future whether it be in Civvy Street or elsewhere in the Service.

Through the medium of this magazine we say farewell to Brigadier K. Treseder, O.B.E., our past C.O. who has left us for a higher command. We wish him all the very best in his new sphere and deeply regret his leaving us. At the same time we extend a welcome greeting to our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, although his move has been from one office to another within the Unit.

A few regulars of the pre-war vintage are with us. To quote: Major C. E. Storey (better known to his Swansea connections) and well known to various A.D.S.s in India; Captain (Q.M.) Norcross of 50 Division fame (now recently married); Captain F. C. V. Harris; Major Bill Quinn, now a Regular (we are aware that there are others with a little service); R.S.M. Harrison and the R.Q.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—As usual, whether pre-war or post-war, the gigolos are all wearing three or more chevrons, to wit, Armistice Ball. It is reported that the sergeants lost the Indoor Sports Shield (a very valuable trophy) to the Officers' Mess. To S.Q.M.S. Jones we say, pluck up courage and buy the ring, it is worth it.

**Corporals' Club.**—After a great effort a Corporals' Club has been opened in the old officers' quarters in Mosul Lines. Since it has been established, two very successful dances have been held, thanks to the grand work of Corporal (now Sergeant) Tapping and his committee. It is sincerely hoped that his successor will carry on the good work.

**Sport.**—We have proud feelings in announcing the Regiment as:

Winners of the Catterick Athletic Championships, 1946.

Finalists of 1 S.T.C. Inter-Unit Novices Championships, 1946.

Winners, Garrison Hockey League, Summer, 1946. (5 T.T. Regiment, please note.)

Congratulations to Signalman Rowe and Lance-Corporal Gladwin on winning the 1 S.T.C. Novices Lightweight and Welterweight Boxing Championships respectively, not forgetting those behind the scenes, chief amongst whom are Lieutenant "Tommy" Ball and S.S.I. "Strangler" Lane, A.P.T.C.

As to the future we are at present entering the second round Army Challenge Cup (soccer), the second round Army Challenge Cup (Rugby) and the semi-final Garrison Knock-out Competition (Rugby).

## No. 2 TRADES TRAINING REGT.

November.

The autumn, with its inevitable signs of normal Catterick weather, has brought a change of command to the Regiment. Our popular and sporting C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Danby, is leaving to take up the appointment of Commandant Middle East Signal School. During Colonel Danby's regime of just over a year, great improvements in all spheres of Unit activity have taken place, due entirely to his untiring energy and enthusiasm. Apart from the general well-being of the men, not the least of his achievements was to put 2 Trades securely on the games map of the Garrison. His departure will be sincerely regretted by all ranks of the Regiment, but with him go our thanks and very best wishes for his future happiness.

We are very glad to welcome Lieut-Colonel Harrison to the Regiment as our new C.O.

Among recent departures was R.S.M. Gilkes who left for a sunnier climate, with our best wishes, after surviving quite a long spell in Catterick Camp.

A welcome is extended to R.S.M. Grant, recently returned from overseas, who has already made his presence felt in the Unit hockey team.

An old face has returned to the Unit from civilian life, in the shape of Sergeant Frank Kidd, well known (and affectionately, too!) to hundreds of trainees who have passed through 2 T.T. Regiment. Apparently, he likes the Army (incredulous gasps from trainees), and there are still many here who remember him and are very pleased to see him back again, carrying on the good work.

In the social world of the Unit things have been moderately active, with the popular fortnightly dances in the Sergeants' Mess figuring prominently. On the 30th the Corporals' Mess held a very successful Whist Drive in the Le Cateau N.A.A.F.I. The refreshments were very well done, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Only snag was shortage of ladies—but 'twas ever thus.

We are looking forward to an All Ranks' Ball in the near future, in aid of St. Dunstans.

With the weather still behaving itself reasonably well, the commencement of the rugby and soccer seasons, and cross-country trials, have seen quite an active month in the sports world.

**Cross-Country.**—During the period under review, we have had the 3rd, 4th and 5th S.T.C. Cross Country Trials, and the Unit did very well indeed, except for the 4th trial when, due to insufficient numbers, we could not score. In the last trial, held on 25th October, our team secured the first six places for the Regiment, in a fast race, over a hard surface with frost in the air.

Order of finish (eight to count): 1st, Corporal Ross; 2nd, Lance-Corporal Kinsey; 3rd, Major Haslehust; 4th, Signalman Browne; 5th, Signalman Hewitt; 6th, Signalman Moynan; 18th, Signalman Moore; 37th Signalman Haskell.

**Boxing.**—On Tuesday, 22nd October, there was a splendid show in the "Blood Tub" when the finals of the Novices' Boxing Championship were held. Lance-Corporal McHugh, of this Unit, lived up to his early promise by winning his Heavyweight Final in the second round by a knockout.

**Soccer.**—Despite the posting of two of our best soccer players, our team, under the able leadership of Lieutenant F. R. Mackenzie, continues to put up a very good performance. After victories early in the month against Royal Signals O.C.T.U. and 51 Bn. R.A.P.C., the Regiment sustained a setback in the first round of the Army Challenge Cup, when defeated by 3 O.T. Regiment in a robust and clean game on Wednesday, 23rd October. Result: 3 O.T.R., 5; 2 T.T.R., 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. DANBY, O.B.E., our energetic C.O., has been the inspiration of every sporting activity in the Regiment.

Our artist depicts him characteristically on the hockey pitch, where he was so great an asset.

**Rugby.**—The rugby team, although very much in its infancy, has made a remarkably good start. After losing narrowly to the R.A.F. Regiment early in the month by 5 points to 7 points, in a very hard game, we defeated 1 O.T. Regiment on the 23rd by 17 points to nil. In this game each of five tries was scored by a three-quarter movement. Scorers were Conway (2), Davies, Furseman and Manson, with Hakn converting once.

**Basketball.**—After a false start the Inter-Squadron Basketball Championship started on Monday, 14th October, and was completed by the end of the month. Each Squadron fielded an "A," "B" and "C" Team. No. 2 Squadron were the first to be eliminated, and the winners were No. 1 Squadron after some very spirited games. The winning team, now holders of the Inter-Squadron Basketball Trophy, will represent the Regiment in the forthcoming Garrison League.

# ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

December.

On 26th November, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Signals, took the pass-off parade of 23 cadets of 170 Course.

The senior Under-Officer was O/Cadet Watts. The Commandant's cane was awarded to O/Cadet R. A. Needs.

Those of 170 Course who have now dispersed to their various appointments will be gratified to learn that the Director of Signals complimented the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. on the drill at the Pass-Out Parade.

Captain A. G. Brown, Unit Education Officer, in addition to his instructional duties, has organised three successful groups within the Unit. They are an Electronic Society, a Music Club and a Debating Society.

**Electronic Society.**—This society consists of about 20 cadets, all of whom have some knowledge of radio and who meet each week to hear one of their number give a talk on some interesting and specialised subject connected with electronics.

Subjects so far discussed have included the Miller integrator, pulse width modulation and cinema sound systems.

Other activities of this society include visits to places of interest and the provision of a technical library for the use of its members.

Closely connected with this group, though from a membership point of view, independent, a practical Radio Club is in process of formation. The object of this latter club is to provide a room and apparatus for members of the O.C.T.U. to construct wireless sets and do other practical work in this field.

**The Music Club** continues the work of the old Gramophone Club and presents bi-weekly a programme of music for all ranks.

The new committee, whose work has been referred to in the "Catterick Express," has smoothed out many difficulties, and now the old haunt of the Unit cinema has been vacated for the warmer and cosier atmosphere of a room in the Somme N.A.A.F.I.

On Thursday and Sunday evenings the steadily-increasing audience comes to listen to its favourite composers and already an imposing number of orchestral and solo works has been played. These include: "Prince Igor," "Swan Lake," "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," "Ride of the Valkyries," Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, Tschaikovsky's 4th, 5th and 6th, Sibelius No. 2 in D, "Peter and the Wolf" and "Emperor" Concertos, "Spitfire" Prelude and many other magnificent recordings.

Future programmes, complete with analytical notes, will include symphonies, and the lesser-known works of our great composers.

"Everything laid on," is the O.C.T.U. slogan as social life swings into its stride. No longer does one hear "What shall I do to-night?" but rather "Which entertainment shall I attend?"

The Unit Cinema shows a different film on the first three nights of every week. Highlight of the Entertainment Committee's programme was on 24th October, when turbaned pirates, complete with Spanish beauties, invaded the Marne Gymnasium for the Fancy Dress Ball.

A dance every fortnight and the weekly Whist Drive are now regular features. Great plans are being laid in secret for a good Christmas Party, while an inter-squadron billiards and table-tennis tournament are also in the wind.

Not to be outdone, the Unit Education Officer has opened a new library and has organised a woodwork room. By some mysterious means he contrives to take an active interest in these ventures as well as the clubs previously referred to and still instruct by day.

Catterick has managed to focus the attention of the national press on itself by producing its own weekly newspaper, "The Catterick Express" which, in "What's on in Camp," shows how everyone is trying to overcome the tribulations of peace: Dances every night, the Signals Theatre, the Cabaret Club, and a host of other attractions all help to make life enjoyable.

In the Miniature Rifle Club, the Unit has a representative team which, under the captaincy of that benevolent dictator, Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., shows great promise for the 1946-47 season.

Congratulations are extended to the following:

To W.O.II (S.S.M.) S. G. Boxall on the birth of a daughter, Anne Pamela, and to S.Q.M.S. G. A. Follows on the birth of a son, Michael Colin.

Finally, may we congratulate the Corps Publications Committee on the successful republication of THE WIRE and on its excellent cover.

**Sports Results** for November:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Football— | Versus | School of Signals, | lost, | 1—4 |
| | ,, | 5 I.T.C., | ,, | 0—5 |
| | ,, | 54 T.R., R.A.C., | ,, | 0—7 |
| Hockey— | ,, | 2 T.T.R., | ,, | 4—5 |
| | ,, | 5. T.T.R., | Won, | 5—0 |
| Rugby— | ,, | Ampleforth, away, | lost, | 6—8 |
| | ,, | King's College, Durham, home, | ,, | 6—9 |

## SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNALS

November.

Life has proceeded smoothly at Unit Headquarters in Figsbury Barracks, the only changes being the appearance of new faces and the disappearance of old ones, as the various age and service groups go on their way. Several very successful dances have been held in the camp, which have been well attended by all ranks. The Sergeants' Mess held a party on 5th November. As Salisbury Plain was blanketed with fog on that evening several guests were unable to come.

At Taunton the Signal Troop has held several dances at South-West District Headquarters, the last one of which was attended by the G.O.C. The very high standard of the Signals' dances has caused them to become the yard-stick by which other similar entertainments in the camp are measured.

No. 3 Squadron at Cheltenham was, until February, 1946, No. 2 Company, 1 War Office Signals. The Squadron is situated at Hayden's Elm Camp, near Cheltenham. The site was previously the home of a mixed ack-ack battery, and while it is by no means ideal accommodation, the Squadron is tolerably comfortable. It has the great virtue of being only a couple of miles from the bright lights of Cheltenham and a reasonably good train service. Owing to the nature of the duties and the close proximity of Cheltenham, little has been undertaken in the way of social activities. With the coming of the winter season it is hoped to run more. For these the Squadron commander, Major Tidey, is hoping to raise a band from musicians in the Squadron.

Portsmouth F.S.S. Troop.—The balmy sea breezes are balmy no more, if indeed they ever were balmy this year. The breezes are now well tinged with icicles. The favourite outdoor sport of the troop—too small and dispersed to form a football team—gadget golf, is no longer available as the local corporation has put the gadgets into store for another summer. Sporting instincts have now almost exclusively concentrated on the dartboard which is now only a battered relic of its former self. Several members of the Troop enjoyed a convivial evening as guests of the local Royal Engineers Old Comrades' Association on the occasion of their first post-war gathering. Dancing, singing and an excellent buffet formed the main programme.

**Sport.**—Various Inter-Squadron games have been held at Unit Headquarters. These games have proved very popular. South-West District Signal Troop, although too small to form a football team of their own, have six representatives in the South-West District side, which has been very successful.

## EASTERN COMMAND SIGNALS

November.

**General.**—A visit was paid to the "Britain Can Make It" Exhibition on 6th November by a party of 24, chaperoned by Lieutenant Walkey.

The Exhibition was certainly interesting and it is to be hoped that the exhibits will soon cease to be merely "show pieces." It is understood that certain senior N.C.O.s showed keen interest in the Mannequin Parade and one wonders if they were really selecting the gown they would purchase for their wives at some future date!

It is learned that the Unit will shortly be moving to Canterbury to take up the old 4th Divisional Signals accommodation in the Cavalry Barracks. Date of the move is not yet known, but is believed to be during December.

**Obituary.**—It is with deep regret that we have to report the death on 11th November, 1946, of R.Q.M.S. Woodman, at Acton Cottage Hospital. The "R.Q." had been with the Unit since July, 1945, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

**Football.**—"A" Team in Eastern Command H.Q. League is still "tops," with a 100 per cent. record, but unfortunately "B" Team is still the "strongest"—holding all the rest up.

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—Sergeant Gilmore has left us on returning to Civvy Street. Recent arrivals include the following: S.Q.M.S. Rowberry, S.Q.M.S. Stanway, Sergeant May and Sergeant Younger.

The loss of R.Q.M.S. Woodman is, and will be, keenly felt in Mess circles. He was the life and soul of all social activities and was always willing to give of his best. He was the perfect "mixer." Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow and family in their tragic loss.

### KENT COAST TROOP

Old soldiers often use the expression "Long service in bad stations" when explaining the cause of some minor defect. We in Dover can never refer to our position as bad, the variety of the work allows no time for boredom, the geniality of all Troop members helps to maintain the feeling of belonging to one happy family, and the sociability of the Dover citizens dismisses any thoughts of homesickness. The successful endeavours of the O.C., Major S. C. MacGregor, in improving our environment has played no small part in developing the Troop into an enthusiastic working party.

Those readers who have been fortunate in coming into contact with that pleasing personality, Signalman Andrews, will join with me in wishing him success as he turns the corner into Civvy Street. Nick recently completed a course in Commercial Art at Formation College, Dalkeith, where his talent and originality gained prominence. His friends here, who admit to not being connoisseurs, claim that such examples of his work which he brought back from Scotland are of exhibition standard.

In his own inimitable way Nick says, "I didn't know I had it in me," but we suspected it all the time.

Ushered into "Civvies" recently were Signalmen Barnett and Christmas, along with Driver Collins. George Collins has been with the Troop a long time and old members will remember him as everyone's friend. Nothing was too much for George, any favour asked was a favour done, and it was with reluctance that we waved him "Goodbye."

## NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT SIGNALS

November.

**Departures.**—The Release Scheme—as can be expected—has been responsible for the majority of departures during the past few weeks. We do hope that the lads who have bid farewell will make a big effort to join their local Signals Association Branch. Many friendships have sprung up during Army life and it would indeed be rather tragic to witness such fine comradeships go to the winds simply because of the return to Civvy Street.

Our "Board of Governors" has been rather depleted in numbers since our notes of September. Major G. U. Finney has left his native land for duties elsewhere and Captain (T.M.O.) A. F. Goat could not resist the "Air of the Moors," so a special Movement Order was made out coupled with a single railway warrant to somewhere in Catterick. The best wishes of all ranks are extended to Major Finney and Captain Goat. It was a pleasant privilege to have you with us.

Lance-Corporal J. Lees, M.M., and his bosom pal " Spud " Murphy, have gone to try their luck further afield. Good luck, lads, we were sorry that we had to move you at such short notice.

**Arrivals.**—Believe it or not, but Sergeant Geo. Graham, B.E.M., has returned to the Unit after an absence of one week. On Saturday, 9th November, 1946, the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. De M. Thuillier, O.B.E., had the pleasure of presenting Sergeant Graham with the well-earned decoration.

We welcome Captain (T.M.O.) A. F. Goat's successor, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. Connaughton, to Ulster (Extension 302 will undoubtedly appreciate that—Och, Aye), and hope that his stay will be a successful and happy one.

**Entertainments.**—A sub-committee has been formed to deal with the arrangements for the Annual Xmas Party. Whispers have it that several celebrities, both military and civil, will honour us with their attendance. The Unit Saturday Dances are still " there " and Whist Drives are held every Wednesday. The Sergeant-Major's pet Tombola helps to relieve the monotony that seems to exist on Sunday evenings.

**Physical Training.**—As a result of a Gallup Poll, P.T. has now become a standing fixture.

There should not be any excuse regarding the fitness of the Unit soccer team, etc. Mark you, it is not the P.T. which we used to receive in the " Muscle Factory " way back in the Depot days. Nevertheless, it has been greatly welcomed and the day's work is begun with a far keener spirit.

**Sport.**—The soccer team has firmly established itself as being one of the premier military teams in Ulster. Our record to date in the Belfast and District League is as follows :

| P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 41 | 26 | 13 |

Despite the fact that Jock O'Neill, our star centre-forward, has returned to Civvy Street, his successor, Signalman Harry Jarvis, soon settled down to Irish football and found the net four times in a recent friendly match against an R.A.S.C. XI.

We are very fortunate in having such a popular skipper in Corporal Fred Tidmarsh and if the Corps is looking for an inside-left we strongly recommend the selectors to send a scout to Lisburn and give the once-over on Signalman " Taffy " Jenkins.

**Conclusion.**—Now, do not forget the first paragraph—as soon as you are released make your way to the nearest Royal Signals Association Branch.

Cheerio for now, lads—keep smiling.

" COOKIE."

## No. 1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

November.

As we wrote last month, we have well and truly settled in to our new home in North London. Little touches are being added to our daily lives which will gradually bring us into line with the recent changes in a soldier's life. We have not quite got all the promised amenities but it is grand to record that no time is being wasted here, and the other changes will certainly come.

Socially we are doing well. Every Thursday we have a Music Circle, the music being played on our grand new radio-gram. from a splendid little library of records. Wednesday, we have a concert or play and on Friday we have established a weekly dance. It has required a bit of

(continued on page 82)

# *Between Ourselves*

A Happy New Year to you all.

I've been looking all over the place for you WIRE readers. A few weeks ago when I sent in my last notes. I . . .

ED. : That would be about five years ago.

ME : Oh! Well, I was going to say, I've lost track of all my old characters because the bound annual as well as the monthly copies of THE WIRE went up in smoke and, I am assured by the insurance company, much flame. The name of Ukann Larfe's butler (whom you probably don't remember) escapes me. I am therefore offering a small second-hand landing stage as a prize for the information. The first envelope opened will be closely examined for cheques, postal orders, cigarette ends and explosives. The prize will be awarded in accordance with some jolly good rules which I propose to frame when I get time—and a frame.

### Looking Back

I remember the last WIRE in 1941. It was the December copy. The print was so small I had to have it photographed and enlarged. What a lot of things have happened since then ! As if you didn't know. I couldn't bear not having a magazine to write for so produced the " Maintenance Mercury " on a typewriter. There was no control over this scurrilous publication, which probably accounted for the enormous demand from all ranks, including the general staff.

Vol. 1 (New Series) No. 1 of THE WIRE has got off to a good start. Attractive cover, good clear print and most entertaining notes. I was particularly interested in names. I think most people are, especially if the names ring a little bell in " Memory Lane." In fancy I scampered from Maresfield to Bulford. I remembered that Paul wanted all his saddlery the same colour. What IS saddlery, daddy ? I travelled round the Nerbudda Club, Jubbulpore, at a speed faster than sound and wondered where Tom (Loud Pedal) Sayers could be. Let me add one or two names myself. Ex-R.S.M. Les. Robson is managing a bureau in Birmingham for the employment of ex-soldiers and has placed well over a thousand in good jobs. Captain H. S. (Bill) Nokes is said to be running for mayor of Crediton, Devon. Keeps promising to visit Birmingham but never quite makes it. For ex-78 Divisional Signals men : Captain " Chris " Chapman, Leeds, is secretary of his branch of the Battleaxe Club. Captain " Mike " Stanley has gone back to school. Oxford, or maybe, Cambridge. What's the difference ? They will never make him write anything that can be read. Captain " Bob " Barlow is Camp Commandant, Castle Bromwich. Tried to buy a pub. Nothing doing. Soldiered on. Captain " Charles " Field, Catterick, will be glad to know that many of his old 78 Division " M " Section boys have good jobs in Birmingham. Including the night watchman, Signalman Wilson, now B.S.A.

### And Forward

We are hoping hard that when the Territorial Army is re-formed, most of the old 48th Division boys will rally round together with the Birmingham members of 61st and 78th Divisions. Cateswell House, Hall Green, will probably revert to the T.A. early in 1947. Don't let this go any further, but I happen to know that Cateswell House will almost certainly be etc., etc. A high official told me etc., etc., and pressed me to keep quiet about it. I asked him if he thought etc., etc., and he at once said " Yes." On being asked to elaborate this he said " No."

So it appears pretty certain that etc., etc. There the matter rests. (Bulow for information.—Advt.)

### Society News

It is reported that old So-and-So, the well-known Quarter-Bloke, is sick. He fell down and twisted himself, a hitherto unparalleled feat, if that means what I think it does.

An unconfirmed rumour that Sir Frank Spokeshave is buying Catterick Camp with the object of turning it into a holiday camp is being investigated. It is thought that with so many bald heads about, the whole thing is unlikely.

### Answers to Correspondents

Antoinette, Tecla, Isabella, Silva, Maria and Ina. Definitely NO! You wouldn't like the climate, anyway.

A number of replies are unavoidably held over for some excellent reasons which I have forgotten for the moment. If in difficulty, write to me. And see if I answer.

### Our Great Serial

Colonel Ukann Larfe, L.C.V. (and Trailer) was not a man who wasted time on useless conventions. He kicked the door off its hinges and strode boldly into the office of General Sir Arthur Mommeter, R.S.V.P., E. AND O.E., a fiery official in the Intelligence Service at M.I.99.

"What the old Gen." boomed Colonel Larfe, "Any griffin?"

The general turned a delicate shade of beetroot and delivered himself of a short, vivid spate of words, the gist of which seemed to be: " . . . and . . . ." He concluded by shooting our hero in the shoulder and at once left on his bicyle for Hammersmith where he dined quietly with his seven daughters.

NOTE.—This is a wretched nuisance, because we were all set for a smashing story about the Secret Service, ciphers, codes and things where everything was so secret that the people themselves didn't know where they were, much less what they were doing, and why. However, seven daughters. Eh? Cut round this line if necessary.

BARLEUX.

# BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

## 30th CORPS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGT.

### LUNEBURG

November.

This Regiment is slowly but surely breaking up. No. 1 Squadron have handed over all their commitments in Schleswig Holstein and Denmark to various other signal units, leaving most of the people who were "dug in" still there, an arrangement mutually agreeable to all concerned. The Squadron H.Q. moved into Luneburg early in November, but most of the Unit have now gone to H.Q., 4th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, including Major Dibsdall, S.S.M. Nurse and S.Q.M.S. Roake.

No. 3 Squadron have now become "B" Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron with quite a number of the existing people still with them in Hanover.

We wish all our departees the very best of luck in their new spheres.

Meanwhile, the rest of 30 Corps H.Q. are disappearing gradually and we have to stay to the end in order to serve the Headquarters till the last of the staff officers leave.

No. 2 Squadron H.Q. and its various Troops, together with an attached A.T.S. Company, are still kept fairly busy and most are awaiting orders to see where they will go next month.

**Officers' Mess.**—Ex-members of the Officers' Mess will be interested to know that the Mess Bronze "Jimmy" is to be presented to Captain (Q.M.) "Chippie" Carpenter who has been with the Unit since it was formed, as a memento of his fine record with the Unit.

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—A very enjoyable Fancy Dress Dance was held in the Mess on Tuesday, 12th November. Mrs. Peachell, wife of the C.O., very kindly presented the prizes to the prize-winners who were Sergeant Tomlin, A.T.S. Signals, Mrs. Kerr, wife of the R.S.M., Mrs. Webb, wife of the C.S.M., Camp, S.S.M. "Jock" Roberts, Sergeant Morris and Sergeant Croucher.

TARA.

## 53rd (W) DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

### HILDEN

December.

Here in Hilden winter is with us in grim earnest. Our surroundings, so thickly screened by trees in the summer, have now a bare, gaunt look—but far from hibernating, the Regiment has reached a new "busy peak."

Courses are in full swing and every working moment is fully occupied. Internal Courses have been brought to a fine art—maximum learning with minimum time wastage. We are fortunate in our staff of instructors who are doing a very fine job of work.

In the Barrack area we are changing the whole face of our waste ground. Landscape gardening is the order of the day and next year we hope to produce a brave show of flowers and shrubs.

Many big and welcome changes have been made in the Regiment's recreational amenities. The new library and writing room, comfortable, warm and well stocked is a popular hide-out in the evenings. Our O.R.s' bar is

nearing completion and a formal opening should take place in the very near future.

Our *pièce de résistance* for this month is the "Montgomery Barrack Room," based on the Field-Marshal's talk. Our T.M.O. (Captain C. M. Smith), Sergeant Danks and Sergeant Jones, his section sergeants, have put much of their spare time and energy in producing a wonderful effort showing the normal barrack room of the soldier of the future. The Adjutant's branch expects to be snowed under with frantic applications to sign on (? ?). We have instigated "projects" for our remaining barrack rooms to be brought up to the same high standard.

Captain "Duggie" James, the Adjutant, has set the ball rolling in organising a concert party from personnel at Divisional H.Q. From all accounts we are destined to see a sparkling show at Christmas or thereabouts—rumour has it that British Forces Network is more than a little interested in it from the broadcast point of view. The Adjutant with his natural shyness (? ?) refrains from comment.

For the long winter evenings, many classes have been formed within barracks. Leatherwork, art, photography, playreading, languages, all have their followers and the instruction given is first class.

S.S.M. Purves and Sergeant McEntee, respective team manager and trainer of our cross-country team, have great faith in their boys and vow that we can and will produce a team of winners. Lots of work goes into the weekly runs; we have found, however, that bramble undergrowth is not the very best of running tracks.

Two crack Polish basket-ball teams paid us a visit and played demonstration games, opening our eyes to the hitherto unknown finer points of the game. Divisional H.Q. organised a challenge team which put up a very good show indeed, although they were beaten. It was quite clear to spectators that our S.S.M. Cox could have held his place in the crack team—six wonderful goals were his contribution to the score.

We have now our own bus service which runs personnel to and from Dusseldorf each evening. The buses are converted office wagons, made comfortable inside by the inclusion of first-class seating arrangements. The hard work done by A.S.M. King, R.E.M.E. attached, and our own "M." Troop carpenters is much appreciated by the Unit.

The season's football has now finished and we congratulate "C" Troop on winning the Inter-Unit League. Many hard games have been played and we are going to miss our Saturday afternoon's entertainment in this sphere.

The Unit is now keyed up for Christmas festivities, and a very fine and extensive programme has been drawn up. Plenty of amusement and entertainment is available but more of this in our next notes.

We extend warmest welcome to those wives and children of officers and men who have now arrived with us. We hope that they will be very happy in their new surroundings. The children's school is in operation and it is hoped that in the near future a full complement of teachers will be available and a full curriculum established.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Captain "Mick" Hunt, our popular E.M.E., on his very recent sad bereavement on losing his wife. Mrs. Hunt had not been very long with us, but in that short time she became a well-known figure. She gave her time as a teacher in the school and was known and very much liked by the children. After an extremely short illness, Mrs. Hunt died in the Military Hospital, Munster.

# No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGT.

## CELLE

December.

Here in Celle we are fortunate in being in the centre of activity in 84 Group, R.A.F., and if the advance programmes of Group Welfare, the Malcolm Club, the N.A.A.F.I., the Officers' Club and the Chevrons, are an indication of Christmas festivities in the town, this should be a memorable holiday indeed.

Within the Regiment, committees have been busy organising entertainment and food—especially food—for the season of good cheer. This has placed heavy responsibility on the Messing Committee, and the staffs of cookhouse and messes. The latter are looking to the Regiment's farm to augment the Christmas fare and by the progress made at the farm since last month's report in THE WIRE, it seems that they will not be disappointed. While the Messing Committee is busying itself with the solution of the Christmas feast problem, the Entertainments Committee decided that its particular solution could best be found by the establishment of a special sub-committee—the Christmas Committee. After much deliberation, the Christmas programme emerged: a party for the children of the German employees on the 17th, a dance with German partners on the 23rd, an officers' dinner and social evening on Christmas Eve, an officers and S.N.C.O.s v. O.R.s hockey match on Christmas morning, after a late breakfast, and before a bumper dinner served in the customary manner. The rest of Christmas Day is in the hands of the individual. The programme continues after Christmas, with a sergeants' dance on Boxing Day, an officers' dance on the 28th, and an all-ranks' Service dance on the 30th. The Goodwood Barracks canteen will be open on Old Year's Night till midnight, to see the New Year in. With the birth of the year 1947 the Regiment's connections with Celle and with 84 Group will be exactly one year old, for it was on 1st January, 1946, that No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment took over the commitments of No. 13 Air Formation Signals.

**The Past Year.**—During the year, the face of the Unit has undergone a complete change, due for the most part to demob., and the in-posting of replacements.

In the first quarter of 1946, 104 Tele-Op., 124 D.R., 136 Line, 37 and 38 Construction, and 61, 70 and 72 Wing Signal Sections were either posted or disbanded. In March, Unit Headquarters moved down from Schleswig to Celle, where they were established in Trenchard Barracks, 84 Group H.Q., for a short while before joining the main body of the Unit at Goodwood Barracks, on the other side of the town. Later in the year 133 Tele-Op., 135 Line and 56 Construction Sections were also disbanded.

Through the floods of April, the choking dust of May, the feverish cultivation of Goodwood Gardens in June and July, the athletic contests of August, the Regiment—as it had then become—emerged with flying colours. The winter sports season in September, saw us in possession of a first-class football team which, at the time of writing, remains unbeaten, and heads the local football league. During October, Leiutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, Royal Signals, was succeeded in command of the Regiment by Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, Royal Signals. The last quarter of the year closes with the Regiment holding a strong position in every field of its activities, promising a successful year in 1947.

**The New Year.**—During December, S.Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals) St. John Beale launched a new venture in the

formation of an Amateur Radio Club. The initial meetings were attended by a dozen radio enthusiasts and by the New Year the club should be operating its own workshop, where it is hoped that members will construct simple receivers, preparatory to starting work on a transmitter. Two club members are interested in radio-controlled model aircraft, and this should help to widen the scope of this enterprise. S.Q.M.S. St. John Beale, who has organised amateur radio transmitting stations in India, would welcome news of similar ventures from any other Service unit.

**Births.**—The Regiment extends its heartiest congratulations to R.S.M. R. Staton on the news of the gift of a baby daughter to R.S.M. and Mrs. Staton, on 4th December, 1946.

**Football.**—CELLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE.—The 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment's football team continues its unbeaten record. On 23rd November they defeated 74 M.T.L.R.U. by 8 goals to nil, on the 27th they secured a 7-to-1 victory over 84 Group Police Hospital team, and on the 30th, 84 Group H.Q. (Unit) were defeated by 12 goals to nil. This series of victories secured first place in the league for the Regiment. Runners-up are 135 Wing, whom we are drawn to play against in the first round of the Maitland Cup Competition, which starts in the first week of January. It is anticipated that this will be a " needle " match.

A further victory for the football team on 7th December, 1946, against R.A.F. Scheuen, by 5 goals to 1, enables us to retain the lead in the Celle League and gives the team the splendid goal average of 53 for and 7 against.

84 GROUP KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.—Playing in the third round of the 84 Group Knock-Out Competition at the Unit's gound in Celle on 4th December, 1946, we defeated 5355 A.C. Wing by 8 goals to nil. This victory qualifies the team for the semi-finals, and we are looking forward to a really tough match, as all the remaining teams in the competition are also runners-up in the Celle League.

FRIENDLY MATCHES.—The " B " team which, owing to injuries and postings, had to be withdrawn from the League earlier in the season, made another appearance on 30th November, 1946, in a friendly match against 74 M.T.L.R.U. " B " team at the White City ground, Celle. The result was a 1—0 victory for us.

**Hockey.**—Our hockey team was the victor by 6 goals to 1, in a friendly match against 84 Group H.Q. (Unit) at Goodwood Barracks on 27th November, 1946.

**Inter-Troop Sports.**—Inter-troop sports are still going strong with 73 Wing Signal Troop at the head of the soccer league. Heading the other sports leagues are :—R.H.Q., basket-ball ; 3 S.H.Q., billiards ; 102 T/O., snooker ; 102 T/O., table-tennis ; 73 W.S.T., darts.

## BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

**BERLIN**

November.

Few of the men of 5 H.Q. Signals who celebrated V-Day in the Skittle Alley or who slept until 0530 hours in the Place de la Concorde in Paris could have guessed that they would soon be moving from the capital of France to the capital of Germany, still less could they have guessed that they would be changing their designation so many times within the next 12 months or so. From 5 H.Q. Signals to " B " Company H.Q. Signals, then to Berlin District Signals (British Element), Berlin Area Signals, Berlin Headquarter Signals, Berlin H.Q. Signal Squadron and finally Berlin Signal Squadron. Whether or not any more changes are to come it is impossible to say. Perhaps " Bersigs " may be adopted, thus freshening our language with a new word and carrying out the English tradition of economising with words by calling a spade a " spade."

**Sport.**—After attaining first place in the Cricket Finals last summer, Berlin Signal Squadron turned its athletic mind to football.

A trial game was played on 28th August to form a team for the 1946-47 season : the result is a strong eleven under the captaincy of Signalman Charles Ayres which, so far, has not been severely hampered by demobbing, postings or other obstacles to which all unit teams are subject in the " exigencies of the Service."

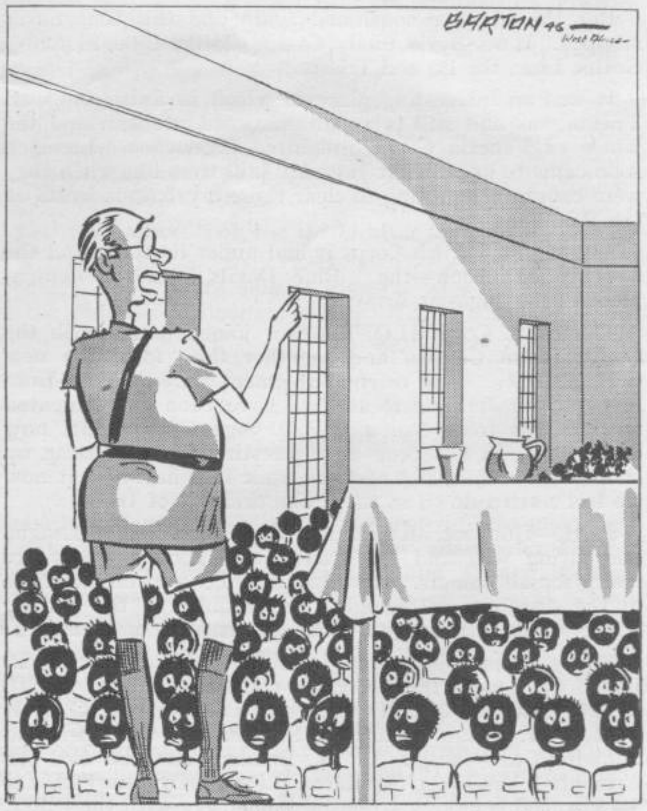
Over the period of 11 weeks 14 matches have been played at the Olympic Stadium, comprising eight wins, two draws and four losses.

Perhaps the Squadron's most exciting contest was provided by one of these successful opponents, 538 Car Company, which has a distinguished record. The battle was taken up again a week later but, although the tough nut was undoubtedly cracked, the ball only reached its goal three times to their four.

Two other interesting matches were played with the D.P.s of Dupal Camp—most of them Polish—when the Squadron was at the top of its form, beating them 1—0 and 6—1.

The R.A.F. at Gatow also proved a formidable team when the single match played with them was drawn at three goals, while the 13/18 Hussars' unbeaten record was smashed by a score of 3—1.

Leagues are to be shortly formed in Berlin, and the Squadron has high hopes of a varied and successful future.




Before I ....er.... conclude my lecture on the Cathode Ray Oscillograph .... are there .... er .... any questions, please?

# OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS

## 13th CORPS SIGNAL REGT.

### PADUA

November.

**General.**—We are rather late off the mark with our notes for the first post-war copy of THE WIRE, which arrived out here to-day.

Once again we have been moving and possibly being increased in status. It certainly seems that, from the start, this Regiment was destined for an interesting time and now we are entering a new phase in the varied story since Mena in 1941. Signals for G.H.Q., Italy, is our latest task and we now occupy the old site of the Theatre, School of Signals, near Padua.

It is appropriate that in this initial appearance of our notes in THE WIRE a brief history of the Regiment should be given.

In July, 1941, the Mobile Corps Signals was formed at Mena, Egypt, and veterans will remember the sign of the winged wheel. Then, in September, this became 13 Corps Signals which, in two months, was in action in the push which took the Desert Army to Benghazi. Then came the withdrawals, first to El Adem and in July to El Alamein.

But the advance continued again and this time never stopped. It was Syria, Sicily, Cassino, Hitler Line, Florence, Gothic Line, the Po and Trieste.

It was an interesting place in which to finish the war. Trieste was and still is an international problem and the whole of Venezia Giulia presented headaches. Linemen soon came to know what Jugoslav jails were like when they were caught attempting to clear those mysterious faults on the Pola lines.

Although a British Corps it had under its command the 88 (U.S.) Division—the " Blue Devils "—and a detachment of the Jugoslav army.

Thirteenth Corps H.Q. has now joined hands with the G.H.Q. from Caserta and together they form the new G.H.Q., Italy. The original regiment moved down from Sistiana outside Trieste and we have been supplemented with troops from No. 2 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, now disbanded. It has been an interesting time " setting up shop "—of course, it had to be done in a hurry—but now we feel settled down in the " Cambridge " of Italy.

**Sport.**—Our football team is in the Padua-Venice League and faring well and the Rugby and hockey teams are ready for all comers. Snow can now be seen on the Alps in the distance, so thoughts are turning to the Winter Sports Centre at Cortina which opens early next month.

**Who's Who.**—Our C.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Paterson, O.B.E., the second-in-command Major A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., late of 6th Armoured. Major D. G. Holt from 23rd Indian Divisional Signals has the operating Squadron and Major L. B. Lander, another old 6th Armoured, has No. 1. Squadron (Lines). Captain (T.M.O.) Jack Angell is enjoying himself immensely with the P.R.I. and Imprest Account—any casuals ?—he is O.C., H.Q. Squadron. Captain (T.M.O.) P. V. Cockings (" Cocky ") has just arrived from 8th Air Formation and is attending to all matters of welfare, and our Q.M. is Lieutenant (Q.M.) " Wally " Cargill. Captain John Tonnison is just leaving on Python after nine years " out."

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—Since the Mess moved to Noventa, in September, much hard work has been done by the members to " get going," in respect of Regimental functions, sports, open nights, etc. We feel, now, that we have definitely arrived ; we are, as they say, " established," and how !

Mess Dance every Sunday, " open night " every Wednesday, darts competitions against the other half of the Mess (located some three miles away), Saturday invitations by the R.E.M.E. who are rapidly becoming our sister Mess—well, what more could a man ask ? (Yes, I know, but this is the Army, Mr. Brown.)

There may be certain head-hanging over this darts business. R.E.M.E. beat us 7—1, and No. 1 Squadron Mess beat us 2—1. There was some very pretty throwing in the latter game, though, and some tight finishes.

On the other hand, as the record shows, we show no mean skill at sport. This terrific standard of physical fitness is positively nauseating before 10 a.m.

We hope to publish, from time to time, a roll of Mess members, to keep old " townies " in touch.

Herewith Part 1 : R.S.M. R. Barrett, R.Q.M.S. T. W. Langham, S.S.M. R. Viney, S.S.M. J. Hepworth, S.S.M. G. Feakes, S.S.M. C. Johnson, S.S.M. R. Cadwell, S.Q.M.S. P. Rye, S.Q.M.S. C. Cavill, S.Q.M.S. H. Ward, S.Q.M.S. J. Beech, Sergeant R. Thompson, Sergeant A. Newman, Sergeant M. Stickells, Sergeant A. Scholes, Sergeant R. Plowright.

## 3rd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

### QASSASSIN

November.

On Wednesday, 30th October, at the Bitter Lake Stadium, Fayid, the Commander-in-Chief, M.E.L.F., General Sir Miles Dempsey, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., presented medal ribbons to members of 3rd Infantry Division. These included our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Moore, who received the ribbon of the O.B.E., and Signalman F. B. Dilworth, late of 56 Independent Infantry Brigade, who received those of the M.M. and B.E.M.

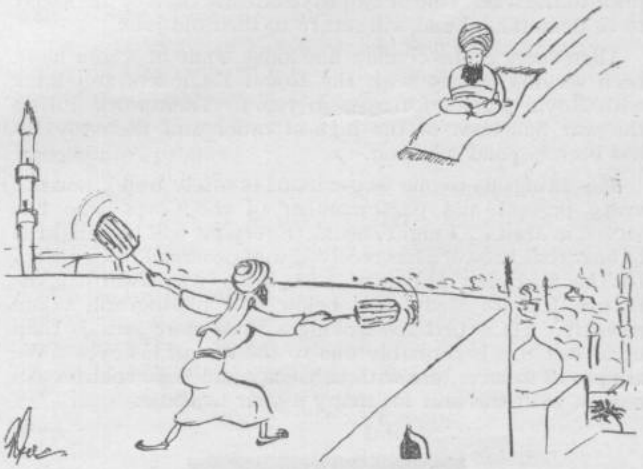
The Divisional Swimming Gala was held at the Durand swimming pool at Qassassin on 6th November.

The Gala was organised on a Brigade Group basis. The Regiment was represented by Captain R. C. Bryson and Lance-Corporal D. A. Baker, " A " Troop, swimming for

the Divisional Troops Group. Lance-Corporal Baker represented the Group in the one length free style and the plunge. Captain Bryson swam the backstroke in the medley relay team, which won its event. The Regimental team in the inter-unit relay race was beaten in its heat.

Divisional Troops were second in the final score, one point behind the winners.

A very enjoyable afternoon was concluded with the prize-giving by Major-General L. G. Whistler, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. 3rd Infantry Division.



## CANAL SIGNAL REGT.

### MOASCAR

November.

A farewell party and presentation ceremony on 12th October at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Canal Signal Regiment, Moascar, marked the departure of R.S.M. Walsh, M.B.E., who has been a popular figure in this unit since December, 1944. Mr. Walsh, who is leaving to take up a commission, was presented with a silver tankard, suitably engraved. Present at the ceremony were the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Hardy, and the Adjutant, Captain Alec Colquhoun.

R.S.M. Walsh is a familiar personality in the Middle East. He was in Haifa Signal Section, Palestine Signals, when the war broke out, and, after serving with the 16th Infantry Brigade and the 14th Indian Brigade, was in Matruh Fortress Signals for two years, from June, 1940, until the withdrawal from Matruh in 1942. After a period with the 5th Indian Division, Mr. Walsh then went to 4 G.H.Q. Signals in Bagdad.

Mr. Walsh was in the Yeomanry during the first world war, and served in the Allenby Campaign in Palestine. His Middle East experience, therefore, goes back to 1917.

He came into Signals " on the ground floor " when the Corps was first started, serving first with Dublin Signal Company and later with the Northern Ireland Signal Company in Belfast. From 1927 to 1934 he was with Egypt Command Signals, and after a period of three years back in England, at Scarborough with 5th Divisional Signals, he returned to the Middle East to join Palestine Signals.

Succeeding Mr. Walsh is R.S.M. A. Hughes, who has come to the Canal Signal Regiment from 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment, with which he served in the European Campaign. He came out to the Middle East for the second time in his career when the Division came to Egypt in October, 1945.

It is hoped he will enjoy his association with the Regiment as much as did Mr. Walsh, and we extend a very cordial welcome to him.

**Cricket.**—The Canal Signal Regiment's Inter-Squadron Cricket Tournament, which was played in September, resulted in a victory for No. 3 Squadron.

In the final match at Moascar on 28th September No. 3 Squadron played No. 2 Squadron. The No. 3 Squadron bowlers won the match, skittling No. 2 Squadron for 24 runs. Flude and Geering each took five wickets for 10. The No. 3 Squadron team declared at 34 runs with four wickets down, Flude making 12 and Hatch 8, both not out.

Of the first round matches on the previous Saturday, that between R.H.Q. and No. 3 Squadron provided more excitement, with a breathlessly close finish—87 to 86—in favour of No. 3 Squadron. This Squadron, playing on their own ground at Qassassin, batted first and reached 87 in 16 overs. The R.H.Q. team opened slowly, but rallied towards the end, and when Simons started lashing out boundary hits in grand style it looked as though they would overhaul the No. 3 Squadron total with a few to spare. But the collapse of a really well fought stand came when the eleventh man, going in to bat with the score at 86, was dismissed by a catch off his first ball. Simons made 30 and Lieutenant-Colonel Hardy knocked up 21.

On the same day No. 2 Squadron were entertaining No. 1 Squadron at Fayid. The No. 2 Squadron team, batting first, made 102, to which Smith contributed 21, Waite 19 and Harvey 18. Waite knocked 18 of his 19 runs out of one over—three fours and a six. The visiting team had a rough time against the No. 2 Squadron bowlers and went down for 48. Taylor's bowling accounted for seven wickets for 17. Of the No. 1 Squadron team, only Briggs reached double figures, with a score of 15.

**Swimming Competition.**—The Squadrons met on 12th October at the School of Military Training, Lake Timsah, for a swimming competition and gala. This is a new venture which may be staged two or three times during the next swimming season.

No. 3 Squadron took the shield after an exciting battle.

A.T.S. swimmers took part in the afternoon's proceedings, and Private Shirley Johnson, who is an operator at the Moascar Exchange, pulled off the ladies' prize by winning four out of five events.

## No. 3 SQUADRON

### QASSASSIN

As an old reader of THE WIRE and an irregular contributor I must add my voice to the many who will be looking forward to its reappearance and wishing it even greater success than in the past.

In case some readers cannot recognise the changed title, this is the old No. 3 Company, 6 L. of C. Signals. Subsequently 18 Area Signals, and soon to be ——. Well, we shall tell you that when we know. For ex-members of the Squadron (or Company) we no longer rest under the wing of Regimental H.Q. at Moascar, having set ourselves up in a home of our own at Qassassin. Old Qassassin-ites would not recognise the place. The tents, whose walls you so religiously put in the sun every Saturday morning, are now replaced by Wana huts with brick walls.

That does not stop the bugs, by the way. The unofficial electric lighting is now quite official, but some people's ears should burn when the Sergeant-Major comes across the old buried quad cable that resurrects from time to time, usually just before an inspection.

Of course, a proportion of the Squadron still hibernates at Port Said, praying that Squadron H.Q. will forget them when " bodies " are required at less salubrious spots. Port Said was ever thus, even when they shared quarters with rats on the dockside.

For the rest of the Squadron we still have a detachment at Tel-el-Kebir and another at Kantara.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—We wish to take this opportunity of wishing our departing O.C., Major W. G. Windebank, all the best in his new unit and extending a welcome to Major H. R. Watkins, who comes to us from No. 2 Squadron.

**Football.**—As the season is still in its earliest days we are still finding our feet (and our boots, from what I hear from the soccer representative). In conjunction with our camp mates of District H.Q., we have played one friendly match with a local G.T. Company. We lost 2—1, which was not an unsatisfactory result, as our opponents had obviously played together, whereas this was our first time out. We hope to field a team with District H.Q. to defend the Garrison Cup, which we already hold, in addition to our inter-squadron matches, as we are leaving room on the shelf beside the cricket cup and the swimming shield.

## BOMBAY SIGNALS

October.

In the absence of a regular scribe these first notes of Bombay Signals for inclusion in THE WIRE are a brief account of the Unit and its composition.

Many of you old stagers will remember this Signal Unit better as Fortress Signal Section and you will realise to what extent the old section has been expanded. From one section it has grown to H.Q. 232nd Indian Signals and attached Sections stationed in Bombay, Poona, Deolali, etc. The B.O.R.s at Bombay are accommodated in the Holiday Camp Colaba, and the I.O.R.s in the old F.F.R. lines.

No. 3 Company is stationed at Poona in the old British attached Section lines at Ghorpuri.

No. 4 Company is stationed at Deolali in the Transit Camp.

The Unit includes B.O.R.s, W.A.C.(I), Hindus, Sikhs, Punjabi, Mussulmans and mixed Madrassis.

**Life in Bombay.**—At present, due to the riots, amenities and entertainments have been somewhat restricted, but normally there is quite a considerable amount available to all. There are six first-class cinemas within easy reach of the barracks, while cafés are dotted all over the town. For those who enjoy dancing the clubs run at least two per week. The Eros and Greens put on about four a week. Swimming can be had at Breach Kandy, at Juhu Beach, and also a few yards from the Unit lines. For those interested in archeology, etc., trips are run round the harbour and coast. Throughout the year, many big football, Rugby, hockey and cricket tournaments are played in Bombay. At present the Rugby tournament is in the semi-final stage.

**Football.**—The Unit entered the Junior Division of the Harwood League but, due to men going on release and repat., we did not do so well.

**Hockey.**—The hockey season has just begun and we have entered a team in the Junior League.

## MALTA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

December.

It is not proposed in this our first post-war contribution to THE WIRE to attempt to recount the activities of Signals in Malta since 1939 but to deal with one or two items which we hope will be of interest to those who have at any time served in this Island.

Although there has been a large turn-over in officers and other ranks during the last seven years, there still remain serving with the unit some of the old hands who were employed as civilians in the Despatch Office and as T.S.B.O.s prior to the war. One or two have already been or are about to be demobilised and will return to their old jobs.

Then there is the civilian line gang, some of whom have been serving, firstly with the Royal Engineers and later with Royal Signals for over 40 years. Their work during the war has been of the highest order and their loyalty has been beyond question.

This brings us to one whose name is surely well known to every present and past member of the Corps who has served in Malta : Luigi Fenech. Everyone will be delighted to hear that his work has received well-deserved recognition. In the Birthday Honours' List Luigi was awarded the British Empire Medal and below is a photograph taken recently. He is perhaps looking a little more serious than usual but this is probably due to the sun in his eyes. We are proud to have him with us to-day and hope that he will remain with the unit for many a year to come.

Mr. Luigi Fenech, B.E.M.

Luigi's decoration is no less a tribute to the gang of whom he is foreman. Here is a brief record of his service. Mr. Fenech joined the Fortress Company Royal Engineers in 1907 at the age of 18 as a civilian telephone wire-man. He came into the Signal Section on its formation in 1923 and has been foreman of the civilian cable and overhead gangs since 1931.

**Fortress Exchange.**—Fortress Exchange has had one or two resting places since the outbreak of war and recently a new 300-line board was installed in a temporary surface building outside the previous location in St. Phillip's Bastion near Porte des Bombes. This has meant a great deal of work for everyone but the results more than justify the time and labour spent in the installation.

**Amateur Radio Club.**—A Unit Amateur Radio Club has been formed and we have been on the air since 7th November, 1946, as ZB1AC on both 10 and 20 metres using only 50 watts. Our 150-watt rig is still in the wiring up stages but should be ready before the New Year.

We are anxious to QSO other Corps Clubs and individuals who are engaged in " ham " work.

**Rifle Shooting.**—In the Command Inter-Unit Small Bore Competition for 1945 we were equal first with the R.A.S.C. but were ultimately awarded second place in the aggregate score as results obtained against Units who had dropped out during the Competition were not allowed to count. This was a great disappointment to everyone and particularly to Captains Speakes and Green who had done much to organise the team.

This year, however, has been a triumph. The Unit won both the competition and aggregate cups without losing a match.

Captain Sidney won the C.S.O.'s prize for the highest aggregate score over the 14 competition matches with an average of 93.

In the Inter-Services Match we had four representatives shooting for the Army team.

In the Colonial Small Bore Competition three members fired for the all-Malta team, and one was reserve.

Results are as follows :

COMMAND INTER-UNIT COMPETITIONS (First three places)

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | Agg. | Ave. | Pts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malta Command Signal Squadron .. .. | 14 | 14 | — | — | 10132 | 723.72 | 28 |
| 2nd H.A.A. Regiment, R.M.A. .. .. | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 9859 | 704.14 | 21 |
| 5th Manchesters .. | 14 | 10 | 4 | — | 9872 | 705.14 | 20 |

INTER-SERVICES AND COLONIAL COMPETITIONS

Individual scores :

| | Inter-Service | Colonial |
|---|---|---|
| Captain Sidney .. .. | 185 | Reserve |
| Lieutenant Norbury .. | 189 | 192 |
| Corporal Mellor .. .. | 188 | 192 |
| Lance-Corporal Anderson .. | 185 | 191 |

In the Colonial Small Bore Competition the three Royal Signals members of the team obtained the highest individual scores.

Winners of Malta Command Small Bore Rifle Competition

Standing—
L/Cpl. Beckworth, Capt. Speakes, Lt. Norbury, Sigmn. Panting, Cpl. Mellor, Sgt. Leach
Sitting—
L/cpl. Anderson, L/Cpl. Lawson

Great credit is due to Captain Speakes who acted as team captain and was untiring in organising and training his team and to other members who displayed the greatest keenness and gave up many a half day in order to turn out for practice. Lance-Corporal Anderson, one of the top scorers, joined the Unit some eight months ago and had, though he had never fired .22 before, the satisfaction of shooting for the Army and for Malta.

The results were entirely due to team work and no member was in any way indispensable.

**Cricket.**—The Unit team was fifth in the Command Junior League ; 12 teams entered. Results are : Played 11, won 6, lost 5.

Major Buirski, Captain Sidney and Signalman Blackmore played for the Army in the inter-Services matches.

Major Buirski captained the Army team and was joint captain of the inter-Services team which toured Italy in July.

**Football.**—In the Junior League the Unit team has played seven matches. Results to date : Won 3, lost 3, drawn 1.

**Hockey.**—The Unit was not able to raise a team for the Command League, but the C.S.O., Major Buirski, and Captain Sidney are playing for Command H.Q.

**Sailing.**—Early this summer it was decided to form a Yacht Club amongst Signals Officers stationed in Malta. A loan from the G.O.C.'s fund enabled the 12 square metre Sharpie " Greenfinch " to be purchased, and a keen interest in yachting has started to develop. Members of the club are also associate members of the Royal Malta Yacht Club and " Greenfinch " took part in several of the R.M.Y.C. races, winning the " Sharpie " Class Cup at the summer regatta.

Enthusiasm for the sport also grew amongst the O.R.s, who even went so far as to build their own boat and successfully ventured out to sea.

Both boats are now laid up for the winter, but all are looking forward to next season's sailing.

## GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

November.

The Royal Signals, Gibraltar, welcome THE WIRE back to publication after its long absence during the last war, and the Unit sends greetings to the Editor and staff of THE WIRE and takes this opportunity of sending best wishes to all our comrades past and present of the Corps wherever they may be.

Now that we have got over the pains of heavy releases and are beginning to settle down again a great effort is being made to train regimentally, technically, and particularly in the field of sport.

It might interest old friends to know that we are still in Wellington Front Barracks, although it is planned to move us to the Europa area some time in the distant future.

The Unit is now only a shadow of its old self and is still reducing in numbers as conditions change.

Our II Division football team is getting into swing and showing that in spite of heavy line work the team is doing well. The results of three first matches are :

Royal Signals 0—R.A.F. 4
" " 6—R.A.O.C. 0
" " 5—3rd Coast Regt., R.A. 1

They played a remarkably good game against the 3rd Coast Regiment and by the quality of play I feel the team should do well in the future.

It must be pointed out that the Special Wireless Troop, in-so-far as sport is concerned, is part of the Royal Signals, Gibraltar.

(continued on page 83)

# War Record of 6th Armoured Divisional Signals

(NOW RENAMED 1ST ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT)

ON 1st July, 1946, the 6th British Armoured Divisional Signals became the 1st Armoured Divisional Signals, and a few days later added the designation "Regiment" to its new name. This event marked quite clearly, in the minds of the few old-established members of the Unit who were left, the end of the war-time Unit with which they had served so long and the beginning of the building up of a new Regiment which would carry on the traditions of the old.

The 6th Armoured Division was formed in England in the autumn of 1940 and was built up during that difficult period near Bristol, and in the following summer it began energetic training in Cambridgeshire for the landings in North Africa. At this time the Unit was busy testing out the first wireless set No. 19, which was to prove so useful during its long career in action.

After the Tunisian campaign the Unit moved back along the Barbary Coast to Phillepeville, in Algeria, where it rested, reorganised and retrained for about nine months. In the early months of 1944 many detachments were already in Italy with their brigades and regiments and the main body landed at Naples just after Easter of that year, concentrating with the rest of the Division near Cassino.

The Unit did its full share in the fine performance made by the Division at Cassino and the Liri Valley, and in the ensuing rush towards the Gothic Line. There, after the capture of Perugia, and later Arezzo, the Division advanced on Florence and assisted in the capture of that city. During this time Signals had a great deal to contend with, roads were still often very bad, especially in mountain areas, lines were continually cut by shelling and Nebelwerfer fire, bridges were all blown, while in the winter bitter cold was added to the rain and mud.

During the winter of 1944 the Division had moved across the front from the west to the east side, and after a spell in the Appenines, during the coldest period of the year, it moved back to Riccione, on the Adriatic coast. After a very short rest here, the Division moved forward again to the Forli area, where it waited in Army reserve for the battle of the River Senio to begin. By the 9th April, 1945, the battle had begun, and in a few days the 6th Armoured Division had been passed through the Argenta Gap, and had fanned out towards the River Po. In this flat country

PRONTO IN ARMOUR

By the summer of 1942 the Unit was in Ayrshire, fully mobilised for war and waiting for the word to go, which came with great suddenness in the following November. Along with the rest of the Division, the Unit landed in the first few days of the North Africa operations, and during this campaign played its part to the full, combating the vicissitudes of a fresh and unaccustomed climate, appalling roads, dust, mud, mosquitoes and enemy bombing, but providing all the time the necessary communications, thus enabling the Division to play such an outstanding part in the final crushing of the enemy in Tunisia.

armoured formations moved with great rapidity, usually with wireless as their only link with Division, providing a great test for both operators and wireless sets, while linemen had no sooner laid one set of lines than they were rushed forward to lay another, even laying quad cable, weighted with stones, across the River Po from boats.

From the River Po northwards the Division moved fast, up through the hinterland of Venice to Udine, and thence to Austria. The end of hostilities in Europe found the 6th Armoured Divisional Signals in Klagenfurt, relaxing in the seeming fairyland of Carinthia, but at the same time still

providing communications, but now with the help of a Siemens automatic exchange, a vastly different proposition to the 40-line F. and F. in the back of an A.C.V.

Such is the war-time history of this Regiment, a record of continuous communication supplied in the face of many difficulties, and a record of which every officer and man who took part is justly proud. For the last year the Regiment has been engaged in less spectacular, but nevertheless essential, tasks. Most of the members of the old 6th Armoured have now left, but the old spirit of those who carried the sign of the " mailed fist " from Algiers to Austria is still strong and will uphold its traditions under its new name.

"MAILED FIST."

# THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION of the ROYAL CORPS of SIGNALS

HEADQUARTERS : 88, ECCLESTON SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

(TEL. : VICTORIA 9194)

As we go to press the festive season is upon us. We hope all members of the Association and their families will have enjoyed Christmas. For the New Year we echo the kind message of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Patron of the Association, and wish all members and their families happiness and prosperity throughout 1947.

We send a special message of greeting to all Branches and trust that their New Year plans for re-unions may meet with every success.

May we at Headquarters express to all who sent us Christmas and New Year wishes our sincere appreciation of their kind messages.

It is probable that some time during 1947 members of the Corps may be visiting London. To all who can spare the time we extend a cordial invitation to visit Headquarters. All are assured of a warm welcome.

## Benevolent Fund

During November, 111 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £681 7s. 0d.

### Summary of Grants Disbursed

| Purpose | No. of cases | Amount £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 35 | 164 10 0 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 12 | 91 0 0 |
| Cots and prams | 17 | 96 0 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 6 | 33 16 0 |
| Furniture | 6 | 59 6 0 |
| Clothing | 9 | 57 0 0 |
| Doctor's bills | 10 | 81 0 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 3 | 17 0 0 |
| Dentures | 1 | 4 0 0 |
| Removals | 2 | 8 0 0 |
| Travelling expenses | 5 | 23 5 0 |
| Tools | 1 | 10 0 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 2 | 19 10 0 |
| Funerals | 2 | 17 0 0 |
| TOTALS | 111 | £681 7 0 |

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF ASSISTANCE AFFORDED TO SERVING OR EX-SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Discharged or released soldiers 53, widows of deceased soldiers 10, families of soldiers serving in U.K. 33, B.A.O.R. 5, C.M.F. 3, M.E.F. 3, India 5 and S.E.A.C. 1.

### Donations Received for the Fund

| | £ s. d. |
|---|---|
| 11th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment | 90 10 3 |
| School of Signals, C.M.F. | 88 0 8 |
| 16th Air Formation Signal Regiment | 54 3 8 |
| North Levant Signals | 30 19 6 |
| " D " Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, C.M.F. | 25 0 0 |
| 29 (E.A.) Training Brigade Signal Section | 22 7 7 |
| No. 1 U.G. Cable Company, C.M.F. | 21 12 2 |
| H.Q., A.T.W.A. Signal Company, C.M.F. | 20 11 2 |
| " X " Branch, South Burma District | 15 12 0 |
| " H " Detachment, Special Communications Signal Regiment | 7 15 5 |
| W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. | 14 7 |
| Dodecanese Signal Squadron | 10 0 |
| Officers' Mess, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. | 10 4 0 |
| East Anglian Coast Signal Troop | 5 9 |
| H.Q. 3 A.G.R.A. | 151 19 10 |
| 53rd Medium Regiment, R.A. | 108 0 5 |
| 254th Corps Delivery Squadron, R.A.C. | 102 12 0 |
| H.Q., 100 A.A. Brigade | 62 8 9 |
| H.Q., Special Force | 8 1 11 |
| Ministry of Supply Establishment, Cuxhaven | 4 6 |
| S. W. Birch, Esq., ex-Royal Signals | 26 5 0 |
| Mrs. Walker's Fund, Glasgow | 5 0 0 |
| Mrs. E. A. Radford | 5 0 0 |
| Mrs. E. Parrack | 2 2 0 |
| R. H. Leslie, Esq., ex-Royal Signals | 2 0 0 |
| E. Gay, Esq., ex-Royal Signals | 1 1 0 |
| R. H. Shearman, Esq. | 1 1 0 |
| TOTAL | £864 3 2 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these donations.

## Old Comrades Association

New members registered during the month of November 1946 :

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual members | 351 |
| Life members | 119 |

Additional Branches have been formed at Reigate, Rochester and Huddersfield ; we wish them every success. It is hoped that Branches will be established in Oldham, Lancs., and in the Isle of Wight. A list of the Association Branches now in operation will be found on page 79.

## Information

We publish below information which has come to our notice and which may be of interest to members.

**Driving Tests.**—It has been announced that holders of provisional driving licences taken out for the first time since 31st August, 1946, may now volunteer to undergo a driving test, thus avoiding the necessity of displaying " L. " plates and being accompanied by an experienced licence holder, which may otherwise be necessary if the new Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Bill becomes law. Applications should be made on Form D.L. 26, obtainable from any General Post Office or Local Taxation Office (i.e., County Council or County Borough Council).

Until the new Bill becomes law, the only persons who will be obliged to undergo a driving test are those who apply for a licence for the first time and are suffering from some physical disability.

**Emigration to Southern Rhodesia.** Free passages will be provided for a limited number of ex-servicemen and women and their dependents who wish to settle in Southern Rhodesia. Information can be obtained from any local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, but actual applications cannot be received until some time in 1947.

**National Insurance : New Pension Books.**—The Ministry of National Insurance has now officially requested that pensioners who believe they are entitled to the increased pension, but whose new books have not yet come to hand, should apply at once to their local office of the Assistance Board rather than write to Blackpool. The Assistance Board will then take up the matter with Blackpool direct.

**National Insurance : Ex-service Trainees.**—Regulations will shortly be made providing for National Insurance contributions to be credited in certain circumstances to those taking up training under the Further Education and Training, and Vocational Training Schemes after release from war service. These regulations will take effect as from 3rd July, 1944. Any person who may be affected should ascertain from his approved society (or from the Ministry of National Insurance if he is not a member of a society) what steps must be taken to obtain the benefit of the new arrangements.

**Travel abroad : Sea Passages.**—Intending travellers with any claim to be considered for priority by a Government Department should now apply to the shipping line concerned and not to the Government Department, except for routes to the Far East (including Malaya) and the West Indies, when application should still be made to the Government Department most closely associated with the reason for the journey. Cases of an urgent nature should also, in the first instance, be referred to the shipping line.

The Ministry of Transport emphasises that there is as yet no substantial addition to the number of berths available.

# Signals Association Branch Notes

**Salisbury and District.**—Operations having been suspended for a period of six years, it was decided to reopen the Branch as early as possible after hostilities ceased. With this end in view our first post-war meeting was held in Foley's Music Room on 22nd August, 1945, and was very well attended.

The following members were elected :

| | |
|---|---|
| President, *ipso facto* .. | Brigadier Thursby-Pelham, C.B.E. M.C. |
| Chairman .. .. | Colonel A. C. Allen, D.S.O., M.C. |
| Hon. Treasurer .. | Major E. H. Spindler, Royal Signals. |
| Vice-Chairman .. | A. Chick, Esq. |
| Hon. Secretary .. | E. G. Hand, Esq. |
| General Committee .. | R. G. Anderson, Esq., F. Baker, Esq., R. Hunter, Esq., A. E. Mizen, Esq. and J. Farley, Esq. |

Shortly afterwards we were given the loan of a room in the British Legion and soon after this we again changed our Headquarters to a room in the Woolpack Inn, where we still meet on the second Friday in each month. Here we have one of our staunchest members, mine host, A. J. Thomas, Esq., whose history will appear in due course in our Who's Who A.B.C. I must, however, mention here that he has been a great asset in the Branch and I believe our best recruiting agent.

Since the first meeting was held, a few changes have been necessary in the officials originally elected. At the time of going to press the Branch Committee reads :

| | |
|---|---|
| President .. .. | Brigadier R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. |
| Chairman .. .. | Colonel A. C. Allen, D.S.O., M.C. |
| Hon. Secretary .. | R. A. (Bob) Browne, Esq. |
| Hon. Treasurer .. | Major E. H. Spindler, Royal Signals and as above. |

In addition, we have a well-balanced Club and Entertainments Committee on which the following very live members serve :

| | |
|---|---|
| Vice-Chairman .. | A. J. Thomas, Esq. |
| Members .. .. | E. Greatorex, Esq., ex-Rugger, J. Relf, Esq., ex-hockey, L. J. A. Cox, Esq., S. W. Plank, Esq., A. J. Gray, Esq., A. E. Garrett, Esq. and C. R. Fullerton, Esq. |

Whilst the attendance at our meetings leaves much to be desired and bearing in mind the difficulties of transport, etc., we feel that in time the Branch will return to its old glory and become the power in the land it once was. We should like to see a much better crowd out of a membership of nearly 150, so come along all serving and ex-serving members of the Corps and help us to help you.

With much regret, we have to admit our first attempt at running a dance on ambitious lines was not successful. This, no doubt, was due to various unforeseen causes, but we live and are always willing to learn. The best attendance at any function organised by this Branch to date was on the occasion of a visit of the Corps Band to the Signals Barracks at Winterbourne Dauntsey on Sunday, 14th July, 1946. About 120 members and their wives and families turned up and spent a very enjoyable afternoon, with tea being provided free and without coupons.

At present, the Branch is running a series of functions at the British Legion Hall on the last Friday of each month. The last—held on 29th November, 1946 (a social and dance)—was a very great improvement indeed. Our aim, of course, is to put the Royal Signals on the map and we intend to do it. Thanks to the efforts of a very hard-working committee, I honestly think we are on the upgrade, as this show was universally voted jolly good and that is what we want.

*Who's Who A.B.C.*—It is proposed to start a kind of Who's Who in relation to this branch, primarily to enable old contacts to be re-established and, who knows, old debts collected. However, here goes.

Our esteemed Chairman, Allen, A.C.—Now a farmer at Swallowcliffe Manor, Salisbury, Wiltshire and is probably best remembered as C.O., 3rd Divisional Signals, Bulford, for about three years. (What else do you know about him ?)

*Obituary.*—All ex-3rd Divites will be shocked and grieved to heat that Signalman " Paddy " Meeham's wife passed away recently.

All will remember her with love and respect.

" Paddy " is one of our best members and I am pleased to be able to report that a wreath was sent and the Branch was represented at her interment which took place at Salisbury.

**53rd and 38th (Welsh) Divisional Signals Old Comrades Association.**—" Cardiff calling. Cardiff calling." All Old Comrades of this Branch take this opportunity of wishing all Corps members at home and abroad the compliments of the season.

Old members of the 53rd and 38th will be pleased to know that we have an Old Comrades Club at the Old Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff. Although at the moment we only open on the first Friday of each month for general meetings and socials, we hope to open more regularly later on.

The present membership, consisting of many well-known members of both Units, is round the 200 mark and is going up.

We held the first re-union dinner on 15th June, 1945, when 150 members attended from all parts of the country. At the Carlton Hotel, Cardiff, was a scene of old times where a very successful evening was spent. Thanks are due to the committee for their good work in organising the show. Some notables who were present were : Colonel R. C. Sell, O.B.E., M.C., T.D. (chairman), Colonel Gardiner, Colonel W. G. Trice, Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Ball (treasurer), Colonel V. Hawkins, Colonel W. R. Hawkins, Captain Griffiths, old senior P.S.I. of 53rd, and the one and only Tom Forse (vice-chairman). Many of the above travelled long distances to attend. We hope to hold the dinner again this year in June and intending members should get in touch with the Secretary.

A very successful dance was held at the Drill Hall, Park Street, Cardiff, in October, which was attended by some 150 guests who enjoyed a very pleasant evening to the tune of Murray's Broadcasting Band.

All members of the Association will be sorry to lose our old treasurer, ex-Captain Birt Cummings, who has been posted to Shrewsbury on (Post Office) promotion. We thank him sincerely for his excellent work whilst with the Association and wish him the best of luck in his new sphere.

*Shooting.*—We are in the process of forming a Shooting Club as we have most of our old " Western Mail " Shooting Trophy team in the Association. More notes about this later.

**Leeds.**—The membership of this Branch is still growing and hopes are entertained of a permanent home being established in the near future. In the meantime, all meetings are being held at the Fenton Hotel, Woodhouse Lane, on Friday evenings at 7.30 and Sunday mornings at 11.30.

Owing to catering difficulties, the Annual Dinner has had to be abandoned this year, but there is a full programme of events planned for the winter months, and on Sunday, 22nd December, prizes secured in the Christmas Prize Draw are being distributed.

The attendance of members at meetings is giving great satisfaction to the committee.

## ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
## BRANCH ADDRESSES

NAMES OF HON. SECRETARIES AND ADDRESSES

ABERDEEN :—Captain C. F. Andrews, M.B.E., 64 Morningside Road, Aberdeen.

BIRMINGHAM :—Captain R. H. Ironmonger, 12, Stonor Park Road, Solihull, Warwicks.

BOURNEMOUTH, Hants. :—S. J. Rouse, Esq., 125 Ensbury Park Road, Winton, Bournemouth.

BRADFORD :—W. Hardy, Esq., 244, Lumb Lane, Bradford.

BRIGHTON :—Major D. L. Loader, The Old Rectory, Southwick, Sussex.

BRISTOL, Somerset :—F. R. Gordon, Esq., 9, Mascot Road, St. John's Lane, Bristol 3.

CARDIFF, South Wales :—F. A. Matthew, Esq., 10, Alma Road, Penylan, Cardiff.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND :—R. Arnot, Esq., 2, Ronald Place, Stirling.

CHESTER :—R. Ryan, Esq., 124, Sealand Road, Chester.

DARLINGTON :—R. E. Cobbing, Esq., 9, Larchfield Street, Darlington.

DERBY :—Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Waldron, 39, Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derbyshire.

EAST SURREY :—H. F. Darke, Esq., 36, Prices Lane, Reigate, Surrey.

EDINBURGH :—A. E. Farnol, Esq., 25, Granby Road, Edinburgh.

EXETER, Devon :—F. Cole, Esq., 3, Priory Villas, Beacon Lane, Exeter.

FIFE COUNTY :—L. F. Brignall, Esq., 22, Sang Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife.

GLASGOW :—Captain J. J. McQuarrie, 526, Boydston Road, Thornliebank, Glasgow.

HUDDERSFIELD :—G. H. Wragg, Esq., Old Hall, Kirkburton, near Huddersfield.

LONDON (WESTMINSTER) :—H. Madeley, Esq., 79, Meadow Walk, Ewell, Surrey.

LEEDS, Yorkshire :—E. Speight, Esq., 1, Hanover Terrace, Leeds 3.

LIVERPOOL, Lancashire :—H. Munro, Esq., 302, Queen's Drive, Liverpool 13.

MANCHESTER, Lancashire :—H. O. Etheridge, Esq., Royal Signals Drill Hall, Norton St., Brookes Bar, Manchester 16.

MIDDLESBROUGH, Yorkshire :—C. Shaw, Esq., M.B.E., 15, Phillips Avenue, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough.

NORWICH :—M. J. Coleman, Esq., 89a, York Street, Norwich.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE :—Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, c/o North Eastern Trading Estates, Ltd., Team Valley, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

NORTHAMPTON :—A. J. Pout, Esq., 77, Rowlatt Road, Corby, Northants.

PLYMOUTH, Devon :—F. H. Johns, Esq., 64, Boulden Park Road, Crownhill, Plymouth.

ROCHESTER :—L. Ford, Esq., 42, Carton Close, Dickens Estate, Rochester, Kent.

SALISBURY, Wiltshire :—R. A. Brown, Esq., 138, Fisherton Street, Salisbury.

SUFFOLK :—A. Thomson, Esq., 295, Colchester Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

YORK :—N. Horner, Esq., 55, Albemarle Road, The Mount, York.

The Royal Signals Association Buttonhole Badge, depicted above, may be obtained by sending a postal order for 2s. 6d. to the General Secretary. The badge is of enamel in Corps colours. Should the stock be exhausted, your name will be placed on a waiting list, and when a fresh consignment is received, badges will be despatched in order of application.

# The Defence Teleprinter Network

BY F. E. NANCARROW, O.B.E., A.R.C.SC., M.I.E.E.

*Few members of the Services have not, at one time or another, benefited from the communications facilities afforded by the "D.T.N.," and probably few also have given much thought to the nature of the task involved in superimposing this separate telegraph system on the existing civil network. The following article, condensed from the "Post Office Electrical Engineers' Journal," gives briefly an idea of the magnitude of this project which was so effectively carried through by G.P.O. engineers during the difficult years of war.* —EDITOR.

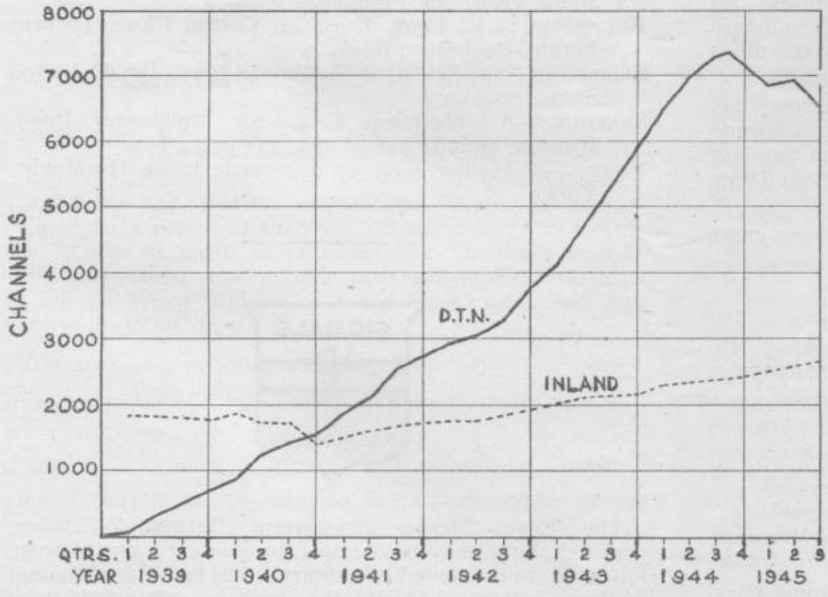
In the years prior to the war, the demand on the Post Office by the Services for private wire teleprinter communications was not great, but even then the fact that the location of the Service terminal was, in many cases, remote from the main centre of the civil communication network was making it difficult to provide telegraph circuits which were capable of giving stable service. When early in 1938 a clearer picture emerged of the possible requirements of the Admiralty and Air Ministry for telegraph circuits the suggestion was put forward by the Post Office Engineering Department, and accepted by the Services, that such requirements would best be met, and indeed could only be met, by the setting up of a network partially independent of the civil network and in which the V.F. terminal equipment should be located in Service establishments. The acceptance of this principle meant that the Services would provide accommodation wherever necessary to house the V.F. terminal equipment and power apparatus deemed necessary by the P.O. Engineering Department to meet the plans put forward by the Services and that on their part the Post Office would be responsible for the provision of maintenance personnel at points remote from their usual location. In addition it eased the position regarding the provision of the private wire telephone requirements, since the projected telegraph terminals could also include telephone amplifying and signalling equipments and thus allow of the setting up of four-wire circuits between all the Service establishments.

A D.T.N. Switching Centre manned by A.T.S.

In 1938 Treasury authority was given for the provision of a telegraph network based on these principles which was to be of the same order of size as that which then existed for civil purposes and which the P.O. Engineering Department committed themselves to complete within three years. In an undertaking of this nature it was necessary to have a name and the scheme was dubbed the "Defence Teleprinter Network," which name has stuck throughout the war years although, as is usual with such titles, shortened to the initials D.T.N.

At its inception the scheme provided for all the then projected telegraph requirements of the Air Ministry serving Fighter, Bomber, Coastal and Maintenance Commands together with associated services, for the requirements of the Admiralty in linking up their various establishments in this country and in a similar manner for the War Office. As may well be imagined, the advent of the war and the course of the war wrought many changes and it is of interest that the output reached during one of the war years was equal in magnitude to the original scheme, such had the demand grown for telegraph services.

Whilst telegraph circuits serving operational, intelligence and meteorological needs were intended mainly to be on a point-to-point basis, it was desired that administrative circuits should be on a switched basis, and to




GROWTH OF V.F. TELEGRAPH CHANNELS DURING THE WAR.

meet such a requirement the P.O. Engineering Department set out to design suitable telegraph switchboards.

In a review of this nature it is quite impossible to give any comprehensive picture of the network of telegraph circuits which were eventually set up and, indeed, such a picture would involve a detailed description of the organisation of the various Commands of the three Services as well as that of the Foreign Office. Suffice it to say that the circuits provided in the network extended to all parts of the British Isles, that teleprinter switchboards could be found in the Orkneys and teleprinters in the most unexpected places—even in the Western Isles of Scotland.

The first multi-channel, voice-frequency telegraph system of the Defence Teleprinter Network was opened on 31st March, 1939, between Uxbridge No. 1 and Faraday Building, London, to be followed on 4th April, by a system between Uxbridge No. 1 and Stanmore No. 1, and from then on the story is one of the continuous opening of systems month by month up to the end of the war.

The curves given in the diagram on page 80 show how the channels provided by the multi-channel, voice-frequency telegraph equipment grew during the war years. It will be seen that by late 1940 the provision had reached the total of the Inland Service* network and by late 1944 was some two and a half times as great. It will be seen also that the Inland Service* was not standing still during the war years—it had, of course, to provide for all the war requirements of industry and Government Departments other than the fighting services—the relative curve showing how the losses due to war damage, indicated by the fall of the curve, had been more than replaced by the end of 1944.

Some idea of the engineering effort involved in the provision of the D.T.N. can perhaps be given by quoting figures.

Thus to January, 1946, a total of 562 terminals containing multi-channel, voice-frequency telegraph equipment had been set up in premises provided by the various Services and 146 such terminals, for various operational reasons, had been closed down; 174 of the terminals were of the type and size requiring the provision of power equipments and the others operated off the mains supply. Some of the terminals were very much larger than any previous concentration of such equipment and required special power arrangements. The number of multi-channel systems provided totalled 1,500, corresponding to 12,660 telegraph channels, whilst 775 systems, corresponding to 5,850 channels, were ceased. The engineering of this work involved the issue of 1,106 contracts and 210 works specifications and the preparation of some 825 accommodation plans.

More than 10,000 telegraph circuits of all kinds were provided up to the peak period of August-October, 1944; this figure is net and takes no account of the large amount of re-arrangements and cessations which were continually taking place due to operational needs. The operation of these circuits has demanded a continuous supply of teleprinters, and well over 10,000 have been absorbed to meet D.T.N. requirements. In addition to teleprinters, auxiliary apparatus such as teleprinter tables, rectifiers, etc., have been produced and supplied in corresponding numbers. Many of the circuit terminations took the form of large teleprinter instrument rooms, up to aggregations of 200 instruments, necessitating the preparation of engineering specifications for their installation.

To provide for the switching of the telegraph circuits eight different types of switchboard were ultimately developed and between five and six hundred operating positions were manufactured and installed to meet various requirements.

To ensure that the closest co-operation was maintained between the Service requirements and production and installation, a committee was set up early in 1938 representing the P.O. Engineering Department, Service Departments and the contractors. This committee met monthly from June, 1938, to September, 1944, and its labours contributed greatly to the smooth execution of the many works involved. The teleprinter terminal equipments, teleprinter instrument rooms and teleprinter switchboards were engineered and installed throughout the network by the P.O. Engineering Department.

*i.e.*, Civil

# SPORTS NOTES

## RUGBY

Royal Signals (Catterick) Rugby Football Club have been having a successful season for the first season the Club has been going and requests from leading north-of-England clubs for fixtures for the next season show they have made a promising start.

The "Yorkshire Post" recently alluded to them as "the powerful Signals XV from Catterick."

It has been a disappointment to the Rugby Sub-Committee which consists of Major G. M. Fraser, Captain H. McD. Chapman and Captain J. M. Westwood, that it has never been possible to field the strongest side either for Corps matches or for Royal Signals (Catterick) games, owing to the claims by international, Army R.U. and county authorities. Players such as Captain T. G. H. Jackson (Scotland), Signalman Glyn Davies (Wales), Signalman Froggett (Yorkshire), Corporal Parfitt (Cardiff), Signalman Williams (Liverpool), O/Cadet Richardson (Sedburgh), Corporal Reynolds (Wasps), Captain Westwood (Moseley) and others are frequently away.

**Corps Matches.**—In the Corps match at Ripon against the "Sappers" on 6th November, casualties through injuries and the absence of five players with the Army team touring B.A.O.R. weakened the side, who were only beaten by that most unusual and (in this case) unsatisfactory award of a penalty try. Again in the Headingley match, injuries and Army claims had weakened the side who lost by 14 points to 8. Evidently Headingley appreciated the game, for their request for a return match has resulted in a return being fixed for 15th March.

Conditions for the "Gunners'" match were unbelievably bad as continuous rain over a period had put all sports grounds in Catterick out of bounds. However, it was decided to play on Scotton ground rather than scratch the match. Both sides were unrecognisable after the first few minutes in the quagmire, and a gruelling mud-fight ended in a win for the "Gunners" by 8 points to 5. Here again

we were without eight regular players owing to the calls of the Army R.U. and casualties.

On 4th December, we beat R.E.M.E. in a Corps match by 12 points to 5. As R.E.M.E. (Arborfield) have a strong fixture list with matches against well-known London clubs and as they have organised their Rugby very thoroughly, with games twice a week, this was a good performance.

On 11th December we visited Chilwell, near Derby, and played a Corps match against R.A.O.C. This we won comfortably by 31 points to 0.

We hope to put up a good show, too, against Blackheath " A " on 8th February and Oxford University Greyhounds on 15th February.

**Royal Signals (Catterick) Matches.**—The first match against Huddersfield on 7th September, although lost by 24 points to 17 points, surprised the home club who were assisted that day by N. M. Hall (England) and Cornish (Richmond).

The next game against Melrose was lost by 13 points to 0 and was much closer than the score indicates, as there was no scoring in the second half when Royal Signals pressed hard, Drummond (the Scottish international) and the speedy Melrose backs being just a shade too good.

The Rest of the Garrison XV were beaten fairly easily on 31st October.

On 9th November the Signals (Catterick) XV journeyed to London where we were most hospitably received by London District Signals and the match against Barts Hospital 1st XV was won by 18 points to 3 points, a very good performance.

On 30th November Royal Signals (Catterick) put up a very good performance in their match with Otley, a club with an unbeaten record in the north and with five county players. Otley won in the last few minutes by 5 points to 0. We were unlucky not to draw at any rate, as Corporal Parfitt (for once) missed several penalties and both Lance-Corporal Wilson and Corporal Newcombe came within inches of scoring.

On 7th December a visit to Edinburgh resulted in a win against Heriots F.P. 2nd XV by 15 points to 8.

On 14th December, Billingham, a useful Durham club, were played and a weakened side lost by 5 points to 3, in a game admirably refereed by Alan Bean, the international referee.

On 21st December we journeyed to Glasgow and played Hillhead High School F.P. Although we had a good side on paper our backs did not combine well and the forwards were much slower than the lighter Hillhead pack. The Hillhead halves, C. H. Murdoch (Scotland) and K. O. Gordon, dominated the game. Our players were kindly put up by Scottish Command Signals for the Edinburgh and Glasgow matches.

On 28th December Sunderland were beaten by 8 points to 7 in a very good game before a large crowd who impartially applauded the good play of both sides.

There are some interesting fixtures in the New Year. For our matches on 18th January v. Northern and on 29th March v. Durham City, Northern Regional are sending their " Sports Spotters " to report on the games.

### HOCKEY

**Corps Match.**—On Saturday, 14th December, 1946, the first representative Corps' match, since 1939, was played against the R.A.O.C. at Feltham, Middlesex.

After a very keen game the Royal Signals team was successful by 5 goals to 0.

The first half was very evenly contested, both teams playing very good hockey. Two goals were scored in this half by Lieutenant Smith and Captain Richards. In the second half our half-backs took complete control of the game and with some very smart hockey scored a further three goals by Major Evans, Lieutenant Smith and Captain Edwards.

The team played remarkably well together considering that the weather has prevented much hockey being played this season. The players who took part in the game were :

Captain Kitson (3 O.T.R.) ; Captain Parkinson (2 O.T.R.), Sergeant Murray (5 T.T.R.); S.S.M. Johns (W.O. Signal Regt.), Signalman Gibbons (1 O.T.R.), Captain Gordon (NORCO Signals) ; Captain Edwards (3 O.T.R.), Captain Richards (2 O.T.R.), Lieutenant Smith (1 T.T.R.), Major Evans (2 O.T.R.), S.Q.M.S. Cutter (1 T.T.R.).

**Royal Signals (Catterick).**—The weather has been most unkind to hockey players this year, only one game having been played, all others having to be cancelled owing to flooded pitches.

The one game played was against Leeds University at Leeds. This resulted in a win for Royal Signals by 4 goals to 2. The team was :

S.S.M. Griffiths (2 O.T.R.) ; Captain Parkinson (2 O.T.R.), Sergeant Holt (3 O.T.R.) ; Sergeant Gartery (3 O.T.R.), Signalman Gibbons (1 O.T.R.), Lieutenant-Colonel Stodart (5 T.T.R.) ; Captain Edwards (3 O.T.R.), Captain Richards (2 O.T.R.), Lieutenant Smith (1 T.T.R.), Lieutenant Cant (1 O.T.R.), S.Q.M.S. Cutter (1 T.T.R.).

Goal scorers in this very evenly contested game were Lieutenant Cant, Captain Richards, Lieutenant Smith and Signalman Gibbons.

## HOME STATIONS (continued from page 68)

work to bring all this about and a big hand is due to Lieutenant McClarron. He seems to be the Regimental " Pooh-Bah " with all his tasks, but he delivers the goods.

A bouquet, too, for Subaltern D. Hames, who has worked wonders in creating a nice dining room and, better still, a much improved menu served on the cafeteria principle. There is a lot of similar " behind the scenes " work going on and we are gradually evolving a pleasant camp in pleasant conditions of work, leisure and rest.

So far, we have not been able to keep up the good work on the football field. We have not the numbers in the right places to prove to the " civvies " around here that we could lick spots off their best teams. The definite trend towards P.T. might give new life to one or two of the older hands. Who knows but what a budding Stan. Matthews is shyly hiding his light behind a cloud of anonymity.

Our A.T.S. have little to add to our notes ; I am afraid they are still a shy lot as far as gossip is concerned . . . a new experience, lads ! Strange, isn't it, how few folks are keen to burst into print. Maybe, in this strange new world of ours when print is no more and all news is recorded, a " Vocal WIRE " might suit them better.

Well, folks, that is all the news for this month, so here's to the next time. Cheerio.

" JOCKHUTCH."

## No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

November.

Having somewhat diffidently handed in our first contributions and found some of them actually published we proceed with more confidence to write again.

It seems a good idea to introduce ourselves. Our C.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Campbell who, before returning to this country, commanded 4 L. of C. Signals, later known as North Levant Signals. His Adjutant is Captain N. J. Smith and as Squadron Commanders we have Major W. V. G. Fuge, M.B.E., O.C., 2 Squadron, and Captain J. D.

Norfolk as O.C., 1 Squadron. Our Q.M. is Captain "Henry" Colwell. The war service of those named covers all theatres of war, including the U.K., so that when "line-shooting" is in evidence, there is plenty of variety.

Our A.T.S. officers are Junior Commander B. Ridler who has had a long experience of A.A. and Subaltern M. Snowden who recently joined us but has already happily settled down.

This month the officers ventured their skill at darts against the best of the O.R.s and came away with only one game won.

Remembrance Sunday—Derby Memorial Service

On Remembrance Sunday a representative contingent of our A.T.S. attended the Derby Memorial Service. They looked well and were rewarded by being the only section of the parade to have their photograph published in the Derby "Evening Telegraph."

**Sport.**—The Regimental football team so far has had a good season. Games played, 6; won 5, lost 1, with 44 goals for and 12 against. We are now engaged in a knock-out competition run by Brigade H.Q. We are confident that we shall be one of the teams at the finish.

## OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS (cont. from page 75)

## NORTH CARIBBEAN AREA

## SIGNAL SECTION

### KINGSTON, JAMAICA

November.

In our opening contribution we tell you who we are and what we do. With Squadron Headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, we provide all Army communications for the northern Caribbean; the war being over, this means Jamaica, the Bahamas and British Honduras in Central America. Our operators who man the area and other nets are U.K. and locally enlisted Jamaican personnel; our linemen are U.K. personnel and local civilians; driver mechanics and workshop trades are U.K. and Jamaican personnel; D.R.s and drivers are Jamaican. Area Signal Office is staffed by Jamaican A.T.S.; unit office by U.K. clerks and Jamaican A.T.S., and last, but not least, Cipher is operated at present by U.K. A.T.S. and civilians.

Leave? Well, probably the most popular resort in Jamaica is Montego Bay at the north-western tip of the island, with golden beaches, palm trees, and blue waters, it certainly is a Caribbean holiday. There are many alternatives ranging from Port Royal, the former Caribbean pirate lair, to Newcastle, a hill station, 5,000 feet above sea level, with an English climate.

Recent arrivals have been S S.M. Lewis, T. D., lately of Edinburgh University S.T.C., and F. of S. Crookes, D., from a Catterick F. of S. Course.

O.C. Signals (G3HN) is active on the 14 mcs. Amateur Band under the call sign VP5HN, and with various frequencies at the L.F. end of the band. VP5HN would be pleased to QSO or hear from any other Signals "hams." G.s are at their best from 1700R to 1900R.

## BRINDIV SIGNALS

### OKAYAMA

November.

How far East do we get in Signals? No farther than Brindiv Signals in Japan. So if you want a sight of the cherry blossom land step on that boat and join us. We are the Signal Unit for the British and Indian Division in Japan, a part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. This Occupation Force is a great experiment as it is the first time that Naval, Army and Air Force units from England, India, Australia and New Zealand have been grouped under one integrated command.

We were born from 36 Divisional Signals and expected to leave for Japan in October, 1945. As usual, we were victims of the old hurry up and wait, the advance parties leaving India in February, 1946, landing at Kure on 1st March.

Our first home was Hiro just near Kure, whilst 5th Infantry Brigade took over the Island of Shikoku and 268th Indian Infantry Brigade took over the provinces of Shimane and Tottori. No sooner had Divisional H.Q. got settled down than we moved to Okayama and had to start again. A lot of work had to be done in setting up the new Signal Office and communication layout and great credit is due to both British and Indian ranks for the speed with which it was carried through.

Recently the great scheme Lollipop (Lots of Local Leave in place of Python) got under way and a steady stream disappear in the direction of Tokyo or Kyoto or Beppu. The question is now—will we be able to ski in the winter?

The Unit sports were held in October with "O" Section winning the shield. Havildar Khadam Hussain and Lance-Naik Fazal Hussain gave a great account of themselves in putting the shot and were chosen to represent the Divisional Troops in the B.C.O.F. sports meeting. The football and hockey teams are going well and should keep up the reputation of Signals. 5th Infantry Brigade Section did very well in the Brigade sports meeting in winning five events. If they can be persuaded to leave the island of Shikoku those of us in Okayama might be able to show them a thing or two.

The following members send their salaams to their friends:

Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. H. Saunders (Alf) ex 36 Div. Signals.
R.S.M. G. S. Bevan, M.M. (Taffy) .. ex 7 Armd. Div. Signals.
R.Q.M.S. A. Parish (Bonzo) .. .. ex 4 Ind. Div. Signals.
C.Q.M.S. E. Sladdin .. .. .. ex 2 Div. Signals.
Driver H. Dilkes .. .. .. ex 19 Ind. Div. Signals.
Signalman D. G. Layton .. .. ex Peshawar District Signals.

# The Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals

*Patron:*

H.R.H. The PRINCESS ROYAL, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals

*Chairman and Treasurer:*

Major-General G. G. RAWSON, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Colonel Commandant

Headquarters:—88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1 (Victoria 9194)

### Old Comrades Branch

To foster *esprit de corps* by promoting good fellowship between serving and ex-service members of the Corps, and perpetuating friendships established in peace and war.

#### Civil Employment

Ex-service members of the Corps put in touch with employers.

#### Rehabilitation

Information and advice on general subjects given to assist resettlement in civil life.

*in co-operation with*

Local Branches of Royal Signals Association established throughout the country.

Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Regular Forces Employment Association.

*Write for employment form*

### The Benevolent Branch

The relief of hardship and distress amongst present and past members of the Corps and their families.

*in co-operation with*

Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Families Association.

Incorporated Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Help Society.

British Legion.

Local Branches of Royal Signals Association.

Other Organisations.

Assistance given regardless of Association membership, but all serving and ex-service members of the Corps are invited to register as members of the Association.

### Publications Branch

| | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|
| Corps monthly magazine, THE WIRE: | | |
| Per copy .. .. .. .. | 1 | 0 |
| Annual sub. .. .. .. .. | 10 | 0 |
| Corps Quarterly Journal: | | |
| Per copy .. .. .. .. | 4 | 0 |
| Annual sub. .. .. .. .. | 15 | 0 |
| Corps Histories: | | |
| Per copy .. .. .. .. | 1 | 0 |
| Signals Officers' Quarterly Gazette: | | |
| Per copy .. .. .. .. | 2 | 6 |
| Annual sub. .. .. .. .. | 7 | 6 |

### Membership Subscriptions

| | Officers | | | Other Ranks | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Life .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Annual .. | 5 | 0 | | 2 | 0 | |

(from date of application)

*All correspondence should be addressed to:*—The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 4

FEBRUARY 1947

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# Editorial

The following telegrams were exchanged with Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at Christmas :

*From Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, Representative Colonel-Commandant.*

*To H.R.H. The Princess Royal.*

On behalf of all ranks of your Royal Highness's Corps I send loyal greetings for a happy Christmas and New Year.

*From H.R.H. The Princess Royal.*

*To Major-General R. F. B. Naylor.*

Most grateful to all ranks of my Corps for their good wishes, which I heartily reciprocate. My warmest thanks for attractive card, which I much appreciate. Mary, Colonel-in-Chief.

*From Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Director of Signals.*

*To H.R.H. The Princess Royal.*

Major-General Colwyn Vulliamy presents his loyal duty and begs to convey best wishes for Christmas and New Year to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, on behalf of himself and her Corps.

*From H.R.H. The Princess Royal.*

*To Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy.*

Most grateful for your good wishes from you and your Corps. I send my best wishes. Mary.

**Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club.**—The Annual Dinner will be held in the St. Pancras Assembly Hall, Euston Road, N.W.1, on Monday, 2nd June, 1947.

Officers of the Corps who are not already members are invited to join the Dinner Club. Particulars are obtainable from the Secretary, Chief Signal Officer, Headquarters London District, Leconfield House, Curzon Street, W.1.

**Finding Jobs for Service Men.**—The National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen (short title : Regular Forces Employment Association), which is supported mainly by Regimental and other Service funds, placed 43,418 men in jobs in the first 10 months of 1946, representing 70.2 per cent. of the number of men registering during that period. Of these placings, 24,223 were Regulars and 19,895 were men who served not less than two years in the 1939-45 war.

The Association now has branches or sub-offices in the following places, several having been opened or reopened since the war : Barnsley, Bedford, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Bury St. Edmunds, Cardiff, Carlisle, Chatham, Chelmsford, Chester, Coventry, Croydon, Derby, Devonport, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Gloucester, Halifax, Hull, Hamilton, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool, London Central, Acton, Bow, Deptford, Wood Green, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport

(Mon.), Norwich, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Salisbury, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Stockport, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Swansea, Taunton, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Wrexham.

For the first time an R.A.F. officer has been appointed to the post of General Secretary of the Association. He is Air Commodore W. D. Budgen, C.B.E., and succeeds Brigadier F. H. Stapleton, C.M.G., who held the post for 12 years.

Figures of recent registrations and placings show a steady increase in the percentage of men placed.

**Personal.**—Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. ("Sugar") Tait, P.O. Box 48, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia, sends his good wishes to R.S.M. Appleby, Richardson, "Busty" Herbert, Howman and "Pindi" Pape.

**Publications Received.**—We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

SIGNALS (U.S.A.), September, October.

UNITED SERVICES REVIEW, January.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, December.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, December.

THE PIONEER, December.

THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, January.

# Parachute Aid to Hatia Island

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. R. HORSFIELD

Briefly, at 1045 on 1st August, 1946, a message was 'phoned from the Director of Military Operations in Delhi to the G1, 2nd Indian Airborne Division in Karachi.

"The Ganges is in flood. Hatia, a small island in the mouth of this great river is being submerged, and boats cannot approach it. Can you drop a medical and Signals team on to the island to help in the prevention of epidemics, and to provide communications from the island to Chittagong 80 miles away."

Fifteen minutes later there was a meeting in the G1's office. The group captain of our affiliated Wing was there to say when the aircraft would be ready, what the payload for the operation would be and where and when parachutes and containers could be drawn. I made a bid for airlift for three men to be taken to Chittagong and for a further six to be dropped on Hatia. As is necessary on an airborne operation I had to drop two detachments to have reasonable certainty of getting one working on the ground. I gave my requirements for containers, and then let the D.A.D.M.S. take over to say what he needed. The A.Q. then gave details of rations available.

By 1115 the time of take-off had been fixed for 0515 hours the next morning, the answer to the D.M.O.'s questions had been 'phoned to Delhi, and I was on my way to give out verbal orders in my office. O.C., 1 Company Adjutant, Quartermaster and O.C., "A" Section were quickly assembled, and orders given.

Preparations went on during the day, and at six in the afternoon I met the detachment with O.C., "A" Section at Mauripur airfield. The operational payload had, by this time, been reduced and two aircraft were now taking part in the operation to carry the necessary load. Packed containers and the equipment for Chittagong were loaded into one of the aircraft, the other being left for the medical equipment and party.

The problem of charging engines was yet to be solved. The R.A.F. could not produce any paniers suitable for the 300-watt charging engines, and the small 80-watt engines being dropped in the men's parachute kitbags were not felt to be sufficiently reliable for the operation. However, a search of one of the Dakota Squadron stores revealed some equipment which they had recently acquired for dropping practices, which included canvas bags of a type not previously met, and cotton parachutes to attach to them; 300-watt charging engines, batteries and P.O.L. were packed and loaded.

At 0300 hours on the morning of 2nd August the detachments left the Unit lines to draw parachutes and then complete aircraft loading. To cheer us, Karachi arranged one of its very rare rain storms and the R.A.F. officer in charge said: "Didn't you know, the payload has been changed again." However, all was soon ready and the Karachi part of the operation was over.

The two aircraft carrying the relief teams left Mauripur airport at 0515 hours, touched down at Allahabad and Dum Dum (Calcutta) and arrived at Chittagong at 0830 hours on 3rd August. The Signals detachment which was to provide the anchor set at Chittagong was unloaded, and aircraft loads rearranged; one to carry all jumping personnel—the other all equipment, and at 1330 hours on 4th August both aircraft took off to drop the relief teams on partially submerged Hatia Island and thereby complete the last 80 miles of a 1,750-mile flight.

At 1400 hours, after 30 minutes' flying, the aircraft were over Hatia Island. Although visibility was poor due to low-lying clouds and heavy rainfall the teams noted with some slight apprehension that only an acre of ground appeared above water level. The teams jumped—all landing safely although only one member succeeded in landing clear of the floods—the others falling into water two or three feet in depth. The greater part of the equipment landed in the unflooded area, but sustained light casualties in that one chorehorse was damaged, and one parachute kitbag containing a B.II set supply unit, broke its suspension rope, causing it to fall free for 300 feet. Although the rope on Indian pattern parachute kitbags is mediocre cotton rope, careful handling by the operator concerned might well have prevented this damage. One of the chorehorses, which had been packed in paniers, damaged its petrol system in the roll the panier made on impact with the ground.

Containers were opened, a wireless station was set up, and at 1430 hours, exactly 30 minutes after the arrival of the aircraft over Hatia Island, communication with the Signals detachment at Chittagong was established. During the stay on the island, battery-charging was done by the remaining chorehorse as the 80-watt charging engines, although mechanically in good order, developed electrical faults. Aerials used were of the normal 60-ft. open-wire type which is a standard issue with the B.II set. Traffic passed varied between 15 and 20 messages daily. Choice of frequency was good as interference experienced was negligible. Aircraft daily flew over the island and dropped supplies at 0800 hours and 1500 hours, the latter drop being for the relief teams whose food consisted mainly of dry rations.

On 15th August the teams were taken off by small sail boats and sailed to Nilchar where again communication with Chittagong was established. Next day, the 16th August, they were ferried by steamer to Chittagong, and started the return journey by rail to Karachi.

# Major-General Sir Hubert Rance,

## G.B.E., C.B.

The career of Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, G.B.E., C.B., is one of special interest to the Corps because it shows to what heights a soldier with the assets of personality and good general ability can rise if he is prepared to take risks and accept responsibility.

Those of us who have known Sir Hubert since he joined our Corps, as " Tishy " Rance in 1925, know him to be a man of great personal charm, with very high standards, and at the same time able, shrewd and kindly.

Hubert Elvin Rance was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Worcestershire Regiment in July, 1916, being then just 18 years of age. He was wounded three times whilst serving as signalling officer of his regiment.

In 1922 he was appointed an instructor in the regimental wing of the School of Signals. He, like several infantry signal officers, was fired with the enthusiasm for signalling, and decided at the end of his tour of duty to take the qualifying course for officers who wished to transfer to the Royal Corps of Signals.

By some mischance Lieutenant Rance did not satisfy the

Commandant, Signal Training Centre, in the subject of horsemastership, and when at the end of the course the other officers went on leave Lieutenant Rance was put back for a fortnight's further instruction. This relegation might have had serious effects, because Mr. Rance had made up his mind to become engaged to Miss Noel Guy immediately on leaving the course. Happily for the Corps, Miss Guy accepted the need for Mr. Rance's further instruction in horsemastership and waited for its completion. Otherwise the Corps would have lost the services of a very promising officer and the honour of counting amongst its wives a very attractive and accomplished lady.

In the summer of 1925 Lieutenant Rance was posted to 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot and commanded the Signals Section of the 4th Guards Brigade. From 1927 to 1930 he was Adjutant of 2nd Divisional Signals under Colonels Hitchins and Rawson. Further regimental duty was spent with the Boys Company of the Training Battalion, S.T.C., and at Singapore, where Captain Rance was employed on planning the new communications for the fortress.

In the meantime, he had qualified for the Staff College, Camberley. When he took the course he passed out very high up on the list. Then followed a series of staff appointments. From 1936 to 1938 Major Rance was a G.3 at the War Office. From November, 1938, to September, 1939, he was an instructor at the Staff College, Camberley, and from there he went to France with the British Expeditionary Force as an Assistant Director. Later he became G.1 and remained on the staff until April, 1940, when he joined 4th Divisional Signals.

From October, 1940, he was a G.1 in the Military Training Directorate at the War Office, becoming Deputy Director of Military Training in October, 1941, with the acting rank of Brigadier. His next appointment was that of Director of Technical Training, which he held until May, 1943, when he was appointed Brigadier General Staff at Headquarters, Western Command.

Brigadier Rance accepted his series of appointments at home with good humour, although his friends knew how anxious he was to get to an active theatre. But the training years were vital, and as a good soldier he accepted his postings with good grace.

In April, 1945, came his appointment as head of the Civil Affairs Commission at the headquarters of the Supreme Commander South-East Asia Command with the acting rank of Major-General. In this job all General Rance's qualities of wisdom, sympathetic understanding, personality and drive came into play. His handling of the intricate civil affairs problems in Burma was outstandingly successful. To mark his retirement he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath, and when in 1946 the Government of Burma was restored to its peace-time basis, General Rance was appointed Governor of Burma. He was knighted and made a Grand Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The Corps is proud of Sir Hubert and wishes him success in his task.

## 61st DIVISIONAL SIGNALS RE-UNION DINNER

It is proposed to hold the first re-union dinner for ex-members of 61st Divisional Signals at the White Horse Hotel, Congreve Street, Birmingham, on Friday, 14th March, 1947. Time—7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Application for tickets (price 10/-) should be made as soon as possible to G. S. Davison, 106 Bristol Road, Birmingham 5.

# BRUSSELS—AUTUMN 1946

BY SERGEANT N. A. HERDMAN

Two years ago to-day (1st September, 1946) British armour was racing towards Brussels from the Seine in the most rapid advance in military history.

In the grand and massive Palace of Justice which dominates this capital city of Belgium, frantic members of the Gestapo were already destroying their archives and preparing to raze the building by fire. By the third day of September, British troops were in the city and were able to prevent this vandalism, but not before its copper dome had disappeared in flames.

To-day the dome has not been restored. The Belgians talk of keeping it thus as a perpetual reminder of the three years' occupation by the "sales boches." Below the temporary roof many traitors have since been tried and sentenced to their punishment.

But much in Brussels has been replaced and restored. With their thoroughness and abounding energy the Belgians have succeeded in bringing their country further along the road to complete recovery than any other country in Europe. Foreign occupation and domination are not new to them. Since Julius Caesar described the Belgae as "the bravest tribe in all the Western Empire," the Belgians have known the tyrant heel of Burgundian, Spaniard, Frenchman, Dutchman and, twice in the lifetime of living men, German. Unused to the tranquillity of life in our island they seem to be inspired by a driving philosophy, "Rebuild to-day for to-morrow . . . ?"

Thanks to its strategic position on our lines of communication and the fact that it became a popular short-leave centre, Brussels is a well-known and well-loved town

Brussels—early days. The first contingent of Guards pass down Rue de la Regence

to thousands of British soldiers and ex-soldiers. For many of us insular Britons, Brussels had been associated only with sprouts and carpets. Now we know Brussels for what it is—hospitable, gay, cultured, proud of its broad boulevards, dignified public buildings and pleasing domestic architecture, intensely patriotic, embarrassingly Anglophil, always ready to celebrate, prodigal with its cafés, restaurants and cinemas, not ashamed to show its enjoyment (in Brueghellian quantities) of good food and drink, but

all the time conscious of its geographical position in " the cockpit of Europe."

To-day, with the Tommy an integral part of the Brussels scene, it is difficult to appreciate that less than two years have passed since it used to be " laid on " in orders that " personal arms will be carried when walking out in Brussels "—there were still some Jerries who had failed to jump on the last departing horsedrawn " covered

Brussels—early days. The Guards parade outside the Palais de Justice

waggons." But though it seems part of another epoch we will not forget how eager children's hands were thrust trustingly into ours as we progressed through a chorus of " Elloh, Tommee " from every side.

In this third autumn of liberation the Tommy is still in Brussels, though in fast diminishing numbers. We are no longer a community apart, living our own Army life within the life around us. Many of the old Army landmarks have gone. The Café Blighty and the Church Army in the Boulevard Jardin Botanique, the Marlborough Club and the Y.M.C.A. in the Boulevard Adolph Max, Toc H in the Boulevard Waterloo, all are gone the way of the side forage cap—into history. One principal British Army stronghold remains—the Monty Club in the Palais d'Egmont, now consolidating within its ample walls not only its former amenities but also the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Club (formerly at " Vauxhall Gardens "), the N.A.A.F.I. Gift Shop (from the Bd. Jardin Botanique), and an A.K. cinema (replacing the two E.N.S.A. cinemas in the Place Brouckère). The 21 Club may soon be transferred to the " Monty." For those on short-leave from elsewhere in the B.A.O.R., Victory House opposite the Brussels " Broadcasting House," remains for use as a hostel.

No. 349 Avenue Louise, taken over (by unilateral agreement) from the fleeing Gestapo as H.Q., L. of C., British Army of Liberation, is now H.Q., British Troops, Low Countries, the change in function being accompanied by a change in formation sign from blue cross on yellow shield to yellow cross on blue.

The trams are still as packed as ever though the proportion of khaki is smaller. The conductors still say " Please " in misplaced English when thanking us for our fares (it could not be expected that we would travel free for ever—we now pay a reduced fare of one franc per journey). An increasing hazard on the streets is the number of private cars driven with an irresponsible verve and abandon to be expected from people recently liberated from occupation and petrol rationing.

The Brussels girls, balancing along on their pedestal heels, are quite as attractive as when we entered the city, they smoke a little more in public (one bad habit we taught them) and are seen more often with their husbands (some of whom are British soldiers). There are a fair number of Polish soldiers about but very few Americans, though their Police Post opposite the Gare du Nord remains. The A.T.S., except for those on short leave from Germany, have almost disappeared. But those of us left here are not lonely. The good old British Army custom of " getting your feet under the table " is still followed with skill and enthusiasm, most of the feet now having been provided with Belgian carpet-slippers.

As the second anniversary of the Liberation of Brussels dawns the Bruxellois are preparing to celebrate it as only they know how. Coloured electric lights span the streets ; a " kermesse " is installed in every quarter and suburb ; loudspeakers on the Bourse, the Hôtel de Ville and in the squares and boulevards blare out the latest from Harlem. Open-air dancing is being arranged, torchlight processions and the inevitable " cortegés " are being organised, the silk-tasselled banners of the Resistance movements and the innumerable patriotic societies are being unfurled. True to their " sobriquet " the chicken-eaters of Brussels are out in the markets buying their poultry for the " diner de fête." There will be quite a few Tommies, representatives of a never-to-be-forgotten Army of Liberation, who will help to crack the wishbones.

And the wish and the toast in at least three languages and a variety of accents will be " To the Belgians and the British, long may their friendship prosper."

## . . . CIVVY STREET . . .

When I was in the Middle East
I thought the Sergeant was a beast ;
But now that I'm in Civvy Street
I find my foreman's got him beat.
The Sergeant gave me many a rocket :
The foreman hits me in the pocket !

My battledress was never cute—
But have you seen my civvy suit ?
It shrunk so swiftly in the rain,
I hardly got it off again
And though the desert made me curse
That (something) sand—yet mud is worse !

I thought Y.M.'s were feeble joints :
At least, they didn't ask for points.
Our Nissen hut was rather bare,
But now I can't find anywhere
A hut, pre-fab., or even tent :
And if I could—oh, what a rent !

In short, this " peace " will drive me barmy—
I'd better go and join the Army !

PINPOINT.

# HOME STATIONS

## No. 1 DEPOT REGT., ROYAL SIGNALS

December.

### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Previous issues of THE WIRE have informed the world that No. 1 Depot Regiment is now located at Pocklington, Yorkshire.

After a hectic six years, during which time the Corps has been spread all over the globe, it will probably interest readers to know that the following " old timers " are now serving with this Regiment :

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton (C.O.), Major G. W. Weeks (Second-in-Command), Captain P. R. P. Donaghy (Adjutant), Captain E. A. Till, Captain G. A. Cosens, Captain F. Kitchen, Captain (T.M.O.) E. J. Longhurst, Lieutenant (Q.M.) F. Dixon, Major T. A. Howard (O.C. No. 1 Squadron), Major J. Swatton (O.C. No. 2 Squadron), Major H. L. B. Kealy (O.C. No. 3 Squadron), R.S.M. L. Lewis, R.Q.M.S. French, S.Q.M.S. R. H. Whitwell, S.S.M. R. Lawrence, S.S.M. M. Casey, S.S.M. T. Miller, Sergeant A. F. Morgan, S.Q.M.S. F. L. Murray, S.S.M. D. R. Armstrong, R.S.M. M. Adams, S.Q.M.S. W. Cooper, Sergeant W. Hall, S.S.M. A. V. Alexander.

### No. 1 SQUADRON

Since the reorganisation of the Regiment at the beginning of December we have been joined by the Airborne Troop, whose red berets now add a touch of colour to our early morning check parades. They are a welcome addition to the Squadron and we look forward to receiving many more volunteers.

Major W. F. (Bill) Grundy, our O.C. for many months past, is leaving us at the end of December, and he hands over the best Squadron in the Regiment to Major (Dick) Howard, late of No. 3 Squadron, Thirsk, which is now disbanded. During his stay with us Major Grundy has directed all his efforts towards making No. 1 Squadron a happy and efficient unit, and it is with genuine regret that we see him go.

### No. 2 SQUADRON

On a bitter cold morning in November—the 25th to be precise—the main body of No. 2 Squadron packed its bags and moved from its Nissen camp at Knayton (near Thirsk) to what was No. 1 W.A.A.F. Camp at Pocklington.

The end of December will witness the departure on Class " A " release and repatriation to Canada of our Provost Sergeant (better known as " The Sheriff "), Sergeant P. H. Vyvyan, who, owing to his long period of waiting for a passage, was almost mistaken for a member of the posted Cadre. A native of Montreal, he now, unfortunately, faces the overland journey from Halifax, N.S., owing to the freezing of the St. Lawrence River. However, good luck, " Sheriff." If everybody was as patient as you have been it would, indeed, be a very peaceful world.

## No. 2 DEPOT REGT., ROYAL SIGNALS

December.

### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

For the many of you who have visited us en route to sunnier clime we need no further introduction than to say that the " Mob " Centre, then 3rd Holding Battalion of Kirkburton, Huddersfield, has become No. 2 Depot Regiment. From the seclusion of our Kirkburton retreat we were, in May of this year, withdrawn to an outlandish spot called Dalton, near Thirsk.

The least said about Dalton the better. It has a post office and a church and there have been rumours of a shop : we are still searching. Harrogate and York are, however, within reach and the search for romance and " wallop " is very consistent amongst certain members of the Education staff and the Officers' Mess.

It was with great regret that we said farewell to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Goddard, early in September. Colonel Goddard had been with us for a long time and his departure to other duty was a great loss to a Unit which he had guided since its infancy. We welcomed in his place Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Worth, O.B.E., fresh from the Wild East, where lines were lines and Errol Flynn not mentioned in Mess. Upon Colonel Worth has fallen the exacting task of cutting down staff to the minimum whilst still retaining our heavy drafting commitment and high standard of efficiency (excuse the backpat, but if I fail to, then who the d— will ?). To mention all the well-known—I almost said notorious—characters who have passed through our hands would take too much space. Majors Mac and Sims and R.S.M. Rose have recently departed, and we wish them bon voyage and good luck. Quartermaster " Penny " still holds the fort amongst us and for Watuwa, East Africa, we have George Field and D. V. Gibbs as O.C. No. 1 Squadron and Adjutant respectively.

**Entertainments.**—During the six months in which the Unit has been stationed at Dalton we have been obliged to bring entertainment to the camp instead of going out to seek it.

The Unit is fortunate in possessing a band whose reputation seems to have spread throughout the vale of York. Numerous engagements have been fulfilled in outside units, including the R.A.F. stations at Linton-on-Ouse, Dishforth, Topcliffe and Leeming. The band has performed regularly twice a week at both Dalton and, until recently, at Tholthorpe.

The Army Kinema Corporation have shown three different film shows every week of varying vintage. The cinema, at Dalton, at any rate, is not a luxury palace in the modern sense, but several really good films have been shown there.

Here, too, is the station theatre, where many concert parties of the voluntary entertainment services have put on a sparkling show after battling their way through fog and rain, frequently over long distances. The theatre is a converted Romney hut and is rather long and narrow ; it will seat upwards of two hundred and fifty. There has

also been a flourishing dramatic society, whose two productions, "George and Margaret" and "French Without Tears," have toured local units in addition to giving several Unit performances.

Sergeants Davies, Green and Cannell have been three hard-working masters of ceremonies who have contributed much to the success of the dances. The dance hall is also a converted Romney hut, with linoleum on a concrete floor.

**Soccer.**—This Unit holds a very useful soccer team and, owing to being isolated from any big military formation, has been fortunate in being able to enter a local civilian league, namely, the Allertonshire District Football League.

The results are: played 7 games, won 6, drawn 1, scored 52 goals for, against 8, and now we are in the happy position of being top of the league. Most of our "Platers" are for draft, so other units will benefit when these boys arrive within their formations.

LEAGUE RESULTS

Royal Signals 6, 62nd Training (Recce) Regiment 2.

Royal Signals 12, Bedale 2.

Royal Signals 5, N.A.L.G.O. 0.

Royal Signals 5, R.A.F., Topcliffe, 1.

Northallerton Alliance 3, Royal Signals 3.

Thirsk United 0, Royal Signals 16.

Royal Signals 5, Raunton 0.

**Rugby.**—We are not entered in any competition for Rugby, but under Captain Briggs's able co-operation a useful team can be turned out and can give a good account of themselves whenever they play.

So far we have only played two games and lost them both after a hard contest. There is plenty of enthusiasm amongst the players, however, and we are far from downhearted.

RESULTS

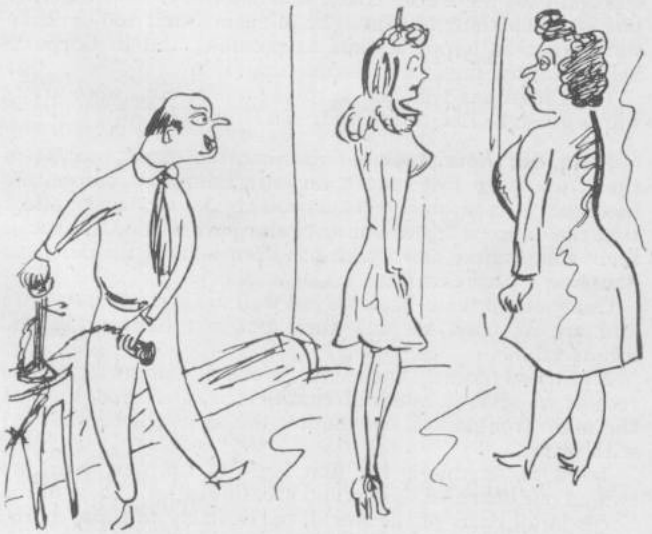
R.A.F., Topcliffe, 10, Royal Signals 0.

R.A.F., Linton, 12, Royal Signals 9.

NO. 3 SQUADRON

The Squadron was formed in October, 1946, from the remains of No. 5 Company, No. 2 Holding Battalion, late of Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield. Our lines are now in Dalton conveniently near "The Jolly Farmer."

The Squadron is under the command of Major W. R. H. Tingey, O.B.E., who, it will be remembered, developed the famous Tingey-phone. We have been unfortunate in losing our Second-in-Command, who, for the information of all pre-war ex-Jubbulporeites, was Captain G. B. Bateman. However, in losing one friend we have gained another, namely, Captain P. Locke, late of Paiforce and 1st Infantry Division.



"Which of you two would be 'The Shape'?"

We are proud to claim S.S.M. Fairclough as Squadron Sergeant-Major. Those who are familiar with S.S.M. Fairclough will remember that he joined the Royal Corps of Signals at Crowborough, Sussex, on the 10th March, 1921, thus holding a record of 25 years and nine months with the Corps. Good show, sir.

Sadly we bid farewell to Corporal Bill Barnes (now with 5th A.A. Group) and Lance-Corporal Ted Cottrell (released, lucky fellow). Best of luck, boys.

A surprise visit was made last week by Sergeant Jock Farrell, who is now a civilian. From his information we find that civilian life is very quiet.

**Things We Want to Know.**—Who is the Corporal with the mailed fist?

To where does R.Q.M.S. Buxton disappear when the N.A.A.F.I. van arrives?

**Long Distance.**—For "Gripper" Macintosh of B.A.O.R.: Len and Paddy are still here.

**Football.**—Wednesday, 30th October, 1946: No. 3 Squadron v. No. 2 Squadron. Won 4—0.

Saturday, 2nd November, 1946: No. 3 Squadron v. Dalton Village. Won 3—1.

**Basketball.**—A basketball team is being formed to meet all comers.

Well, lads, that is all for now. The turkey is ready, the mistletoe is hanging, the barrel is tapped and I am late for the 4.10. So cheers and a happy Christmas to all.

D. V. G.

## No. 2 OPERATORS' TRAINING REGT.

January.

Farewell to the old, and welcome to the new. It seems impossible to realise that 1947 has been majestically installed. With no doubt it brings sadness, relief and happiness. To us it brings sadness in as much as we say farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap on assuming command of No. 1 Operators' Training Regiment. (A Christmas present, no doubt.) All ranks realise their loss and wish him every success in his new command.

To brighten our darkened hours—producing some glimmer of light and hope for the future—we heartily welcome the return of our old C.O. (in this case the term "our old C.O." strictly belongs to No. 2 O.T.R.), Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Treseder, O.B.E., to the fold after a very short period as Commandant No. 1 S.T.C.

At the same time we extend hearty greetings on their appearance in our midst to Captains L. C. Weekes, Strevens, Sergeant Knott and Corporal Brown (30 p.s.). May they never regret it.

Christmas departed with a great evacuation of personnel to their homesteads, leaving only a skeleton force in camp. Those fortunate enough to remain enjoyed themselves immensely and certainly made short work of the splendid dinner.

A programme of entertainments was arranged and, according to all reports, everyone certainly co-operated. At the time of writing I cannot discover the winners of the games tournament, football, treasure hunt, radio quiz and other contests.

No homesickness or broken hearts were experienced, although the A.T.S. girl friends were sadly missed.

To end Christmas festivities A.S. Group 46 departed for Civvy Street, and with them go our best wishes for the future. I am still certain our friend " Stoker " Horn would have remained had he not been persecuted by a certain A.T.S. named " C."

Continuing the round of the Regiment we proudly present S.Q.M.S.s Lightbody (pay bloke), Jones (Tech. Store king) and Paddy (nothing more needed—I believe he has signed the dotted line to become an irregular), S.S.M.s Collie (Egypt to note) and Webb (commonly called " Daddy ") and last but not least, Captain T. M. O. (Alf) Roake, well known for his forward play.

**Marriages.**—Congrats. to Lance-Corporal Shore (No. 1 Squadron) on his marriage during Christmas. May your union be a happy and successful one.

Hurry up, Lance-Corporal Inglis, this column is nearly dead.

**Sergeants' Mess.**—Nothing to report, except that one W.O. and one S.Q.M.S. received one month's C.B. from their respective wives for appearing two hours late and " absolutely " at Christmas dinner.

On making enquiries as to what the C.B. entailed, I was informed—plenty of washing up, bed-making, potato peeling, etc. All wives please note.

To Sergeant Rogers we whisper be careful. Scots girls are very dangerous and are not so simple as they look.

To Sergeant Gaylard and Co.—V.A.D.s.

**Corporals' Club.**—It is with great pleasure and personal experience that I say the Club opened with a grand New Year's ball. The success of the dance showed that plenty of hard work had been put into it. Take a bow, Paddy, Corporal Brown and Co. May this be a reminder that you can do it, and let us see them once a month. Through the medium of THE WIRE we thank the Catterick Cabaret Club entertainers for their brilliant performance.

**Rugby.**—Since our last issue the Regimental XV have continued to be successful. In the third round of the Army Cup they travelled all the way down to Chatham to defeat No. 10 Depot Battalion, R.E., in a hard-fought, mud-spattered forwards' game by 11 points to six. The forwards played a splendid game, and with a couple of crocks in the three-quarters line carried the game on their shoulders, and in the second half kept it perpetually on the opponents' try line. After being six points down in very nearly as many minutes, Sergeant Davidson kicked a very valuable penalty goal, and in the second half tries by Signalmen Cavanna and Baxendale and one conversion by Sergeant Davidson made victory secure. Of the forwards Signalman Francis was outstanding in the second row, giving solid shove in the tight scrums and always being well to the fore in the loose. Signalmen Seabrooke and Jones, the wing forwards, were also prominent in the loose, with Signalman Davidson at back doing some sound crossfield defensive work. Lance-Corporal Lows and Signalman Roberts, two stalwart front row props, excelled as usual in the line-outs, whilst Sergeant Davies in the second row gave the best of his strength and determination. A newcomer to the side, Signalman Huntley, hooking, showed promise. The three-quarters had rather a cold and miserable afternoon.

Back again in Catterick the team went on to win the semi-final and then the final of the Garrison Cup. The latter was against No. 39 R.A. (Signals) Regiment from Barnard Castle and the result was 20—0. This time the three-quarters had their day, scoring all the points. Proof of their good play was the fact that four tries were scored by Signalman Hoggon on the wing after the ball had passed right across the line ; our ubiquitous scrum half scored the other two. Our veteran fly half, Major Evans, set the three-quarter line going well, whilst Lance-Corporal Rees in the centre was always thrustful and resourceful.

We prepare now for the semi-final (U.K. zone) of the Army Cup on the 22nd January against the R.A.M.C. Depot, to be played for a change at Catterick. Rumours have it that our opponents are a strong team. The team will do its best. The result—who knows ?

## WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGT.

January.

Naturally enough our main activities during the past month have been concerned with the festivities of Christmas.

The Sergeants Mess kicked off on the 19th December, giving a party for a number of war orphans, together with children of members of the Mess. The room selected for the party, thanks to the exertions of the sergeants in the " trimming up " sphere, had a true Christmas atmosphere, pride of place being given to a giant Christmas tree. About 50 children sat down to tea, which, judging by their happy expressions, was anything but the usual fare of the sergeants. Following tea the highlight of the evening was reached when Santa Claus (admirably played by S.S.M. " Tancy " Lee) descended a mock chimney pulling his sleigh loaded with presents for the children. Indoor games followed, in which the children revelled, the war orphans mixing with the Mess children into one big party, so one could not tell which was which. Mr. Charles Magill then entertained with feats of ventriloquism and conjuring and a Punch and Judy show. A Mickey Mouse film followed. The evening closed with carol singing and parting gifts from the Christmas tree and bags containing sweets, fruit and money, the latter provided by a donation from a member who remains anonymous.

Guardians and parents who were present expressed thanks for the generous way in which the children had been treated.

A repeat performance was given on the following day for children of other ranks of the Unit, which, if anything, excelled the high standard of the first party. An anonymous signalman made a donation of £1 to be allocated for prizes for the boys and girls. S.Q.M.S. Welsh was the capable M.C. at both parties. We were pleased to see our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. E. Tozer, and other officers present at both parties.

Credit for the undoubted success of the two ventures goes especially to S.Q.M.S.s Green and Dunkley, who together put in much time and thought to ensure that the children were given as happy a time as possible, and to Corporal Selleck for the music and decorations.

The Christmas tree and surplus sweets, etc., were afterwards given to Belgrave Children's Hospital.

**From Our Note Book.**—Following the great success of the Unit dance last month an entertainments committee has been formed, and rumours are in the air to the effect that the dance is to become a regular part of the Unit social life. Kensington Town Hall has been booked for our next dance on 13th February.

Our football team have played well in their league games and are at least keeping their position halfway in the league table.

A stir was recently caused in the mess room owing to the receipt of several hundred tumblers. It is thought that the main trouble will be whether the men will be satisfied with water.

To close, as this is the first issue of the new year, we extend our heartiest wishes and greetings to members of the Corps in all parts of the world, particularly to those at the overseas end of the Army chain.

# ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

January.

There were two pass-off parades during December.

On 10th December, Brigadier J. R. Patton, C.B.E., M.C., took the pass-off parade of 12 Cadets of 171 Course. O/Cadet C. McRae was the Senior Under Officer. The Commandant's cane was awarded to O/Cadet D. B. Kennedy.

No. 172 Course, consisting of 28 Cadets, passed off on 20th December, Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., taking the salute. The Senior Under Officer was O/Cadet B. J. Wilson and the Commandant's cane was awarded to O/Cadet P. R. Simnett.

On Wednesday, 11th December, Major K. D. Anderson and Lieutenant D. J. Grant left the Unit for civilian life. Major K. D. Anderson, by reason of his long tour at the O.C.T.U., will be well known to many officers of the Corps.

Of unbounded enthusiasm and tireless energy, his activities were numerous. Any play produced under his direction was assured of a successful reception, whilst the appearance of the O.C.T.U. magazine, "Young James," of which he was editor, was always a noteworthy event.

Both Major Anderson, who has taken up a headmastership of a West Country school, and Lieutenant Grant have our best wishes for the future.

From time to time visits are exchanged between the R.A., R.E. and Royal Signals O.C.T.U.s. During these visits a strenuous sporting programme, usually including rugger, soccer, hockey, boxing and shooting, is arranged, teams for each event consisting of Cadets only.

The week ending 14th December saw a strong contingent from this O.C.T.U. as guests of the Royal Engineers O.C.T.U. at Newark.

The Royal Engineers O.C.T.U. emerged as winners by three events to two.

The marriage of Captain Andrew Wynne Stewart to Subaltern Rosemary Browne took place at Edinburgh on 14th December. To them both we offer our very best wishes for their future happiness.

A hearty welcome is extended to Subaltern Mary Fitzgerald on joining the O.C.T.U. May her stay with us be a very happy one.

We welcome to the Unit on one week's attachment 53 members of the Junior Training Corps and Army Cadet Force. We hope that their stay with us will be enjoyable and instructive.

**Sport.**—Versus R.E. O.C.T.U., December. Rugger, lost 0—20. Soccer, lost 2—5. Hockey, won 4—1. Shooting, won 303—301. Boxing, lost 9—17.

Finally, our best wishes to the following on their departure into civilian life: Corporal L. G. Such, Signalman S. Foreman, Signalman E. P. T. Chambers and Signalman J. Scanlon.

# SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNALS

December.

## PORTSMOUTH

**Cable Fishing in Spithead.**—In the middle of November we had to undertake the lifting of a submarine cable between Spitsands and No Man's Land, two forts between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

The first thing, of course, was to find the end of the cable, which we finally succeeded in doing after much dragging, during which one of the party received a good ducking, fortunately without harm.

After the operation had been proceeding for some time some of the linemen discovered that they were not such good sailors as they had imagined and had to give in to the very choppy sea. Despite these complications, the end was found and marked the first day.

The next day the work of taking up the cable commenced.

The task of getting the heavy cable into the hold of the lighter was not easy, particularly as we were rather short of men. The work was slow at first, but speeded up with practice.

Once the cable was loaded we set off for Portsmouth, where it was unloaded in the dockyard, which took a few more days.

After vetting it was reloaded and taken to the Isle of Wight.

The weather was favourable and it was quickly unloaded, but the place was very deserted and most of the party were more than glad to return to "Pompey."

## SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT

Although this Troop has been considerably reduced in numbers this past month, it is still very much alive and kicking. This did not prevent the District H.Q. team, of which Troop members form a large part, receiving a rather resounding defeat at football from the Taunton Police.

Whatever its failings at football, the Troop strength lies in the presentation of Signals dances, which continue to hit the high spots in the Taunton area. So much has their popularity increased that it has been found necessary to employ three barmen instead of the usual two. By the time all the administrative and executive posts of running a dance have been filled, it is most rare to see Signals personnel actually dancing, their time being fully occupied in dispensing refreshments, announcing and providing lighting effects.

# NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT SIGNALS

December.

By the time that these notes have been published Christmas, 1946, will have become a memory—for many of us a happy one.

Events during the past month have, as can be expected with a static unit, given little scope for material. Nevertheless, the activities of the Education Officer, Captain D. V. Littlefield, in arranging educational visits to places of interest have saved the day. Before giving brief details of these visits we will deal with arrivals and departures.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—The C.S.O./C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., has bade us adieu. With him go our very best wishes for the future.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Conway as our new C.S.O./C.O. and fervently hope that his stay with us will be a long and pleasant one. Needless to say, Colonel Conway is yet another of Erin's sons to join us.

**Educational Visits.**—The gratitude of all ranks is extended to the Education Officer for arranging the following visits. Each one proved to be most enjoyable and very instructive.

On 19th November the B.B.C. Northern Ireland region studios received a party, despite the fact that the studios are far from complete owing to lack of material, etc., and the visit proved to be very interesting. The effects room was a great favourite. The lads soon went back to their knickerbocker days. What with the sounding of horses' hoofs, Irish sunshine (rain to you), gales, phones ringing, etc., one began to wonder if the dignity of the Corps was being upheld. It was pointed out to us that the effects room and its contents was something of the past, as the majority of the effects these days were recorded. As an epilogue to this, a visit to the B.B.C. transmitting station at Lisnagarvey, Lisburn, was arranged for 10th December. The general feeling resulting from these two visits was a greater appreciation when listening in.

On 26th November a very enjoyable afternoon was spent at the British Rope Works, Belfast, where we were all amazed at the amount of work required for producing rope in all forms.

Other places of interest which received us were Gallaher's tobacco factory, Harland and Wolff shipbuilding yard, the Pacific flour mills and the "Belfast Telegraph."

**Greetings.**—To all members of the Corps we extend New Year greetings and hope that 1947 will bring good fortune to you all (not forgetting those nylons for the missus).

"COOKIE."

P.S.—Congratulations to Lieutenant (I.P.C.) C. G. Holland, Royal Signals, on becoming a proud father to a bonny wee daughter.

## No. 1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

December.

Salaams once again to all ranks of the Corps, and may we wish all of you the brightest and happiest New Year possible. The festive season is always one of good cheer and greeting, yet for us this time it is tinged with a very real regret, as it will be the last time we shall have Christmas with Lieutenant-Colonel Watts and our Adjutant, Captain Crockford, who, we understand, may leave us soon. All of us here, and I am certain all those who have known them during their many years of service, will unite in wishing them the very best of good luck in the future wherever it may take them. The same good wishes go to S.Q.M.S. Wardroper, A.T.S., and S.Q.M.S. Baker, who have just preceded them, and also to the O.R.S., Sergeant Turner, who leaves in early January.

November saw us getting really down to the happy task of making life in North London a pleasant prospect. Our "Info" Room is a grand affair—so comfy that the senior messes are not a little envious. Officially the Information and Rest Room, it is already shortened to "Info" and is a comfortable little haven where you can read to your heart's content. The library is already 500 books strong, mostly of an instructional nature, and we are out to raise the fictional section to an equally high level.

It was a little disappointing to have to acknowledge defeat to a Netherlands soccer team who were our visitors. While victory eluded our grasp, we had the satisfaction of enjoying a great sporting game and defeat at the hands of such an accomplished team was certainly no disgrace. Better luck next time. Meanwhile, a little bit more experience and training will cure that.

And that, folks, is all for this month, except to wonder, as we do our Christmas decorating, why it is that holly is apparently growing without berries, except for the barrow boys and the "Spivs," and also to send special thanks to Archie Andrews and Peter Brough, who headed a grand variety bill at one of our concerts. Come again, Archie.

Cheerio, then, and do not eat too much turkey. See you next month.

"JOCK HUTCH."

## No. 2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

December.

There is very little to report this month.

At the time of writing most people are thinking of Christmas and its attendant celebrations. With the exception of a small party who have to remain behind for camp duties, most of the Regiment are expecting to be away on short pass for the period.

Great excitement was experienced on the evening of 11th December, when a Regimental Social was held in the N.A.A.F.I. During the course of the evening a draw was held for the cockerels, ducks and geese which for some months now have been strutting proudly about in their enclosure at the rear of the cookhouse. Our congratulations to the lucky winners.

The 35th A.A. Brigade Signal Office Troop is in great fettle these days. This Troop has been merely male for some months now, and great excitement was caused when the rule was broken the other day with the posting in of two A.T.S. O.K.L.s.

Owing to the vile weather experienced at this Troop's location, sport has been at a discount recently. However, it is to be hoped that they are making up for this with plenty of P.T., as they now have an expert in Lance-Corporal Mills, just returned from a five weeks' course at Shorncliffe.

In conclusion, we should like to wish all our friends and ex-members of the Regiment a bright and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

# 5th (London) Corps Signals Re-union

When the Unit was disbanded at Salerno in November, 1945, it was thought that it would be a great pity if a real effort was not made to hold a reunion of members as soon as possible.

The Unit had been formed originally as a second-line Unit to the London Corps Signals, T.A., whose Headquarters were at Fulham House, S.W.6. It then broke away from the first line in April, 1939, and was given its own H.Q. at Old Hatfield House, Portinscale Road, Putney, S.W.15. After being called 2nd, 5th and 4th (London) Corps Signals in turn, the Unit was then attached to H.Q., 5th Corps at Tidworth in the summer of 1940 and the first Signal Office was opened in a very ramshackle building in the barracks there. From that date onwards the Unit remained with H.Q., 5th Corps throughout its career in England (at Salisbury and later on at Hamilton), during the whole of the Tunisian campaign, in Italy, and then in Austria (remember Pörtschach and Velden?). The final breaking up and wholesale postings took place at Salerno in November, 1945.

During the early part of 1946, a few ex-members formed themselves into a provisional committee and proceeded to organise the first of what it is hoped will become an annual reunion.

This function took place at Hammersmith on Saturday, 30th November, 1946, and approximately 300 members were present. The evening was a very informal one, apart from a brief business session at which formalities were discussed and quickly dispensed with and the function then developed of its own accord into a pleasant conversazione.

Toasts were drunk to H.M. The King and to the Association. Then Arthur Rattray, in his own inimitable way recalled to mind a few of those "notable people" who, for various reasons were not able to be present. An impression of our first C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver), who had called a parade at Minley Manor to see what the Unit looked like in the new web equipment (an F.S.M.O. parade), caused a great deal of fun; another of what "Tich" Lawman might have said if he had been standing on the platform; and last, but by no means least, a very typical expression of disgust as would have been displayed by "Windy" Chambers on being informed by the section sergeants that there were no men for guard duties, all brought back very vivid and pleasant memories. Arthur concluded on a more serious note, remembering those valued Old Comrades who had not been fortunate enough to come back and glasses were then raised again, this time to "Absent Friends."

Everyone was pleased to see such old friends as Major A. L. Yarnell, who had been O.C. No. 2 Company for such a long time, Captain Michael Graham-Jones, one of the former O.C.s, No. 13 Operating Section, who was so famous for his "bumph" and a wonderful locations file which resembled a concertina. There was Captain H. A. Gomm, ex "A" Wireless Section, and Major P. R. Mann, who left the Unit in 1940 and had been a prisoner-of-war for over three years. Ex-R.S.M. Emmett, who had been posted to the Unit just prior to going abroad in 1942 in order to "sort us out" and whom we had last met as a major i/c. Signal Park in a B.O.D. in Pontecagnano, was a very popular figure—a bit of a "so-and-so" on parade but a well-respected soldier and an excellent friend. So also was "Tiny" Joyce who had helped to "lick us into shape" in the environs behind Fulham House in the early days. George Bolam came all the way from Newcastle, "Dumpy" McDonald from Plymouth, Jim Hosking from the wilds of Cornwall, Arthur Porter from Preston and also we met Ted Krause, Bert Litchfield and a host of others too numerous to mention and far too difficult to single out. It seemed as though they would never stop coming in—and we did not want them to stop, of course.

Naturally a good deal of spade work had been done by the Committee and they were very gratified to feel that their efforts had not been in vain, particularly in view of the fact that so many had travelled such long distances just to be present. Accommodation problems were soon solved satisfactorily and no members from the provinces had to spend the night on the Victoria Embankment!

The list of ex-members of the Unit is, however, still incomplete, and it is to be hoped that this column will be read by very many of our Old Comrades whom we know would like to hear from us again just as much as we would like to hear from them. We can supply you with nearly 1,000 names and addresses of fellows who were in the Unit from time to time, but we would like to double the figure. Most of those who have served in 5th (London) Corps Signals could not have forgotten the name of Sid Prior, and he will be only too pleased to put anyone into touch with a friend in the Unit whose address he may have. So please let him have any news about ex-members you can and write to S. F. Prior, 56 Racton Road, Fulham, S.W.6., and do not forget to book Saturday, 29th November, 1947, now, the night of the Second Annual Reunion of the Unit!

# *Plain Tales*

In response to the demands of countless thousands of our readers, both of whom neglected to stamp their envelopes, we have agreed to retain our old title. At the risk of boring you, we must explain that Plain Tales was so called, not as a crib from the great Rudyard Kipling, but to identify the up-to-date news, staggering articles and world-shaking lectures from Salisbury Plain in the days of 3rd Divisional Signals. Be quiet you boys, and let Steve tell you how he drove a car from Salisbury to Bulford on the rims at 0300 hours. Let Clubbo tell you how we built the Pimple with our bare hands. Those were the days. Men were men and drivers wore spurs. The smell of the stables, the rush of wind as we galloped a string of horses over Boscombe Down aerodrome and the wind in a rush when we found a couple of Redcaps waiting on the other side for us. That was the life. We hadn't much money but we loved it.

Uncle Alf: What. The life?

Me: No. The money.

New readers may start here.

### Ideas Department

Pursuing our policy of helping everyone whether they need it or not, we now present our solution of the strike problem. Whenever a strike breaks out, close all pubs and other licensed premises for a radius of 50 miles and compensate the landlords. Divert the supplies to areas not affected. If no satisfactory settlement at the end of a week, close all tobacconists' shops and follow the same procedure. The result should be interesting.

Uncle Alf: What about the people in the area who are not on strike?

Me: Oh, yes, of course. Let's talk about something else then.

### Civil Affairs

There are undoubtedly many officers and men who have little or no experience of civilian life. We have a dreadful feeling that we should do something to put these strange people wise. So much depends on what you want. Is it work, or money? The only way to make money is to buy something and sell it for three times as much. There is work in plenty if you would rather have that. Old George got himself a grand job as a 'bus conductor recently but he soon got the sack. Just because he told some hatchet-faced lady where to get off. If you can manufacture something and sell it, so much the better. Years ago, Steve went into partnership with us in a holesale business.

Uncle Alf: You mean wholesale.

Me: I mean holesale. We manufactured and sold holes for every purpose.

Holes for pavements complete with iron covers. Holes for collanders and flutes. Some of these were interchangeable. We had a little trouble with a disgruntled flautist who encountered a piece of curly kale in his instrument during a florid passage at the B.B.C. studios. For many years we prospered until one day, Steve accepted a contract for elongated holes to stuff up macaroni. Alas. The bend at the top had us beaten. Do you think we could get those holes to bend?

How we crashed and finally fought our way back to prosperity is another story. Look out for further information on civilian life.

### Author's Note

None of the characters in Plain Tales is fictitious. Uncle Alf is E. A. Brooks who was associated with us in the production of the "Headquarters Gazette" in 1922-23. We shall be glad to know what happened to him. Steve is around somewhere, or so they say. The identity of Ukann Larfe cannot be revealed for the following reasons: (a), (b) and (c). There was also a (d) but we can't reveal that either.

### Ukann Larfe—Episode 2

For beginning of this grand new serial, see Episode 1.

Hermione Larfe balanced a large piece of turf on her massive right hand, raised her left foot and judged the distance nicely.

Her husband, Ukann Larfe (see small bills for decorations) sat on the pavement outside his club, the Redundant Half Colonels, fully licensed, and removed as much of the rich loam from his neck and left ear as could reasonably be expected from a man wearing thick gloves.

"I'll bet that was my wife," he said. Not for nothing was Ukann Larfe numbered among the city's foremost detectives. Miss Tina Mommeter, eldest daughter of Sir Arthur, gazed at Ukann admiringly. "How can you tell?" she asked wonderingly.

"My wife always throws turf," he explained.

"Why?"

"Well, why not?"

"Yes, dear. I see your point, but here she comes, you'd better get up." Ukann Larfe rose to his feet and raised his beret with old-world courtesy as his wife joined them. Hermione gazed into Tina's face for a few seconds and then smacked it. Tina pretended not to notice anything and kicked Hermione on the shin with a bright smile. A heavily cloaked figure slipped past in the gathering gloom and vanished into a grim-looking house. Hermione Larfe gave a sharp hiss, or maybe just a hiss, and sped after the mysterious figure. "She's gone," observed Ukann Larfe with penetrating insight. Don't miss next month's enthralling episode. Tear off this end first.

BARLEUX.

# POLICE RADIO IN BRITAIN

## The Development of V.H.F. Mobile Telephony

By J. R. BRINKLEY

The rapid advances taking place in the development of police radio systems have been made possible largely by the introduction of V.H.F.

Police radio in Britain before the war was based mainly on medium frequencies. Few channels were available and these were initially allocated to a small number of large cities. Apart from the technical shortcomings of

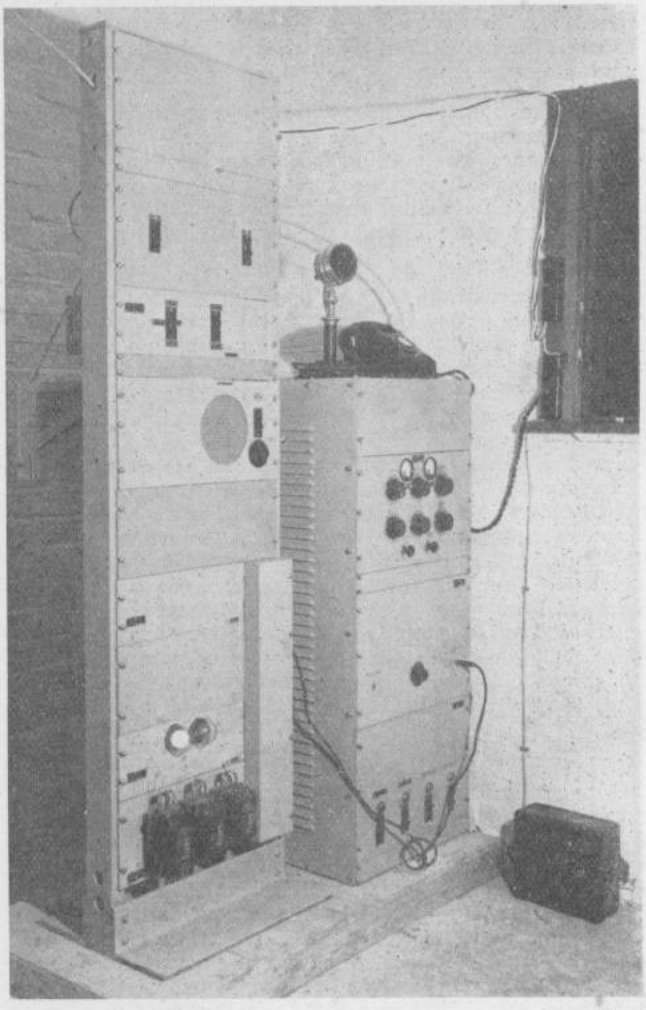


Fig. 1

A 30-watt Main Station plus remote-control apparatus

(Published by courtesy of The General Electric Co., Ltd.)

these frequencies, the channel limitations alone prevented any widespread development taking place.

In 1939, however, three substantial V.H.F. bands were allocated to the Home Office for police wireless purposes;

Fig. 2

Typical V.H.F. mobile installation showing quarter-wave aerial and miniaturised apparatus

(Published by courtesy of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd.)

these were 78.5-82 m/cs., 95-100 m/cs. and 128-131 m/cs.

Experimental work carried out in the early war years showed that with a well-sited main station, operating on these frequencies, it was possible to give a good two-way telephone service to police cars over a range of 15 to 20 miles radius.

Excellent coverage of built-up areas was found to be a feature of the wavelengths, and in the first instance installation was concentrated in urban areas. As a result, many cities and boroughs throughout Britain are now operating V.H.F. schemes; in general, these take the following form:

**A Main Station.**—This consists of a 30- or 100-watt transmitter, receiver, aerials, etc., installed in an unattended building sited on carefully selected high ground having a commanding view of the area to be covered. Such stations are generally remotely controlled by telephone lines. A typical installation is shown in Fig. 1.

**A Control Point.**—This is located at Police Headquarters, where a microphone, loudspeaker and remote control apparatus are installed.

**Mobile Installations.**—These consist of a 10-watt transmitter, receiver and associated rotary converters. These units are installed in the luggage boot of the patrol cars and remotely controlled by switches mounted in the dashboard. A roof-mounted quarter-wave aerial is used as shown in Fig. 2.

**Fixed Outstations.**—These may consist of a 10-watt transmitter-receiver combination, similar to the mobile installations, but powered from the mains, but normally they are fitted with receivers only. Such sets are generally installed at Police Divisional Headquarters (Fig. 3).

**Link Receivers.**—Link receivers are often installed at the master station or central point for monitoring neighbouring V.H.F. schemes.

All transmitters and receivers in these installations are crystal-controlled and tuning controls are of the pre-set variety.

The early mobile apparatus was somewhat bulky, taking up most of the luggage boot of an average car. Apparatus has, however, recently been designed taking advantage of miniaturising technique, and this more than halves the space requirement. It also simplifies installation. A typical example of miniaturised apparatus is shown in Fig. 4.

All operational schemes but two use amplitude modulation; the exceptions employing frequency modulation.

A considerable amount of experimental work has been carried out with frequency modulation and, while F.M. systems work efficiently, there have, so far, been few cases where any small advantages gained outweighed the complications involved. Amplitude modulation has been developed to a point where it is at least as effective as frequency modulation in the suppression of ignition interference, thus nullifying what was far the most important practical advantage obtained by the use of frequency modulation.

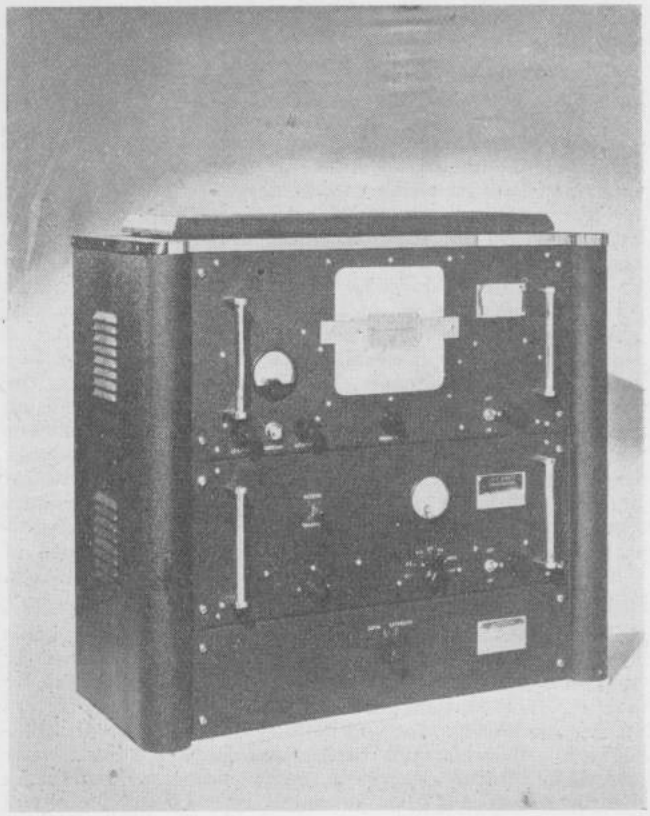


Fig. 3

10-watt Transmitter-receiver for fixed stations

(Published by courtesy of Pye Radio, Ltd.)

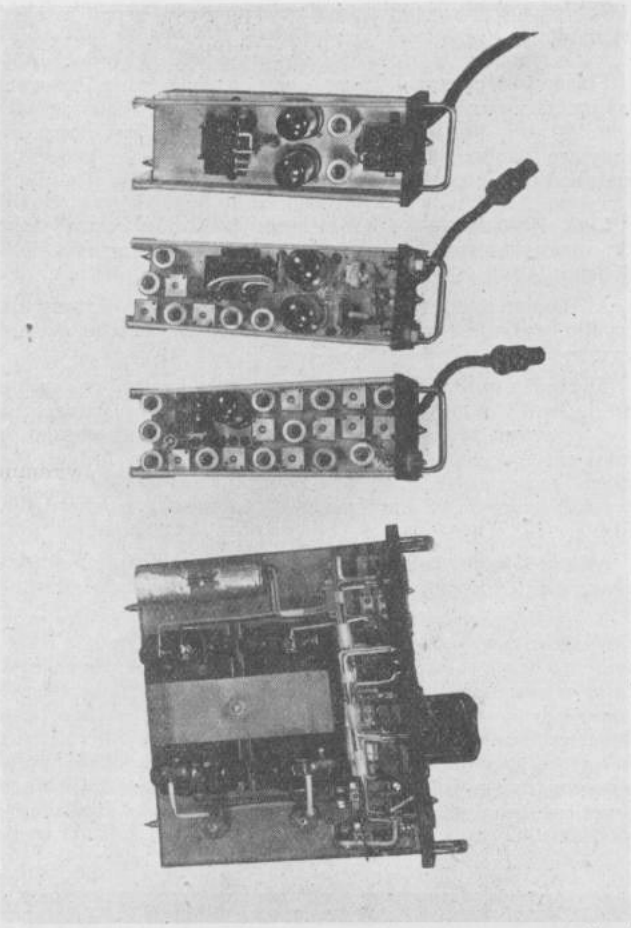


Fig. 4

Miniaturised Transmitter, Receiver, and Power Unit

(Published by courtesy of Pye Radio, Ltd.)

While a number of cities and boroughs remain to be equipped, the main development project in hand at the moment is the provision of schemes to cover counties, for use by county police forces. The same facilities are required in these cases, but the problem is complicated by the fact that most counties require several stations before complete coverage can be obtained. To solve this problem without having recourse to complex channel switching apparatus, a scheme has been developed which enables a number of stations to broadcast simultaneously within the frequency limits of a single channel. This is achieved by spacing the carrier frequencies 10-15 k.c.s. apart and phase-equalising the modulation fed to each transmitter. By this means police cars patrolling a large area may receive messages from any combination of the main fixed stations without audible distortion or interaction effects. The system known as "multi-carrier amplitude modulation" is described in a paper by the author in the Institute of Electrical Engineers Journal, Vol. 93, Part 3, No. 23, May, 1946.

Many tests and demonstrations have been given of this system which is the first of its kind to attack seriously the problem of covering large or mountainous areas by V.H.F. The first installation is now nearing completion in Hertfordshire and it will be followed by similar installations in other counties throughout Britain. In the not too distant future, therefore, every major police force in Britain, whether it be a borough, city or county force, will be operating a V.H.F. radio telephone service, giving Britain what will probably be the most highly developed police radio network in the world.

# As You Were!

## A REMINISCENCE

So THE WIRE is back with us again, taking its place in the pattern of events as it should, and serving to keep us in close touch with old friends, while introducing us to new personalities in the family of the Corps.

* * *

Coming across the familiar colours prominently incorporated in an unfamiliar cover design I experienced a sense of solid satisfaction in discovering that the proposed revival of yet another war-time casualty had become an accomplished fact, and THE WIRE was again a feature of the Corps it has served faithfully and well for 27 years.

* * *

To the Signalman of 1947 the magazine probably represents just another periodical (of a personal flavour), and he will not, of course, experience the keen sense of satisfaction, anticipation and excitement with which THE WIRE of 1920 was received each month. It was a very experimental affair in those days of a very experimental branch of the Services, for Royal Signals had not yet been born and THE WIRE was the proudly-owned property of the Royal Engineers (Signal Service).

* * *

In those days R.E. (Signal Service) was a mounted unit and the equestrian figure of a lineman prancing confidently across the front cover of the magazine did not generate any suggestion of the bewilderment such extraordinary conduct would undoubtedly provoke in the present age of mechanisation. The blue cover of THE WIRE, with its horse-borne lineman, was a monthly magnet of tremendous pulling power, and lengthy queues of spurred Sappers and Pioneers testified eloquently to the popularity of our newly-born journal. THE WIRE had come to stay.

* * *

We had our Headquarters and S.T.C. at Maresfield Park Camp, Sussex, in those days. It was a hutted camp set in an attractive estate, midway between Uckfield and Crowborough, and Signals had at that time emerged from tremendous tests in the war of 1914-18 with laurels in proportion to the tasks they had performed. So clearly had it been established that the Army's lines of communication were the prerogative of experts and specialists that Signals, as a distinct and separate entity, became a feature of a new Army in June, 1920, and so THE WIRE became the journal of the Royal Corps of Signals.

* * *

The gallant little band of pioneers who put the magazine together and brought it out with unfailing regularity experienced the many obstacles, great and small, with which the parents of a sturdy youngster are invariably confronted. But the teething stage was successfully overcome and, apart from the problems of growing pains coupled with a marked tendency to out-grow and overflow the limits of its garments (for "copy" was too plentiful on many occasions), the first editor and his co-operators put THE WIRE of 1920 firmly "on the map" among the Army's regimental journals.

* * *

And it is back again under its original title, providing a link with those fondly remembered blue covers and equestrian lineman of 27 years ago. Which, of course, is as it should be.

L. H. D.

# BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

## 30th CORPS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGT.

### LUNEBURG

December.

By the time these notes are in print we shall have completed disbandment. For the benefit of older members of the Corps here is a who's who.

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Peachell, O.B.E.; Second-in-Command, Major D. L. Hyde; Adjutant, Captain J. N. Hunt; Assistant Adjutant, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. W. G. Cole; Q.M., Captain (Q.M.) A. J. Carpenter; T.M.O., Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. Lyons; O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Major G. G. Freemantle; Second-in-Command No. 2 Squadron, Captain I. Marchant, M.C.; P.R.I., Captain G. Gibson, M.B.E.; Wireless Officer, Captain J. F. Everard; Lines Officer, Captain R. H. B. Evans; Cipher Officer, Lieutenant F. C. V. Osborn; R.S.M., R.S.M. G. Kerr; R.Q.M.S., R.Q.M.S. A. G. Pawlby; S.S.M. No. 2 Squadron, S.S.M. S. T. Marks; M.T.O., S.S.M. T. Roberts.

We have also had to say goodbye to No. 4 Company A.T.S. Signals (Germany), with whom the Regiment had been associated so long and happily.

Their last team of officers were Junior Commander C. H. Valentine, Subaltern D. Goddard, Subaltern S. Leslie and Subaltern M. Maddocks.

It has been a sad business winding up, but we cannot moan about that. The Regiment has had a good innings. After all, we were one of the few units who completed the whole course from Alamein to Germany. We think we achieved a record in the late war on which all members and ex-members can look back on with pride, so on behalf of all ranks of this Unit I would like to say "Farewell and Good Luck" to all units of Royal Signals.

## No. 1 SPECIAL WIRELESS REGT.

January.

Mustering our good resolutions in the early dawn of 1947 we realised with a shock that we had missed our contribution to THE WIRE for December. We trust our lapse may be forgiven.

We are still in the same barracks. They are the normal good design, slightly Jerry-built modern German barracks, completed just before the war, with all the usual amenities of gymnasium, excellent football ground, running track, swimming bath, rifle range, etc.

The centre of the barracks is laid out with lawns and flower beds, while the remainder of the area not taken up with fruit trees and parade grounds we cultivate for an annual crop to supplement our menus.

We are rather far from organised entertainments, and therefore, apart from a travelling cinema which pays regular visits, we have to make our own amusements.

The summer, of course, is marvellous. There is swimming, cricket, athletics and tennis, the latter at the well-run neighbouring Salvation Army canteen and, last but not least, sailing from our pretty little harbour on the Elbe, from whose broad bosom our mariners return at quite unpredictable hours with hair-raising stories of change of tide, sandbanks, falling wind and kindred excuses of which the seafaring mind is ever capable.

There is riding all the year round. Horses for hire are stabled in barracks, including some which a most beneficent and far-seeing authority has attached to us for patrol purposes.

We enjoy a certain amount of rough shooting in the fields immediately around barracks.

Our Unit football and hockey teams have played throughout the winter, not without success, but serious students of football will agree that the game of the season was that played on Christmas Day morning in about three inches of snow. The teams were officers and sergeants, and rank and file respectively. Dress worn by the opposing sides was distinctly informal.

Considering that the rules of soccer, Rugby and hockey were used quite indiscriminately by the referee in his masterly control of the game, which was played with a Rugby ball, we feel that a most impressive display was given by both teams.

All right-minded soldiers stood quite enthralled to watch the nice impartiality with which both sides ensured that major disasters continued to befall the S.S.M. and similar high officials and to note with pride that they always emerged cheerful, smiling, perhaps bloody, but definitely unbowed.

As we write the temperature is normal for Schleswig-Holstein at the time of the year and excellent skating on the swimming pool is being enjoyed by the troops using the skates obtained from Welfare.

Our married families have arrived and occupy quarters actually in or near barracks, and their hospitality and the voices of their children have done much to lessen our feeling of exile.

Christmas Day was bright and cold. All the traditional customs were observed and everybody visited everybody else. The cooks worked wonders. Sergeants brought early coffee. Sergeants relieved the troops on guard. They even issued most amazing "sitreps" direct to the Commanding Officer from time to time; in fact, a good time was had by all.

In common with other British troops, we entertained a number of young German children of poor parents just after Christmas to a Punch and Judy show and a feed. The former was received with acclamation and the latter with most industrious silence. We feel that they were grateful.

# OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS

## 4th INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

### SALONIKA

January.

**Introduction.**—As this is the first post-war submission to THE WIRE coming from the 4th Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, it is felt that some information is required as to where the Division is situated and what the Signal Regiment is doing.

Divisional H.Q. is situated in Salonika and the Divisional area covers the whole of Northern Greece. With troops spread so far and wide communications are often a difficult problem, especially as the Regiment has been particularly hard hit in the past few months by release and Python. The Regiment is, however, coping manfully with this arduous task and the Royal Signals tradition of keeping communications " through " is being upheld.

The Regiment came to Salonika in January, 1946, having spent a considerable time at Psykhiko, near Athens.

The C.R. Signals is Lieutenant-Colonel Hay, M.B.E., and Major Funnel is Second-in-Command. Squadrons are commanded by Major Sylvester-Bradley, Major Phillips, Major Hall and Captain Gage. Our Adjutant, Captain Clark, is our oldest inhabitant, having been with the Regiment for two and a half years.

R.S.M. Meese has recently rejoined us from L.I.L.O.P. and has already made an impression in the Unit.

S.S.M. Stone recently joined us from 13th Divisional Signal Regiment and is No. 1 Squadron S.M.

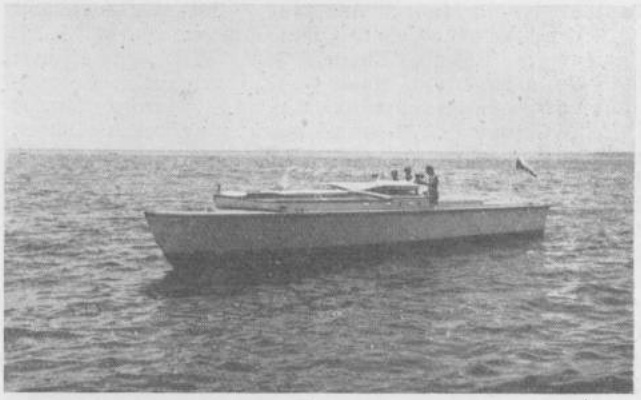
**Coliseums.**—In Psykhiko the Regiment was justly famed for the Coliseum, the canteen, which was a popular meeting place for most of Divisional H.Q. and Divisional troops. Coliseum II, in Salonika, is a fair successor.

During the summer Edgar Wallace's thriller, " The Case of the Frightened Lady," was presented by the Regimental Players for three nights at the Garrison Theatre. Captain Reg Thorne produced the play and took a major part. The cast of all ranks was supplemented by a charming " frightened lady " from the hospital, while Lady Lebanon, that paragon of dowagers, spent the time between rehearsals and U.N.R.R.A. A happy conclusion to this production was the engagement between two prominent members of the cast.

Coliseum II is now the scene of two or three attractions a week and did heavy duty over Christmas.

**" Andaxe."**—In March, 1946, after several abortive attempts to float away a launch belonging to the Sappers, the hull of a German boat was acquired in a more legal manner.

After a vast amount of work, for which " A " and " B " Troops and the L.A.D. should get the credit, " Andaxe," as she was to be called, was launched in early May. She is 47 feet in length and with two 25-h.p. engines will make 12 knots. " Andaxe's " subsequent career as the Regimental launch has been a full one. She has carried V.I.P.s in staid forms around the bay, including General Dempsey and General Crawford. She has taken bathing parties at every imaginable time of the day. And she has taken a major part in an exciting rescue miles out to sea. On the other hand, it must be admitted that " Andaxe " herself



"ANDAXE"

has had to be rescued more than once, and it is not unknown for the C.R. Signals to spend the night stuck on a sandbank.

**Ham Club.**—Amateur radio has found a number of enthusiasts in the Regiment and a Ham Club has been formed. Among the many QSOs around the world the Ham Club boasts a contact on 10-metre phone with Brigadier E. S. Cole, the late C.S.O. L.F.G. The Ham Club has been allotted the callsign XACW and will QSL whenever required.

**Sport.**—In the field of sport the Regiment has undoubtedly been active.

During the summer we fielded a very fair cricket team. Out of 21 matches we succeeded in winning 12.

The rugger team has played 12 games and has won them all, having had only 18 points scored against them, whilst at the same time managing to pile up 139 points.

The soccer team is in the Divisional league and up to date it has played nine games and won five of them.

At hockey out of five matches played only one game has been lost.

Competing in a number of Divisional gymkhanas and race meetings, the Regiment gained at first more bruises than prizes. Our equestrians were more successful, however, at the last meeting.

# 1st ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

## TRIESTE

January.

The last issue of THE WIRE gave a brief history of the Divisional Signal Regiment's efforts during the war.

Now the A.C.V.s have rolled to a halt, the tanks have rolled to a halt and the infantry have followed them. The whole of the Division finds itself playing an unfamiliar static role.

Field cables have disappeared and their place has been taken by permanent line, underground cable and multi-core lead-covered cables At Divisional Headquarters the Field and Fortress has gone into store and an American TC10 central battery exchange has taken its place. A fault control has appeared as a new department of the Signal Office and the unfamiliar names of area increment officers have appeared on the staff list. In spite of the extensive line layout, the Wireless Troops still find themselves working full pelt, but the 12-foot fishing rod has given way to the end-fed and the No. 19 set has been swamped by the Nos. 12 and 399. The D.R. Troop have daily runs of 100 miles to outlying brigades and units, whilst "Q" Troop struggles amidst piles of 1033s, 998s and all of the admin. complexities that accompany this static form of life.

The atmosphere of tenseness with the occasional civil disturbance, liaison with the Yugoslavs and the Venezia Giulia Police Force help to recapture that feeling of operational urgency we knew during the campaigns and daily make us realise that we, as Signals, have become the nerve centre for the whole of this troubled area.

The Brigade Signal Squadrons are widely dispersed with a full-time job to do. No. 3 Squadron has nestled in the mountains overlooking the bay and is busy laying and maintaining lines and working wireless to frontier check posts. No. 2 Squadron lies further back, supplying communications both for the static positions of the widely dispersed gunner regiments, and also for a continuous stream of rigorous shoots and exercises. No. 4 Squadron, who serve the Armoured Brigade, are busy providing check post communications both on the Morgan Line and to the Venezia Giulia boundary, maintaining an extensive line layout in their harbour area and training Regimental signallers to work in their new Comet tanks.

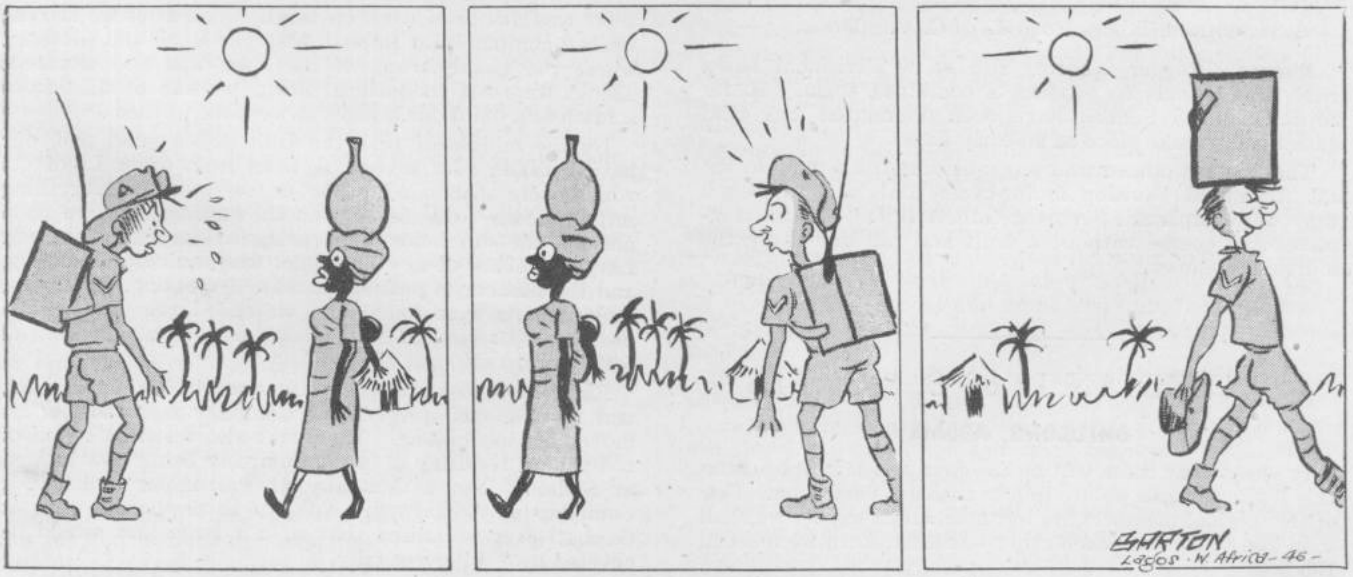
The 13th Brigade Signal Squadron has joined the Regiment from Germany and has settled in the heart of Trieste City. They are battling with the intricacies of the automatic exchange, line construction in a tram-infested city and the occasional civilian strike, on the line side, and succeeding in working wireless to their battalions in spite of strong and continuous interference from dock and city power installations.

The Allied detachment at Pola, well south of the Morgan Line, is served by 24th Guards Brigade Signal Squadron with their own Brigade automatic exchange, very long wireless links and long, sometimes interrupted, line communications.

The domestic life of the Regiment is as full as the operational life.

We arrived to catch the close of summer with its accompanying swimming and boating in the bay, but now winter has overtaken us, the trees are bare and the sea a cold steely grey. We have sampled the famous Bora wind which blows in the Trieste bay and are looking forward to the opening of Cortina, the Dolomite winter sports leave centre. The winter has truly come. The linemen have donned their oilskins and wellingtons and the evenings hours are spent fitting up stoves and generally brightening the billets. The gaieties of Trieste are near at hand, with the N.A.A.F.I., the cinemas, the theatre, and now the opera.

The Christmas festivities went with a swing and the various committees are to be congratulated on the arrangements. C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., accompanied by the Adjutant and R.S.M., visited the men's dinner at the Hotel Grignano on Christmas Day, and also the dinner at Barcola, where "M" Troop and L.A.D. were being well cared for by Captain (T.M.O.) "Jock" Reat. On Boxing Day evening an all ranks' carnival dance was held in the men's dining hall. This also was highly successful. Some of the new arrivals will certainly remember their first Christmas in the Army away from England's shores. So far none have signed on.




**PUT 'UM FOR HEAD!**

The following are at present serving with this Regiment and this information will no doubt be of interest to old members of the Corps :

C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E. ; Adjutant, Captain D. J. G. MacLeod ; O.C. No. 1 Squadron, Major G. A. Fleming (ex-56th Division) ; O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Major L. C. Jenkins ; O.C. No. 3 Squadron, Major A. H. D. Llewellyn ; O.C. No. 4 Squadron, Major H. J. Rae ; O.C. 24th Guards Brigade Signals, Major W. M. Dodd ; O.C. 13th Infantry Brigade Signals, Major J. N. Boyland ; Captain (T.M.O.) W. Reat, Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Leach, R.S.M. A. N. Clark and R.Q.M.S. Denholm.

**Arrivals.**—At present the Regiment is in the throes of mass cross-postings and too much space would be taken by recording them all, but friends of the following would be interested to know of their whereabouts : R.S.M. E. R. Gay (from No. 1 L. of C.) of No. 152 O.C.T.U. fame ; S.Q.M.S. T. Moore from A.F.H.Q. Signals.

**Departures.**—Sergeant G. Welchman (" A " Corps Signals, Karachi, 1927) to civilian life on completion of a " pontoon."

The best of luck in your new sphere, George. Good operators are still scarce.

S.Q.M.S. J. Mulcahy to home establishment after a spell of five years overseas. Shake the sand out, " Tich," and do not forget that voucher for your camel.

In a few days we are to lose R.Q.M.S. Denholm, who is proceeding to U.K. after 11 years abroad out of the last 12 years' service. Good luck, " Jock." We shall meet again.

**Promotions.**—S.S.M. J. Hastings to R.Q.M.S. vice R.Q.M.S. Denholm. (There will be plenty of tennis weather later.)

**Soccer.**—Soccer is still the most popular game of all and No. 1 Squadron have a really useful side, and with a little extra training would be a match for many of the regimental teams in the Division. So far this season they have been unbeaten.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| v. No. 3 Squadron .. .. .. | Won | 7—1 |
| v. 61st Brigade H.Q. .. .. .. | Won | 5—2 |
| v. R.A.S.C. Workshops .. .. .. | Won | 3—1 |
| v. Mobile Bath Unit .. .. .. | Won | 3—1 |
| v. No. 96 Line Troop, No. 1 L. of C. .. | Won | 5—1 |
| v. No. 96 Line Troop, No. 1 L. of C. .. | Drawn | 3—3 |

**Rugger.**—Rugger is being run on a Divisional basis, R.E. and Signals to produce a combined team. So far 20 R.E. and 8 Signals have been nominated and trial games are to take place at an early date.

The warrant officers and sergeants entered a team in the 1st Armoured Division motor-cycle trials and, although they were unplaced, Sergeant Gilbert (" D " Troop) completed the course without a fault and ran out easily the individual winner.

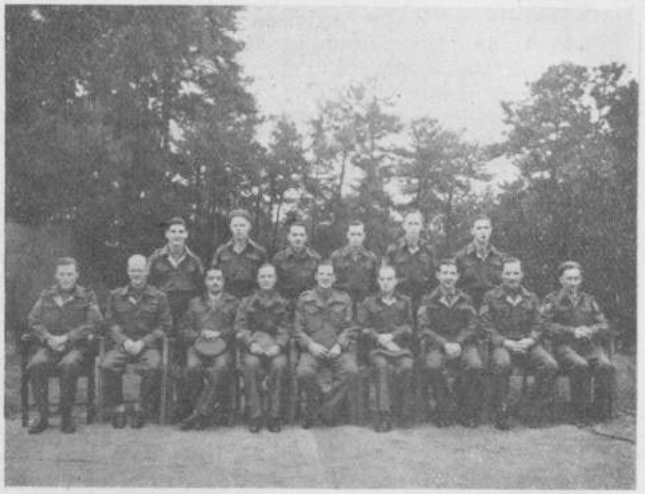
" MAILED FIST."

## " J " INDIAN L. of C. SIGNALS

### SHILLONG, ASSAM

It seems that these will be the first and last notes from this Unit, because we are due to disband very soon. Few of the original members are left now, and I expect we shall soon lose touch with each other—at least, until we meet in Blighty.

When I was asked to provide a few reminiscences of " J " Indian L. of C. Signals my mind flew back to that day in December, 1944, when I first joined the Unit at Rawalpindi. At that date " J " was only a few months old (it was raised in November, 1944), but already rumours were flying about as to where the big move would be. The favourite guess was Burma, of course, but most of the fellows were ignorant of our destination when at last we moved. We were split up into groups, some travelling by road and others by rail. One or two of the officers went ahead by air. Although the journey for both main parties was not exactly comfortable, it afforded a good chance to see quite a lot of India, and everyone enjoyed it.



Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Standing :—
Sgt. Broadbridge, C.S.M. Garner, Maj. J. N. Shahani, R.S.M. G. Mitchell, Lt.-Col. A. H. Colten, R.Q.M.S. T. W. German, C.Q.M.S. Caborn, Sgt. Johnson, Sgt. Williams

Sitting :—
Sgt. Rhodes, Sgt. Firth, Sgt. Phelan, Sgt. Rose, Sgt. Makepeace, Sgt. Moore

Then at long last we arrived at our destination, Gauhati, Assam, and learned that our role was to provide communications in Assam (No. 202 area), taking over from " V " Burma L. of C. Signals. Gauhati at first did not seem very inviting ; it was small, out of the way, very few entertainments, but we did not have much time to ponder over our good or bad fortune, because it was obvious that there was plenty of work on hand. Soon after we arrived we had companies in Imphal, Manipur Road and Gauhati, where the headquarters of the Unit was also situated. Things were not too easy at first ; we had to start from scratch and build our bridges as we came to them.

By the middle of 1945 the Unit was a good size, our having taken over several sections from other L. of C.s which were disbanded. For a few months everything settled down to a fairly smooth routine, but we soon noticed the difference when releases started in earnest. Large numbers of key personnel were quickly departing, and the number of postings in were decreasing. However, replacements were found and we ended the year with a pretty good record of hard work done and a fine sense of comradeship amongst all.

Early in 1946 big changes appeared to be in the wind, and, sure enough, in April No. 3 Company and headquarters moved up to Shillong. There was also a switch round of companies, resulting in No. 1 Company being now located at Shillong, No. 2 Company at Parbatipur and No. 3 Company at Chittagong. None of us in the old days at Gauhati ever visualised that such a large area would be covered by " J " eventually.

The Unit, at the outset, was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Yearsley, and then was taken over by

Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen. It might be of interest to old members of the Corps to know the names of some of the Regulars who have served in the Unit during its existence. Major W. C. Day, R.S.M. G. Mitchell and R.Q.M.S. T. German were with us from the beginning and were joined by Captain G. J. Bew at a later date.

It is interesting to recall that the location of our old No. 2 Company, Manipur, is a mere 40 or 50 miles from Kohima, a name which figured prominently in the fighting which took place in the area during the war. Several of our fellows remember having been on trips to the scene of the old battles and having seen the graves of those who fell. It is at Kohima, incidentally, that the famous verse in honour of the 14th Army can be found.

## No. 1 SIGNAL PARK SQUADRON

### SINGAPORE

December.

As we watch the Eastern sun sink down behind the waving palms our thoughts roam back to the account of No. 51 Signal Equipment Troop in the first issue of THE WIRE, for we chiefly consist of technical storemen and other tradesmen who served with that Unit in the days way back. Out here our job is to give technical assistance to the Ordnance, and for this purpose we are attached to No. 223 B.O.D., Singapore, with a detachment of the Unit stationed at No. 226 B.O.D., Rangoon. We know that the phrase "technical assistance" is always looked upon somewhat askance by those who think they know what's what, but we have found that our services are in great demand and our little office is the Mecca of Signal unit representatives who have got a bit confused over No. 7 copy.

Among the burra sahibs we boast of several old members of the Corps—our O.C., Major R. R. Evelyn, the Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) E. S. Taylor, and last, but by no means least, our Technical Maintenance Officer, Captain (T.M.O.) W. Millichip. The R.Q.M.S. is also a veteran, thank the Lord, and will be well known to old Eggwipedites. His name, if you have not guessed it, is W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) W. A. Bennett. The remainder of the Unit are war-time soldiers and, in view of the great names listed above, it would be sacrilege to bring any of our "air crew" to notice. Outings are arranged by the Unit to Johore and other adjacent seaside bathing spots. These outings are thoroughly enjoyed and we are pleased to report that a trip we arranged on Boxing Day nearly brought the M.O. a load of work. The quantity and quality of the food provided on the trip caused a certain feeling of nausea among the troops, but this was elected by the majority to be quite a pleasant nausea and in accordance with the best laid plans for Christmas.

The B.O.D. arranged our Christmas Day festivities for us and they put up a really grand show. Except for the fact that the sun was beating down on the scene, one could easily imagine that we were safely ensconced in England.

News from our Rangoon detachment, which is under the control of R.Q.M.S. Bennett, is somewhat scarce, but the last report received was favourable, so with our tongue firmly placed in our cheek we will report that everything is well under control.

**Long Distance.**—Captain Ted Taylor sends his salaams to Captain Arthur Goat of N.I.D. Signals.

**Sport.**—Football has been the main sporting activity since the Unit arrived in Singapore. Unfortunately, as far as results on paper show, we have not had much success in this field. However, even though defeat has on many

(continued on page 107)

## THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION of the ROYAL CORPS of SIGNALS

HEADQUARTERS: 88, ECCLESTON SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1
(TEL.: VICTORIA 9194)

### DECEMBER, 1946

The postman for this area has good reason to know our address, for he visits this headquarters three times daily and frequently hands over a hundred packages through the door. The letters received cover a wide variety of subjects, a sign that members are making full use of the facilities of the Association to obtain information and assistance of one kind or another, and this is welcomed. Our post record book shows that during the year 1946 a monthly average of 3,000 packets of all kinds were sent out by this office, the peak months being October and November, when 5,210 and 5,083 packets respectively were despatched.

Among the letters received are many expressing appreciation of the assistance given by the Association. That we are in a position to render this help is due to the financial support given to the Association by all ranks of the Corps, serving and ex-Service. The extent to which we will be able to continue this help will depend on further support forthcoming. Correspondence reveals how much the assistance given has meant to the recipients, and published below are a few extracts.

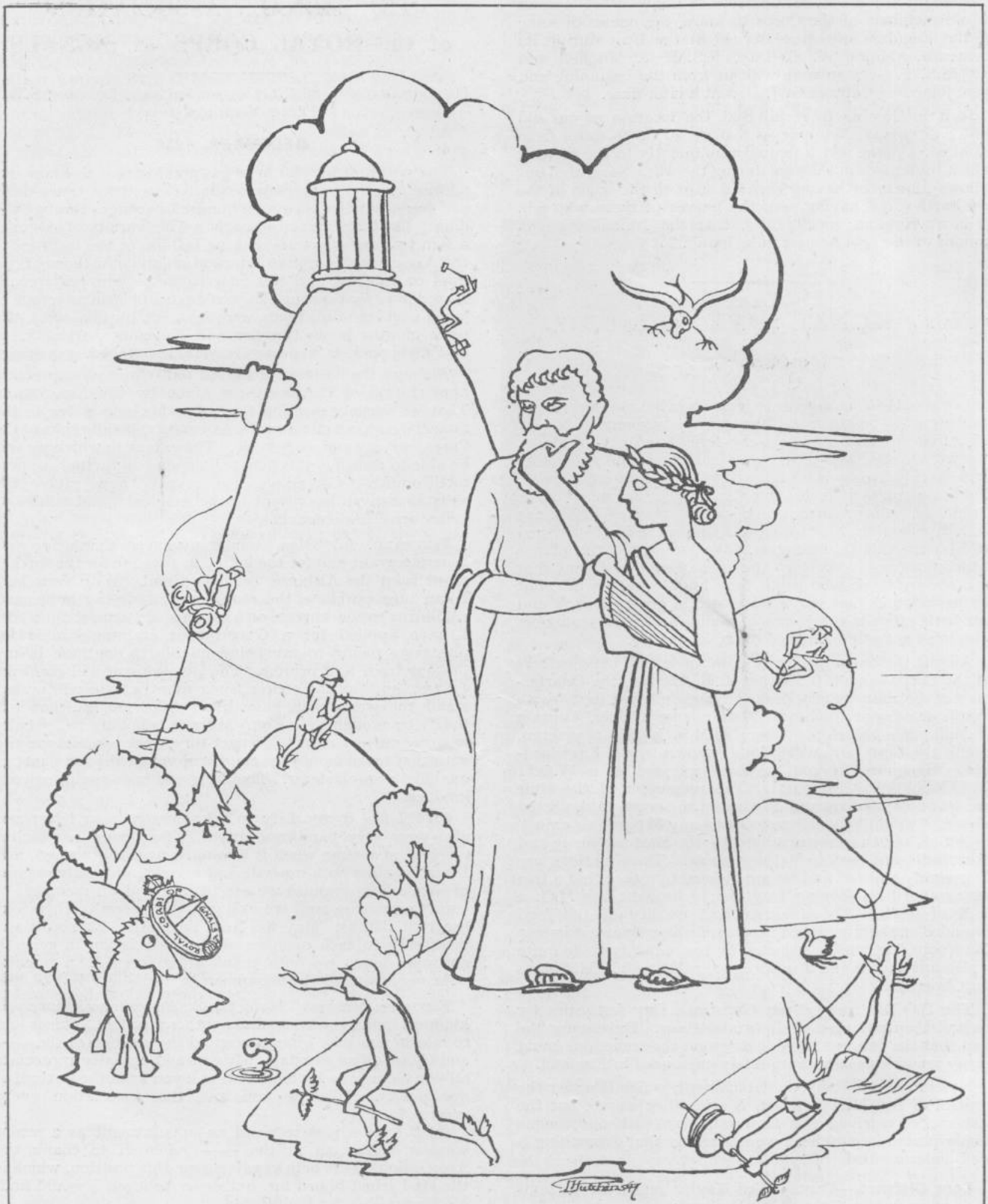
WELFARE. (a) "May I tender my sincere thanks for your generous grant and for the help you gave me for the further grant from the Airborne Security Fund. With your help I can now purchase the requirements for my home and enable me to concentrate on a career so as to master a trade. I have applied for a Government training course for plastering owing to my being unable to continue in my pre-war trade as a printer. The Government will grant me £3 15s., and, as the course is six months, you will understand the worry you have lifted from me, as that will barely be enough to live on. My wife is hoping to get baby in a day nursery so as to do part-time work to assist me and with that extra money we can jog along until I can pass out qualified as a plasterer. Thanking you once again for your kindness."

(b) "I feel it my duty to acknowledge your letter and also your very handsome grant of five pounds, which I received at a time when it was most urgently needed, and I must confess both my wife and myself can hardly express in words how grateful we are to you and all members of your Committee, and we ask you to convey to them our heartfelt thanks. May the New Year bring happiness and prosperity to each member of the Association in general, and once again we both thank all concerned. I remain, your very faithful old Signalman."

EMPLOYMENT. (a) "Many thanks for your assistance and kindness in helping me to find another position. This is just to inform you that I have accepted the position at the —— and I start off on Monday. My wife and I greatly appreciate all you have done for me and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Wishing you and the Association every success."

(b) "I have just received an appointment as a senior wireless technician in the ——. I wish to thank the Association for its help in getting me this position, which is the kind I had hoped for, but never believed I would find. My best wishes for the future."

OTHER ASSISTANCE. "I wish to thank you for the interest you took over the case of the stolen postal orders and to congratulate you in securing the £4 which I was unable to obtain from the G.P.O. It is sure nice to know that the Royal Signals Association is so active and helpful towards its members. Once again my wife and I thank you."




THERE'S NO HOLDING 'EM SINCE THEY GOT OUT OF THAT RUDDY FRAME!

## Benevolent Fund

During December, 1946, 101 appeals for assistance were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £619 17s. 0d.

### Summary of Grants Disbursed

| Purpose | No. of cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 28 | 150 | 11 | 0 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 8 | 57 | 0 | 0 |
| Cots and prams | 15 | 95 | 10 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 4 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Furniture | 11 | 94 | 0 | 0 |
| Clothing | 4 | 29 | 0 | 0 |
| Doctors' bills | 11 | 53 | 18 | 6 |
| Spectacles and surgical apparatus | 3 | 21 | 10 | 0 |
| Dentures | 2 | 7 | 15 | 0 |
| Removals | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Travelling expenses | 4 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Funerals | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal expenses | 2 | 12 | 12 | 6 |
| Loans | 2 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 101 | £619 | 17 | 0 |

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO SERVING OR EX-SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Discharged or released soldiers 58, widows of deceased soldiers 9, families of soldiers serving in the U.K. 24, B.A.O.R. 2, C.M.F. 5, S.E.A.L.F. 2, India 1.

### Donations Received for the Fund

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Signal Officer-in-Chief, India Welfare Fund | 91 | 9 | 1 |
| Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F. M.E. Welfare Fund | 250 | 0 | 0 |
| Signals Branch H.W., S.W. District | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 8th G.H.Q. Signal Regiment | 656 | 13 | 2 |
| No. 11 L. of C. Signal Regiment | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| No. 12 L. of C. Signal Regiment | 12 | 4 | 0 |
| No. 13 L. of C. Signal Regiment | 140 | 9 | 6 |
| 13th Corps Signal Regiment | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Guards Divisional Signal Regiment | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| 22nd Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron | 84 | 8 | 6 |
| No. 101 Beach Sub-Area Signals | 15 | 4 | 0 |
| Thames Estuary Signal Troop | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Kent Coast Signal Troop | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| Royal Signals O.C.T.U., P.R.I. | | 8 | 11 |
| Royal Signals O.C.T.U., Sergeants' Mess | | 12 | 4 |
| TOTAL | £1,343 | 5 | 7 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these donations. It would like to record its appreciation of the consistently regular contributions received from the Coast Sections of Eastern Command Signals.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND

Some appeals for assistance cannot be met because they do not come within the terms of reference laid down for the administration of the Fund; in such cases, where it is practicable, the applicant is referred to some other organisation. Other requests are turned down as the evidence disclosed on investigation does not show the existence of real hardship. The position of the applicant to make provision to meet his commitments, either by budgeting ahead or curtailing his expenditure, must necessarily be taken into consideration.

It is, unfortunately, too often taken for granted that assistance from a benevolent fund will be automatically forthcoming. This is by no means the case, as no such fund can operate as either an insurance scheme, a benefit club, or make up for the individual who shirks his responsibilities. The whole object of a benevolent fund is to give financial assistance in cases where a set of unforeseen circumstances produces a state of distress, or will lead to distress if some help is not immediately forthcoming, e.g. sudden illness and the consequent expenses, unexpected loss of employment and the inability to meet rent and other reasonable liabilities, the widow with a family to support on a meagre pension who obtains employment to augment her resources (for this she depends on the maintenance of her own good health and that of her family; loss of employment for any reason invariably leads to financial hardship). On the other hand, a young married couple are in a position to realise their probable future financial liabilities and to budget to meet these.

Every appeal is investigated and given full consideration by the Adjudicating Committee, the members of which are in a good position to judge the merits of each case.

## Old Comrades Association

From time to time we receive enquiries from ex-Servicemen of the Corps asking about possible reunion parties arranged by the units in which they served. In order that we may provide the information, would any members who know of unit reunion organisations send this Headquarters the address of the Hon. Secretary concerned.

New members registered at Headquarters during the month of December, 1946:

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual members | 154 |
| Life members | 81 |

When corresponding with Headquarters will all members very kindly quote their regimental numbers, and put their initials and name in block letters at the head of the letter. This helps us to trace with speed any previous correspondence and to deal with the matter, whatever it might be, with promptness.

# Signals Association Branch Notes

**Birmingham.**—The monthly meeting postponed from Boxing Day was held in the Crown Hotel, Broad Street (you will know that place soon) on Thursday, 2nd January. Brigadier E. A. James was in the chair and present, of course, was that untiring piece of machinery, Captain Ralph Ironmonger, the Hon. Secretary. We were all very glad to welcome Brigadier H. Bartlett as a guest at the meeting, he having done such grand work for the Branch in days gone by. Another old friend to put in a first appearance since arriving from the Middle East was Major Fred B. Clarke. Somehow, we just fail to reach that 700 mark and the actual membership on New Year's Eve was 650. Healthy, but there must be some more likely lads about. If you are a Birmingham man or girl and this catches your eye, make a note right now of the meeting place. Turn up on the last Thursday in the month at about 8 p.m. Walk right upstairs. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4th February, at the White Horse, Congreve Street, though before you see this it will be all over. The first post-war Annual Dinner will be held just after Easter. See footnote. Plans for the Signals weekend in July are going ahead strongly. A Signals Ball will be

held in the Botanical Gardens on Friday, 4th July. On Sunday, the 6th, there will be a re-union parade and service in Birmingham cathedral during the afternoon.

Birmingham and district members of this Branch are expected to attend the various functions in great force, but as accommodation is limited, those who would like to be sure of a place in the ballroom, a number on the parade and a seat in the cathedral are earnestly advised to write to Captain R. H. Ironmonger, 12 Stonor Park Road, Solihull, Warwicks, for full information and reservations. All old members of the Corps, whether members of this Branch or not, are heartily welcome to the parade and service on Sunday, 6th July.

The 61st Divisional Signals Reunion Dinner has been arranged for Friday, 14th March, 1947, at the White Horse Hotel, Congreve Street, Birmingham. (See notice regarding tickets on page 88). My private advice to you is, make it snappy. Accommodation is limited.

Have you sent a subscription for THE WIRE yet? Do it now.

**Footnote.**—Owing to a limit being set for the accommodation of the diners, all those wishing to attend the Branch Annual Dinner from a distance should communicate with Captain Ironmonger re date. Local members will, of course, discover the details at the meetings. BARLEUX.

**Edinburgh and District.**—As this Branch was inaugurated during November, 1945, one may fairly consider 1946 as its first year. There were, at the outset, a few existing annual and life members who had joined through headquarters, but the bulk of the membership has arisen as a result of the formation of the Branch. It had, at the end of 1946, reached the total of 283, composed of 240 annual and 43 life members.

From the first meeting there was a unanimous demand for club facilities and, eventually, after a start had been made with a room in licensed premises, a committee was elected for the purpose of securing premises and organising a club. This they succeeded in doing and on 8th November last, premises, consisting of a large lounge, a billiard room and a bar were formally opened by General Sir Neil Ritchie, G.O.C. Scottish Command, who paid tribute to the work of the Corps on all fronts during the war.

"Long distance call? Why get excited? All our calls are long distance!

A variety of well-attended functions, especially dances, have been held last winter and during the present season by both the Club and Association Committees, and it is probable that the success of the last two dances which were organised on a joint basis will result in a continuation of this arrangement.

While the Club has so satisfactorily catered for the social side, the Association has continued to look after benevolent and welfare matters generally, and has been able to help, by financial assistance and obtaining of employment, several members who had fallen on hard times.

**Reigate-Redhill.**—This Branch, known as the East Surrey (Reigate and Redhill Area) Branch was inaugurated on the 15th November last and since then membership has increased to 33 and it is hoped that the 50 mark will be reached before the half year.

The first gathering was held on 29th November, 1946, when members and their wives sat down to dinner in the Evening House, Reigate, where it is hoped all meetings will be held.

The Chairman, Mr. H. A. McCalman, in his opening speech, outlined the hopes and ambitions of the Branch for the future and paid tribute to the founders of the Branch for all their hard work put in behind the scenes. A warm welcome was given to the wives of members and it was hoped that their support would be given in all the social activities.

The guest of the evening was Brigadier E. J. Murphy, who has now honoured the Branch by becoming the first President. In the Brigadier's speech he revealed some most interesting points of the work of the Royal Signals Association and spoke of the wonderful help it had given to P.O.W.s during the war and to the assistance it was affording to men on release leave during the stress of rehabilitation.

The Branch held its Christmas party on 20th December, when members, wives and friends had a very enjoyable time.

Enquiries for membership should be addressed: The Secretary, Mr. F. Darke, 36, Prices Lane, Reigate.

**53rd and 38th (Welsh) Divisional Signals Old Comrades Association.**—"Cardiff calling. Cardiff calling." On Saturday, 21st December, we held a very successful Christmas draw at Park Street, Cardiff, where real turkey, chicken, whisky, gin, port and cigarettes were on view. Whilst the draw was in progress, a Ladies' Games Tournament was organised and conducted very ably by ex-Sergeant G. Millon and Sergeant Bill Read, M.B.E., and won by Mrs. Matthew, wife of our Secretary. Jack Escott nobly looked after the bar, and Jock Matthew conducted the draw. Tom Forse, our Vice-Chairman, directed the show in that very quiet, efficient way of his and a very pleasant evening was spent by all who attended.

SHOOTING TEAMS.—Things are still in abeyance pending range facilities but rumour has it that a certain ex-C.O. may present a trophy to be competed for.

ANNUAL DINNER.—By the time these notes are in print it will be getting near the date for the Annual Dinner. Any ex-53rd and -38th Divisional Signals who would like to attend should get in touch with the Secretary, Jock Matthew, as soon as possible at 10, Alma Road, Penylan, Cardiff. To all ex-members of the two units serving at home or abroad the Secretary welcomes any news or suggestions.

## TERRITORIAL UNITS, ROYAL SIGNALS

We publish below an amended list of Royal Signals Territorial Units, giving the latest information available, including locations, at the time of going to press.

### Scottish Command

51/52 Scottish Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. : Aberdeen, Stirling and Glasgow.
30 Lowland Indep. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqdn. : Glasgow.
26 Scottish Indep. Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqdn. : Perth.
50 L. of C. Sig. Regt. : Glasgow and Edinburgh.
264 Scottish Beach Bde. Sig. Sqdn. : location not firm.

### Northern Command

49 (W. Riding and Midlands) Armd. Div. Sig. Regt. : Leeds.
50 (Northumbrian) Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. : Darlington.
9 Indep. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqdn. : Birmingham.
21 Corps Sig. Regt. : Derby.
" X " Army Sig. Regt. : Birmingham.
51 Air Formation Sig. Regt. : Leeds.

### Western Command

42 (Lancashire) Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. : Manchester.
53 (Welsh) Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. : Cardiff.
23 Indep. Armd. Bde. Sig. Sqdn. : Bootle.
22 Corps Sig. Regt. : Liverpool.
50 Air Formation Sig. Regt. : Wolverhampton.

### Northern Ireland District

107 (Ulster) Indep. Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqdn. : Belfast.

### Eastern Command

161 Indep. Inf. Bde. Gp. Sig. Sqdn. : Ipswich.
162 Indep. Inf. Bde. Gp. Sig. Sqdn. : Bedford.

### London District

56 Armd. Div. Sig. Regt. : Clapham.
16 Airborne Div. Sig. Regt. (Middlesex Yeomanry) : Chelsea.
44 (Home Counties) Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. : Ravenscourt Park.
" Y " Army Sig. Regt. : Wanstead.
Sig. Reporting Regt. (Kensingtons) : Kensington.
51 L. of C. Sig. Regt. : Clapham.

### Southern Command

43 (Wessex) Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. : Taunton, Bridgewater, Exeter and Reading.
10 A.S.S.U. : Plymouth or Southampton.

### A.A. SIGNAL UNITS

### Scottish Command

13 (M) Sig. Regt. H.Q. : Edinburgh.
31 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Edinburgh.
29 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Glasgow.
30 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Wishaw.
32 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Kirkcaldy.

### Western Command

14 (M) Sig. Regt. H.Q. : Liverpool.
33 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Liverpool.
34 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Manchester.
41 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Cardiff.

### Northern Command

15 (M) Sig. Regt. H.Q. : Leeds.
37 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Leeds.
36 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Newcastle.
38 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Rotherham.
39 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Nottingham.
40 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Birmingham.

### Southern Command

12 (M) Sig. Regt. H.Q. : Bristol.
24 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Bristol.
25 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Southampton.
26 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Plymouth (not yet firm).
27 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Tavistock.

### Northern Ireland District

35 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Belfast.

### Eastern Command

20 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Chatham.

### London District

11 (M) Sig. Regt. H.Q. : Brompton Road.
23 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Brompton Road.
21 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Chiswick.
22 (M) Sig. Sqdn. H.Q. : Wanstead.

## OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS (cont. from p. 103)

occasions dogged the footsteps of the team, the games played have been enjoyed by all participants and the spirit still runs high. Representatives of this Unit have played for No. 223 B.O.D. and we are fortunate in having the services of Corporal Ken Watkins, who has played as goal-keeper in Army trial games. With the advent of the cricket season in a few weeks time it is hoped that we will be able to put a team on the field. Practice is starting and we have plenty of willing people to help us to form a team. Facilities also exist in the camp area for tennis, badminton and swimming.

Unit sports are in the capable hands of Captain (T.M.O.) W. Millichip as Unit Sports Officer.

# SPORTS NOTES

Inclement weather has seriously curtailed all sporting activities in Catterick during the past month and grounds have been placed out of bounds for long periods by rain, snow and frost. It is to be hoped that in the coming months sport will be allowed to continue free from these natural hazards.

### BOXING

Several notable achievements by Royal Signals boxers can be recorded during December. Congratulations are extended to the 5th T.T.R. team on winning the Catterick Garrison Team Boxing Championships and also the Northern Command Team Boxing Championships.

Individual honours have been achieved by Corporal M. Forester and Lance-Corporal Prentice, and these two N.C.O.s are to be congratulated on their selection as first and second light-weight strings in the I.S.B.A. team v. Sweden and also v. Denmark. Lance-Corporal Murphy, fly-weight champion Northern Command, defeated the N.C.B.A. fly-weight and bantam-weight champions on two

occasions and is to be congratulated on a remarkably fine performance.

In the Catterick Garrison Individual Championships, to be fought in Somme Lines Gymnasium on 16th January, Royal Signals have seven finalists. The Royal Signals finalists are Lance-Corporal Murphy (fly), Signalman Noon (feather), Corporal Forester and Lance-Corporal Prentice (light), Corporal Leyland (welter), Corporal Matthews (middle) and Signalman H. K. Tayler (light-heavy). The all-Signals final, Forester v. Prentice, promises to be a very good fight. The full results of this competition will be given in the next issue of these notes.

### CRICKET

Last season a start was made on reviving some of the pre-war representative inter-Corps fixtures under the captaincy of Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Lewis-Barclay. The Corps team played games against R.A.O.C. and R.A.S.C. Both resulted in drawn games.

In the coming season a fairly full programme has been arranged against Corps club teams, and the majority of the matches will be played on the Command Central Ground at Catterick. The season opens on 17th and 18th May with a game against the Rest of Catterick Garrison. This will be in the nature of a trial game for both sides and will give some idea of the amount of talent available. Units are asked to forward the names of all men whom they consider to be potential Corps cricketers to the Secretary, Royal Signals Cricket Club, c/o H.Q. School of Signals.

There is undoubtedly a wealth of good cricketing material in the Corps at home and overseas who should be considered for inclusion in the Corps team.

The following is a list of the fixtures so far arranged :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| May 17-18 | v. Rest of Catterick Garrison .. | Home |
| May 30-31 | v. R.E. .. .. .. .. | Home |
| June 15 | v. Yorkshire Gentlemen .. | Home |
| July 7 | v. Edinburgh Academicals .. | Home |
| July 30-31 | v. R.A.O.C. .. .. .. | Away |
| Aug. 9 | v. Free Foresters .. .. | Home |
| Aug. 12-13 | v. R.A.S.C. .. .. .. | Home |
| Aug. 15-16 | v. Ironsides Cricket Club (R.A.C.) | Home |
| Aug. 23 | v. R.M.A., Sandhurst .. .. | Away |

### CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

The North Yorks and South Durham Harriers League has been won by Royal Signals in five runs, the relative position of the teams being decided on a cumulative points basis. Royal Signals were first with 197 points, followed by Cleveland Harriers (329 points), Burnroad Harriers (567 points) and Darlington Harriers (726 points). The Signals team are to be congratulated on a remarkably fine performance.

In the Youth Competition Royal Signals finished second to Darlington Harriers.

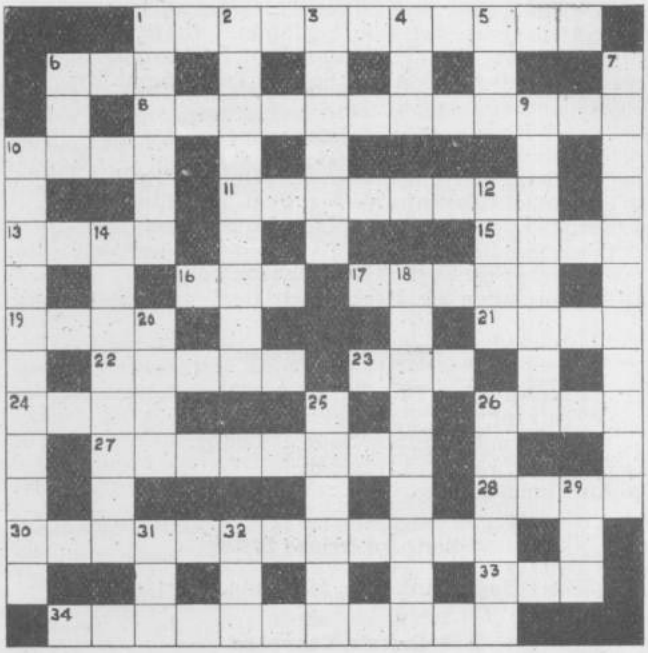
Of the individual runners, the most outstanding runner of all teams in the league was undoubtedly Corporal Ross (2nd T.T.R.). In the final run in the league Corporal Ross gave the rest of the field a clear three minutes start and even then had a comfortable win over his team mate, Lance-Corporal O'Brien, who was second.

An inter-Regimental competition is being held on 30th January, in which all units of the S.T.C. will take part. All units in Catterick are training hard for the Army Cross-Country Championships and in this important event it is hoped that one of them will provide the winning team.

## PRIZE CROSSWORD

THE WIRE offers a prize of one guinea for a correct solution of the crossword puzzle below. Entries should be addressed to the Editor and marked "Crossword" on the envelope. The closing date is 2nd April, 1947, and the guinea will be awarded to the sender of the first correct entry opened on 3rd April.

To avoid cutting this page entries may consist of tabulated lists of solutions to the clues.



CLUES

Across

1. Murderous clubmen ? (4, 7)
6, 6 down. He is, among the minnows, greater than his fellows. (6)
8. O, I repaid Saul, the scaly beast. (12)
10. East of Suez she is worth about a penny ! (4)
11. Ice a mate—and knocks pounds off him. (8)
13. Delete a backward engineer from the roster and rearrange. (4)
15. Take a curtailed chopper to the French if you want to keep the wheels turning. (4)
16. This up for a soldier's glamour girl. (3)
17. Seventh umpire packs a wallop. (5)
19. "I come from haunts of —— and hern, I make a sudden sally." (Tennyson.) (4
21. Common to sweaters and ponies. (4)
22. Alias Cesario's alter ego ? (5)
23. See 26 across.
24. The Roman five hundred rest in peace. (4)
26, 23. Usually our elders. (7)
27. Seventh vertebra is. (8)
28. Could this describe a strange lily ? (4)
30. Reserve in the cab or bag. (6, 6)
33. Famous last words ? We hope not. (3)
34. Remade Isle for a bit of blarney. (7, 4)

Down

1. Ivor's spring collection. (6)
2. Dandy's affectations. (9)
3. I am surrounded by decoration, but am altogether pretty average. (6)
4. Abbreviated books. (3)
5. Remustering involves getting the bird. (3)
6. See 6 across.
7. The abode of all demons. (11)
9. The Sappers take a photograph and get a second showing-up. (8)
10. A sailor joins a motorists' club and gets a fish with the Gunners before making the rabbit disappear. (11)
12. You this before you blow. (4)
14. Descriptive of hot spots. (8)
18. May be led by 1 across. (4, 5)
20. Give this a left bias for use in Whitehall. (4)
25. Upset cadres look alarmed. (6)
26. Spares are often this to-day. (6)
29. The Permanent Under-Secretary is muddled and involved in an ups (3)
31. See 32 down.
32, 31. It is fruity in France and provides a ruff. (6)

# THE WIRE

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MARCH 1947

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# Editorial

This number of THE WIRE is late in making its appearance, but readers cannot fail to be aware of the difficulties under which all users of power—printers included—have been working during the recent electricity restrictions, and we hope they will forgive this unavoidable tardiness. The three days "cut" in the length of the month of February is a contributory, though not unexpected, factor in the late date of publication of the March issue.

Once again we would urge readers to send copy in time to reach us by the 16th of each month for publication the following month. At present many notes are arriving just after this date and have to be held over. Photographs and drawings are items which are particularly welcome.

* * *

The opening paragraphs of our appreciation of Major-General Rawson in the January issue of THE WIRE read as follows :

"The list of officers who can claim to be founders of our Corps is very small and, of these, Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., is the chief.

"He was D.A.A.G. (Signals) in A.G. 7 at the War Office at the time the Corps was formed in 1920 and he was holding the highest Signal appointment at the War Office at the outbreak of the war of 1939-45."

We feel that a correction is necessary in that at the time of the formation of the Corps, the S.D.6 branch of the War Office, in addition to A.G.7, was largely concerned with the preliminary work. S.D.6 was then in the charge of Lieutenant-Colonel (now Brigadier) H. Clementi Smith, with Major (now Brigadier) Hugh Willan as a 2nd grade staff officer.

The reference to Major-General Rawson as the "chief" founder of the Corps is not, therefore, strictly accurate, as a large part of the work connected with the extensive initial planning should rightly be credited to the two officers mentioned above.

* * *

The following extract from a letter is reprinted by kind permission of the Editor, "Picture Post."

FOUR MEN IN A LIGHTHOUSE

Having seen in previous magazines where Servicemen have met with some success in their requests for reading matter, I wish to prevail on your assistance likewise, on behalf of my three comrades and myself. The four of us are stationed in a lighthouse on the west coast of Malaya, where we maintain a 24-hours service telecommunication link, so when not on actual duty, reading is practically our sole interest, the nearest amenities being available to u

only on rare occasions. If, then, you can in any way help us, we shall be very grateful.

14906292 Signalman McCluskey, J. (Det.) 6 Wireless Carrier Troop, 1 Squadron, Malaya Command Signal Regiment, c/o H.Q., Malaya Command, S.E.A.L.F.

* * *

**Royal Signals Display.**—Those who saw the display by Royal Signals despatch riders in pre-war years will be pleased to learn that the display team has been completely re-established on pre-war lines. Personnel, under the leadership of Captain D. Galbraith, Royal Signals, are being found by O.C. 5 Trades Training Regiment and arrangements have been completed with the Triumph Engineering Company of Coventry for the supply of twelve 350-c.c. o.h.v. solo machines, six 350-c.c. 1947 model 3T de luxe, and one 500-c.c. combination.

"Patch," the trained pony which toured with the team, has been located. She has just finished a pantomime engagement, is due to foal in May, and is expected to join the display team on tour.

Many enquiries have been received from various organisations, and in addition to an engagement at the Royal Tournament, London, in June, the team is scheduled to appear at a number of agricultural shows and seaside resorts during the summer.

A dress rehearsal for the Press and newsreel will be arranged in April, after which we hope to be able to publish a list of engagements and suitable photographs, together with the names of those taking part in the show.

**Army Golf Championships.**—The Army Championship Meeting of the Army Golf Society is being held at St. Andrews this year, commencing 21st April.

To assist in the selection of teams to represent the Corps in the team championship, will any golfer with a handicap of six or under, who expects to be available at this time, please write to The Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Golf Society, H.Q. School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks., as soon as possible.

At last year's meeting, at Camberley Heath, the first since the war, the Royal Signals team representing Northern Command made a bold bid for the cup. It lost to the winners in the semi-final by one putt on the last green.

* * *

**Personal.**—Henry (Busty) Rotherham, lately D.R. instructor, of 59, Upper Valley Road, Sheffield, 8, would like to get in touch with old friends (Catterick, Prestatyn, and 8th Armoured Divisional Signals).

James Livingstone, ex-Company Quartermaster Sergeant, wishes to be remembered to all Old Comrades of 3 Company, 3rd O.T.B., Whitby, and Huddersfield (Albany Hall).

* * *

**Obituary.**—783962 ex-Company Sergeant-Major John Robertson, life member of the Signals Association, died on 24th January, 1947. After nearly 15 years' service with the Corps, Company Sergeant-Major Robertson was invalided out of the Service in December, 1943. His last unit was No. 4 Trades Training Battalion.

* * *

**Publications Received.**—We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, January.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, January.

R.E.M.E., January, February.

THE THISTLE, January, February.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, February, March.

# H.M.S. VANGUARD

## A Review of the Internal Communication Systems

BY MAJOR A. M. KEELING, ROYAL SIGNALS (T.A.)

The fact that H.M.S. *Vanguard* is the Royal Navy's latest battleship and has been fitted out for conveying the Royal Family to South Africa has created a certain amount of interest in all spheres of life. It may, therefore, be assumed that the readers of THE WIRE are especially interested in the communication aspects.

Very little extra internal communication equipment has been fitted since H.M.S. *Vanguard* was commissioned in May, 1946, though a certain amount of re-arrangement has been carried out in order to fit her for her royal mission. The Royal Family and their entourage are accommodated in the quarters which would normally be available for the Commander-in-Chief and his staff. That is to say, the Royal Family is accommodated in the after superstructure on the shelter deck. The quarters for the royal staff, consisting of the King's Private Secretary, Equerries and Surgeon Rear Admiral, are on the main deck aft, whilst the ladies-in-waiting are accommodated in cabins immediately above the Queen's suite. The whole system of the various cabins and offices devoted to the business of the Royal Family is provided with telephone communication by means of a subsidiary exchange which, as will be seen, is linked in with the ship's main telephone system.

Any large ship, whether warship or liner, resembling as it does a small town, has extensive internal communication requirements. H.M.S. *Vanguard* is no different in this respect and those coming within the scope of this article consist of telephone communications and loud-speaking devices. In the former category there are several distinct and separate systems which can be divided into:

(a) Operational systems.
(b) A main exchange or administrative system.
(c) A small exchange serving the royal compartments and tied to the main exchange,

comprising in all about 2,000 telephones.

In addition to telephones there are several loud-speaking systems which form an important part of the intercommunication set up. These consist of:

(a) Operational systems.
(b) A "pipeing" or general administrative broadcast system, known as the "main broadcast."
(c) A system fed from a radio receiver for providing broadcast entertainment throughout the ship.
(d) An entertainment system for the royal apartments.

### TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

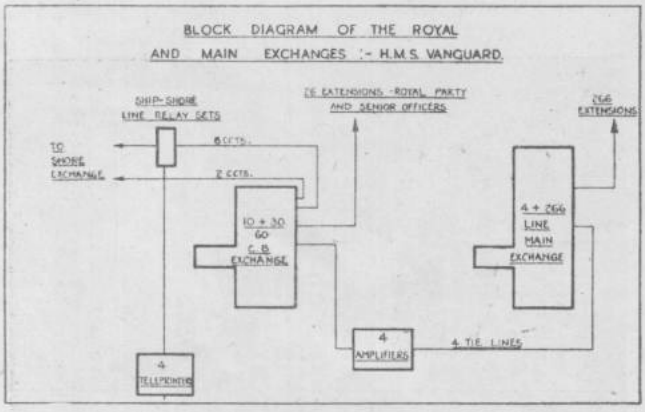
The Royal Navy's telephones, in the main, are based on the use of the "batteryless" or "sound powered" unit. This operates on the principle of an armature balanced in the field created by a strong magnet. Used as a receiver it is extremely sensitive but is insensitive when used as a transmitter. However, the quality is good and on the short distances within ships they provide a satisfactory means of communication.

The operational systems range from simple point-to-point telephones to 24 or 30 outstations terminating on cordless switchboards. These are not generally used for interconnecting outstations but as control points to enable the appropriate officer to have selective communication with any one or more of the outstations on the system which he is controlling. Generally speaking each operational function affecting the fighting efficiency or safety of the

ship is served by a separate and independent telephone system, although tie lines are provided in certain cases between the control switchboards serving different systems.

The speech circuits are batteryless owing to the employment of " sound powered " telephones and one of the big advantages of this is that in the event of damage resulting in complete power failure it is still possible to use the telephone system. Certain of the operational systems employ the main 24-volt low-power supply for signalling and call-up purposes, but in systems such as the network serving the extensive " damage control " organisation, which may be likened to an A.R.P. organisation, where it is essential to have a telephone system entirely independent of any power supply, an audio frequency (about 800 C.P.S.) hand generator is employed for call-up purposes.

In addition to the above the whole ship, with the exception of the actual royal apartments, is served by a 270 line main exchange. A G.P.O. type C.B. $\frac{10 + 30}{60}$ switchboard was originally installed in a separate compartment to serve the shore communication requirements of the Commander-in-Chief and his staff should the ship be used as a flagship. A teleprinter compartment, containing four G.P.O. 7B teleprinters, has also been provided for the same purpose. The C.B. switchboard has now been re-sited in the main exchange compartment and has virtually become ancillary to the main exchange, being used as a P.B.X. for their Majesties, their Royal Highnesses, and the senior members of the suite. It provides, besides intercommunication between their Majesties and the members of their suite, access to the main exchange and to all shore lines. The ship-shore radio telephone circuits are not terminated on this switchboard, but are an entirely separate installation, being served by special desk telephone sets. The block diagram shows the complete scheme.

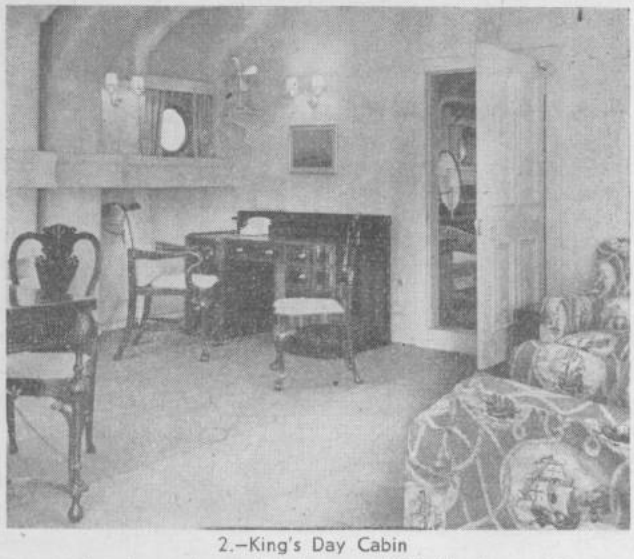



1.—Block Diagram

The main exchange is a manual switchboard of standard Admiralty design for use in H.M. Ships. The outstations employ sound powered handsets, as does the switchboard, therefore a batteryless transmission circuit is a feature.

A common battery signalling system is employed with loop calling, but, as stated, no battery is required for speech, in consequence of which the cord circuit is extremely simple, consisting of a single wire, a condenser, and the necessary operator speak and ring keys. Speech return is effected via one pole of the common battery. The calling of outstations is effected by means of an 800 C.P.S. buzzer, the output from which is switched to line by one of the line circuit relays under the control of the cord circuit ring key. The result at the outstation is a distinctive howl ammitted from the handset.

Despite the simplicity of the circuits, communications with this exchange system are good, and, although speech is somewhat weaker than with a power operated system, it is quite satisfactory with the relatively short communication lines in a warship, and, in general, of better quality than that usually obtained with a shore system. Limitations which result from the use of the sound powered telephone are only of consequence when it is desired to communicate with a normal system employing battery-fed speech circuits, in which case special amplifying arrangements are necessary.



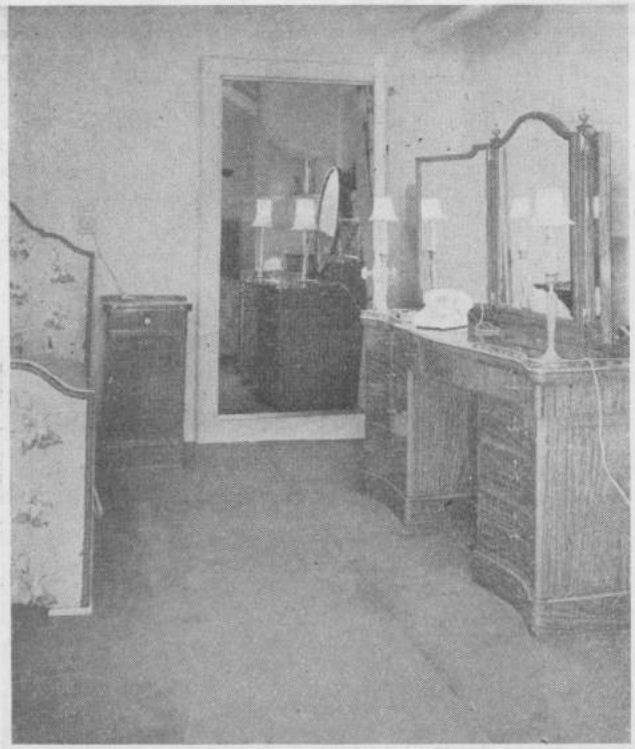
2.—King's Day Cabin
showing exchange telephone and R/T telephone set

Such a case occurs on H.M.S. *Vanguard* in respect of the four tie lines to the " Royal " C.B. exchange and the four amplifiers are indicated on the diagram. These are arranged to upgrade the speech from the main exchange to the C.B. exchange (by approximately 20 db) and to degrade (owing to the sensitiveness of the sound powered unit as a receiver) the speech from the C.B. exchange to the main exchange.

The C.B. type of switchboard used is undoubtedly familiar to most readers of THE WIRE and needs no description here. The outstation telephones are from the G.P.O. type 300 series and of the usual black bakelite material, except in the case of those in the royal apartments, which are finished in ivory in order to harmonise with the general scheme of decoration. These are clearly seen in photographs No. 2 of the King's day cabin and No. 3 of the Queen's sleeping cabin. The special sets for use with the radio telephone link are similar in appearance, except that a black handset is employed. One of these can just be seen in photo No. 2 on the bulkhead behind the armchair.

The " Royal " exchange serves the Royal Family, senior members of the suite, and senior officers of the ship. The remainder of the royal retinue, other passengers, and the ship's company are served by the main exchange.

The ship-shore line equipment is worthy of some description as it has some novel features. When a ship is in harbour she may be either swinging at a buoy or alongside a jetty. Line communication to a shore exchange, if provided to a buoy, is in the form of an armoured submarine cable, whose size and weight is limited by the fact that it has to be manhandled on board. Sixteen cores being the normal maximum, it will be appreciated that only eight physical pairs are available, which is none too many to



3.—Queen's Sleeping Cabin

serve the needs of a flagship. Even alongside in a dockyard available cable pairs are generally at a premium.

In the case of H.M.S. *Vanguard* the exchange system is capable of terminating ten shore telephone lines, and in addition four circuits are required for the teleprinters. It is therefore necessary to make the maximum use of both the physical and phantom circuits. The ship's exchange must, of course, be able to work into any type of shore system likely to be met with at home or abroad, and which may be assumed to be in one of the following categories: Automatic (various systems), C.B., C.B.S., No. 1 or No. 2, or magneto.

Eight of the shore lines terminate on special relay equipment, each pair of which provides one full phantom circuit for a teleprinter. A similar set of relay equipment must, of course, be available at the shore end of the line, and this is provided in a transportable box which is carried ashore at each port of call. Besides providing phantom circuits the ship-shore relay sets cater for through dialling, signalling and, of course, speech to any type of shore exchange. Discrimination between the various types of shore exchanges is carried out by means of plugs and sockets, which also provide for cutting out the relay equipment if the shore exchange is suitable for working directly on to the ship's exchange line circuit and the phantom is not required.

Line circuits 9 and 10 are not equipped for relay working, but are available for direct lines such as private wires. Whilst at Portsmouth, H.M.S. *Vanguard* was served by three lines to the dockyard automatic exchange, five lines to a C.B. exchange, two private wires, and four phantom circuits terminating on a teleprinter switchboard at the shore end.

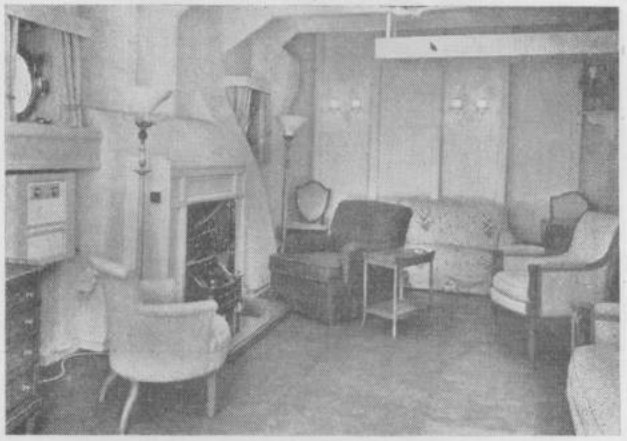
### Loud-speaking Systems

H.M.S. *Vanguard*, being the latest and largest battleship, has more loud-speakers or "broadcast" systems than have formerly been fitted in any ship in the British Navy. There are some eleven operational systems, each functioning quite independently and forming an instantaneous method of issuing orders or passing information from point to point, or from any point to all positions interested.

They vary from the small "Conning System," which gives direct two-way loud-speaker conversation between the bridge and the wheel, to the large "Armament Broadcast System," split into four groups, which may be worked either independently or connected as one and which in all employs five 50-watt amplifiers, feeding some 90 loud-speakers. Between these limits are medium size intercommunication systems, such as the "Command Intercomm" which, due to its high priority, has a stand-by amplifier always ready for use, and the "Controlled Talk Back Systems" in which the controlling officer selects and calls an outstation who replies by talking back through the loud-speaker. Each of the main gun turrets has also its own broadcast system for the officer in charge.

The Main Broadcast system, which is used for passing orders or talking to the whole ship, employs audio frequency amplifiers of 1,000 watts of audio power which is distributed by some 400 loud-speakers. In all the Speech Broadcast systems use approximately 55 microphones, 22 amplifiers, and a total audio power of 1,700 watts feeding 700 loud-speakers.

On the entertainment side a distribution of radio, gramophone or "on board" programme is made to all messes and recreation spaces through good quality loud-speakers. This employs three 50-watt amplifiers feeding 70 loud-speakers. The royal suite is provided, apart from two individual radiograms, with high quality loud-speakers, finished to match the compartments and fitted with a volume control and a selector switch for the choice of three programmes. The three programmes may be radio or gramophone supplied through 10-watt amplifiers. Photo No. 4 of the Queen's day cabin shows one of these special loud-speakers fitted to the bulkhead on the left-hand side of the fire place.



4.—Queen's Day Cabin
showing special loud-speaker on the left

One large recreation space is fitted up as a cinema with dual 35 mm. projectors. A portable equipment is also used for shows on deck in the tropics after dark, and portable 16 mm. projectors are also carried. All, of course, are for sound film projection.

The author wishes to express his thanks to his colleague W. T. Dowden, Esq., B.SC., A.M.I.E.E., for notes on the loud-speaking systems.

# HOME STATIONS

## No. 1 OPERATORS' TRAINING REGT.

February.

**General.**—Despite the weather—a snow, ice, frost cycle—our training goes on more or less as usual.

Old friends of this Unit will be interested and sorry to learn that Captain (Bert) Maynard is having another spell in hospital at Woolwich.

The P.R.I.'s tombola session in Baghdad N.A.A.F.I. is meeting with great success every week, with Staff-Sergeant Gillott chief shouter. Also, the weekly dance held in the Baghdad gym is as popular as ever and still creating memories (overseas papers please quote).

No. 2 Squadron are holding a mixed social and dance every month for their Cadre Staff, and this is an extremely popular " get together."

**Sport.**—Owing to the prevailing Arctic conditions most outdoor sport is at a standstill so we are concentrating on basket-ball in the gym, miniature range shooting, badminton and boxing.

CROSS-COUNTRY.—The Unit came third in the S.T.C. Inter-Regimental Championship and we extend our congratulations to No. 2 T.T.R. and the O.C.T.U. who were first and second respectively. The run was from the Highlands ground over a stiff, snow-covered course of seven miles and we are pleased to have done so well with our team which is composed solely of trainees.

We have entered a team for the Northern Command Championship which is being run next week.

BOXING.—Our activities recently have been confined to competitions inside the Unit. During January each Squadron ran its own Novices' Competition, ond on 3rd February and the two following nights we staged an Inter-Squadron team competition in the " Blood-Tub." Throughout the competition we had plenty of action and, at times, quite a lot of skill. Although No. 1 Squadron came out worthy winners, the other teams were by no means disgraced.

We are now engaged in building up our team for the Inter-Regimental competition which is to take place in March, when we hope to retain the cup which we won last October.

D.H.

## No. 2 TRADES TRAINING REGT.

February.

Many Unit outdoor activities have been severely curtailed and, indeed, often stopped altogether by the past month's shockingly bad weather. Inter barrack room snowball fights have occasionally been the only means of getting a little extra exercise and warmth.

There have been one or two notable arrivals and departures. Our best wishes go with Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. C. Harrison on his departure to the Staff College after a very brief term of command, and we welcome our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve Docker, recently returned to the U.K. from Germany.

We are also glad to welcome Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., new O.C. No. 3 Squadron, S.S.M. Hayter, B.E.M., and S.S.M. Edwards.

The Regiment has lost one of its mainstays with the posting of Major G. H. MacKowen, M.B.E. (O.C., 3 Squadron), to London as S.O.II. to the C.S.O. " Mac " was popular with everyone, and his enthusiasm, organising ability and unfailing sense of humour will be missed by many. We wish him good luck and good health in his new " Outpost of Empire."

Another loss to the Unit is S.Q.M.S. Manson, the C.I.'s right hand, who was a tower of strength both at outdoor (especially rugger, soccer and putting the weight) and indoor sports (a snooker king).

**Sport.**—The Unit won the Inter-Regimental Cross-Country Competition for 1947, held on the 30th January under bitter Polar conditions with about four inches of snow on the ground. Ten members of the team shivered for a further 3½ minutes after the start, the handicap they had to concede to the rest of the S.T.C. Corporal Ross came in second in 47 minutes 32 seconds, and Lance-Corporal Kinsey third. Signalman Moynan, who came in seventh, also put up an outstanding performance.

This very satisfactory show was the result of many months hard training and method of packing as a team under the supervision of Major Haslehurst who is also a member of the team.

RESULTS

| | Pts. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. 2 Trades Training Reg. .. | 174 | (Silver Medals) |
| 2. Royal Signals O.C.T.U. .. | 355 | (Bronze Medals) |
| 3. 5 Trades Training Regt. .. | 404 | |
| 4. 1 Operators' Training Regt. | 470 | |
| 5. 1 Trades Training Regt. .. | 553 | |

The first round of the Basketball knock-out competition played on Thursday, 28th January, against 1 S.T.W. (last year's champions) resulted in a win for the Unit by 15 points to 13 points.

The hockey match against No. 5 Trades Training Regiment resulted in a draw, 3—3, after a very lively game indeed. Our team which has experienced bad luck so far this season played a hard game throughout and were greatly heartened by this result against a good team.

About the only activity not seriously impeded by the weather difficulties has been the Indoor Games Tournament in which our senior and junior teams are doing exceptionally well, being top or near top in all individual league placings.

Lieutenant F. R. Mackenzie remains unbeaten at table tennis in the Senior League, and Signalman Procter is our brightest star in the Junior League.

There are about 50 per cent. officers participating in these games and the C.O. himself throws a very nifty dart on occasion.

Best match so far has been against No. 19 P.T.C. at Richmond, when we managed to win all games, and all enjoyed a pleasant convivial evening.

# SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

January.

## SIGNALS WING

**Arrivals.**—We extend a hearty welcome to S.Q.M.S. E. C. Barnes, who joined us on 21st December, 1946, from Singapore, and to Signalmen Woodmansey and Obin from 1 T.T.R.

**Departures.**—Captain D. C. Sutton to "Civvy Street" on 14th January. S.Q.M.S. Shackleton to Scottish Command Signals on 13th January.

**Educational Visits.**—During December, 1946, and January, 1947, two visits were arranged for a party of men from E.1 and E.2 sections of the Signals Wing.

In December the Darlington Forge was visited. Here every facility was extended to the visitors to see at first hand how steel is made and how large castings are produced. Such articles as rudders for battleships and trans-Atlantic liners are produced by this firm, and they were responsible for the casting of the rudder and associated gear for the "Queen Elizabeth."

Many thanks are due to the management for their co-operation in ensuring the success of this visit.

In January a visit was paid to the Darlington Rolling Mills. This firm is mainly concerned with the rolling of window sections and brake drum sections. These mills played a big part in producing the sections used in our heavier tank brake systems. Once again every facility was afforded by the firm to study at close quarters the complicated technique of steel rolling and this contributed in no small degree to the success of this visit.

It is hoped in the near future to arrange visits to Darlington Power Station, L.N.E.R. Repair Sheds, the printing works of the "Northern Echo" and a coal mine.

**Recruiting Drive.**—The Wing contributed to a Recruiting Drive organised by Scottish Command Signals, Edinburgh, during the period 29th December to 9th January, and the following vehicles were sent:—one T.E.V. (A), one T.E.V. (C), one A.C.V. and one H.P. 53 set under the command of Sergeant J. Hallworth. Readers of Scottish papers will have seen photographs of the School team.

Recruiting Drive

**Sport.**—Royal Signals Wing retained the Inter-Wing Athletic trophy for the third consecutive year.

## REGIMENTAL WING

The Wing has now completed the training of many hundreds of Dutch Infantry and R.A. Signalling Instructors. The last Infantry course left us just before Christmas and gave a very good concert as a farewell gesture. After this, with Signals Wing assistance, a duplex radio link was established at the Dutch Signal School at The Hague, Holland, and a number of lucky students spoke to their families and friends using, of course, correct procedure as per Signal Training (All Arms).

The Wing also ran a short course on Methods of Instruction and Equipment for the R.M.A. N.C.O. Signal Instructors, who are under Lieutenant-Colonel McGill, lately of this Wing. The Wing has maintained close touch by personal visits of instructors with the School of Infantry (Warminster), School of Artillery (Larkhill), S.M.E. (Ripon) and Infantry R.A. and R.E. Directorates in the War Office, and by letter with relevant training establishments overseas. We are doing our best to keep in touch but if you have any information which you think may be of use to us please pass it on.

Did you know that instruction in Morse and, consequently, in lamp and fullerphone have been abolished for Infantry Regimental Signallers? Those in far-off climes take note, because you may not have heard this officially yet.

# ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

February.

**Pass-off Parade.**—On 21st January, Lieutenant-General Sir A. F. Philip Christian, Bart., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, took the Pass-off Parade of 16 Officer Cadets of 173 Course.

The Senior Under Officer, who was awarded the Commandant's Cane, was Officer Cadet Lewis-Barclay.

**Re-organisation.**—Ex-members of the Unit will be interested to learn that Signal Tactics has been reorganised. No longer does it form part of Group I but comes under the command of the Cadet Wing commanded by Major J. D. Elliott.

The programme has been reduced considerably and the time saved allotted to other subjects. Exercises "Three-day," that bogey of the course, and "Salmon" are no more. However, exercise "Sewa" remains but will take place nearer to Catterick in the Bellerby area.

The following constitute the Signal Tactics Staff:—Captains C. A. Clarke, A. W. Stewart, W. M. Park, M.C., D. J. Skinner, and Sergeants Sadler and Galbraith.

**Music Club.**—Another month is past and the Music Club has become something of an established friend in the O.C.T.U. Bi-weekly meetings are continuing and now that the wintry weather is tending to keep people from wandering far afield new faces are to be seen in the precincts of the music room, where a fire and refreshments help to put the music lover at his ease before settling down to the programme.

Several members of neighbouring Units have attended and judging by the comments and suggestions handed in at each meeting the complaints are few and far between.

Although the larger symphonies have outshone the minor works presented, it is surprising how many new records have caught on. Sopranos and tenors have vied with each other in an attempt to be heard above the "New World," "The Unfinished," Vaughan Williams' 5th and many other works.

Variety seems to be the keynote of the concerts and it is the Committee's policy to present more modern composers in the near future.

A joint meeting of the Club and the Debating Society on the "Life of Chopin," is a future engagement and members will be fortunate in hearing a pianist Cadet who has already had some experience of playing at large concerts.

The Presidency changes hands again and the writer feels sure that the Club will be every bit as successful as it has been in the last months of his pleasureable work.

**Arrivals.**—A hearty welcome is extended to Major A. W. Barron and to Captain S. E. Mabey. We hope that their stay with us will be a pleasant one.

**Good Service Certificates.**—Congratulations to Captain C. A. Clarke and to Sergeant A. E. Arnold on their awards of the Certificate for Good Service.

**Births.**—Congratulations are extended to the following :—Major T. S. Foster on the birth of a daughter, Bridgett Mary ; Captain W. M. Park, M.C., on the birth of a son, Michael ; S.Q.M.S. J. F. Berry on the birth of a son, Michael John ; Sergeant J. C. Beckley on the birth of a daughter, Christine Mary.

**Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials.**—Corporal Evans and Officer Cadet Dimmock are to be congratulated on their very fine achievement on obtaining fourth and fifth places in the Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials held on 19th January.

**Miniature Rifle Range League.**—The Unit has done extremely well in the Catterick Garrison Miniature Range Rifle League for January, winning all three fixtures by a large margin.

Results were as follows :—

Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 753 ; 62 Trg. Regt. R.A.C., 735.
Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 747 ; 57 Trg. Regt. R.A.C., 625.
Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 745 ; School of Signals, 641.

Officer Cadet Pimm, by scoring 95 and over in three successive matches, wins the Silver Spoon for January.

**Cross-Country.**—Results of Royal Signals Catterick Inter-Regiment Cross-Country :—1, 2 Trades Training Regiment ; 2, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Individual winner, Officer Cadet Heywood, Royal Signals O.C.T.U.

## SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNALS

February.

### UNIT HEADQUARTERS

On New Year's Day, 42 Cadets of ages ranging from 13 to 18 years, arrived for a fortnight's course on Signals work, and it was evident to everyone who came into contact with them that they were enjoying every minute of their stay.

Captain Luke, in charge of their instruction, made the assumption that to keep a person's mind occupied was to keep him out of mischief—and he set to work on this theory with a vengeance. Visits were arranged to Salisbury Cathedral and to the G.P.O. telephone exchange, where some of the seniors were permitted to understudy the operators ; social evenings were held in the cinema ; table tennis and snooker tournaments were run in the N.A.A.F.I., and any spare time in the evenings was taken up with organised games. Captain Luke even went so far as to arrange a treasure hunt at Stonehenge so that the Cadets would have an opportunity of seeing the Roman relics. The Command School of P.T. made a gymnasium available for their recreational exercise after duty. Despite all this the cadets found time to play, and win, two games of soccer, one against Bishop Stone Modern School the other against Cadets at the P.T. School.

End-of-course tests, on which depended the much sought after classification as Signaller, resulted in few disappointments. Of the 14 tested as Assistant Instructors, ten passed with a clear margin ; 23 of the remaining 28 gained the classification they sought. The instructors, to whom were largely due these results, were 2nd Lieutenant Mountford, Sergeant Buesnel, from Jersey, Sergeant Culley, Sergeant English, Corporal Marshfield (drill instructor), Lance-Corporal Lloyd and Signalman Kay. Staff officers gave occasional lectures on Signals tactics.

The assumption of the officer in charge of them did not prove entirely correct—their daytime exertions did not exhaust the energy of the inevitable humorist, as one Cadet can testify. No longer able to tolerate the pranks played upon him by his comrades, he sought refuge—with his bed—among the dizzy heights of the rafters. The jokers' courage did not equal their humour ; he slept undisturbed.

**Films.**—On the 9th January, Signalman Eva, who received training at Wembley as a projectionist, introduced a series of films in the Unit Education Hut. He receives six A.B.C.A. films and one War Documentary film weekly from the Army Kinema Corporation, and gives a show morning and afternoon during A.B.C.A. periods—something new in the educational activities of this camp. Signalman Eva hopes in the near future to be able to re-open the old Cinema Hut in order to give shows of much improved variety and quality. We wish him success in his new undertaking.

A new Unit Entertainments Committee was elected last month, and a completely new series of weekly dances is being launched.

We would like to express our gratitude to the two retiring Committee members, Signalman K. Eva and Driver D. Dunton, for the excellent work they put into the dances during 1946, and would also like to wish the new Committee every success in 1947.

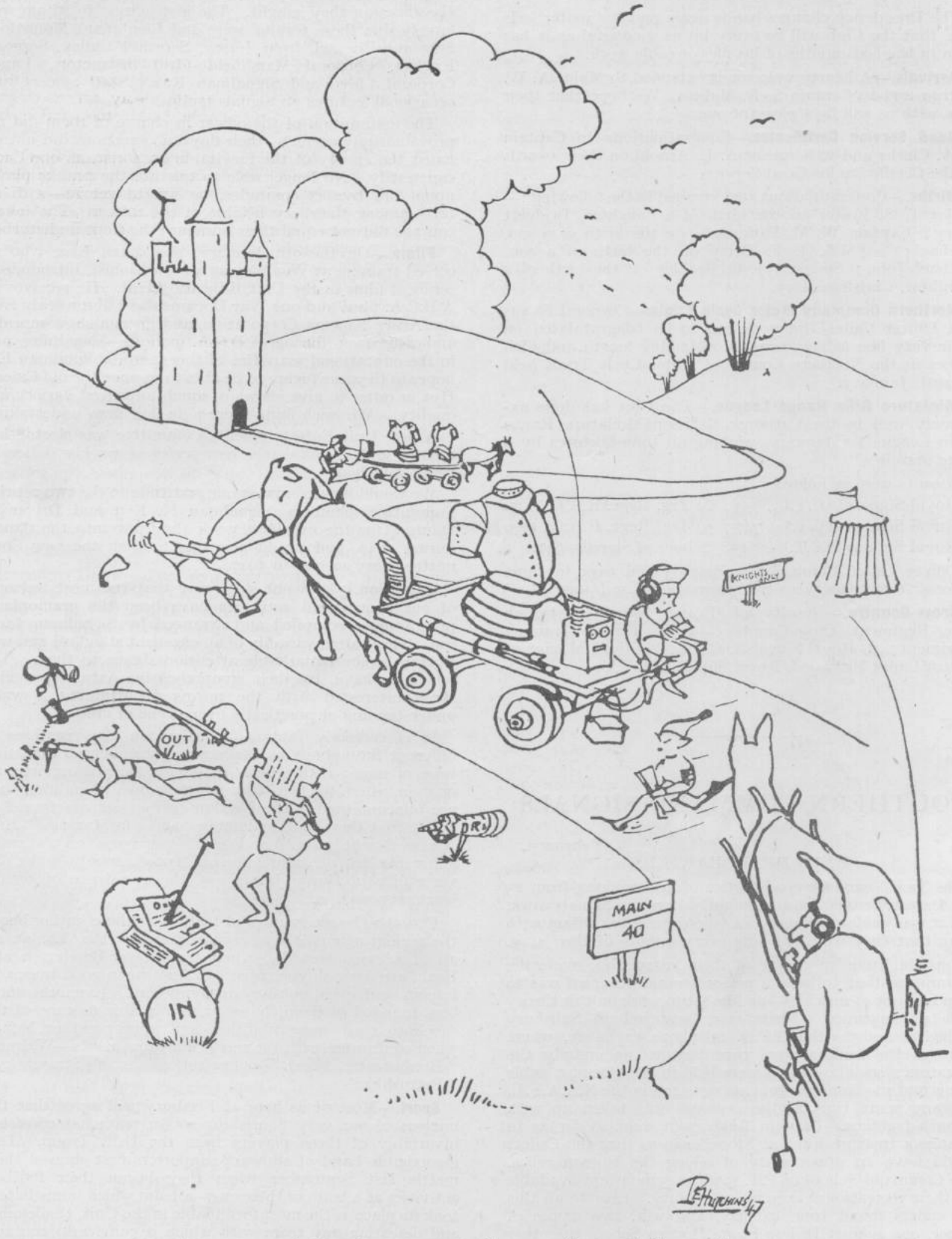
**Education.**—It is not surprising that the most welcome of our educational activities have been the gramophone programmes, compiled and arranged by Signalman Jackson. These are invariably of an excellent standard and well worthy of the remarkable attention shown to them. The selections have, by their comprehensive nature, provided those interested with the means of attaining a wider understanding of practically every type of music.

It is certainly interesting to watch the reactions of different individuals as they come into contact with that type of music with which, either for lack of opportunity or more often, we fear, through their own prejudices, they are unacquainted. The rhythm enthusiasts are forced to admit that there is considerable beauty in Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," and even the most sophisticated adherents to the more serious type cannot doubt the versatility of Harry James and the excellence of certain jazz compositions.

Perhaps the most unusual feature of these gatherings is the regular attendance of several German P.o.W.s, nearly all of whom, steeped in their traditional Beethoven and Bach, are agreeably surprised to find much good music by foreign and even non-Aryan composers. Even the most broadminded of them, however, are unable to conceal the shock to their susceptibilities, and appear rather baffled when confronted with the modern arrangements—Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast," or selections from Stravinsky's "Petrushka."

**Sport.**—Most of us here at Figsbury will agree that the nucleus of our very flourishing soccer team has consisted invariably of those players from the D.R. Troop. This incorrigible band of stalwart supporters first showed their mettle last September when they began their football activities as a team of their own—a team which immediately took its place as the most formidable in the Unit, challenging and defeating any team with which it came into contact. Lance-Corporal Dove, who was one of this team, and now

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—I.*




**Armoured Replacement Group Signal Squadron**

plays for the Unit, thought the secret of their early victories due to three nights a week strenuous training at the " Black Horse."

When Groups 44 and 46 were demobilised their numbers became so badly depleted that they were forced to abandon hope of maintaining a team at all, for their success was due largely to the matchless play of Signalman Pritchard, " the ever unsafe " Rowe, Lance-Corporal Sergeant, the ever-popular " Pinhead " Warrall and last, but not least, Signalman Gibbons (" Never a dull moment ").

The Unit team also suffered greatly from the loss of these men but is still on its feet under the leadership of Signalman Scargill. They have played several games recently and on Saturday, 11th January, they drew with Bishop Stone in the second round of the Morrison Cup match. The players are confident that they will do even better next season and are looking to the future in high spirits.

### SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP

Camp sporting activities are now at a standstill owing to bad weather, but the recent fall of snow has enabled most of the Troop to derive a certain amount of pleasure from bombarding the A.T.S. girls of the camp with snowballs.

The troop was represented on the 25th January in a soccer match against the German P.o.W.s, the result of which was a draw of one all. Our last dance on the 18th January was again a great success, and a cheque for £5 was forwarded by Major Vincent-Smith to the Royal Cancer Hospital, Fulham Road, London. We hope that the next dance, to be held on the 13th February, is going to be our greatest success. A cabaret show has been engaged especially for the occasion and the entertainment, we are sure, will be first class. An invitation to the Headquarters at Salisbury is being sent to O.C. No. 2 Squadron, and we hope to see at least a dozen men come down to spend the evening with us.

The Signals staff, including A.T.S., met at a dinner and party in the N.A.A.F.I. on Tuesday, 28th January. As the evening wore on the games became more and more " involved," but this added to, rather than subtracted from, the great pleasure of which everyone had full measure.

Corporal Hudson organised our first Camp whist drive on the 29th, and it was voted by all who attended to be the very thing for this type of weather. It is proposed to run another on the 5th February.

More changes in the Troop took place during the last two months. Sergeant Woodhouse, Signalman Cappleman and Signalman Jones have left us for civilian life, while Corporals Hudson, Paton, and Black and Signalmen Douglas, Garland and Parry are the latest arrivals. Unfortunately Corporal Black stayed with us for only a fortnight as he was recalled to Unit Headquarters for posting to B.A.O.R.

## EASTERN COMMAND SIGNALS

January.

### UNIT HEADQUARTERS

**General.**—Ex 4 Divites—note change of address, Canterbury—this place still reeks of horses, stable picquets, etc., and we have often asked ourselves the question " Why did we leave home " (Hounslow) ? as home it was for many people each evening, and practically for all at week-ends.

The move took place by road, and thanks to the M.T. generally (it certainly was a case of flogging a willing horse in one or two cases), we eventually landed here complete with almost everything, including half of the N.A.A.F.I.

One hardly likes to bring the weather into it, especially these days, but at the time of writing we are definitely acclimatised to it, for as soon as we arrived here it decided to give us a sample, and we experienced a cold spell that equalled, if not exceeded, anything Catterick may have had. We are now awaiting the big thaw and hope that fate deals kindly with us as regards burst pipes, etc.

The prospect of a forthcoming summer here is eagerly awaited. Such close proximity to the coast will no doubt attract many wives and families this way, and the fact that the County Cricket Ground is near, too, adds further interest.

It may be of interest to other Signals personnel who have been stationed here in the past to know that Canterbury certainly bears the scars of the " Baedeker Raids." There are many spaces and I have heard that at least one-fifth or even more has been devastated. It will take many years to bring it back to its pre-war beauty.

The Unit provided a ten-day course for Cadets of the J.T.C. and A.C.F. at Colchester, from the 2nd to 11th January, and although the weather was varied, it was quite successful. A visit was made to the Marconi factory at Chelmsford, which was extremely interesting, and in one or two instances provided an answer to the questions raised at the " Brains Trust " the previous evening. By the way, I wonder if Sergeant Higgins has found the " ratio " of the No. 3 Layer yet ? It is with eagerness that one or two of the Cadre await the next course—" once bitten, twice shy," so Stan says.

**Sport.**—The final results of the Eastern Command H.Q. Soccer League saw our " A " team placed second, two points behind the R.A.S.C. " B " team had the chance to give " A " team the leadership on goal average, but failed gloriously. Leading the R.A.S.C., who had not lost a match, by 3—1 at half-time, they eventually went down 5—4 ; hard luck and a good effort.

In the Home Counties cup-tie, first round, we played the 33 Pioneer Group at Shorncliffe, and we returned with an 8—2 victory to our credit. Sad to relate, in the semi-final we met our Waterloo, losing 8—0 to 19 Light A.A. on our own ground. This was a most unexpected result and there were many disappointed spectators. Better luck next time.

Sounds and scenes of an unusual nature can be heard and seen in the gym these evenings. An Inter-Section Basketball League has been formed and is in full swing—from one who has seen it and played in it the only difference between this game and all-in wrestling is the ball—goals are few and casualties many, and the " esprit de section " has to be seen to be believed.

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—Social activities at present—nil. Miscellaneous activites—many and varied, including the three enthusiasts who went out seeking the light and found it. Congratulations to Sergeant Higgins who, on our arrival here, made himself such a good cook and bottlewasher—obviously due to his domestic training. We heartily welcome the successor to our late " R.Q." R.Q.M.S. R. E. Hodges, and from what we have seen a worthy successor, too.

MARRIAGE.—Yes it does happen now and again, even in the Mess. Congratulations and everything that goes with them to Sergeant M. E. E. Truscott, who was married to Doris Irene Hardingham of Lowestoft, on 19th December, 1946, at Brentford (Japanese papers please copy). Best of luck, " Trus," on your new venture and abode—don't get " geisha."

### 1 SQUADRON SHOEBURYNESS TROOP

This Troop has one of the most interesting jobs of the F.S.S. side of the Corps, that of providing Signal services for the Royal Artillery Experimental Establishment at

Shoeburyness. The main network, both for telephone and recording instrument circuits, consists of armoured underground cables, whilst the administrative areas are served mainly by overhead routes. Some 250 subscribers are catered for by C.B. switchboards, and portable P.A. equipment is frequently in use. The strength of the Troop averages 30 men, and new work together with maintenance ensures that they are never idle. Foulness Island, where most of the work is required, is low and marshy at the best of times; recent rains, however, have convinced us that Merry-go-Round's "Sinking in the Ooze" is a dry sandy desert compared to this.

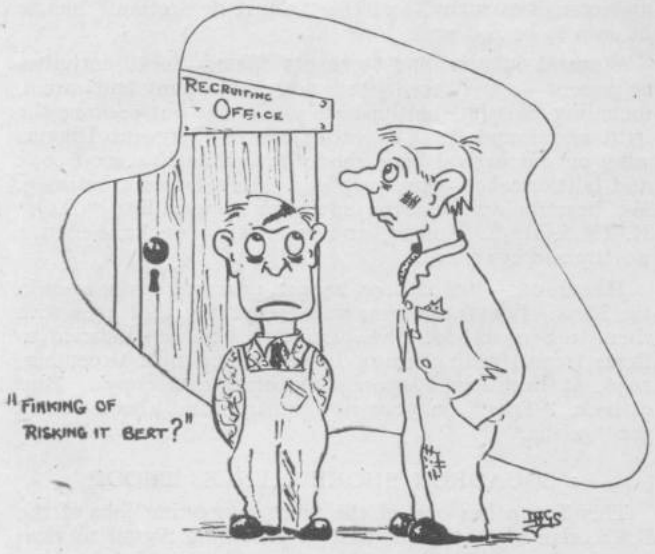
Some of our problems are seldom met with in normal Signal work, and it is hoped in the future to describe some of the most interesting ones. The most unusual, perhaps, up to date has been the fitting of a ten-pair armoured cable to the outside of a 290 ft. steel observation tower. We could not, of course, get the cable drums up the tower, and some half-a-mile of rope, sundry pulleys, and a mobile railway crane were necessary adjuncts to a successful conclusion; once the cable end had reached the top of the tower, bosun's chairs were used to lower the linemen to enable them to cleat the cable with specially made cleats to the leg of the tower. Their view of the countryside during this process was, I am told, unique.

I. P. SEE.

### KENT COAST TROOP, DOVER

With constant gale warnings making life on and around the Coast Batteries far from pleasant, we have had to seek profitable ways of using up the time indoors. The Troop being fortunate in having an expert Plumber-Jointer amongst its members, was able to run a course on this subject. For four weeks, the lucky (or luckless) few plodded away, twisting wires and shaping hot lead, testing for pin holes and trying to absorb all the wealth of knowledge that was shot at them, only at the end to face a "Final Test." However, as with all end of course exams, it wasn't very formidable, and the majority of entrants were able to show considerable practical skill and technical knowledge. Now we have volunteers clamouring for another course.

Sport has not been forgotten, though the weather has interrupted our fixtures. Slowly the eleven enthusiasts are becoming a team, guided by Signalman Cheeseman, and admirably led at centre forward by Lance-Corporal Gadbury. 23rd Battery R.A. were shaken to the tune of 4—0 in a keen match played under bad conditions. All goals were scored by Gadbury. Here's hoping we have another win again this week.




### THAMES ESTUARY TROOP, CHATHAM

The Troop has been very hard hit by demob, but we still have the following pre-1939 old stagers; old friends may like to know they are fit and well and rapidly becoming R.E. fixtures.

1852381 Lance-Sergeant Devereux, 2308645 Corporal Colgan, 2307017 Signalman Cooper, 1850127 Lance-Sergeant Godwin, 2340120 Signalman West, 2339359 Signalman Skinner, and all old civvies. Mr. Eastwood is still with us as a civvy attached.

We have a few old Regulars headed by Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Spafford, 2323655 S.Q.M.S. Hesketh of Squadron H.Q., 2319928 Sergeant Evans, 2337338 Sergeant Jones.

The Troop commitments have increased considerably since 1939. During the month the additions have been Purfleet and Rainham Rifle Ranges, on which this Troop anticipates considerable work. Milton Ranges are being re-cabled and work started this month.

Can anybody give the location of Captain (Q.M.) Hobbing, late 1st A.A. Brigade H.Q. Signals? Captain (I.P.C.) A. C. West would like to get in touch with him.

## SCOTTISH COMMAND SIGNALS

February.

This being our first contribution to the Corps magazine may we introduce ourselves?

Unit H.Q. and H.Q. Nos 1 and 2 Squadrons are stationed in a Nissen hutted camp at Fairmilehead, a somewhat breezy spot at the foot of the Pentland Hills and about five miles from Edinburgh.

No. 3 Squadron is at Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands (not counted as service abroad).

Lowland District Signal Troop and West (F.S.S.) Troop are at Glasgow, and Highland District Signal Troop at Perth.

Our C.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Booth, Second-in-Command, Major T. Stibbs, O.C. Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons, Major G. H. R. Flynn, O.C. No. 3 Squadron, Major Bert Trapmore, and the Adjutant is Captain D. H. Michel.

Other Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s who help to make up a very happy team include Captain (Q.M.) Stainer, Captain (I.P.C.) Allen, Captain R. N. Anderson, Lieutenant S. W. E. G. Bowser, Captain R. F. Delehunty, Captain V. S. Gilliam, Captain T. S. Abraham, R.Q.M.S. E. Evans, S.S.M. (Jimmy) Fraser (Unit Sergeant Major) and Sergeant D. G. Davies (O.R.S.).

At the moment we are looking forward to the forthcoming amalgamation with our sister Unit—No. 5 Command Signals A.T.S.—who will join us at Fairmilehead as soon as the necessary alterations to buildings are made. At present they are situated at Broomfield Camp on the banks of the Forth on the other side of Edinburgh, but despite this some very enjoyable dances are held each Sunday evening at alternate camps.

We were honoured to receive a visit by the Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., on 14th November last, and trust he was well pleased. The Director attended a function in the Officers' Mess the same evening.

Early in January, 45 Cadets of the J.T.C. and A.C.F. were with us to undergo a ten-days' course of Signalling. In spite of the severe weather they worked extremely hard and enjoyed their short stay.

The Cadets played the Unit at football and at seven-a-side rugger, and put up a grand show.

We are now preparing for another Cadets' course which will take place at Easter. A much larger number is expected and will include Cadets of the S.T.C., J.T.C. and A.C.F.

During the New Year period the School of Signals mobile demonstration team, consisting of an A.C.V., T.E.V.'s, L.C.V.'s and Cable Plough, visited us from Catterick and gave a series of interesting demonstrations at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and to the Cadets in this camp. The demonstration in Edinburgh took place on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, and it is feared will not be very fruitful in obtaining recruits as most of the civilian population were preparing for, and recovering from, the "Hogmanay" celebrations. Large crowds, however, witnessed the Glasgow show, and it is believed were much impressed.

**Sport.**—Football is our chief interest, and early in the season we had a team which was very much respected by other Units in the Command. Releases and postings, however, weakened our team considerably, but we do not lose heart, and under the able captaincy of Signalman J. H. Rate some very enjoyable games are played on Wednesday afternoons.

We have a fairly strong table tennis team who, at present, are in the top half of the Edinburgh Table Tennis League. We hope to recommence, in the near future, our Inter-Troop Basketball League games which recently had to be suspended owing to releases and weather conditions.

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—A dance and social is held in the Mess every month. These functions are most popular and usually well attended by military and civil guests. Table tennis and billiards occupy most of our leisure time, and a team of five ventured in January to play the Unit table tennis team. After a very enjoyable evening the team and its supporters returned to the Mess full of heart but heavily defeated by 23 games to 2.

**Obituary.**—We regret to announce the death on 20th November, 1946, of S.Q.M.S. (Dan) Sinclair. He suddenly collapsed and died whilst playing football for the Unit. Dan was a most popular figure in the Unit and his cheerful personality has been missed by us all.

## No. 1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

February.

However cold it is, has been, and doubtless will be again, the welcome we extend to our new Colonel is warm. Our new chief, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Peachall, O.B.E., who succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Watts, is an ardent "Monty" fan. He has served with him at El Alamein and afterwards, and he knows that the enthusiasm and energy which abounded in those troubled times is now being directed to the task of building up our Army in the no less troublous times of Peace. We, who know "Monty" and his ways, know too that he will succeed, and it is comforting to realise that by helping him all we can we also help ourselves to a New Deal for the soldier of to-day.

Just prior to the coming of our new Colonel there was much activity in the area in which our camp is situated. A big inspection by the G.O.C. took place with all the precision, pomp and ceremony which used to go with such an occasion in the old pre-war days. Everything was inspected and we were rather proud of the nice things said about the way we prepared our house for the great ordeal.

A few days after our triumph disaster overtook us. We had steered an easy course to the final of the 48 Brigade Soccer Tournament, but when faced with the brilliance of 160 H.A.A. Regiment we went down to a heavy defeat (. . . let me whisper it . . . 12—3). It was, strangely enough, a fine sporting game, and despite the unusually high standard of our conquerors, we fought well and went down with our colours flying.

Then came the great snow and frost. Many are the tales of drifts and freezes. Perhaps the most expressive was the one which related the unheard-of case of a barrow boy actually seen eating one of his own chestnuts. In these hard times it is a costly act . . . or a case of taking hot profits?

While soliloquising on the Army in general and its great traditions my thoughts turned to officers. It seemed to me that our Mess had a little more than its quota of hard-bitten looks usually the perquisite of the older soldier. I picked out seven members of the Unit and found their total service was a sum of no less than 168 years—Captain Holmes (35 years), Lieutenant-Colonel Peachall (27 years) and Captain Birchall (25 years) leading in that order. What an average! It even beats our Test cricket scores. Pity a very junior subaltern in such august company. It is a sobering thought for the writer who, with a mere 14½ in, is no chicken, but while he was still in the diaper stage Captain Holmes had taken the King's shilling.

JOCKHUTCH.

## No. 2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

February.

We have welcomed during the month a new officer, Lieutenant W. Goodsir, who has joined us from India and South Africa.

He has already got to know almost everybody in Pendell Camp in his capacity as Entertainments Officer.

During the month we have held two dances and two socials. All were a great success. The socials took the form of tombolas followed by dancing to the radiogram and hidden talent competitions.

R.H.Q. has been honoured during the past fortnight with a visit from 16 A.T.S. N.C.O.s and potentials from Out-Stations. They were brought here for a Junior N.C.O.s' Course and we have it from all that they enjoyed their visit. At least that's what they say!

**Departures.**—Signalman A. M. Swift, our assistant schoolmaster, left us on a transfer to the R.A.F. We got in his place to assist Sergeant Williams and look after the Unit Library, Corporal Webb from 5 A.A. Brigade Signal Troop.

S.Q.M.S. S. Houghton left us for No. 3 A.A. Group Signal Regiment. We wish him all the best.

**Promotions.**—We extend the "glad mitt" to the following on their recent promotions or appointments:—Military, W.O.II R.Q.M.S. D. Armstrong, Lance-Corporal T. G. Cutler; A.T.S., Lance-Corporals P. Dundas, S. Hayward, J. Leythorne, S. Regan, M. Morgan, J. Saunders, E. Fulcher.

**Out-Stations.**—9 A.A. Brigade has recently moved to a new home at Clatterbridge, a large camp situated in the wilds near Liverpool.

The removal from Woolton is reported to have taken place not without minor catastrophies and amusing incidents. Furniture removing with many drawbacks caused much entertainment. The Mersey Tunnel was much in

(continued on page 128)

# *Plain Tales*

We must try and be more serious this month. There is not much to smile at anyway, what with the burst pipe in the kitchen and 4½d. short in the P.R.I. account. Let us look at the news. I see that detectives at Scotland Yard are great football pool enthusiasts. The obvious remark, which, of course, I cannot resist, is Whitehall 1212x.

Now they have perfected a refrigerating plant with which it is proposed to keep fish for at least three years. Can you imagine a new catch arriving and looking round their new home ?

Little Mackerel (excitedly) : " Oh ! Look, mum. There is granpa. He left home in 1942, didn't he ? "

I suppose it will be all right. They always say that if you could see what happens to your food behind the scenes you would starve. Things are getting better under the new Army scheme though. We have ash trays for the staff in our cookhouse now.

## Technical Talks

How to get a general out of a mincing machine. Turn the handle backwards furiously, at the same time shouting to all N.C.O.s to get down and stop the traffic. If the general has gone in up to his red patches draw a screen round the cookhouse and proceed as for rissoles.

Next month : How to tell a quartermaster. (Inform next of kin before taking this lesson.)

## Allegro Ma Non Troppo

Now that your Unit has formed a dance band, we hope to include musicians, and accordionists, too, for that matter, among our readers. Obviously, then, we must have a sort of musicians' paragraph or two. For this we have been extremely fortunate in securing the services of " Scats Bulow," the golden-toned saxophonist. " Bulow " played a flute by ear for many years, until a notorious hairdresser told him to blow down it. He could write when he was eighteen. For those of you who may be thinking of starting a band no finer advice than that given by " Scats Bulow " could possibly be—er—nothing could be—or, rather, the advice given is, so to speak, quite—in fact, you might do a lot worse. If you see what we mean. Which we doubt. The first thing to do is to get some musical instruments. Most bands have instruments, unless they have left them in the guard's van and changed at York, thinking Old George was looking after them. Next, you must learn to play them. This is always useful in case of a booking. Maybe you can play already, in which case do not bother to learn. Most dancers will not notice anyway. Now all get sorted out on the stage and select your positions. In this connection it is as well to remember that the drums should be owned by the violinist ; otherwise, the drummer, finding that he cannot come right up to the front, will go home and take his drums with him. Now you are all set. The pianist (if you have one) says " One, two " and starts off. You all realise that the show has started and join in as soon as you have parked your butt-ends. This stamps the band as an independent outfit.

## More Names

R.Q.M.S. Ron Softly used to blow a nifty trumpet in days gone by. After a long silence he reappears in our files with news of R.S.M. George Mitchell, said to be soldiering in Quetta. That news is a bit ancient perhaps, so speak up, George. Tom (loud pedal) Sayers has been located oscillating between Kent and Hampshire. We are glad to know this ; not that we are likely to be playing at Igatpuri any more, Tom. Captain H. S. Nokes turned up in Birmingham at last. His friends will be interested to learn that he is just a larger edition of the Bill Nokes who used to wreck Aldershot motor-cycles. And, boy, could he mend them again. Ran into some ex-78th Division types during the latter part of 1946—ex-Lance-Corporal Norman Woods, Jimmy Green and " Twinkletoes " (sorry, Lightfoot), all old " Q " Section guys. Do let me know if you want to find anyone in particular. I will have a try.

## Our Amazing Serial

Ukann Larfe arrived at his flat in a towering rage. He flung himself into his leather armchair and gave vent to a muttered oath. Suddenly he remembered his little book and, flicking over the pages, found a string of curses much more appropriate to the occasion. These he mouthed with a mocking laugh, a twisted smile, and an inscrutable look. No detective can afford to be without an inscrutable look or, at the very least, an impassive mien. He would not be worth his salt. Not even 8th Army salt. Ukann Larfe had a very fine selection of these things—gathered from all parts of the world.

He even had a fiendish grin, picked up in a remote village on the Malay Peninsular. So far, he had only met one of Sir Arthur Mommeter's daughters and was still trying to collect his scattered senses, a process that had not been encouraged by the impact of a piece of turf propelled by the hand of his delightful wife, Hermione.

The silence was broken by a ringing bell somewhere in the house. The famous detective adjusted his false beard and turned his hat round. " Ha ! " he hissed.

Uncle Alf : " You can't hiss ' Ha '."

Me : " Whose blinking serial is this ? If I say he hisses ' Ha ' then ' Ha-' he hisses."

The ringing continued. " Ha ! " hissed the detective again, defiantly, "A bicycle coming upstairs." He watched the door with staring eyes. The aperture grew slowly wider until, framed in the doorway, was the most amazingly beautiful woman he had seen all day. Her flame-coloured dress seemed to cling on round all the bends.

" Sit down, sister," said Ukann in a strangled voice.

Uncle Alf : " He could have hissed that."

Me : " Well, he's not going to, see ? "

The vision spoke. "Are you the famous detective ? " she asked in a low voice.

" The Most famous, madam," replied Ukann Larfe, modestly, in an even lower voice.

" My name is Hydra, Mr. Larfe, or should I say Colonel ? "

" Have you got any sisters ? " he asked, terrified of the answer.

" Yes. Six," she replied.

Somewhere an owl hooted and night fell with a sickening thud.

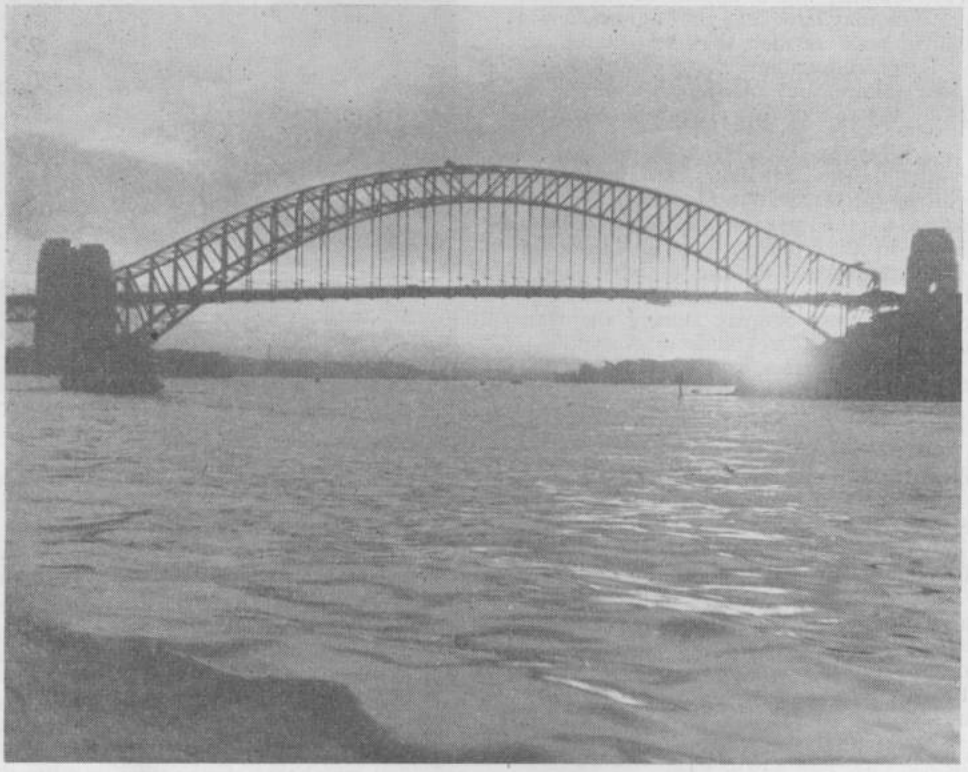
Listen in again next April. BARLEUX.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?

# My Hosts—The Australians

BY ERIC MORLAND

We all have memories of what we did during the war—the places we went to, the people we saw and the things that happened. Now that so many of us are civilians once again such thoughts recall a world of the past which recedes day by day until at times it is hard to distinguish between reality and imagination. Wherever there are ex-Service people it seems that they will gossip and remind each other of old times and happenings. Listen to the people at the next table when you are next dining in public, whether it be an evening at the Savoy, or an A.B.C. restaurant in Fenchurch Street during that hurried business lunch.



SYDNEY BRIDGE

I do not know the exact number of Royal Signals representatives who either visited or worked in Australia. There was a contingent of experts on the No. 10 set out there, and a large number of our Canadian colleagues up in the Pacific. My time there was spent with the War Office Method of Instruction Team which was visiting there for three months during a tour which occupied 1945 and covered the major part of the world.

This article is concerned with the Australians alone. Though we fight them so hard during the Test matches, and feeling runs high on either side, egged on by irresponsible Press reports and the worst kind of journalism, we are very close together as nations.

When I first mentioned to people that I was going to Australia I was generally advised that it was rapidly seceding from the British Empire, that the majority of its people were more interested in and inclined towards the American way of life. Knowledgeable acquaintances sighed with regret that the Empire spirit was declining and that soon we should be left alone in the world. I don't know how this sort of thinking begins. It is quite amazing how it spreads and becomes instilled in people's minds. And yet nothing could be farther from the truth.

I firmly believe that the people of Australia are even more patriotic than we are, and by that I do not only mean those who were in the forces. Audiences at the cinema and at the theatre seem to spring to their feet for the National Anthem more speedily than in England and there always seems to be a round of applause whenever the news reels carry shots of the King and Queen and particularly the two Princesses. People in the street, or in the trams, or in their houses would always accept you as "one of them." Anxiously they would ask about the bombing at home in England, and would add that they had a sister in Portsmouth, or a cousin in Glasgow, or an aunt in West Hampstead.

Once an old farmer, giving me a lift in his battered car on the outskirts of Melbourne, insisted that I gave him the address of my parents so that he could send them a parcel of "tucker." And in due course it arrived in England.

I noticed in a recent copy of THE WIRE a letter from the S.O.-in-C. of our Australian Signals counterpart and that brought to mind not just Major-General Simpson himself but a score of his staff and many of the people who served with him. And I thought about some of the things that happened when we were out there, dashing round from unit to unit giving lectures and putting on shows. I think we did altogether about 13,000 miles in and around Australia and our audiences totalled about a thousand officers and N.C.O.s.

These audiences were, I think, the best we ever had. They were very quick on the uptake, both in the instruction itself and also the humour. Very often there were members of the A.W.A.S. there (the Australian equivalent of our A.T.S.) and that meant that jokes were carefully

pruned beforehand, unless we forgot and had the embarrassment of beginning a story which should not have been included and then having to end it somehow without causing offence !

The wonderful thing was that even though there were often arguments about the best ways of doing things, something was done about it in the end. At Bonegilla, which was at that time their home of Signals, we ran three two-day courses one after the other for about one hundred people at a time, and thereafter went away for a month. When we called back again the things achieved were simply amazing. Models here, there and everywhere, programmes revised and instruction altered. They must have worked like slaves.

This overall enthusiasm and energy is an outstanding Australian quality. Not only did it appear in the work, but also in the play. You may have read that our cricketers visiting Australia have been regaled with entertainment of all descriptions. Some killjoys have suggested that this is the reason for our failure, but others, who are more conscious of the goodwill value of this visit, realise that it is inevitable.

A typical example of the overwhelming hospitality was the farewell party of the 7th Australian Divisional Signals. They were off to Borneo for the invasion and were stationed at that time high up in the country behind Cairns, in North Queensland ; Atherton Tableland it was called. If you have seen the recent film called " The Overlanders," telling of moving cattle across country during the war, you will have some idea of the backlands of Australia—of the plains, the graceful gum trees, the vastness and the parching dust.

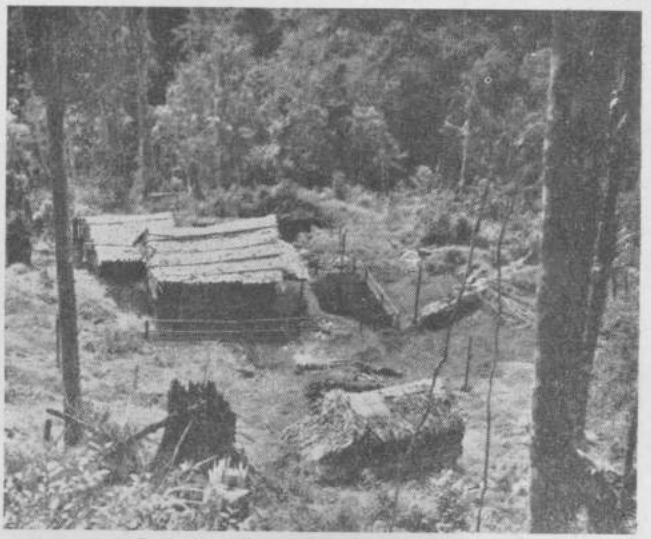
On the eve of our course they invited us to their last party in Australia, a barbecue. And what a party it was ! The whole unit was en fete in an open-air gathering on a perfect evening. Bullocks were roasted on spits on open fires and there were " wittals," as Sam Weller might say, for every taste. They certainly did themselves well at their eve of invasion festivities, but it was a little too much for us, for on the morrow—a Sunday upon which we began the course at eight o'clock—it was a very sorry bunch of instructors who rose to their feet to start the performance. The only consolation was that the audience looked just as bad as we did, if not worse, which is always a comforting discovery.

On another more formal evening we were guests of honour at an officers' mess of one of the signals units on the mainland, which in itself was an occasion of note, but it will be remembered by many of the Australian Signals officers for a rather more unusual feature.

In one corner of the room on the rafters there was an oppossum which, as you may know, is an animal rather like a miniature kangaroo, and about the size of a large cat. This one was a pet of the unit and lived in and around the mess. Dinner proceeded well until about the sweet stage, when the pet oppossum decided to climb along the rafters and go to the kitchen to see what there was in the way of food. To do this he had to pass directly above my head, and finding himself thus positioned took advantage of this point of vantage and made his contribution from that height to the success of the party and my personal discomfiture. I recall even now the look of pride on his face with its pink nose and beady eyes. The mess was in an uproar and most apologetic that such treatment should be meted out to the visitors !

From the mainland we went up into the Pacific theatre and ran courses and conferences in New Guinea and Bougainville.

There are many memories of life there in the islands, but I think the one which has stuck most in my mind is a visit to one of the Forestry companies which was working there. These men had been working in Scotland during the early part of the war, and earned the praise and admiration of our timber men over here. I was much impressed by their efficiency, for it requires not only great ability but great determination to push out into the thick jungle, and, starting from nothing, make your own clearing and, bit by bit, build your own living quarters, kitchens and sawing mills.



Typical small signal station, New Guinea

I remember Anzac Day, which is a great day for Australians, rather like our Empire Day but more widely observed and carefully preserved. I only saw one such day there and afterwards I was glad that we had not been in one of the big cities. Instead we went over to a small village near Bonegilla in Victoria and attended the local service there in the evening.

In the little wooden school hall they were glad to have our British uniforms as a reminder of unity, and the sincerity of these people in the way they spoke and in the way they sang—like Welshmen at an Eisteddfod—lingers with me whenever I hear a choir now. For this is where one finds the heart of a country—in the small places, away from the madding throngs of the cities and bright lights. For even though I stood in the vast crowd of people in Brisbane's main square at the time of the VE day thanksgiving service the atmosphere was not quite so moving.

I should like once more to ride on the ferry boat across Sydney Harbour to Manly Head. For this harbour is as pretty as any in the world, its waters so blue that the sky looks pale in comparison. The bridge is a great achievement, as everyone knows, and the Sydney people are very proud of it. In each Australian mess you will find some from Sydney and others from Melbourne, and between these two in particular the rivalry is severe. The continual talk and banter made me feel often that I was back in England hearing a great argument between a Lancashireman and a Yorkshireman.

I should like to be able to slip down to the sea for a bathe after my work in the evening, instead of jogging home on a London bus as the day seems finished at about six o'clock. The bathing is perfect at all the cities, but perhaps best of all is the world-famous beach at Bondi on the Pacific coast outside Sydney. You have seen news reels of this beach, no doubt, for they always choose to show them in our cinemas just about now in the heart of the British winter in order to gladden our souls, but no

picture could do justice to the vast beach and the rolling breakers which wheel in your surf board to the shore.

But everything is not always perfect, even in Australia. They have many advantages over us—wonderful climate, plentiful food, space instead of crampedness, and so on—and our life so often seems dull, a continuation of wartime restrictions worsened by strikes. But it is the same there. In a letter from Australia this week I was told of gas strikes which had meant only one hour's gas per day, and of butchers' strikes which had meant no meat for a fortnight.

However, I think I would tolerate a few strikes to pay a visit once more to this land and particularly to see its people once more.

I referred earlier in this article to a message from General Simpson, recently published in THE WIRE. And I would like to close this with a form of reply. It is not an official one, but just a hope that some time in the future, when the sea mail gets out there with copies of this edition, some of those people who were so kind to us will read these columns. I hope they will remember our visit, even though like our team they are no longer serving in the Army.

We will not forget the happiness of our tour and the comradeship of the Australian Corps of Signals, and I hope that some of them will one day be able to come over here and perhaps use the columns of this journal to get in touch with those Signals people in England, who, even though they are not still serving, continue to keep an eye on what is going on in the Signals world through THE WIRE.

# Rehabilitation of the German Posts and Telegraphs

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. G. FREESTONE, M.B.E., M.M., ROYAL SIGNALS

Being informed that I was too old for overseas service I applied for a job as Posts and Telegraphs Officer in Civil Affairs and was accepted for North-West Europe. Thus it was I gave up my Command in Scotland and found myself attached to a Military Government Detachment in France.

It was not until the 1st April, 1945, that my detachment crossed from Belgium into Germany, and on the 4th April we took over a large building in Munster, Westphalia. This building was the *Generalcommando** for the Western Front until the enemy was driven out a few days before our entry. With the exception of perhaps a few dozen reasonably sized buildings, Munster was a complete wreck, thanks to Allied bombing. Our building was in an appalling state, with few doors and no windows. Each room, of which there were approximately 300, was in a terrible mess, and into one of these rooms I put down my camp bed. This room, which was icy cold, was to be my office cum bedroom for some weeks.

On the following morning (5th April) I heard an American voice shouting for the P. and T. Officer. I quickly got acquainted with the young lieutenant of the American Signal Corps, and he handed me an envelope marked "Target No. 1." This envelope contained a large aerial photograph of Munster, with a certain building marked in ink. "That," said he, "is the *Reichspostdirektion** and I want you, sir, to come with me so that I can hand it over."

I found the building full of American troops and they had combed it pretty thoroughly. On one floor I found I was walking on a carpet of postage stamps. Everything was in a chaotic state, with letters, records of all kinds, and furniture piled high in every room. Worse still was the absence of German staff, and I still had to find out how many telephone exchanges, telegraph offices, postal sorting offices and post offices I was to control in the province. I was pretty certain that all the bigger cities and towns were badly blitzed, and this assumption later proved correct. Seeing that I was at that time the only P. and T. Officer in the province, and, further, that I had no troops under command, I could not do very much about anything at this stage.

Our detachment had already posted the Military Government Laws and Ordinances about the city, and the law dealing with posts and telegraphs stated that all German postal employees must remain at their posts. So far as I could ascertain, after a few days, there were no post office people on the job anywhere in the province. Nothing was working and, by the appearance of Munster, was not likely to for a long time.

On the day I arrived in Munster, I had discovered a 600-line automatic telephone exchange in our Military Government building, and with the help of one German telephone man who had worked for the German Signal Corps in these very headquarters, I managed to get it going again and very soon had over 100 extensions in working order.

Later, when I had a few *Reichspost* officials under command, I managed to get the complete exchange in good order, when it became "Munster Local" manned by German personnel, all English-speaking, and was for a time under the supervision of Royal Signals.

The Americans had installed a 50-line switchboard in the *Reichspostdirektion*, and gave us a couple of extensions to enable us to communicate with H.Q., 16 Corps, 9th American Army, to which we were attached. I called Military Government Headquarters in Brussels and learned that I had another *Reichspostdirektion* in Dortmund which covered a very large part of the Ruhr. A happy position to be in with no Military or German civil staff!

Within a week or two of our occupation I had two British post office engineers posted to me for Dortmund Area. These engineers had been given commissions in the General List and their help was indeed welcome, so much so that I left the Dortmund Area to them more or less entirely, with occasional visits of a supervising nature.

After the tenth day an elderly German, named Beisert, walked into my office and announced that he was the Head Postmaster of Munster and was reporting for duty. I was as glad to see him as if he had been the Commander-in-Chief himself. This man was to prove my right hand man for many months, and, although sick in health and underfed, he worked seven days a week with me. A grand old fellow.

The day he reported, we hunted for a car to enable us to get round the province, but there were few useable vehicles to be had in Munster. Within a few days he produced an almost-new roomy Adler saloon and off we went. He knew nothing about the telephone system but took steps to find out where the *Reichspostdirektion* H.Q. staff were. We traced some of them to two or three villages in the north of the province and quickly rounded them up. They had little transport that was of any use and even these decrepit vehicles were taken off them by Allied troops on their way to Munster.

My German staff began to grow as the days went by and we quickly got some organisation going, but nearly as fast as we put the Germans into supervising jobs they were arrested and flung into camps by the American security troops and, later, by the British. Many weeks,

and seven months, had to pass before I got a stabilised German staff. The President of Munster *Reichspost-direktion* turned up one day and " ordered " me to put him back on his job and hand over his private flat in the H.Q. building. After interrogation by Security he found himself dismissed from the Postal Service and just a number in a concentration camp. He was an old and active Nazi. Unfortunately, the vice-president followed him to the camp, but, after seven months, I managed to obtain his release and I believe him to be still in Munster as president.

Reports started to come in concerning the condition of telephone exchanges and line plant, and these were very alarming. Very many exchanges were demolished or badly damaged; overhead routes smashed in every case and the underground network completely out of action due to bombing. Records were incomplete or non-existent. Telephone staff with local knowledge were too few and far between.

American Signals were now busy repairing underground cables that were necessary for military communications, and were commandeering German P.O. gangs as and where required. This practice continually upset our organisation as often we had no idea where the men were working or who was supervising the work. This same practice was indulged in by Royal Signals when the Americans moved into their own zone later and British Forces took over what is now known as the British Zone.

My British military staff began to grow and I was able to put two officers in command of the *Reichspostdirektion*, Munster, one in charge of telecommunications and one in charge of postal and savings bank affairs. The German post office in Westphalia was without funds and I had to negotiate a heavy loan through the Military Government Finance Branch who arranged for the Deutche Bank to advance the money. After all, the German staff had to be paid wages and there were some items that could be bought on local purchase to assist in the rehabilitation.

Now that I had a few British officers on my staff I ordered a complete survey of post office buildings and plant. As I received the reports it was obvious to me that large quantities of material were required for repairing the buildings, roofing, in particular, being of the utmost urgency if internal plant was to be saved from utter destruction.

Building materials were in very short supply and there were many other claims from other functions in Military Government. A regular " bidding " meeting was arranged each month, which I usually attended. The chairman, usually the head of the building materials function, would listen to our pleas and decide priorities. If we got 25 per cent. of our demands we were lucky.

Gradually we repaired our post office buildings, mostly in a temporary fashion. Building operatives were scarce, as at that time the German Army was still waiting demobilisation. I often employed female telephone operators, telegraphists, postmen—in fact anybody who could be employed, to clear debris and make temporary repairs. It was hard going, but we had to be ruthless if communications were to be restored, even if only on a small scale to start with.

Approximately 90 per cent. of the German telephone system is automatic and automatic telephone switch gear was unobtainable due, in the main, to the Siemens Halske works in Berlin being bombed and out of commission.

We resorted to cannibalisation to effect repairs of the more important exchanges, in which choice we were usually guided by military requirements. We had very little cable in Westphalia, and what we did possess was handed over to military Signals, both British and American.

The rehabilitation of the German civil tele-communications was indirectly controlled by the Chief Signal Officer, 21 Army Group, via the Chief Signal Officer, Corps, after the British had taken over the zone, in so far that Chief Signal Officers dictated which routes had to be made good and in what order of priority. Furthermore, Royal Signals manned the repeater stations and supervised the repairs and installations. In other words, the German civil network was being repaired for, and employed by, the British Forces in the British zone. Any lines between exchanges required for civil or Military Government use were allocated by Chief Signal Officers. This was particularly necessary in Westphalia as, early in 1945, 21 Army Group Headquarters, 1 Corps and B.A.F.O. moved into the province, which meant lines and more lines. These higher formations were joined later by the Headquarters of the Control Commission for Germany (British Element).

In my opinion Westphalia suffered more damage by aerial bombardment and actual fighting than any other province in Germany and, therefore, the damage to communications was extremely heavy. The task of providing line communications for the formations mentioned was a task of some magnitude.

To keep control of the German external staff was becoming very difficult as more and more odd men and gangs were being employed by Royal Signals without notification to the P. and T. Officers of Military Government. An appeal to Brigadier Childs, C.S.O., 1 Corps, brought a decision that German telephone employees could only be obtained and used by agreement with P. and T. Officers. To give maximum effect to this order fortnightly meetings were held at the two *Reichspostdirektionen* to which Signals Officers were invited to explain their needs for civil staff and the projects they had in hand or envisaged.

As 1945 progressed a great improvement in communications took place. Buildings became watertight, and temporary telephone exchanges came into being even if German Military switchboards had to be employed. Cable was being obtained from other provinces; transport,

(continued on page 136)

"As a matter of fact I used to be in the Signals"

# BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

## 7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

### BAD ROTHENFELDE

February

**General.**—On obtaining a much-belated copy of THE WIRE for the month of November, 1946, I notice that under the heading, Change of Location—" Headquarters Divisional Signals are now comfortably ensconced in the famous German spa town of Bad Rothenfelde, where the troops can now be seen taking the waters."

Little did my predecessor, the writer of the August WIRE notes realise, when he wrote those few lines, we were to take the waters in quite a different way.

Whether the Germans who previously ran these hotels made elaborate preparations for hard winters or not, I really don't know, but we were caught napping during the weeks following Christmas and much time is being spent repairing and renovating burst water pipes. Up to the time of writing these notes we have survived the floods.

**Arrivals and Departures.**—Since the last publication of WIRE notes, Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison has assumed command of this Unit. R.S.M. T. Simpson swells the ranks of the " pukka sahibs," who in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess alone now number approximately eight.

**Present Activities.**—Mainly devoted to practice moves—five words which mean so much to perspiring troop Officers and troop N.C.O.s whose present difficulties have seemed too numerous to mention. However, our first effort with Main Divisional Headquarters seemed a success. The Squadron Commander, Major T. P. Saunders, proved himself no mean hand at keeping a watchful eye on the column, commandeering the S.S.M.'s motor cycle to do so. As S.S.M. George said " I'm no Cordy Milne."

Rear Divisional Signals put up an equally good show. Man-power shortage was responsible for many Troops issuing orders such as " Same men—different vehicles," but Driver Johnny Simms (our Alamein stalwart) proved himself very versatile, in fact, water carts and three-tonners don't mean a thing to him.

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—From Pindi to Bad Rothenfelde is but a day's march to the majority of our members. Sergeant Tom Rigby is already beginning to whisk away the flies and mosquitoes. Names familiar to the old WIRE enthusiasts include R.S.M. T. Simpson, Sergeant Hank Hancock, Sergeant Ossy Osborne, Sergeant Dicky Durber, S.Q.M.S. Jock Martin, and Sergeant Johnny Falkingham, who still seeks the date of the passing of Oscar Wyatt, Razmak Signal Section's G.O.M. We also have a few families with us and hope that their stay will be a very pleasant one.

**Sport.**—The last few weeks of exceedingly cold weather have somewhat limited our sports programme but the following matches have been played and the league positions are as stated.

| FOOTBALL | P. | W. | D. | L. | Goals For | Goals Agst |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Senior League | | | | | | |
| 1 Squadron, 7th Armd. Div. Sig. Regt. .. 5th position. | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 32 | 19 |
| Junior League | | | | | | |
| 1 Squadron, 7th Armd. Div. Sig. Regt. .. 6th position. | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 31 | 22 |

HOCKEY. 7th Armd. Div. Knock-Out Competition. 7th Armd. Div. Sig. Regt., 0; 52nd Army Tps. Eng., 2.

RUGBY. 7th Armd. Div. Knock-Out Competition. 7th Armd. Div. Sig. Regt., 3; 146th Field Park Coy., R.E., 15.

FALKY.

## 2nd DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

### HILDEN

February.

On 1st February we ceased to be 53rd (W) Divisional Signal Regiment and became 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. We are proud to be wearers of the " Crossed Keys "—some of us have done so before, at home and in the Far East, and realise what a fine Divisional tradition has been left us to carry on.

The 53rd (W) Divisional Signals had a very fine record of service here in B.A.O.R.—the deeds of the Regiment have been described elsewhere and its praises sung, but a few figures compiled from records may be of interest and show, much more than many pages of long-winded descriptions could, just what was achieved throughout the campaign—from Arromanches to Hamburg in just over 10 months.

The Divisional Command net was closed for a total of 30 days and worked without a break for 5,952 hours. The average number of telephone calls made per week of the operation was 6,773 (968 per day, or 40 per hour for each 24 hours)—and this on the Main Divisional switchboards alone.

The D.R.L.S. and its younger brother, the S.D.S., travelled 475,114 miles—or 19 times round the world—whilst the cable laid by all companies of the Divisional Signals would stretch from Lisbon to Singapore. On the equipment side Signals issued 547 wireless sets, 162 charging sets and 262 telephones.

And so we say " Good-bye " to 53rd (W) Division and " Welcome to B.A.O.R." to 2nd Infantry Division.

Within the Regiment we are as busy as ever—schemes and preparation for schemes take up most of our time,

although the weather conditions have been far from helpful. We have not had much snow compared with other places, but icy roads have made travel dangerous, to put it mildly, and have cut movement to a minimum. Our local gardening scheme has been held up indefinitely—it is just impossible to work the ground in its present state, but we are hoping that the next week or two should see us going ahead again.

Football has been curtailed as the ground is completely unplayable owing to frost and snow, but basket ball continues to be as popular as ever and we have entered a team for the Divisional Championship—we expect to do well in this competition.

Sporting highlight of the last month has been the regimental and the divisional cross-country runs. Corporal Rowe won the former in good style and was our high hope for the important divisional run but, unfortunately, on the big day was confined to his bed with 'flu; notwithstanding, our team put up a very good show. They finished ninth out of 13 teams entered. Actually, there was very little to differentiate between the teams as they finished very much "bunched." Our first man home was Private Christie, who finished 42nd out of 200 runners.

A Divisional H.Q. quiz team, composed largely from Signals, competed against a team from the Y.M.C.A., Wuppertal, and won. The quiz proved extremely popular. The quiz master was "Duggie" James—the Adjutant. We hope to see more evenings like this and await challenges.

## 5th DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGT.

### BRUNSWICK

February.

The 5th Division, renowned "globetrotters" during World War II, have been settling down during the last 18 months to the no-less-arduous task of static occupation in the B.A.O.R. At the moment the Divisional H.Q. are in very favourable quarters and Signals occupy quite the major portion of the excellent accommodation which presents facilities for entertainment of all description.

A typical weekly programme is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday | .. Dance for Married Families and Allied Nationals. |
| Tuesday | .. Whist Drive. |
| Wednesday | .. All Ranks' Dance. |
| Thursday | .. Gramophone Recitals. |

The entertainment committee is ably lead by the R.S.M. (R.S.M. A. Barraclough). In addition there is ice-skating and ski-ing at local Divisional holiday resorts. Approximately 7½ per cent. of the Unit avail themselves of the opportunity of taking short leave on the Continent monthly. This is additional to their normal Blighty leave and may be spent in Paris, Brussels or Denmark, so the Division is still mildly "globetrotting."

Amenities enumerated above are enjoyed by all out-troops of the Regiment and not confined only to Divisional H.Q.

Communications within the Division are varied and commitments are heavy. A new Signal Office, designed by our C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Yule, O.B.E.), was very much admired by the C.S.O. on a recent visit of inspection.

Education plays a big part in training programmes and, although classes are difficult with shift Signal duties, each man receives four hours' tuition per week. We have an excellent library and information room. The former has a first-class reference library, in addition to some 800 volumes of fiction.

Horsemanship is being ably taught to a number of keen future jockeys by S.Q.M.S. Furtado, the Unit "Rough."

**Soccer.**—The Unit football team, under its hard-working manager, R.Q.M.S. Robertson, is, at the moment of writing, second in the Brunswick and District Football League. Lance-Corporal Boardman is our star player and is a regular player for the Division.

**Hockey.**—The side had only got going when the weather rather spoilt things. We have played eight matches, the majority being in our favour, and the last performance, against the South Staffordshire Battalion side, resulted in a win by five goals to three. (Old Scarboroughites, note: Bill Shipton, now Lieutenant (Q.M.), still dominating the centre-half position.)

**Finally.**—The Regiment, since the end of the war, has lost many old faces and found many new ones. But there are still quite a number of the old ones left and we should like to hear from any of the old members of the Regiment, so please write and let us know, address:

"Wire" Representative,
5th Divisional Signal Regiment,
B.A.O.R.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGT.

### CELLE

January.

With the opening of the New Year has come the coldest weather we have experienced in Celle this winter. The snow has disappeared from the countryside, and on most days the sun shines from a pale blue and cloudless sky. But it has become bitterly cold. The wind cutting in from the East blows out the Union Jack above the barracks to its fullest extent. When forced to leave the barrack rooms and offices, we scuttle from block to block, rubbing blue hands, and feeling very sorry for the duty D.R.s in their open Jeeps. Freezing at the main gate, the guards take turns in thawing over the brazier and thank God for the warmth of its glowing coals. Each day the ashes are thrown over the icy road before the gate, while old people and little children rake them over, sifting and seeking whatever particles of ash they hope to burn.

But at least the cold weather has provided ice-skaters in the Regiment with an opportunity to practise on the lakes and rivers in Celle. The supply of ice-skates from the Unit Sports Store is in constant demand, and those pairs of skates which have been bought from welfare sources have found a ready market.

Generally speaking, however, the cold has influenced most people to seek their entertainment in Goodwood Barracks, and the first week of the New Year has seen the inauguration of weekly whist drives and gramophone swing club concerts. The organisation of these, and the Unit dances have given the entertainment committee plenty to do. If a recent suggestion is put into operation, the committee will also run a fortnightly All Ranks' Service Dance. in addition to the weekly civilian dances which have been running for more than a year now.

The weather has, of course, affected sport. Cross-country runs were quite a feature of the December sporting programme, in spite of the wintry conditions. However, when the snow lay some inches in depth, "higher authority" ruled this out, so future action in this field awaits the better weather.

Only one football match has been played since our last report, but in quality it was the finest game of the season.

The team can feel proud of its victory of two goals to one over our closest rivals, 135 Wing, B.A.F.O., on 28th December. The Regiment's first goal was netted after a brilliant header by Signalman Findlay (115 D.R. Troop), and the second by Signalman C. Harris (115 T.E. Troop), playing his first Unit game.

This match ensures that the Regiment holds the lead in the Celle Football League, with 18 points out of a possible 20.

No. 1 Squadron of the Regiment, which is not stationed with the rest of the Regiment in Celle, but is quartered in Hamburg, has entered a team in the Hamburg District Football League. They hold first place in this league and, in view of this, it is hoped to organise a game in the near future between these two "A" teams of the Regiment.

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGT.

### GUTERSLOH

February

Greetings to all Units at home and abroad. This is our first attempt to contribute to THE WIRE, but it will not be our last.

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich, ably assisted by such well-known Corps personalities as Major R. J. Western, second-in-command, and Major W. C. Jarvis, M.B.E., O.C. No. 2 Squadron. Like England, we are in the grip of a very cold spell with plenty of snow; it is amazing the number of sheepskin coats which have appeared in the Unit lately. Although Gutersloh is a very small town there is a well organised Malcolm Club for Other Ranks, Piccadilly Club for W.O.s and Sergeants and an Officers' Club. Within the Unit we have a "Signals Inn" where we run weekly dances.

In the last month we have had two outstanding performances. The first was a recital of pieces from various operas, given by some of the finest singers in Germany. Those who were present (it was well attended) much appreciated what they heard and applauded for more. Thanks are due to Captain Forbes, of No. 2 Squadron, who arranged the whole programme. The second outstanding event was a recital of light and classical music on two pianos by Signalman Salmon and Signalman Nightingale, and some very fine singing by Sergeant Illingworth. This was also well appreciated by the large audience and in saying "Thank you" we hope to have many more of these recitals in the "Signals Inn." At present we are running a darts tournament to discover who is Unit "champ."

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—Although we have only about 20 members we managed to have some enjoyable functions. Jock Bowie, an ex-R.S.M. of this Unit, now R.S.M. No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, pops over to see us and always manages to arrive just as the bar opens. A.S.M. Rampling, our R.E.M.E. expert, can be seen any night in the Mess deeply engrossed in the book "The Lost Weekend." He says it might be the one he lost.

**Arrivals.**—We extend the hand of welcome to R.S.M. G. Kerr and family, who joined us on the 7th January from 30 Corps (now disbanded) and hope they will be happy with us.

**Departures.**—R.S.M. Jock Grieve left us on the 5th January to serve on the T.A. Staff at home. We wish him all the very best in his new job. Mrs. Grieve is still with us but she leaves us today, 12th February, on the Rhine Army Special for England. We wish her all the best and hope her short stay with us was a pleasant one.

**Sport.**—With the present big freeze-up, outdoor sport has had to be curtailed, but indoor hockey and table tennis are still going strong. We are at present trying to form a boxing team and in future notes hope to be able to tell you something about it.

TARA.

# GIBRALTAR

*Thousands of members of the Corps have at least a "passing" acquaintance with "The Rock," while many have been stationed there during their service.*

*The following short historical survey of this fortress should be of interest to these, as well as others who have yet to catch their first glimpse of its stark silhouette.*

A geographically insignificant peninsular, only three miles long and three-quarters of a mile broad, jutting out into the Mediterranean from the province of Andalusia, Spain, and connected thereto by a sandy isthmus about 1,500 yards in length; a rock rising to approximately 1,400 feet with a circumference of some 7 miles—that is Gibraltar.

Gibraltar's strategic importance, however, far outstrips its geographical insignificance, hence its history is both long and colourful.

In early times it was held by the Mohammedans, Phœnicians, the Romans and the Visgoths, but it is with Britain's part in the fight for the "Key to the Mediterranean" that this article is concerned.

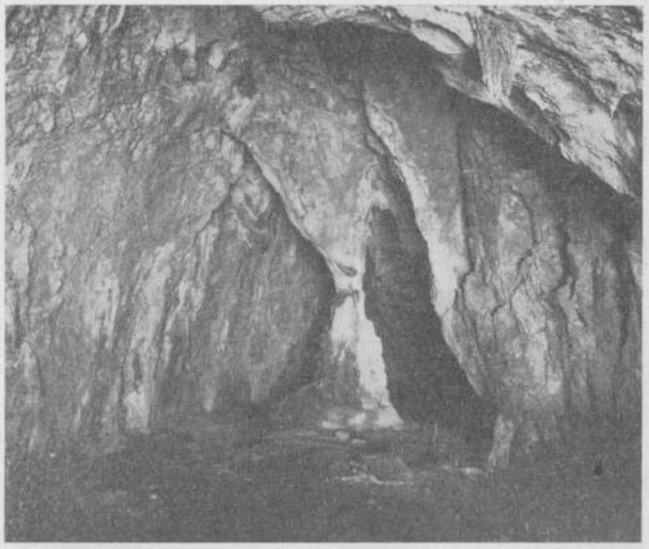
Casemates Barracks, Gibraltar

In 1704, during the war of the Spanish Succession, Gibraltar was taken within three days by troops and naval forces under the command of Sir George Rooke. Just prior to the occupation the Spanish inhabitants of Gibraltar left the Rock and settled in San Roque, Andalusia, leaving mainly Jewish and Genoese traders to meet the conquering British forces. On landing, Sir George took the Franciscan Convent as the Governor's residence and so it remains to this day.

In the same year Spain made an attempt to recover Gibraltar. Allied with France, she besieged the fortress for six months, but it says much for the tenacity of the British troops that the attack was singularly unsuccessful. Further attempts to regain the Rock were made by Spain in 1720 and again in 1727, but all ended in victory for the indomitable garrison troops.

Following these attacks, the Rock remained unmolested by armed assailants until 1779, though Mr. Pitt suggested the surrender of the fortress to Spain in order to secure her alliance against France. Fortunately, the loss of much British blood in battles for the Rock had given the people pride in their hard-won possession and a just appreciation of its value; consequently Mr. Pitt was probably spared the derision of posterity, and Britain retained what has proved one of her most useful possessions. The garrison

had much to sustain, however, before the end of the 18th century, in order to hold the fortress. The year 1779 brought with it an allied attack by France and Spain, resulting in what is popularly known as the " Great Siege " of Gibraltar, which lasted until 1783. Admiral Darby managed to get supplies into the fortress in 1781 and this infuriated the besiegers to such an extent that they opened a furious bombardment, which drove the British troops and population into the caves and the few galleries which had been excavated in the sides of the Rock. On entry into the town the enemy troops, lacking good discipline, left their defences inadequately manned and concentrated on



Recently discovered entrance to cave on The Rock containing evidence of early and late Stone Age occupation

plundering the deserted town. Consequently, when the British troops, under the command of General Ross, made their " Great Sortie " on 27th November, 1781, the enemy was completely routed. The efficiency and splendid courage with which the assault was carried out is recorded in the following extract from the Fortress Orders issued at the time : " The bravery and conduct of the whole detachment, officers, seamen and soldiers, on this glorious occasion surpasses the Governor's utmost acknowledgements."

The next attempt on the fortress was as ingenious as it was unsuccessful. Ten ships, designed by Chevalier D'Arcon and termed by him " Floating Batteries," were built specifically for use in subduing the fortress. Their fighting sides were built with three layers of timber, each layer being three feet thick ; within the outer wall ran a layer of wet sand and within the inner, water-soaked cork. The decks were enclosed by a roof of netted rope covered with wet hides. Perhaps the most ingenious device incorporated in these vessels was the method of circulating water through pipes from a central reservoir in the body of the ship to every part of the ship, hence keeping the woodwork thoroughly soaked. In spite of these ingenious men-o'-war the attack was a complete failure, eight thousand three hundred rounds of red hot shot reducing the " Floating Batteries " to burning wrecks. The siege following this rout of the Franco-Spanish forces was the last to be sustained by Gibraltar and peace reigned within the garrison until the Great War of 1914-1918.

It was during the Great War that Gibraltar proved its real worth to Britain and the world—as a naval base. It must be mentioned that the civil population of the fortress behaved most loyally during the trying times brought about by the war, and Gibraltar's own manpower contribution, in the shape of the Gibraltar Defence Force, proved of great practical assistance in doing guards and picketing duties within the fortress.

Gibraltar was also well to the fore during the Italo-Abyssinian War, 1935-1936 ; the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939 ; and the Czecho-Slovakian Crisis in 1938.

In the second World War, Gibraltar proved of inestimable value to the British and Allied navies. Thousands of the finest mining engineers in the British Commonwealth were brought to Gibraltar to embark upon the gigantic task of making the Rock impregnable in modern war. By May, 1942, the Rock had been tunnelled through and through and its honeycomb of galleries contained all the equipment necessary to house the garrison troops and civilian population to withstand practically any siege. The tunnels, large and well ventilated, contain houses, lifts, all-electric kitchens, workshops, and petrol and radio stations. Innumerable gun emplacements were built into the face of the Rock, until the whole surface bristled with artillery. Naturally thousands of tons of debris were excavated in the building of this underground city, and one and three-quarter million tons of this were used to extend the aerodrome landing strip from 1,000 to 1,800 yards. Thanks to the extension and improvement of this aerodrome, Gibraltar became the pivot of operations for the invasion of North Africa.

Such is the glorious past history of " The Rock," and let us remember that it has probably saved many more British lives than have been lost in holding it.

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## HOME STATIONS—(continued from page 119)

use but all concerned strongly deny that they were in any way connected with the explosion which recently made headline news.

Corporal Lindsey who was being demobbed this week missed the explosion by five minutes. His future plans for a forthcoming marriage can now take place.

What was the old 33 A.A. Brigade Signal Office Troop is now 9 A.A. Brigade Signal Office Troop. Old members of the Troop and friends please note.

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## No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGT.

February.

Since last sending our notes little of interest has happened.

We could talk about the ice and snow existing in the Midlands where conditions are " Icelandic." There is, however, one item to report that is a matter of regret to all ranks of the Regiment. Major W. V. G. Fuge, M.B.E., O.C. No. 2 Squadron is leaving us, retiring for the second time. He has been a valuable contribution to A.A. Signals since returning from retirement in September, 1939, and his knowledge of A.A. matters is profound. We wish him the best of luck for the future.

Major P. Costen, recently returned from service in India, Malaya and Assam, is assuming command of No. 2 Squadron and we welcome him to the Regiment and hope his stay with us will be a happy one.

As regards our sport activities, snowbound grounds have prevented any football matches during the last few weeks.

# OPERATION "EATABLES"

During the recent London lorry-drivers' strike, the help of the three Services was called upon by the Government to see that adequate supplies of food were available to the people.

Not only were the Army resources in London used for this purpose, but large numbers of lorries and men were imported from various parts of Southern England. An operations room was set up at H.Q., London District, and the new joint-Services food distributing agency was christened Operation "Eatables."

And what of Signals? London District Signals have only sufficient Signal office personnel to provide service for a static H.Q., switchboard operators for an exchange which jostles with activity during the daylight hours but slows to a standstill as darkness falls, and despatch riders sufficient only for short runs in the Metropolis. Suddenly, thrust upon them is a call to provide communications for a major operation!

Operation Orders for delivery to 30 or 40 addresses all over the South of England, "immediate" signals in the middle of the night to units remote from telegraph facilities, telephones required in temporary billets and command posts all over London, switchboards working "all out" throughout the 24 hours; all this and more was thrust upon the men and A.T.S. of London District Signals before their resources could be augmented.

They took the strain. With the kind help of neighbouring units they put up a grand show during the first few days; no messages were lost; no signals delayed; long hours were worked by all. At the end of three days, reinforcements arrived from the Depot, and Signals resources were adequate to compete with the magnitude of the operation.

Outside Operational Headquarters, control posts were set up at the main food distributing centres with telephones and despatch riders. Drivers, with their lorries and loaders, were billeted in every available place in London.

Even the war-time deep shelters were used. Every morning the lorries and loaders converged on the cold-storage depots and the markets. Huge guardsmen humped hunks of meat and boxes of groceries with glorious ease from stores to trucks. The trucks moved away, finding the routes, with the aid of guides, to the various shops. In the centres of activity, khaki mingled with dark and light blue in a truly joint-Services' operation.

We were glad when it was all over, but we enjoyed our new experiences. The hum-drum routine of life in London had been broken.

Troops take over at Smithfield

# Amateur Radio

The following are some of the stations at present being operated by members of Royal Signals. We hope that other members, past and present, will send us details of their stations in order that we may publish a complete list.

| CALL SIGN | LOCATION | OPERATOR | ADDRESS |
|---|---|---|---|
| XABK | Achers, Greece | Lance-Corporal Ashworth | 18 L. of C. Signal Regiment. |
| XABU | Rhodes, Dodecanese | Major McAnsh | Dodecanese Signal Squadron. |
| XABX | Salonika, Greece | Major Sylvester-Bradley | 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment |
| XACT | Venice, Italy | Captain R. H. Maxfield | 4 Squadron, 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment. |
| XACV | Salonika, Greece | Signalman Webster | 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| XACW | Salonika, Greece | Corporal Tasker | 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. |
| XACY | Trieste, Italy | C.R. Signals | 1 Armoured Divisional Signals Regiment. |
| XACZ | Trieste, Italy | C.R. Signals | 1 Armoured Divisiona Signal Regiment. |
| XAEK | Padua, Italy | Lieutenant Carter } Sergeant Cowing } | 13 Corps Signal Regiment. |
| XAEY | Caserta, Italy | Sergeant Cooke | S.L.U., A.F.H.Q. |
| XAFK | Padua, Italy | Captain Bosworth | 13 Corps Signal Regiment. |
| XAFN | Udine, Italy | S.S.M. Edwards | 1 Air Support Signa Troop. |
| XAFO | Athens, Greece | Lance-Corporal Oxley | C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., L.F.G. |
| XAFP | Greece | Major Edwards | 18 L. of C. Signal Regiment. |
| XAFZ | Greece | Corporal Hart | c/o C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. L.F.G. |
| XAGA | Greece | Signalman Tackley | c/o C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. L.F.G. |
| XAKM | Padua, Italy | Corporal Barbone | 2 Squadron, 13 Corps Signal Regiment. |
| XAPQ | Padua, Italy | Corporal Lambert | 2 Squadron, 13 Corps Signal Regiment. |
| XAZO | Padua, Italy | Signalman MacKenzie } Signalman Houghton } | 2 Squadron, 13 Corps Signal Regiment. |

The frequencies used by the above stations are:—7.0-7.3, 14.0-14.4, 28.0-30.0, 58.5-60.0 Mc/s.

ZB1AC Malta, Captain Speakes, Malta Command Signals, frequencies 14 and 28 Mc/s.

# OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS

## SIGNAL SECTION, A.F.H.Q.

### CASERTA

February

Now that the signing of the Italian Peace Treaty is fact, the approach of ratification will see the life of this Section rapidly drawing to a close. Before we completely disappear we wish to leave our name with THE WIRE, particularly as we are members of a Headquarters that has remained integrated with the U.S. Forces for the longest time during the war and after it. In particular the Signal Section of A.F.H.Q. has been an integrated one from the date of its inception to the present period.

It was in August, 1942, that Allied Force Headquarters first experienced its birth pangs in London, but it was not till the following month that A.F.H.Q. was officially constituted and activated. The integrated Signal Section, under its first C.S.O., Brigadier-General J. V. Matijka, of the U.S. Signal Corps, began its life at Norfolk House on 11th August, 1942. Brigadier W. A. Scott was then appointed D.C.S.O. and C.S.O. of the British Forces.

A.F.H.Q. did not remain static for a long period. Planning for Operation Torch had already been started, and during the latter part of October and early November, 1942, a Command Post moved to Gibraltar. That move was quickly followed by the setting up of A.F.H.Q. at Algiers, which then became operational on 24th November, 1942.

Algiers saw A.F.H.Q. for quite a long time, and it was there that the first change of C.S.O. took place, when Major-General L. B. Nicholls relieved Brigadier-General J. V. Matijka on 1st July, 1943.

The next and last move saw A.F.H.Q. move to Caserta, in Italy, from where the final parts of the Italian campaign were conducted. Here also more changes of the C.S.O. took place, as in January, 1945, General Nicholls left to take over another appointment, being relieved by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, and finally on 1st January, 1946, Brigadier A. E. Morrison took over, with Colonel Kirk Buchak of the American Signal Corps as D.C.S.O.

Brigadier Morrison is still our C.S.O., but since October, 1946, we have not seen very much of him, as he then moved north with the British G.H.Q. to Padua. At the same time the British part of the integrated Section greatly decreased in size, a minimum staff remaining to deal with Signal matters of Allied interest.

Soon now we shall cease to exist, and A.F.H.Q. will just become a memory, a memory out of which the " Torch of Freedom " has once more been set on its way to guide this world to better things.

For those of us who have found new friends in the United States Signal Corps, the 15th August will be a day of happy memories. It will be a day of remembrance and a day on which the past members of this Section can say with pride " We worked together."

FREEDOM.

## 13th CORPS SIGNAL REGT.

### PADUA

January.

**General.**—One particular excitement disturbed the even tenor of G.H.Q. last month. Riots in Padua directed against the military; hundreds of excitable Italians coursing round the streets, turning over military vehicles, throwing stones through the windows of G.H.Q. and at various distinguished officers. The Regiment did not escape, in spite of the peace and quiet of its country seat, Noventa Padovana. Several intrepid linemen and despatch riders had to be treated for injuries sustained from " contacts " with well-aimed bricks.

After the riots came Christmas, which opened by entertaining over 300 hungry and hilarious Italian children to a Christmas Eve party. After seeing the kids and assembled parentage safely off the premises, followed by a close check of the Jeep tyres, we settled down to a Christmas of N.A.A.F.I. issue, local purchase and demon vino.

**Sport.**—Our football team, under Captain Jack Angell, is faring well both in the Padua-Venice and Padua Garrison leagues. S.S.M. J. Hepworth is producing new life in the hockey team. Rugby has been practically neglected owing to the severity of the frosts.

Our attempts to stimulate interest in the Riding Club have been brought to a dramatic climax by a gang of well-organised rustlers.

**Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.**—Once, when we were in Catterick, we thought we had hit rock bottom. We had not. There are, we believe, colder places than Italy. We just want to know where they are.

Of course, a window or a door or two might make all the difference in the world. Possibly a little coal would help. As we write, the icy blast whistles round our wind scoops. The feet have to be moved at intervals to save them from freezing too solidly to the ground. One thinks longingly of fire and brimstone, or sunny Italy. Ah, yes, sunny Italy. Pause for sardonic sneer. Does anyone wish to buy—cheap, mark you—an open Jeep ?

On the whole, though, things are not so bad. One remembers, with a sigh, that Christmas and New Year have come and gone. A great time was had by all. We served " gun-fire " and dinner in the traditional manner to all ranks. Most of us were court-martialled by one " Tosh," a D.R. type with a ghoulish taste in punishments.

The Commanding Officer, full of " God rest ye merry," was tossed heartily in blankets G.S. and U.S. Most of us felt sorry for the Second-in-Command. Who would have thought that two Army blankets would tear so easily ?

On Boxing Day we really went to town. A hearty breakfast of two lightly done aspirins, and down for a visit to the Officers' Mess. There was NO shortage.

Having wallowed for an hour or so, back to Christmas

dinner, which all members were able to attend. A dance in the evening, and so to bed to sleep the sleep of the only just. "En passant," a football match, arranged against the officers for Boxing morning, did NOT take place. A man can stand just so much.

An entertainment for Italian children was given on 5th January. Sweets, food and a conjuring show were greatly enjoyed by the kiddies.

Mess membership these days is about as stable as a pier turnstile. Members come and go with bewildering suddenness. We bid farewell and good luck to all the Misters and welcome all the new members.

Due to frozen grounds, etc., there has not been a great deal of sport since Christmas. Twice 11 Spartan souls have prepared for battle, only to be returned—breathing sighs of relief, one suspects—to bed. Well, we tried.

And so, for the present, goodbye, everybody. I am off to check that the last three figures of my release group are correct.

"TEAKER."

## 23rd INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

### TAIPING

December.

Here we are at last in Taiping, which, for the benefit of non-geographers, is in North Malaya. Our out-troops are at Sungei Patani, Kuala Kangsar, Ipoh and a detachment at Kota Bharu, where the hosts of the rising sun first landed way back in 1941. During the first half of November we had to run two separate Divisional communications in different countries, Java and Malaya. We took over from 7th Division and did their job for them, aided by a comparatively small detachment of theirs, while our main party was still fully committed in Java. However, we managed all right and, as far as is known, no messages addressed to A.L.F.S.E.A. managed to find their way to a battalion.

The move in about six echelons from Java was accomplished without any major mishap. Parties disappeared from Batavia and some time later Taiping received weird and strange stories of their ship being held up at most of the ports of the Far East. 1st Brigade Troop was the last to arrive, and rumour hath it that their trip was an expensive one. At any rate, it is known (tell it not in Gath) that some of the ports they visited had both bars and pawn shops. We feel sure that it is mere coincidence that some of the section's watches and binoculars had the misfortune to be in the yakdan which was lost en route.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Lieutenant (Q.M.) Eric Manton, who, after bringing the last of our stores over from Java, reluctantly left us to go back to England's green and pleasant land.

As it rains more or less continuously here (about the only time when you can be sure it will not rain is at seven o'clock on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, when the C.O. holds his drill parade), we are glad the Regiment were naturally selected to occupy the dry and comparatively comfortable Taiping convent (most of the nuns have, unfortunately, departed). The necessity for B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s to share barracks together has made both parties acutely aware of how different are the hours each likes to use for his nightly repose. The B.O.R. finishes his beer with song some hours after the last I.O.R. has attempted to regale himself in slumber, whereas the early-rising I.O.R., particularly on days of our somewhat frequent V.I.P.s' inspections, finds an early and noisy toilet essential; this occurs long before the keenest B.O.R. turns over and wishes a nice nun or cheerful S.S.M. would bring him his morning tea.

This month we welcome to our midst a strong element, both B.O.R. and I.O.R., from 7th Indian Divisional Signal Regiment. Next month, if there is anyone left to write the story, we will tell you how to carry on when half the I.O.R.s have gone on release without any replacements. The B.O.R.s, of course, have to a man decided to defer, although some treacherous and disloyal elements have been heard to whisper that the person who decided to slow down demob. should be committed to the domain of Mephistopheles. Happily, though, such opinions would not be held by any sensible person, but, nevertheless, should Mr. Isaacs allow S.S.M. Ellmer and three S.Q.M.S.s to be released, the Unit would be run, in all probability, by the Q.M.'s Japs and the Chinese cooks.

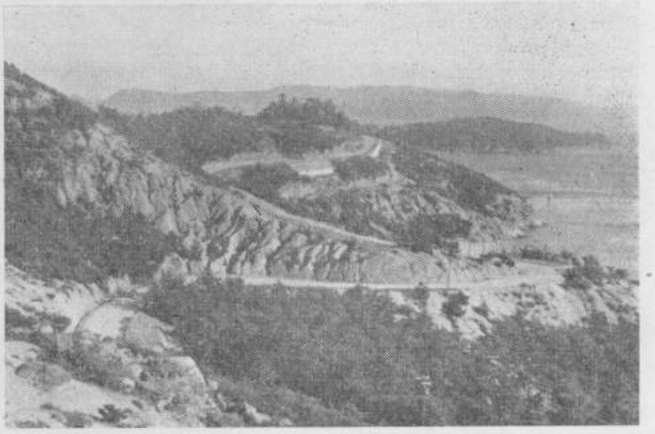
## BRINDIV SIGNALS

### OKAYAMA

January

Did you hear about our earthquake? Very frightening but fortunately no casualties. How would you like to be woken up at four o'clock in the cold, cold morning to find the building swaying to and fro and creaking in the most horrible manner. This was a very nice Christmas present which could have easily been left out of the programme.

Christmas Day was celebrated in the traditional form. The Sergeants' Mess got up early to serve coffee and rum and then were put through their paces as waiters at midday. A special word of congratulation to the cooks who produced a magnificent effort. A very successful smoker was held in "Jimmie's Rest," our public house, in the evening. So successful that there were those who could not find their way home and decided that the Artillery lines would be a good resting place.



Coast Road near Okayama

Once again Brindiv Signals gets another first: the first baby to be born in Japan. Many congratulations to Lieutenant and Mrs. Cameron-Clarke on the arrival of Muriel Ann.

Now then you key bashers. Our ham station J4AAC is in action with Major J. M. L. Drudge-Coates behind the key. No. 1 Company Clerk now spends his time making out QSL cards as the contacts are coming in thick and fast. J4AAC is very anxious to contact any ham station operated by Signals, so let's hear from you.

# No. 2 EGYPT COMMAND SIGNALS

## MOASCAR

January

The Regiment, with 11 troops attached, continues to keep just ahead of requirements for the moves of headquarters and units into the Canal zone. It is a very busy time for all but there is satisfaction in seeing the results of our work and anyone who wants to continue his training in a really active role can do so here.

Christmas brought a temporary pause and was celebrated as far as possible in the traditional manner in the various localities of the Regiment.

**Sport.**—It is a strange fact that the harder one works the harder one plays. This is true of this unit, and the numbers playing games and the quality of the teams are improving. Owing to our dispersion it is impossible to field a Regimental side, but there are eight football teams and two hockey sides playing in leagues, and a Moascar Rugby side playing regular matches. During December an inter-Squadron hockey competition was held in which R.H.Q. beat No. 1 Squadron 2—0 in the final. The play in this game was even territorially but the sterling defence by R.H.Q. ably led by R.Q.M.S. Roscoe kept the dangerous No. 1 Squadron forwards away from the circle and gave the R.H.Q. forwards the opportunity to break through and score. Both goals were scored by Lance-Corporal Gates.

The following have played for their districts :—Majors Webber and Masser, R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, S.Q.M.S. Delicate.

### No. 1 SQUADRON

The builders are in, with their attendant litter and general getting in the way. When they have finished we shall have much better accommodation. As well as new buildings, we hope to improve the area by changing the surroundings of sand into Nile mud and so into gardens. Some of this work, which also includes paths and roads, has been finished and is a great improvement.

**Sport.**—The Squadron combines with R.H.Q. to field Moascar Signals teams for all outside matches. The two football teams have not won many matches but they are competing with teams of Battalion strength. Many matches have been lost by the smallest margin and we feel that we deserve a little more luck. Major Masser and Signalman Mackenzie have been outstanding performers.

The hockey team, after a mediocre start, now goes from strength to strength, and is second in the Garrison League. Friendly matches with 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment resulted in one win to each. In the first round of the hockey competition, No. 2 Squadron were defeated by the Squadron team by 1—0 after a very exciting match.

The Rugby team, under coaching by S.S.M. Ryder and the enthusiastic captaincy of Mr. Roughton, is developing fast and instead of having to find 15 players the question now is who to leave out.

### No. 2 SQUADRON

Feeling that we are doing all the work for the move of G.H.Q., there does not seem to be any time for WIRE notes. On second thoughts there have been other things to think about. At Fayid the canteen and mess room have been decorated with cheerful results. In the canteen C.S.E. shows now appear regularly and players and audience appreciate the necessarily intimate surroundings.

At Suez a new Sergeants' Mess and canteen have been built. When Signalman R. C. Mason was a prisoner of war in Germany he had to help build a stage for his captors. When he came to Suez he found German prisoners and the result is an excellent stage and dance floor as an addition to the canteen. The canteen and stage were opened as the finale to a Suez-Fayid tourney, by a most successful variety show entirely run by the Suez Detachment.

**Sport.**—In football, the Fayid "A" team maintains a high position in the League and the "B" team is not at the bottom. The Suez team is leading its League. Sergeant Newton, Signalman Howman, Signalman Kew and Signalman Gelder have been tried out for District.

Hockey has an enthusiastic following. The team can hold its own with equivalent units and is improving with every match.

Lance-Corporal Taylor has been selected to play for United Services Canal at Rugby, and a few others play for a local team.

### No. 3 SQUADRON

We all hope the new title is a permanent one, if only for the sake of those who have to address our mail. Incidentally we have already taken a dislike to the abbreviation E.C.S.R., which makes us wonder how long it will be before we are asked to provide a time-table, and although being pressed to take on local drivers, Egyptian Signal Regiment is not true yet.

Old faces disappear with the Release or Python smile. New faces appear looking rather doleful at what they have seen of our H.Q. area on the way in. Of course those who know Qassasin will understand this. Still, we cheer them up and after all they can look forward to leaving for more agreeable surroundings.

**Sport.**—In football the Squadron runs three teams. At Qassasin the Headquarters and Detachment combine with District Headquarters and produce a team which is well up the League. At Tel El Kebir and Port Said the teams are about half-way up their Leagues. Table tennis and darts teams are straining to go in local competitions.

The hockey team is in the embryo stage but makes up for lack of skill with its enthusiasm and determination. The latter qualities were fully tried out on the R.H.Q. team in the first round of the inter-Squadron competition. After the initial shock the R.H.Q. team recovered and won a lusty game by 7—2.

# THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION of the ROYAL CORPS of SIGNALS

HEADQUARTERS: 88, ECCLESTON SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1 (VICTORIA 9194)

## Benevolent Fund

During January, 1947, 113 appeals for assistance were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £884 4s. 7d.

### Summary of Grants Disbursed

| Purpose | No. of cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 33 | 195 | 19 | 7 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 13 | 102 | 10 | 0 |
| Cots and prams | 14 | 80 | 10 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 5 | 28 | 10 | 0 |
| Furniture | 11 | 92 | 15 | 0 |
| Clothing | 4 | 22 | 10 | 0 |
| Doctors' bills | 8 | 54 | 0 | 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical apparatus | 2 | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| Dentures | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Removals | 4 | 39 | 0 | 0 |
| Travelling expenses | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 2 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Funerals | 5 | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| Emigration | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Education | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Loans | 5 | 140 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 113 | £884 | 4 | 7 |

ANALYSIS IN RESPECT OF ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO SERVING OR EX-SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Discharged or released soldiers 86, widows of deceased soldiers 3, families of soldiers serving in the U.K. 15, B.A.O.R. 2, C.M.F. 1, M.E.L.F. 2, and India 4.

### Donations Received for the Fund

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Signal Officer-in-Chief, India Welfare Fund | 104 | 3 | 6 |
| Combined Units, Catterick | 492 | 19 | 7 |
| War Office Signal Regiment | 21 | 8 | 11 |
| 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 12 L. of C. Signal Regiment | | 12 | 8 |
| 30 Corps Signals | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| "D" Ind. L. of C. Signal Squadron | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| War Office, "Y" Group, Beaumanor Park | 4 | 16 | 7 |
| Mauritius Signal Company | 37 | 1 | 8 |
| Shoeburyness Troop, Eastern Command Signals | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Darlington Branch | | 15 | 2 |
| D. J. Strong | | 5 | 0 |
| R. M. Matthews | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| K. C. Treharne | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Shave | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Rev. D. Ainslie Jones | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| H.Q. 306 Infantry Brigade, R.A. | 56 | 15 | 1 |
| TOTAL | £758 | 5 | 8 |

## Information

**Clothes Rationing.**—Service personnel released finally to civil life. Issue of 26 additional coupons.

(a) These are available to those released or discharged on or after 18th June, 1945. Those who were not issued with the application form which was bound with SC/V books of 90 coupons, and known as the "V" form," should report to the local Food Office and ask for Form LC4; ensure that at the Food Office this form is marked "90 No V" in the top right-hand corner. The form, when completed, must be sent to the Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade (Section 2A), 91, Victoria Street, S.W.1 (not to the Assistance Board as stated on the form). The form should show the address of the Food Office which issued the original 90 coupons without the "V" form," and the approximate date of issue.

(b) Personnel who did not pass through a dispersal centre (except perhaps to get a civilian suit) and who do not hold a release book, but merely a personal letter addressed to them on release by the War Office, should apply for their coupons to the Board of Trade (Section 2D), 91, Victoria Street, S.W.1, enclosing the letter received and the "V" form.

(c) All other personnel apply to their local Food Office to get the extra 26 coupons.

**Deaf Aids.**—When the National Health Service Act comes into force deaf aids will be supplied to those needing them free of charge. Meanwhile, the Government has arranged for an approved aid to be produced and marketed at a reasonable price. It is not yet available, but those wanting them are advised to register their names with an appropriate firm.

**Disabled Persons Employment Corporation.**—This is a non-profit-making organisation set up under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, to provide employment and training for registered disabled persons who, because of their disablement, can only undertake work under special conditions. The Corporation has recently opened the first of its special establishments known as "Remploy factories," and others are planned. Linked with these factories there is a scheme for home workers whose disablement makes work in their homes more suitable than going to a factory. The occupations are weaving, assembly work, leather work, etc. Apply for admission to either scheme to the District Rehabilitation Officer at any Employment Exchange.

**Driving Licences.**—It has been decided that persons who took out a provisional driving licence for the first time after 31st March, 1946, can volunteer for a driving test.

**Returned Prisoners of War Association.**—This organisation offers a variety of services to returned P.O.W. Its activities include a medical committee (medical advice to the P.O.W. and his family, including, in some instances, arrangements for maternity cases and admission to sanatoria), financial assistance (in co-operation with the Incorporated Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society), a library, employment bureau, publication of a monthly journal, liaison with civil resettlement units and the encouragement of local ex-P.O.W. clubs.

Address: 34, Eaton Place, London, S.W.1 (Sloane 3031).

**Defence Medal.**—Persons who neglected to obtain their application forms for the Defence Medal before 30th September, 1946, on which date they were withdrawn from the Post Office, can obtain them from the headquarters of the unit in which they served. Ex-members of the Home Guard should apply to their local Territorial Army Association and those who were in the Civil Defence to the clerk of the local authority.

**Building Licences.**—Ministry of Health Circular 8/47 gives details of certain changes in the Licensing Regulations

(made under Defence Regulation 56A), the more important of which are summarised below :—

(1) Free limits : (Amends N.S.8/16). The same Regulations apply to " free limits " for the periods ending 31st July, 1947, as for the previous six months, i.e. expenditure must be restricted to £10, plus £2 in any calendar month on a non-cumulative basis.

(2) Unpaid Labour : (Amends N.S.14/14). The Regulations have been made more stringent. From 1st February, 1947, any work carried out with unpaid labour, or by the owner himself, in excess of the free limits, will be subject to licence whether it is inside or outside the premises. In the normal way, however, provided the owner has the necessary materials, or can obtain them without jeopardising supplies for more important work, a licence will be granted. It will often not be necessary to compute the value of the labour, though the licence will usually include a clause limiting the expenditure on materials.

(3) As before, all application forms for licences will be obtainable from the local authority, but in future, licences will be granted by the local authorities themselves for all work costing more than £100, and all work to private dwellings or appertaining to private dwellings (e.g., the erection of a garage) whatever the cost. Where there is some doubt as to whether or not the property is a private dwelling, reference should be made to the local authority. Other licences will be issued by the Regional Licensing Office of the Ministry of Works, whose address has now changed to 19, Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.1 (Museum 5030).

(4) Prosecution by Local Authorities: Local Authorities are now empowered to take proceedings against any person contravening any section of the Defence Regulations concerning the Control of Building.

**Sale of New Houses.**—New houses in the London region may not be sold for more than £1,300 (£1,200 outside the London region) and the maximum selling price may be inserted in the building licence issued for the building of the house. This maximum price holds good for a period of at least four years from 20th December, 1945, the date of the passing of the Building Materials and Housing Act, 1945, no matter how many times the house has changed hands since it was first sold. There is provision in the Act for this period to be extended.

This does not apply to war-damaged houses which, being subject to a " cost-of-works " payment, have been rebuilt.

**Marriage : Fiancées in Germany.**—(a) The British Red Cross, Foreign Relations Department, have now made special arrangements to help fiancées in Germany of British subjects, who wish to come here to be married.

At the same time as he writes to his fiancée, giving his full personal particulars, evidence that he is free to marry, etc. (which she should take or send to the Passport Control Office, Berlin, when applying for a visa), the man should write to the British Red Cross, Foreign Relations Department, 29, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, giving them his fiancée's full name, nationality, date and place of birth, present address, and any personal details. They will let him know as soon as they receive official notification that the visa and exit permits have been granted. If he should receive prior information of this from his fiancée he should inform the Red Cross.

When she has these necessary papers the fiancée should make her own way to Cuxhaven and report to the British Red Cross Foreign Relations Representative, Atlanta Sub-Unit, 126 Transit Camp.

(b) The Red Cross will send the man a form in duplicate, which should be completed and sent to : Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens, Bloomsbury House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

A remittance of £8 must accompany this form. This includes £7 for passage money from Cuxhaven to Tilbury and £1 for payment to fiancée on board ship.

One copy of this form will be sent by the Friends Committee for Refugees and Aliens to the British Red Cross, Foreign Relations Department, 29, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, showing that his deposit money has been received. When this form has been received the British Red Cross in Germany will be instructed to give his fiancée accommodation on the next ship leaving Cuxhaven.

The Red Cross will advise him when his fiancée is likely to leave Germany, the port of arrival, the name of the ship on which she is sailing, and the scheduled date and time at which the ship will dock. He should then make arrange- for his fiancée to be met.

**National Savings Certificates.**—On 31st March the seventh issue of National Savings Certificates (15s. and £1 issues) will be withdrawn.

On 1st April the eighth issue of certificates will be on sale at 10s. a unit, which will increase in value up to 13s. by the end of the tenth year. The increase will be exempt from income-tax. The maximum holding will be 1,000 units (£500).

**War Pensions : Tribunals.**—In view of a recent High Court decision the Minister of Pensions has set up War Pensions (Special Review) Tribunals, and applicants whose appeals were dismissed by the Appeal Tribunal may apply for their cases to be re-heard. Applications should be made to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Pensions or direct to Norcross, Blackpool.

**Workmen's Compensation.**—In order to avoid misunderstanding it is pointed out that the Workmen's Compensation (Temporary Increases) Act, 1943, which was due to expire on 31st December, 1946, is continued in force by Section 89 of the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946.

## Old Comrades Association

New members registered at Headquarters during the month of January, 1947 :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annual members | .. | .. | 183 |
| Life members.. | .. | .. | 92 |

Ex-members of the Corps who are interested in the formation of a local branch of the Association in Warrington, Lancs., are asked to please communicate with L. Wyke, 105, Locking Stumps Lane, Croft, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.

The Royal Signals Association Buttonhole Badge, depicted above, may be obtained by sending a postal order for 2s. 6d. to the General Secretary. The badge is of enamel in Corps colours. Should the stock be exhausted, your name will be placed on a waiting list, and when a fresh consignment is received, badges will be despatched in order of application.

# SPORTS NOTES

## RUGBY

The 1st Trades Training Regiment, after many hard-fought games, made Corps history by reaching the final of the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup (Home Command). They were beaten by the Depot and Training Establishment, R.A.M.C. (Crookham), by one goal (5 points) to nothing with about as little to spare as can be imagined.

Many of the players were well-known men. R.A.M.C. were captained by Matthews, who last season captained the Welsh team, and had such useful forwards as Watt and Kirk, both Scottish internationals. 1st Trades, too, had their stars. Glyn Davies, the talented Welsh stand-off half, playing in the centre, and Froggett of Yorkshire. 1st Trades were unfortunate in having J. K. Williams, their Lancashire and Army forward, on the sick list.

A tackle by 1st Trades Training Regiment

The conditions were all against an attractive game, but both sides battled hard against the difficulties as well as against each other. The Aldershot Command ground was covered with a film of snow which kept out the worst of the frost, but by no means all of it. Nor could it ward off the bitter cold, which intensified as the afternoon wore on. But such was the spirit and excitement of the game that the exceptionally large crowd of spectators soon forgot their frozen extremities and strained their lungs in support of their champions.

For some time it was a fast, open game with 1st Trades attacking strongly. They were not getting the ball back from either set or loose scrummages, however, and bad finishing saved the R.A.M.C. line on more than one occasion. Davies, almost imperceptibly knocked on when a try seemed certain. As the play swung to the other end of the field only extremely hard tackling and fine marking on the part of the 1st Trades three-quarters held determined efforts by the formidable R.A.M.C. wing of Matthews and Gregory. Aspinall, especially, did well to hold Matthews. Wilson was once completely beaten by Gregory's side-step, but, having learnt his lesson, did not give Gregory any further opportunity of making ground. The two packs were well matched; Reynolds, by breaking quickly from the scrum, supported his three-quarters and relieved many difficult situations by hard and faultless tackles.

In the second half 1st Trades were no doubt unlucky. Newcombe, in a fine breakaway, stepped into touch on his way to a try. This was closely followed by two brilliant efforts by Glyn Davies, who was injured at the end of his second run when a heavy tackle swept him out of play at the corner flag. Davies's injury proved to be crippling and he was unable to take any further part in the game. However, 1st Trades, playing with only seven men in the pack, were undaunted and continued to press. Galbraith and Chapman were prominent in bitter line-out tussles and Kirk, for the Medicals, was successful in making ground in loose forward play. In the dying seconds of the second half Froggett hit the upright in a fine attempt at a drop goal.

The extra time was fought no less relentlessly and the ball swept up and down the field at a remarkable speed. The R.A.M.C. three-quarters were still making many dangerous thrusts, but at this stage the 1st Trades' forwards were slightly on top in the loose. Twice Westwood went through with the ball at his feet only to be caught before he crossed the line for a touch down.

Within a minute of the final whistle, and with 1st Trades attacking, Matthews broke through and after a fine run passed to Gregory, with an open field ahead. Gregory ran round to score between the posts. Dewsnip added the goal points, the referee blew " no side " and, after a hundred and twelve minutes of hard battle, someone had won and someone had lost.

The 1st Trades are now determined that they will make no mistake about winning the Northern Command Cup, and next year. . . .

Depot and Training Establishment, R.A.M.C. (Crookham):—Private L. Davies, Sergeant J. A. Gregory, Lieutenant J. Matthews (captain), Private W. Kindon, Captain H. J. Houghton, Lance-Corporal Dewsnip, Private D. Preace, Staff Sergeant G. Smart, Lieutenant J. H. Robins, Staff Sergeant J. B. Scott, Lieutenant G. A. Watt, Staff Sergeant R. W. Smith, Sergeant D. Rowlands, Lieutenant J. Kirk, Lance-Corporal D. Rees.

The 1st Trades Training Regiment, Royal Signals:—Corporal R. Parfitt, Corporal K. Newcombe, Signalman D. Aspinall, Signalman G. Davies, Lance-Corporal G. Wilson, Signalman K. Froggett, Sergeant P. Payne, Signalman D. Goddard, Corporal J. Rees, Signalman D. Rawson, Signalman Broderick, Captain D. Galbraith, Captain J. M. Westwood (captain), Captain H. McD. Chapman, Sergeant D. Reynolds.

Referee:—R. A. Crook (Hampshire).

## CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

**S.T.C. Championships.**—The S.T.C. Championships were held on Thursday, 30th January, in typical Catterick weather. Three inches of crisp snow covered the course. Fortunately the day was bright but bitterly cold.

Five Regiments were represented, each turning out a full team of 15 runners.

Owing to the outstanding performance shown by No. 2 Trades Training Regiment team—they had, before Christmas, practically won the North Yorkshire and South Durham Cross-Country League—it was decided to handicap all runners who had qualified for the fast pack in the League runs. The handicap was based on half-a-minute per mile of the course. Despite this 2 T.T.R. won the event in convincing style.

Course distance 7 miles—1, 2 T.T.R, 174 pts.; 2, Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 355 pts.; 3, 1 O.T.R., 383 pts.; 4, 5 T.T.R., 404 pts.; 5, 1 T.T.R., 553 pts. First individual home, Officer Cadet Haywood, O.C.T.U., time 50 minutes 22 seconds; second individual home, Corporal Ross, 2 T.T.R., time, 47 minutes 32 seconds net; third individual home, Corporal Kensey, 2 T.T.R., time, 47 minutes 40 seconds net.

**North-Eastern Counties Cross-Country Championships.**—The S.T.C. entered a team for the North-Eastern Counties as a direct result of our success in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League, and it is with pride and pleasure that we have to report that the " Leader " trophy now resides in Catterick.

Saturday, 8th February was one of a series of most unfriendly days. Snow had been falling for days and although

it had ceased to fall for a spell the weather was bitter when we set off for Stockton racecourse, the venue for the Championships.

Much good training had been put in by the team, but we knew we were going to be up against keen contestants for the honours in Blaydon Harriers, Saltwell Harriers, Gateshead Harriers and Gateshead Congers as well as our old and known friends of the League run days from Darlington, Cleveland, Synthonia and Middlesbrough. We were determined if not fully confident in our abflity to win.

The race was an individual success for W. Smith of Blaydon Harriers, the Northern Champion, and we congratulate him on his fine return of 59 minutes 19 seconds over such a gruelling 9-mile course. Despite the fact that his club-mate followed him into second place our team was so well " bunched " that our six scorers were in the first 15 places. This is excellent " bunching " and speaks well for the organised training of the team as well as the individual performances.

The score sheet gave the following record :—Signalman Laurence, 2 T.T.R., 5th ; Signalman Moynan, 2 T.T.R., 7th ; Corporal Ross, 2 T.T.R., 8th ; Lance-Corporal Kensey, 2 T.T.R., 9th ; Corporal O'Brien, 2 T.T.R., 12th ; Lance-Corporal Hoskins, 2 T.T.R., 15th. Total points, 56.

A team has been entered for the Northern Counties Cross-Country Championships on Saturday, 22nd February, at Gosforth Park, Newcastle, as well as for the English National which is to be held at Apsley, Hertfordshire, on Saturday, 8th March, 1947.

## Rehabilitation of the German Posts and Telegraphs—(continued from page 124)

mostly ex-Wehrmacht, was in better supply ; law and order was gradually being established, and the loss of vehicles was not so marked—but another headache appeared on the scene.

This time it was lack of food and clothing for the working staff. I had cases of men falling off poles due to hunger, or fainting on digging jobs. Their boots were worn out and, perhaps, they had only an old uniform for clothing.

After an appeal and long discussions with the Food and Agriculture Section of the Military Government I managed to obtain " heavy workers' " ration cards for certain classes of these civilian employees. Each case had to be vetted to avoid the cards getting into the wrong hands. Clothing schedules had to be prepared and dockets issued from the *Landeswirtschaftamt** to permit the purchase of clothing. There was very little to be had anywhere.

With the arrival of the Control Commission from U.K., Military Government became subordinate to that body. So far as posts and telegraphs were concerned the worst was over and the underground cable network was steadily improving, and overhead routes again taking shape. Staffs were in position even if only in small numbers. Up to this time each province had more or less governed itself and the time had now arrived for better co-ordination between provinces.

The P. and T. Branch of C.C.G. made its Headquarters after a short while in Bad Salsughen, and then set up various departments, such as telephone, telegraphs, postal, savings bank, personnel, etc. Ideas were centralised and stores and equipment controlled with a view to issuing where they were most urgently needed. A German post office directorate was set up at C.C.G. P. and T. Headquarters. This directorate was to control the German *Reichspostdirektionen* and thus manage their own affairs, but under the strict supervision of P. and T. Headquarters and P. and T. Officers in the field.

This scheme worked well and is still doing so.

Early in 1946, C.C.G., P. and T. Branch, took over all telecommunications from C.S.O.s, with the exception of purely military lines. The idea was to operate similarly to the G.P.O. at home in so much that the Forces applied to the G.P.O. for lines, and the G.P.O. provided them. The G.P.O. also staffed certain Forces' exchanges. This was happening in Germany when I left in June, 1946.

As regards civil communications, we started in a small way. First, we permitted ordinary subscribers to have lines for local calls only, and provided the local Military Government Detachment gave permission. Later, we permitted trunk calls within the British zone, but only for those subscribers whose business was of national interest and of interest to the Military Government. Later still, calls were permitted between the four Allied zones.

*Vocabulary

*Generalcommando*—Military Headquarters
*Reichspostdirektion*—Post Office Regional Headquarters
*Landeswirtschaftamt*—Board of Trade Regional Headquarters

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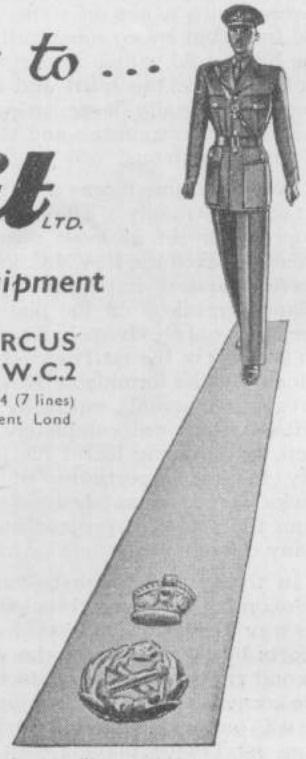

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# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 6

APRIL 1947

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# Editorial

It is gratifying to be able to report that the number of Units sending in monthly news notes is increasing. We are also receiving letters from readers stating their individual preferences and opinions regarding the contents of THE WIRE, with suggestions for future issues. These two developments are very welcome, but we would like to present an editorial point of view which may not have occurred to our correspondents.

In some Units THE WIRE representatives are compiling their budget of news for the Unit as a whole, while in others separate notes are written by members of Headquarters, Squadrons and Troops. It is almost inevitable in the latter case that a great deal of duplication of topics must occur, resulting in lessening the interest value of the notes and making the space problem in the paper more acute. We should be faced with an easier editorial task if Unit representatives would collate contributions from sub-units before despatch, eliminating repetitions as far as possible. Where detachments of the Unit are widely scattered the diversity of local interests makes this procedure less necessary, and the Unit representative would have very little "pruning" to do.

With regard to the correspondence suggesting types of feature for future issues, this is helpful as far as it goes, but would be infinitely more so if it were accompanied by contributions of the type suggested. Our correspondents may not have thought to wonder how or where copy for THE WIRE is obtained. We have no large staff of reporters or feature writers for this purpose, and the main source must inevitably be contributions from readers who have the progress of the Corps magazine at heart.

Much literary talent must lie hidden amongst the thousands of serving Signallers as well as those who, although now civilians again, still keep in touch with the Corps, and our aim is to mobilise as much as possible of this latent ability in the cause of improving THE WIRE.

We therefore repeat our invitation to all readers to submit for publication original literary or pictorial items of general interest, and would again stress the point that illustrations and cartoons are particularly welcome.

* * *

*Silver Wedding Anniversary of our Colonel-in-Chief.* The 28th February was H.R.H. the Princess Royal's silver wedding anniversary, and the following telegram was sent to her on behalf of the Corps:

*H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Imperial Hotel, Torquay.*
*—Sincere congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anni-*

*versary from all ranks of your Corps.—General Phillips.*

To this General Phillips received the following reply:

*Sir Leslie Phillips, Hartley Wintney.—Grateful thanks to you and all ranks of my Corps for your kind message.—Mary, Colonel-in-Chief.*

* * *

*Colonel Commandant, Indian Signal Corps.* General Sir Robert Cassels, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., D.S.O., relinquished the appointment of Colonel Commandant, Indian Signal Corps, on 3rd January, 1947. His Majesty the King Emperor has approved the appointment of Lieutenant-General D. D. Gracey, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., to succeed General Sir Robert Cassels as Colonel Commandant of the Indian Signal Corps.

* * *

We recently received the following message from a member of the East African Corps of Signals who is anxious to keep in touch with friends he made in England in 1946.

*From:* N/12163 Sergeant John Gatu Gachango, Signal Office Troop, 1 (E.A.) L. of C. Signal Squadron, E.A. Corps of Signals, P.O. Box 4013, Nairobi, Kenya.

9th February, 1947.

"On behalf of the East African Corps of Signals Victory Contingent who had a chance of attending the Old Comrades' meeting in Catterick, I send my best wishes and thanks to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals, especially those who worked hard to arrange our four happy days in Catterick. I was one of the two dancers on the night of 15th June during the tea party and I think many of the Corps will be pleased to hear from an East African dancer once more. I took many different people's addresses during the Old Comrades' meeting, of which I have no trace now. Will anybody remembering my name as above please write me when possible. 'Days go by, but memories remain.' My one month's stay in England will be always in memory, although it is just so short a time that a man can understand others. Once again I say 'Thank you to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals'."

* * *

Facilities are now available at 34 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1, the permanent headquarters of the Returned British Prisoners of War Association, for the holding of Regimental and other reunions, debates, meetings, etc. The seating capacity is about 100.

* * *

In our March issue the name of the G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, should read Sir A. F. Phillip Christison, BART., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and not as printed in the news notes of the Royal Signals O.C.T.U.

* * *

*Publications Received.*—We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, February,
R.E.M.E., March.
THE JOURNAL OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT, March.
THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, March.

* * *

### AMATEUR RADIO

The following additional station particulars have been received:

*G3BNI,* operated by D. L. Coppendale (ex-Sergeant), of 9 Morden Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex. Frequency 1.7 mc/s. Would like to QSO any ex-member of A.L.F.S.E.A. Signals, S.E.A.C.

*G3CFN* (ex-XAFN), operated by R.S.M. H. A. Edwards, 56 Armoured Divisional Signals (T.A.), Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham Park, London, S.W.12. Frequencies—all main bands C.W. Will QSP for Royal Signals overseas.

## THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1*
*(Tel.: Victoria 9194)*

### Benevolent Fund

During February 86 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £638 13s.

*Summary of Grants Disbursed*

| Purpose | No. of Cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 28 | 205 | 10 | 0 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 6 | 25 | 13 | 0 |
| Cots and prams | 13 | 76 | 10 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 3 | 19 | 10 | 0 |
| Furniture | 5 | 43 | 0 | 0 |
| Clothing | 5 | 39 | 10 | 0 |
| Doctors' bills | 11 | 105 | 10 | 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Dentures | 1 | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Removals | 6 | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| Travelling expenses | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools | 2 | 23 | 10 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 1 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Funeral expenses | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Hospital comforts | 1 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Child welfare | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 86 | £638 | 13 | 0 |

Analysis in respect of assistance afforded to serving or ex-Service men and their families:

Discharged or released soldiers, 56; widows of deceased soldiers, 5; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 22; C.M.F., 1; M.E.L.F., 1; S.E.A.L.F., 1.

Extracts from some letters of appreciation received:

*Donations Received for the Fund*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Depot Regiment, Royal Signals | 54 | 1 | 1 |
| 8th Army Signal Regiment | 48 | 18 | 7 |
| Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Signal Troop | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| East Anglian Coast Signal Detachment | | 10 | 0 |
| W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, 1 Corps District Signal Regiment | 300 | 0 | 0 |
| W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals, O.C.T.U. | 1 | 13 | 6 |
| Old Comrades' Association Branches: | | | |
| Aberdeen | 28 | 14 | 6 |
| Edinburgh | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Birmingham | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Leeds | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| A. T. Brown, Esq., ex-Signals | | 10 | 0 |
| 70 Infantry Division (1942/43) Welfare Fund | 76 | 10 | 11 |
| 169 Infantry Brigade | 159 | 12 | 4 |
| Staff of Messrs. W. A. Henderson & Co. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | £718 | 10 | 11 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these subscriptions and donations.

# *Presenting . . .*

# "JIMMY"

*by* **CAPTAIN EARL B. BRALY,** *Signal Corps*

*Condensed from "Signals," the U.S. Army Signals Association Journal*

Viewing Jimmy in the foyer of Russel Hall at Fort Monmouth are, left to right: Brigadier A. C. Sykes, of the British Army Staff, Major-General H. C. Ingles, Chief Signal Officer, and Brigadier-General S. H. Sherrill, Commanding General of the Eastern Signal Corps Training Centre

"JIMMY," a veteran of almost a year's service at Fort Monmouth, N.J., still sports no stripes, bars, or other insignia of rank—in fact, he wears practically nothing at all—but it is acknowledged that he really out-ranks everyone on the post. He is the symbol of the warm friendship between the British Royal Corps of Signals and the United States Army Signal Corps.

Seven feet tall and weighing nine hundred pounds, Jimmy stands in the foyer of Russel Hall before a galaxy of flags of the United Nations. A plaque on the base of the statue proclaims that Jimmy was "presented to the officers of the Signal Corps, United States Army, by the officers, Royal Signals, as a token of their co-operation and comradeship in all theatres of operations, December, 1941, to September, 1945."

Not all of Jimmy's records have reached the personnel office yet, but the exploits of the character he represents in bronze are said to rival even those of the ubiquitous Kilroy. They date back at least as far as the mythology of the ancient Greeks, who called him Hermes, and the Romans, who named him Mercury.

According to the Greek version, Hermes was the son of Zeus and Maia. Born in the morning, by noon he had invented the lyre and learned to play on it. That evening he stole fifty head of cattle which his half-brother, Apollo, was tending, and made them walk backwards into a cave so that they could not be traced. Then he lay down quietly in his cradle. The next day, when Apollo discovered his little brother's guilt, he took him before their father, who ordered the cattle to be returned. Hermes played such beautiful music, however, that his brother soon told him to keep the cattle. Hermes never reformed and he later stole such things as Venus' girdle, Neptune's trident, Vulcan's tongs, and Mars' sword.

Hermes was appointed the messenger of Zeus, and also became the god of sleep and dreams, the god of sports, the protector of heroes, the promoter of commerce, the patron of thieves, and the sacrificial herald of the gods. In addition to his other duties, he conducted the souls of the dead "that gibber like bats as they fare, down the dank ways, past the streams of Oceanus, past the gates of the sun and the land of dreams, to the mead of Asphodel in the dark realm of Hades, where dwell the souls and the phantoms of men outworn."

Hermes' tastes in clothes were strictly non-G.I. He wore a *Petasus,* or fatigue hat with wings, and a pair of winged sandals *(taleria).* The *caduceus* he carried was a herald's staff garlanded with snakes. Trousers and tunics were not for him.

It is not surprising that the Royal Signals, with their motto, *Certa Cito,* "speed and accuracy," and their regimental march, "Begone Dull Care," should adopt the sprightly Hermes for their badge. Their famed despatch riders, as well as all of their various ingenious signalmen, are modern counterparts of this immortal messenger. He first came into the Corps when his statuette was carried on the staff of the drum major of the old Telegraph Battalion of the Royal Engineers. Perhaps he was named Jimmy as a friendly gesture and as a simple solution to the problem of whether to call him Hermes or Mercurius. Incidentally, the Royal Corps of Signals, which sprang from the Royal Engineers in 1920, is reminiscent of Hermes' sister, Pallas Athens, who came forth in full armour from the brow of Zeus.

Jimmy, the bronze, was liberated in Bologna during the Italian campaign by a Royal Signals Unit. His next public appearance was at the Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, England, on 26th September, 1945. On that occasion no less a personage than Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, presented Jimmy to Major-General F. H. Lanahan, Chief Signal Officer, United States Forces, European Theatre, who accepted the gift on behalf of the U.S. Signal Corps.

Princess Mary, in presenting Jimmy, said: "The signal communication provided for the United States and British Armies in the field in all theatres of operation has been of a very high order. This has required the closest co-operation between all ranks . . . The success attending that giant effort is sufficient proof of the relation between the

*continued on page 160*

*Photo: Vandyck*

# Lieutenant-General E. A. Osborne

## C.B., D.S.O.

Lieutenant-General E. A. Osborne, C.B., D.S.O., is the first officer of the Corps who has risen to the high rank of Corps Commander.

Outside his profession, General Osborne's great interest and prowess is in field sports, particularly horsemanship. As an active rider both in the hunting field and in steeplechases, he had many successes. He took great trouble to encourage in his officers the taste for and proficiency in horsemanship and horsemastership, basing his judgment on the belief that of two men the one who had had dealings with horses was better than the one who had not.

General Osborne, and the half section of his early service in Royal Engineers, Brigadier Heymann, presented to the Corps one of its finest challenge trophies, the Heavyweight Point-to-Point Cup, which has been won by such officers as General Osborne himself, Brigadier Knowles, Colonel Younie, Colonel Ponsonby, Major Walford and Colonel Crawford. It now stands in the H.Q. Mess at Catterick awaiting the resumption of the event.

Edmund Archibald Osborne was born in 1885, and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant, Royal Engineers, in 1904. He was posted to the Telegraph Battalion, R.E., and served with it in Ireland for some years, during which he seized the opportunities offered to become an owner-rider, with a number of good wins to his credit.

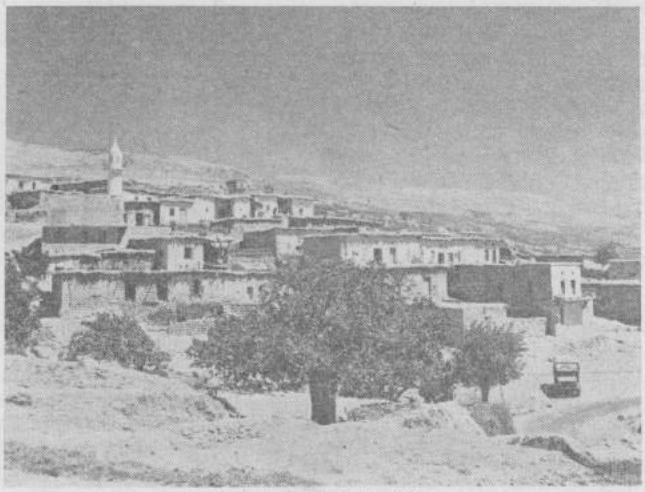
As a subaltern with nearly 10 years' service, he went to France on the outbreak of war in 1914, being promoted Captain later in that year. During the first world war he held a number of Signal Commands and appointments, winning the D.S.O., a brevet majority in 1916, and a brevet lieutenant-colonelcy in 1921.

In the days of re-organisation after the war he attended

# SYRIAN LEAVE

*by* D. H. PURVIS

"I AM never less alone than when alone." So said Hazlitt. So say I, and consequently when I was in Damascus on leave I resolved to escape from its noise and heat and crowded loneliness. As I left my hostel, I saw the two slim minarets of the Tekieh Mosque standing white and erect against the pale blue sky of early morning. Between them rose up the distant target at which I intended to aim that day; they were the slender guards to a foresight — between which I sighted the 9,000 towering feet of proud white-cloaked Mount Hermon, so dreamy from the slumber of its milleniums that its head was lost in the clouds.



A typical village in Syria

Youth's hot-headed impetuosity had swept aside all practical considerations when I had learned from a guide-book of the existence of a cave near a ruined Roman temple on Hermon's summit. Heedlessly enthusiastic, I decided to spend a night up there. And so I equipped myself in preparation—for warmth, a blanket—for hunger, egg sandwiches and dates—for light, a candle—for aching muscles, a bottle of liniment—and for thirst I planned to rely upon wayside snow.

Thus "heavily" laden, I set out in great excitement. I thumbed a lift down thirty dusty miles of the Jerusalem road; Saul, I thought, must have been journeying along it when he was stricken blind before his conversion. Starting off across the flat, bare, boulder-strewn fields towards the Hermon Range I soon discovered the deception of distance through the concealed hills that lay in folds, hidden and cunning. In one of my brief spells of rest a voice calling "Saida!" suddenly aroused me. I looked up quickly to find a dark-jowled Arab standing there by the side of his patient, humble donkey. Gladly I accepted his offer of a ride, and threw my "large pack" into one of the voluminous bags hanging on either side of his animal. I jumped astride it and soon was taught to accelerate the creature by prodding its spine through a hole in the saddle, but this was so ineffective that I began to think that the proverbial carrot dangling in front of its nose might prove more efficacious.

The jolting movement soon became too painful to the legs and the speed too slow for the length of my journey, so I thanked the Arab and soon became far from him and nearer to Hermon. At the first dimming of day I had reached the entrance of a rift penetrating deep into the heart of Hermon. Drifts of snow were becoming increasingly frequent, and deeper and wider. Suddenly, as I turned a corner, the whole valley opened up before me. From the narrow strip of terraced greenery along the valley bed the hills leaped up on either side to crests of grotesquely twisted rocks—like weird battlements or evil grinning skulls with black-shadowed eye sockets, yellow patches of melting snow their decaying flesh. But ahead—I had been afraid to look at it first — reclining in white splendour sprawled the immensity of Hermon. Silhouetted against it in dark contrast stood a huge rock formation like a giant ant-hill. A mammoth Gulliver, it hung over honey-coloured tiers of Lilliputian houses lying clustered at its feet.

On entering the village at last, I was soon followed by a trail of excited and not unjustly inquisitive children. Climbing a little higher I came to a square swept clear of snow, and there, surrounded by his family, the Sheik awaited me. I bade him "Saida," and pointed at Hermon to explain my intentions. They all shook their heads solemnly and negatively, and then, to use demonstration where our strange tongues failed us, the Sheik crawled laboriously across a pile of snow. The surface collapsed under his weight and he sank into the snow up to his chest. Grinning with satisfaction, he pointed first at the snow around him, then at Hermon, clapping his hands to the side of his face to signify sleep. "Yes," I thought, "perpetual sleep for foolhardy explorers." Remembering that discretion was the better part of valour, I surrendered unconditionally to Hermon. I started to wonder where I was to spend the night, without any shelter and six hours' walk followed by thirty miles of road from Damascus.

"Bonjour," hailed a voice. Never before had I been so glad to hear a tongue other than my own.

"Bonjour," I cried. "Comment ça va?"

"Très bien, monsieur. Et vous?" replied a tall, lanky

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*continued from page 140*

the Staff College, Camberley, meeting many officers with whom he was later to work as a Staff Officer and Commander.

In 1924 he became an instructor at the School of Signals and succeeded to its command in March, 1926. By this time the School had added to its responsibilities the qualifying courses for young officers of the Corps. In this respect the Corps benefited very much from Colonel Osborne's experience because he brought to his task a very complete knowledge of how to live. There are many officers now serving as seniors in the Corps who got much worldly wisdom from their training and upbringing by Colonel Osborne.

After completing his tenure in Command in 1930, Colonel Osborne commenced a series of appointments in higher command, a brigade in the Scottish Command, the Camel Brigade in Egypt, and, on promotion to Major-General in early 1938, a division at home, which he held until he was appointed to command a Corps in the home forces in 1940, being engaged on training it for its counter-invasion role.

From 1938 until 1947 General Osborne was a Colonel Commandant of our Corps, bringing to his duties as representative Colonel Commandant and a member of the Corps Committee all his great knowledge of men and things. His opinion in all matters of taste, tradition and custom are always of great value to us.

youth clambering down from the rocks towards us. This lad, Atulla, had learned a smattering of French from a priest, and he turned out to be a most competent interpreter. He it was who turned Hermon's victory from disappointment to my delight; through him I had one of the happiest and certainly the most memorable of evenings in my life. When they discovered that I was an Englishman and not French, their delight knew no bounds. Would the name of my country ever bring me such respect again, I wondered.

The Sheik then invited me to be his guest for the night. Even had there been alternative shelter, I would still have accepted his invitation gladly. These pure, hardy Arabs, with their clear brown eyes and straight looks, aroused instinctive trust and pleasure within me. At the head of a procession before the questioning eyes of the whole village, the Sheik lead me to his home. Those that were not following us were standing on their roof-tops, pointing.

A bowl of icy spring-water was brought to me. I washed, and leaving my boots outside, I went into the house. A small stove burned in the centre of a wide, thickly-carpeted floor and around the walls were piles of soft, rich, varicoloured cushions. We drank several tiny cups of thick, sweet, black coffee and conversation turned to the French who had once attacked their village of Qala'at Jendal.

They asked, "The French are good, yes?" obviously wanting me to disagree.

"In their own country, yes, the French ARE good," I replied with all the ambiguity I could muster. In the meantime, serving-girls had put down on the floor a round straw mat and set upon it earthenware plates mountained high with a mixture of rice and what I suspected to be camel meat. In the centre were dishes of olives, white goat's milk cheese and a delicious preserve sweeter and tastier than honey. Yet another straw mat was brought in, piled high with flat yellowy circles that, when the Sheik folded one and passed it to me, I thought were serviettes. What on earth was I meant to do with it? However, he ripped off a piece of his and pushed it through his straggling moustache into a cavernous mouth. I watched the others eat and copied them; so I shaped a portion of this round leathery bread into the palm of my hand and squeezed at the food with it, conveying the whole to my mouth in sandwich fashion. I remembered having read in books that people in these lands were much offended if their guests did not devour everything that confronted them. So with a typically British determination that outlived my hunger I consumed the plateful. I had heard, too, that it was polite to belch loudly to voice appreciation of the richness of the food. But I deemed that unwise. I found, to my chagrin, that the men eat until they are satisfied, the women continue with what the men leave, and the children finish off the scrapings. But they were too kind and genuine to make me feel anything but amusement.

Feeding finished, we gathered round the fire and drank cup after cup of the most delectable black tea. One by one, other members of the family came in to meet me, until twenty-two people of the same blood were gathered there. I watched their fine, keen faces in the flickering light. One boy with a shock of dark curly hair and brilliant dancing eyes completely captivated me—what joy of life he possessed, what happiness he derived from so little. But then, the pain and avarice and selfishness of the outside world were unknown to him. The women came in with their new offsprings and sat in a row along the wall. Bright white linen covered their heads and their flushed smiling faces looked lovingly down over fluffy vermilion coats to their babes contentedly gurgling and occasionally feeding at their rich warm breasts.

Rousing cheers followed my rendering of "Danny Boy"

*continued on page 160*

# Home Stations

## No. 1 DEPOT REGIMENT

*February*

No. 1 SQUADRON. During the last month we have all been preoccupied in trying to keep warm, and have often felt that we were fighting a losing battle against the snow, which has lain for weeks, and the biting East wind which sweeps across our exposed site. This week-end (16th February) has come "the unkindest cut of all," for during the present fuel crisis we are not allowed to have fires in offices, living accommodation, or ablutions, and the only fires in the Depot until some future date, will be those in the cook houses and N.A.A.F.I.

Sports and entertainments have had to be curtailed. Our very successful Unit dances have been suspended temporarily due to the bad roads and shortage of fuel.

Our function as posting Squadron is unaffected, however, and we are still pushing out men to Units all over Great Britain and sending others to No. 2 Depot Regiment, for drafting overseas. We hope that by the time you read this, and if you happen to come our way, we will be able to extend you a "warmer" welcome than we can at the moment.

No. 2 SQUADRON. During January we moved to the aerodrome, where we now adminster the cadre of R.H.Q. and H.Q., The Depot. We continue to provide the release machinery for practically all ex-overseas, ex-Y list and ex-cadre personnel. Whereas A, B, C and E Release Staff were working in a former W.A.A.F. sick-bay, they are now housed in a weird building surmounted by Astral domes. On its walls is a complete bomb-aiming control board with a variety of interesting switches, but as yet we have had no clients for "Bomb Release."

The demob speed-up news will shortly cause an increase in release staff, and Lieutenant Bassford (Officer i/c Releases), after a short spell as Regimental Messing Officer, is back with us again ready to face the onslaught.

All in No. 2 Squadron regret to see the departure on posting to the T.A. of the O.C. Squadron, Major J. (Jack) Swatton. He is succeeded by his second-in-command, Captain J. H. Donaldson. The Squadron "mascot" departs with his master and many will miss the familiar sight of "Monty," who has always escorted the O.C. on his daily rounds.

No. 3 SQUADRON. This month has passed very quietly. I suppose there must be some kind of deadening effect in the snow still lying around. The pressure of work has also eased a lot with the passing of all our commitments and responsibilities for the Regimental H.Q. to No. 2 Squadron. This has been a great relief to us all, and you can see many of the grey hairs disappearing from the heads of our Nominal Rolls Staff.

The influx of R.S.M.s, S.S.M.s, etc., has been simply amazing—in any and every department you can find one. I believe an R.S.M. was seen doing a job of work—yes, it was quite a hard job, too. These N.C.O.s have come flocking to the T.A. from all parts of the world, and every one is an old soldier. The mention of many of their names would bring back memories, pleasant and otherwise, to many readers.

Just in the last two or three weeks the weather has hit

us hard, and the Quartermaster even harder on the coal side. There have been and still are no fires in the offices or billets, and even all places where comfort is expected, but there is one in the N.A.A.F.I. The electricity has been cut as well but, judging by the number of red noses on parade, the internal heating arrangements can still be obtained. This is a very sorry note to finish with but we hope we shall all survive to see it warm again.

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*March*

The Regiment loses its designation, No. 1 Trades Training Regiment, and is in future to be known as No. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals. This is only a change in designation; the Regiment will continue to train line, radio and tele mechanics.

Snow clearing and frost precautions have taken a large part in the activities of the Regiment, and we are now, somewhat optimistically, preparing for the thaw.

The Adjutant, Captain P. G. Curry, was married at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, to Junior Commander Yvonne Dawn Oddie, A.T.S., on 8th February, 1947, and was later weatherbound on the Scilly Isles.

On 5th March, No. 1 Training Regiment novices boxing team lost to No. 4 Training Regiment (late 2 O.T.R.) in a keenly contested tournament by 6 wins to 4. Results were always close, and congratulations must be given to both winners and losers. Individual results are as shown.

| No. 1 Training Regiment | | No. 4 Training Regiment | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Bantamweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Merrit | | Sigmn. Kane | Point Win |
| *Featherweight* | | | |
| Cpl. Thompson | | L/Cpl. Daniels | Point Win |
| *1st Lightweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Cook | | Sigmn. Dale | K.O. Win |
| *2nd Lightweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Price | | Sigmn. Wilson | Point Win |
| *1st Welterweight* | | | |
| Cpl. Walker | Point Win | Sigmn. Springett | |
| *2nd Welterweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Hawkins | Point Win | L/Cpl. Werboys | |
| *1st Middleweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Salmon | | Sigmn. Jackson | Point Win |
| *2nd Middleweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Osborne | | Sigmn. Brown | Point Win |
| *Light/Heavyweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Cullingford | Pt. Win | Sigmn. Heugh | |
| *Heavyweight* | | | |
| Sigmn. Babbage | Point Win | Sigmn. Brown | |

NO. 2 SQUADRON. Ex-2 Squadron personnel serving in stations outside the influence of the depression over Scandinavia will doubtless be sympathising with us in our sub-Arctic, fuel-less conditions.

Training has continued, with difficulty, in spite of snow-clearing, etc., and fortunately leave has not been affected.

From the social angle the Squadron is continuously developing. The old "Quiet(?) Room" has been vacated, and a much larger room, the old Church Hut, equipped as a recreational centre with games section and lounge. Indoor games are likely to become popular, and competitions started.

A recent Squadron Instructors Course, in which has been included some Play Reading, has created some interest in that subject, and a Squadron Play Reading Circle, organised by Lieutenant Hill, has started, providing some interesting diversion and giving a large nucleus for the usual Technical "Grips."

The Squadron now has its own weekly film show in the Recreation Room, the standard of film and the presentation being exceptionally good.

Numerous volunteers for a Regimental novices boxing tournament in February provided the Squadron with quite a good team, and in spite of some medical disqualifications we managed to beat No. 3 Squadron by six wins to five, the boxers showing exceptional spirit and giving the "blood tub" some keen and well-contested bouts to add to its roll. The remainder of the Squadron, ably led by Lance-Corporal Whitmore with the old gas alarm rattle, gave magnificent support.

Congratulations are extended to all members of the team, particularly to:—

Signalman Merrett, bantamweight; Signalman Stanford, second string, welterweight; Signalman Salmon, first string, middleweight; Signalman Osborne, second string, middleweight; Signalman Cullingford, first string, light heavyweight; Corporal Walker, first string, welterweight.

The last named featured in the final and deciding bout.

*Training.* Ex-trainees will be interested to hear that trade test in radio theory is now held at the end of the theory weeks, and eliminated from the final trade test at the end of the Course. No more theory cramming before trade test.

*Promotions.* All present and ex-2 Squadron members will wish to join in congratulating the O.C., Captain K. A. Smith, on his recent promotion to that rank.

Congratulations on promotion are also extended to the following: Corporal Coomber, Corporal Hall, Corporal Hobbs, Corporal Longhurst, Corporal Walker.

NO. 3 SQUADRON. Despite the inclement weather, the Squadron was able to indulge in a considerable amount of sport during the past month.

A series of cross-country runs was organised to select a Squadron team to compete in the Unit competition. A fairly stiff 5-mile course was laid out over the moors. Signalman Mutch proved a decisive winner, while Barrack Room 10 provided the winning team. Through a variety of causes our runners were unable to pit their prowess against the talent of other Units in the Northern Command Championships.

More recently a Squadron Individual Boxing Competition was organised. About 50 entries were forthcoming, and the standard proved unexpectedly high. Members of the Squadron who eventually represented the Unit in the Inter-Regimental team championships were Corporal Thomson, Signalman Hawkins, Signalman Price, and Signalman Cook.

## No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

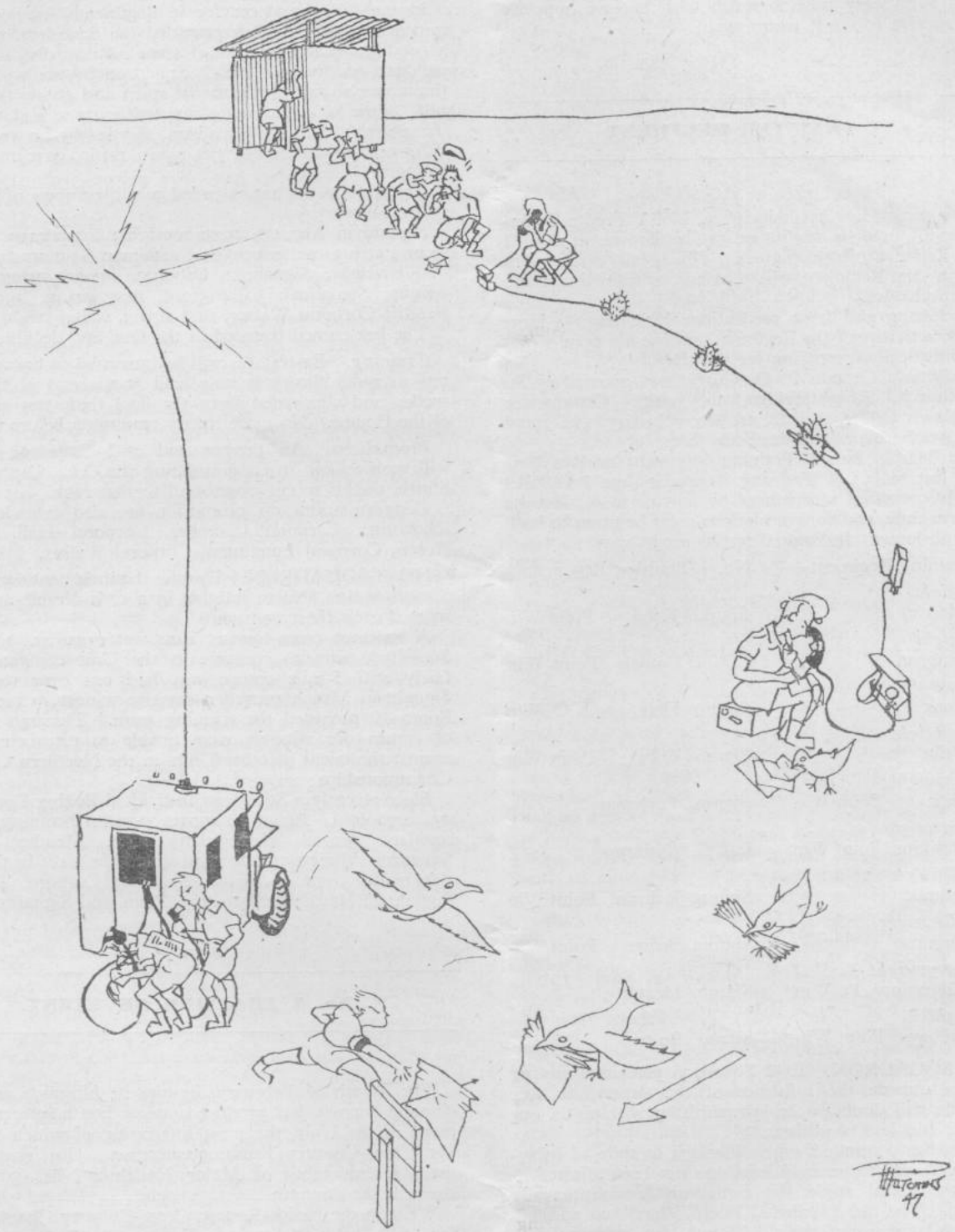
*March*

The month of February, despite its blizzards and other climatic horrors, has produced one or two noteworthy news items in the Unit, the most interesting of which has been our Cross-Country Running successes. Our team, under the able leadership of Major Haslehurst, has gone from strength the strength.

We won the North-Eastern Cross-Country Championship for 1947, held at Stockton Racecourse on Saturday, 8th February. Conditions could only be described as Arctic, and the worst that any of the somewhat aged officials had ever experienced. The Corps entered a team of 10 runners, all from No. 2 Training Regiment.

This event, which was reported in THE WIRE for March, is the first occasion upon which any Service team has

## *SIGNALS IN ACTION—II.*



**Signal Reporting Regiment (lately "Phantom")**

won the cup since its initiation in 1895. The trophy is a massive silver Challenge Bowl, standing 2 feet high on its plinth, and a worthy acquisition.

The second big event was the Northern Command Cross-Country Championship, and resulted in an almost unprecedented occurrence, being run twice, first on Tuesday, 18th February, and then again on Friday, 21st February. On the first occasion No. 2 Training Regiment scored 135 points, with Royal Signals O.C.T.U. second with 513 points. Halfway round the course our leaders were misdirected by a marker, off the road and on to the moors. Despite the fact that every runner was equally misdirected, and conditions were very much worse on the detour, the race was ordered to be run again by the referee.

On the Friday conditions were much worse, and instead of Tuesday's bright weather, there were strong winds and snow to contend with. The total distance, starting from Menin Gymnasium, was just under 8 miles. Again the Unit won comfortably, Signalman Lawrence, Signalman Moynan and Lance-Corporal Kinsey taking the first three places respectively. Signalman Lawrence ran a well-judged race, worthy of a potential Army champion. The results were: —

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *First* | No. 2 Training Regiment | 119 points |
| *Second* | Royal Signals O.C.T.U. | 372 „ |
| *Third* | 62 Recce Regiment, R.A.C. | 445 „ |

The two trophies, Northern Command and Catterick District, were presented by Brigadier Straight.

The Unit held a Novices' Boxing Competition in Le Cateau Gymnasium on 14th February. This was a highly successful show, organised by Lieutenant Chambers and C.S.M. Walters, A.P.T.C. With ding-dong battles, and a number of laughs, the spectators certainly had their money's worth. One of the best fights of the evening was the final of the light heavyweight class, between Signalman Watkinson and Signalman Sinclair, and the incongruity of this match provided the assembly with added entertainment. Signalman Sinclair, who won the bout after a most spirited fight, was at least 12 inches shorter than his opponent, and two warnings for hitting low amused many, because of his obvious difficulty in landing a head blow.

At the end of this very entertaining evening, prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker.

The Regiment is fairly firmly ensconced at the top of both Senior and Junior Leagues in the Catterick Garrison Indoor Games Tournament. Our success is due largely to the organising and slave driving qualities of Lieutenant J. D. Willey.

Roads blocked by snow have forced us to cancel a few fixtures, but in spite of the weather our programme has been acquitted reasonably well to date. Highspot of February's effort was the match against No. 62 Training Recce Regiment, R.A.C., in the Senior League.

Our strength being sadly depleted by "Operation Coalheaver," we fielded a team of only nine members (normal strength is 19—each man being a specialist in one particular sport). Each of the nine proved to be a "Jack of all games," and we managed to put one over on the Recce-ites, beating them by the narrow margin of two points, on their own ground. Inspired snooker play from Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker (darts specialist) and truly amazing dart throwing by Lieutenant J. Chambers (snooker specialist), won many gasps of amazement—and a modicum of liquid refreshment from all who know them.

Like everyone else we have been hard hit by the recent severe fuel cuts. No. 2 Squadron lost nearly all its drivers when, under Sergeants Ward and Nicholson, they were called out to help in the coal crisis, at very short notice. They worked really hard, and have been thanked by the G.O.C. for their stout efforts.

*Departures and Arrivals.* There have been some notable departures during the month, including Captain F. E. Berry (O.C. No. 2 Squadron) and Captain D. L. Pounds (Officer i/c Training), No. 1 Squadron, who have both been selected as Adjutants to T.A. Units. Don Pounds, well known as a member of the Theatre Club, scored a final triumph with his excellent performance in "Quiet Week-End" at the Signals Theatre.

Sergeant Stevens, Sergeant Kidd and Corporal Byde also left for employment with the T.A. Lance-Corporal (now Sergeant) Oswin is transferred to the A.E.C.

To all these doughty warriors we wish the very best of luck in their new jobs.

Captain P. T. C. McGee (ex-S.T.C., Bangalore) arrived from the Depot, and is now Officer i/c Training, No. 1 Squadron. We welcome him to this chilly outpost.

Congratulations to Lieutenant and Mrs. J. Chambers on the addition of a daughter to their family.

## SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*March*

UNIT HEADQUARTERS. In spite of the recent bad weather the only sporting activities to suffer here have been the football matches, though even in this field a few games have been played with very satisfactory results.

When No. 1 Trades Training Regiment played against the R.A.M.C. at Aldershot our two bus-loads of supporters found it quite intimidating to pass through Aldershot and see rank upon rank of solemn faced R.A.M.C. supporters marching with grim determination towards the playing field. Nevertheless, the Signals proved themselves capable of shouting down the most persistent opposition, a state of affairs brought about largely by the unexpected assistance of a group of Signals A.T.S., attached to the R.A.M.C., who unleashed such a burst of applause every time the Signals made an aggressive move that even the R.A.M.C. were forced to look upon these "traitors" to their side with admiration.

The teams were very evenly matched and the general opinion was that Signals were very unlucky to lose by one goal scored in the last few seconds of extra time.

The Unit dances have carried on in fine style despite the loss of their Master of Ceremonies, Signalman Langton, who left us on Class "C" release a short while ago. Even when great drifts of snow were blocking all roads to the Camp a number of A.T.S. and civilian guests managed to battle their way through rather than miss their favourite dance. But when they arrived they found that Johnny Poole and his band had not been as fortunate as they in reaching their destination. The guests, however, were not disappointed: they spent a most enjoyable evening in dancing to the radiogram.

Perhaps the most breathtaking of all recent events has been the introduction of a training programme for all members of the Camp. It is now many months since the majority of us underwent exercise of a strenuous nature, but the aches and pains which are a natural result of P.T. and drill seem well worth while when one can boast of being once again a fit man, and capable of consuming twice the usual amount with ease at mealtimes.

Two of our table tennis players, Signalman Brynes and Signalman Merry, have been asked to join the Salisbury N.A.A.F.I. Club team, which challenges all comers. Signal-

man Brynes is particularly skilled in the art of offensive play, while Signalman Merry is especially noted for his defensive playing. It might be relevant to state that out of a total of 20 games played, 18 have been won, and the two losing games were later reversed.

Quite a number of people at Figsbury are waiting for their Release Groups to come up, and the suspense of awaiting what civilian life may have in store seems evident from the fact that some of these would-be civilians have been frequently seen sledging on a nearby slope and giving vent to the most fantastic-sounding utterances (and not infrequently quarrelling with the children as to who reached the farthest point down the course).

*Personalities.* We have in the Unit at the moment, both among the officers and other ranks, many personalities who have served in the Corps almost since its formation.

Among these are the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., and the Second in Command, Major A. Holt, M.B.E., who is also O.C. F.S.S. Wing.

At Aldershot, Major A. H. Beattie is still very much in evidence as O.C. F.S.S. Troop.

Major (George) Wray, at Portsmouth, is another well-known figure, as also is O.C. No. 1 Squadron, Major E. H. Spindler, while R.Q.M.S. (Ronny) Softly and S.Q.M.S. Marsh are two of the main stalwarts of Captain (Q.M.) J. Springett's staff.

## SCOTTISH COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*March*

Since our last contribution our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Booth, has returned from a very enjoyable three weeks ski-ing in Switzerland. He felt like "cutting his straps up" for leaving his skis in Andermatt when he saw the crowds of people ski-ing on the Pentland slopes, not two miles from our camp, under ideal conditions.

During February, Command H.Q. moved from its old location to Edinburgh Castle. In consequence, we were kept very busy moving the Signal Office, telephone exchange, teleprinters, wireless links, etc., to the Castle, and except for one or two small teething troubles, everything worked at the appointed hour, and everyone seemed happy.

Captain Michel, our late Adjutant, has left us on posting to West Africa, and Captain V. S. Gilliam, who was in charge of Highland District Signal Group at Perth, has taken over his duties. Captain R. F. Delahunty is now O.C. "HIDIS."

We welcome the arrival of Major A. H. Britton, who recently joined us from West Africa.

Last month we were able to organise a Corporals' Room in the N.A.A.F.I. Our P.R.I., Major T. Stibbs, presided at the first meeting, and explained the purpose and advantages of the room. A Committee was formed, many suggestions were made to add to the comfort of the room, and various entertainments and games were proposed for the future.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Sergeant Gorrie, Sergeant Mousely and Sergeant Tait have left us on Demob; but despite their vows never to return we expect to see them again in the near future. We already have three "Demobs" back with us, who after six months in Civvy Street decided that the Army was the life for them. Sergeant Oliver and Sergeant Bailey are leaving us towards the end of this month to take up appointments as P.S.I.s with the Territorial Army at Glasgow and Aberdeen respectively.

We wish them all the best of luck in their new appointments.

*Sport.* Congratulations to Signalman J. Inglis, of West (F.S.S.) Troop, Glasgow, on being selected to play football for the Army against the Army of France in Paris on 13th March.

Owing to the severe weather conditions and snow-covered pitches very little sport has been possible.

A football team selected from the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes played the Unit team in several inches of snow on 26th February, and put up a very creditable performance in drawing 2—2.

In spite of the appalling conditions we have managed a few games of basket ball on Wednesday afternoons. Some very keen matches have been played betwen troops, and Officers and Sergeants. We are eagerly looking forward to better weather conditions, when we shall restart our inter Troop Basketball League.

EAST (F.S.S.) TROOP. Appearing in print for the first time under a separate heading, allow us to introduce ourselves.

The Troop is responsible for installation and maintenance of F.S.S. communications throughout the Eastern half of Scotland, and being based on Edinburgh, a fair amount of travelling is involved.

The Troop O.C. (Captain (T.O.T.) C. H. G. Allen) has long been added to the R.E. inventory of fitments in Fairmilehead Camp. Our F. of S., on the other hand, usually only stay long enough to pay one Mess bill. The present one will, ere these notes appear in print, be seeking the not so fresh pastures of Catterick in his climb up the ladder to fame.

Most of the linemen are youngsters who will, I am sure, strive to get "Through"—"Certa Cita." During the past month we have said farewell to two of our old members and bid welcome to four newcomers, and we trust some of them, at any rate; will stay long enough to make many pleasant journeys to the Islands of the Forth, there to dig and delve for buried treasure (?).

The stalwarts of the Troop, however, wear civvy suits (for which three get the "industrial ten"), and it may be of interest to old members of the Corps if their names are given—Mr. J. T. Davidson, Mr. S. W. Robinson, Mr. J. G. Heath, Mr. F. T. Buglass (up the "hearts").

*Salaams* to Busty Herbert, Jack Stone, Oscar Juniper, Freddie Speakes and Jock Glass from "Ginger."

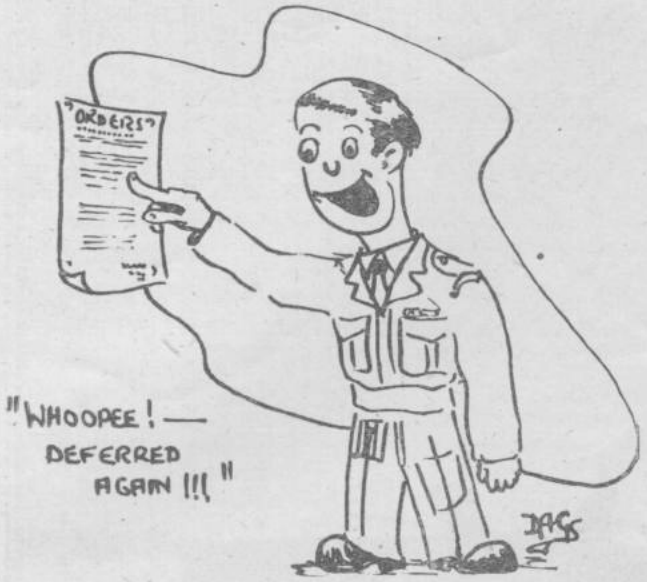
HIGHLAND DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP. On the fringe of the Arctic Circle, lat. 56° 20′, long. 4° 20′ in Perth, is located Hidis Signal Troop, commanded by Captain R. F. Delahunty, under the watchful eye of Major-General Barber, and remotely controlled by O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Major G. H. R. Flynn.

Helping in the efficient service given to District H.Q. is a detachment of No. 5 Command Signals, A.T.S., who do most of the work, whilst our chaps re-live in memory and words the glories of their campaigns and achievements in far-off climates.

The establishment of a Marriage Bureau (WE 14371/3), and the introduction of a tea-making rosta have raised morale to a high level. The main grouse up here is that there is not enough to "tic" about.

NO. 3 (ORKNEY AND SHETLAND) SQUADRON. Firstly, who we are. A Squadron of Scottish Command Signal Regiment, stationed in the Orkney Islands to maintain communications in the traditional manner. The Squadron consists of a H.Q. and two Troops, Orkney Garrison Troop and F.S.S. Troop, and is commanded by Major Bert Trapmore.

Due to the cancellation of all organised games owing to snow and ice, the Orkney Garrison Troop worked out an extensive programme of Winter Sports for themselves. The programme was hastily curtailed by the removal to the




C.R.S. from the Kirkwall slopes of Lance-Corporal Murray and Signalman Glover.

Note. One sledge for sale, slightly damaged, very fast. What offers?

A recent blow—the Church of Scotland Canteen, well known to all who have served in the most Northern outpost, has closed. No more steak and chips at a bob a plate, but, oh, how much quicker our D.R.s complete their S.D.S. circuits. Faster bikes, maybe.

This station (the Land of the Midnight Sun) has proved none too popular with the ex-S.E.A.C. wallahs. The troop abounds with ex-Burma boys, and it is not an uncommon sight to see them crouched round a not-so-roaring stove, gripping on the road to Mandalay.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal "Joe" Oatley on the presentation to him by Mrs. Oatley of a baby daughter.

The serenity of the whole garrison in general, and the F.S.S. Troop in particular, has been profoundly disturbed by a rumour that we are to move to a place that is miles from anywhere. The "anywhere" here means the cinema, there being one in all the sixty-seven islands that go to make up the Orkney group. At the moment this troop is rather comfortably housed in a camp within easy walking distance of the venerable old city of Kirkwall, and are looking forward to winter relaxing its icy grip, so that they can get back to their work on the islands surrounding Scapa Flow, back to troop detail "haversack rations and a launch." The O.C., Captain (I.P.C.) J. R. Greenfield, M.B.E., is anxiously eyeing the manpower situation, and in the meantime drums of cable continue to arrive.

A warm welcome is extended to Sergeant (Slash) Whipp, who arrived from Catterick, and has taken over left half troop. Sergeant Bendell is congratulated on his recent promotion.

Sport has come to a temporary standstill, the football team is missing the four men on an upgrading course in Edinburgh, but a Garrison cross-country run produced a star runner in the troop, Signalman Symons.

A start has been made in miniature rifle shooting, and it is hoped that a good team can be built up.

*Wedding Bells.* A wedding has been arranged between Signalman M. Drever, of the F.S.S. Troop, and Catherine Greenlow Brass, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brass, of Holm, Orkney. The whole troop send their best wishes, and hope to attend the service at King Street Church, Kirkwall. Representatives of the troop will attend the reception.

## NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

*March*

After a few weeks of rumours and "I told you so," it is possible to inform old members of N.I.D. Signals that Major (T.O.T.) G. F. Bayliss, M.B.E., M.C., R.Signals, has managed to convince A.G11(B) that a return to Ulster would improve his appetite and provide a chance to wear his raincoat at regular intervals. It would not be possible with the limited space at our disposal to present a summary of the comings and goings of Major Bayliss, nevertheless we are very pleased to welcome him back to the fold, and sincerely hope that this time the "ticket" will definitely be a "SINGLE."

What we gain on the swings we lose on the roundabouts. The arrival of Major Bayliss means the departure of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. G. Holland, R.Signals. With him will go the best wishes of all ranks for the future; his departure is deeply regretted.

A few weeks ago a dark cloud passed over us as Captain D. V. Littlefield, R.Signals (Education and Imprest), was suddenly taken ill and rushed to hospital in a serious condition, but the grand fighting spirit of the G.O.M. triumphed, and in a few days' time he will be proceeding on leave; we heartily congratulate him on a splendid recovery.

*Sport.* Our passage in the N.I.D. Cup was short-lived when meeting 83 P.T.C. (Irish Group) in the third round, being defeated by 7 goals to nil. Further comment or any excuses can be dispelled, as we were defeated by a team superior in all departments of the game.

Interests in civilian cup matches have also been severed when Ballycarry Strollers defeated us in the first round of the Gibson Cup by 5 goals to nil. It is possible for excuses in this case as five regular players were on "passionate" leave.

*Long Distance.* Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. and Mrs. Conway convey kindest regards to Captain G. J. Bew, Signal Training Centre, Mhow.

Lieutenant John Connaughton also sends his salaams to Captain and Mrs. G. J. Bew.

Captain "Bill" Dundee sends his best wishes to Captain E. A. and Mrs. Knott at Malta.

Lieutenant "Dutch" and Mrs. Holland and Christine send best wishes to Captain W. and Mrs. McCullough and family in Ceylon.

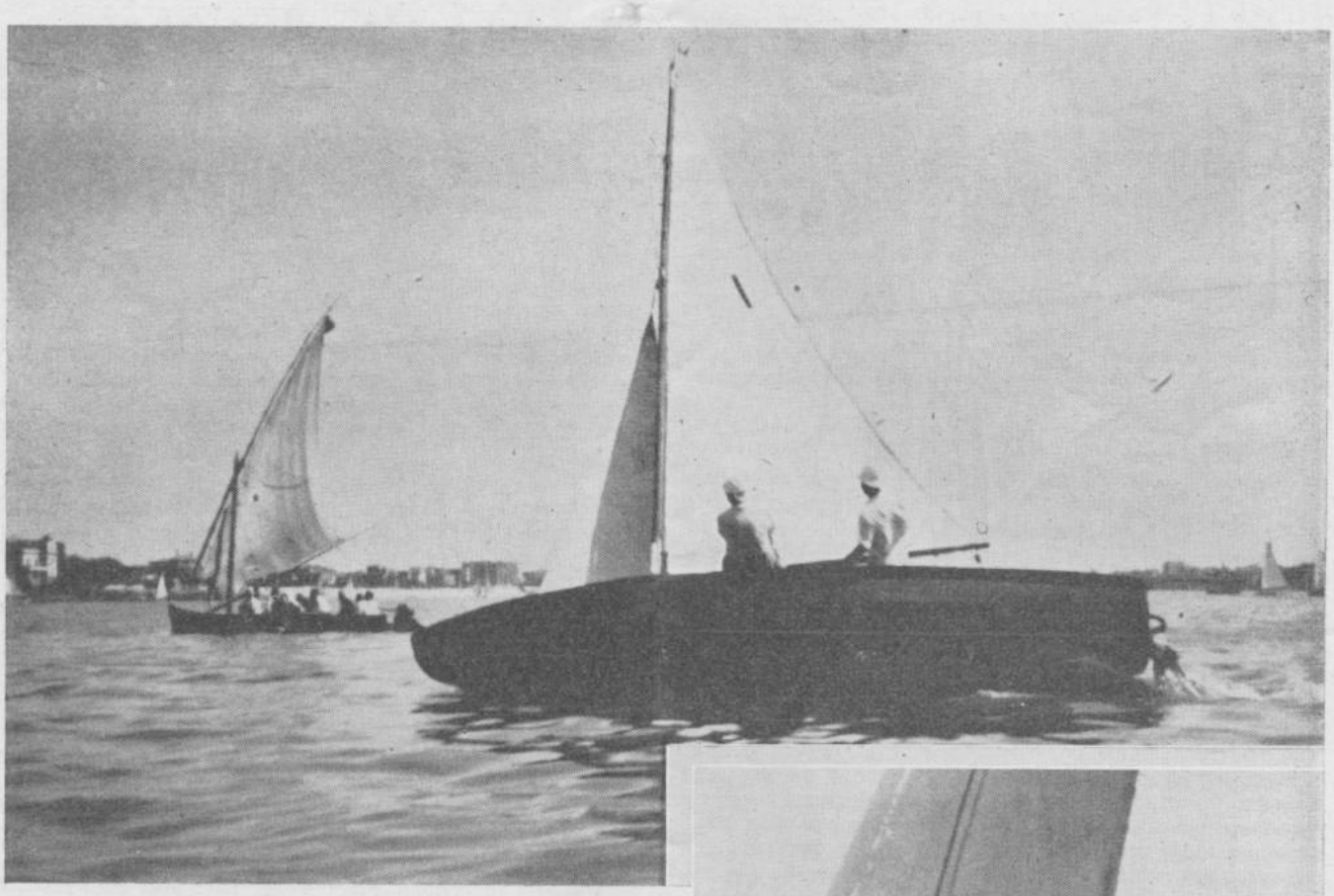
*A.T.S. Signal Company.* Calling all former members of N.I.D. A.T.S. Signal Company, wherever they may be. News, news of the month from N.I.D., before you.

Just one release this month. Lance-Corporal Hindle, formerly at War Office, was demobbed on the 10th, and is from all reports settling down in Civvy Street once more.

One of the first of A.T.S. Signals to come to North Ireland "way back," Private Scotton-Taylor has been posted to 1 Company, No. 3 Command Signals, A.T.S., after all these years. All the best, Jerry, in your new Company.

Showing what an irresistible Company we are, we have another deferment. Sergeant O'Donnel has once more decided to have another six months of our company, much to the relief of Company Office. A little bird has whispered that the Company Commander and Sub-Commander may become a permanent fixture (I wonder). What have we got that Civvy Street hasn't (don't ask the lads). Could it be coal? It certainly isn't *men*. And so with that in your minds we'll leave you all till next month. Au revoir for now.

"COOKIE"



Top—Poised on a knife-edge of balance

Bottom—The Perfect Day

# *In favour of* LITTLE SHIPS

WE had had a hard but exhilarating day's sailing from across the other side of the estuary. It was the beginning of the season and a very special season at that, the first for seven years. Earlier in the evening we had walked the three miles along the shore to the little village pub and now as our day drew to a close we felt a deep content, such as we had not experienced for a long, long time. We walked back along the sea wall after closing time. It was a boisterous night, and the wind chased us along, our sea boots thumping hollowly on the dry bare earth. To our left lay the dank blackness of the sodden marshes, while to seaward, beyond the long lines of creaming breakers, we could see the lights of the outward bound shipping and hear the steady pulsing of their engines.

We found the dinghy where we had left her on the pebble hard, and shoved off. Half a dozen smart strokes on the paddles and the hull of our little cruiser loomed up darkly above us. It was good to get on board again and into the cheerful light and warmth of the tiny cabin, for although we were lying quietly enough in this secluded Kentish creek, the wind was working up into an angry blow and we had felt its chilliness through the thickness of our duffle coats.

I remember that later that night we talked about the increasing popularity of sailing in the Army. "It's amazing how it's catching on," said Bill. "Why in Cairo we had

over three hundred members a month after opening the club, and most of 'em couldn't sail, anyway. Same all over B.A.O.R., too, I believe." "They're lucky blighters, you know, Bill," I replied. "It'll come a lot easier to them than it did to us." "Oh, I dunno. Most of us learned the hard way in some old tore out of a duck punt, but look at all the fun we've had."

The fun we've had . . . How the precious flood of memories came sweeping back.

I remember, I remember . . .

That hopeless dawn of freezing rain somewhere off the Girdler. A foul tide and a squalling headwind, the misery of that nasty short sea. We were none too sure of our position either, but then the surge of relief when we got a quick glimpse of the lightship through a gap in the mist.

But there have been better times. The glory of that perfect day when we ran down Swin, with a warm westerly blowing fresh over the quarter. All day long we ran, in the golden sunlight, with our biggest spinnaker curving above, snow-white against the deep blue sky.

I remember also how we sailed *Sweet Susan,* 16 tons she was, and solidly built. We sailed her backwards out of the crowded anchorage at Brightlingsea. It was the only way to get her out with that wind and tide. Our suppressed exultancy at the prettiness of the manœuvre as we slowly threaded our way out through the roads, and the heavily assumed nonchalance. It's still talked about on the Colne, so they say.

Then that awful moment off the Deben entrance. A dead lee shore and the breakers all around. We could hear the pregnant shriek of moving shingle beneath our keel, and knew we were in danger. Time stood still as she quivered in stays, before slowly paying off on the right tack as we breathed again. But does that beat the consternation of a dragging anchor at night, when you tumble up all tousled and sleepy? You think how stupid everybody is to be dragging their anchors, and then suddenly realise that it's you—and not them.

It's the chaps you meet, too, as much as the ships you sail. The acrobats, who poise their slim, tall-masted things of beauty on a knife-edge of balance, light as gossamer and swift as an arrow. The way they resail their races afterwards with matchsticks on the clubroom bar. Nearly all of them can teach you a thing or two about getting the best out of your boat. At the other end of the scale of course, the dear old chaps who never leave their moorings. They seem sublimely content just to potter about the decks of their beloved little craft, contemptuous of those who brave the uncertainty of boisterous nights at sea to make a foreign landfall, only to turn round and sail home again.

Good ships and good shipmates. This peculiar way of life that has for its background the sea, the sky, and the sand. It's the grandest of games.

Dimly I became aware of a sleepy voice. "Break it up, old man," Bill was saying from the depths of his blankets. "The flood makes at 0500 and we'll have to be up early if we're to carry it up river." I blew out the lamp and turned in.

The light from the bogey stove flickered warmly on the roof beams. All was quiet in the cabin, but outside the night sounds continued. The rigging sang, now soft and quiet, now loud and shrill as the squalls came bursting ashore. Away out over the bar, the angry mutter of the breakers went on, but here inside the creek the little wavelets came kissing up against the lands of the planking. Flip, flip, flip, flup, flup, flup . . .

And then the cry of a curlew across the saltings—sad and long, and far, far away.

# British Army of the Rhine

## No. 1 BRITISH CORPS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Iserlohn

*March*

Since the reorganisation of 1st Corps Signals during the latter summer months of 1946, preparations for the 1947 training programme have proceeded apace. The engagement could well be called "Operation Systematic," for its smooth and regulated progress reveals the master touch of a talented organiser, our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E.

The training programme now under way started in early November of last year, with the training of Unit instructors in weapon craft. By the end of the year these instructors, under the guidance of the Weapon Training Officer, Major L. J. Parker (O.C., No. 1 Squadron), had imparted their knowledge to every member of the Unit. Frequent visits to the firing ranges were made, and there was keen competition between the various Squadrons. Major Parker's "possibles" were the talk of all Messes.

After a general relaxation over the Christmas period, Individual Training commenced early in January. For two months Major R. Hawkins, M.B.E. (O.C. No. 3 Squadron), ably assisted by Group Officers, Lieutenant C. B. Hudson and 2nd Lieutenant E. P. Carr and N.C.O. instructors, have succeeded in stimulating and renewing interest in a wide variety of subjects. Those who have got a trifle out of practice in part of their trade occupations have had an excellent opportunity to regain and improve previous standards.

Perhaps the best indication of the success achieved in this field is the following message received from the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., upon the completion of a very active part taken by wireless detachments of this Unit in the much publicised operation "Selection Board."

"C.S.O., B.A.O.R., sends a message of congratulations to all ranks of No. 1 British Corps District Signal Regiment who took part in operation 'Selection Board,' and the Intelligence Branch of the C.C.G. have expressed their appreciation of the good work done by the wireless detachments on this operation."

Following the cessation of individual training this week, there will be Troop and later Squadron training, in preparation for the Unit exercises during the summer months. If the present high standard of achievement is maintained we can look forward to these future schemes with an assured confidence in success.

Visiting us this week-end (1st/2nd March) is the Royal Signals Band, under the leadership of Mr. John L. Judd, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

It is their intention during their three week tour to play at each of the six major Signal Centres in the B.A.O.R.

On Saturday evening at the Iserlohn Spearhead Casino, 800 dancers enjoyed to the full the playing of the dance band section of the orchestra. At the band concert held on Sunday evening, a greater number of musicians co-operated to present in excellent style a wide variety of orchestrations. A notable soloist of the evening was a young Scottish violinist, John Crossan.

It was interesting to observe that the German element in the audience was suitably impressed by the very smart appearance of the musicians, and by their outstanding performance.

The last time that the Royal Signals Band played to a 1 Corps audience was during the war, at Breda. We all hope that we shall again have the privilege of hearing them in the near future.

Among the notable arrivals in the Unit during the last month is Sergeant Sells, of the A.P.T.C. Coming straight from England full of enthusiasm, he hopes to stimulate P.T. within the Corps. With the approach of Spring and Summer he intends to lay emphasis on cricket, tennis and cycling. The latter should prove to be a worthy successor to the popular cycling club organised by No. 3 Company detached at Cologne last year. In the immediate future is planned the extension of the running team's activities, already crowned with success, and the establishment of a badminton school.

Sergeant Sells welcomes any suggestions or assistance in the furtherance of physical perfection in No. 1 Corps Signals.

*Sport.* (By grudging permission of Major B. Slush, Clerk of the Weather.)

Sport within the Unit has so far this season been a great success, and reflects immediate credit upon the hard-working Sports Officer, Captain Dale, and his committee.

The Unit teams have done extremely well, in as much that the soccer team has only lost one match up to going to press, and the hockey team, although few games have been arranged, is still unbeaten.

A Troop Basket Ball League was organised, and although this was comparatively a new game to the majority of the Unit the response and enthusiasm shown by the troops was tremendous.

The welcome to Rugby was not so warm, and our only game, played against H.Q. 1 British Corps, had the result 9 points to 3 in favour of our opponents.

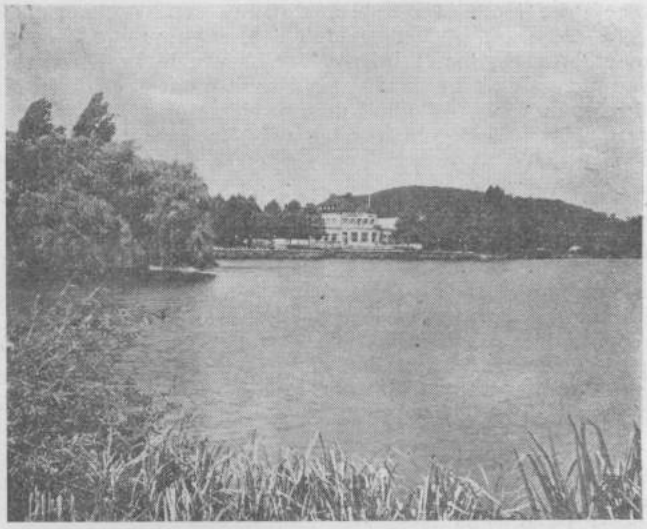
At present the weather is hampering all sport, but despite this we are able to organise cross-country runs (yes, we are with you, Catterick) and an occasional cross-country walk . . . . No combination of the two is allowed. The bad weather has not, however, been without its brighter spo(r)ts. Personnel of the Unit have taken advantage of the widespread ice and snow to go ice skating, ski-ing and tobogganing. The Wimbledon tennis courts, Iserlohn, in their flooded and frozen condition, have been excellent for skating. In attendance have been German Instructors, although it was noticed that many preferred to hit the — hard — spots without assistance.

This greater activity has been achieved by the allocation of Wednesday afternoon to Unit sport, all personnel available turning out to indulge in some form of recreation.

In conclusion, we wish the Soccer team the best of luck in the B.A.O.R. knock-out competition, of which they are already in the third round, and also continued success in league games, which will place them at the head of the Iserlohn and District Inter-Unit Soccer League. Similar good wishes are extended to the Unit Hockey team, who are also keen participants in the B.A.O.R. knock-out competition for hockey.

In conclusion, we send our best wishes to all members of the Regiment, past and present. Should any No. 1 Corps Signals personnel not now in Iserlohn wish to re-establish contact with the Regiment, the Unit representative of THE WIRE will be glad to be of assistance.

All such communications should be addressed to:— Corporal K. G. Armstrong, THE WIRE Representative, 1 Squadron, No. 1 British Corps District Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.



"Lagoon Club," Iserlohn

NO. 2 COMPANY, A.T.S. SIGNALS. This Company is one of three A.T.S. Signal Companies in Germany, and is attached to No. 1 British Corps District Signal Regiment. The other two are at Bad Oeynhausen and Hamburg.

Many people in the U.K. ask members of the A.T.S. when they are on leave, "What are you doing in Germany to-day? We know that there is an Occupational Force there, but what is your role?"

To-day, as in wartime, the A.T.S. Signals are doing an essential job of work. They cover various technical jobs such as Teleprinter, Switchboard, Wireless, and occasionally Cipher operating.

Signals Auxiliaries work throughout the 24 hours of the day and night, rotating their shifts daily. They work side by side with the men, and at all times a friendly spirit is maintained throughout the many sections.

There is always a lighter side to everything, and on their off-duty times a wide choice of entertainment is provided for them. The Garrison Theatre, under the direction of C.S.E.U., present variety, revue and play; something to suit everybody's taste. Picture houses show fairly up-to-date films, and the dance halls have their fans . . , sometimes they need 'em. German ballrooms have been requisitioned by the Military authorities, and the Germans are allowed to use them on certain nights if accompanied by a British person. In addition to the efficient British dance bands, German broadcasting bands are engaged occasionally and provide excellent dance music. Sometimes there are symphony concerts organised for the lovers of classical music. Other comfort of the troops and the A.T.S. is provided by the Elizabeth (Y.W.C.A.) and Harmonie (Y.M.C.A.) Clubs.

The girls of No. 2 Company, A.T.S. Signals, are quartered in barracks, which are well appointed. During the coming summer months much use will be made of the barracks swimming pool and the nearby riding stables.

At the local Lagoon Club much pleasure is afforded both in summer and winter. During the summer swimming in the lagoon is the order of the day, and in winter, when people at home are thinking in terms of burst pipes and red noses, the girls out here are wondering how long the ice will be good for skating. There is a sports store in the barracks where the girls can borrow both boots and skates.

A sport which is new to nearly everyone is ski-ing. Germany offers every opportunity for this exhilarating sport. There is a 1 Corps Leave Centre at Winterberg where skis can be borrowed, and German Instructors are available to

assist you on your way down the shimmering slopes. The hostels there are excellent, the accommodation good, while the Managing Staff certainly know how to cater for the hosts of hungry skiers.

One item of local interest was the first 1 Corps wedding to be solemnised at the Garrison Church, Iserlohn. The D.A.C.G. conducted the marriage ceremony of Private Anne Howarth, a switchboard operator, to Driver Allan Dakin, R.A.S.C.

The bride wore a dress of silver lamé with a tulle veil, and carried a Prayer Book tied with white satin. She was given away by Major R. Hawkins, M.B.E., Royal Signals, and attended by Miss Margaret White, small daughter of Captain E. J. White, Royal Signals (who acted as Press photographer). Despite the blinding snow, Captain White managed to take some very good photographs both at the church and afterwards at the Elizabeth Club, where the reception was held.

The happy couple left later for a honeymoon at the Snow Inn at Winterberg, and hope to return expert skiers!

## No. 1 SPECIAL WIRELESS REGIMENT

*March*

Owing to Arctic weather conditions sport has been at a minimum since early December, but our hardy athletes have battled their way, when weather permitted, to the finals of both Hamburg District Soccer and Hockey finals.

*Hockey.* We were given a walkover in the final of the Hamburg District Hockey Knock-Out, and are now in the last four of the B.A.O.R. championships. No dates are as yet known for the last rounds, but we hope to get the championship this year which just eluded us in the 1945-46 season.

*Soccer.* The semi-final of the Hamburg District Knock-Out was played in Hamburg Stadium *versus* 3 base Hospital Laundry, and resulted in a win for us by 4—3. For a small Unit, the Hospital team had a good side and up to five minutes from the end were winning 3—2. However, the Regiment fought back strongly and succeeded in scoring two goals. Scorers were Signalman Gomm, Sergeant Small, Signalman Warren and Corporal Thomas.

The final was played on the same ground *versus* the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards, and the Regiment were routed by 7—1. Conditions were atrocious, and the heavy going in no way assisted our small team against the strong, clever Guards side, who, by the way, are in the final of the B.A.O.R. Championship.

The Guards scored twice in the first few minutes, and at half-time had established a lead of 6—0. Never disheartened, our team fought back extremely well and scored after about twenty minutes of the second half. Corporal Thomas, our left winger, was the scorer. We had most of the play in this half but never really looked like winning. We wish good luck to the Irish Guards, who have a really first-class side.

*Pig Shooting in Schleswig Holstein.* On the Second Sunday in March the Regiment was invited to join a "pig shoot" in the Itzehoe area, organised on the basis of a "vermin drive."

Presumably due to an oversight on the part of the "met" people at B.A.F.O. H.Q., the weather was warm and sunny though the countryside still lay under a blanket of snow. Seven "all ranks" of the Unit volunteered and formed a highly representative party. With quite unwarranted conservatism we assembled in battle dress, looking not unlike soldiers, arming ourselves with Service rifles, and, apart from a kukri and a bayonet or two, we were conspicuous only by our orthodoxy at the meet or R.V.

Truly the meet was a fine sight as we arrived—something like a Hollywood studio "on location." There were about thirty people there from 1 Heavy Regiment, R.A., and the C.C.G., together with their wives and one small boy who snowballed everybody.

Every kind of gun, sporting and otherwise, was included in the party armoury, but what gave the scene its gaiety was the vehicular and sartorial assortment. There were Jeeps and three-tonners, Mercedes and Volkswagens, and, of all things, a German racing car that defied its owner's every effort to keep it on the slippery road.

As to dress, the ladies supplied the colour by assembling in riding habits of various hues, a pair of pink jodhpurs being especially of note. The gentlemen wore what took their fancy—tank suits, fur coats, shooting suits, uniform and all the permutations and combinations of highly varied wardrobes. Altogether the *Sporting and Dramatic* photographers missed a field day.

The pigs, however, with traditional German phlegm, were not amused and none died of hysteria or were rooted to the spot by the sight of the array. Perhaps they are not colour conscious.

Everyone piled into the vehicles and the oddly assorted convoy moved off to a point near the wood that was alleged to teem with pig, and here the party ate lunch and prepared for the fray.

The shoot divided into two parties, the smaller consisting of an "idependent rifle brigade" of four Signals with .303s, whose role it was to cover the end of the wood and annihilate any pigs that emerged scatheless from the bombardment of the larger party.

At mid-day the parties set off to their positions through thigh-deep snow which, in addition to hampering their movement, almost prevented the diminutive pig dogs from operating, and the pigs, sensing this, lay low.

The "independent rifle brigade" waited at their point of vantage until about three o'clock and could hear periodic bursts of fire from the heart of the wood, "booms" from the big stuff, and an odd assortment of cracks and bangs like a firework display from the rest. But no pigs. At length, slightly "cheesed," they laid siege to a plantation into which a pig track led. The German beaters took their lives in their hands and charged about inside, but found nothing. Finally a pig tried to raise the siege from outside, but was detected. Making heavy weather through the deep snow, she received a barrage of .303 and strong language. Hit twice, she breathed her gallant last at the very edge of the plantation.

The total bag for the whole day was two, both sows, but in fine condition, judging from their weight, which was blasphemously and fantastically assessed by those who carried them in.

The party broke up about five, after a most enjoyable day, and there are still some pigs alive in Schleswig Holstein.

"Hello — Snuffbox, Primrose here"

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Gutersloh

*March*

On the 28th February we were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Corps Band, who during the evening of the 28th, gave a concert of music in the Adastral Theatre, Gutersloh. The programme included "Orpheus in the Underworld" and "Trumpet Fantasia." There was an amusing diversion when seven members of the band came out in front, and gave us their version of "One Finger, One Thumb." On behalf of the Commanding Officer, and all ranks of this Unit, I would like to thank Mr. J. L. Judd and all members of the Band for giving us such a splendid evening's music. The Signals Inn is still going strong with Darts, Table Tennis, Dances and Housey Housey. Over the Easter period we hope to run a Carnival Dance in the Signals Inn, and for this purpose our Gestapo have been out buying up paper hats, streamers, balloons, and what-have-you in preparation. It is unfortunate that owing to B.A.O.R. orders we are unable to make it a fancy dress dance as well. I think some of the costumes would be quite amusing. On looking through February's copy of THE WIRE, I noticed the initials "L.H.D." ('As you were,' Page 98.) If that's our old friend "Duckie Drake," Mr. Editor, what about us having some of his famous cartoons in THE WIRE? I also noticed that our old friend Barleux is once more relating the adventures of UKANN LARFE. It's good to know that he managed to survive the war years (UKANN LARFE I mean, not Barleux). Still, may your pen never run dry (Barleux I mean, not UKANN LARFE). It's like old times reading PLAIN TALES again.

*Camera Club.* Early in December a meeting was called of all people interested in the formation of a Camera Club. About ten members of the Unit attended, and from these a committee was elected and rules drawn up. It was realised from the start that the shortage of equipment and materials would present a serious drawback; nevertheless, it was decided to proceed with the development of the Club.

Indents were submitted to the N.A.A.F.I. for essential items of equipment and materials, such as paper, chemicals, enlarger, dishes, etc., but so far these have not been forthcoming. Undaunted by this, the Club now has its own darkroom constructed by members, and as soon as materials arrive is in a position to proceed with an ambitious programme for the furtherance of Photography within the Unit.

Weekly meetings are held in which members who are quite conversant with the intricacies of Darkroom Procedure pass on their knowledge to less fortunate members. This will result in a great saving of time spent in the Club lecture room when the apparatus arrives.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* On the 22nd February we entertained the Officers of the Unit in the Mess. Horse racing and dancing were the chief items of the evening. In the horse racing, the "Book" was run by Major Miles, ably (too ably) assisted by R.Q.M.S. Jack Cooper, and the dice were artistically thrown by A.S.M. Bert Rampling, R.E.M.E. I'm not saying anything, but Major Miles has since gone to Brussels for a short stay. Although the Mess is not very big, the dancers seemed to find plenty of room. It's the first time I've seen a snow fight included in the "Conga." The Hokey Kokey was also a great success, although some of the ladies preferred unladdered stockings to the "Bowing down to Allah."

On the 1st March we entertained the Junior N.C.O.s. This time the horse racing was the most popular. The Junior N.C.O.s and their lady partners were introduced to the game of "Tip It," and the Senior N.C.O.s ran out winners after a very amusing game. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and voted it a very enjoyable evening. The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Club in Guttersloh opened their restaurant and dance floor on Wednesday, 26th February. Quite a few members were present, and dinner, followed by dancing, made a very pleasant evening.

*Arrivals and Departures.* By the time these notes are in print we will have extended the welcome hand to Mrs. McOstrich, wife of the Commanding Officer, who is due to arrive on or about Sunday, 9th March.. We also extend the welcome hand to Mrs. Glaysher, wife of the Adjutant, who arrived in our midst on the 8th February, complete with twins.

We also welcome the following Officers who have joined us in the past month:—Captain (T.M.O.) E. Bigg, Captain J. K. D. Marks, 2nd Lieutenant E. J. Morgan and 2nd Lieutenant F. Carter.

Captain R. W. Hughes, who had been with this Unit for some time, has now left us to join 5th British Divisional Signal Regiment, and we have since heard that he is stationed in Hanover. We have also had to say "Good-bye" to Captain (T.M.O.) W. F. Berry, who leaves Gutersloh on the 7th February to take on the job of Lines Officer at B.A.F.O. in place of Captain Last, who is due for demob in April. In saying good-bye we wish them both all the very best of luck in their new jobs.

*Congratulations* to Sergeant Renmant and Corporal Mavis Thomas, who took the plunge 7th March. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Brussels and Paris. Also to Sergeant Illingworth and A.C.W. Pritchard, who have announced their engagement, and are getting married when they are demobbed. What's this about Spring Fever? Good luck to them all.

*Sport.* Owing to snow and some exceedingly cold weather, outdoor sport has had to be curtailed, and we have, therefore, nothing to report. Indoor hockey is still going strong, and in our last three matches results were as follows: v. 140 Wing won 7—4, v. 2 Group R.A.F. won 5—4, v. 2 Group W.A.A.F. won 11—7.

The Indoor Rifle Range is also proving itself popular. The team in the Postal Shoot which had to consist of six Officers, did exceedingly well. Our team was Lieutenant-Colonel McOstrich, Major Miles, Major Leney, Captain Marks, Captain Berry and Captain Glaysher. On the 27th February we had another Postal Shoot. This time the team had to consist of 2 Officers, 2 W.O.s or Sergeants, and 2 Corporals or below. Our team was:—Captain Glaysher, Captain Berry, A.S.M. Rampling, Sergeant Walsham, Signalman K. Smith and Signalman Potter. Although we have not yet received the results, we know from rough results that we either came out 2nd or 3rd. Good show, lads, don't forget the Rifle Range is open every afternoon for practice.

NO. 1 SQUADRON. *Buckeburg.* This is our first effort since THE WIRE has come back into print, and it's grand to see it again. Well do we remember how we used to look forward to it each month, so that we could make the old "Blue Book" a little more up to date.

For information of old readers of THE WIRE, the following are serving with this Squadron:—Major C. W. Wheeler, M.B.E., Captain L. Teal, Captain C. W. Last, Captain G. Bailey, Lieutenant (Q.M.) V. S. Hayden, M.B.E., Lieutenant D. A. W. Sweeney, S.S.M. G. C. Spearman, S.Q.M.S. P. Fowler.

This Squadron is responsible for the maintenance of all communications at B.A.F.O. H.Q., Bad Eilsen, which is about 2½ miles from Buckeburg. The reliefs are transported to and fro daily, with no little risk—weather conditions not being what they might be, but it has its advantages, as we get in a little Winter Sports, the two main winter sports centres being Scharfoldendorf and Bad Harzburg.

The R.A.F. transport laid on at the weekends for Scharfoldendorf is very popular, and there is also a weekend train which goes to Bad Harzburg Saturday lunch-time, returning

Sunday evening. Sometimes, of course, neither of these runs, owing to snowstorms blocking roads and rail.

The Corps Band is due to visit B.A.F.O. H.Q. on March 8th, being one of the stopping places of the Band's tour of the British Zone. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing it.

BAFOWE

## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster

*March*

This is our debut in the Corps Magazine (the re-publication of this journal has gladdened the hearts of us all), and we hope to be able to keep a constant flow of news pouring into THE WIRE.

After the noise of battle had died down, and demob was thinning our ranks, the immense job of maintaining and rehabilitating communications in Germany was borne by two Corps District Signal Regiments, whose Squadrons were spread far and wide. With the return of the Corps District Signal Regiments to their proper role of mobile troops, the static commitments became the responsibility of three Independent Signal Squadrons. Our Squadron is appropriately stationed in what was, during the war, a German Army Signals wireless interception station.

Several changes of designation and command have been our lot, but we feel now that the existing title and command will stay for a good while. Our C.O. is Major G. G. Freemantle, and he is being ably assisted by the Second in Command, Captain H. L. Lacey, M.B.E. (famous for chequerboard riding breeches?)

The Squadron H.Q. comprises five Troops, *i.e.*, one Tele Op, one Operating Troop, one T.E. Troop and two D.R. Troops, and their combined efforts have resulted in the installation of the Signal Office, the Military Exchange, and its associated automatic telephone equipment. The switchboard and auto equipment is entirely of a German design, but by study and experience we are wresting the secrets of efficient working from it. Three more Troops of the Squadron are detached, one at Dusseldorf, one at Brussels and one at the Hook of Holland.

Operation "Beaver" has been taking the place of the recognised outdoor sports; its intention, and result, was to supplement our dwindling stock of fuel (which was in short supply due to transport difficulties), with wood logs. On Wednesday afternoons "eager Beavers" could be seen "gnawing" their way through a local copse, the keen air ringing with axe blows and lusty shouts of "Timber!" A "Woodchoppers' Ball" usually follows the afternoon's exertions, and healthy thirsts are slaked with modicums or so (litres over here!) of foaming beer.

The opening of the Red Diamond Club was celebrated recently. This is our new canteen, and the first one within our Unit lines. The Club Committee and its sub-committees are rapidly getting together to provide frequent entertainments. The club hut has an interesting past. Its original site was among the ruins of Köln, in the old No. 3 Squadron lines, but when 3 merged with 5 Squadron and moved to Munster they brought their hut with them and re-erected it here for the benefit of one and all.

"OCTET"

"They suddenly made him a Major — we think it was a clerical error at the War Office"

# Signals Association Branch Notes

ABERDEEN.—We of the "Granite City," having satisfield ourselves that our news was too late for insertion in the March issue of THE WIRE, set to in the true "Highland spirit" to make up for lost time, and trust that this item for April will not be lost in a snow-driftt during transit!!

The most important point is that our annual general meeting was held in Fonthill Barracks on Friday, 31st January, 1947, when our Chairman, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., presided. We extend our most cordial thanks to our energetic General Secretary, Brigadier E. J. Murphy, who, despite the severe weather, travelled 580 miles in order to be present with us, and who outlined to the some 200 members, in a stirring speech, the great work accomplished by the Association.

After the office bearers had been elected for the ensuing term, a smoking concert followed. Through the auspices of Mr. Patterson, we had an all-Scotch evening in the way of Strathspeys, recitations, etc., which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The members of this Branch owe a great deal of thanks to our most active Chairman, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, for the splendid way in which he established, and has maintained, the North's interest in the Association since 1945. From the nucleus the Branch grew to over 300 members in two years, not forgetting our ex-A.T.S. friends who are helping to swell the number, and the membership is increasing!

Most outstanding work has also been accomplished by our Vice-Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray; our very diligent Honorary Secretary, Captain C. F. Andrews, M.B.E., Major R. B. Williamson, D.S.O., and Major A. H. Reid, all of whom have taken a lively hand in every matter dealt with.

We are hampered at the Club at the moment in many ways, but after the T.A. comes along and settles down in the near future, we shall get ourselves organised on a proper basis.

Finally, we extended a hearty welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel Arnold at our annual general meeting, who was nominated as a second Vice-Chairman of our Branch Committee, and his help will be of immense value to us.

To those of you who are abroad, due for demob soon and live within our area, which covers the North of Scotland and part of the South, drop in and help to swell the ranks of a very fine and ever-expanding Association, the old motto being ever to the fore—*Certa Cito.*

WAR RECORD OF

# 26th Indian Division

DURING the grim months immediately following the retreat from Burma in May, 1942, 26th Indian Division was formed at Barrackpore, near Calcutta. It was commanded throughout its battle actions by Major-General C. E. N. Lomax, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and consisted, besides Divisional H.Q., of the 4th, 36th, and 71st Indian Brigades. Divisional Signals was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. G. Gambier up to July, 1944, and thereafter by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead.

After many months of organisation, equipping, and jungle training in Eastern India, the Division's first action took place in the Arakan in December, 1943; together with 14th Indian Division, which had been re-formed after its return from the 1942 campaign, an advance was made in an attempt to clear the Japanese from the Arakan and capture their main supply point for the area—the large port of Akyab. The Jap, however, was deeply entrenched in his usual super bunker positions and with his fields of fire admirably sited. Three full scale assaults were made, the last supported by tanks, but all in vain, and after suffering very severe casualties the withdrawal was made. At the end of five months of fighting, marked for its ferocity, and with the monsoon season at hand, 14th Indian Division withdrew, leaving 26th Indian Division to hold the defence line. The Japs, as a final gesture of their supremacy, entrenched themselves on Hill 551, a feature dominating the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road, which is the only passable route over the Mayu range, the mountain "backbone" of Arakan. During those long drenching months of monsoon, constantly watching and searching for any sign of a Jap advance, casualties due to fighting and disease mounted to high proportions. At long last the monsoon was over, and in November, 1944, the Division was relieved by 7th Indian Division, and withdrew north to Chittagong for rest and refit.

At the beginning of February, 1945, however, the Japanese launched a large scale attack which was intended by them to be the beginning of their "March on India." Their first onslaught completely surrounded and cut off 7th Indian Division; the now famous "Admin. Box" formed in defence was maintained by air supply, and in the meantime 26th Indian Division, joined by 36th British Division, was rushed to the relief. By the end of the month, after some of the fiercest fighting of the whole of the Burma campaign, the first great victory over the Japs had been scored—their "March on India" was completely shattered with heavy losses, 7th Indian Division was relieved, and Allied forces had at last proved their supremacy over the so far unbeatable Jap. Morale was high for the first time since mid-'42. From this point on, although fighting was always tough and the going hard, 26th Indian Division, with 36th British and the newly-arrived 25th Indian Divisions, went forward to clear the Arakan completely. The Divisional War Memorial, consisting of a huge bronze casting of the "Tiger" flash mounted on a stone pillar, was made and erected by the Sappers on Hill 551, the scene of the Division's bloodiest fighting and heaviest casualties, against the Emperor's Bodyguard, a crack Jap regiment noted for the stature of its men. Their average height was at least six feet.

The Division was then withdrawn to north Arakan to undergo amphibious training in preparation for a seaborne assault on Akyab. This attack was within an hour of being launched before it was discovered that the Jap had already evacuated the port, whereupon 25th Indian Division immediately moved in by land and took possession. With the "armada" all lined up and ready to "go places," the Division was switched to the capture of Ramree and Cheduba Islands, off the west coast of Burma, both heavily fortified Jap bases. The assault commenced on 21st January, 1945, preceded by heavy naval and aerial bombardments. By the end of February both islands had been cleared, and hundreds of Japs had either been killed or drowned in their attempts to escape to the Burma mainland through the mangrove swamps to the east. The 4th Indian Brigade then crossed to the mainland to capture the small town of Taungup, and succeeded in cutting off completely the only good retreat route for the defeated Jap forces straggling back through the Arakan and trying to march over the mountain ranges to Prome to join up with their main forces opposing the 14th Army in Central Burma.

Ramree Island possessed some very fine sandy beaches, the sea bathing was good, and March and April, 1945 were consequently two most enjoyable months.

To 26th Indian Division next fell the honour of making the greatest seaborne assault of the entire Burma campaign—that on the largest port and capital of Burma, Rangoon. It had always seemed so far distant and beyond grasp. The attack went in on 3rd May, 1945, strengthened by a battalion of Gurkha paratroops of 44th Indian Airborne Division and helped by an aerial bombardment made by the U.S. Army Strategical Air Force. Rangoon was captured on the 4th May, 1945, and 71st Indian Brigade then pushed on north to link up eventually with the advanced elements of 14th Army, hurrying south in the race for Rangoon. After a stay of one month, during which the war in Burma officially ended with the signing at Rangoon of the surrender of all Japanese forces in South-East Asia, and having completed almost three years' continuous service in Burma, the Division returned by sea to India, where it was given a great reception.

June to September, 1945, was a period in which everyone was given leave, followed by intensive training and complete re-equipment, in preparation for the last role assigned to the Division—that of occupying Sumatra and assisting, with one brigade strength, in the occupation of Java by 23rd Indian Division.

The sojourn in Sumatra was not exactly comfortable; although the Far East War was officially concluded, casualties from ambushes and snipers continued to mount daily, and eventually reached high proportions. Large numbers of Allied P.O.W.s were released and cared for pending their repatriation. Once this was completed, administration was gradually handed over to the Dutch authorities and forces until, towards the end of 1946, the Division was repatriated for the last time to India.

The foregoing is necessarily a very brief account of the war record of 26th Indian Division as a whole, and it would be unfair to try and single out any particular unit for special mention. The *esprit de corps* was always of the highest standard, and no unit could have been prouder to be part of their division than Divisional Signals, which fully lived up to the motto, "Present in every battle."

# Other Overseas Stations

## BURMA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Rangoon

*March*

Serving and ex-Service members of the Corps who are readers of THE WIRE may be interested to read a few notes from this distant Unit.

The Unit has had a chequered history, and there must be many readers who will have seen service with it or in neighbouring Signal Units in different theatres. Its official name is 231 H.Q. Signals, and it was formed near Benghazi in North Africa in November, 1940, when it took over the duties of an Australian Corps Signals. In the ensuing war years it saw service in Cyrenaica, Greece, Crete, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Persia, India and Burma, being allotted to various formations and being known successively as Western Desert Signals, XIII Corps Signals, "W" Force Signals, Iraq Force Signals, XXVI Corps Signals, Tenth Army Signals, I.E.F. Signals, XXXIII Corps Signals, Twelfth Army Signals, Burma Command Signals, and, finally, by its present title of Burma Command Signal Regiment.

During the war years there were only three Commanding Officers: Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., from November, 1940, to October, 1942; Lieutenant-Colonel C. N. Stafford, O.B.E., T.D., from October, 1942, to August, 1944; and Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Woodward, O.B.E., from August, 1944, to October, 1946.

During the post-war period it has absorbed elements of various disbanded Units, including "S" and "W" Indian L. of C. Signals, 82 (West African) Divisional Signals and IV Corps Signals. In the past quarter it has been re-organised from an operational mobile unit to a semi-static unit on a peace-time garrison basis, with mobile elements for employment in times of disturbance. All attached Indian ranks have been gradually repatriated to India, and it remains as the only Signal Unit of the British Army left in Burma, though there are Indian and Burman Units up-country.

Most of the Unit is stationed in Rangoon, or in nearby Mingaladon, but there are still detachments at Pegu, Hmawbi, Prome, Toungoo, Meiktila, Mandalay and Maymyo at the time of writing.

The present Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Rowett, who came to the Unit from Malaya in October, 1946. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons are at present commanded by Majors T. Fleming, M.B.E., T. R. Warburg and P. C. Macdonald respectively. The Adjutant is Captain W. G. B. Wright. These officers are ably assisted by R.S.M. Grattage, M.M., and R.Q.M.S. Pavey.

The chief task at present being undertaken by the Unit is the installation of an extensive communication system for the new site of Burma Command Headquarters in the Mingaladon area. Detachments have also been called out from time to time in connection with recent civil disturbances.

The main camp of the Unit is situated on a promontory in the beautiful Victoria Lake. Recent sporting events have included a Water Sports Meeting in which the Unit succeeded in defeating the Royal Berkshire Regiment in a competition which included swimming, diving, plunging and canoe racing; also an Athletic Sports Meeting on an Inter-Squadron basis (won by No. 2 Squadron), from which a team has been selected to compete in the forthcoming Command meeting. At both these events the C.S.O. Burma Command, Colonel H. V. Ewbank, presented the prizes to the winning competitors of each event. Two motor-cycle "scrambles" have also been held in recent months.

We are fortunate in having a distinguished Royal Signals officer as the present Governor of Burma, Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.B.E., C.B. His Exellency and Lady Rance honoured the Unit by attending a reception in the Officers' Mess recently, and they have shown a keen interest in the activities of the Unit.

We have also recently had a visit from the C.S.O. of G.H.Q., S.E.A.L.F., Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., whose cheerful presence is so well known to a large number of present and past members of the Corps.

In conclusion, all ranks serving here in Burma send greetings and good wishes to all friends and fellow-members of the Corps wherever they may be.

W.R.

## No. 2 EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Moascar

*January*

During January the Regiment has been working at full pressure in connection with the move of G.H.Q. to the Canal Area, and the now well publicised "Operation Polly." These two movements naturally created much extra work, particularly as regards communications. Operation Orders flowed freely from the Adjutant's Office, and "Oboe Pips" became quite commonplace.

In spite of hard work, time has been found for a full quota of sport, and all games have been played with customary vigour and enthusiasm. Particularly worthy of note was the Inter-Squadron Soccer Cup Final, in which 2 Squadron met 3 Squadron for a very good sporting game. The final match was played on Monday, 27th January, in the fine Stadium on the shores of Great Bitter Lake; a good crowd of supporters were present, including 3 Squadron's enthusiastic Greek contingent, who kept up vociferous advice to their Greek centre-forward throughout the match. At the conclusion of the game the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Hardy, made a short speech, after which Mrs. Jimmie Webber, the wife of O.C. No. 2 Squadron, graciously presented the Cup to Howman, the captain of No. 2 Squadron's winning team.

No. 2 Squadron Football Team

The Inter-Squadron Hockey tournament also took place in January, when No. 1 Squadron and R.H.Q. reached the final and played a hard but very enjoyable game, in which R.H.Q. beat No. 1 Squadron 3—0 and carried off the trophy. Five members of the Regiment have played in District trials during the month, and members of the team have played for United Services Canal North and Army Egypt.

On the Rugby field much hard play has taken place with teams constantly changing, but always enthusiastic and keen. A number of friendly matches have been played during the month, and no difficulty is experienced in finding willing players.

The Moascar Garrison Sailing Club on Lake Timsah is also proving a great attraction for members of the Regiment, who form nearly 60 per cent. of the club members. The Club Commodore is R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, our Regimental "Q," who manages to find time away from the hockey pitch for sailing and organising Sailing Club activities. Events this month have been a weekly dinghy race and a Treasure Hunt, which provided a most enjoyable Sunday afternoon's activity for the participants.

Motor cycling activities are on the increase, and we are now frequently visiting the 18th Air Formation Signal Regiment on their sand track at El Ballah. The "Bar None M.C.C.," a long standing M.E. club, claims a number of our fellows as members, and some very fine performances have been put up by some of our D.R.s, notably Corporal Millington, whom, we are told, rides with resin on his breeches.

Changes continue to take place in the Regiment, and although they cannot all be noted we might mention that after only a short stay R.S.M. Hughes has left us and has been replaced by R.S.M. Irvin, who came out from England to join us.

### Fayid

NO. 2 SQUADRON. During January, No. 2 Squadron has been very busy at work and play. At Fayid the influx of attached personnel has necessitated the opening of a new camp, while the present camp is itself undergoing expansion. The movement of G.H.Q. into the area has meant much extra work, and a much harassed Lines Dept. has performed miracles (having indented for them through the usual channels).

A number of friendly hockey matches have been played, the most entertaining being the series of friendly games against Moaşcar A.T.S.

With the revival of the "Bar None M.C.C." in the area a number of D.R.s have been competing, and in the first trials held Lance-Corporal Stilborn and Driver Mechanic Brown (4th Air Formation Signal Regiment) did well to win the 350 and 500 c.c. classes respectively.

A Squadron dance was held in the Education Centre, and was enjoyed by all. It is hoped to run a series of similar functions in the future.

The completion of the new canteen and Sergeants' Mess of the Suez Detachment has seen a marked increase in the sales of Stella beer, and it is rumoured that a new brewery has been opened for the sole purpose of supplying Thanet Camp. Captain Green, the O.C., has gone to No. 1 Egypt Command Signal Regiment on promotion, and we wish him the best of luck in his new appointment.

### Qassasin

NO. 3 SQUADRON. By and large, January has been a fairly uneventful month, though we are still very active on the technical side. At least we can report that arrivals are outnumbering the departures by a small but very helpful margin. We must record the departure of Sergeant Dickinson, who after a year as the pivot of Squadron Office realised his long ambition and completed his last release book—his own. Many members of the Squadron, past and present, will join in wishing him the very best in "civvy street."

The main social activity at Qassasin is a weekly whist drive which has become very popular indeed. Naturally (if you know Qassasin), these events are all male as a rule, but there was some slight consternation when a real lady turned up on one occasion, and her presence was rather restricting to someone who had his ace trumped.

At football, the combined H.Q. and Signals team have improved their position in the league by winning all matches played in January with an aggregate of 31 goals against 6, and are now third in the league with a game in hand. The match of the month was against the league leaders, B.M.H., whom we beat in a sandstorm to the tune of six goals to two.

A very successful revue was produced by members of the Port Said detachment in their canteen, "Seldom Inn," on the 18th January, and the hard work of the cast was repaid by the appreciation of the audience.

The Tel-El-Kebir Detachment is the centre of the Squadron's motor cycle enthusiasts, where the small establishment of D.R.s form the backbone of the local branch of the "Bar None." There is seldom a local meeting at which at least one of our three stalwarts, Signalmen Hastie, Towler or Whalley, does not come away with an award, and at a recent trial held in Cairo Hastie took third place in an open event.

## 1st L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Isles of Venice

*February*

From the Isles of Venice off Northern Italy, we make our first post-war contribution to THE WIRE. Believe it or not, at the time of writing the sun is not shining, and there is snow in the streets. Lieutenant-Colonel I. F. Meiklejohn is our Commanding Officer, and we have two Squadrons, one at Venice and the other at Trieste. Much has happened since we moved off to France in the Autumn of 1939, but it is not the intention to relate our war-time history in these notes.

Operation "Rundown" is in full swing at the moment

"Oh, he'll be all right — he's just startled"

in C.M.F., and is to be completed in 90 days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty. In spite of this, and also the fact that we are the only L. of C. Unit remaining in the theatre, we are still finding time for recreational activities.

We were sorry to say good-bye recently to Major B. J. Milnes, our Second in Command, and also to R.S.M. E. R. Gay. Former is *en route* to Tripoli, and the latter has joined the 1st Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, also bound for the Middle East.

As this is our first appearance in these notes since 1939, we should like to recall the name of Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Peachell, O.B.E., who was our Adjutant from 1936-1940, and later our Commanding Officer for more than a year. We wish you luck and best wishes, Colonel, wherever you may be.

An All Ranks Dance for all Royal Signals personnel who are available in the Theatre is to be arranged for the end of next month in Venice. Captain R. W. J. (Bill) Adams is the general organiser, but we hope to tell you more about it in our next contribution to these notes.

The lodger is not always popular! But in this case the last surviving Signal Park (No. 35) is a proved exception. They are commanded by that old soldier Captain N. Molyneux, who will be better known to older members of the Corps.

A few of the new Corps cap badges have reached this theatre, and there has been universal approval by all Ranks and many Arms.

## 3rd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Beit Daras, Palestine

*March*

I can well imagine that some of you youngsters are saying, "Oh, so we have a 3rd Division," and the elders saying, "So that's where the blighters are." Well, for the benefit of the younger soldiers I can only tell you that the 3rd Division is one of the five Regular British Divisions our country maintained at home pre-war. Behind them they have a fine unsurpassed fighting record and one which makes very interesting reading.

A fitting motto and one we could so easily adopt would be "Take up thy bed and walk." We have been moving for some time now and recently we were once again ordered to take up new positions in the land of "milk and honey." Our camp, situated amongst the orange groves of southern Palestine, is one of almost continuous sunshine. From where I sit I can see the blue Mediterranean stretching away to the horizon. The native villages, picturesque in their Biblical surroundings, lie amongst the rolling plains which disappear into the purple haze. The hills in the background remind one of our Yorkshire moors as they appear on a bright summer's day. Our camp is a tented one; barbed wire entanglements and machine gun posts are part of our daily routine, but we are fortunate in having modern cookhouses, Naafis, and messes. Our sleeping quarters are under canvas but that is an advantage in the summer. The cookhouse staff have put our messing on a par with a civilian restaurant and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our Cook Sergeant, Sergeant F. Tiday, A.C.C., for the 100 per cent. satisfaction he is giving to all ranks.

*Who's Who.*—Captain R. C. F. Wood, M.B.E., joined us a couple of months ago and has just taken over the job of Adjutant from Captain P. E. S. Coombs (Group 48), who leaves on release in a few days' time. Major R. G. Archer, our Second-in-Command, hopes to leave for U.K. at the same time. Next in line is Captain J. D. Harrison, Cipher Officer (Group 49). Major A. S. H. Masters has now joined the Regiment as O.C. 1 Squadron, and Major B. Butler wrestles with 2 and 3 Squadrons. R.S.M. J. Ditchfield and R.Q.M.S. G. H. Farley both have that glassy-eyed Python look (along with many others), but Sergeant Vic Woolveridge maintains a composed "Regular" countenance.

We have recently said farewell to some of our friends. Amongst those who were perhaps better known than most were Captain J. O. Griffiths and S.S.M. Talbot. Captain Griffiths went to U.K. on Python in January, whilst S.S.M. Talbot returned home to be measured for a policeman's helmet. Known throughout the Corps as "Chota," S.S.M. Talbot was completing his third term abroad when his pension caught up with him. During his twenty-one years' service he made many friends, being well known as an all-round sportsman and cheerful companion.

In conclusion, I would say that we note with regret that the notes of many units with which some of us have had the honour to serve are not appearing in THE WIRE. We should like to hear how you are faring without us.

RALFEY.

## 23rd INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

### Taiping

*February*

Since we left Java our Division has been responsible for the Northern half of Malaya. Law and order is not yet quite restored to peace-time standard, but nothing larger than an infantry company and, occasionally, a battalion has been engaged in any operations. The police nearby often make calls for assistance, and apart from static communications, Signals have enjoyed themselves in such entertainments as a "Combined Op" against pirates and smugglers on the West coast, RT police anti-bandit road patrols, catching brigands and murderers, and company operations near the Thailand border.

Our H.Q. station, Taiping, has its snags; the chief amongst these are the gigantic rainfall earlier in the year, and the fact that there is less social activity than in Batavia; but we are luckier than many other units in the Division which are under old canvas. The town is situated at the foot of hills covered with tropical jungle, and numbers amongst its assets a cheerful swimming pool in the very teeth of a raging waterfall, lakes, a golf course, green avenues of trees and, in the middle of the loosely scattered "cantonment" and civil station is a large, neat, Chinese bazaar. Talking of bazaars and shops, married men expecting a visit Eastwards may like to know that families are coming in to Malaya. Mrs. Conner and children have joined the C.O., and Mrs. Farr, wife of Major Farr, a member of the Unit since early Java days, is here. C.Q.M.S. Miles has his wife and, though general entry of I.O.R.s families is still held up, Havildar Balwant Singh has his wife here. Another Taiping feature is the Soccer ground on the green Padang (or village green), which sees frequent trials of strength against our neighbours, the 1st Royal Lincolns (fairly evenly matched), and others. There is rugger, too. But the greatest activity is on the race course behind our lines, which we now monopolise for cricket, hockey, soccer, volley ball, sports, and even officers riding. Yes, we hope to have a Unit polo side soon to compete at Kuala Kangsar nearby, where the pre-war Polo Club has been revived. Our nearest Signal neighbours are Malaya Command Signal Regiment, a day's journey away to the South. They entertained our soccer team right royally last month, and on a soaking Taiping-like pitch Adams and his team, well used to water-polo tactics, pulled it off. We hope our opponents accept the compliment that we were very pleased with ourselves to win! Before Major Farr could leave us for long deserved leave in England, he

organised a successful and noisy swimming sports, ending in a surprise win for the N.C.sE., with Administration and Cipher Sections both close behind. For some time our distinguished holder of the Military Medal, Havildar Barkhat Ali, has been training the Non-Combatant Enrolled Followers, and daily, sweepers, cooks, and all the rest are to be seen challenging the mightiest on the sports fields. They beat the Havildars at Soccer, and have now challenged the Officers.

*Unit Sports.*—On 6th February the Cipher and M. Section beat all others for the Inter-Section trophy, and the 1st Royal Lincolns won the Inter-Unit relay. The chief features included Signalman Azal Khan winning the mile, and Lance Naik Chami winning the 100 and 440 yards and high jump.

*Cricket.*—The first match was played on Wednesday, 5th February away, when the Officers played the B.O.R.s. The Officers raised 67 runs. Had it not been for Corporal Eggleton (on loan to the Officers) and Lieutenant Unwin, who made 24 and 12 respectively, the Officers would have been in a sorry state against the bowling of Havildar Naban (3 for 14), Lance Corporal Walker (2 for 2), and Signalman Adams (2 for 17). The B.O.R.s started disastrously, losing 4 wickets for 19 runs, but R.S.M. Miller and Sergeant Jackson raised the total to 65 for 8. The B.O.R.s had to fight for every run against good bowling by Captain Maya Das (4 for 28) and Lieutenant Vieyra (2 for 14), but after passing the Officers' total they went for runs and were all out for 90 (R.S.M. Miller 26, Signalman Horrell 10 not out).

*Farewells.*—This month has seen some heavy losses. Major Jock Tyrie to the U.K., and Captain Harland to Malaya Command Signal Regiment. C.S.M. Ellmer, C.Q.M.S. Scriven, C.Q.M.S. Fitzgerald, and Sergeant Schroder are old members, who leave a big gap behind them. And now another 120 of our I.O.R.s have just gone off to civil life, many after 5 years' service with the Unit, dating back to Burma days. We sent them off with ceremonial parades, much beer and "bara khanas," and, amid many memories, our wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

37 Indian Infantry Brigade Signal Section are again on the move, this time further South to Port Dickson, as the Division's commitments extend. They were honoured at Christmas with a personal message in answer to one from the O.C., Captain Fairlie, and the Section. It read: "I am desired by the Princess Royal to thank you for the card and good wishes sent by you on behalf of the Indian Signalmen of the H.Q. 37 Indian Infantry Brigade Signal Section. Her Royal Highness appreciates very much your thought for your Colonel-in-Chief, and asks me to convey her best wishes for 1947 to all ranks of her corps under your command. Signed Gwynedd Lloyd, Lady-in-Waiting."

## GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

*March*

Since our last notes we have to report the recent award of the O.B.E. to Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. McIntosh, our C.O. and C.S.O. Gibraltar. Also honoured from this Unit were Sergeant Ferro, G.D.F., attached Royal Signals, and Mr. Chipolina, ex-Sergeant G.D.F., and a Civil Servant employed in this Unit for many years, both receiving the B.E.M. All three were present at H.E. the Governor's residence on Friday, the 7th February, to receive the above mentioned awards.

Corporals Betts and Smiles and Signalman Rundell left on 5th March for Liap, and on the same day we welcomed back from U.K. Corporals Mason and Cadby, Lance Corporal Fox, and Signalmen Humphrey, Greener, Hippey and Voake, all bringing varied tales of their adventures in Blighty, and stressing the hard times the folks back home are going through.

We have two additions to our newly-formed Sergeants' Mess in the persons of Sergeant Aylmer and Sergeant Stokes. We extend our congratulations and best wishes. Also among the promotions list is the recent promotion of Sergeant Spelman to S.S.M. Spelman. Once again our congratulations.

*Sport.*—Rain has rather curtailed our sporting activities for the last month. We should have played the first round of the Governor's Cup series on the 5th March, but owing to the weather the game had to be postponed. All Service Units on the Rock compete for this Cup annually on a knock-out basis. In this year's competition our first match is with the Royal Navy; I will take this chance to say that if team spirit has anything to do with winning, then our entry into the second round is assured. But not for a moment have we forgotten the excellent record of the Navy team. The Gibraltar Signal Squadron Basketball team, although a team of triers, has been very unfortunate this past month, having only won one out of three games.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Latest results: | Signals 4 | R.A.O.C. | 1 |
| | Signals 3 | R.E. | 4 |
| | Signals 3 | R.A.S.C. | 9 |

Special Wireless Troop, however, have been doing extremely well; they are now at the top of the League table with a comfortable margin of five points. Having played ten, won eight, drawn one, and lost one. Well done, Special Wireless Troop, keep it up.

## ROCKED IN THE CRADLE OF THE JEEP

If you ever serve in Burma,
As some of you may do,
You'll find the truest things are false
And the strangest things are true.

You'll find a man whose Python date
Is 1922.
While the man who held the Grippers' Shield
Went six months overdue.

If you go in the great Pagoda
You have to remove your boots,
But the priests are chewing betel-nut
And smoking immense cheroots.

The local lads of the village
Delight in clanging bells,
And the odour of Rangoon river
Is one of the strangest smells.

We haven't a clue in Burma
What ev'rything's all about.
As to whether it's Easter or Christmas
There's still some serious doubt.
SEALF may know the answer
But they haven't yet given it out.

And—oh—Mr. Porter!
I'm ever so far from home.
I was reading the "Burma Star"
And got carried on to Prome.

W. R.

# ROYAL SIGNALS AND THE EARLY DAYS OF

# *Radar*

*by* LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. S. HAIGH

I WAS serving in Palestine in the winter of 1938-39 when a somewhat mysteriously worded War Office letter arrived asking for volunteers "with an interest in wireless" to go on a course, at the successful conclusion of which an instructional appointment with the Territorial Army would be obtained. My C.O., putting two and two together, and taking note of the urgent tone in which the War Office letter was couched, suggested that the course had some connection with a new method of detecting aircraft by wireless, of which rumours had been heard, and strongly advised me to apply. I did so, and in due course was called home.

On board the ship was an Infantry officer, bound on the same course, who confessed he had only applied in order to get home and whose knowledge of wireless was confined to that he had acquired when, as a boy, he had built a crystal set! By much hard work, however, he eventually passed the course and became a very successful Radar Staff Officer.

The course was found to consist of a thorough revision of normal wireless theory at the Military College of Science, followed by detailed instruction, at Felixstowe, in radar theory and practice.

On presenting myself at Woolwich I was told that "as they understood that I already knew Ohm's Law," I was to proceed immediately to Felixstowe to join No. 1 Course, which was made up of the instructors designate for the Wireless Wing of the School of A.A. Defence. This Wing was to be formed, at Felixstowe, with Major (now Brigadier) J. B. Hickman, M.C., as Commandant and Chief Instructor.

At Felixstowe I found that my fellow students consisted of three Gunner Officers, numbering amongst them the present Director of Radar, War Office, and five Warrant Officers, of whom two, R.Q.M.S. Rushworth and C.S.M. Hall, were Royal Signals, and were subsequently commissioned in the Corps.

Since 1937, a small section from the Air Defence Experimental Establishment at Biggin Hill had been working at the Air Ministry Research Station, Bawdsey, on the development of a Fire Control Radar for A.A. gunnery. And it was at Bawdsey, just across the River Orwell from Felixstowe, that, with no equipment other than the pre-prototypes that A.D.E.E. were struggling hard to perfect, we settled down to try and learn all about Radar.

Crossing the Orwell to and from our work was quite a performance, as there was frequently a very strong current running and it could also be quite rough. We were ferried across by a boatman named Brinkley, who had an iron hook in place of one hand, and this circumstance led to the introduction of a new word into the Radar vocabulary. As the transmitters used very high anode voltages it was necessary not only to switch off the h.t. supply, but also to ensure that all condensers in the h.t. circuit were fully discharged before making any adjustments. To this end a heavy earthing wire, terminated in a metal hook, was hung on to a convenient part of the anode circuit before any adjustments were made. This earthing hook was inevitably christened a "Brinkley."

We must have been a sore trial to the patience of the A.D.E.E. detachment, for not only were we continually asking questions, but we had also to be asking "Could we have THE transmitter for an hour this afternoon?" And all this at a period when it was becoming daily more obvious that they were working against time.

THE transmitter warrants a few lines to itself. Although a transmitter of considerable power, with some thousands of volts on the anodes, it was literally tied together with string. All tuning was done by a complicated system of strings and pulleys moving shorting bars on the Lecher line tuning circuits. When in operation it vibrated in an awe-inspiring manner and when, as often happened, the vibration caused a contactor to come out, it needed the experience of Lieutenant (now Major) D. A. Nolan to know exactly where to kick the transmitter so that the contactor should fall back into place. Lieutenant Nolan was in command of a detachment from 1st. A.D. Brigade Signals maintained at Bawdsey to carry out trials on experimental equipment.

For all of us it was our first introduction to V.H.F., and to the thousand and one uses of the cathode ray tube. So there was a lot to learn before our first batch of pupils arrived. They were due at Felixstowe on 1st May on the conclusion of the M.C. of S. course (and some leave). The students comprised officers who had volunteered in response to the W.O. letter that I have already mentioned, and civilians who had answered advertisements in the wireless press asking for men willing to be trained as Technical Instructors for the Territorial Army. Pending the training by the R.A.O.C. of sufficient workshop personnel, the T.I.s were to be responsible not only for the training of radar operators, but also for the maintenance of the equipment. Amongst these civilians were several ex-Service men who did uniformly well, and a number of ex-wireless "service" men whose record was not nearly so consistent.

I don't think any of us will forget that summer at Felixstowe. We had beautiful weather; an absorbing job; and those peacetime working hours that now seem an impossible dream!

Our first course was doing some "post-graduate" training with us (as we had the only sets of equipment that were in existence at that time) when war was declared, and we were told that we were to move to Watchet (in Somerset) and were to be joined there by that section of the M.C. of S. that was giving wireless instruction to our pupils.

I was detailed to take the convoy of appartus to Watchet by road. A civilian contractor was found to provide towing lorries for the transmitters and receivers, which were housed in large four-wheeled trailers, and the diesel power units were scotched up on the flat-bodied lorries. These latter formed a somewhat high load, so we asked the R.A.C. to give us a route which avoided all low bridges. All went well on the first day's run from Felixstowe to Reading. We stopped for lunch somewhere on the North Circular road. To a small boy's question as to what we had in the "caravans," C.S.M. Hall replied that we were taking the British Lion to a place of safety! On the second and last day, owing to a traffic jam, the head of the column took the wrong turning in Frome. Thereafter followed a period

of some anxiety for me lest we should meet a low bridge, for in the narrow Somerset lanes we should have had very great difficulty in turning round with our trailers. As luck would have it we did not meet a low bridge until we reached Watchet, and there, providentially, just short of the bridge, was the entrance to an A.A. Practice Camp which enabled us to turn our convoy round.

Gone now were the halcyon days of Felixstowe, and we were rapidly transformed into a "sausage machine," churning out Is.F.C. (as the officer pupils were known after graduation) and T.I.s at an ever-increasing rate. The limit was reached, as far as I was concerned, when I found myself, in 1941, giving the same lecture four times in one day! It was at about this time that I came to the conclusion that the Gunners could do without me! Brigadier Hickman had already left us, and the Royal Signals members of the staff now consisted of Captain (now Major) Millward, who had joined us in 1940, Captain (now Major) Prince, Rushworth and Hall, now both commissioned, and myself. Millward and Rushworth were largely responsible for the receiver instruction, Prince was on the M.C. of S. staff, whilst Hall and I taught the transmitter and also ran a laboratory course in which the pupils were able to study the workings of the various parts of the equipment in detail. Hall was a tower of strength in the laboratory. He had infinite patience, both with slow pupils and with apparatus which would not at first do that which it was supposed to do. Many is the suggested demonstration, which I had given up as hopeless, which Hall eventually succeeded in making work.

It is of interest to recall that the Instructional Staff were all graded as Instructors or Assistant Instructors in Gunnery and, as a consequence, we wore the traditional red or white hat bands—probably the first time that such hat bands have been worn by Royal Signals personnel.

As time went on the Royal Artillery Instructors, who had originally confined themselves to teaching the operation of the sets and the linking up of Radar in the Fire Control plan, found themselves competent to take over the more technical instruction also. And so Royal Signals slowly faded out of the Radar scene—with one exception. Hall remained to the end of the war, and is, I believe, still to be found at Watchet. So ended a most interesting and instructive period. A period which, in retrospect, makes one regret bitterly that Radar is not a Royal Signals responsibility.

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### *PRESENTING "JIMMY"*

*continued from page 139*

two Corps. The officers of my Corps have asked me to make the presentation, as a mark of admiration and appreciation for their wholehearted co-operation, of this figure of Mercury, the badge of my Corps. I hope it will help to keep fresh the many associations and friendships that have been formed during the last three years between the officers of the U.S. Signal Corps and the Royal Corps of Signals."

General Lanahan replied: "For the present and future members of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, I accept this gift with deep appreciation. I know that with it go the warm and sincere felicitations of the many officers and men who served with us. It will be a lasting reminder of the close teamwork which made possible tremendous accomplishments in the past conflict . . . It will be a symbol of hope continuing through the days of peace . . . May it be an inspiration to the political, economic and business leaders to whom we pass the baton of responsibility now that hostilities have ceased."

Thus Jimmy, the nimble pagan messenger who is equally welcome in heaven, earth and the nether-world, has used his powers of charm and goodwill to help in binding Anglo-American signalmen together in war and peace.

### *SYRIAN LEAVE*

*continued from page 142*

and "Loch Lomond," which I gave in answer to their requests for a song, and I was not hyper-critical when I waxed enthusiastic over their music—I prefer it, infinitely, to the short-lived mass-produced background music to modern Western life. We passed the rest of the evening with "party games" all relying upon muscular strength and all of so energetic a nature that I regretted the many miles I had walked that day. Later, I found it so hard to keep awake that I was both thankful and surprised when Atulla led me away to another room. I had expected to sleep on cushions in the large room together with my hosts; instead, I found a mattress on the floor, covered with crisp inviting sheets and a patchwork quilt. My head was soon on the cushions, but I was still sufficiently awake to laugh affectionately at Atulla when he came to "tuck me in."

He was with me again before sunrise and I was soon preparing for my departure. Great curiosity was aroused both by my toothbrush and my scented shaving-cream, and so I gave them to some people watching, who received them like delighted children. As tactfully as I could, I started to ask Atulla how I could recompense them for their hospitality. The Sheik must have understood the inflections of my voice, for he started to protest volubly. Instead, I gave them my profuse and truly grateful thanks and as many odd things as I could spare as souvenirs. While I was entering a message of thanks in his book, the Sheik was inscribing his name round the page of my guide-book on which Qala'at Jendal was mentioned. Our writing, in the styles of East and West, moving in dissimilar directions.

I shook hands with them all and with the first flush of dawn started regretfully on my return to reality. I did not look back, for in my mind was the knowledge that if it had not been for my loved ones at home I could have elected to remain there for ever. Rather sadly I stepped forward to the new day and my old life.

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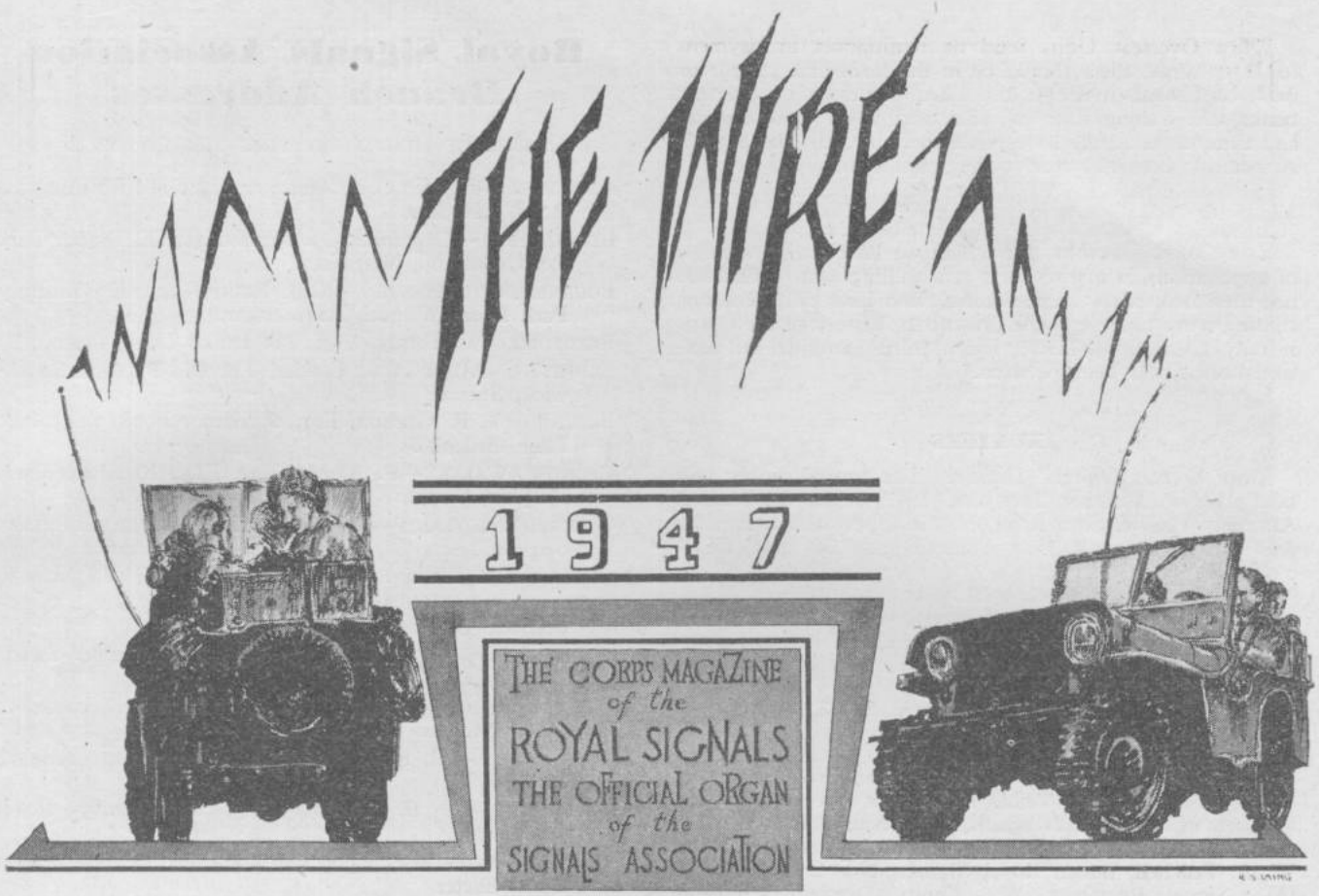
# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 7

MAY 1947

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# Editorial

The office air is clearer now that the editorial pipe is filled so much less frequently, but the sight of tobacco, cigarettes and matches stacked high on the hitherto barren shop counters is tantalising—very. A possible remedy, of course, is to buy as before—only at Dalton prices—but there are weighty arguments against this . . . When, however, this exasperation is aggravated by readers withholding available pictorial copy for THE WIRE, we can find relief only by violently smashing flower pots against the office wall. This is a destructive and anti-social practice, and, moreover, the Sub-Editor takes a dim view of the demands made upon her agility when dodging them.

Time and again we receive Unit notes reporting the formation of Camera Clubs, and informing us that "there are many opportunities for taking interesting photographs"; but do any of the resulting masterpieces get enclosed with the notes? To be quite truthful, the answer is "sometimes," but the number of times is negligible. A good clear print is all that is required, and it should be protected from bending and not be pinned or clipped to other copy.

A caption is also desirable as some insurance against the picture being published inverted, due to erroneous editorial interpretation of the subject matter.

This month we have received the first few reports from newly-formed Territorial Army Units. We hope that as soon as recruiting and training get into their stride all T.A. Units will record their progress in these pages. Before the war they were very regular contributors.

* * *

To remove any confusion of our readers which may have resulted from the recent changes in designation of the Training Regiments, we give the following list showing the old and new titles:—

No. 1 Trades Training Regiment, now No. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

No. 2 Trades Training Regiment, now No. 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

No. 1 Operators Training Regiment, now No. 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

No. 2 Operators Training Regiment, now No. 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

No. 5 Trades Training Regiment, now No. 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

No. 3 Operators Training Regiment, now No. 6. Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

When Overseas Units send us remittances in payment for THE WIRE, these should be in the form of a cheque or draft on a bank in England. Cheques drawn on overseas banks take a long time to clear, and when bank charges and rates of exchange have made their inroads, the Signals Association does not receive the amount due.

* * *

THE CORPS HISTORY, for which we have had a number of applications, is in two parts at a shilling each. This has not been realised by some readers, who have only sent one shilling when ordering. At present the history of the Corps is only taken up to 1937, but a third pamphlet in continuation is now being written.

## NOTICES

*Royal Signals Officers' Dinner.* The annual dinner will take place on Monday, 2nd June, 1947, at the St. Pancras Assembly Hall, Euston Road, N.W.1 (opposite St. Pancras and King's Cross Railway Stations) at 7.30 p.m. for 8 o'clock.

Dinner tickets: Members, 12s. 6d.; non-members, £1 1s.

Dress: Service dress (including Blues) or lounge suits.

Tickets obtainable from C.S.O., London District, Leconfield House, Curzon Street, W.1. Latest date for applications: 23rd May, 1947.

* * *

*Lines of Communication Signals — Supplementary Reserve.* It is proposed to hold in London a re-union of ex-members of the L. of C. Signals, S.R. Names and addresses of all wishing to attend should be sent to Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Peachell, O.B.E., Royal Signals, No. 1 A.A. Group (M), Signal Regiment, W.6 Camp, Derwent Crescent, London, N.20.

Dates cannot yet be given, but will be communicated to those who notify the above address, when settled.

* * *

*2 Corps Signals* (November, 1941 — November, 1942, Newmarket). Officers' re-union dinner to be held in September in Birmingham. Officers interested should write to L. C. Suggars, 48 Second Avenue, Coventry.

* * *

*Burma Re-Union.* The Burma re-union will be held in the Royal Albert Hall on Monday, 2nd June, at 7 p.m.

All holders of the Burma Star of all Services are invited to come along and meet their old friends.

The Commanders of all the Services in Burma will be present and will speak. Viscount Mountbatten of Burma will speak direct from Delhi.

Many well known artistes of stage and radio will entertain.

Tickets of admission 3s. 6d., obtainable from: Hon. Secretary, Burma Re-Union Committee, c/o British Legion, 49 Pall Mall, S.W.1.

* * *

*Publications Received.* We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:—

THE BORDERERS' CHRONICLE, March.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, February, March.

R.E.M.E., April.

PIONEER, March.

THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, 19th April.

# Royal Signals Association Branch Addresses

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YORK.—H. Horner, Esq., 55 Albemarle Road, The Mount, York.

# *Corps Band*

## TOUR OF THE B.A.O.R.

At 7 a.m. on Sunday, 23rd February, 1947, we left Catterick *en route* for the B.A.O.R. The worst blizzard within living memory had just spent itself, and the journey to Richmond revealed nature's prettiest picture. Fuel restrictions had just been imposed upon Catterick and life for the last few days had been very grim.

Our route was *via* Hull and Cuxhaven, and, as usual, we were sent to idle in a most uncomfortable Transit Camp upon our arrival at the port of embarkation, whilst our Corps over the other side had a concert arranged for us to which the G.O.C. had been invited. This opening concert had, therefore, to be cancelled.

After a most pleasant trip on the boat we arrived at Cuxhaven, where it was very cold indeed. We travelled by road to Herford, where we stayed with 2nd L. of C. Signal Regiment, who throughout the tour were most kind to us. They were more or less our base, as we frequently returned to them after our trips to other Units.

Very excellent and elaborate arrangements had been made for our tour, and Captain J. R. Collins, M.B.E., acted as our guide on the long journeys we had to make by road to visit Units. Upon most days we had to load all our kit, be on the road at 9 a.m., travel about 100 miles in very cold weather and blizzards, and give a concert in the evening looking as fresh as a daffodil in spring.

One Unit actually had arranged for us a broadcast, a recording, a dance, and a concert all in the one day, and we did the lot and packed our bags the next morning looking for more.

In spite of the very severe weather we suffered very little discomfort, apart from cold feet. Most of the accommodation was far superior to that we have experienced in tours of Units in this country, and, except in one instance, the food was excellent. It would have been a much different story, however, if we had not had the good fortune to have had a 35-seater bus allotted to us for the whole of the tour. This was a very comfortable vehicle and shielded us from the bitter weather.

All ranks showed great enthusiasm in our visit. Indeed, some had not heard the Band since 1934 or 1935. Every Unit took great pains to see we were comfortable, and no band could have been received with greater kindness, or had their concerts prepared with greater care or attention to detail. How we miss this efficiency and keenness when we are occasionally handed over to Welfare.

We visited the following Units, and we would once again like to thank them for their kindness to us and the pains they took to make sure all our requirements were met:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 2nd L. of C. Signal Regiment | Herford |
| 15th Air Formation Signals | Gutersloh |
| 1st Corps Signals | Iserlohn |
| 2nd Infantry Divisional Signals | Hilden |
| 11th Air Formation Signals | Celle |
| 7th Armoured Divisional Signals | Badrothenfelde |
| 5th Infantry Divisional Signals | Brunswick |
| British Air Force of Occupation | Bad Eilsen |
| Hamburg District Signals | Hamburg |
| 4th Independent Armoured Brigade | Luneburg |

We gave our concerts in all kinds of different buildings.

(*continued on next page*)

# Home Stations

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*April*

No. 1 SQUADRON. Due to the weather and the thaw leaving the fields a mass of mud, No. 1 Squadron's sports interest has been rather cramped, as have been most of the Squadron's activities.

Captain Bob White once more led our interest in Signals Theatre by appearing in "The Ringer" as a police officer.

Captain White has now left us to go on a mission to Canada, and Captain J. C. Green has once more assumed command, although at the moment he is unfortunately ill.

Demob has taken S.Q.M.S. (S.S.I.) Mashford and Sergeant Bradley away from us. They will both be remembered by trainees who have passed through the Squadron.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Cleared of snow, Loos Lines are once again recognisable. This Squadron did a grand job in the final snow clearance.

The early introduction of B.S.T. has brought about a sudden change in evening conditions, and pleasant "after tea" recreational activities are envisaged. Football, badminton, quoits and even a cycling club are being organised.

The Squadron hopes to take over the whole of Loos Lines in the very near future.

The Play Reading Circle is still very popular, but efforts to interest feminine readers have, however, met with little success so far. Rumours of A.T.S. neighbours in Loos Lines have caused hopes of success in this direction to rise. Meanwhile, the latest reading "production" of "Rebecca" has had the female lead most efficiently portrayed by "Miss" (Lance-Corporal) Gray.

The Circle has lost its founder, Lieutenant Hill, posted to an A.A. Unit in Southern England.

*Marriages.* To the roll of the newly-weds of the Squadron we add the names of Signalman Legate and Signalman Rowbottom, and wish them and their "better halves" a happy and successful future.

*Births.* On 4th March, to Corporal and Mrs. Coomber —a daughter. On 5th April, to Sergeant and Mrs. Roberts —a daughter.

## CORPS BAND

(*continued from previous page*)

One day we would be playing in a beautiful little theatre in one of the German Spas, the next in one of the biggest broadcasting studios in the country, to be followed by a concert in one of their famous opera houses such as the one we played in at Dusseldorf. Good pianos were plentiful and we had every facility to produce a concert worthy of bearing the name of the Corps.

Our visit to the American Signal Training School was most interesting. Here we were greeted in true American fashion, and every minute of our stay was planned out. We toured the school in the morning, broadcast over the Allied Forces Network in the afternoon, and gave a concert in the evening. We travelled 400 miles by road to reach Ainsbach, where their Signal Training School is situated, but the journey through Bavaria proved full of interest and the time did not drag. All of us were very impressed with the efficiency of the School and the care which had been taken over our visit.

The tour very appropriately concluded with a concert at the Headquarters of the B.A.O.R. at Bad Oeyenhausen. This concert was very well attended, and the theatre we played in had a stage with every modern device, which helped us produce a really good concert. The following morning we caught the train for the Hook of Holland *en route* for home. The trip home was most enjoyable and in distinct contrast to our journey out. We thank Brigadier W. H. G. Rodgers, C.B.E., for the trouble he went to in arranging for us to return home by this route.

The Customs authorities at Harwich were quite sure we had brought home all the musical instruments we found in Germany, and that we had hidden our cameras up the bells of basses or saxophones. They searched every box, felt the padding of cases, and even felt the fatter members of the Band to ascertain if it was genuine fat. Flutey Moore took a very poor view of this procedure.

And so ended our trip to the B.A.O.R. for 1947.

A most enjoyable and interesting tour, and to all who showed us kindness or worked for our comfort or to give us the facilities to present our concerts, we say once again, "Thank you very much, indeed."

## No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

*April*

For the first part of March, training was carried out under most trying conditions. Trainees had to build routes through four or five feet of snow. Our drivers did a grand job keeping their vehicles on the road, but eventually the weather won, and the "big sweep" began.

The third week of March saw the Squadron on snow clearing, and I think we can be congratulated on only losing one week of training through a winter that was severe even for Catterick.

Yet another name is listed on our roll of honour—this time "Operation Noah's Ark," our drivers, complete with water wings once again, carrying fodder for cattle and then assisting the people of marooned York.

*Births.* A minor epidemic of births this year, starting with Deborah Anne to Captain and Mrs. K. W. Jordan, followed by Lieutenant and Mrs. R. Chambers and Captain

No. 2 Training Regiment cross-country team (left to right)—Back row: Signalmen A. Brunell, J. Lepper, A. Hall, Lance-Corporal A. Browne. Middle row: Signalmen E. Lawrence, F. Nicholls, Lance-Corporal Hosking, Signalman Baines, Lance-Corporal A. Shearman, Signalmen M. Grainger, T. Moynan. Front row: Corporals O'Brien, Ross, Major Haslehurst, Lieut.-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Signalman F. Hewitt, Lance-Corporal W. Kinsey

and Mrs. C. M. Dando, both daughters. Now Sergeant and Mrs. S. Barnes a son.

*Postings.* In: R.S.M. L. Howley, B.E.M., on 18th March (officially). Out: Sergeant (Frankie) Kidd, to 31 "M" Signal Squadron, Edinburgh, on 3rd March. Sergeant W. Stevens to Signal Squadron, London District, on 3rd March. R.S.M. G. Grant to 50 (N'umbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Unit on 18th March.

*Cross-Country Running.* It is a highly ambitious Unit that sets itself in September of one year the goal of winning the highest Army team award in the March of the next year, but this is precisely what happened in No. 2 Training Regiment with regard to cross-country. Fifteen runners turned out on 1st September, 1946, for the first training run of the season, although eight of them had been competing on the track during the summer months.

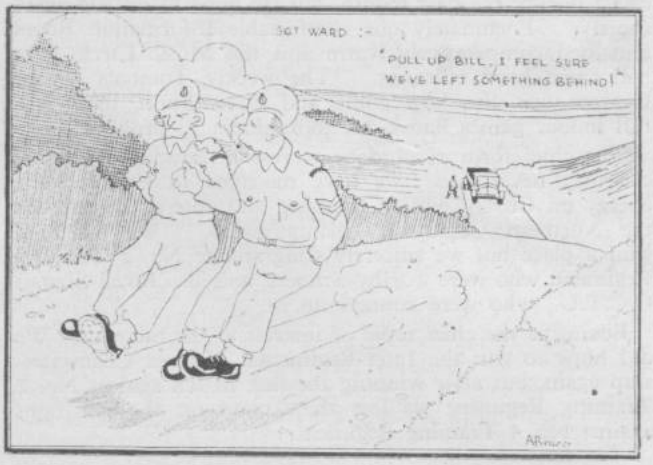
Having successfully negotiated the Northern Command Championships we looked forward with eagerness to the "Army," which was scheduled to take place on 26th February. Came the 26th and Catterick was still lying under over a foot of snow, so that the running was postponed until 12th March. This latter date saw the countryside still in the frozen vice of snow, and there was a further postponement until 27th March. It was in this fortnight that the thaw set in, with attendant floods all over the country.

Teams from six Commands and London District turned up at Hipswell Gymnasium, to find Catterick enveloped in mist that restricted visibility to 200 yards. Under foot the ground was like a quagmire and it was definitely a day for "spikes." There was no delay at the start and the 120 athletes got away as cleanly as the swamped conditions permitted. Having been specially trained to start fast, all 15 members of No. 2 Training Regiment circled round the first marker in the first 25. The first three dozen runners assembled a hodge-podge of red and green, respectively the Signals and Light Infantry teams, both possessing fine cross-country records in the past, and between whom a most dogged race was to ensue. Apart from the odd "individual" runner of the Guards Depot or Sapper teams, both of which had been tipped as likely winners, Captain Morris, an "individual" runner, had taken the lead at the very start but faded out after the first mile. Corporal Hinie, another individual, then assumed the lead, closely followed by Ross, Moynan and Kinsey.

After this imposing display of packing, there was an equally impressive array of Light Infantry runners, who filled the next nine places. On the heels of their ninth runner, Haslehurst and Shearman were running together rather a strained race: the former had travelled overnight from the South of England and the latter was suffering from a cold, which normally would have prevented his competing. Lepper, Baines, Brunell and Hall were running a beautifully even race in the fifties. But the real hero at this stage of the race was Browne, who collapsed and lost consciousness on the Golf Course, but eventually picked himself up and overtook sixty or seventy of the "enemy" to become our 11th scorer.

Meanwhile, the Corps runners at the head of the race had settled down into their eventual order of finish. Hinie was leading Ross by some 120 yards, followed by Moynan and Kinsey. O'Brien was running easily at sixth, preceding the main Signals pack of Grainger, Hewitt, Hoskin and Lawrence, filling places 8 to 11. This order remained unchanged to the finish, when Corporal Hinie won the race in 45 mins. 45 4/5 secs., in a very exhausted condition indeed. Ross and Moynan finished the course in good style and comparatively fresh. Many of the spectators feared that, having got our eight men home, we were going to miss the boat, but the "tail" trickled in one by one, and we learned that we had just beaten the "Boys in Green" by 29 points.

ORDER OF FINISH: 2nd, Corporal Ross; 3rd, Signalman




Moynan; 4th, Lance-Corporal Kinsey; 6th, Corporal O'Brien; 8th, Signalman Grainger; 9th, Signalman Hewitt; 10th, Lance-Corporal Hoskin; 11th, Signalman Lawrence; 22nd, Major Haslehurst; 24th, Lance-Corporal Shearman; 43rd, Lance-Corporal Browne; 51st, Signalman Lepper. (Signalman Baines, 62nd; Signalman Brunell, 68th; Signalman Hall, 71st).

TEAM ORDER: First, No. 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals (Northern Command), 161 pts.; Second, Light Infantry Training Centre (Southern Command), 190 pts.; Third, No. 10 D.B.R.E. (Eastern Command), 474 pts.; Fourth, The Guards Depot (London District), 590 pts.; Fifth, No. 1 T.B., R.E. (Western Command), 610 pts.; Sixth, No. 30 (L.), Training Battalion (Scottish Command), 835 pts.; Seventh, No. 1 S.L. Regiment, R.A. (A.A. Command), 989 pts.

Cross-country colours were awarded to Corporal Ross, Signalman Moynan, Lance-Corporal Kinsey, Corporal O'Brien, Signalman Grainger and Signalman Hewitt to represent the Army *versus* R.N. and R.A.F. at Halton on 9th April, 1947. Lance-Corporal Hoskins and Signalman Lawrence were nominated as reserves.

The R.A.F. won the event with 32 points, followed by the Army, 55 points, and R.N., 84 points. Sergeant A. V. Macoy (R.A.F.) led from start to finish, Maloney (R.A.F.) second, and Dainty (R.A.F.) third. Corporal Hinie (Army) was fourth, with the Signals element of the Army team packed hard on his heels.

## No. 6 TRAINING REGIMENT

*March*

We hasten to state that we were originally No. 1 Operators' Training Regiment, and for a period of about two weeks we changed to No. 3 Operators' Training Regiment, but we are settling down under the above title and find comfort in the old adage—a rose by any other name, etc.

We are occupying the same lines, but within the next few weeks we shall be taking over different training responsibilities which, in parts, will necessitate some changes of personnel, particularly those of the instructional staff.

Despite the weather, training has gone on much the same as usual. Wireless schemes have had to be curtailed considerably but lecture rooms, with or without fires, have been hives of industry. Keenness to obtain a BIII to get away from Catterick is even more pronounced!

Owing to the fuel shortage all social functions were can-

celled during the past month, but we hope to resume again shortly. Fortunately our comfortable Information Room remained comparatively warm and the Music Circle have had some good evenings. The weekly Tombola in the Canteen was also kept going and, in addition, there is a full indoor games knock-out tournament in progress.

The chief form of outdoor recreation nowadays is snow clearing; nevertheless, we have managed to expend some energy on Cross-Country Running and entered a team for the Northern Command Championship. We failed to gain a place but we sincerely congratulate No. 2 Training Regiment, who were worthy winners, and also Royal Signals O.C.T.U., who were runners-up.

Boxing is the chief topic of interest at the moment. We did hope to win the Inter-Regimental Novices Championship again, but after winning the first match against No. 2 Training Regiment we lost the second on the last fight against No. 4 Training Regiment.

## ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*April*

There was only one pass out parade during March, when 12 Officer Cadets of 176 Course were commissioned on the 18th of the month. The salute was taken by Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., G.O.C. Catterick District. The Senior Under Officer was Officer Cadet D. M. V. Geary, whilst the Commandant's Cane was awarded to Officer Cadet A. G. Willis.

It is apparent that, with the end of the cold spell, Catterick cannot claim to have suffered more than the rest of the country. Catterick has certainly missed the ordeal of the floods. However, the snow has restricted our activities somewhat; examples being pass out parades which were held in the confined area of the gymnasium, and "Exercise Covenanter," carried out on foot, using WS 62 on manpack.

Sport has also suffered, the various teams finding it difficult to keep in trim.

The proposed sports meetings with the Gunner and Sapper O.C.T.U.s were unfortunately cancelled, much to our disappointment. Only a few sports have been kept going. The cross-country runners braved the snow to gain second place in the Northern Command Championship.

The first round of the Catterick Signals Novices' Boxing Competition took place on 6th March, our contestants being No. 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, who beat us by 16 points to 14. Last but not least, the shooting team have continued to maintain the lead in the Garrison Miniature Rifle League.

Fuel restrictions have been responsible for a temporary lapse in club and society activities. However, with a partial lifting of the restrictions, the Music and Debating Societies have got back into harness once more, and it is hoped that other societies will follow suit.

The Entertainments Committee open their Easter programme with a dance on 3rd April. It is also hoped to be able to arrange some popular tours in the district.

In the meantime, 184 Course have stolen a march on the Entertainments Committee and hope to produce a show in the near future.

*Departure.* To Captain J. E. Coates, who was released on 28th March, go our very best wishes for the future.

*Birth.* Congratulations to S.Q.M.S. L. Parry on the birth of a daughter, Megan Lesley, on 3rd March, 1947.

*Garrison Miniature Rifle League.* At the end of February, 1947, the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. stood at the top of the league consisting of eleven Units, the position being as follows:—

Royal Signals O.C.T.U.: Matches fired, 7; won, 7; lost, nil. Average 753.

Highest Unit aggregate for February, 1947: Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 3,012.

Highest individual score, February, 1947: Officer Cadet Mottram, Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 99 per cent.

Three matches have been fired during March, all of which have been won.

*Royal Tournament (Sabre and Foil).* Officer Cadets L. W. Prescott and V. L. Hutchins (Sabre), Officer Cadets M. J. T. Adams and R. G. Phippard (Foil), took part in the Army Cadets Championship of the Royal Tournament at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, on Thursday, 13th March.

Prescott gained second place, whilst Hutchins gained fifth place in sabre. Phippard gained sixth place in foil.

They go on to the Final Inter-Services phase at the Royal Tournament, Olympia. Well done, the fencers!

## WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

*April*

While our job of handling the War Office telegraph and radio traffic remains much the same as ever, great changes have been taking place over the last few months in the methods employed. Some of us may regret the passing of the Morse code, but its supersession by 5-unit teleprinter code for automatic working is the new policy, and in this Unit is rapidly being put into effect. The majority of links in the Army wireless chain have already established radio teleprinter communication, and this has involved much conversion work, both in the War Office Auto Room and at the out-stations run by "B," "C" and "E" Wireless Troops. Difficulties have been considerable, as much of the equipment is unfamiliar to both operators and mechanics, while recent phases of violent sunspot activity have hindered the initial trials over the longer links. However, the new system is settling down and before long our interest in dots and dashes will be purely academic.

"The undermentioned have proceeded on short periods of duty overseas and embarked/disembarked U.K. on the dates shown against their names" — so say our Part II Orders time after time. Orders cannot lie (?) but overseas service in a London Unit seems to require some explanation.

Every morning two D.R.s load up a vehicle with an average of 30 bags of despatches for clearance through Calais S.D.O. to the numerous formations in B.A.O.R., B.T.A., and C.M.F. The D.R.s proceed to Victoria, where the R.T.O. Staff allocate a reserved compartment on the special forces train, into which they load their bags and then travel with them to Dover Marine, where they supervise the further loading on to the cross-Channel boat, for which space is reserved on the top deck (try this at 20 below freezing for at least one hour's crossing!). At Calais, Signals take the spotlight as the order is announced: "War Office Couriers will be the first personnel to disembark." Having disposed of their bags at Calais S.D.O. and spent the night in the transit camp, the process is reversed with the addition of a close customs check at Dover. Nice work in the summer.

*Entertainment.* A Regimental dance was held at the Argyle Hall, North Kensington, better known as the North Kensington Swimming Baths, on Friday, 11th April. The Black and Amber Band provided an excellent programme.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess stocked and

ran the bar in lavish style, continuously serving all drinks till closing time. Our thanks to them and all who assisted, and particularly to R.S.M. Lea, Sergeant Cox, and to Sergeant Phillips, the M.C.

Any attempt at gatecrashing was discouraged by the appearance of the Swimming Bath attendant at the door. He was Fred Bloomfield, the ex-professional welterweight champion, well known to Army boxers in the Middle East during the war.

*Sport.* We are beginning to think of putting our football boots away after our first attempt at the London District League, in which we look like finishing up about half-way. Checking up and overhauling our cricket gear and buying new bats, etc., has started with enthusiasm and hopes for cricketing weather this summer.

Looking round for cricket grounds, we have managed to book up some dates at the Gas Light and Coke Company's grounds at Acton, and in Battersea Park for home games. Lords and the Oval we may try later, but our future cricket notes will tell you if we succeed.

*Departures.* R.S.M. G. S. Willcocks, 18-3-47, 51st Air Formation Signal Regiment; S.S.M. D. J. Grace, 18-3-47, 9th Armoured Brigade Signal Regiment, T.A.; S.S.M. A. E. Lee, 10-3-47, 2nd Depot Regiment; S.Q.M.S. J. Dunkley, 17-3-47, 2nd Depot Regiment; S.S.M. (Ciphers) Bradley, 7-3-47, Demobbed; Sergeant Cloughley, 24-3-47, 38th (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.; Sergeant Keay, 10-3-47, 26th (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.

*Arrivals.* R.S.M. Lea, 25-2-47, 1st Depot Regiment; S.S.M. Thomas, 26-2-47, S.C.R.; S.S.M. Symonds, 6-2-47, 1st Depot Regiment; S.Q.M.S. Scantlebury, 25-2-47, 1st Depot Regiment; S.Q.M.S. Gill, 16-3-47, 1st Depot Regiment.

Good luck to all who have left us, and a welcome to their reliefs.

## EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*April*

Owing to the introduction of a new Unit establishment, we record the departure on posting of our Commanding Officer, Major G. Mellor, and welcome his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel F. K. Morton. We all wish Major Mellor the best of luck.

We are at present in the midst of another Cadet Course. Fifty cadets of the J.T.C. and A.C.F. are with us for the next 10 days. So far, the weather has been extremely good, and, as far as can be judged, the cadets are thoroughly enjoying their stay. The only grey hairs to be seen at the moment are those of the Messing Officer and N.C.O. i/c Cookhouse, whose difficult task it is to feed them.

Two very successful dances have been held since our last Notes, one on 13th March and the other on 2nd April. As a result of these successes I have been told that the Dance Committee have gone a step further and engaged a band from Broadstairs for our next dance on 25th April. A billiards and snooker tournament was recently held for O.R.s of the Unit, and was won by the following:—Billiards: Corporal Edwards. Snooker: Signalman Sinclair.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Owing to outside activities and Easter leave, there is little to report on Mess life this month. We welcome the following, who recently joined us:—Sergeants. Everitt, Holland, Hughes, Mellish, Pyefinch, Rhodes, Thompson, Burton, Hazlehurst and Horton. We congratulate Sergeant Carter on his recent promotion to that rank.

The following have left us:—To the T.A., Sergeant Evans; Class "A" Release, S.Q.M.S. Cann, Sergeants Ginger, Selby, Wynne and Martin.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended by all personnel of No. 1 Squadron to Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Spafford on his recent marriage, and we wish him happiness on his new venture. We trust this new "engagement" will consist of very many happy years of "Colour Service."

THAMES ESTUARY AND EAST ANGLIAN COAST TROOP. We welcome another new Troop Sergeant—Sergeant Mellish, who arrived here on March 17th. Sergeant Jones, whom Sergeant Mellish relieved, has taken up a T.A. appointment in Bristol; we wish him the best of luck in his new job.

Corporal Smith has left us, going to U.H.Q. as an instructor for a few weeks prior to Overseas Posting.

Heartiest congratulations are extended to Signalman Pickering and Driver Mingay on their marriages.

Two changes have taken place at the East Anglian Coast Detachment, Corporal McNaughton, from Mauritius, replacing newly-promoted Sergeant Carter, who is posted to the Troop at Shoeburyness; and Corporal Yates replacing Corporal Giles, who is going overseas. P.M.

SHOEBURYNESS TROOP. Two marriages to report this month, both on the same day but at different spots. Congratulations to Driver Mechanic and Mrs. Liddle and to Signalman and Mrs. Carteret, who were all married on 8th February.

*Sport.* Football has been non-existent for the past two months, due, of course, to the snow, and the Garrison Football League had to be abandoned. However, a Garrison Football Knock-Out Cup has been instituted in lieu. The Troop did very well in the first round, defeating their opponents to the tune of 7—3, goals being scored by Sergeant Ramsay, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Jackson, Signalman Filer and Lance-Corporal Sephton (3).

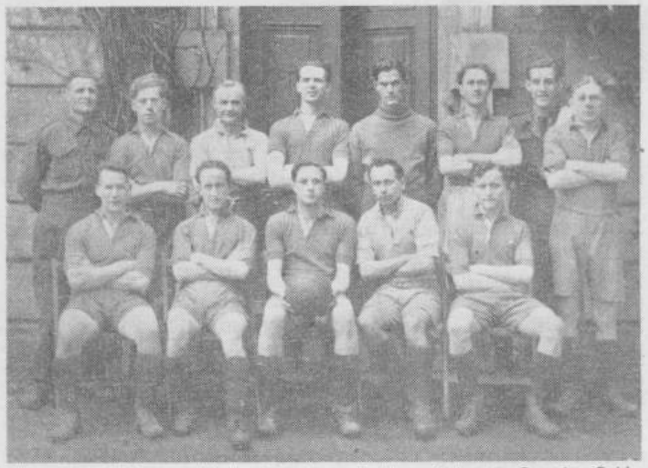
The second round was also successful to the tune of 2—1, goals being scored by Sergeant Ramsay and Signalman Filer. T. O. TEE

## WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*April*

This is to make our bow under a new name. Western Command Signals has become a Regiment and consists of three Squadrons.

Our "oldest" member is "Bert" Bevan (T.O.T.), who looks after the F.S.S. side, ably supported at Districts by



Back row (left to right): Signalmen Redden, Roberts, Captain Goble, Signalmen Law, Harris, Garner, Allen, Brown. Front row: Signalman Winters, Corporal McCall, Signalmen Holland (captain), Martin, Williams

Captain G. E. H. Diamond (ex-Gibraltar), Captain Butler in the wilds of South Wales, and Captain (T.O.M.) Rickard at Shrewsbury.

Ronnie Newman is well-known in the Corps and is looking after the M.T. side of the Unit. He still plays tennis in a way reminiscent of his championship days in Palestine.

The Unit Accounts Officer is Bernard Hayles, who has also gained many new recruits for the O.C.A., and notables in the O.R.s are W.O.II Nuttall, ex-"Rough," acting R.S.M.; the well-known Corps boxer, S.S.M. Swan, R.Q.M.S. Bradbury, C.Q.M.S. Wilson, and, last but by no means least, "Sam" Hilton, Orderly Room Sergeant.

As is right and proper, we have a considerable proportion of A.T.S. to help us.

The Unit Soccer Team has been going great guns in the Command, with Frank Goble still showing the youngsters how to play, well supported by Captain Jarvis and "Geordie" Redden.

Apart from Soccer, other Unit activities include an Amateur Dramatic Company, a Hockey Team, and our very best effort—a dance band. Incidentally, we want a couple of sax or trumpet players—any offers? The Corps Band is visiting us in May to show us how poor we are.

The Regiment will move shortly from its old home, "The Firs," to Blacon Camp, where we will have a splendid camp, with N.A.A.F.I gymnasium, dance hall, theatre and good playing fields.

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## SCOTTISH COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*April*

On 11th April, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, who was in Scotland visiting A.T.S. and other Units, paid a visit to our new Command Signal Office at Edinburgh Castle, and showed a keen interest in the lay-out, and the activities of the Signal Office personnel.

Whilst at the Castle, H.R.H. inspected an instructional model on A.S.S.U. communications, which was designed by the C.S.O. and constructed in this Unit.

On 1st April, 1947, our new establishment, which includes the personnel of the old No. 5 Command Signals, A.T.S., came into being. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of suitable combined accommodation, the A.T.S. personnel are still stationed some seven or eight miles away. This fact does not help to ease the administration problems of the Unit, and we hope that suitable premises will soon be provided. Anyhow, we offer a warm welcome to "The Girls," and look forward to happy times ahead. I rather feel our bachelor C.O. has "mixed" feelings about the "mixed" Unit. He has been a bachelor for an "awful" long time.

Forty-two cadets of the J.T.C. and A.C.F. have just left us after a nine days' course in signalling. Three separate courses were held, a senior and junior classification course, and an A.S.I. course for suitable classified signallers. Everyone here was very much impressed by the smartness, turnout and keenness of these youngsters, who put up an extremely good show. Included in the training programme were visits to the Post Office and Command Signal Office. During their stay, conducted tours were made to Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House, in addition to football, rugger, basketball and cinema shows.

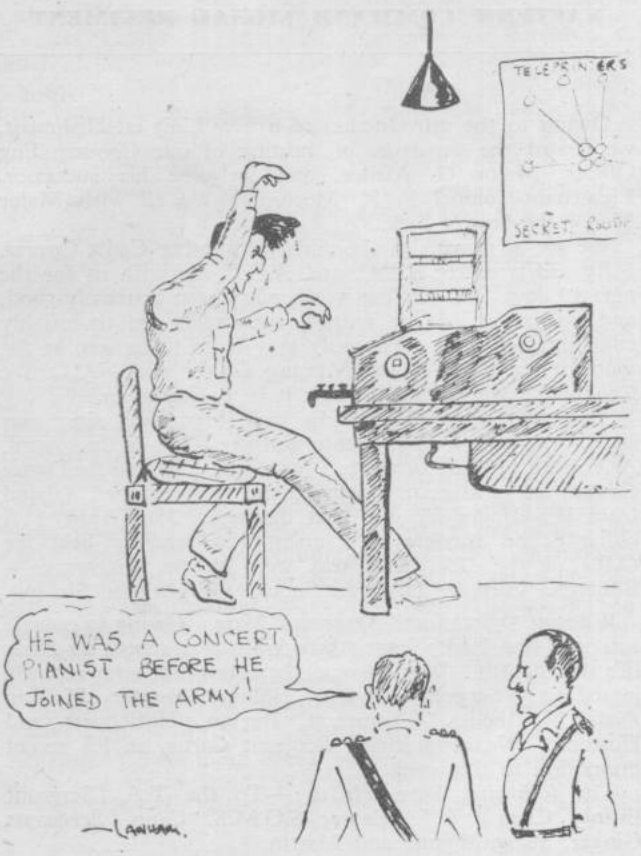
*Junior N.C.O.s' Mess.* The Junior N.C.O.s' Mess was opened at Fairmilehead Camp on 24th February, 1947. We are about 25 in number and converted the "quiet room" into a very comfortable canteen/mess, and, at the time of writing, we have installed a table tennis table and darts outfit, a wireless set and numerous comfortable armchairs. We are much indebted to Major T. Stibbs for the help he has given to starting the Mess. There is no doubt that it is a great success.

*Sport.* During the last few months the severe weather curtailed our activities on the football field, but a number of Unit games were played, sometimes in several inches of snow. A very rough ground in the next camp is at our disposal, but apart from that we have to rely on away games and an occasional allotment of a Command ground.

Congratulations to Signalman Inglis, of Lowland District Signal Troop, who in civil life plays centre-forward for Falkirk, and was selected to play centre-forward for the Army in the recent match against the French Army in Paris. He played a splendid game and scored one goal.

Basketball has become very popular in the Unit. An open-air pitch in the camp has been prepared, but it is not good enough to train players up to the standard of other Units, who are able to play in a gymnasium or on hard level pitches outdoors. An Inter-Troop League is now in progress, and league games are played on Wednesday afternoons. This competition is getting more and more popular, and some extremely keen games have been played.

Table tennis is very popular in the Unit, and is played considerably in the Sergeants' Mess, Corporals' Mess, and canteen. A Unit team of six O.R.s play in the Second Division of the Edinburgh and District Table Tennis League, and is now placed well up in the division. Home games are played in the Unit N.A.A.F.I. Restaurant and after the games the visiting teams are entertained to supper. Four of the team are taking part this month in the Midland Individual and Team Championships, and the Edinburgh and District Minor Tournaments.



# Major-General R. F. B. Naylor,

## C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, came to the Corps from the South Staffordshire Regiment, having been seconded to the Army Signal Service in 1912.

General Naylor has always been very interested in field sports, particularly in all forms of shooting and in polo. In the latter sport he figured prominently in all his overseas stations, and was Secretary of polo at both Malta and in Nigeria. He was an athlete of the first flight—having been Victor Ludorum at Charterhouse and Sandhurst. Later he won a number of events in Army athletics. In 1913 he jumped 23 feet 2½ inches at the Army Athletic Meeting, a distance which remained unbeaten in army athletics until 1945. He was also Irish Amateur Champion at the long jump and represented that country in international athletics at the long jump and hurdles. He did much to foster athletics at Maresfield, and was captain, trainer and a member of the Training Battalion athletic team which won the Inter-Unit Army Athletic Championships in 1923, '24 and '25.

*Photo by Vandyck*

Robert Francis Brydges Naylor was born in 1889, commissioned as second lieutenant in the South Staffordshire Regiment in 1909, and seconded to the Army Signal Service, the forebear of our Corps, in 1912, when he joined the 5th Divisional Signal Company in Ireland. He went to France on the outbreak of the 1914-18 war and spent nearly the whole period of the war in France and Belgium, commanding 24th Divisional Signals for two years and ending the war as Chief Signal Officer, 10th Corps. He was mentioned in despatches seven times, was awarded the Military Cross, Distinguished Service Order, Legion of Honour, and was given brevet promotion to major in 1918.

Major Naylor obtained one of the two nominations to the Staff College, Camberley, for R.E. Signals soon after the end of the war, and was straight away appointed to the staff. His first appointment, 1923-25, was that of Brigade Major, Signal Training Centre, at Maresfield. At that time the Corps and its Training Centre were struggling through their early formation troubles. The Commandant was Brigadier W. P. E. Newbiggin, one of the outstanding personalities of the Corps, and brigade majorship to him was no sinecure.

From the S.T.C., Major Naylor went to Malta as G2, coming home in 1927 to be a Senior Instructor at the School of Signals. At the end of 1928, an appointment to the Royal West African Frontier Force gave him further staff experience and a new type of soldiering, that of dealing with native troops. It also gave him opportunities for sport under the thrilling conditions of African game shooting.

On promotion in 1931, Lieutenant-Colonel Naylor was appointed to 3rd Divisional Signals, stationed at Bulford on Salisbury Plain. Speaking recently, just prior to his retirement from the Army, General Naylor said that sad as he was to be leaving the Army, the wrench was nothing like so great as the one he experienced on saying good-bye to 3rd Divisional Signals. Those who served with him in that unit know how much of himself he put into it and how happy a unit it was as a result.

In 1935 Colonel Naylor became G1 at H.Q., Scottish Command. In July, 1938, he was appointed Brigadier in charge of Administration, Western Command, being promoted Major-General in September, 1939.

In 1940, General Naylor was selected for the appointment of Major-General i/c Administration of the 1st Army, which was to have been formed in France in June, but owing to the collapse of France and return to this country of the B.E.F., the 1st Army was not then formed, and he remained on at H.Q., Western Command, until December, 1940, when he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster General to the Forces at the War Office. He subsequently became Vice Quartermaster General until October, 1943, during which period he had heavy responsibilities in the expansion and re-equipping of the Army, the maintenance of the Army at home and overseas, and administration and operational planning.

In December, 1943, he was appointed Commander, L. of C., 21st Army Group, and, after taking his share in the planning, went to Normandy to establish the L. of C. in June, 1944. He remained in command of the L. of C. whilst it expanded from the bridgehead in Normandy to Holland, during which period its strength passed 500,000.

In January, 1945, his health called for a rest, and he relinquished his command.

In May, 1945, he was appointed G.O.C. Northumbrian District, and remained in that command until he retired in September, 1946, having reached the age limit of his rank.

In December, 1944, he was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Corps, and so, although he has retired from the Army, his wealth of experience is still at our service in all matters of the Corps Committee's work.

# THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1*
*(Tel.: Victoria 9194)*

## Benevolent Fund

During March, 1947, 97 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £645 7s. 11d.

*Summary of Grants Disbursed*

| Purpose | No of Cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 29 | 181 | 11 | 2 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 11 | 47 | 1 | 6 |
| Cots and prams | 13 | 58 | 0 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 6 | 34 | 5 | 0 |
| Furniture | 7 | 53 | 4 | 0 |
| Clothing | 7 | 27 | 14 | 6 |
| Doctors' bills | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Convalescence | 2 | 14 | 10 | 0 |
| Removals | 4 | 36 | 16 | 9 |
| Travelling expenses | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 5 | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| Funeral expenses | 2 | 24 | 15 | 0 |
| Legal expenses | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Child welfare | 2 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| School fees | 1 | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Emigration assistance | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Special | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | £645 | 7 | 11 |

*Analysis*

Discharged or released soldiers, 58; widows of deceased soldiers, 8; families of soldiers serving in the U.K., 28; B.A.O.R., 2; M.E.L.F., 1.

*Donations Received for the Fund*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Signal Officer-in-Chief, India (Units in India) | 410 | 19 | 1 |
| No. 2 War Office Signals | 99 | 0 | 2 |
| Burma Command Signal Regiment | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 8th Corps District Signals | 286 | 18 | 0 |
| 5th Divisional Signal Regiment | 43 | 0 | 0 |
| 56th (L) Divisional Signal Regiment | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 43rd (W) Divisional Signal Regiment | 243 | 13 | 4 |
| 8th Air Formation Signal Regiment | 42 | 14 | 1 |
| Low Countries Signal Squadron | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| 3rd AGRA Signal Squadron | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| East Anglian Coast Signal Detachment | | 4 | 0 |
| Officers' Mess, School of Signals | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Officers' Mess, A.F.H.Q. Signal Squadron | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, No. 1 S.C.U. | 17 | 5 | 0 |
| Corporals' Mess, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 178th (Lowland) Medium Regiment, R.A. | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Birmingham Branch | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Captain A. M. H. Blair | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| D. V. Bulmer (ex-Signalman) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. I. E. E. Duke | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| Major J. E. D. Farr | | 3 | 0 |
| Major C. W. Scott | | 8 | 0 |
| Major R. Pigott | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| J. Bosi (ex-Signalman) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| H. Cherry (ex-Sergeant) | | 8 | 0 |
| Total | £1,319 | 10 | 3 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these subscriptions and donations.

## Old Comrades' Association

New members registered during the months of February and March, 1947:

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual members | 238 |
| Life members | 131 |

A new local branch has been established at Oldham, Lancs.: Hon. Secretary, G. Sherrat, Esq., Dryclough Mount, 134 Oldham Road, Royton, nr. Oldham, Lancs.

The full list is published on page 162.

## Information

*Driving Licences.* The Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Bill received Royal Assent on 18th February, 1947. The chief points to note are:

(a) Holders of provisional licences which have been in force for at least a year before 18th February, 1947, should apply for a full licence before 18th February, 1948. They will not have to take a test unless they suffer from certain physical disabilities or have been convicted of offences in connection with (i) manslaughter or causing bodily harm while driving, (ii) reckless, dangerous or careless driving, or (iii) driving under the influence of drugs or drink.

(b) Holders of provisional licences which had not been in force for 12 months on 18th February, 1947, may continue to use these licences without restriction, but when they expire they will be replaced by new provisional licences. Application for a driving test may be made at any time on a form obtainable from a General Post Office or Local Taxation Office.

(c) New provisional licences issued after 18th February, 1947, will be valid for three months only. The holder must be accompanied by an experienced driver, must use "L" plates, and must have passed a test before a full licence can be issued.

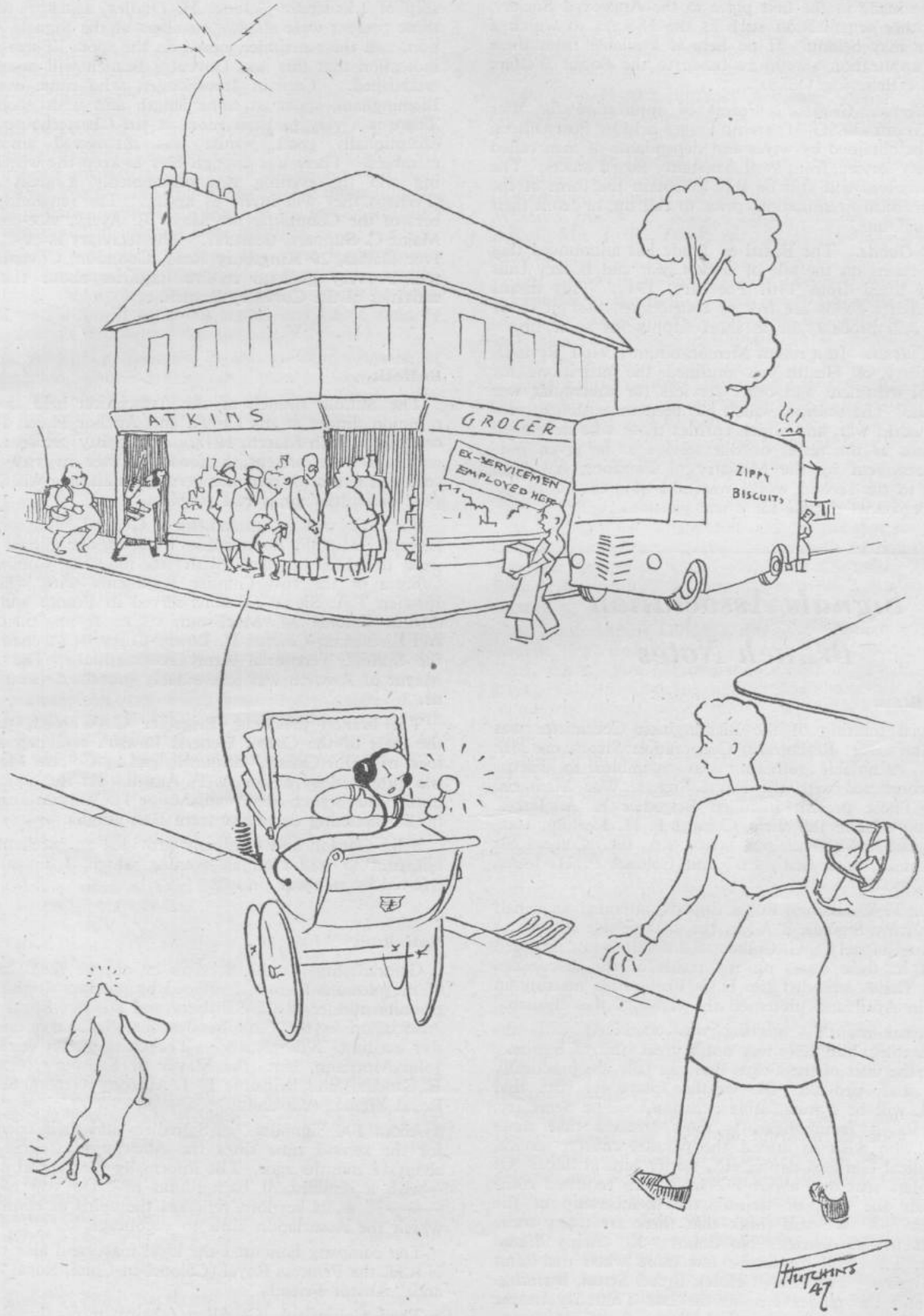
*Emigration to Australia.* It has been announced that a limited scheme for emigration to Australia will be opened on 31st March. It will be confined to those personally nominated by friends or relatives in Australia, and to persons employed in certain industries. Details of the scheme have not yet been published.

*National Insurance: Medical Attention.* Under the existing regulations a person who is insured for health insurance purposes on reaching pensionable age and is a member of an Approved Society, is entitled to the services of a panel doctor for life. If, however, he is a deposit contributor, the period of free medical attention varies with the number of contributions paid and the period of insurance. He should ascertain the position from the Ministry of National Insurance, Blackpool.

A volunteer contributor whose total income exceeds £420 a year is not entitled to free medical attention, but becomes entitled when his income falls below £420, even though he may by then have reached pensionable age.

Supplementary pensioners who require help with medical expenses should apply first to the Assistance Board and ask to be placed on the Medical Relief List of the Public Assistance Committee. A pensioner not in receipt of a supple-

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—III.*




**Signals Association**

mentary pension should apply direct to the Social Welfare Officer (or Relieving Officer).

Enquiries regarding spectacles, surgical appliances, etc., should be made in the first place to the Approved Society, or any other organisation such as the H.S.A., to which a pensioner may belong. If no help is available from these sources, application should be made to the Social Welfare Officer (or Relieving Officer).

*War Service Grants.* Forms of application for War Service Grants (WSG 21) are no longer held by Post Offices, but can be obtained by wives and dependants of men called for military service, from local Assistance Board offices. The men themselves will still be able to obtain the form at the time of medical examination, prior to call up, or from their respective Units.

*Sports Goods.* The Board of Trade has announced that the restrictions on the sale of cricket gear and hockey balls has been lifted from 14th February, 1947. This means that all sports goods are free of restrictions, though many of them will probably be in short supply for some time.

*Tuberculosis.* In a recent Memorandum (1946T Revised) the Ministry of Health has outlined the provisions for residential treatment and other services for tubercular war pensioners. The scheme, which has been in existence since the first world war, and which entitles those who developed tuberculosis as the result of war service to be given residential treatment by the Ministry of Pensions, has been extended to the second world war and now covers all ex-Service personnel eligible for a war pension.

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# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

### Birmingham

A special meeting of the Birmingham Committee was held in the Court Restaurant, Corporation Street, on 25th March. A notable gathering was assembled to discuss matters connected with the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund. Those present included Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., in the chair, Colonel P. H. Keeling, M.C., T.D., Colonel J. W. Danielsen, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Colonel Sir W. Martineau, M.A., M.C., T.D., and Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D., D.L.

Captain T. W. Baines, Royal Signals, attended on behalf of "X" Army Signals, T.A., in the unavoidable absence of Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E. It is not intended to report in these notes on the result of the discussion. Brigadier James attended the H.Q. Committee meeting in London in April and presented the views of this Branch.

The usual monthly meeting was combined with the special meeting, but there was not a great deal of business. Plans for the visit of the Corps Band in July are practically complete and, provided the weather plays its part that week-end, will be a memorable occasion. The Secretary, Captain Ralph Ironmonger, is most anxious that those members who wish to attend the parade, church service, tea, Botanical Gardens dance, etc., notify him at once. Of 500 circulars sent out, about 172 have been returned completed. At the time of writing the membership of the Branch is 730. We still think that there are many more ex-Signals in the district. No doubt "X" Army Signal Regiment, T.A., will produce a few more when that Unit begins to grow. The Crown Hotel, Broad Street, Birmingham, is still the rendezvous on the last Thursday in the month. Please keep that in mind.

R.F.B.

### Coventry

Forty ex-Signals gathered in the Charterhouse Hotel, Coventry, on the evening of 1st April, under the chairmanship of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Dudley, M.B.E. Many of those present were already members of the Signals Association, and the remainder joined on the spot. There is every indication that this new Coventry Branch will become well established. Captain Ironmonger, who came over from Birmingham, spoke at some length and with good effect. There is a very pleasant room at the Charterhouse and an exceptionally good pianist was discovered among the members. There was enough beer to keep the wheels turning and the evening was undoubtedly a great success. (Perhaps they will invite us again). The remaining members of the Committee are Major R. Avery, vice-chairman; Major C. Suppars, treasurer. The secretary is ex-C.Q.M.S. Ivor Davies, 29 Kingsbury Road, Coundon, Coventry. He will be very glad to receive inquiries about the future activities of the Coventry Branch.

R.F.B.

### Suffolk

The Suffolk Branch of the Association held their first re-union dinner at the Crown and Anchor Hotel, Ipswich, on Friday, 28th March, 1947. About fifty per cent. of the members were present, a goodly muster in view of the scattered nature of our membership in an area where transport difficulties are a real problem.

The Colonel Commandant, General Rawson, and Brigadier Murphy honoured us by being our guests, and we were delighted to have with us, too, the Commanding Officers of the two Gunner Regiments with whom the Ipswich T.A. Signal Sections served in France and North Africa, Colonel M. MacEwan, O.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., T.D., and Lieutenant-Colonel H. Lowry-Corry, M.C., chairman of the Suffolk Territorial Army Association. The Deputy Mayor of Ipswich was unavoidably prevented from joining us.

The branch president, Brigadier C. Wheeler, proposed the toast of the Corps, General Rawson replying, and the toast of "Our Guests," acknowledged by Colonel MacEwan, was proposed by Major A. P. Angell. At the close of the dinner the branch chairman, Major H. Wilson, announced his forthcoming departure from East Anglia.

Felix Gordon and Company provided an excellent entertainment to round off an evening which, I am sure, was enjoyed by all those present.

### Salisbury

Comradeship, in the Services or out of them, was one of the pleasant themes developed by speakers at the annual re-union dinner of the Salisbury and District Royal Signals Association in the Café Rendezvous, Salisbury, on Saturday evening, 29th March. The chief guests were Major John Morrison, M.P., the Mayor of Salisbury (Councillor F. Sanders) and Brigadier E. J. Murphy (General Secretary, Royal Signals Association).

About 100 Signallers, ex-Signallers and their friends met for the second time since the Association was re-formed about 18 months ago. The informally pleasant atmosphere —with a reminiscent background of "Do you remember ———?" as its keynote, reflected the spirit of comradeship which the Association aims to encourage.

The company honoured the loyal toast, and also toasts to H.R.H. the Princess Royal (Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals) and "Absent Friends."

Then Colonel A. C. Allen (chairman of the Salisbury Branch of the Association) made his annual statement,

reviewing the activities of the Branch during the past year.

On the question of securing suitable accommodation in Salisbury, Colonel Allen said this had proved extremely difficult, and up to the present none had been found. They had been allocated a sum of £400 for this purpose from the Corps Committee, and there was the possibility of their obtaining a further grant from the Committee's £30,000 fund for the provision of a club, provided their membership could be increased from its present strength of 120 to at least 250 members.

After paying a tribute to the branch officers for their good work, Colonel Allen concluded by asking for more support, drive and initiative from all members in the matter of introducing new blood to increase their numbers.

Brigadier E. J. Murphy, General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, expressed the pleasure he felt at being invited to Salisbury. He spoke of the need for the spirit of comradeship, and outlined the work which was being done by the Association's Benevolent Branch.

Mr. R. A. Brown, secretary of the Salisbury Branch of the Association, who is taking up a post in Sierra Leone, gave a short farewell address in which he thanked the members for their past co-operation and help.

A telegram of congratulation was read by the Chairman from H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

**Cardiff**

I regret the absence of Cardiff Notes in the previous issue of THE WIRE, but there was little of interest to report. Our monthly meetings have been suspended at the Drill Hall, Cardiff, *pro tem*, but these will begin again in the autumn.

By the time these notes are in print the new Welsh Signal Unit will be recruiting. It is hoped many of the old faces will be seen at their new Drill Hall.

As previously reported, I can now give the date of the annual re-union dinner. It is to be held this year on 7th June at the Carlton, Cardiff, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 7s. 6d. each. All old 53rd and 38th members please note.

*Engagements.* I have great pleasure in announcing the engagement of ex-Sergeant Bill Burton, of 38 Hirwain Street, Cardiff, to Miss Nadia Ferny, of 16 Taffs Mead Embankment, Cardiff. Signals Paris, please note.

Jock Matthew, secretary of this Old Comrades' Branch, would welcome news of Don Ellison, Jack Stone or Tich Kilford, all ex-Jubbulpore-ites.

F.A.M.

**Central Scotland**

The first annual general meeting of the Branch was held in the Douglas Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday, 19th December, 1946, at 7.45 p.m. Lieutenant-Colonel James Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., presided over a gathering of 54 members.

In the absence of the Hon. Secretary, Captain J. M. Ingram, the secretary's report was read by the Hon. Treasurer. A brief outline of the work done in welfare and re-settlement cases was given, and the figures of Branch membership stated as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| New annual members ... ... ... ... ... | 108 |
| Life members ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Transfers from other Branches ... ... ... | 6 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... | 118 |

The Branch Hon. Secretary, Captain J. M. Ingram, having recently been appointed postmaster at Alexandria, tendered his resignation. At the suggestion of the Chairman, this was accepted with much regret, and it was agreed to minute the Branch's appreciation and thanks for all his good work in the Corps and Association.

The Chairman proposed that the present Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Robert Arnot, should take over the duties of Hon. Secretary. This was seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel James Gray, M.B.E., T.D., and carried unanimously.

Mr. John Harper proposed that Mr. George Louden be appointed Hon. Treasurer, and this was seconded by Captain T. B. S. McMain, and also carried unanimously.

To facilitate the working of the Branch, the following committees were formed:—Employment and Resettlement: Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Dewar, O.B.E., Captain T. B. S. McMain, Mr. W. F. Nicol. Entertainments: Captain J. C. Adam, Mr. J. F. Todd, Mr. J. H. Harper, Mr. J. D. Morrison.

The following gentlemen were co-opted to the General Committee of the Branch, with the special object of attending to the Association's interests in the districts of Falkirk and Alloa respectively:—Captain T. B. S. McMain, Mr. John Hunter.

After a brief address from the Chair on the objects of the Association and an appeal for increased membership, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Dinner and a social evening followed.

**Aberdeen**

It is with great satisfaction and delight that we members of this Branch learn of the appointment of our old Commanding Officer as C.O., 51st/52nd (Scottish) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., one of the new T.A. Units to be formed in Aberdeen.

As Commanding Officer of the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals since early 1939 in succession to Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., inspired the highest confidence and leadership in all who served under him. We wish Colonel Murray every success in his new appointment.

A meeting of the Branch was held at Fonthill Barracks on Friday, 28th March, 1947, at 8 p.m., when the conditions of service of male officers and other ranks of the voluntary element of the post-war Territorial Army were explained. Our very energetic Chairman, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, presided, and declared the meeting an informal one. There was a large attendance.

When Colonel Reid introduced the C.O. of the new Unit, he (Colonel Murray) received a great ovation. Captain Darricotte and his permanent staff were also welcomed to "The Granite City," and before long I am sure they will be true Highlanders wearing kilt and sporran. We might tell them, too, that "the roving Scottish blade fits itself into any scabbard!"

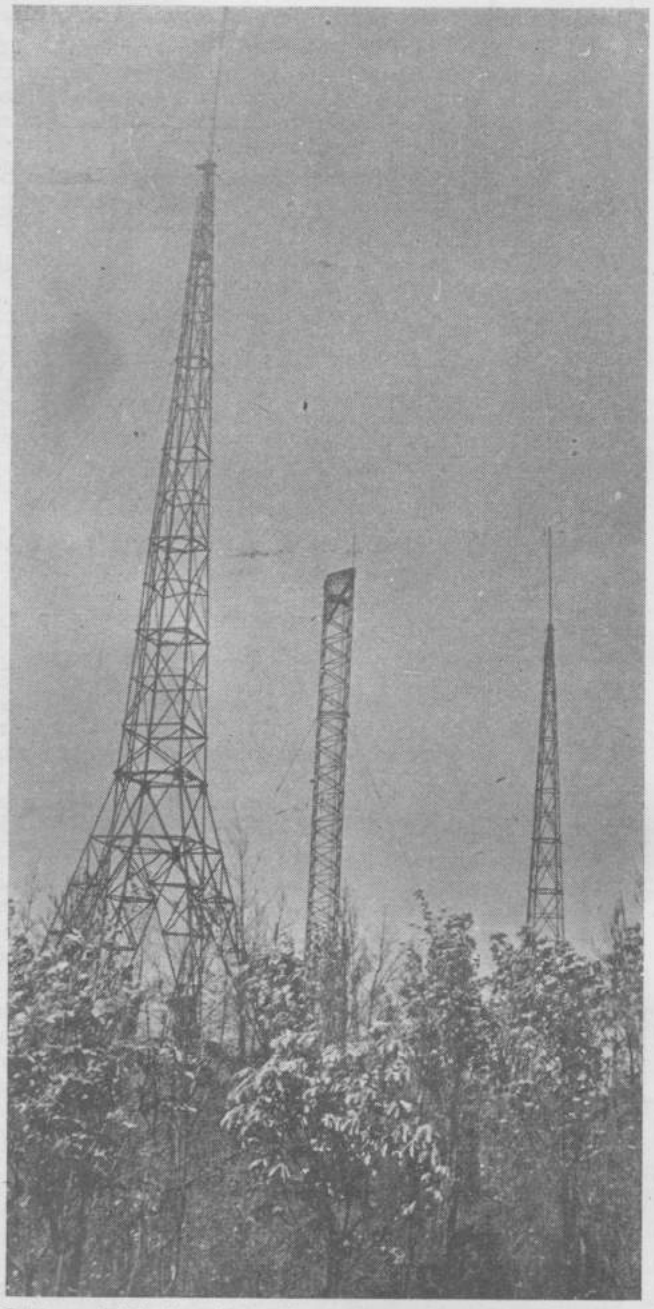
The meeting, followed by a smoking concert, finished off a grand evening, and our Vice-Chairman, Colonel Arnold, proposed a vote of thanks, after which our Chairman gave the toast of "Bon-Accord."

*Badminton.* Although the captain of the team, Mr. George Lovie, has been out of town for some time, his duties have been ably carried on by our caterer, Mr. William Garrod, and, as far as I can gather, the team is a strong one.

*Club News.* Everything is "above board" at present, and many members drop in at closing time for a quick one, which proves that our beer must be good. Wot—no whisky! Our Chairman, Major R. B. Williamson, D.S.O., although hampered by other commitments, takes a keen interest in all club activities, and his suggestions prove invaluable to us.

A. SMITH,
Club Secretary.

# *via* Imperial



Cable and Wireless Limited's station at Ongar is the biggest wireless telegraph transmitting station in the United Kingdom

DURING the past 90 years a large part of the earth's surface has been covered with a network of submarine cables providing electric telegraph services between country and country.

The total length of this world network of submarine telegraph cables is 325,000 nautical miles.

Nearly 48 per cent.—not far short of half—of this world network is controlled by the British Commonwealth through the Government-owned Cable and Wireless Company. The total length of these British cables is 155,000 nautical miles, enough to go more than six times round the earth's circumference.

This cable network has been woven during the past 79 years. The first length in the chain, 915 miles long, was laid under the Mediterranean between Malta and Alexandria in 1869.

Forty-six years ago Marconi first spanned the Atlantic by wireless. Gradually wireless telegraph services grew up to complement the cable network. In 1929 the two were woven together in a single unit.

The total length of cable and wireless routes in this world-wide network to-day is 355,000 miles, equal to more than 14 times round the world.

Telegrams containing an aggregate of about 1,750,000 words pass over this "*via* Imperial" network every day. The Cable and Wireless Central Telegraph Station, Electra House, Victoria Embankment, uses about 438,000,000 feet of telegraph slip in a year.

"Cable-Chasing"—following a telegram from place to place from transmission to reception—over such a world-wide network can be a fascinating geographical game.

Suppose first that the message is being sent by submarine cable. From London it will travel by telegraph wire across southern England until it reaches the Cable and Wireless cable-head at Porthcurno, a tiny village lying in a charming bay near Land's End in Cornwall. Passing through the Company's underground station—built in a tunnel for safety during the war—it continues through the cable hut on the beach and so under the sands until the cable comes out on the ocean bed. Now it may follow one of several routes.

It may travel 2,200 miles straight under the Atlantic to Harbour Grace in Newfoundland. Here a skilled operator watches it as it passes automatically into a landline which runs another 2,500 miles across Canada. Letter prefixes to the telegram in London warn him that it is for Australia, and he switches it through. At Bamfield, Vancouver, on the other side of Canada, it passes similarly into another submarine cable which goes under the Pacific to Fanning Island, 3,458 nautical miles away — this, in fact, is the longest submarine cable in the world. From Fanning Island it by-passes the Samoa Islands and goes through Suva, the capital of Fiji, where it is again watched and switched automatically through by a skilled engineer. Then, through Norfolk Island, it crosses to Brisbane, and is in Australia. From Brisbane a coastal cable takes it southward to Sydney, whence, piped into a landline, it arrives at last in Melbourne.

But perhaps that London-Canada-Pacific route is overloaded when the time comes to send the telegram, so it may be sent by another route.

It may travel from Porthcurno south-westwards to the Azores, thence southwards to the Cape Verde Islands, and then curve south-eastwards to Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. From there it will pass to St. Helena and on to Capetown, where it will be piped by landline across South Africa to Durban. From Durban it will cross the Indian Ocean, passing successively through Mauritius, Rodrigues and Cocos Island to Perth in Western Australia, thence by a coastal cable to Adelaide and then by landline to Melbourne.

Yet another possible cable route will take it from Porthcurno southwards to Carcavelos in Portugal, and then between the Pillars of Hercules to Gibraltar, whence it goes

under the Mediterranean, passing through Malta (the George Cross Island) to Alexandria. A short landline will carry it on to Suez, whence it goes by submarine cable south-eastwards under the Red Sea to Aden. From Aden it may go southwards to Seychelles and Mauritius, and then follow the Rodrigues, Cocos, Perth, Adelaide route; or it may cross to Colombo and then to Penang and Singapore in Malaya. From Singapore it will cut down to Batavia in Western Java, and thence by landline to Banjoewangie on the eastern tip of this Netherlands East Indian island. From Banjoewangie it will travel under the sea to Port Darwin, on the tip of Northern Australia, and then 1,800 miles across the sub-continent by landline to Adelaide and Melbourne.

The journey of a telegram to Australia by various possible cable routes is only an example of what can be done. There are 200 Cable and Wireless stations in some 70 countries; nearly 12,000 men and women of 57 different nationalities administer and operate the system.

But the telegram may be sent "*via* Imperial" wireless. In that case, it will go by landline from the Central Telegraph Station in London to be "pumped" into the ether from one of the Company's two outlying transmitting stations at Ongar, Essex, and Dorchester, Dorset.

The impulses are first fed through wires to an aerial array facing the country to which the message is to be sent. Sixty miles or more above the earth the wireless waves strike the "ionosphere." There they are reflected sharply back to the earth, whence they bounce back to the ionosphere. And so the message goes on its 10,300-mile journey in a series of short hops, until it comes down on an aerial, say, in Australia, tuned-in to receive it.

The conditions of the ionosphere vary from day to night and from season to season; so, at some time each day—since it is night time in Australia when it is day time over here, and some times each year, since it is winter in Australia when we are having summer in Britain, the direct "beam" fades. At such times a message may go westwards from Britain to Barbados in the West Indies, where it is strengthened and then relayed to Australia. At other times it may be sent eastwards to Colombo in Ceylon, where it is also strengthened and relayed. Usually, by using these various routes, Cable and Wireless can maintain wireless connection with Australia for about 22 hours out of 24; at other times, the "beam" may fade for a long period. But if necessary the message can always go by one or other cable route, and the telegraph service "*via* Imperial" is kept going.

For many years it has been possible to telegraph pictures over long distances by wireless. The picture to be sent is fixed round a drum which not only revolves but also moves from left to right along a spindle. A tiny point of light is reflected on it, and the strength of this light varies according to the tones of the picture; the light is dimmer for the darker parts and brighter for the lighter. Inside the machine the ray operates a photo-electric cell, which turns it into electric impulses, which go out over the wireless in a manner similar to the impulses of an ordinary message. At the receiving end, perhaps 10,300 miles away in Australia, the incoming wireless waves are transformed into electric impulses which, in turn, through a photo-electric cell, are turned into light. This light is then reflected on a sensitised photographic film, on which it prints down the picture in facsimile—that is, just as it was at the transmission station. The film is then developed and printed in the ordinary way. It takes only about 6 to 10 minutes to send a picture measuring 10 x 6 inches. Pictures can be sent in this way between London on the one hand, and, on the other, New York, Montreal, Buenos Aires, Capetown, Melbourne, Colombo, Bombay, Moscow, Stockholm, Berne and Malta; they can also be sent from Jerusalem to London.

The British Commonwealth oversea telegraph system

(*continued on next page*)

A general view showing the site of the "Blue Train" (Telcom Mobile Unit No. 1), the mobile wireless station of Cable and Wireless Limited, Naples, 1945

The Istanbul circuit in the London Station of Cable and Wireless Limited, at Electra House, Victoria Embankment. An operator of the company can be seen reading morse slip

Electra House, Victoria Embankment, London, headquarters of Cable and Wireless Limited, before it was hit by a flying bomb on the 24th July, 1944

# British Army of the Rhine

## No. 32 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Plön

*April*

We are a little late in coming on net, but as we only came into being (officially) two months ago we have been pretty busy sorting ourselves out and have not until now been presentable enough to appear in public, as it were, on these pages.

Although a brand new Unit, we can claim to be of good family and with certain traditions, for we are, in fact, the offspring of none other than the Guards Divisional Signal Regiment. Our formation—H.Q. Schleswig Holstein Sub Area—was formed when the famous Division disbanded and our Squadron, commanded by Major T. H. Dalton (Shabaash, Indian ranks!), was born on 1st February, 1947, as "C" Independent, and on 18th February became 32 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron.

The majority of our chaps came from the Guards Division, so although the old "eye" has given place to the blue cross on a yellow shield, we still pride ourselves in being "clean, bright and slightly oiled" (*non sic*) at all times, and the cry of "Up, Guards, and frat 'em!" will get you a thick ear any Saturday night at the "Fegetasche," so don't try it!

Our area is the whole of Schleswig Holstein and our commitments are therefore fairly extensive, particularly the line side, which is in the capable hands of Captain R. S. (Jock) Cathmoir. Our D.R.s jeeps may be encountered anywhere between Kolding, in Denmark, and Hamburg, and during the recent frosts and blizzards they performed great feats of endurance on the longer runs — sometimes taking as much as 30 hours to cover 160 miles — but by digging, towing, pushing and praying (or swearing?) they got through in a way which earned them a great reputation.

The great freeze-up has put the damper on practically all forms of sport until now. Even skating was impossible with four inches of frozen snow on the ice.

Our miniature rifle club, managed by Corporal Griffiths, of 165 D.R. Troop, has been getting in plenty of practice, and is ready to start throwing out challenges.

The Dirt Track team, under Captain J. de C. (Jimmy) Ozanne, are beginning to tune up their machines, and look forward to a good season.

Arrivals and departures are, alas, too many and too frequent to mention, due to demob. We find space, however, to bid farewell to S.S.M. F. Barrett, bound for sunnier climes. Some of us envy him, others don't, but we all wish him God-speed and all the best.

Congratulations to Captain H. S. Reynolds on obtaining his Short Service Commission and to Sergeant Lord, M.M., for signing on for a regular engagement.

ABU SHAWARIB

## VIA IMPERIAL

(*continued from previous page*)

really dates back to 1872, when Mr. John Pender, known as the "Cable King" because he was the leading man in nearly all cable enterprise at that time, formed four small existing companies into one big company known as the Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd. Other companies were formed, and the group became known as the Eastern and Associated Telegraph Companies.

In 1872, when they were formed, they owned 1,000 miles of cable, or one-seventh of the world's total. In 1922, when the Eastern companies celebrated their jubilee, they owned 130,000 miles of cable out of a world total of 195,000. Mr. Pender's grandson, Sir John Pender, was head of the business in 1922.

In 1928, the Imperial Wireless and Cable Conference decided to unify the Empire's oversea telegraph services, including the Eastern cables, Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, and the cable and wireless services operated by the United Kingdom and Empire governments, under one company, Imperial and International Communications, Ltd. Five years later this name was changed to Cable and Wireless, Ltd.

In 1946 the British Government passed the Cable and Wireless Act, under which the British Treasury took over the remaining £27,400,000 of capital, and on 1st January, 1947, the whole Company passed under the control of the British Treasury. This was part of an Empire-wide scheme under which the governments of the Dominions and India were to take over the telecommunications in their own countries, and then the whole lot were to be co-ordinated by a Commonwealth Telecommunications Board, so that the system throughout the world could be co-ordinated and welded once more into a single network.

## HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

*March*

At long last we feel it is time we assumed our old position among the pages of THE WIRE, under our new title of Hamburg District Signal Squadron.

Amid the ever changing order of our lives, old and new faces swinging by in swift parade, three remain constant to us. These, Major L. H. Caldicott, M.B.E., Captain J. Evans, M.C., and Lieutenant McPhail, are all we have managed to salvage from the swirl of demob. and cross-postings. We welcome as new arrivals Captains Anthony, Tupper and McMullen.

The Squadron was given a long looked forward to treat on Monday, 10th March, as the Band of The Royal Corps of Signals played sweet music at a tea dance which was held in the barracks; part of the programme was broadcast over the British Forces network. In the evening at the Hamburg Broadcasting Hall, the band again did full justice to their title as the best regimental band in existence; a selection of light and classical music being excellently rendered to the delight of the majority of the Squadron and their friends, to whom a special invitation had been issued. Part of this programme was also broadcast.

The Band, due to leave Phillips Barracks at 0930 hrs. Tuesday, was held up until early afternoon by heavy snow drifts which bogged their transport, in spite of numerous efforts to get them on their way. However, we learn that they arrived at 4th Armoured Brigade in time for their evening dance. As a result of their efforts everyone is looking forward to the Band's next visit to Hamburg, when it is hoped that the Squadron will again be honoured by their company.

The Squadron is now situated just outside the city, sharing a large and very modern barracks with two companies of Sappers, one company of The Rifle Brigade, and a company of A.T.S. Signals. Our camp staff is none

other than R.S.M. Baker, S.S.M. Peck and S.S.M. Downie, all old members of the Corps, and whose place would take a lot of filling should they be taken from us. The same can be said for S.S.M. Godwin, who is still with us and who is looking forward to and getting prepared for the coming cricket season, when he hopes to produce a team strong enough to lick the pads off all-comers.

We welcome the following families who have recently joined us, and sincerely hope that they will enjoy their stay amongst us, as everything in our power has been done to make them as comfortable as possible. They are: Mrs. Caldicott and family, Mrs. Godwin and family, Mrs. Smith and family, Mrs. Mitchell and family, and Mrs. Dawkes and family. We also hope that Mesdames Baker, Peck and Downie will have a good journey over next month, and that by then weather conditions will have improved.

Owing to the shortage of fuel, the city has been on restricted electricity supplies, consequently we have had light or power on two or three days a week only. However, thanks to our friend, Major Reeder, of the Sappers, we have managed to keep on the lights of the N.A.A.F.I. and Red Shield Clubs. All ranks, therefore, are more than grateful for the assistance which has been given.

In spite of all difficulties, work is going on as usual, the Signal Office and D.R. Staff taking everything in their stride. Our O.W.L. training programme is showing excellent results, all that is now required being live links on which to give all trainees a final polish.

This is a brief summary, and we hope in the future to give you more details of life with Hamburg District Signal Squadron.

## 42 GARRISON SIGNAL TROOP

### Brussels

*April*

In this, our first contribution, it would be wise to inform our readers of our origin, and perhaps explain why Signals are still in Belgium so long after the liberation.

At the end of 1945 there were two L. of C. Signal Regiments, namely the 13th and 17th (Cheshire Yeomanry) to maintain communications in the Low Countries.

Early in 1946 the 13th were disbanded and the 17th took over the remaining commitments. A gradual scaling down saw the 17th disbanded in July, 1946, and the Low Countries Signal Squadron was formed from the remaining personnel, with its H.Q. in Brussels, and a detached Troop at the Hook of Holland. Further demands for economy in manpower resulted in the disbandment of Low Countries Signal Squadron and the formation of two Garrison Signal Troops, namely 41 at the Hook of Holland to cover such Signal commitments that remained in Holland, and 42 in Brussels to cover Signal commitments in Belgium.

The two Troops are operationally under the command of O.C. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, whose H.Q. is in Munster, but due to the great distance from this H.Q. the Troops are virtually independent.

42 Garrison Signal Troop was formed, and is at present commanded by Captain T. H. Luscombe, who sends his greeting to all other "ex-Rats" of the Corps.

Our main commitments are: Signal office, a trunk exchange and line maintenance in the area.

The Signal Office serves the local Garrison, the British Military Mission to Belgium, and scattered Units all over Belgium. The S.D.S. Dept. maintains a daily run to the Hook of Holland, as we are their only clearance.

The Brussels Military Trunk Exchange still exists and comes under the control of the Troop. Until 1st April it was the only outlet from Belgium to Germany, and quite a large amount of telephone traffic was handled for specially authorised civilian organisations and private firms. On 1st April international telephone circuits between Belgium and Germany were set up by transferring military circuits to the Civil Trunks Exchange. The large volume of traffic went through these lines and we are now planning to close the Military Trunks.

The line maintenance has steadily decreased as we have implemented the policy of connecting as many subscribers as possible to the civil networks. The call for economy results in Units constantly "closing up" and the inevitable demand on Signals for fresh communications, so that we are still kept quite busy.

Apart from a few stores dumps which are in the process of being liquidated, Claims and Hirings, and the Graves

"Do you have anything on the psychological treatment of civilians by released Servicemen?"

Registration Units, the main reason for the existence of everyone here in Brussels is the fact that it is an official leave centre serving B.A.O.R. The operation of a leave centre calls for leave accommodation, pay services, provost, and, of course, the inevitable town guard room. All these in turn call for their service, and so the build-up goes on until we find a complete Garrison H.Q. to administer the whole scheme. The Garrison H.Q. plus the other Units need their communications, so here we are.

Life is very pleasant but expensive here in Brussels. Being surrounded by plenty but without the necessary cash to purchase some, can be very depressing at times, and the Troop make very good use of the facilities provided by N.A.A.F.I. These are limited, of course, and we are concentrated in the Montgomery Club, which no doubt many of our readers already know. It is very austere compared to the "Monty" of the old days. The popular Army custom of getting one's feet under the table is followed by quite a few members of the Troop. Some lucky fellows have their families here with them, so on the whole we are quite a happy Troop.

"BRUXELLOIS"

# PLAIN *Tales*

### *Our White Paper*

It has been said that our serial story is all "bunk," that the so-called detective never discovers anything, and that we fail to produce real facts and figures. We resent this. From Algiers to the Austrian border *via* Tunis and Sicily, the slogan has always been "Bulow for Information."

Who advised the Government where to land in Algeria? Who told the Commanders how to take Longstop? Who instructed the 8th Army on fighting a battle in the mountains? Need we tell you who explained the jokes in the UNION JACK to "M" Section?

And talking of figures, when Leda Lepri called at our office with a basket of hot chestnuts, who was it——

Uncle Alf: That will do.

Me: Oh, it's you again, is it?

Anyway, let's hear no more of it. Get a load of these figures for a start:—

☆

### *Balance Sheet*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Battleaxe Division. Number ... ... ... | 78 | Divisional Cmdrs. car wrecked by A.D.C. Times ... ... ... | 4 |
| Signals formed from Division ... ... ... | 48 | Average attendance at Royal York Hotel, Campobasso ... ... | 172 |
| Landed North Africa | 1,942 | Angelina (Phone No.) | 1,981 |
| Week-ends in Tunis ... | 1 | To' calling batman in morning ... ... ... | 476 |
| Working days per week | 7 | Battles lost ... ... ... | 0 |
| Times Base wallahs ask "What's that sign mean?" ... ... | 4,718 | Mugs of tea for Signals C.O. ... ... | 4,160 |
| | | Balance of Q.M.s c/fwd to "X" Army Signals ... ... | 1 |
| | 6,794 | | 6,794 |

You see? It works out exactly right. The camera cannot lie.

☆

### *Don't forget Godiva*

A Branch of the Signals Association was formed at Coventry on 1st April, 1947. See Association Notes, and if you are resident in the Coventry area get in touch with the Secretary there. We were privileged to attend the inaugural meeting, and although it was 1st April, we were no fools. This new Branch is going to be good.

☆

### *They Never Die*

What a shock it was to find, after a feverish search, that Signals Association Notes were very absent from the March WIRE. Printers and publishers, not to mention Editors, have had many extra headaches during the past few months, and we feel that all concerned must have been worried a little when it came to the point where they had to decide whether or not to print notes from such a large section of WIRE readers as the Association Branches possess. We are glad we didn't have to make that decision. But—etc., etc.

Uncle Alf: You can't start a sentence with "but."

Me: Listen, pal. We can do anything. We have even perfected a device for splitting infinitives.

☆

### *Progress*

Much to our surprise accommodation has been found for the permanent staff allotted to "X" Army Signal Regiment, Birmingham. People must be getting kinder. Arrivals to date are R.S.M. V. C. Brassfield, Sergeants W. Hade, J. Beautyman, F. Williams, F. Finney, N. Jones, Corporals E. Hatt and W. Chandler.

Plumbers, carpenters, glaziers, plasterers and lesser workmen are beginning to swarm over the Drill Hall. A good sign. Water squirts in all directions. They tested the plumbing to see if it worked. It didn't. They tried the central heating to find the bursts. They found them. Fortunately, the Secretary of our T.A. Association is a great believer in "getting something started." It is to be hoped that all departments concerned with the revival of the Territorial Army are keeping in line. If the people who hold the purse strings fall behind, there will be trouble. Few people do useful things for the fun of it these days, more's the pity. Builders are certainly no exception. So also are plumbers neither, if you see what we mean. Which is unlikely.

☆

### *The Clue of the Solid Tube*

Ukann Larfe opened the door and admitted Inspector Faceache, of the C.I.D. "Detective" was written all over him. He kept his hat on. "What's all this 'ere?" asked the Inspector, straightening his old Harrovian tie. Ukann Larfe nodded towards Jim the Snake, who was now sitting up on the rug eating cream crackers with one hand and nursing two bullet holes in his forehead with the other.

"Tough guy, eh?" asked Ukann proudly.

Lord Elpas, who had up to this point maintained a brooding silence, shifted his weight from one foot to the other, and sniffed. "Huh," he said finally. The Inspector made a note of this in his note-book, watched carefully by Ukann Larfe, who was still wearing his hat back to front. Nobody noticed this.

A sudden crash sent them all swiftly to the window. They gazed moodily into the street and watched the crowd gather round Inspector Faceache's car, or rather what used to be his car before Hermione decided to park her Buick on his windscreen. None of them saw Jim the Snake slide furtively through the library door. None of them saw him join a slim black-clad feminine figure in the massive hall. What a mystery! What suspense! We can hardly wait to tell you. Confidentially, we don't know what's going on ourselves.

Enter chorus of little Vehicle Mechanics (B.2), in blue and white tights, singing "Here we go gathering Nuts and Bolts."

BARLEUX

# Other Overseas Stations

## 8th ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Klagenfurt

*April*

*General.* To late members of the Regiment and other colleagues in the Corps, we apologise for our belated appearance in these columns.

Despite the ever-changing faces within the Regiment, it seems we can still boast a higher proportion of the original "Desert Rats" than most other Units in the area. During Field Marshal Montgomery's visit to B.T.A. last autumn, of the total eleven all ranks who had served under him and were presented to him, five came from this Unit and had the honour of a conversation with him.

Operational commitments of the Regiment are now mainly confined to the Signal Offices in Klagenfurt and Vienna, serving B.T.A. and Allied Commission of Austria (British element) respectively. Line construction and maintenance continue to feature in our activities, though to a gradually lessening degree.

At Semmering, on the Anglo-Russian zone frontier, we have what is believed to be the only 10 Set Detachment in the Army operating at the present time. It is operated by No. 1 Wireless Carrier Troop and provides radio speech channels to Vienna.

We have three Squadrons to fulfil these various tasks, Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons in Klagenfurt and No. 2 Squadron in Vienna. In addition, the Special Air Formation Signal Squadron, from Italy, has recently arrived to take over commitments on the Klagenfurt and other Austrian airfields. It is at present sharing accommodation of No. 1 Squadron, and we take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to the O.C., Major C. L. Blyth, and all under his command.

*Personalities.* As with all Units, there is a constant stream of arrivals and departures of personnel, and it is impossible to give them all individual mention here.

Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Lyddon, joined us last autumn. He has put the Regiment on a more regular basis as regards both work and sport. He is an ardent supporter of sport in all its forms, and is himself the Unit's Sports Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel (now Major) F. W. Stoneman, M.B.E., the previous C.O., has left the Regiment to take up his new appointment at Frohnleiten to command an independent wireless Squadron.

A recent arrival, Captain J. R. Bow, has assumed the duties of Adjutant. His predecessor, Captain W. Sell, one of the Unit's "Desert Rats," has taken charge of the Signal Office.

Still a familiar figure in the Regiment is R.S.M. Pfeiffer, who continues to keep order in the camp.

A great friend to all the Regiment, Padre Frazer is due to leave us shortly, and there is no doubt we shall miss him in very many ways.

*Training.* A comprehensive programme has been evolved and training is going ahead in full swing throughout the Unit. Officers have not been overlooked—they meet every Tuesday at No. 3 Squadron Mess and learn most things the Army has to teach.

At present, courses are being run for drivers, D.R.s, linemen and operators, and Boards sit regularly for up-grading of personnel in all trades.

*Ski-ing.* In the B.T.A. Championship held at Leoben from 13th to 15th February, the Signals team gained third place.

Outstanding competitors in the Signals team were Second-Lieutenant Leyland, who was the winner of the Novices' Championship and the Novices' Downhill, and second in the Slalom; Sergeant Sagel put up the team's best performance in the Downhill Race and Open Slalom.

*Boxing.* A large crowd assembled in the Stadt Theatre in Klagenfurt on 26th March to watch 8th Army Signal Regiment beat the Royal Ulster Rifles in the final of the 38th Irish Brigade Novices' Inter-Team Competition.

*Rugby.* We have just succeeded in beating the Somerset Light Infantry by 37—0 in the B.T.A. League. The team will now go to Udine in Italy to play the Scots Guards in the C.M.F. Championship on 12th April.

## MALTA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Malta

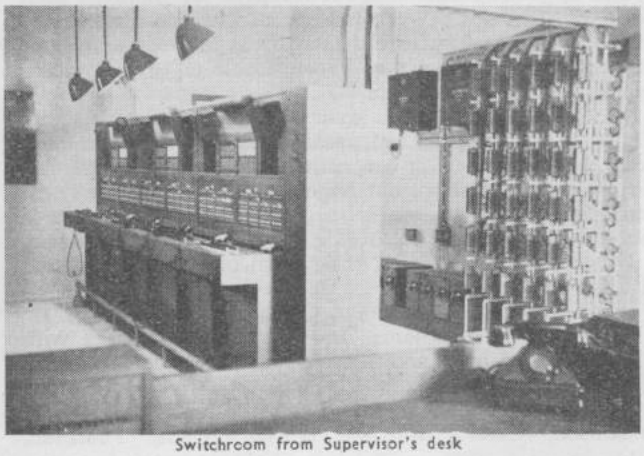
*March*

*General.* During February, large numbers have taken a spell at home, mainly because of L.I.A.P., and this has meant that the remainder have to get down to it and do a spot of work. However, it has been done very cheerfully and we are looking forward to an easing up when they return. It has meant, though, that some of the not so official activities have had to retire into the background.

*Fortress Exchange.* As mentioned in previous notes, the main Army Administrative Exchange is now a 360-line unit type WD magneto switchboard housed in a surface building that was erected close to the main junction of the existing underground cable routes. The M.D.F. of the previous Fortress Exchange served as a main test point for through circuits (*i.e.*, circuits not connected to Fortress Exchange). The new M.D.F. had, therefore, to provide the same facilities, and to do this it had to accommodate some 1,500 pairs. The change-over was accomplished by tee-d joints on the south and west-bound routes and by temporary tie cables, old M.D.F. to new M.D.F., to carry out the north-bound routes.

The disconnecting plugs on the protectors on the new M.D.F. were withdrawn at 1350 hours on 4th November, 1946, and the rush hour traffic commencing at 1400 hours was served by the new switchboard. Teething troubles were few, and the old board, a 400-line G.E.C. magneto, went out of service at 1415 hours.

*Sport.* Our Army Junior League soccer team finished up



Switchroom from Supervisor's desk

about half-way down the list, but this is not so poor as one may imagine, since the team really never was made up of the same players for each of the games played. Considering our strength in numbers and the great pressure of work, our team is to be congratulated on their effort.

For those who have interest in it, one of the local sports clubs—the Marsa—has acquired some excellent horses, available for hacking and polo. All ranks are welcome to use these horses, that is, if their interest is great enough to overcome any reluctance to pay the fee for hiring them.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* It will be interesting to all ex-members to know that the Mess has now returned to its original quarters. The last quarters are used as Unit Billiards and Games Rooms.

The strength of the Mess is now almost down to pre-war level, and some of the old hands are still with us. Our strength of eleven comprises the following: S.S.M. Sharpe, S.Q.M.S. Buchanan, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Broun-Saul, Sergeants Blow, Cummings, Leach, Wood, Bellamy, Bayfield, Edwards and Smith.

## 3rd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Beit Daras, Palestine

*April*

Housing problems are not confined to the U.K. Owing to the shortage of accommodation here, we have, since our arrival in Palestine, been struggling with the problem of a split personality; apart from the fact that our tail, as one may say, is in Egypt while one hand is outstretched to Jerusalem, our central being, in the form of No. 1 and H.Q. Squadrons, is unhappily divided between two camps some six miles apart by road. Our more lofty mental portion—the operational one, we mean—is at Beit Daras; it consoles itself for the lower standard of cookery by having plenty of hot showers and wearing the aura of association with the Staff. Our more earthy, but possibly more basic, half lives at Julis, where water and drains are still scarce, but where there is a first-class cookhouse and cookhouse staff. It is regrettable to record that many of the lofty half take any chance of nipping over to Julis for the low pleasure of getting a really good meal. Possibly simply because they have been reading Napoleon's dictum about an army and its stomach.

Palestine has certainly brought us more on to our toes; this is the natural effect of having an operational role. But there is something disturbing in the very air of Palestine. It is charged with the potential of mental conflict, which may at any time flash out into physical violence, and that has its effect even on us whose task it is to keep the peace.

Like all other formations out here, the Division has been bereft of its wives. We commiserate with all the married members of the Unit who have been affected, and hope that more peaceful times will soon enable us to enjoy some feminine society once more.

We say good-bye and all good luck to Mrs. C. G. Moore, the wife of our C.O., evacuated to U.K. by Government order. We shall miss her active interest in the Signals Benevolent Association, but hope that all our members will realise the usefulness of this organisation and continue to give it their full support.

Others departing during the month of March, to whom also we wish a happy future in Civvy Street, are Captain P. E. S. Coombs, our adjutant, Captain R. Gabriel, E.M.E., Sergeants Adams, Malone, Orpe and Wain, together with the rest of Group 48; and in their place we welcome Captain Daniels, R.E.M.E., Second-Lieutenants Hayers, T. C. Pike and B. C. Pike, Signalmen Lambert, Warner, Jameson, Dickinson, Green, Burrows, Bowell, Avent, Thornton, Whitehead, Lindsay, Warr, Bird and Stevens, Drivers Gillings, Lucas, Wickman, Bright, Jones and Korneham, not forgetting Staff-Sergeant Morshead and Craftsman Lawton, of R.E.M.E.

*Congratulations.* Tardy ones to Captain B. J. Anderson on the award of a Divisional Commander's Commendation Card.

Our sympathy is extended to Signalman Edgington, who was severely injured in the course of duty, but who is making good progress towards recovery.

## No. 1 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Palam

*March*

Quite an event to see the Corps Magazine again in print; may its shadow never grow less!

*Congratulations.* May we offer our sincerest congratulations to Colonel B. S. Watkins on the honour of the award of the C.B.E. We feel it is also an honour to Indian Air Formation Signals.

All members of Air Formation Signals in 1942 will remember his terrific task as C.A.F.S.O. in raising this new Formation in India. We have memories of C.A.F.S.O.s Staff Courses, too. Shades of the "parish"!

Congratulations also to Subadar Major Mohd Hussain, I.S.C., recipient of the O.B.I. Five now, Sahib?

*General.* Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. E. Johnson has left us to join Staff College, Camberley. We wish him the best of luck for the future and hope he will remember us when on the Staff. Mrs. Johnson will be missed, too, for her fine work in connection with the welfare of Indian families in the Unit.

Lieut-Colonel F. W. Mulholland, M.B.E., has taken over command of the Unit and has now settled in.

The B.O.R. portion of the Unit is gradually dwindling, due to nationalisation and repatriation. Quite a number of B.O.R.s are leaving us for the Land of Queues, Snow and Electricity Cuts. Good luck to all those who are time-ex; do not forget THE Corps.

We send our salaams to Major J. E. J. Perkins, somewhere

"I told you not to bring the perishin' thing in 'ere"

in Belgium, and to let him know his No. 3 has finally gone and only No. 1 and No. 5 remain.

D.A.D.O.S. carried out his annual inspection of the Unit and was pleasantly surprised with the turn-out of the Sikh Section (212 Line) and also the N.C.s E. He congratulated Jemadar Pritam Singh and Jemadar (Q.M.) T. Perumal on the turn-out of their respective Sections.

Captain (Q.M.) "Tich" Hamlin was seen taking the air in Calcutta recently, prior to proceeding to Mhow.

We wonder how "Dicky" Drake is keeping and how long will it be before his cartoons appear in THE WIRE.

We hear that 23rd Indian Divisional Signals have regrets at leaving Java, but not entirely due to the mountains, or the Indonesians, working peacefully in the paddy fields.

*Football.* Despite many offsets, the football team has done well this season, playing in the Palam, R.A.F. "A" League; well in the lead before the posting scourge commenced over Christmas, taking Boden and Hunt. Now L.I.A.P. has borrowed Tillesdley, Small, Cook and, we hear, Avery.

Nevertheless, the league has not yet finished, and we are still having some good matches, at the same time hoping another "Boden" chances to be posted to the Unit, B.O.R. strength of which is only 40 strong.

At present we are two points behind the leading team. There's a chance yet!

## No. 5 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Bangalore

*March*

After the "Black-out" period in the history of our Corps Magazine, all the regular officers and men of our Unit are glad to see it under full publication again. For those of us who did not know of its previous existence, it came as a pleasant surprise to find that our Corps had such an interesting magazine appearing as a monthly issue.

Here in Bangalore, and scattered all over Southern India during the war, our Unit has seen very little of the war, except perhaps the results of its hard work and tireless efforts to keep communications for the R.A.F. at peak efficiency. We had at least to be content in the knowledge that other Units of Air Formation Signals had done such sterling work both in the European and Asiatic battle areas.

The Unit has passed through the able hands of several Commanding Officers, and is now commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. S. Gray, who will no doubt be remembered for his hockey proficiency by many of us. Major A. J. B. Gilmour, our Second-in-Command, is another regular soldier, and has been with us for almost a year. A figure well remembered by many will be that of Captain (Q.M.) C. H. Parker, who unfortunately will shortly be leaving us to have another look at the White Cliffs.

Some may recognise faces in the photograph of our Unit football team, taken before the match in which they defeated a strong team from 515th Command Workshops.

During February of last year we welcomed to our fold Corporal Blackman, R.E., who, with his wife, had been a prisoner in Jap hands for 3½ years at Changi. Many ex-Boys will recall him, and those who knew him in China and Singapore will be happy to know that, for his work in running the "hush-hush" receiver in Changi jail (a feat of no mean skill when a Jap is about) he received a citation from some very high officials in the Netherlands Government. "Blackie," as known to his friends, is now C.Q.M.S. and enjoying the Bangalore air.

Back row (left to right): R.S.M. R. J. Clarke, Corporal Stannard, Signalman Wilson, Condr. Crook, Sergeant Bowes, Captain B. J. Loffler. Front row: Signalman Wright, Lance-Corporal Cobb, Signalman Fry, Sergeant Main, Sergeant Jones

*Long Distance.* R.S.M. R. J. Clarke would appreciate a line from "Glass Jaw" Bill Craddock (if he can still write).

## B.M.M.E. SIGNAL SECTION

### Addis Ababa

*March*

Very few people know the meaning of the letters B.M.M.E., and it is our intention to remedy this and to put this section on the map. The letters B.M.M.E. simply mean British Military Mission to Ethiopia.

During the Ethiopian campaign in 1940, a British Military Mission 101 was formed. Its purpose was to organise, with the help of Ethiopian regulars, an Ethiopian guerilla army. This mission greatly contributed to the successful conclusion of the Ethiopian campaign.

In 1941 the B.M.M. 101 disappeared, and in its place was born the British Military Mission to Ethiopia. Its purpose was to train and organise an Imperial Ethiopian Regular Army. The Royal Signals' job was to establish radio communication over Ethiopia and to train Ethiopians in all branches of Signals work. The original personnel had a gigantic task to perform, but, as results now show, they did it well. All Ethiopian out-stations have their own operators and are in communication with H.Q. in Addis Ababa. The Imperial Corps of Signals is under command of Ethiopian officers with a British C.S.O. in a more or less advisory capacity.

The British Signals Section is very small, consisting of three officers and eleven other ranks. Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Grey, M.B.E., is the C.S.O., with Major K. G. Montgomery as Second-in-Command. Captain E. D. Shilton is our T.M.O. Colonel Grey has had vast experience in this country, being the only original member of the 101 Mission in the Signals.

*Entertainment.* Every month the Garrison Sergeants'

Mess organises a dance. The success of these dances relies on the attendance of the civilian population, which is generally very good. It is our boast that no other Sergeants' Mess has such a cosmopolitan attendance at its dances. All nationalities attend—British, American, Swedish, French, Belgian, Greek, Armenian, Swiss, Austrian, and Russian, and dance to an Italian band. We also have the usual darts and table tennis tournaments.

*Sport.* The B.M.M.E. have a football team comprising members of all Services and Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel Grey is an invaluable centre-half and C.Q.M.S. Roberts is a useful right-half, with C.Q.M.S. Fox on the reserve. Unfortunately, demobilisation has had a serious weakening effect on the team and we have lost the supremacy attained between 1941-45. A recent innovation is the Inter-Service matches. The Signals manage to turn out a team of eleven out of fourteen which, in our opinion, is a good show. In our first match with S. and T. we were beaten 4—3, but last week we avenged ourselves on the R.A.S.C. by winning 2—0. Every year the Imperial Army holds sports meetings, and last year the Imperial Corps of Signals did quite well. Corporal Wondimu Faisa won the cup for the best all-round athlete, and the Signals Boys' Team won the cup for football.

*Departures.* C.S.M. E. R. Trumble, ex-Guards Armoured Division, will be leaving here in April on release. He hopes to be home for the Guards Armoured Divisional Signals re-union dinner, but it is doubtful if he can make it.

Sergeant K. C. Bryson, ex-11 (E.A.) Division, will be following in C.S.M. Trumble's footsteps in May.

In conclusion, it is our hope to keep interest in the B.M.M.E. Signals Section by periodical articles.

## EAST AFRICA CORPS OF SIGNALS

### Nairobi

*March*

I was not particularly surprised, on arrival at the office this morning, to find a note on my table to the effect that the C.S.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Ellis) wanted to see me. On the way over I began to wonder what I had forgotten this time, but my worries were soon dispelled when I was told the subject of the interview was "Notes for THE WIRE."

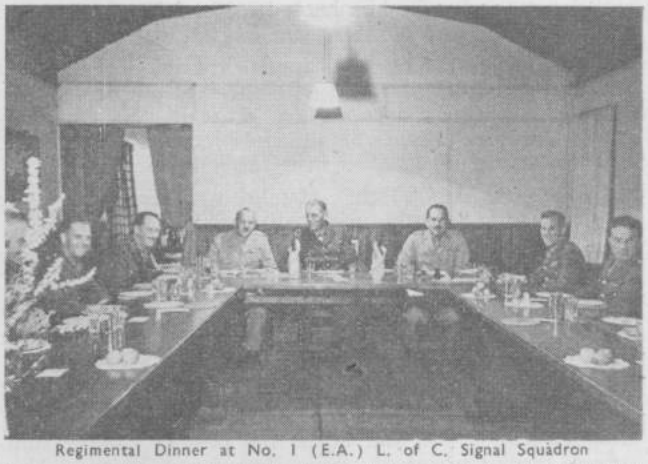
The C.S.O. mentioned that he thought it was high time that East Africa appeared in THE WIRE, and, because one of my hobbies was making teapot stands out of butterfly wings, I had been selected as the local editor.

The C.S.O. explained that THE WIRE was a means of linking up the Corps all over the world, which rather amused me, as it is about all I can do to link up this Command, let alone the world.

It was suggested that I mentioned exactly what we do out here; that I mentioned the fact that our G.O.C.-in-C. is an ex-Royal Signals Officer, Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and that it would probably be of interest, too, to note that 1 Lines of Communication Signal Squadron is commanded by that old regular soldier Major J. L. Tanner, M.B.E. Whereupon the G.2, a certain Major E. S. Trudgett, muttered something about Major Tanner commanding the ether on the 14 and 28 megacycle bands as VQ4KTH.

The G.2 then put in some suggestions: "Captain W. C. Savage is Q.M., Captain J. T. Swann is Lines, and Captain J. E. Leggett (recently arrived from Mid-East) is Cipher Officer, and all belong to 1 Lines of Communication Signal Squadron."

It was beginning to dawn on me that a nominal roll of all the Regulars in the Command might fit the bill, but on suggesting such a thing, the G.2 kicked me under the table, and the C.S.O. continued: "Don't forget to record the recent inspection of the Unit by the G.O.C.-in-C. and how he expressed great satisfaction; also that the Command was visited by Major General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., C.S.O., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., and that while he was here a regimental dinner took place at Killarney Camp (1 L. of C. Signal Squadron), to which the G.O.C.-in-C. also came, both being guests of honour."



Regimental Dinner at No. 1 (E.A.) L. of C. Signal Squadron

Reading from left to right: Major E. S. Trudgett, Brigadier R. A. Riddell, C.B.E., Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Major J. L. Tanner, M.B.E., Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Ellis, Captain F. T. Kelly

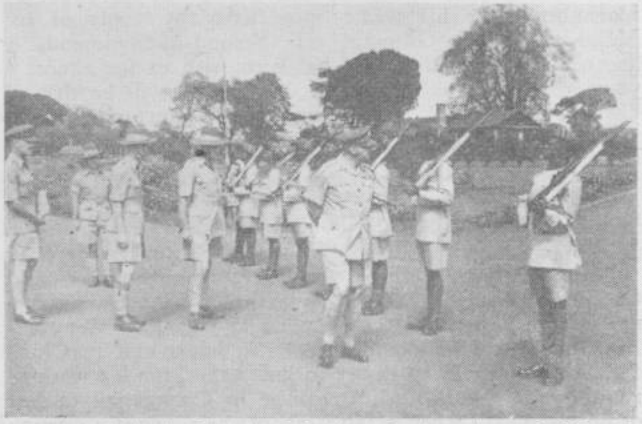
I jotted down the following as news items not mentioned and passed it across to the C.S.O.—"Captain P. J. W. Stephens is in Hargeisa at present commanding Somalilands Signal Squadron. Captain P. T. Kelly is at Nanyuki, commanding Northern Brigade Area Signal Troop.

"There are such bad types in 1 Lines of Communication Signal Squadron as R.Q.M.S. Harrod, S.Q.M.S. Ansell, Sergeant Hanson, Corporal Rae, Signalman Steadman and Signalman Curd."

"Yes, that's the idea," said the C.S.O. "Now how about some of your photographs?" The LONDON OPINION and LILLIPUT ones were frowned upon, but we eventually picked these two, which it is hoped will be of interest.

Such is life, but now that I sit down to write this report I'm dashed if I know just how to set about it.

LARRY



Inspection of No. 1 (E.A.) L. of C. Signal Squadron, by the G.O.C.-in-C., East Africa

## WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Accra

*March*

The Regiment came to life with its present title on 1st January, 1947, and was formed from all Royal Signals Units then existing in West Africa. All ranks who have served in West Africa will remember Sierra Leone and Gambia Area Signals, Gold Coast Area Signals, Command Signals, Signal Training Centre and Nigeria Area Signals. All these Units have now been disbanded and re-formed in their old locations as the West Africa Signal Regiment, with H.Q. at Accra in the Gold Coast and detached Squadrons in other Colonies.

Royal Signals in West Africa now consist of the following:—

*At H.Q., West Africa Command, Accra:* Chief Signal Officer (also commands the Regiment) and two Staff Officers.

*At Accra:*—UNIT HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON, comprising the following Troops: Administrative (Orderly Room and Q), Technical Maintenance and Trades Training Troop.

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON. This Squadron was formed from Command Signals and Gold Coast Area Signals, and is responsible for all communications in the Gold Coast Colony, including the Command H.Q. Signal Office with links to U.K. and the West African Colonies.

Detachments of this Squardon are located in Ashanti and the Northern Territories. The Squadron has six Troops:—Squadron H.Q. Troop, Command Operating Troop, Command Wireless Troop, Gold Coast Area Signal Troop, F.S.S. Troop, and Command Cipher Troop.

*At Lagos, Nigeria:*—NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. This Squadron was formed from Nigeria Area Signals and provides the communications in Nigeria with detachments at Kaduna, Enugu, Ibadan and Abeokuta. It is sub-divided into four Troops: Squadron H.Q. Troop, Nigeria Area Signal Troop, Fixed Signal Services Troop, and a small Technical Maintenance Troop commanded by a British sergeant.

*At Freetown, Sierra Leone:*—SIERRA LEONE AND GAMBIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. This is the smallest Squadron in the Regiment, with its Headquarters at Freetown and detachments at Bathurst in the Gambia and at Daru in the Sierra Leone Protectorate. It will be of interest to note that the detachment at Daru (wireless station) is commanded by an African corporal. The Squadron is sub-divided into two Troops, *i.e.*, Sierra Leone Garrison Signal Troop and Fixed Signal Services Troop, each commanded by a British sergeant.

All British Officers and N.C.O.s are personnel of the Royal Signals. Other Ranks are of the rank of corporal and above, and are employed in a supervisory capacity. Since their duties are to instruct and supervise the African soldiers and to set a high example to them, only the finest type of N.C.O. in the Corps is suitable.

All wireless and line telegraph links are operated by African tradesmen, as are the telephone switchboards and S.D.S. African linemen maintain the U.G. cables and overhead routes. African Radio Mechanics, Electricians and Fitters work in the workshops. All are under British supervision.

Squadrons, with the exception of Sierra Leone and Gambia Squadron, are commanded by a Major. Sierra Leone Squadron is a Captain's command, and he is the only officer in the Squadron.

The present Chief Signal Officer and O.C. Regiment is Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., a well-known and popular figure in the Corps. Other well-known Corps members serving with Command and the Regiment are Major Joe Thorley and Captain Bill Potesta, Major John Snowball, Major Charles Sewell, Major Bob Batt and Captain John Howells; Captain (Q.M.) Don Pummell, Lieutenant (T.O.M.) Neil Shepherd, Lieutenant (Q.M.) Tommy Trout, Captain Wilf Heward and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Jack Balsom. Amongst the other ranks we have R.Q.M.S. Cordner, S.S.M. Hendry, S.Q.M.S. Field and Sergeant Hatton, who are all at Accra, and S.S.M. Anyon at Lagos. Names of other personalities will be published in next month's notes.

*Life in West Africa.* In general, conditions in West Africa are good. Accommodation is very good, even at the distant out-stations. There is plenty of sport and sea bathing with surfing at all coastal stations. The climate is not as trying as is popularly supposed, and simple precautions ensure immunity from tropical diseases.

The normal tour is for 18 months. Mail is carried to and from the U.K. by B.O.A.C. Married quarters are now being built in the various stations, and it is expected that a fair percentage of quarters will be available for Royal Signals families.

*Departures.* We have said good-bye to the following who have recently left us for the U.K. for various reasons:—

Releases. Captain A. D. Walter (Lagos), Captain W. A. Stokes (Accra), Lance-Corporal Barton (Lagos), S.Q.M.S. Whitlock (Accra) and Corporal Allcock (Freetown).

R.H.E. Corporals Frew and Price (Lagos), S.S.M. Whitham (Accra), Sergeant Thomson and Corporal Braybrook (Freetown).

L.I.A.P. Captain J. MacLean and Sergeant Lane (Accra).

W.P.

## IRAQ SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Basra

*March*

Iraq Signal Squadron is the remnant of that very large Army Signals organisation which formerly covered all Persia and Iraq in the days when Paiforce was still very much alive. Now, as our name implies, we are left responsible for communication between the British Troops in Iraq and the world outside.

We are a mixed Unit, made up of both British and Indian Troops, and we feel, not without a little pride, that we provide an object lesson in inter-racial co-operation.

Looking back over our activities of the past few months we find that it is the little things which stand out and add zest to memory, for it must be admitted that life is generally rather uneventful in this part of the globe. For instance, there was our grand race meeting on Christmas Day, when many a placid Oriental donkey was goaded into unusual haste for our delight. Then, too, there was that memorable show in the local cinema when a certain Lance-Corporal succumbed to the machinations of a stage hypnotist and performed curious antics all unbeknown to himself.

Two of our Unit activities do, however, call for more detailed mention.

*Literary and Philosophical Society.* Our discussion group was formed as the outcome of many a barrack room argument, and since its inception it has dealt faithfully and fittingly with a large number of important and controversial topics, ranging from town planning to contemporary authors.

*Football.* We commenced the season with an excellent team, which acquitted itself well in matches with the Iraqi Casuals, then considered the crack team of the area, but owing to the ravages of demob. and Python we have lost

many of our well-tried players; nevertheless, we finished second in the Inter-Service League, tying with two other teams for the place.

Several of our members have also been selected, and have played, for the Army Area team.

With the end of the football season in sight we are looking forward to an equally exciting and successful cricket season.

## SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

*March*

This Regiment formed on 1st December, 1946. The British element in it was transferred from Singapore L. of C. Signals (ex "Z" Indian L. of C.), who were in the process of disbanding, and who had previously been running the internal communications of Singapore Island. The Indian Unit finally left for India on 8th February, 1947, under Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Ellison, who had raised the Unit in Meirut three and a half years ago and served with it as C.O. until its disbandment. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Colonel Ellison and his Unit, as they had been living with us since we formed and had given us much help in the difficult initial stage of forming the Regiment.

Since forming we have received many Officers and O.R.s from Units disbanding in this theatre, but unfortunately we shall not have many of them with us for very long. Nearly 50 per cent. of the British element of the Regiment is due home before July this year.

Two thirds of the Regiment consist of locally employed civilians, who are mostly Chinese and Malays, with a sprinkling of Indians. This has presented entirely new problems in administration, as can well be imagined, particularly as the majority of civilian labour in this part of the world is infested with "strike mania."

We are living in a tented camp on the site of the infamous Sime Road internment camp, where so many Europeans suffered during the Jap occupation. Provided the weather is dry it is quite comfortable as tented camps go. As luck would have it, Singapore has had the wettest winter season for many years, so the weather experts tell us, and we certainly agree that it was very wet.

Luckily the camp is not far from Singapore Town itself, and most of us manage a couple of nights in town per week if we can afford it. The amenities of the town are quite good, but very expensive compared with Blighty.

At the moment we are running a successful football team which looks like being top of the local league with a bit of luck. Repat. and Release are the one team guaranteed to defeat us.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. L. Morris, O.B.E., who arrived ex-L.I.L.O.P. early in February and became our C.O. on 6th February. We hope he is embarking upon a happy and successful two years with us.

Captain (Q.M.) Jimmy Wyeth sailed for home the other day in the "Arundel Castle." He has been soldiering for over thirty years and hopes that he has completed his last overseas tour. We hope that wish and all his plans for the future in U.K. will be fulfilled.

To the many others who are leaving us we say "Good luck at home wherever you may go and whatever job you get."

Our losses during the next couple of months will include four Officers, four W.O.s, two S.Q.M.S.s, two F. of S.s and 50 lesser lights.

Suitable volunteers will be gladly accepted. Ability to speak Malay is not essential, but all applicants should be able to swim, drink Tiger Cub beer, drive (or be willing to learn) any ordinary vehicle, including small boats, be "DR," "DV" or AS Gp 75 upwards.. A flair for catching "loose wallahs" is also desirable.

We hope to make this a monthly contribution, even if we get nil response to our call for volunteers.

For information of their brother Regulars we have the following with us at the moment:—Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. L. Morris, Major J. A. S. Fearfield, Major B. R. H. Townson, Major J. R. Rahilly, Captain W. E. Floyd, Captain W. H. Pagett, Lieutenant N. Richardson, W.O.I W. Watters, W.O.II W. V. A. Hutty, S.Q.M.S. B. G. Webb, Sergeant H. Chattaway, Sergeant P. Coventry, Sergeant M. A. Knowles, Lance-Corporal S. T. Perks, Signalman H. Batty, Signalman D. Darley, Signalman D. Watkinson.

"Would you mind turning the radio up a little louder, dear?"

## *Shall Us?*

*With apologies to William Shakespeare*

To sign, or not to sign: that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The strain and striving to ensure a living,
Or to take up pen against a sea of troubles,
And signing-on to avoid them? For if I sign
They say I end my worries and the thousand
Natural shocks Civilian Life is heir to.
'Tis a thing requiring earnest thought.
To work—perchance no work: ay there's the rub
Must give us pause and think again.
For who would bear the scorn of Gaffer's tongue
When he himself might his destiny change
With pen and ink? Who would accept the load
To grunt and sweat under a weary life
Yet lose the name of "Action"?—Soft you now!
The Orderly Dog! Glummer than Devil's face.
He's just signed-on!

RALFEY

# THE *young* IDEA

*By* R. D. FRANCIS

THROUGHOUT the country to-day there are thousands of youngsters who are "Signals-minded," and whether they are conscripted or are volunteers their obvious choice will be the Royal Signals. They will not be "raw" recruits, but will be forearmed with the knowledge that their instructors in the Senior Training Corps, Junior Training Corps and Army Cadet Force have instilled into them.

Each University has its Senior Training Corps Contingent—formerly O.T.C., and the Signal Sections were formed in 1936. Serving Officers and W.O.s are the Permanent Staff Instructors. Every encouragement is given to students to join. Since 1945 recruitment has been entirely voluntary, but the Signal Sections have retained a high percentage, thanks to a generous allotment of equipment and vehicles.

The keenness and efficiency of the Cadets can be judged by the record of the 1937 Signal Section of the University of Bristol S.T.C. Of the thirty Cadets eligible for War Service, seven became Majors, fifteen Captains, five Lieutenants, one Chaplain, one Squadron-Leader, one Flying Officer. This high standard is being aimed at by all S.T.C.s, and the good work done by Cambridge University S.T.C. during the recent floods, with their sets mounted on Jeeps, deserves all credit.

The instructors at the J.T.C. Schools and A.C.F. are mainly ex-Service personnel. Although the standard of these Cadets is not so high as the S.T.C., owing to a different syllabus, the enthusiasm shown by these embryo "Jimmies" is very heartening. The courses run by the School of Signals, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. and the various Commands for these youngsters are proving helpful indeed.

If any reader has photographs of general Signals interest, especially of Signals in action, that he can spare, please send them to your local S.T.C., J.T.C., or A.C.F., Signals Officer. The interest and encouragement of these youngsters must be maintained, so that eventually the "young idea" with the "right idea" can be absorbed in the Corps itself.

# Territorial Army Units

## 42nd (LANCASHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., is forming up as part of the reconstituted Territorial Army in its pre-war location at the Royal Signals Drill Hall, Norton Street, Brooks Bar, Manchester, 16—now the scene of great activity as the Permanent Staff and a handful of dwindling prisoners of war make good the ravages of war, and prepare for the reception of the first volunteers on 1st May.

We are fortunate in having one of the best Drill Halls in Manchester, but in common with most Units, we shall not find it easy to accommodate all the equipment and vehicles we hope to get. However, we intend to keep as many vehicles on the site as possible in order to make the fullest possible use of them.

*Officers.* The Commander, Royal Signals, is Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D., who served with the Unit from 1934 to 1939, and spent four and a half years in Persia and Iraq, commanding 10th L. of C. Signals and "U" Indian L. of C. Signals until his release in October, 1945. The Adjutant is Captain D. A. Bond, formerly of 25th and 19th Indian Divisional Signals in Burma. The Q.M., Lieutenant H. Russell, came to us from Cyrenaica Signal Regiment, after two years with Gibraltar Signal Company during the war. We have had no T.A. Officers actually commissioned yet, but the number of applicants so far is very satisfactory and quite encouraging.

*Permanent Staff.* Our permanent Staff is now almost complete, and consists of R.S.M. F. Lilley, formerly of No. 1 T.T. Regiment, Catterick Camp; Sergeant W. G. Pemberton from No. 1 O.T. Regiment, Catterick Camp; Sergeant C. W. Pask from B.A.O.R.; Sergeant Johnston from Italy; Corporal A. W. Death from No. 2 Depot Regiment, Dalton, and Corporal J. Dean from No. 3 O.T. Regiment, Catterick Camp.

Another permanent fixture here is ex-R.Q.M.S. H. Jones, the caretaker, who served with 66th and 59th Divisional Signals, and No. 150 O.C.T.U. during the war, and who was caretaker of this Drill Hall from 1930 to 1939.

*Old Comrades.* The Manchester Old Comrades Branch of the Signals Association holds a club night here every Tuesday, and we shall maintain this valuable link by affording them the use of the canteen on one night every week when we start functioning ourselves. The Chairman of the Branch is Colonel W. S. Ashley, O.B.E., T.D., who was Commanding Officer of this Unit up to 1938 and again from 1939 to 1941. Many former members of this Unit are to be seen here on Tuesday nights, and it is apparent that some will be volunteering again for service in the Unit.

*Recruiting.* Recruiting actually starts on 1st May, but we have already received some applications from ex-W.O.s and Sergeants wishing to volunteer, so the outlook is very promising.

## 51st/52nd (SCOTTISH) DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The new Unit, as its name implies, is to be a combined Unit, drawn from the recruiting areas of the old 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals and 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals. With such a wealth of tradition and personnel to build on, it should certainly become the "best ever," and assuredly we shall strive to make it so.

H.Q., No. 1 Squadron, and "J" Troop of No. 3 Squadron will be stationed at Aberdeen, and No. 3 Squadron at Glasgow.

We have been extremely lucky in getting a large number of our old Officers back, and we are looking forward to welcoming an equally high proportion of old hands from

the Ranks to help us in the new venture. Our old C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., has fittingly been appointed the first C.O. of the new Regiment. It is a first-class start-off to have someone who knows things inside-out (and old members of the T.A., too!) at the helm to guide us in our early days.

Then, too, we have Major "Heb" Reid as our Second-in-Command to be, and Captain (Q.M.) Jack Hillman, both known to many generations of the T.A., both back and "raring to go." To round off the list, Majors MacKinnon, Smith and MacLachlan have returned to the fold.

The Permanent Staff are all newcomers to the Unit, if not to the T.A. Captain Darricotte comes to us as Adjutant, being supported by R.S.M. J. R. Green, Sergeants Bailey, Lancaster and Panther, and Corporal Anderson. All English by birth, they are busy taking extensive "acclimatisation" courses!

Recruiting has been postponed for a month, and so we are taking every chance of getting ready for the rush—in fact, we are feeling just the slightest bit smug about being ahead of most other Units.

WOG

## "X" ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

"X" Army Signal Regiment, T.A., came into being on 1st March, and opened an office at Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham, and this is the Quartermaster telling you so.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., well known in 48th and 78th Divisional Signals, is the C.O., and it is understood that Major Robin Anthony, also an old 48th Divisional Signals man, though much travelled since 1939, is to be Second-in-Command. Captain T. W. Baynes is the Adjutant. Much paint, whitewash and soap will be required to bring the Drill Hall and other buildings back to the condition in which we left them in 1939. We are optimistic. Sorry, no telephone yet, but come and make your inquiries by all means.

## SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A.

Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, originally Infantry and Machine Gunners during the last war, has now joined the Royal Signals. The new role is that of a Signal Reporting Regiment, better known during the war as Phantom.

Men who have served in the Royal Signals, and particularly any who have served in Phantom, will be most welcome, particularly because recruits coming from the Kensington Regiment will have very little knowledge of Signals trades. There will, therefore, be great opportunities for experienced Signals personnel.

The role is an interesting one for all concerned and, in addition, there are excellent club amenities for all ranks.

Come along to 190 Hammersmith Road, W.6 (just off Hammersmith Broadway) any night, except Saturday or Sunday, between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., or write to the Adjutant, Captain R. S. D. Maunsell, Royal Signals, who will send you further particulars.

* * *

Captain L. P. China, O.C., A.A. Brigade Signal Troop, Kingston-on-Thames, wishes to contact ex-Signals personnel thinking of joining the T.A. in that area. Write to Stepping Stones, Hawkes Hill, Leatherhead, Surrey.

# Sports Notes

### Boxing

Royal Signals were the only Corps, apart from the A.P.T.C., to win more than one title at the Army Individual Open Amateur Boxing Championships at the Royal Albert Hall. Original entry was over 1,000, and they were whittled down through Districts and Commands to the semi-finals at Aldershot, and thence to the finals in London.

Signals' winners were both supplied by No. 5 Trades Training Regiment, Catterick, and they were Corporal J. Murphy (flyweight) and Corporal M. T. W. Forrester (lightweight). As champions they will represent the Army at the I.S.B.A. Tournament against Royal Navy and Royal Air Force at Harringay on 16th April.

Murphy was Northern Command champion in 1946 and 1947, and boxed for the Army against Wales in 1947. Forrester is also Northern Command champion this year and represented the I.S.B.A. against Denmark.

In the Army Championships proper, Murphy beat Corporal Allen (B.A.O.R.) in the first series on points, Lance-Corporal Tristam (R.A.) in the semi-finals, also on points, and Gunner Rennex (A.A. Command) in the final with a first round knock-out. All Forrester's wins were gained on points—against Lance-Corporal Guichan (Scottish Command) in the second series after a bye in the first, C.S.M.I. Jones (A.P.T.C.) in the semi-finals, and Gunner Scannell (A.A. Command) in the final.

### Cross-Country Running

Cross-Country Running is deservedly recognised as one of the major sports in the Army. It is a team game in every sense of the word, not only in giving exercise to from ten to a thousand men in an afternoon, but its rules are so framed that a team stands or falls upon the performance of its weaker members. In addition, it is a supreme test of fitness, endurance and guts—no "knack" or "technique" will hide a deficiency of any of these three qualities. The Royal Corps of Signals has a fine record of achievement in the cross-country world: The Training Battalion won the Army Team Championships in 1924 and produced an English national winner in 1924 and 1925 and Army champion in 1922-26 and 1929 in Joe Cotterell. However, Signals Units have been equally successful in lower level competitions, and the Northern Command Shield record victories for the Corps in 1926, 1927, 1929, 1932 and 1937. In 1947 this Shield was won by 2nd Training Regiment, with Royal Signals, O.C.T.U., as runners-up.

Cross-country suffered the same suspension as other sports during the years of the Second World War, but the foundations of a very successful post-war season were laid in May, 1946, under the aegis of Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., with the formation of the Royal Signals Catterick Sports Committee. Cross-country interests were first represented by Major G. A. B. Sutherland, and later by Captain C. Bucke on this committee. With the funds placed at their disposal, the Corps runners have been enabled to travel all over the U.K., including the Home Counties, and participate in first-class competitions. They have thus gained racing experience and knowledge which was later put to devastating effect and advantage in the Northern Command and Army Championships. The first step towards participation in civilian events was taken when the Corps renewed their prewar membership of the North Yorks. and South Durham Harriers League.

Training officially started on 1st September, 1946, though in actual fact six members had been running consistently on the track throughout the summer. In the first trial

open to all Units on 19th September, 1946, 2nd Training Regiment got the first five men home with the rest of their team in the teens, and consequently that Unit undertook the task of providing the backbone of every representative Corps team in the future. In this they were assisted by Major D. M. Haslehurst, the Regiment's Second-in-Command, who runs for Blackheath, and was able to captain and train perhaps the most powerful regimental cross-country team the Corps has known. Prominent in this team was Corporal J. Ross, the 1946 Northern Command champion, an old Scottish International and the only member of the 1946 Army team still serving. Also left over from the previous year was Corporal O'Brien, who finished eighth in the 1946 Northern Command Championships.

The first leg of five League runs took place a month later at Middlesbrough on 19th October, 1946. A new star in Signalman Lawrence entered the running firmament, and enabled Royal Signals to win with 39 points against their nearest rival, Cleveland, who scored 47. The second round was run at West Hartlepool on 2nd November. Owing to Lawrence, Haslehurst and Ross finishing in the first six in the previous race (and thereby incurring a 3-minute handicap), the race was very much open. O'Brien should have won but was misdirected and lost the lead to Lance Corporal Kinsey, who later went on to win comfortably. Signals got their whole scoring team of six home in the first six places, the most outstanding performances being that of Signalman Hewitt, third, and Driver Fulton (5th Training Regiment), who came fourth. A fortnight later the third round came off at Darlington. With a 3-minute handicap imposed on nine of our runners it was feared that we must certainly finish fifth. Accordingly the result of the race was entirely in the hands of the "tail," and they acquitted themselves very well indeed. Signalman Barrett (6th Training Regiment) was our first man at third, closely shadowed by Signalman Shearman fourth. Other good performances were Grainger (5th Training Regiment) 12th, Hall 15th, Crennell (5th Training Regiment) 16th, and Macneil (5th Training Regiment) 17th. Cleveland won the day with 36 points to our 57.

The fourth leg of the competition at Billingham on 30th November, 1946, did little to reduce the big lead we then possessed. Due to floods the race was run on roads, and few of the handicap men got an opportunity of showing their paces, due to the short distance. However, Hoskins put up a good performance in his first appearance in the team by finishing third. The final round was run at Darlington on 7th December, 1946, and proved a personal triumph for Corporal Ross, who came running in an easy first despite the three minutes he had to give away. For this and other notable performances during the year, the Harriers League awarded Corporal Ross a special prize for being their most outstanding athlete of the season. Final placings in the League were as follows:—

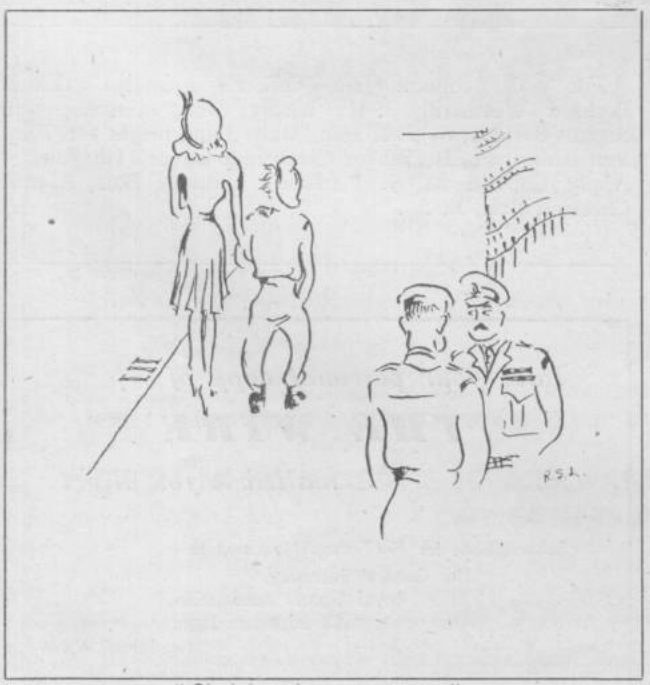
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| First | Royal Signals Athletic Club | 197 points |
| Second | Cleveland Harriers | 325 „ |
| Third | Burn Road Harriers | 567 „ |
| Fourth | Darlington Harriers | 726 „ |

The only other civilian competition patronised before Christmas, 1946, was the Watson Memorial 5-Mile Road Race. This event is held annually to commemorate the lives of Newcastle athletes lost during the two World Wars, and has been won twice since 1919 by the Corps. The team as a whole do not take kindly to road running, and certainly prefer a longer distance. In the absence of Signalman Lawrence, on leave, we did very well to come second in this race, held at Heaton Park on 9th December. Lance-Corporal Kinsey was first home at 9th, with Corporal O'Brien immediately behind him, and the rest of the team packing behind in their inimitable manner.

After Christmas came the Ice Age, but training did not stop for blizzards or snow drifts. Catterick District postponed their championship for the 30th January, but Captain Bucke decided to turn out everybody in Signals for an Inter-Regimental run. An average of six inches of snow covered the Highlands course of between six and seven miles, with much deeper drifts cunningly inserted where they were least expected. Ten of the 2nd Training Regiment team were running under a 3½-minute handicap, and started this period behind the remainder of the competitors. The result of the race was a welcome reminder that the art of cross-country running is in good hands in the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. — for this team came a worthy second to the expected winners, 2nd Training Regiment. They produced the winner in Officer Cadet Hayward, who finished half a minute ahead of Corporal Ross, the latter of course being handicapped.

Our first civilian appearance in the New Year was on 8th February, when a Corps team entered in the North-Eastern Counties Championships. Antarctica still prevailed, and the 4¾ laps of the snowbound racecourse at Stockton presented a gruelling nine miles. The hero of the race from the Royal Signals point of view was undoubtedly Signalman Moynan, an ex-Boy, who ran an effortless race to finish seventh, being only beaten by Lawrence at fifth place. We packed very tightly in the late digits and early teens to win the event by 57 points, our nearest rival being Gosforth with 84 points. This is the first occasion upon which the Corps have won this event since its initiation in 1895. The challenge cup is of immense proportions, and experiment later proved that no fewer than 18 pints of any selected beverage can be poured in before the brim is reached!

Success in the North-Eastern Counties might have been crowned with further victory in the Northern C.C.C., but, unfortunately, a hitherto unprecedented occurrence prevented our entering a team for this latter competition. This occurrence was the running of the Northern Command Championships twice during the same week, on 18th and 21st February. On the first occasion 2nd Training Regiment scored 135 points, followed by Royal Signals O.C.T.U. with 513 and 62nd Training Regiment (R.A.C.) third with 535. Due to the appalling weather conditions the competition



" Oh, he's a three-star operator "

was run over roads, but halfway round one of the official markers misdirected the leaders of the race and a somewhat shortened course was followed.

Consequently, the race was declared null and void by the referee, and a re-run ordered for three days later.

Weather conditions had worsened on 21st February, 1947, and the race was run in a blizzard. Signalman Lawrence won the race a second time with commendable ease, followed by Signalman Moynan and Lance-Corporal Kinsey. Three of the original nine teams had dropped out on the second occasion, thereby reducing the margin of scoring. The points for the official Northern Command were: 2nd Training Regiment, 119; Royal Signals O.C.T.U., 372, and 62nd Training Regiment (R.A.C.), 445. The 2nd Training Regiment team, with three runners from 62nd Training Regiment (R.A.C.), were selected to represent Northern Command in the Army Championships.

Our next appearance in civilian competitions was in the English National Championships on 8th March. Some 50 teams from all over the U.K. had entered, but due to the ever-present snow, only 33 reached Apsley Park in time. Of these only 24 finished enough competitors to score, and the Corps was placed ninth among them. Corporal Ross ran one of the best races of his excellent career to finish 20th (International Colours were offered to the first 12). Moynan repeated his North-Eastern form to finish 38th and Kinsey ran a creditable race to finish 53rd. Lawrence suffered from a strained back and did not score, otherwise the team might well have finished sixth. The course was ten miles of snow, almost three miles longer than the normal Army distance. Amongst the spectators at Apsley we were very pleased to see Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker and Joe Cotterell. The latter was very appropriately lending a hand with the public address equipment, and looked very fit.

The Army Championships will be reported upon fully under the 2nd Training Regiment Unit notes, as their effort was properly a Regimental and not a Corps show. But no fitter conclusion could be given to this short survey of last winter's running than to record briefly that, representing Northern Command, 2nd Training Regiment won the event decisively with 161 points, followed by the Light Infantry Training Centre (Southern Command), 190.

The team's final effort before the Inter-Service Triangular was to win the Grantham Cup at Newcastle on Good Friday, 4th April, 1947. The cup was offered as a memorial this year by Mrs. Grantham, in memory of her late husband, who was a well-known athletic personality in the North of England. The race was on the relay principle, with laps of 3, 3, 5, 3, 3 and 5 miles respectively. Hoskins ran our first 3-mile leg for us, and in the dry, sunny weather handed over a clear 100 yards lead over the other eleven competing teams. Lawrence, who much prefers running on roads to country, managed to maintain this lead over his own 3-mile stretch. Kinsey undertook the next lap, one of five miles, and the longer distance showed the Corps' superiority of training and endurance, as Grainger was made a present of a lead increased to 250 yards. This new Army colour maintained his form of a week before to hand over almost an equivalent gap to O'Brien, who was also running three miles. O'Brien ran a wonderful race to expand our lead to 300 yards. The thin and lanky veteran Ross ran the last lap of five miles, and with effortless ease (or so it always seems to the spectator) won the race by six or seven hundred yards. There were huge crowds to witness this triumph of four Army runners and two Army reserves, and the whole race was attended by perfect weather. Mrs. Grantham very kindly entertained the team to tea afterwards, during which we were informed that the previous record for the race had been broken by almost 15 minutes. The final order of finish was: First, Royal Signals; second, Gosforth; third, Benwell, and fourth, Blaydon. The team's time was 1 hour 58 minutes 40 seconds.

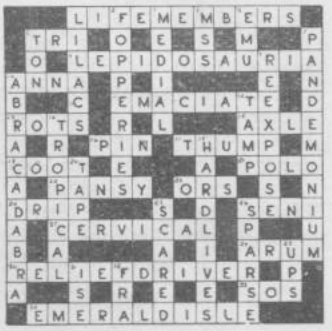
So has ended one of the Corps' most successful cross-country seasons. Preparations are afoot even now to ensure that next year's fixtures are no less attended with fortune, with 1947 stalwarts becoming the veterans for 1948. However, cups and shields are not won by careful cross postings, but by hard training—the opening runs in September have a direct bearing on one's performance in March and April. The training schedule is no respecter of weather, and whilst all other sports ceased to function for two or so months after Christmas, the team was struggling against blizzards or floundering thigh-deep in snow drifts three times a week. The average member of the team seldom finishes high enough up to gain an individual prize, yet it is his running which invariably decides the issue. Finally, all civilian competitions without exception take place on Saturday afternoon, that is in the soldier's own time. It had been entirely due to the unselfishness of our fine spirited athletes, particularly the married ones, that we have always been able to field a 100 per cent. strong team, unweakened by 36 or 48-hour passes. A combination of such *esprit de corps* and tough training produces the invincible team we possess at the moment, and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

## Crossword Winner

The first correct solution of our prize crossword to be opened on 3rd April was sent in by:—

Mr. E. W. Pack,
220 High Street,
Sheerness,
Kent,

to whom one guinea has been despatched.



For Sale, coupon free.—Officer's greatcoat, tailored Bernard Weatherill, 1941; hardly used; complete with Signals buttons; fit chest 36in., waist 33in., height 5ft. 10in.; seen Amersham, Bucks. (or Cambridge before 11th June).—Apply Captain M. J. Peniston, Lyddon, Bois Avenue, Chesham Bois, Bucks.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# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 8

JUNE 1947

**THE WIRE**

*The Corps Magazine of the*
**ROYAL SIGNALS**

*The Official Organ of the*
**SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

*All correspondence and notes for "The Wire" should be addressed to: The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

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☆

**Volume 1** *New Series* **No. 8**
**JUNE • 1947**

☆

**PRICE: ONE SHILLING**

# *Editorial*

WE are trying to shorten the interval between receipt of copy and the date of publication, in order that news from units may be more up to date, but whatever is achieved in this direction will not change the fact that there must be a closing date after which copy received will be too late for the next issue. Hence this reminder to contributors that the *sixteenth* of each month must see the editorial desk piled with all the material for the month following.

Overseas correspondents are bound to have more difficulty in being punctual than those at home and their news will inevitably show a greater time lag, but instances have proved that home units are on occasions so delaying their contributions that they cannot be published before losing all topical interest. The worst case has been a budget of news dated 15th of one month and received on 17th of the next, thus being available for THE WIRE published three months after the date of origin.

Praise of Christmas puddings seems an anachronism when one is hunting for an Easter egg !

To help overseas contributors, we propose in future to inform them of the date of receipt of all news items arriving too late for publication in the next number.

* * *

The following messages were exchanged on 25th April, 1947, on the occasion of the birthday of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal:—
From the Director of Signals:

"Major-General Vulliamy presents his loyal duty and begs to convey to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, on behalf of himself and her Corps, their best wishes for her birthday."

To which Her Royal Highness graciously wrote in reply:

"Dear General Vulliamy,—I send you and all ranks of my Corps my most grateful thanks for your good wishes for my birthday. I fear it is rather a long time since I visited any unit of my Corps, except for a very brief visit to Headquarters, Scottish Command, a fortnight ago.

"I hope all goes well. With renewed thanks,

Yours sincerely,

MARY."

* * *

*Catterick Amateur Radio Club.* During recent months several well-known radio amateurs have arrived at Catterick from overseas, and activity at the C.A.R.C. has increased.

Captain K. E. S. Ellis (No. 1 Training Regiment), G5KW (better known as Suike), installed his transmitter in the Club premises, and on most evenings a good gathering of Club members were operating on 10, 20, 40, and 80 metres. Several very interesting contacts have been made with Corps personnel in various parts of the world. XACT, operated by No. 1 L. of C. Signals, provided an outstanding signal. W2OEC, the Fort Monmouth, U.S. Signal Corps station, also provided a very enjoyable telephony and telegraphy contact.

On 29th April over 30 members attended the meeting to hear Major Nepean, G5YN (attached School of Signals), give an interesting talk on his exploits in Tibet during 1936, when he started the famous "Ham" Station AC4YN. Several interesting photographs and early QSL cards were exhibited

Meetings are being held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in old S.T.C. Headquarters. With the increasing support, larger premises have been allotted, with better facilities for aerial erection. A Club transmitter is being constructed, and application is being made for a Club call sign.

* * *

*Amateur Radio.* The following additional station particulars have been received:—

Call sign, MD5KH; location, Fayid, Egypt; operator, Major K. J. Hinton; address, C.S.O. Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.

* * *

## NOTICES

*Royal Signals Display Team.* The team is now well ahead with practice and by the time these notes appear in print will be performing at the Royal Tournament.

Six members of the team who entered for the Services Trials on Sunday, 27th April, were successful in obtaining four first awards, one second, and one third award. Sergeant Duke, with a total loss of only 12 marks, put up a particularly fine show, as did Sergeant Allen, who completed the course with a broken gear lever.

The team will be appearing at the following shows during the season:—

Saturday, 7th June.—Cambridge University Senior Training Corps Gymkhana.
Thursday, 12th June – 28th June.—Royal Tournament, Olympia.
Thursday, 10th July.—Bedfordshire Agricultural Society.
Thursday, 24th July.—Snaith Agricultural Show.
Monday, 28th July.—Scarborough Townsmen Association.
Tuesday, 29th July.—Scarborough Townsmen Association.
Saturday, 2nd August.—Perthshire Agricultural Show.
Monday, 4th August.—Tyneside Agricultural Show.
Thursday, 7th August.—Bakewell Agricultural Show.
Wednesday, 13th August.—Scarborough Townsmen Association.
Thursday, 14th August.—Scarborough Townsmen Association.
Wednesday, 20th August.—Blackpool Town Council.
Thursday, 21st August.—Blackpool Town Council.
Friday, 22nd August.—Blackpool Town Council.

* * *

*Royal Signals Sailing Association.* Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Signals, The War Office, has accepted the appointment of Commodore, Royal Signals Sailing Association.

The Association yacht "Certa" has now been launched and is being tuned up in the Solent. It is expected that "Germane" will also be launched shortly. Members wishing to charter either yacht during this season should apply to Major E. R. Moore, 23 The Canal, Salisbury, as soon as possible, as some bookings have already been made.

Particulars regarding membership of the Association can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

* * *

*Royal Signals Golf Society Annual Meeting.* This will be held at the Royal Berkshire Club (near Ascot) on 28th and 29th August, and all Royal Signals officers, serving and ex-Service, are invited to enter.

Will officers who wish to enter please write to the Secretary, Captain K. W. Ramsay, H.Q., School of Signals, Catterick, by 1st August, stating if they require a caddie (£1 per day). No special arrangements are being made about accommodation as there is a half-hourly train service to Ascot from London.

# *Service in WEST AFRICA*

*By* MAJOR F. G. R. BATT, Royal Signals

"GIVE a dog a bad name." This old but very true adage applies to "The Coast," as all those who have served in British West Africa will freely admit.

When I informed my friends that I had been posted to Sierra Leone instead of the Far East, I received letters of condolence with hopes that I would survive. Well, not only have I survived but strangely enough I'm very fit and thoroughly enjoying my term of service out here.

The bad old days of 100 years ago, when malaria, blackwater fever, and a host of other tropical diseases gave you only a 50 per cent. chance of survival, are gone. Very much so, and we now have a small but very happy band of British troops whose incidence of sickness compares very favourably with any other station, including the British Isles.

It has been my good fortune to serve in all the Colonies out here, and I will try to give you my impressions of each in turn.

Firstly, Sierra Leone. The Signals camp at Sierra Leone was situated some five miles out of Freetown on the southern slopes of Leicester Peak. Its altitude made it much cooler than the town itself and the scenery, set as it was amidst the hills, was magnificent. The rainy season is tiresome and of course curtails sports and entertainments, but it does not stop them. There are breaks in the rains when one can play games and go swimming on the lovely Lumley Beach. Hours of work are such that each afternoon can be devoted to these pastimes.

Secondly, the Gold Coast. No. 1 (W.A.) S.T.C. was situated about four miles out of Accra. Formerly a leper colony, it was converted into a very attractive camp, part of which was known as Hill's Garden City (a Sergeant Hill designed the gardens, paths, etc., around the huts). The European quarters were on a slight eminence some 1½ miles from the camp and on the main road.

The climate of Accra is good. The days are hot but the early morning and evening are delightful. There are plenty of facilities for sport, good cinemas, and surf riding but not swimming on the beaches. Here again there was very little sickness, our chief trouble being casualties at sports. The games with other Signal units were always keen and robust.

Thirdly, Nigeria. The Squadron is based on Lagos, with out-stations up-country. The town itself is hot and humidity very high. One perspires very freely in the damp heat but it is quite bearable and there is usually a sea breeze. We live in Apapa, a suburb of Lagos, and we have quite a lot of amusements—clubs, beaches, cinemas, the odd hotel, and the famous Tarquah Bay holiday camp.

Up-country the climate is better and Jos Leave Camp is very popular with the troops. Situated on a high plateau, the climate is indeed very good, and the 800 miles train journey through the Colony is interesting and educating.

In conclusion, I would add that the African soldier is a good fellow. He re-acts strongly to kindness and thoughtfulness and can become a reliable and efficient soldier. There are rogues among them, as among all other troops, but they are lovable rogues and if properly handled are a contented and happy band. There is no need to be squeamish about service in West Africa, where rationing is almost unknown, and if you have survived snow, frost and flood, queues, scarcities, and black-outs, you'll welcome a tour on "Coast" as a rest cure.

The British Tommy always accuses his American cousin of overstatements, but this malady is also prevalent among those who paint a very depressing picture of this part of the world.

Letters from those who have been R.H.E.-ed all point to the fact that we are darned lucky to be here.

# Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy

## C.B., D.S.O.

MAJOR-GENERAL C. H. H. VULLIAMY, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Signals, The War Office, transferred to Royal Signals from Royal Engineers on the formation of our Corps.

His outstanding characteristics are clarity of thought and directness of speech and action. He has a great, sometimes embarrassing, knack of analysing a complicated problem into its simple components, and he does not reserve this knack for technical and professional problems. He is therefore an exhilarating personality, and most officers who serve him and with him find their own brain processes quickened.

Since clarity of thought and directness of action are essential in a planning staff, it is not surprising that for an important period of the 1939-45 war General Vulliamy was on the staff of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force.

It is typical of him that he plays games, and plays well, because he likes them and not for any abstruse reason of benefit to be gained.

In command of troops, the shape which his policy took was a firm and successful determination to prevent his section, company, or unit, according to his rank at the time, from being messed about. That is not the expression he would use, but will suffice for these notes. Nobody is quicker than the British soldier in appreciating such a policy in his commanding officer, and it is no wonder therefore that General Vulliamy was a most successful signal unit commander.

Colwyn Henry Hughes Vulliamy was born in 1894, and educated at Cheltenham and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was gazetted second-lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1913. He joined in August that year at the S.M.E., Chatham, and at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he went to France, in August, 1914 joining the 2nd Divisional Signals between the Marne and the Aisne. He spent virtually the whole of that war, except the year 1917, on active service in France and Belgium, commanding signal sections and units in all the major battles. At the end of the war he reverted to the rank of captain and was posted to India to another tour of active service in the Waziristan Campaign in 1921-24.

He graduated at the Staff College, Quetta, in 1928 and held Staff appointments at the War Office from 1931-35, in which year he was promoted lieutenant - colonel and posted once more to India to command "A" Corps Signals. He saw further active service on the North-West Frontier of India in 1935 and 1937.

He was promoted colonel in 1938 and became Chief Signal Officer, Anti-Aircraft Command, in 1939, remaining in that appointment until May, 1940, when he was selected to be C.S.O., North - Western Expeditionary Force.

Then followed the appointment of C.S.O., Eastern Command, which he held from 1940-42, the period of the anti-invasion organisation and the building up of the units which were afterwards to be in 21st Army Group in Europe.

From May to October, 1943, General Vulliamy was Signal Officer - in - Chief, Middle East, and from there was appointed to General Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters, where his knowledge and ability contributed a great deal to the success of the integrated office of the S.O. - in - C., S.H.A.E.F., and the excellent collaboration between its signal staffs and units of the Allied Expeditionary Force. General Vulliamy's next appointment was that of S.O.-in-C., India, where he relieved General R. E. Vyvyan in May, 1945. He remained there until 1946, when he was appointed Director of Signals, War Office.

General Vulliamy has commanded every type of major signal unit and has been C.S.O. to every formation from a Corps to a Supreme Headquarters. Thus he brings to his task of Director his ability and his unbeatable personal experience as a signal officer.

# Home Stations

## No. 2 DEPOT REGIMENT

*May*

Several months have passed since notes were last submitted. The only adequate reason which can be given is that the ink has only just thawed out. Winter conditions were indeed grim and full marks must be given to all those who occupied Dalton for the manner in which they appreciated the full difficulties and accepted the attendant hardships.

In order to convince the general public that we are not shooting a line, we have forwarded a photograph of the "Dalton Ghost" which dominated No. 2 Communal Site for over a month. We hope space will permit publication

The M.T. Wing had a very strenuous time indeed; a large percentage of transport was withdrawn for operations King Coal and Flood all over the North of England. The thaw brought additional duties within the camp as many sites became isolated by flood and T.C.V. Ferry Service had to be put on. All drivers are to be congratulated on their performance.

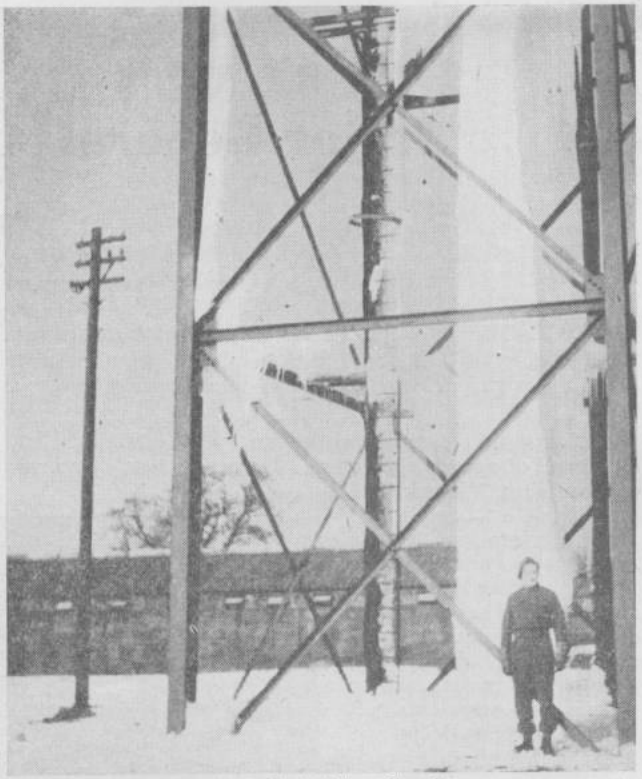
The success of the football team has aroused great interest of late, and the past week saw the completion of the hat trick when we clinched the winning of the Allertonshire League by three clear points from 62nd Recce Regiment, R.A.C., and R.A.F., Topcliffe. The team had already won the Richmond and District Cup and the Millbank Charity Cup by beating R.A.F., Topcliffe, and 62nd Recce Regiment, R.A.C., respectively, thus winning every premier event in the district. The team has been subject to constant change throughout the season and the successes achieved speak highly of the endeavours and enthusiasm of Captain (T.O.M.) Powell, who has been running the side, and the few constant stalwarts such as Staff-Sergeant Brunt, A.P.T.C., Lance-Corporal Stevens, Lance-Corporal Ellison, Lance-Corporal Beagley, Driver Jephcott, Private Holt, A.C.C., Driver Pebbles, and Driver Green.

Leading goalscorers during the season were: Brunt, 42; Jephcott, 42; Stevens, 23; and Green, 12.

No. 3 SQUADRON. It was with great regret that, on perusing the April issue, it was noticed that no mention of the Squadron could be found. However, to disprove the fact that we have apparently been lost or drowned during the recent floods and bad weather, once again we send out our call from the "wilds of Yorkshire."

Many changes have taken place since our last notes appeared. Major Tingey, who some of the older members of our Squadron will remember was our O.C., left us shortly after Christmas last year. He has, so we understand, taken on again for a further period of service. "Good luck to him" are the wishes of the men who served under him in the Squadron.

The Squadron is now under the efficient command of Major D. E. L. Gardiner, who may be remembered by old members of India Command. Since he has assumed command, the Squadron has grown to an extent that could hardly be imagined by old members. It will be remembered that we were more or less self-contained on Nos. 2 and 8 Sites, but, owing to its growth, we now occupy Nos. 5, 6, and 7 Sites in addition.



The "Dalton Ghost"

Captain P. Locke, late of Paiforce, who it will be recalled was our Second-in-Command, left a short time ago, but he has not completely deserted us as he is now performing duties of Assistant Adjutant in the unit.

Captain W. J. Stevens has taken over the duties recently performed by Captain Locke as Second-in-Command and Squadron Drafting Officer, a position which, nowadays, literally means top pressure from the call of the cock to the hoot of the owl, as drafts leave early morning and late at night.

A surprise visit was paid us the other day by another old friend, Sergeant "Jock" Farrell, who, from his remarks, did not consider Civvy Street compared in any way with Service life. To rectify the matter, he, too, decided to have another bash.

The grassland around the sites, which used to be used by the locals for grazing their cattle and goats, now presents a different view, as under the Unit Agricultural Scheme, it has been ploughed up to provide vegetables for the unit.

Lieutenant Fisher, who combines the duties of O.C. Intakes and Reception, No. 5 Site, with that of Squadron Agricultural Officer, has a party of gardening experts who have made the old place look as though it is at last occupied.

**HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?**

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*May*

*R.H.Q.* Captain D. H. C. Jefferson has been appointed Adjutant vice Major P. G. Curry, who is now O.C. No. 3 Squadron. Congratulations to Major Curry on promotion to field rank.

Captain (Q.M.) W. M. Hawkes has left the Regiment. He is at present attending a business course in London before retiring. We wish him the best of luck in civil life.

We welcome his successor, Captain (Q.M.) F. C. V. Harris, who joins from No. 4 Training Regiment.

Captain R. G. August has left for West Africa, and Lieutenant A. A. Leith to M.E.L.F.

Recent arrivals from O.C.T.U. include Second-Lieutenant A. W. Medhurst and Second-Lieutenant E. F. Duncan.

*Hockey.* The unit team has yet to be defeated. In the early games of the league No. 54 Training Regiment R.A.C. was the only team to beat the No. 1 Training Regiment side. However, since then No. 1 T.R. has improved and expects to reverse the decision at the next meeting. In the Cup they have already beaten them 6—3. Our position in the league is second at the moment.

In the Cup, No. 1 T.R. is in the semi-final, and more will be said about this later.

*Football.* An Inter-Squadron Football League has commenced and we hope to produce some talent, so far hidden from sight.

In a league game held early in May, the Regiment drew two all with No. 6 Training Regiment. The game was extremely difficult as a high cross-wind was blowing.

*Athletics.* Inter-Barrack Room Athletics have commenced. Squadrons are busy training up their teams for the Inter-Squadron Athletics to be held in May. Here again it is hoped to develop the old and bring on the new.

*Rugby.* The Rugby played by the unit has been up to its usual high standard. No. 1 Training Regiment played N.E.I.T.C. in the semi-final of the Garrison Cup and won 16—5 in a very high wind but in very high spirits, too. They then went on to defeat O.C.T.U., in the final by 33 to nil. A " smashing " victory.

They now meet the winners of North Midland District competition in the final of the Northern Command Unit Rugby Competition.

Wedding of Captain P. Curry (Adjutant, No. 1 Training Regiment), St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, 8th February

No. 2 SQUADRON. This month the stork has been busy amongst some of the shining lights of the cadre, and S.S.M. Humby, Sergeant Roberts, and Lance-Corporal Taylor all have become the proud fathers of daughters. This, of course, is no novelty to S.S.M. Humby, who is already quite a family man, but for Sergeant Roberts and Lance-Corporal Taylor this is the first occasion. We all extend our heartiest congratulations to them.

This month we are losing S.S.M. Humby, who is being posted overseas, and I am sure that he will be greatly missed by everyone. He has become the Grand Old Man of " our " Squadron. I can genuinely say that we are very sorry to see him go, and that whatever unit he may go to, it will be their gain and our loss. Good luck and God speed. To his successor, S.S.M. Boynton, we all extend a hearty welcome. It is whispered that S.S.M. Boynton's Christian name is Kipper, but of course it's only a rumour.

Recently a call for blood donors was received in the Squadron, and a very gratifying response resulted, thanks to the concerted efforts of Lance-Corporal Gray and Lance-Corporal Whitmore. Lance-Corporal Wood has become noticeably thinner since giving his pint (the reverse of his normal procedure).

The Play-Reading Circle is gaining strength from day to day and is now becoming well established in our social activities, as is our Tuesday night flick show in the old Church Hut.

We are always very pleased to hear from our ex-members and will guarantee that any letters sent to either Captain Smith or Captain Fuller will be duly replied to; so those of you who started your Signals career with us, don't forget that we are waiting to get your letters, for they might even be published in the " Clanger."

Congratulations to the following who have recently been promoted to their present ranks:—Sergeants Speight, Caird, Harold, Corporals Spong, Wallace, Lockwood, Smith, Weymouth, Parker, Gordon, Mash.

No. 3 SQUADRON. After the great thaw we have been struggling to restore the usual aspect of our lines and to dissuade the moorland sheep from making a permanent home of our cookhouse and gardens—the latter which we are preparing for the Garrison competition.

The highlight of the month was the visit paid by the C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery, to our Line Mechanic Laboratories on 22nd April. He chatted to several of the men and to one of our American guests, Master-Sergeant Annibal, about the State of Texas. After passing through the laboratories he continued his inspection on foot of soldiers under training. To many of us who had not seen the C.I.G.S. before it was a great event.

Our neighbours, No. 1 Squadron, are gradually being transferred to No. 6 Training Regiment, and we alone will soon be the possessors of Vimy Heights (including the salvage dump). As a result of this thinning out, barrack rooms are steadily reverting to normal single berthing, with nice new mat-green coloured spring beds with which Ordnance have excelled themselves. Our main difficulty has been to get rid of the wooden double bunks as they have to be dismantled before we can get them through the barrack room doors, and the screws have been hidden by the tears, sweat, and blood of the many thousands of trainees who have had the honour of sampling them during the war.

Sergeant Ronald Fiddes is organising a Cycling Club and Corporal Bill Parsons a Hiking Club. It is hoped that membership will increase with the good weather so that the beauty of Wensley Dale and Swale Dale may not pass unnoticed by this Squadron during our brief Yorkshire summer.

## No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

*May*

Spring has come to Catterick (period, three days, four hours, ten minutes—a record, we think), and with the changes in weather came other changes. We have said goodbye to Captain Don Sweet, our most efficient Education Officer, Captain John Lovat ("I bet you ten bob"), and Lieutenant F. R. Mackensie together with his fiddle; these three have returned to Civvy Street. Captain Ken Jordan, father of Deborah, and Lieutenant Joe Chambers have gone to help keep the flag flying in a far-flung corner of our "Empah."

We have welcomed two gentlemen from O.C.T.U., Messrs. Greengrass and Batty.

Training proceeds and with the better weather we are able to keep the lads outdoors on practical work. They seem to enjoy it and learn quite a bit.

*Sport.* Captain "Jerry" Clarke, our Adjutant, is busy oiling his cricket bat and anxiously enquiring if the nets are up. I think he will get quite a good team together this season. We lost against No. 5 Training Regiment in the Soccer Cup by 5 goals to nil, but discovered several promising players. Our rifle team, under R.S.M. Howley, is busy practising to add to our collection of cups. The latter is known as the "Haslehurst" collection as they were obtained by a gentleman of that name assisted by a team of men, for chasing around our countryside in all weathers, faster than other hardy souls could go.

*Birth.* To Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., and Mrs. Eagle, a son.

## ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*May*

*Pass-out Parades.* There were three Pass-out Parades during April. On 1st April, 177 Course, consisting of 13 officer cadets, were commissioned. The salute was taken by Major-General J. Y. Whitfield, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C. Northumbrian District. The Commandant's cane was awarded to the Senior Under-Officer, Officer-Cadet E. F. Duncan.

178 Course, consisting of 20 officer cadets, passed-out on 15th April, the salute being taken by Brigadier J. R. Patten, C.B.E., M.C., C.S.O. Northern Command. The Senior Under-Officer was Officer-Cadet W. Batty, whilst the Commandant's cane was awarded to J. C. Pim.

The third pass-out took place on 29th April, when 179 Course, consisting of 32 officer cadets were commissioned. The salute was taken by Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief Instructor, School of Signals. Officer-Cadet S. W. Whitmarsh was the Senior Under-Officer, the Commandant's cane being awarded to Officer-Cadet A. P. King.

*Music Club.* On Monday, 24th April, 20 members of the Club, together with other clubs in Catterick, went to York to hear the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Victor de Sabata, in a programme of Beethoven's music.

*Entertainments.* 184 Course took the stage in the gymnasium on 24th April, when it produced a first-class variety show, under the leadership of Officer-Cadets Brown and Baldwin. The course worked hard to produce what has been described as one of the best shows yet put on in the unit. This show is likely to be the last to be put on in the gymnasium. It is intended, however, to convert the present Unit Cinema into an O.C.T.U. Theatre Club where future shows can be held in comfort without interfering with the more athletic requirements of the gymnasium.

*Rugby Football.*—Garrison Knock-out Competition:
School of Signals 0, O.C.T.U. 30.
O.C.T.U. 15, No. 6 Training Regiment 0.
Finals played on Jaffa ground resulted in a win for No. 1 Training Regiment, 33 points to 0.

*Soccer.* No. 57 Training Regiment, R.A.C., 0, O.C.T.U. 3.
O.C.T.U. 1, No. 3 Training Regiment 6.

*Garrison Miniature Rifle Shoot.* We continue to maintain our lead in the Garrison League in spite of many losses the team has experienced owing to postings out. The position at the end of March was as follows:—
Matches fired 10. Matches won 10.
Average being 743—3 points.

The team again won the highest aggregate prize for the month, the score being 2,230.

The results of the April matches further consolidate our position at the head of the league:—
*v.* No. 57 Training Regiment, R.A.C., 745 to 711. Highest score, Officer-Cadet Williams, 98.
*v.* No. 62 Training Regiment, R.A.C., 742 to 739. Highest score, Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., 95.
*v.* School of Signals, 722 to 704. Highest score, Officer-Cadet Hayward, 95.

## EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*May*

Since the new establishment came into being we have been besieged with A.T.S., and now they become "one of the family." They have even entered the portals of the Sergeants' Mess, and one frequently hears the unfamiliar phrase of "Will you pass the salt please?" instead of the usual "Pass the ——— nimik." So fall the great.

R.H.Q. suffered a loss recently when our popular, energetic Adjutant, Captain D. A. Hill, left us for the "unknown" Civvy Street. A small farewell party was given to him by the unit clerks, which resulted in a most enjoyable evening, with the passing of many bouquets and no "bricks." We all wish him the very best in his new sphere, and at the same time we warmly welcome his successor, Captain D. J. McKenna with the hope that he will not be tied to his desk too much.

First and foremost these days is the all too familiar sign of "group happy" faces walking around, consequently all we seem to do is to "enter them in and out." These quick releases are playing havoc with our strength, and no department feels secure with their staffs. But probably the arrival of A.T.S. may ease their worries—or add to them.

The departure of the Cadets last month eased the worries of the training and cooking staffs. The results, I understand, justified the care and attention that the instructors gave to them. Some were very loath to go home, and volunteered for a further stay of ten days. We also lost the linemen trainees that we had here, on posting, with the exception of four of them who have found a comfy billet with our No. 1 Squadron.

Captain Wattley and S.Q.M.S. Hesketh have left us for draft. S.S.M. Quee also proceeded on leave pending draft.

On 28th April we welcomed the Corps Band, and on 30th May they gave an orchestral concert in the Garrison Theatre, under the leadership of Mr. J. L. Judd, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M. This was thoroughly enjoyed by an audience of about 250 to 300.

The *pièce de résistance* was on Thursday, 1st May, when the unit held a dance in the Garrison Theatre. It was a huge success, due entirely to the playing of the Dance Section

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—IV.*

Signal Park

of the Corps Band, who, according to local inhabitants, gave a performance unequalled in Canterbury. Our thanks are due to these musicians—many thanks, Cliff ! I can assure you that when you return in July you are assured of a warm welcome, and I doubt very much whether the Theatre will hold them all.

Unit dances are quite frequent now, and have gained a good reputation. The engaging of the dance band from Broadstairs was a good investment, and augurs well for the future.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Mess life is practically nil these days owing to members being " group happy " and tasting the joys of home life. Release has cut down our numbers considerably. We have said goodbye to Sergeants Everett, Pyefinch, Rhodes, and Causton. S.S.M. Quee and Sergeant Murphy have gone on draft, and I understand that we lose a further six with the next group, and, by the way, no arrivals.

*Sport.* Minor games have been played recently, more for recreational purposes than competitive. It is hoped that we might find a suitable cricket team to engage in outside matches.

At present the ground is under running repairs, especially the " table," but we have hopes that we might be able to force one or two good wickets out of it. We sadly lack an experienced groundsman—any offers ?

KENT COAST TROOP. As the weather becomes milder, the question of how to obtain a bucket of coal is no longer foremost in our minds. Now that living has become less of a hardship, war memoirs have been replaced by those of the great " freeze-up," desert campaigners have forgotten the sand that was in their hair but vividly remember the snow on their boots.

Overhead maintenance has never taxed the endurance and efficiency of Kent Coast Troop as it did during the first three months of this year. The men must be admired for the zest with which they tackled the work allotted to them; it is doubtful whether more enthusiasm has been shown in the past and they can be proud in their knowledge that communications were maintained with minimum delay.

It is regrettable that we should have to report the death of Signalman Thomas Phelan, a member of this Troop, who passed peacefully away at the County Hospital, Dover, on 15th March, 1947. Paddy, as he was known to all, was 66 years of age. Prior to the war he was a pensioner of the Royal Signals and had been employed for 12 years as a switchboard operator with Eastern Command Signals. At the outbreak of war he re-enlisted. Whilst on operator's duty during the war, the exchange was hit by a long-range enemy shell. Although Paddy's nerves were affected for some days, he was uninjured. Signalman Phelan was awarded the 1914 Star, the General Service Medal, and the Victory Medal after World War I, and the Defence and War Medals for service during World War II.

There has been little activity in sport, the adverse conditions compelling us to resort to indoor entertainment. Enthusiasm for football waned a little after the release of Signalman " Bill " Cheeseman, but Lance-Corporal Godbury is endeavouring to mould a team together which has promise of success. As Godbury is also a keen and competent cricketer, it is not unlikely that this Troop will be able to boast a reputable cricket team.

THAMES ESTUARY AND E.A.C. TROOP. We have had one more marriage in the Troop since our last notes—Signalman " Ginger " Small. Congratulations and the best of luck.

We have another two in the offing, so I hear. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Pickering on his promotion; he arrived back off his honeymoon full of beans, but I am afraid Driver Mingay was still in a daze; he is slowly recovering.

Signalman Purchase has left us, desiring to go operating in a warmer clime. Good luck to him wherever he goes.

Class " A " releases have been Lance-Corporals Rowlay and Scarlett and Signalmen " Taffy " Baker, " Blondie " Woolston, Nourse, M.M., and "Happy " Patmore, who I hope is happy now.

We still have plenty of work around this part of Kent and also in East Anglia.

P. M.

## NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

*May*

Well, old timers, it has happened: —

W.e.f. 24th March, 1947, the N.I.D. A.T.S. Signal Company was disbanded and the personnel T.O.S. this unit. The change-over was carried out minus chaos, an abrupt mention maybe, but straight to the point.

We consider the decision to maintain and increase mixed units a tribute to the fair sex for the way in which they put their backs into the job during the difficult years, and above all it signifies a vote of confidence in their capabilities. Without them the man-power, as bad as it is, would have been on the verge of a complete breakdown.

*The Past.* From time to time we meet former members of the unit. Contact was made recently with a few old members—C.Q.M.S. George Brook, who will long be remembered for his feats at centre-forward, and Lance-Corporal Jack Mount, on leave from 1st L. of C. Signals, C.M.F. Incidentally, Captain " Bill " Adams, who left us for Civvy Street, has returned to the Corps and is now with the same unit as " Jack." Tongues will certainly wag when they meet. Who said absence makes the heart grow fonder ?

I had the pleasure of running into C.S.M. " Paddy " Boyd, on leave from Singapore, who sends his salaams to all during the Victoria Barracks days.

Major " George " Bayliss, M.B.E., M.C., is eager to hear of the whereabouts of Captain " Shoey " Pummell, and hopes that memories of Cavalry Yard will prompt " Shoey " to reply post haste.

*The Present.* As usual, rumours are in abundance—no need to say that the cause is attributed to the A.T.S. Yes, the scare at the moment is postings, and Pocklington looms on the horizon. With all due respect to " The Airfield," the unfortunates will regret receiving a movement order.

To celebrate the pending departures, a farewell party was held a few days ago; much sniffing and wiping of eyes was in evidence. Signalman " Duke " Dorman came to the rescue and healed the heavy hearts by giving Shakespearean lyrics in the best Leon Cortez manner. Captain John Melsom ably backed up " Duke's " efforts with . . . (Nuff sed).

The menu was quite appetising. Major " George " Bayliss went fishing at Bangor the other day, so fish sandwiches were well to the fore.

Driver " Paddy " McGoona was seen giving the C.S.M. the dope on extension of leave, at least that's how a self-professed lip-reader described the " confab."

The only distinguished absentee happened to be our " Bill " —Captain W. Dundee, whose strenuous game of hockey in the afternoon had its effects, resulting in a message being received during the evening apologising for his absence.

*The Curtain Falls.* Sport, I am afraid, has gone "backstage" owing to the loss of 75 per cent. of the unit football team. The uncertainty of being able to carry out our commitments left no alternative but to resign from the Belfast and District Minor League. At the fateful league meeting the Chairman expressed his deep regret at our decision and paid tribute to the high standard of sportsmanship displayed by the lads and to the hospitality rendered by us to visiting teams, which was greatly appreciated by all concerned. Many thanks must be conveyed to Major "Pat" Finney (unfortunately no longer with us), whose keen interest and encouragement has done so much to restore the high standard set on the playing fields which was so characteristic in the "old days." We shall return as soon as the uncertain situation of man-power becomes more crystal.

*The Curtain Rises.* Cupid has come to the rescue in making a more cheerful note to the conclusion of this epistle.

Congratulations and best wishes of all ranks are extended to Driver "Lofty" Waters and Private Violet Goodman, Lance-Corporal "Jock" Peacock and Private Daphne Isaac, Corporal "Gordon" Fackrell and Private Doreen O'Malley, and Signalman "Jock" Dunlop and Private Margaret Weldrick on embarking on the greatest of all careers.

"COOKIE"

## No. 1 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*May*

It is good to be back amongst old friends again, and it is good, too, to be writing these notes as the sun shines in through the windows, instead of dodging icicles which drooped from pipes no longer whole.

*Sport.* Whether it is the spring-like weather or from some other source, our endeavours on the sports field have been crowned with success, and a new do-or-die fighting spirit has turned our once indifferent soccer team into a very capable combination. Three games have been played, with the following results:—

No. 1 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment 3, Depot Middlesex Regiment 1.

No. 1 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment 4, A Dutch Army Team 4.

No. 1 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment 6, A R.E.M.E. XI 1.

The first game was a real scorcher. Good snappy opportunism won the day. We took our chances in an otherwise even game and fully deserved our victory. Next the Dutch Army were our guests and, as the score suggests, the game was evenly contested. If one side scored, then the other fought back to equality, and so it finished, the evening being rounded off with an impromptu social evening. Against a R.E.M.E. team the opposition lacked match practice and had to include an inexperienced goalkeeper at the last minute. It was a bit of bad luck on our opponents for in the outfield they were nippy and never gave up trying.

R.Q.M.S. Mathews, on the left wing, is a firm believer in the old football adage of "shoot fast and often." He may be the Daddy of the team as far as years go, but he is without doubt its liveliest member. Here's hoping the team carries on as it is doing now. Still talking sport, we are fortunate to have S.Q.M.S. Horlock in our midst. Not only is he extremely valuable as a referee, but he is a real enthusiast in the cause of sport. He did have a very nice reward for his endeavours though, in the shape of a ticket for the Cup Final at Wembley. Oh, lucky man!

Soon it will be time for the willow-wielders, and a rough practice pitch has been prepared. Let's hope the lads will be as successful with the bat as they have been with the big ball. There is some good material and lots of enthusiasm, so we have the right ingredients for a good side.

*New Arrivals.* To Major (Q.M.) Noonan and Captain Daniels we extend the glad hand of welcome. The name of the former goes back to the old Maresfield days. The combination of the name and the place inevitably suggests horses and instructors who at the time had neither soul nor kindly feelings to raw recruits in the riding schools. Time has imbued those memories with an aura of comradeship, and the old-timers remember the happy carefree days when man's best friend was a horse. At the initial stage of training it must be admitted that the rough riding instructors were regarded in a somewhat different light. The passing years have changed many things—Major (Q.M.) Noonan, for instance.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess has also been increased with the arrival of Sergeants R. Hews and D. Stroud.

*Social Life.* There is plenty of activity in the evenings these nights. In our Canteen we had all the ingredients for a good dance orchestra, except, unfortunately, the players. At last one or two are coming forward. The air is often rent with strange sounds and the slang of the jive world is beginning to permeate normal conversation. As one innocent reasoned, "How can you 'cut a rug' on the canteen floor? There's only lino." Of course, you've gotta be hep.

"JOCKHUTCH"

## No. 2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*May*

There is not a lot of news this month as we are still in the process of settling in. We have made ourselves very popular with local units on Wednesday nights. The unit has an amplifier and a very good selection of records. These are used every Wednesday night in the N.A.A.F.I. to pass away a few hours with impromptu dancing. But in all fairness we must say that there have been demands for certain records to be sat on.

*Sport.* Football has been right down to rock bottom. Our only game was against the R.A. They gave us the once over with a 4—2 defeat, Driver Barnes scoring two "Daily Mirror" shots for us.

Hockey has been on the up-grade. Numerous games against the R.A. have all been to our credit, our chief scorer being Lieutenant Slynn. We had a visit to Group H.Q. at Uxbridge and defeated them 3—2. A nice goal in the first five minutes by Lieutenant Goodsir gave us the lead, and by half-time we were leading 2—1, but shortly after the restart Corporal Acton scored the equaliser. From then on things were pretty hot, but stout work by Captain Gibbard in goal kept our end up. Three minutes before the end Corporal White served the winning goal to give us a well-earned victory.

*Motor Cycle Trials.* Some people call it sport and some just plain madness, but on week-ends three well-clad fitters can be seen tearing up and down the local hills on motor cycles. We point out that the average citizen could refrain from walking up the hills that these lads tackle on bikes. When asked why they do these things, the muttered reply is, "Army trials." A few of the lads have tired of this sport but the only three who keep at it are Corporal White, Lance-Corporal Cutler, and Driver Triggs. We wish them luck when and if they compete.

*(continued on next page)*

# *Introduction to*
# ROCK CLIMBING

*by* LIEUTENANT-COLONEL I. F. MEIKLEJOHN

*" And yet do I sometimes feel a languishment*
*For skies Italian, and an inward groan*
*To sit upon an Alp, as on a throne."*

—Keats

I WASN'T interested in climbing. It always struck me as being an unnecessarily tough and dangerous pastime and I couldn't see the point of it. It was one of those things which I was never going to try; I felt sure that I wouldn't like it and, besides, my head was not sufficiently steady.

Of course, it really began in the winter, during those ski-ing week-ends. Real ski-ing I mean; you chose your own line of country and, if you hadn't the nose for an avalanche, you took a guide who had. There were no funiculars, no " pistas " with sandbanked corners and notices " Ralentare " when things got really interesting. Ski-ing in the Dolomites is worth a try if you want to see new country; extraordinarily fine country it is, too. My host inserted the thin edge of the wedge gently and deftly. " You don't have any mountains in England, do you ? " " The English don't come here; it's pretty tough; no large hotels and cinemas." " The Americans wear glasses, they have bad eyes; the English have weak legs; they can't go in the mountains." " You, I can see, love mountains, but what do you do in the summer ? "

" You ought to go with Don Tita this summer and climb; but, of course, you will have to get fit first." Insidious stuff, under which I weakened. I was being " softened up."

And then, one day, my host checked our descent and, pointing up the valley, said, " There are the famous Vaiolet Towers." The view was quite unique and one of surpassing beauty. At the end of the valley were three massive rock towers. The word " towers " was a very fitting description. The Vaiolet might have been gigantic skyscrapers, built by some prehistoric race of giants; now considerably eroded, of course; but not a natural rock formation. We gazed in silence. " You spend the night at the Vaiolet Hut; then, early in the morning, you walk up to the Gartel and then you climb; roped, not very difficult; grade four perhaps; takes two or three hours." And then, before I knew what was happening, I had said, " I must climb the Vaiolet Towers this summer."

* * *

In the spring I first caught sight of Don Tita. He had been an Alpinjager in the 1914-18 war in the Austrian Army. He determined that if he survived that ordeal he would enter the Church. This he had done and he was now in his fifty-second year. I watched him through glasses on a difficult, almost perpendicular and apparently smooth face. To watch him thus was to see an artist at work, with the nimbleness, precision, and agility of a ballet dancer. To know him was to know a really charming man, dignified, quiet, patient, considerate—a first-class leader of men either in the mountains or in the ordinary walks of life.

* * *

And so it was as my host had said; we spent a Saturday night at the Vaiolet Hut. Don Tita joined us there, having said Mass in the village church in the valley. He had his breakfast—three raw eggs and a glass of milk—after which we walked up to the Gartel at the foot of the towers. Here we changed into rubber shoes, left our haversack lunch, and roped up. I will not attempt to describe, in detail, what was really a simple climb (I, of course, had my own ideas regarding its simplicity!). It is sufficient to say that I did all the things which I had sworn never to do for pleasure—dangling on the end of the rope, defying gravity on overhangs, wearing the seat off my trousers and the skin off my thighs on " Abseilungen." But I acquired a taste for climbing !

* * *

Later that evening my host said, " So we have an Englishman who wants to climb. Why ? " " Well," I said, " there is definitely something to it. As with any good sport, it demands concentration of mental and physical effort; it gives you all the thrills you can want in lovely fresh air and scenery." " What's more," said my host, " it keeps you fit and young."

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### *Home Stations*

*(continued from previous page)*

No. 5 A.A. BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP. The month of April has been marked by the loss of Captain Whiting, who has departed for Civvy Street with the avowed intention of making a fortune by the simple process of exporting millions of frying pans to the unenlightened inhabitants of Darkest Africa, Wigan, and Wimbledon. Although the Signal Troop is small in number, it is great in spirit, as shown by the following performances:—Corporal Sparks is the acknowledged table tennis champion of the camp and is also one of the stars of the Brigade H.Q. football team that is now vanquishing all and sundry. Lance-Corporal McTavey and Signalman Keen are also regular members of the team. Lance-Corporal Fulcher (A.T.S.) has earned a place in the mixed hockey team by her dazzling display in the mixed hockey semi-final, when No. 5 A.A. Brigade defeated No. 10 A.A. Brigade by seven goals to one. Great enthusiasm is shown at the evening gymnastic and games classes that are now being held in the gym.

Private Scrymgeour departed on the 29th to say those two fatal words, " I will." She had a merry party before she departed and she has our sincerest congratulations on taking this step.

Signals A.T.S. are to be congratulated on the high standard of intelligence shown at the quiz organised by the Brigade Education Officer as part of the Brigade Training Programme.

Vaiolet Tŏwers from Champedie

# British Army of the Rhine

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*May*

The coming of spring, with fresh green leaves, sunlight, and shadow, has made the old-world town of Celle cleaner and brighter, and perhaps even more old-world in atmosphere. The Air Formation shoulder flash is ever more noticeable with the large number of new personnel who have joined the unit within the last four weeks.

While walking through the town we occasionally catch a glimpse of the only mounted R.A.F. S.P. in the B.A.O.R. out on patrol on his white horse.

Civilian dances are still successful and our permanent dance band is very good indeed. A very successful All Ranks Services Dance was held in the "Air Formation Arms." Invitations were sent to all units in the district where W.A.A.F. and A.T.S. personnel are stationed. A very enjoyable programme of dances was arranged, and R.S.M. Staton did well in his role as M.C. We must thank the staff of the Men's Mess for making such a wonderful job with the refreshments which were served during the interval.

We are now able to make full use of all facilities put at our disposal by the W.V.S. in the N.A.A.F.I. Riverside Club. The Malcolm Club is still a popular centre and now the warm weather is coming on more members of the Regiment can be seen sitting on the terrace taking full advantage of the sun.

The films being shown in the cinemas now are also an improvement as mostly they are new ones which most of us have never seen. The shows produced by C.S.E.U. in the Union Theatre have been very good. A regular feature in the Union Theatre is the Symphony Concert held every Sunday evening.

*Exercises.* No. 73 Wing Signal Troop has been out on the same small exercise as was done by No. 67 Wing before Christmas. They were far luckier in their weather and not only did new arrivals learn much about the work and camp life but had a good time in doing so.

At the beginning of May, H.Q. No. 84 Group took part in a large exercise run by 1st Corps south of Bremen. The Regiment provided skeleton communications and appreciation of their efficiency was expressed.

*Hail and Farewell.* We have said goodbye to many of our old faces, including Captain G. Gross, Lieutenant D. Gordon, and Lieutenant R. N. B. Sanders, who have proceeded on release. Before the end of May we will have also lost Corporal J. Baxter, Lance-Corporal S. Oram, Signalman R. Findlay, and Signalman S. Goldie, who have helped the Regimental football team on its way to success. R.Q.M.S. Hickman has also left the unit for overseas.

We welcome many new arrivals, to whom we wish the best of luck in the Regiment. Included in these are many infantrymen. We commiserate with them on having been surplus in their regiments and hope they will settle down with us.

*Soccer.* The Regiment is practically at the end of what is its most successful season since its inception, having won the British Army of the Rhine Association Football Championship, 1st British Corps District, 5th Division Association Football Championship, and the 84 Group Knock-out Competition. The final of the Maitland Cup is to be played off on Saturday, 10th May.

*Boxing.* Private Brown, of this Regiment (B.A.O.R. Champion), was unfortunate in the Army Championships when he lost to Lance-Corporal Bebbinton, R.E.M.E., in the semi-finals at Aldershot.

Private Brown represented B.A.O.R. in the B.A.O.R. *v.* B.A.F.O. competition held on 24th April at Bad Eilsen, when he was defeated by a very narrow margin by the B.A.F.O. middleweight.

*Cricket.* With the advent of better weather, the Regiment is preparing for a very busy season of cricket. It is not yet known what talent we possess, but it is hoped to get together a good team under the captaincy of Captain (Q.M.) Carpenter, who has taken over Officer i/c Cricket. The Regiment has already entered for the 84 Group Knock-out Competition and the Celle Cricket League. Inter-Troop cricket matches are to begin shortly on a league basis.

*Athletics.* Standards tests are already taking place and it is hoped to be able to get together an athletic combination to compete in the forthcoming 84 Group athletic contests, to take place at the Hichbury Stadium, Celle, on 20th and 21st June.

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Gutersloh

*May*

Last month we were complaining about the cold, but this month we are sweltering 'neath tropical skies and "shirt sleeves" is the order of the day. During the month of April our new C.A.F.S.O., Colonel W. D. MacGregor, O.B.E., car-

"Now we understand each other!"

ried out an inspection of the unit. Starting at R.H.Q. and No. 2 Squadron, Gutersloh, he inspected Signal Office, R.H.Q. Office, Squadron Office, M.T., Signals Inn, Sergeants' Mess, and Barrack Rooms. A few days later, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command (Major Western), and the R.S.M., he journeyed to Wahn to inspect No. 3 Squadron, where they stayed the night, returning to B.A.F.O. the next day.

A few days later, accompanied by the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M., C.A.F.S.O. carried out an inspection of No. 1 Squadron at Buckeburg. On the 1st May No. 2 Group, R.A.F., ceased to exist and they are now known as R.A.F. Station, Sundern, which is the name of the district where No. 2 Group, R.A.F., had their H.Q. At first we thought we might have to disband, but up to now there seems to be no danger of this. Instead, at present we are shuffling various troops around with No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment and will lose some of our present commitments to them and take over some of theirs, so it looks as if the old firm is still going to carry on.

The Signals Inn is still playing a big part in the social life of the unit, and the Friday night dances are becoming more and more popular. Organised outings to the Mohne See every Sunday are becoming popular. Readers will remember that it was here that the great dam was breached by bombs dropped by the R.A.F. which caused extensive flooding in the Rhur, an operation which obtained a Victoria Cross for Wing-Commander Gibson, who was the leader of the operation.

*Departures.* Captain Marks, who is at present on a Maths Course at Gottingham, will be leaving the unit on demobilisation on 6th June, the day after he returns from the course. We wish him all the very best in Civvy Street and hope he will soon settle down.

*Postal Shoot.* Owing to the disbandment of H.Q., No. 2 Group, R.A.F., the final round of the Postal Shoot was fired off on 6th May on the 25 yard open range with .303 Service rifles, the targets being the 5-bull small competition type. Each competitor had to fire 20 rounds. Our team consisted of Major Western, Captain Glaysher, Captain Marks, Corporal Brocklehurst, Signalman Leid, and Signalman Smith. The results have not been published yet, but we think and hope that we did quite well.

No. 3 SQUADRON. We say farewell to personality No. 2, S.S.M. G. E. Sellers, who has departed to return to former scenes in sunny climes. Heartiest wishes are forwarded from all ranks.

The last week in April saw the end of the 139 Wing C.O.'s Winter Cup Competition, and No. 3 Squadron finished in the third place. The positions in the individual league were as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Table tennis ... ... ... ... ... | 2nd |
| Basket ball ... ... ... ... ... | 2nd |
| Football ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2nd |
| Shooting ... ... ... ... ... ... | 4th |

The competition was very well organised, as it enabled a very large number of men to take an active part in competitive sport. In the Cologne and District Knock-out Cup, the Squadron team survived the first round by beating 10 L.A.D., R.E.M.E., 0—1 away and 2—1 at home, but was eliminated in the second round by 808 Military Government. The aggregate scores in the two legs were: 808 Military Government 6, 3 Squadron 5.

A Wing sports meeting was held during the last week and tentative plans were made for the summer activities. It is hoped to form leagues comprising the following sports: Cricket, table tennis, swimming, tennis, and general athletics.

Many men in the Squadron have taken advantage of the pleasure trips on the Rhine, which on the past two Sundays have been organised by S.S.M. McCulloch. On both occasions the weather has been perfect, and consequently the trips proved to be very successful, and further excursions are on hand.

During the past three weeks there has been a vast influx of men into the Squadron, and it is hoped that the sporting record of this Squadron will be upheld by them during the coming seasons.

141 Line Troop desires to introduce itself by saying:

141 Line Troop is employed in small detachments, spread out over almost the whole of Western Europe, maintaining lines and telephone apparatus for R.A.F. units. We cover from Istres, near Marseilles, in Southern France, to Winterberg, in Westphalia, and have people stationed at Eindhoven, Brussels, Fulda (in the American Zone), and Adenau (French Zone). The Troop H.Q. is at Wahn Airfield, where we are assisting in the construction of the airfield communications and training the newer of our linemen.

Demobilisation has just started to touch the Troop, but fortunately for our commitments at the out-stations, replacements for our tradesmen due for early demobilisation have already arrived, and the newcomers are having a busy time picking up the threads and getting the "know-how" of providing R.A.F. communications. The arrival of these reinforcements makes our accommodation at Wahn rather crowded, but by the time June comes round the members of the Troop not on detachment or demobilisation will be able to have a complete barrack room to themselves.

The Troop has taken an active part in No. 3 Squadron's sporting activities during March, and has supplied several of the Squadron's football and basketball teams, both of which have been quite successful in local competitions. The weather, of course, greatly restricted our sporting activities at the beginning of the month, but the past few weeks have been the reverse, with games two or three times per week, and additional impromptu matches organised for our more energetic sporting enthusiasts.

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming our newcomers, and wish them good luck, knowing that very shortly they will be left to carry on the good work. We are sure they will uphold the good name of 141 Line Troop.

## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster in Westphalia

*May*

*H.Q.* Easter for us was overshadowed by gloom because on Good Friday evening the Staff car was involved in a serious accident. Major Freemantle, Captain Lacey and Mrs. Lacey, and the driver all escaped serious injury, fortunately. The wreckage belies the fact that anyone should have ever emerged alive, and so unrecognisable was it that someone, at the scene of the accident, asked if it had been a Volkswagen ! Also heard at the same time was, "Has anyone been hurt ?" ! ! ! I should add that the car collided with a railway train, or vice versa, at an ungated level crossing. Unguarded level crossings are frequently met over here. At the time of writing these notes, all the casualties have recovered.

*Entertainments.* The weekly dance on Saturday and the cinema show on Thursday are regular weekly features in the camp. Other forms of fun, such as quizzes, spelling bees,

cribbage competitions, housey, and games nights are held frequently in the Red Diamond Club. On a recent games night in the Club, the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s were invited and their prowess challenged at various games. Victory went to the Junior N.C.O.s and men, though 'tis whispered that they had to bring up their best players ultimately to vanquish the Sergeants' Mess stalwart, S.S.M. (Mein Kampf) Maskery.

With the arrival of a spell of fine weather, outdoor sports are coming into prominence.

*Sport.* Our debut in the sporting world of Munster was a cricket match versus No. 1 Transit and Release Camp. We were all out for 94 runs and our opponents scored 100 runs for the loss of three wickets. We are scheduled to play another match on 11th May against an R.E. team.

*Sergeants' Mess.* An invitation was extended to the Junior N.C.O.s to spend a social evening, and return indoor matches were played. All present enjoyed themselves immensely.

*Departures.* We bid farewell to 49 and 50 Groups this month and send them our very best wishes for the future. The military communications networks which they helped to set up in the ruins of Germany are lasting tributes to their spade work.

*Arrivals.* We welcome the new arrivals to our unit and feel sure that they will speedily settle down to life over here.

*Out-Stations.* At the time of despatch, I regret that no notes have been received from our out-stations, and by the time these notes are published our present out-stations will have passed into the care of No. 33 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, which is in the process of formation. Salaams to you all at Dusseldorf, Brussels, and the Hook of Holland from H.Q., No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signals, Munster.

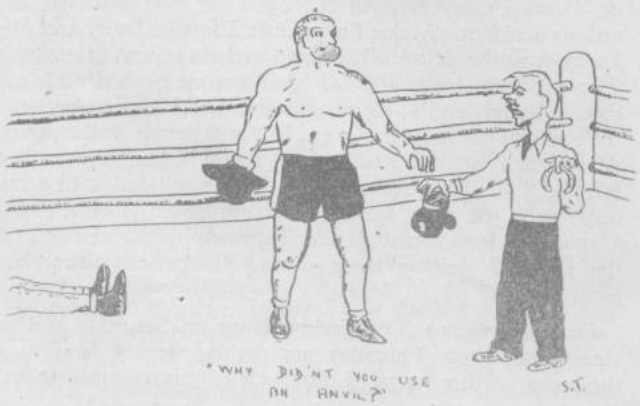
"OCTET"

## No. 31 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Hannover

*April*

As the "31st" takes its bow with the issue of these notes in THE WIRE, a short history of the unit seems appropriate. Starting life as No. 3 Signal Squadron, 30th Corps Signals, the unit saw action in the African, Italian, and North-West European campaigns. When 30th Corps was disbanded in November, 1946, we became "B" Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, stationed at Langenhagen, near Hannover.




On moving to Bothfeld, we occupied Falaise block in London Barracks, which houses 125 Transit Camp.

In January, 1947, we were redesignated 31st Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, and, being in the same Army district, did not change our role.

Our present Officer Commanding is Major H. V. Hayfield, Royal Signals, the Second-in-Command being Captain A. E. Kerr. Captain L. E. Crow looks after the administration side. Troop officers, Lieutenant Rothwell and Lieutenant Lyons, at time of going to press. Our R.S.M. is W.O.I Whalley, and the S.S.M. W.O.II J. Smith.

*Role.* For Hannover Garrison we provide a Signal Office with teleprinter and radio links, and a S.D.S. service operating as far afield as Bad Oeynhausen (H.Q., Rhine Army).

Outside Hannover we have No. 27 Construction Troop under our wing at Hohne, which looks after the communications of the R.A.C. Training Centre. We have lost No. 25 Construction Troop at Munsterlager. This troop looks after the R.A. Training Centre.

We have now a new commitment at Hamelin, the Pied Piper town, and the troop there is 32nd Armoured Engineers Regiment Signal Troop.

*Entertainments.* Here in barracks we have a theatre—"The Crystal Palace" (deriving its name from the unusual glass wall that forms the whole of the south side)—and a cinema.

A variety show by German artistes was greatly appreciated a few days ago. The cinema affords two films a week.

Unit dances, ably and efficiently run by Corporal Rosie, are a periodical feature of Hannoverian night-life. Large attendances are the rule rather than the exception, and fun is had by all. These dances are held at the Café Ontrup.

The Transit Camp allow us access to their stables. Signalmen are noticeably reticent to learn the equestrian arts, but your scribe rides regularly on the well-set-up ponies provided.

The Herrenhausen Theatre in Hannover provides the unit "highbrows" with excellent opera.

*Old Soldiers' Corner.* Among the Regular soldiers here whose names may strike chords are Captain Crow, Captain Kerr, S.Q.M.S. Bruce, Corporal Rosie, and Signalman Sadler.

*Departures.* By the time these notes are published we shall have said goodbye and good luck to Sergeant Allen (140th T.E. Troop) and Sergeant Clayden (110th O.P. Troop), both Group 50, and counting the days. Other "demobees" are Corporal Bateman, Signalmen Marks, Marton, Louth, Williams, and Driver Newby.

We all join to wish them the best of good luck in their civilian occupations.

*Soccer.* Owing to the recent very bad weather, sport has been at a minimum. Some football, however, has been played, and Signalman Ellis, our trainer-cum-team selector-cum-staunchest supporter, has every reason to be satisfied.

Results:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *v.* 30th Brigade Signals ... ... ... | Won | 3—0 |
| *v.* 30th Brigade Signals ... ... ... | Won | 5—1 |
| *v.* Transit Camp Sergeants' Mess ... | Won | 2—0 |
| *v.* Transit Camp Sergeants' Mess ... | Lost | 3—4 |
| *v.* 2nd (Ind.) Pet. Coy., R.A.S.C. | Won | 5—4 |
| *v.* A.C.C. Cooks ... ... ... ... | Won | 11—1 |
| *v.* "A" Company, Wiltshires ... | Drew | 2—2 |

Demobilisation will cause some grievous wounds in the team, but we are still a force to be reckoned with.

*Dirt Track.* A speedway team is at present enduring its labour pains, aided and abetted by Sergeant Harden. We sincerely hope the ensuing birth will be easy, and cause Corporal Boden no undue anxiety. There is a great keenness over this project.

"TOSH"

*(continued on page 204)*

# *Jerusalem—*

## THE HOLY PLACES

WE stood with the Padre in the little village of Kafrettur on the top of the Mount of Olives. Behind us was the road to Bethany, and in front, across the valley of Kidron, the city of Jerusalem.

If you climb the minaret of the little mosque in the village, and look westward, down the mount and across Kidron, the whole of the old city is laid out like an open book propped on a table in front of you. On the hills behind and on each side are the buildings of modern Jerusalem, the whole magnificent panorama of wall and roof, tower and spire and minaret gleaming white and clean in the clear morning sunshine.

Just so fair it must have looked, though very different, on a Sunday so many hundreds of years ago, when that strange little procession came straggling along the road from Bethany, and the people cut down the leaves of the graceful palms and strewed them on the path to welcome the Rider at its head.

And so the Padre, having brought us down the hill a little and into the courtyard of a church, " painted the picture " of that last week for us. He spoke simply and without emotional stress, just indeed as a commander speaks when briefing his men before an exercise. But as he spoke, there in the land and on the spot where these events took place, the historical facts emerged as the masterlines of a clearly-drawn picture, and our minds, fresh with the impressions of the scenes and people around us, filled in easily the colour and detail to make up a vivid and realistic image.

The church, in whose quiet cloisters we sat listening, is the Church of the Paternoster, built on the site where Christ is reputed to have taught his followers how to pray. Round the cloisters are beautifully-coloured panels, each with the Lord's Prayer in one of 32 different languages. From it, descending the steep slope towards Kidron, we passed the site where Christ is said to have admired and wept over Jerusalem, and came down to the Garden of Gethsemane.

The slopes of the Mount still have many olive trees growing on them, and are a quiet place where a tormented soul may escape from the hubbub of the city and be alone for a while. The part enclosed by the Franciscans beside their Church of Gethsemane, contains some very aged trees, the oldest known to be 900 years old. The present church is of recent date, with a beautiful Byzantine facade. Inside a spacious interior is lit by ten wide windows all in different tints of the purple of mourning and majesty, and before the altar a portion of the white limestone lies bare. The Franciscans do not claim that this is the authentic site of the Agony; they say only, " It must have taken place near here, and we have hallowed this spot in remembrance of it." And they are right; such an attitude is a relief to anyone who becomes aware, as all thinking pilgrims must, of the fierce " battle of the sites " which goes on between the various creeds.

Now we descended a little further and crossed Kidron, whose valley floor, silted up with debris, stands many feet

The Haram-es-Sherif and Dome of the Rock from site of the Praetorium. Formerly the temple area

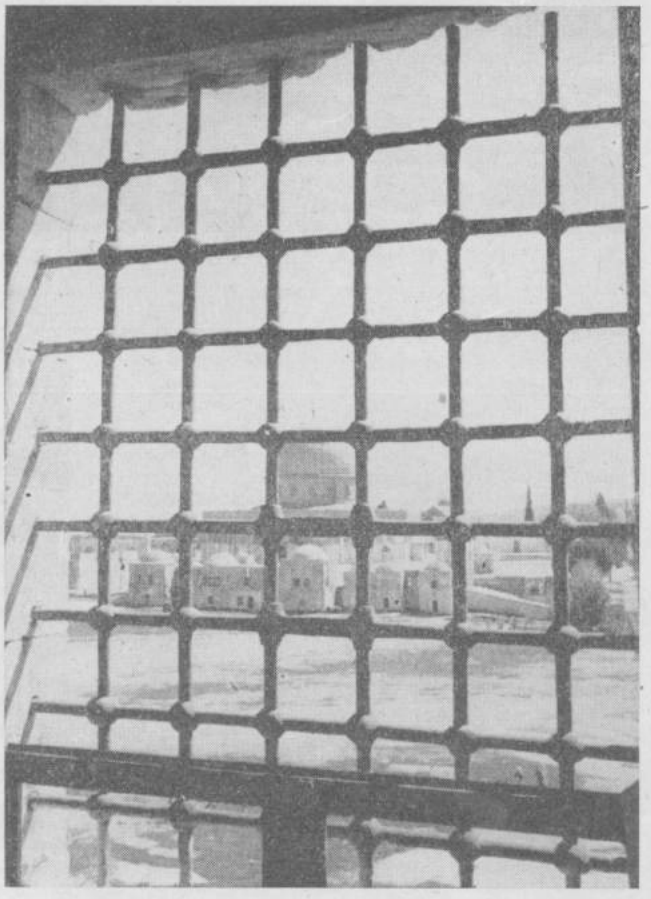
The Tree of Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

The Haram-es-Sherif with the Dome of the Rock in the centre, seen from above Gethsemane. Dome of the Russian Orthodox Church in the foreground

higher than it did two thousand years ago; and turning to the right began to mount diagonally the hillside beneath the city wall. Entering the city by St. Stephen's Gate, we found ourselves in the Moslem quarter. As we passed someone's back garden, the Padre reached up and broke off a stem of a graceful bush growing over a wall, and held it out to us; a drop of blood was welling from his thumb, for this was one of the bushes from which the Crown of Thorns is said to have been made. There are several claimants among the plant world to this distinction—one is known as Spina Christa; and indeed it is not difficult to find thorny plants here. Many things develop thorns in Palestine, political problems as well as plants, harmless in more temperate regions.

Our next stop was the local Police Station, which we reached by a long flight of steps running up from and parallel to the narrow street. A pleasant modern two-storied building, with balconies, built around a courtyard with a raised garden and fountain. This, the Padre said, had always been a garrison site for the forces holding Jerusalem; in Christ's time it was the Praetorium, where He stood before Pilate and was afterwards mocked and scourged; and leading us past the fountain to the other side of the courtyard, he showed us how Pilate would have looked down on the great open space of the Temple enclosure, crammed with the upturned faces of a mob thirsty for blood. And again the whole scene came vividly and easily to life. That space is now the Haram-es-Sherif, sacred to the Mohammedans, and in the centre of it stands the most beautiful building in Jerusalem, the famous Dome of the Rock; it marks the spot, His followers say, whence the Prophet ascended into Heaven.

On again down the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, and tablets in the walls mark the different Stations of the Cross, where on Good Friday the procession of Pilgrims halts and commemorates the incidents of Christ's last journey.



The Dome of the Rock from the site of the Praetorium

We passed through the bustling and jostling bazaar and found ourselves before the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here more than anywhere the faith of the casual pilgrim may be likely to waver. There is little architectural beauty in the exterior of the church, many times partly destroyed, rebuilt, and extended. At present it is shored up with wooden scaffolding as a result of an earthquake in 1927. The interior is a hotch-potch of chapels, belonging to the various sects, and mostly garishly decorated. But the Sepulchre itself stands in a tiny chapel in the centre of the great Rotunda of the western part of the building. It is covered with a marble slab and used as an altar, and 43 lamps hang above it, four for the Copts and 13 each for the Greeks, Latins, and Armenians.

While I stood in the Chapel of the Angel, through which one must pass to reach the Sepulchre, and from which the Holy Fire bursts forth at Pentecost, a peasant woman passed through with her baby in her arms, and stood whispering to it and smiling before the altar. What did she believe, I wondered, and how? But what did it matter? "If ye have faith, even as a grain of mustard seed . . ."

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***British Army of the Rhine*** *(continued from page 202)*

## No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

*May*

*Hockey.* For the second year in succession, the Regiment narrowly missed high honours in the B.A.O.R. Hockey Championships. In the quarter-final we were knocked out by 21st Field Regiment, R.A., after two terrific games. At Kiel we drew 1—1 after the hardest game we had played this season. We confidently looked forward to the replay at home, where we have never been defeated, in fact, we had then been undefeated home or away.

The replay started at a great pace and it was soon obvious we were due for a hard struggle. Our right winger, Signalman Clyne, scored after about ten minutes' play and the team were playing well. Before half-time the 21st Field Regiment increased the pace and finally their left wing scored a brilliant goal.

Both sides continued to play a grand game and it looked odds on that the game would be drawn. However, about ten minutes from time the visitors scored a good goal, and try as we would, we could not equalise.

It was a good, clean game, played in a fine spirit, and afterwards all adjourned to the Red Shield Club for a high tea.

The 21st Field Regiment have our best wishes for further success in the Championships.

*Soccer.* Demobilisation is hitting the team hard nowadays and we sustained our first defeat in the Hamburg District League a fortnight ago. The position is now—

Played 14, won 8, lost 6, drawn 0, goals for 40, goals against 23, position 8th.

It must be remembered that we entered the league with a handicap of taking over from a team who had lost the only four games they had played.

*Cricket.* Net practice is in full swing now and the first game of the season was played last Sunday. We beat our local rivals, 27th Heavy Regiment, R.A., by 47 runs.

No. 1 Wireless Regiment 99 v. 27th Heavy Regiment, R.A., 52.

Signalman Crossley made a really good 50 and Corporal Ellis took 5 wickets for 3 runs—a grand performance.

# Other Overseas Stations

## 8th ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Klagenfurt

*May*

There has been little out of the ordinary to mark the past month apart from a visit by the C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Steele, who came to see the unit at work on 28th April. According to reports, he was favourably impressed by what he saw.

Great interest has been taken in the recent Moscow talks, results of which will in some way directly affect all units now remaining in B.T.A. We had been expecting to "just see the summer out" in Austria, but now some of us are anticipating yet another ski-ing season, or at least part of one.

*Personalities.* Following the disbandment of 46th Divisional Signal Regiment earlier in the year, the strength of our unit was temporarily increased. Last to arrive are Captain Chappell and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Gillings.

Captain ("Banger") King, our well-known T.M.O., has gone to the Formation College at Spittal for a short period before going on release towards the end of the summer.

Captain Matthews, who for 18 months was Adjutant of the unit, is going home on Python in a few days' time.

S.S.M. Hodges, who has been with the Regiment since it was formed in 1942, left No. 1 Squadron in February this year and is now with No. 2 Squadron in Vienna.

When 78th Divisional Signal Regiment disbanded last autumn, S.S.M. Williams returned to this unit and has been a familiar figure in No. 3 Squadron ever since. He formerly served with 8th Army Signal Park.

Until recently a troop sergeant in No. 3 Squadron, Sergeant Howley, who has been with the unit since 1943, has taken over the duties of S.S.M. at No. 1 Squadron.

Still to be found looking very much at home in the cellars of West Schule is S.Q.M.S. Gerrard, who joined the Regiment in Malta days.

*Training.* Taking second place only to operational commitments, training in all departments of signal work continues throughout the Regiment. Education, too, features prominently on the programme, and the young soldiers especially will undoubtedly derive great benefit from it when they return to Civvy Street.

*Welfare.* A drive to improve the unit's accommodation has been taking place in recent weeks and has met with astonishing results. West Schule, for instance, has been completely transformed, and is now almost a "luxury" billet for No. 3 Squadron. A new canteen has been installed, and it is the fond hope of one and all that the beer ration will not suffer the same drastic reduction as cigarettes and tobacco.

*Officers' Mess.* Removal of the main Mess from Klagenfurt to Hotel Marietta on the Wörther See has now been completed, and, in spite of the journey back and forth, is proving extremely popular.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.* The weekly dances and social evenings are still popular features in all the Messes. In a recent indoor games contest No. 3 Squadron Sergeants "knocked the spots off" their opposite numbers in No. 1 Squadron. On the last Sunday in April No. 1 Squadron Sergeants, complete with partners, made an outing to Weissen See, a lake in the Austrian hills, and spent a most enjoyable day.

Sunday, 20th April, was a "big day" for No. 3 Squadron Mess. Sergeant Hunter, of No. 3 Squadron, was married in Klagenfurt, and celebrations continued well into the next day. We take this opportunity of wishing Sergeant and Mrs. Hunter a happy married life and the best of luck.

*Marriages.* The following other members of the Regiment have been married in recent months, and to all we wish every success:—Driver D. A. King to Edeltraude Taschwer on 1st February; Lance-Corporal G. Porter to Regina Sparowitz on 4th February; Private D. Issott to Maria Mayer on 15th February; Lance-Corporal L. C. Licence to Maria Weber on 26th February; Corporal D. Gough to Varoshaz Utca on 1st March; Sergeant R. Suttle to Margarete Frustuck on 6th March; Signalman G. A. Browne to Violet Elizabeth Parker on 15th March; Lance-Corporal W. S. Geuge to Maria Klika on 18th March; Driver W. A. Purdy to Rolanda Schwenner on 22nd March; Private A. Rowson to Anni Kreller on 29th March; Corporal P. Beckley to Friederika Wrastil on 7th April.

*Births.* Congratulations to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Gerrard on the birth of a daughter, Barbara Margaret, on 28th December, 1946, and to Sergeant and Mrs. Street on the birth of a son, Keith Charles, on 15th March, 1947.

*Soccer.* We are well represented in all the soccer leagues and competitions which have been arranged in B.T.A., and so far we have been highly successful.

In the B.T.A. Soccer League we have lost only one of the eight games played to date.

In the 138th Brigade Soccer League we have entered a unit team, and in the one and only game played to date we scored a 4—2 victory over 110th R.E.s.

*Rugby.* As winners of the B.T.A. Rugby Championship, our team went to Udine, in Italy, on 12th April to play the 7th Battalion North Staffs in the final of the C.M.F. Championship, but we were beaten in a good game by 22 points to 5. On 3rd May, at Klagenfurt, we are playing the same team in a return match.

On 30th April we played the 1st West Yorks in the semi-final of the 138th Brigade Rugby Competition and were beaten by 15 points to 10.

*Cross-Country Running.* On 26th April the B.T.A. Cross-Country Running Competition was held in Klagenfurt. The infantry teams walked away with all the prizes, winners being the 1st East Yorks, with our team seventh down the list. First member of our team to pass the finishing post was Lieutenant Ted Lee, who did well to get thirteenth place. There were about 150 starters.

*Motor Cycle Trials.* The first of a series of Motor Cycle Trials, using standard machines, is due to take place at Portschäch on 11th May. We have a large number of enthusiasts from which to choose a team, and consider we have a good chance of success.

The present spell of summer-like weather reminds us that cricket, swimming, etc., will soon be featuring in the sports news. The Wörther See, renowned lake of Austria, is warm enough now for swimming, and many have already had their first "dip."

## CYRENAICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Benghasi

*April*

When you first meet a person, there's nothing like knowing just who you're talking to. Therefore, as this is the first appearance of Cyrenaica Signal Regiment in THE WIRE, it might be as well to say who we are and what we do.

First of all—who are we? We are the descendants of a long line of Signals who made Cyrenaica their happy hunting

ground during the war years. Third and Ninth Air Formation, Benghasi District Signals and the South African L. of C. Signals have all been our ancestors. Our immediate predecessors were the South African Signals, and when the unit was first formed as Cyrenaica Area Signals in August, 1945, we worked alongside them for some months. In November of that year we took over completely. At that time the unit consisted of Unit H.Q. and 2 Company in Benghasi with 3 Company at Tobruk and detachments at Derna, Barce, Cyrene, and as far apart as Capuzzo and Marble Arch. Towards the end of last year, however, the unit suffered the universal change of name and became a Regiment, and at the same time changes in establishment made some reorganisation necessary. Consequently, the present distribution of the unit is now Regiment and Squadron H.Q. in Benghasi and detachments at Tobruk, El Adem, Derna, Cyrene, Barce, and Benina. Until recently we had also a detachment at Agedabia, at the western end of our territory, but as I write it is in the process of being handed over to the care of Libyan linemen.

As for our own selves, we are largely "young soldiers." The Regiment, however, is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, who came to us from Greece, where he was C.R.Sigs., 13th Division, and the Squadron by Major J. Stone. Both can boast many years' service in Signals. The most notable of the few other "Regulars" is undoubtedly S.S.M. ("Busty") Denehy, a legacy from the days of the South Africans, when he was in charge of the old 561 T.S.B.O. Section.

And what do we do? If you were to ask us you might be surprised at the answers. But everyone would agree that we do quite a lot. For one thing, we maintain the lines in a stretch of country some 400 miles from end to end. We also provide communications for a considerable military and civil administrative system—communications that reach to Tripoli on one side and Egypt on the other, and, incidentally, include one of the few military double diversity four-tone radio-teleprinter links in existence. Further, we do our part in preparing this country of Cyrenaica for its independent future by training its people in the communication work we do ourselves.

Indeed, at a time when one hears so much about converting the instruments of war to the uses of peace it may be worth while enlarging on this, and showing that at least one Signals unit is doing this in quite a big way.

The importance of this work is shown by the fact that a few weeks ago the unit received a visit from a number of prominent public men in Benghasi, including members of the Press. They were conducted round the unit training school, and saw both linemen and operators under training. Up to the present, eight operators have been trained in Morse to a standard of about twenty words per minute and are now employed with Civil Postal Service. Operators of the Cyrenaica Defence Force have also been trained in Morse, the use of the message form, and the setting up and tuning of a 19 set. At the moment fifteen Arabs are undergoing training as potential foremen on line work. At the end of the course the best eleven will be selected to take charge of Libyan linemen in Tobruk, Derna, Barce, Cyrene, and Agedabia. Four will remain in Benghasi, and the best man of all will become chief foreman, with a job of administering all the Libyan linemen in the district. Already forty-three Arab linemen are employed in Cyrenaica and are distributed among the places named above. A "Q" sheet is being prepared so that their training may be standardised, and eventually they will all be classed as Assistant Lineman Class 1, 2, or 3, or as Foreman or Chief Foreman. Just now their pay varies from 15 to 40 piastres a day (about 3 to 8 shillings), and under the new scheme all those employed on U.G. cable work will receive an extra 2 piastres a day. The object of the unit is to train as many Libyans as possible—compatible, that is, with our own commitments—so that when eventually we leave Cyrenaica they may be able to take over all civil communications at a standard of efficiency not less than it is at present.

*Sports Notes.* The unit supplies two teams to the Benghasi Football League—the "A" team Charlton Athletic, and the "B" team Preston North End. These, like most other organisations, have been affected by demobilisation, repatriation, and so forth, but the fact that Charlton Athletic have reached a position of third in the league shows that we have managed to keep our end up quite well. In fact we had great hopes of rising to the top, but a few days ago we lost the first round of the cup tie by one goal.

Boxing was popular during the winter, too. We had quite a number of enthusiasts in that line—Signalmen Weaver, Lewis, and Wright, and Sergeant Quartermain, who has now left us. Together they formed a team good enough to match any in the district.

At the moment our eyes are fixed on the Garrison Sports, due to take place on the 24th May. Major Stone is both keen and experienced in such matters, and we are hoping that with him as coach we may be able to carry off a number of events.

"Just what I need. I've run out of clothing coupons"

## ARMY SIGNAL SCHOOL, M.E.

### Gaza

*April*

*General.* Nine years ago I was struggling hard to produce exactly what I am trying to produce now, WIRE notes. In "F" Boys' Company I was ably assisted by Tony Jordan, who I believe is taking up journalism as a career. I do not envy him for it appears to be very hard work.

Being our first appearance in THE WIRE, an introduction by way of a short history of the School is necessary.

A small school known as the Signals Training School was established in Sarafand, Palestine, before the outbreak of war in 1939. The then Commander was Major J. E. S. Walford, Royal Signals. At the commencement of hostilities this unit moved to Digla Camp, Maadi, and from it sprang the Royal Signals Base Depot and School, whose function was the reception and despatch of personnel moving to and from units in the Middle East, and to train Middle East Royal Signals personnel in their various trades and appointments, also the training of regimental signalling instructors of R.A. and Infantry.

A proportion of officers of the Corps received their O.C.T.U. training here.

All sorts of nationalities passed through the School, and at one time a Polish Boys' Company existed and an Infantry R.S.I. course for Polish signallers was being run.

In January, 1946, the Royal Signals Base Depot and School

adopted its present title of Army Signal School, M.E.L.F., and concerned itself only with instruction, the reception and despatch of personnel being dealt with by General Base Depots and M.D.U.s.

Maadi remains as only a pleasant memory, for in October last the School moved to Gaza, in Palestine. Considerable difficulty in obtaining accommodation, lighting, and materials for the installation of equipment were at first experienced. However, by improvisation and a lot of hard work we are now functioning with the same efficiency as at Maadi.

Welfare plays a very important part here for there is no social life and very few amenities. All ranks have co-operated willingly in improving conditions, and in consequence morale is considerably higher now than on first moving. To date we have constructed soccer, Rugby, and hockey pitches, a basketball court, and a golf course. Plans are going ahead for the production of other sporting facilities, to include, it is hoped, a swimming pool and a tennis court.

*Hail and Farewell.* On 1st November, 1946, we said good-bye to Major "Nobby" Clarke, who had served with the unit through many difficult days and parties. If his eyes had been open when we pushed him into the car, tears would have been visible. Farewell, "Nobby"—good luck in civilian life.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Joe) Eagle, M.B.E., our popular Commandant, left for the snowy shores of England on 11th November. All ranks wish him the very best of luck and it is hoped that many of us will meet him again.

We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Danby, O.B.E., who joined the unit in December last. Already he has proved his ability with a hockey stick and a garden spade. No. 2 T.T. Regiment paid tribute to his hockey prowess but they never saw him with a polo stick or an orange.

During the period of change-over of Commandants, the unit was very ably commanded by Major P. A. Duke, O.B.E., the C.I.

*Personalities.* The unit boasts of very few old soldiers, old in the sense that they were serving before the war, but I am sure some readers will be interested to learn of old friends.

In addition to the Commandant and Chief Instructor already mentioned, here are others:—Major B. A. Beattie (son of Major ("Tot") A. H. Beattie), Captain (T.M.O.) G. McDowall (Singapore, 1926), Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. Marshall (Cairo, 1938), R.S.M. B. McDonald (ex "A" Corps), R.Q.M.S. E. Bell (Iraq papers please copy), S.Q.M.S. H. R Hulme ("Ginger").

*Sports.* When the Army Signal School arrived in Gaza it was to an area completely devoid of sports grounds, and with a unit full of sports enthusiasts. To such a problem there is only one answer, to build and go on building.

No sooner was the soccer ground completed than enthusiasts for other sports asked "What about us?" and the problems of hockey, Rugby, and basketball grounds was created.

Unfortunately, the hardness of the ground, or perhaps the softness of the players, led to an early abandonment of Rugby, and the ground is now with great difficulty being turned into a cricket pitch.

The hockey ground was duly completed with a last-minute dash to get the goalposts up before the opening game, and the School has already topped the local league and beaten the local "Sappers," 3rd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and others.

It is hoped that the cricket ground will be opened at Easter with a gala match. At present many enthusiasts practice nightly their "on" and "off" breaks in temporary nets.

Under the leadership of Captain Colin Wicks and John Goldsmith, a nine-hole golf course has been built on the local "no man's land," and the School now has a golf club open to all ranks with free tuition from the masters.

In the future we aim at a swimming pool and tennis courts. The only problem will then be what to build next.

Thanks are due to our very able Sports Officer, Captain David Willett ("When I was in East Africa"), who has worked so hard and instilled so much enthusiasm into others to bring sport to such an important place in our unit life.

The only problem confronting the unit is whether the C.O.'s war cry of the hockey field is "Up with it" or is it some strange barbaric relic of the West African tongue.

B. A. B.

## WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Accra

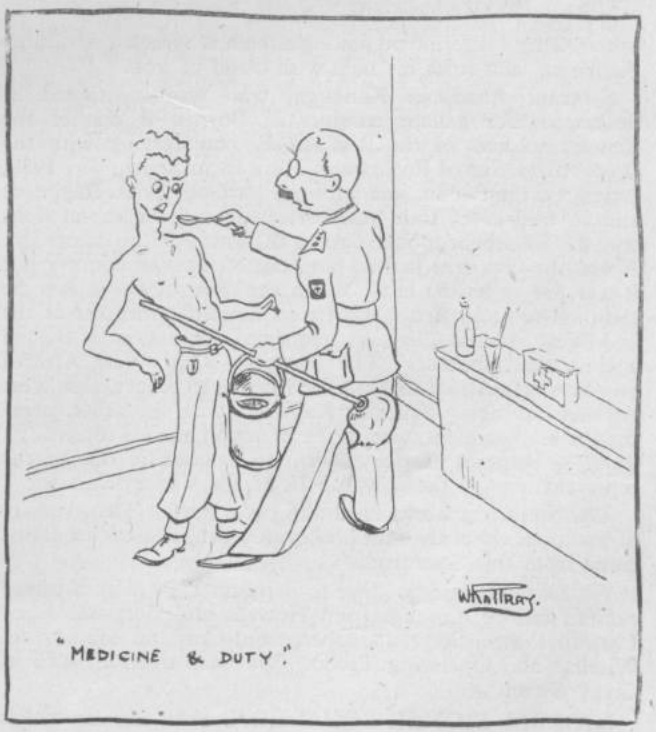
*April*

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON. Last month you were introduced to the Regiment. This month we would like you to meet the members of the Gold Coast Signal Squadron who fulfil all the operational commitments in the Gold Coast. In command we have Major C. G. R. Sewell (whom we must congratulate on getting his *third* bar to his T.A. Efficiency Medal), ably supported by Captain W. D. L. Anderson and S.S.M. Hendry. H.Q. Troop, under Captain Anderson, arranges our pay, leave, and more or less runs our lives for us, with much help from S.Q.M.S. Cliff Field, who is our advanced rep. in the Q.M. Stores.

Providing W/T communication for the Command H.Q. we have Captain Friggens, Sergeant Garrard, and Corporal Jewitt with Wireless Troop, who are never tired of showing off their transmitting station—a chamber of glistening metal and flashing lights under the aegis of Sergeant Hatten and Sergeant Cronk.

We also have Lieutenant Wragg and Second-Lieutenant Churton, who are our top "juju" men with some mystical new bag of tricks.

Second-Lieutenant Denis Duffill is at present O.C. Operat-



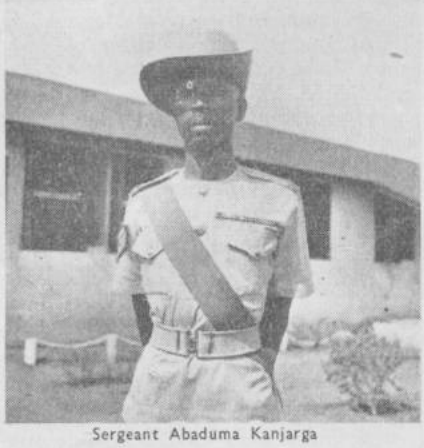
ing Troop in the absence of Captain MacLain, at present on L.I.A.P. in Blighty. Assisted by Sergeant Bursell, Corporals Gardiner and Elliott, their minions sit enthroned behind glistening bars and despatch your message to anywhere you wish (and probably a few extra places as well).

Captain D. Dawe, our Cipher Officer, is a silent taciturn man who emerges from his den only to play a straight bat in the cricket team.

Captain J. V. Dearden with Sergeant Edwards and his bucko linemen make up the F.S.S. Troop. They have just completed a new project installing communications for the new Area H.Q. in Accra. They maintain all the line communications in the Accra area (any remarks about the Sisters' Mess telephones are out of order—so usually are the lines!)

Then in Kumasi we have Captain Emslie and Second-Lieutenant Morris, who have the Gold Coast Area Signal Troop. With their merry men spread between Takoradi and Tamale in the bush they maintain wireless communication for H.Q., Gold Coast Area. A request that they be given hard living allowance for the rigours of their life in the bush has not met with approval !

A large number of ex-soldiers from the R.W.A.F.F.—especially those who have been abroad—are now returning



Sergeant Abaduma Kanjarga

to the Army. Prominent amongst them is Sergeant Abaduma Kanjarga, who rules his men with a rod of iron.

Sergeant Abaduma Kanjarga, who was mentioned in despatches for gallant conduct in Burma, is one of the Regular soldiers of the R.W.A.F.F. now serving with the West Africa Signal Regiment. He was, in September, 1939, serving in the Gold Coast with the 1st Gold Coast Regiment and in mid-1940, four years after his enlistment, he went with his Regiment to take part in the East African campaign. It was the first time he had been out of his own country but it was not to be the last. When the campaign was over he returned to Gold Coast and found himself a member of the 2nd West African Division, preparing for action in Burma against the Japanese. The Division, 82nd West African Division, left Africa in 1943 for Burma, to relieve 81st West African Division. Sergeant Kanjarga, with the other members of his Regiment, were often in action against the enemy. In 1946 Sergeant Kanjarga went to London as one of the representatives of the R.W.A.F.F. on the Victory Parade.

The Squadron works hard and plays hard. The majority of the members of the unit hockey, football, and cricket teams come from this Squadron.

We have just said goodbye to Sergeant L. Wilkin on time-expired service, Captain John Howells and Corporal A. S. Lax, all F.S.S., Sergeant Doherty and Corporal Maris from Wireless and Operating Troop. We wish them all luck in Civvy Street.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. Formerly known as Nigeria Area Signals, this unit is now part of West Africa Signal Regiment, whose H.Q. is at Accra, Gold Coast.

The Squadron is commanded by Major F. G. R. Batt. There are the usual four troops: Squadron H.Q. Troop with Captain H. Constantine as O.C.; N.A. Signal Troop, Captain S. H. Vaughan and Second-Lieutenant Vogt (who is detached at Kaduna); F.S.S. Troop, Lieutenant J. B. Maxwell; T.M. Troop, Second-Lieutenant P. Newman.

Some of the B.N.C.O.s are S.S.M. Anyon, S.S.M. Thomas, S.Q.M.S. Rogers, Sergeants Sewell, Francis, and Wolsey.

Fixed communications by wireless are established by detachments at Kaduna, Ibadan, Enugu, and Abeokuta working to Lagos and from thence to Accra. We also have five mobile C52 sets installed in "Gin Palaces."

Since the world-wide cut down of Signal establishments the unit has left its spacious bush barracks at Yaba and is adjacent to Area H.Q. at Apapa.

We have no separate Sergeants' Mess or Corporals' Room but the lads have settled down in their respective messes at Area H.Q. Judging by reports from Area personnel, they have shaken these messes from a stagnant rut, with the cheerfulness and vigour usually displayed by the men of Royal Signals.

Entertainments usually entail a motor ride to the site of cinemas and football. Swimming at Tarquah Bay also necessitates a run in the Welfare Launch, after which all cares and troubles are forgotten (for the time being). A N.A.A.F.I. supplies char and wads in between a pleasant spot of bathing and sun-bathing or cooling off in the shade. We have also first-hand information on the subject of moonlight treks along Victoria Beach.

*Sport*. Football: Playing in a combined team with 16th C.S.D., the unit takes part in the Lagos District Football League. Three matches have been played but no wins recorded to date. However, the team is now playing better together and we expect to break the succession of defeats soon.

Hockey: A European XI has recently played a number of matches against an African XI drawn from the Squadron. A narrow victory for the Europeans was recorded each time. The European XI has played a good match against R.E.M.E., which we lost 6—4.

The unit has entered a rifle and revolver team for the forthcoming Nigeria Area Rifle Meeting at Kaduna. If successful, this team will proceed to Gold Coast for the West African Command Shoot.

*Arrivals*. We welcome Sergeant MacWilliam, Signalman Newman and Signalman Devonshire to Nigeria, confident that their stay will be pleasant and worth while leaving coal rationing in U.K.

## No. 19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Singapore

*May*

This Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Stuart-Usher, Royal Signals, is spread over a large area of South-East Asia. Our job is to provide and maintain line communication for the R.A.F. and their airfields in the Far East. Regimental H.Q. with the body of the unit is in Singapore, while other detachments are in Malaya and Saigon. One Squadron is in Burma (Rangoon) and has detachments at Mingaladon, Akyab, and Port Blair in the

Motor Cycle Trials—19th Air Formation Signal Regiment

Andaman Islands. We have recently withdrawn from Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

In Elim Camp, Singapore, the H.Q. has a healthy atmosphere, living under canvas in a coconut grove sloping down to the Straits of Johore, on the north-east coast of the island. The end of the rainy season is almost here and that will give a greater degree of comfort. But in Rangoon the monsoon will soon be starting.

There is plenty of sport in the unit.

*Yachting.* In Singapore the Yachting Club is a feature which has developed from the location, and a dozen craft are now at anchor while others are still to be completed. Two officers sailed their craft, "Finga," 20 miles from Singapore to the camp, braving all hazards, Sumatra squalls, shoals, tides, and flat calms. Great excitement accompanied the long-awaited launching of the converted 24 ft. "Airblown" lifeboat, which is the fleet flagship. Motor boats are at last "moting" after hard work and much scrounging for spares.

*Cricket.* The Cricket XI has played 20 matches against local R.A.F. and Army teams and won 15. It is entered in a recently-formed R.A.F. League at Changi. Won and lost matches at soccer last season were about even.

*Motor Cycling.* Our motor cycling enthusiasts have organised a number of successful trials. In a recent invitation meeting we lost to G.H.Q. S.E.A.L.F. Signal Regiment by eight points. There were 46 entries but not all completed the two laps of a six-mile course. In Rangoon, although our star riders have now gone, their successors won three out of the five prizes in a motor cycle scramble.

Motor Cycle Trials—19th Air Formation Signal Regiment

*Hockey.* The Six-a-side Hockey League was won by the team from the combined Terminal Equipment Troops, who are now eager to take on all comers.

*Sundry.* Plans are in hand for badminton and basketball to start with the "fine" weather. Two swimming galas were most successful.

R.S.M. Locke had a record dedicated to him in "Forces Choice" one night when, at the request of the "Cookhouse Wallahs," he heard "Don't Fence Me In." These same gentlemen requested "One Meat Ball" for their followers. Other regulars in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess are S.S.M. ("Quetta before the Quake") Phillips and Sergeant Kitson.

Sergeant Buddery, who is going on release shortly, still has pleasant memories of "F" Company.

For information of their old friends, Major E. C. Collett, Major A. D. McLaren, Captain (T.M.O.) Bishop, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Powell are all with the unit.

## No. 5 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Bangalore

*April*

This month has been one of considerable loss to the unit, both in man-power and in work. In respect of the former, we have been unfortunate in the loss (whilst on L.I.A.P.) of our former Adjutant, Captain B. J. Loffler, and the O.C. of 208 Wing Signal Section, Captain P. E. Williams. This also is a considerable blow to the football and cricket teams, for both were cricketers of no mean value, whilst Captain Loffler was a most valuable man in the "front line" of the soccer team.

Gone, too, is a notable figure from 214 T.M. Section, that of C.Q.M.S. J. H. Bennett, M.M.. It has been said that the spirits which haunt the surrounds of that corner billet have adopted a new moan song, "No Jeeps—No Humber"—this to the tune of "No Love, No Nuthin'." Other departures from the "Lower Deck" are the following:—Signalmen Ellis, Evans, Wingate, Jones, Edwards, Bushnell, A. Smith, Holmes, Hughes, Brent—all to other climes. The following also proceeded on L.I.A.P.:—Lieutenant J. Handy, Corporal Jales, and Signalman Talbot, whilst our Python list also includes R.Q.M.S. Ray, Lance-Corporals Taylor, Scally, and Robinson, and Signalman Wilson.

As regards the work side, we seem to be giving the Indian Post and Telegraph Department quite a lot of our commitments. It is to be hoped they can manage it all, and as well as the Signals have done.

So much for the loss and gain side, and on to a bit of sport. Unfortunately, hockey and volley ball seem to have been the only two fair games we have had sufficient strength to raise teams for. Several fine games of hockey have been played against the Mysore Infantry, with the following results, all as "away" matches:—1—2, 4—1, 3—0. Against Supply Depot, R.I.A.S.C., we won by a single goal scored. Though five of our most promising young men were seconded for a trial in the Services XI, I'm afraid we were outclassed and none gained a place. However, with a little brushing up in stick work they might yet make the grade. The only volley ball match played so far was also against the Mysore Infantry, when we won by the following marginal points:—7 in the first game and 13 in the second.

*Long Distance.* To Bruce: How about a line?—Blackman of the China Coast. To Daisy Dunlop, Mhow. How's Trix, Daisy?—Blacky. To Joe Ray: Hast thou forsaken us?—Nobbi.

ACK ACK JAY.

# V.H.F. IN *Malaya*

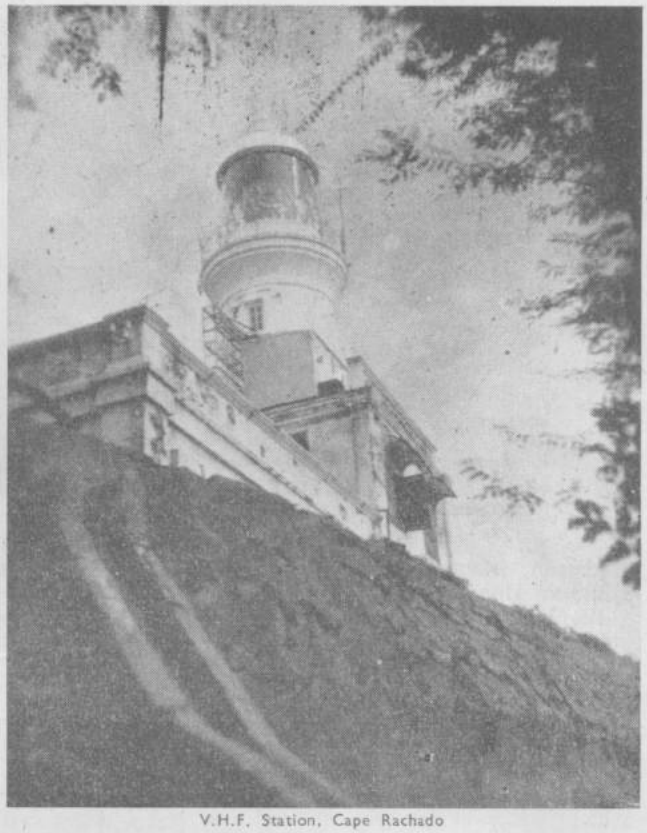
*By CAPTAIN J. H. PINKERTON*

I CAME to Malaya as a Lines Officer with the conviction that having just finished an Advanced Lines Course I was destined to be a Lines Officer for the rest of my service. And so it seemed to be when I was posted to a Line Construction Section, but someone had forgotten that the Officer-in-command 2 Multichannel was due to leave for home. So I suppose that being the newest candidate and the one least likely to object, I became Officer Commanding 2 Multichannel Section, later to be called 6 Wireless Carrier Troop.

What a Multichannel Section was or what it did I had no conception. It sounded as if it must use some sort of carrier equipment and I began to recall ruefully the instruction I had had on the W.S.10, when the instructor had ended reassuringly with " You won't need to worry about the 10 Set for that is the Wireless Officer's job." By dint of much enquiry in the Mess I discovered that the equipment used was American and that the link provided communication into North Malaya from Singapore. More than that I could not learn, so it was with considerable trepidation that I went next day with the N.C.O. in charge and was introduced to the troop.

I went to the Singapore terminal at Victory Hill, a hill whose top was made into a shrine for the Japs by Australian P.O.W.s to commemorate the Japanese victory at Singapore. There, 'midst the ruins of the shrine, I found a corporal and three signalmen looking after the equipment in a little hut hanging, as I thought, precariously on the side of the hill.

Equipment Room, Victory Hill, Singapore



V.H.F. Station, Cape Rachado

There I saw only one transmitter and one receiver, the whole lot only as big as an average suitcase. This I was told was " Antrac." On enquiry I found that it was American equipment designed to carry the American C.F.1A. or 1 + 3 carrier equipment. Apart from the fact that it was frequency modulated equipment using frequencies between 70 and 100 megacycles/sec., it was nothing more than orthodox radio. I was given the pamphlet which told me that the average range was 25 miles, but that it was possible, given a line-of-sight transmission path, to work distances of more than 50 miles.

" I suppose you have several repeaters up north ? " I asked. " Yes, sir, there are three between here and Kuala Lumpur." " So that puts Kuala Lumpur about 120 miles from here ? " " No indeed, it's more like 240; you don't want to pay too much attention to what the pamphlet says, for we work well over 100 miles at one place. That's the queer side of this V.H.F., it's not quite predictable. These sunspots and periods of Dellenger effect, which we've been hearing a lot about lately, don't seem to bother us much, even though it interferes with all the lower frequency sets about here.

" What exactly does this link carry then ? " " Well, at the moment we have a 1 + 3 carrier system working from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur, and a similar system from Kuala Lumpur to Penang. We use the speech frequency channel as an engineering channel and the second carrier channel carries a four-channel voice frequency telegraph system. All the channels are connected to the civil exchanges but in fact the Army use about half of the facilities provided."

" How is it that you seem to be working for the civilians? " " Actually I believe it's as a precaution against a line breakdown to which the long line routes through the wooded countryside are extremely liable in the tropical storms we so frequently get. It was the first trunk route working in Malaya after the re-occupation and has never been out for more than a few hours since. It's really just the ideal thing

for a country like this where the distances are great between the centres of population. It eliminates the expense of laying lines and provides a more reliable circuit, so I'm not surprised that the Telecomms Dept. want to take it over permanently."

And so I was introduced to V.H.F., and of course it appealed enormously. I was all for starting immediately to visit the eight stations I'd been told about, and it wasn't long before I was off on tour. My pen is not competent to do justice to the wonder and beauty of what I saw. Majestic mountains with overcoats of green, silvery sands and palm-lined beaches; first-class roads now lined with rubber trees, now coconut, now paddy field. Roads winding round hair-pin bend after hairpin bend so narrow that only one-way traffic is allowed. Vehicle ferries that are no more than rafts pushed by decrepit motor boats with even more decrepit engines. Panoramas stretching miles on every side; in the morning the clouds so low that the mountains look like islands in a sea of cotton wool, in the afternoon dimmed by a shimmering blue haze.

And somewhere among all this is the V.H.F. station, always on a hill, always with a view, but always with its aerials sticking up like giant toasting forks. And no station is quite the same as another except in the apparatus and the job it does. Batu Pahat is on a promontory overlooking a little fishing village. Malacca station is on Pringitt Hill, the residential area of the town. Cape Rachado is again on a promontory, the station itself being in a lighthouse with the Malay lighthouse crew, and there they watch the homeward-bound ships sail up the Straits of Malacca, counting the days and weeks till it's their turn. In Kuala Lumpur the site commands a view of the whole town from a pre-war meteorological observatory. This is the control station and of all stations the least imposing, though it has more equipment than any of the others.

Northwards we find Frazers Hill, over 4,000 feet above sea level in one of the hill stations of Malaya, the site most comfortably installed in one of the holiday bungalows, the men having the run of the golf course and tennis courts and a climate that can only remind one of home. At Maxwell's Hill, another hill station (the oldest in Malaya), conditions are much the same except that the road has never been developed and they must go on foot for nine miles down to Divisional H.Q. to get paid, or have their hair cut, or go to a film. And farthest north is Penang, the nearest thing I've yet seen to a conventional tropical island. On top of the island overlooking busy Georgetown's harbour is the V.H.F. site, approachable only by funicular railway, from which, on a clear day, one can see in the distance the hills that are Siam.

At Penang my tour finished and to me it had been a most enjoyable and interesting experience. I had seen many new places and things en route (for I have not mentioned the tin dredgers, the oil palm plantations, the rubber factories, and all the other things that go to make the prosperity of Malaya). I had met many new and interesting people, for after all the men who man the V.H.F. link are civilians like myself, and like myself had been absorbed into the Troop from all kinds of jobs and trades. And they couldn't help but be interesting when they talked of the place where they lived and the little adventures they had had; the time Jeff saw the rhinoceros, or when Fred shot an iguana, or John a wild boar; or how Ted ran over a 12-foot python in his jeep, and how once the complete detachment lay awake with loaded rifles all night because someone had heard suspicious noises coming from the trees nearby; or the smell they had at Malacca which the cook said was a tiger.

I still cannot make up my mind after over a year with this V.H.F. Troop whether I still want to go back to being a Lines Officer or not. Memory usually is more pleasant than reality but lines always did choose the most awkward times to go dis. And so does V.H.F., and touring is very tiring after the first time or two. "Nowt said needs nowt," and if I say too much about how I like my job I shall find myself next in line for Squadron Subaltern.

# THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1*
*(Tel.: Victoria 9194)*

## Benevolent Fund

During April, 1947, 107 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £763 12s. 8d.

*Summary of Grants Disbursed*

| Purpose | No. of Cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 35 | 197 | 13 | 6 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 6 | 21 | 13 | 8 |
| Cots and prams | 13 | 58 | 10 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 3 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Furniture | 13 | 92 | 0 | 6 |
| Clothing | 3 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Hospital and doctors' fees | 7 | 40 | 5 | 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 3 | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| Convalescence | 3 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Dentures | 3 | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Removals | 5 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Travelling expenses | 5 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 2 | 160 | 0 | 0 |
| Funeral expenses | 4 | 38 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal expenses | 1 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| Total | | £763 | 12 | 8 |

*Analysis*

Discharged or released soldiers, 60; widows of deceased soldiers, 11; families of soldiers serving in the U.K., 24; B.A.O.R., 3; C.M.F., 1; M.E.L.F., 4; India, 1; S.E.A.L.F., 1; dependants of deceased soldiers, 2.

*Donations received for the Fund*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Units of Signal Training Centre | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| War Office Signal Regiment | 22 | 6 | 8 |
| 1st L. of C. Signal Regiment | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 48th Divisional Signal Regiment | 744 | 11 | 8 |
| 6th Air Formation Signal Regiment | 6 | 15 | 7 |
| 8th Air Formation Signal Regiment | 22 | 1 | 2 |
| Eastern Command Signals | 3 | 18 | 11 |
| Caserta Enclave Signal Squadron | 14 | 0 | 4 |
| East Anglia Coast Signal Troop | | 15 | 0 |
| Shoeburyness Signal Troop | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Thames Estuary and Kent Coast Signal Troop | | 12 | 6 |
| East Coast Signal Troop | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| Officers' Messes: | | | |
| 11th E.A. Divisional Signal Regiment | | 13 | 10 |
| Eastern Command Signal Regiment | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| Sergeants' Mess, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Lieutenant N. B. Robins, Royal Signals | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Anonymous | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| The Army Benevolent Fund | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | £2,056 | 15 | 7 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these subscriptions and donations.

## Old Comrades' Association

New members registered during the month of April, 1947:

Annual members ... ... 113
Life members ... ... ... 48

A meeting of Hon. Secretaries of local branches of the Association was held in London on 2nd April. This was the first post-war meeting of its kind. It served a most useful purpose for the exchange of views between Association Headquarters and branch representatives and will in future be held annually in April. We publish a photograph of all those present at the meeting.

A local branch has been established at Coventry, Warwickshire. Hon. Secretary, I. G. Davies, Esq., 29 Kingsbury Road, Coundon, Coventry. By the time these notes are in print it is probable that a branch will have been established in Scarborough, Yorks.

## Annual General Meeting

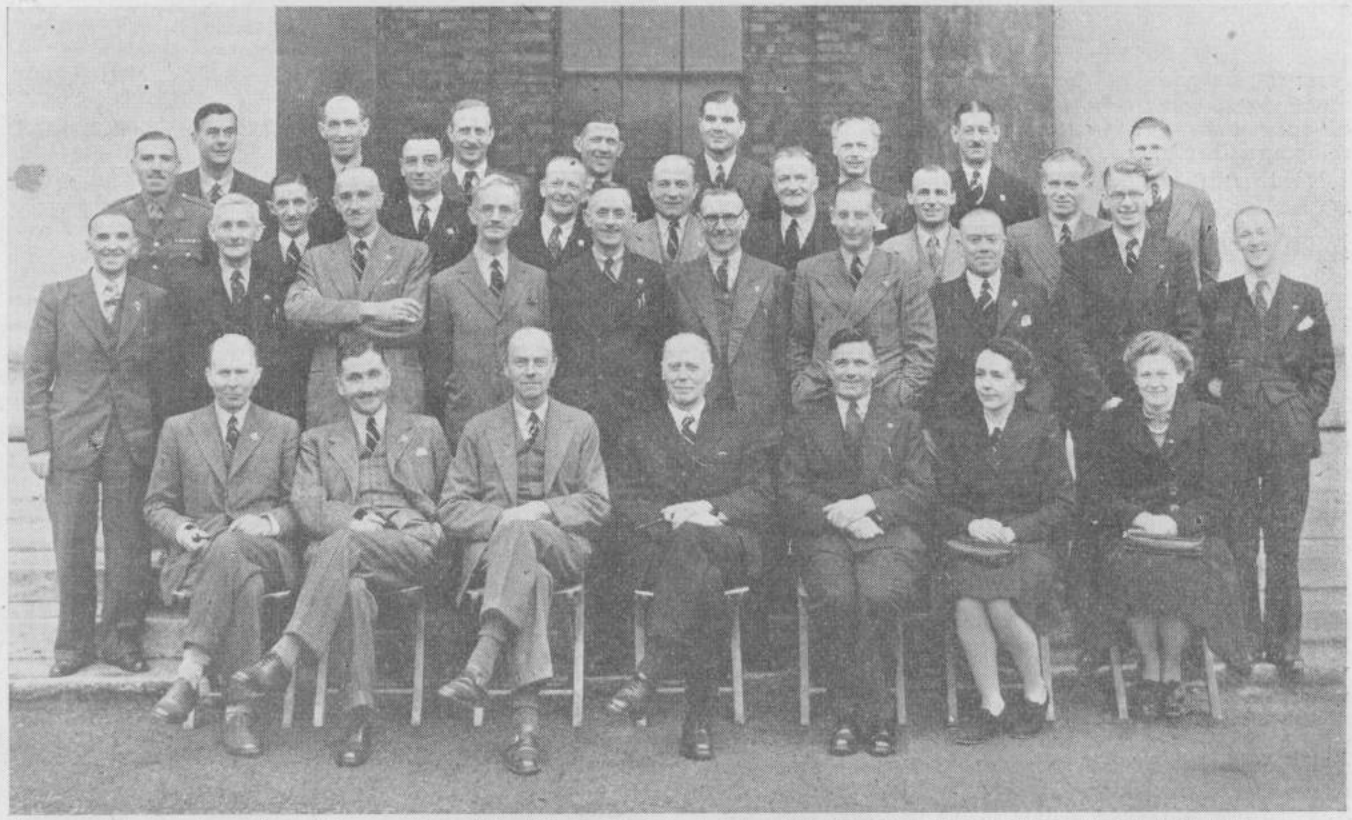
The Annual General Meeting of the Signals Association will be held in Catterick Camp on 22nd June, 1947. The balance sheet for the War Benevolent Fund is included in this number of the magazine for general information. Balance sheets for the No. 1 Benevolent Fund (Deposit Account) and the General Fund will be published in future numbers.

## Information

*Clothes Rationing: Services.* "Regulars" in the Services will be entitled to receive 30 coupons for the period of 12 months which began on 1st October, 1946, and this arrangement will continue annually. In addition, for this year only, each "Regular" will be issued with five coupons for each complete year of service between 1941 and 1946 inclusive, provided he had not otherwise become entitled to civilian coupons through having been demobilised. It is hoped the first of these coupons will be issued through Service channels in June, 1947.

*Footwear Repairers.* From 1st April, 1947, applications for licences for opening or transferring a footwear repair business should be made to the appropriate Regional Office of the Board of Trade.

*Housing: Increase of Rent.* As rates have been increased in many districts, it should be remembered that although the Rent Restrictions Act makes certain provisions for the passing on of rate increases to tenants of unfurnished property, where the rent of a furnished property has been fixed by a Furnished Rent Tribunal it may not be increased on account of an increase of rates (or for any other reason) without the permission of the Tribunal.



Meeting of Honorary Secretaries and Representatives of Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association Branches held in London on the 2nd April, 1947

R. Ryan (Chester), L. F. Brignall (Fife County), Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Kirkcaldy (Newcastle-on-Tyne), E. Greatorex (Salisbury), Major H. Wilson (Suffolk), A. E. Stead (Association H.Q.), R. E. Cobbing (Darlington), W. J. Evenden (Association H.Q.)

Major G. C. Dunningham (Catterick), R. F. Thomas (Association H.Q.), A. J. Pout (Northampton), Major J. Field (Plymouth), L. Ford (Medway Towns), Captain J. J. McQuarrie (Glasgow), F. A. Fairbanks (Medway Towns), W. Woolnough (Medway Towns)

F. A. Matthew (Cardiff), Captain C. Shepherd, M.B.E. (Chester), Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Hannah, O.B.E. (Bournemouth), Brigadier E. J. Murphy, C.B.E. (General Secretary), F. Cole (Exeter), S. J. Rouse (Bournemouth), A. E. Farnol (Edinburgh), Lieutenant A. Heptonstall (Leeds), H. F. Darke, H. A. McCalman (East Surrey)

Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L. (Birmingham), R. Arnot (Central Scotland Branch), Major-General Sir L. G. Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C. (Representative Colonel Commandant), Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C. (Chairman, Royal Signals Association), G. Cosgrove (Manchester), Miss A. Clementi Smith, M.B.E. (Welfare H.Q.), Miss M. J. Parsloe (Association H.Q.)

# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

### Coventry

At the general meeting of the Coventry Branch held on 6th May the following officers were elected:—Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Dudley; Vice-Chairman, Major R. Avery; Hon. Secretary, I. G. Davies, Esq.; Hon. Treasurer, Major L. Suggars; Committee, Captain C. S. Shaw, R. Strong, Esq.

A general discussion on the future activities of the branch followed and many queries were settled. It was decided that the Charterhouse Hotel would remain the H.Q. of the branch and that meetings would be held there on the first Tuesday in each month. The next one was arranged for 3rd June at 8 p.m.

Although there were over 40 members present, it was agreed that there must be many more ex-Signals in the Coventry area, and everyone was asked to make known the existence of the new branch as much as possible. A pleasant "get-together" followed with the conclusion of the official business and the general enthusiasm augurs well for the future of the branch.

### Salisbury

It is with much regret that we have to insert in the appropriate column, "Gone but not forgotten," the departure of our past and very apt Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Browne, who has left us to take up a position in West Africa. Let us hope that the success he deserves will be his.

We held our monthly dance at the British Legion in April, but unfortunately there was a shortage of men, probably owing to the call to the spade, or should we say the loyalty to "dig for slavery"? We hope to hold a social evening at the premises of one of our oldest members, namely Mr. T. Lapham, at the Black Dog, Chilmark, for our next social event.

We are all looking forward to the visit of the Corps Band on Sunday, 29th June, for a band concert, and hope with the help of our neighbours the Southern Command Signals to put on a really good show for the locals.

We have not been fortunate in securing our own premises for a Club as yet, but we are keeping our eyes "skinned" for a site or a building, when we can really get going, but until then must carry on as best we can, but we are fortunate in being able to have the use of the Woolpack Inn, thanks to the manager, ex-Sergeant A. Thomas, for our monthly meetings.

In conclusion, might I ask if ex-Sergeant "Joe" Cotterell (as we knew him at 3rd Division, Bulford) is ever passing this way, will he please call on the Hon. Secretary, who would be delighted to see him, and who also will welcome any Signals personnel about to be demobbed into the ranks of the Association—Southern Command Signals please note. Major Spindler is our treasurer and I am sure will be pleased to collect your subs.

"SARUM"

### Chester

The March meeting of the branch was held on Thursday, 6th March. Owing to the severity of the weather, the attendance was very small (at least we sincerely hope that the weather was the reason). The evening was taken up mainly with branch business, so the chance of a good "grip" had to be postponed.

The business opened by extending a welcome to three new members, Signalman Clarke, Major Rogers, and Captain Hardy. It was then the pleasing duty of our Chairman, Major W. J. MacIntyre, to welcome and install his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill. Colonel Gill replied that he would do all in his power to give the branch 100 per cent. service and that he looked forward with pleasure to meeting old friends of the war days. As these notes are being written some time after the March meeting, I must say that Colonel Gill has lived up to his reply, inasmuch as at his instigation the Executive Committee meet a few days before the monthly meeting and go through the business of the agenda, thrash the various matters out, and when the monthly meeting takes place, the minimum time is taken up in arguing the point, thereby leaving much more time for the social side.

A letter from the Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, was read, in which he informed the branch that we were to be honoured by a visit of the Corps Band. A lively discussion then took place as to the way to utilise the Band's services. Since the meeting we have heard that the Chester Branch O.C.A. have been allotted the Band on Wednesday, 14th May. It was left to the Entertainments Committee to draw up a programme, which they have done, and things promise well for the 14th. More of this in our next notes.

Speaking from a personal point of view, it was a very happy evening for me to join the Chester Branch and meet old friends of the Castle days. It looks like 4 Command Signals in civvies. This prompts me to ask all members of the Chester Branch to come along each month and support us at the meetings. It does not matter whether you are on a committee or not, your moral support is what we require. If you have any worry or troubles or need advice, come to us. Perhaps we can help you. We have some people in office in the branch who know all the answers, or nearly all, so come along, tell us what you want in the way of social activity and we will lay it on. If you have any little bit of information or funny story that you would like included in the notes, let me have it.

R. D. H. H.

### Birmingham

The usual monthly meeting was held at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, on Thursday evening, 24th April. There was an exceedingly good attendance, which is not surprising when our membership of 751 is remembered. I wonder who the odd one is? Wives and sweethearts were invited on this occasion and no doubt this arrangement helped to bring in the members who might otherwise have been assisting with the washing-up or taking the girl friend to the cinema. A variety entertainment was much appreciated. I cannot pass this opportunity of paying tribute to the excellent singing of Miss Pat Carnell, daughter of Joe Carnell, our late secretary.

At the Committee meeting it was decided that the subscriptions of members living in Coventry should be transferred to the newly-formed Coventry branch.

Operation Mercury, i.e., the visit of the Corps Band in July and the various functions attendant thereon, is well advanced. As this will be the last opportunity I shall have to remind you, the dates are:—(a) Botanical Gardens Dance, Friday, 4th July; (b) Signals Association Church Parade and Service at the Cathedral, 3 p.m., Sunday, 6th July; (c) Week-end Band Engagements in the Birmingham City Parks.

Evening dress at the dance will be optional which, in these days of coupons and the ravages of war-time moths, is just as well.

A small but enthusiastic band of the old R.E. Signals are reluctant to relinquish their special identity and dined together at the Crown Hotel on Wednesday, 7th May. These stalwarts did remarkably good work in holding the Birmingham Branch of the Association together in the war years, and it was mainly due to their loyalty that there was a branch still in existence when demobilisation started. The

Birmingham Branch is glad to pay this tribute to the Boys of the Old Brigade.

Membership of this branch continues to rise. I saw Captain Ironmonger, our Secretary, busily engaged with his papers at the " X " Army Signals Social on Saturday evening, 3rd May. He doesn't miss much.

The last Thursday in the month. Crown Hotel, Broad Street. Don't forget.

R. F. B.

**Glasgow**

Greetings to all old friends serving in the Regiment and at home from Glasgow Branch of the Old Comrades' Association. Membership is still increasing as we now have 538 members on our roll. We will no doubt have a further increase when we manage to find premises for our club. This will be made a lot easier by the grant from the London Association. In the meantime, we still keep in touch with regular reunions more or less on a unit basis.

The Branch held a very successful evening in March of this year in Sloan's Arcade Café, Glasgow, during which we were honoured by a visit from Brigadier L. H. Harris, of No. 1 H.Q. Signals and now P.O. Regional Engineer for Scotland, and Brigadier W. C. Buchanan, C.B.E., M.C., T.D. Under the auspices of our genial Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel T. M. Niven, T.D., and with the " Granville Party " providing the musical entertainment, everyone present voted the evening a huge success. With the concert party was our old friend Major B. Wilson, of No. 1 H.Q. Signals, who so often sang for the troops in the past. This was followed by 52nd Lowland Divisional Signals having a " do " on their own (most exclusive), and according to our keyhole correspondent it was a howling success. Major R. S. Lang officiated at this gathering.

Despite our lack of club premises, we have joined the Association of Regimental Clubs in Glasgow and intend participating in the winter games tournaments. This is a splendid means of preserving the camaraderie existing among ex-Service personnel.

Since our last notes our Committee has been strengthened by the addition of two A.T.S. members, who will no doubt be a distinct asset to our Branch.

Our best wishes to the Editor, and again many thanks to London for all they have done for us.

ALEX MCINNES

**Aberdeen**

Although there is no news of importance to relate, there is great speculation as to " who will be who " amongst W.O.s, sergeants, and other ranks now that recruiting for our new Signal Unit at Fonthill Barracks (51st/52nd (Scottish) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.), has started. I think I shall be able to give that information in our July issue.

The Secretary of the W.R.N.S. Association (Aberdeen and N.E. Branch) extended a most cordial invitation to ten members of our branch to a " Guest Night " on 17th April, 1947, and they availed themselves of a very fine and spirited offer. From reports received, the evening proved to be an outstanding success.

A games tournament took place on Monday, 21st April, in the Club Room at 8 p.m., when ex-O.R.s of the Corps challenged the ex-Officers, the latter being led by our old C.O., and now C.O. of the new Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D. The " battle," carried on in " Signal style," resulted in an over-all win for the Officers by 22 points to 14, but we regret to say that a Regular officer had to help them out, being none other than Captain Darricotte, our Adjutant of the Signal Regiment ! Unfortunately, a few of my crack all-round players were on duty that evening, but I think we shall lick the officers in the next round !

The following represented the ex-Officers and O.R.s:—

Officers: Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, Majors A. H. Reid, MacLachlan, MacKinnon, and Smith, Captains Darricotte, Corrie, and Hillman, and Mr. Ellis.

O.R.s: Messrs. J. D. Taylor, A. Smith, D. Sinclair, C. Mathieson, M. Cooper, H. Rennie, W. Garrod, W. Ewing, and A. Cruickshank.

We must thank our most capable and ever-helpful Hon. Secretary, Captain C. F. Andrews, M.B.E., for assisting us in this tournament by acting as umpire—not " Neutral Sigs."

The Badminton Club captain informs me that the season is nearing an end, and I append part of his news herewith: " Since the start of our Badminton Club in October, 1946, we have had a very successful season and we very much regret that April is here from the game point of view. Taking into account the shuttlecock scarcity in the country, it was decided not to enter the North-East Group Leagues. We have a lovely hall at the Barracks, containing two very nice courts with ingenious line markings made with strip paper gummed to the floor—the idea of Club captain, William Garrod. We have played several " friendlies " with League Clubs in the City and have held our own up to now. We are hoping to run a dance to round up our season and so help to reimburse the Branch Fund, which gave assistance in repairs and the buying of new shuttles."

In conclusion, I should like to say that this Club is a very active one, and now that the T.A. will be forming up, I think we shall have some grand sporting events either against or in conjunction with them, so " up the old soldiers," though very young we may be !

" SMUDGER "

# Territorial Army

## 42nd (LANCASHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The most important event of the last month was the commencement of recruiting on 1st May. There has been quite a good response so far, but we hope to attract larger numbers soon when we start our own publicity drive and have some equipment and transport to show. Within the first fortnight from the start of recruiting we registered over 50 potential volunteers, most of whom will be accepted in the unit when we review their applications shortly. Many are senior N.C.O.s and the majority served in 42nd (East Lancashire) Divisional Signals in pre-war days.

The Drill Hall is slowly assuming a more civilized appearance, but it will be some time before it will be completed to our satisfaction. The Officers' Mess is functioning and the Sergeants' Mess will be ready shortly. The Men's Canteen —under the watchful eye of Harry Jones, our caretaker—is building up stocks of the right type, and the presence of a loaded brewer's truck outside our front entrance is no longer an uncommon sight.

We should have some T.A. officers gazetted shortly. The number of applicants increases steadily and is very encouraging.

A welcome addition to the Permanent Staff in the last month is S.S.M. R. Buscall, now our chief clerk, who came via No. 1 Depot from C.S.O.'s Branch in the Middle East.

Accommodation in Manchester for the Permanent Staff is a tricky business, but fortunately three of our P.S.I.s had houses here already, and we have managed to obtain married quarters for two more. That narrows our waiting list down

to two, and we hope to obtain married quarters for them soon.

Some equipment and transport should be arriving this month; we are already the proud possessors of one Utility truck, two sticks of solder, four flagpoles, and a few first field dressings, but we hope that this is only a minute fraction of what we shall get ! A good stock of clothing came in about a month ago, and the Q.M. can be seen walking around rather self-consciously in a very new Canadian battle dress !

# Sports Notes

### Rugby

On Saturday, 26th April, Signals, Catterick, entered two seven-a-side Rugby teams—the first team in the Twickenham Sevens and the second in the Billingham Sevens. We did quite well but were beaten in both cases in the semi-final.

However, the next Saturday, 3rd May, we were more successful. We again entered two teams, the first team in the Huddersfield Sevens, the second team in the Northumberland Rugby Union Sevens.

The first team started off very well and should have probably won it, but were unluckily beaten by Bradford in the semi-final.

The second team won their tournament, an account of which from one of the Saturday newspapers is given below:

The Northumberland Rugby Union sevens tournament, organised by Northern at McCracken Park, Gosforth, for local charity, deserved much kinder weather and better support. There was keen competition throughout.

In a hard-fought final two minutes' extra time was required before the Royal Corps of Signals (Catterick), who had come in for Hartlepool Rovers, got the solitary try which gave them victory and revenge over Westoe, winners of the Billingham Sevens the previous week, who then knocked out Signals in the semi-final.

Signals, well versed in sevens play, impressed when they dismissed Percy Park Old Novos and Medicals in the earlier ties.

First Round.—Tynesdale 10 pts., Northern 9; Swan Hunter's 16 pts., Wallsend 0; Westoe 3 pts., Seghill 0; Rockcliff 16 pts., North Shields 3; Royal Corps of Signals 8 pts., Percy Park 5; Old Novos 8 pts., Gosforth 5; Medicals 5 pts., Seaside Rovers 0; R.A.F. (Ouston) 3 pts., Vickers-Armstrong 0.

Second Round.—Tynedale 8 pts., Swan Hunter's 5; Westoe 11 pts., Rockcliff 3; Signals 8 pts., Old Novos 0; Medicals 14 pts., R.A.F. (Ouston) 0.

Semi-finals.—Westoe 6 pts., Tynedale 5; Signals 5 pts., Medicals 3.

Final.—Royal Corps of Signals 1 try, 3 pts., Westoe 0.

The team was:—Signalman Jeffrey (6 Training Regiment), Signalman Cavanna (4 Training Regiment), Corporal Rees (4 Training Regiment), Signalman Evans (1 Training Regiment), Captain Westwood (1 Training Regiment), Major Rowntree (H.Q., S.T.C.), Corporal Lees (1 Training Regiment).

### Golf

The Catterick golf course is in full swing again after the particularly long winter "close season," and the two lost holes which served the Minister of Food during the war will be in play again any day now.

Two matches have been played by the Royal Signals, Catterick, team. The first against the S.M.E., Ripon, was played on the Harrogate (Starbeck) course in April and resulted in an easy win for the R.E. The team came into its own, however, in the match against H.Q., Northern Command, and in spite of the opposition having shorter handicaps, managed to bring off a win by six matches to five with one halved. The match was played on the Ganton course, which was really playing up to standard after the recent English Amateur Championships.

### Motor Cycling

A Motor Cycle Scramble was held at Gandale Moor, Catterick, on Sunday, 13th April. This scramble, which consisted of three events, 350 c.c., 500 c.c., and unlimited classes, consisted of a large number of Army riders, and a smaller number of civilian contestants. All events were won by Rex Young, a young civilian motor cyclist from Middlesbrough. He was evidently a master at the game, this being proved conclusively in the finals of the unlimited class. It was during the penultimate lap he

Young winning the "Unlimited" event

slipped and fell on a muddy 1 in 3 gradient, and on remounting he was placed third instead of first as before. On his coming round to finish the race, the large assembly gave him a roar of encouragement when it was seen by all that not only had he taken his original lead again but was at least 50 yards ahead of his challenger.

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*Publications Received.* We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

THE THISTLE, April.
ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, April.
THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, April.
R.E.M.E., May, June.
THE HIGHLAND FLING, May.
CATTERICK EXPRESS, April, May.

* * *

### PERSONAL

L. W. Goodwin, 138 Allestree Lane, Allestree, Derby, would like to hear from any members of No. 15 Squad, Royal Signals, Trowbridge Barracks, January, 1941, especially Ted Riley.

J. R. Davies, Aigburth, Mason's Road, Gorseinan, Glamorgan, wants to get in touch with old members of 100 A.A. Brigade Signal Section, 2nd Army Troops, B.L.A., or 63rd Indian Infantry Brigade Signals, S.E.A.C.

J. Spraggon, 50 Glynne Street, Queensferry, Chester, would like news of Corporal S. Hodgson, ex 4th Indian Division, Signalman Thompson, and Captain Johnson, ex 4th L. of C. Signals, also Captain Collins, M.B.E., No. 1 H.Q. Signals, B.A.O.R.

* * *

W. C. Evans, ex lance-corporal, Royal Signals, undertakes small printing jobs at reasonable prices—106 Guinness Trust, Stamford Hill, London, N.16.

# Royal Signals Association

## War Benevolent Fund

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1946

| 1945 | Liabilities | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Accumulated Fund: | | |
| 61,042 | Balance 1st January, 1946 .. .. | 81,075 17 4 | |
| 20,034 | *Add:* Excess of Income over Expenditure for year .. .. .. | 11,148 19 8 | |
| 81,076 | | | 92,224 17 0 |
| | Sundry Creditors: | | |
| 407 | General Fund .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | |
| | Benevolent (No. 1 a/c.) Fund .. .. | 16 2 6 | |
| | Memorial Fund .. .. .. .. | 20 1 9 | |
| 10 | Accountancy Charges .. .. .. | 52 10 0 | |
| | | | 89 14 3 |
| £81,493 | | | £92,314 11 3 |

| 1945 | Assets | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9,280 | Cash at Bank .. .. .. .. | | 13,220 13 8 |
| | Investments at Cost: | | |
| 1,000 | £1,500 3% Defence Bonds .. .. | 1,500 0 0 | |
| 1,795 | £1,795 3% Savings Bonds, 1960-70 .. | 1,795 0 0 | |
| 8,200 | £8,200 2½% National War Bonds, 1949-51 .. .. .. .. .. | 8,200 0 0 | |
| 12,350 | £12,350 2½% National War Bonds, 1951-53 .. .. .. .. .. | 12,350 0 0 | |
| 31,000 | £31,000 2½% National War Bonds, 1952-54 .. .. .. .. .. | 31,000 0 0 | |
| 250 | £250 2½% National War Bonds, 1952-54 Post Office Issue .. .. .. | 250 0 0 | |
| 16,833 | £22,500 2½% Funding Loan, 1956-61 .. | 22,336 16 3 | |
| | | | 77,431 16 3 |
| | (Market valuation of the above, 31st December, 1946, £78,663 15s. 0d.) | | |
| 785 | Income Tax Recoverable .. .. | | 1,662 1 4 |
| £81,493 | | | £92,314 11 3 |

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books of the Fund, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. Lloyds Bank Ltd. have certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance and that they hold for safe custody the Securities representing the investments.

1/5, Broad Street Place,
London, E.C.2.
2nd May, 1947.

(Signed) H. S. Baker and Co.,
*Chartered Accountants,*
Auditors.

## Income and Expenditure Account

### for the year ended 31st December, 1946

| 1945 | Expenditure | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8,802 | To Benevolent Grants .. .. .. | | 9,412 19 9 |
| 1,670 | „ Prisoners of War .. .. .. | | — — — |
| 1,938 | „ Comforts .. .. .. .. | | 567 3 6 |
| | „ Donations: | | |
| | Regular Forces' Employment Association .. .. .. .. | 350 0 0 | |
| | Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Familes' Association .. .. | 100 0 0 | |
| | National Association for the Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen .. .. | 140 0 0 | |
| | Helen Pierce Fund .. .. .. | 15 0 0 | |
| | | | 605 0 0 |
| | „ Administration Expenses | | |
| 506 | Rent, Rates, Insurance, Light and Heat .. .. .. .. | 412 10 5 | |
| 793 | Salaries .. .. .. .. | 1,498 6 5 | |
| 360 | Telephone, Postages, Carriage Packing, Stationery and Printing .. | 661 4 11 | |
| 97 | General Expenses .. .. .. | 332 15 9 | |
| | | | 2,904 17 6 |
| 10 | „ Accountancy Charges in respect of Audit and Accountancy work and Income Tax Repayment Claim .. | | 42 0 0 |
| 199 | „ Income Tax irrecoverable prior to 16th September, 1943 .. .. .. | | — — — |
| 20,034 | „ Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure .. .. .. .. | | 11,148 19 8 |
| £34,409 | | | £24,681 0 5 |

| 1945 | Income | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | By Donations: | | |
| 29,213 | Corps Units .. .. .. .. | 20,550 0 11 | |
| 205 | Prisoners of War Relatives .. .. | — — — | |
| 2,601 | Sundries .. .. .. .. | 2,174 15 2 | |
| | | | 22,724 16 1 |
| 750 | „ Grant from Army Benevolent Fund .. | | — — — |
| | „ Interest from Investments—Gross: | | |
| 30 | 3% Defence Bonds .. .. | 37 19 10 | |
| 287 | 2½% Funding Loan .. .. .. | 569 7 6 | |
| 1,269 | 2½% National War Bonds .. .. | 1,295 0 0 | |
| 54 | 3% Savings Bonds .. .. .. | 53 17 0 | |
| | | | 1,956 4 4 |
| £34,409 | | | £24,681 0 5 |

# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 9

JULY 1947

**THE WIRE**

*The Corps Magazine of the*
**ROYAL SIGNALS**

*The Official Organ of the*
**SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

*All correspondence and notes for "The Wire" should be addressed to: The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.*

☆

**Volume 1** *New Series* **No. 9**

**JULY • 1947**

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**PRICE: ONE SHILLING**

# *Editorial*

IT will be a long time before the scars of war on the face of the Empire's capital are completely healed, and the drab exteriors of boarded or partly glazed fronts in the shopping centres revert to their pre-war plate glass magnificence.

We in London have long been accustomed to the signs on every hand of war-time neglect, and it is only the visitor from more fortunate districts whose eye is consciously struck by London's shabby dress. For the very reason of this jaded indifference of the population, the cheering effect of the "paint and decoration push," now noticeable in many streets, is the greater. Public buildings, private (and public) houses, hotels and hospitals are starting to bloom in shining coats of bright colours, while flowers grace the surprised windows of such sober establishments as the Treasury Offices. But brighter buildings are not the only present welcome antidotes to the bodings of the pessimist. Colour, music, and ordered movement are complementary prescriptions in the therapy of rehabilitation by diverting display, and the record attendances at the many occasions of this London season—the Trooping of the Colour, Ascot, the Royal Tournament, Wimbledon, the Ballet, to mention a few—testify to the public thirst for entertainment embodying one or more of these tonic ingredients.

Royal Signals is contributing in no small way to this midsummer gladness. The outstanding popularity of the Display Team's performance at Olympia is described elsewhere in this issue, but in addition, as we write, the Corps Band is delighting thousands of listeners in Hyde Park, where it is playing for four hours daily for one week.

Over all the sun is behaving (at the moment) exactly as we think it should, so for the present, at all events, "Be gone dull care!"

* * *

A message was sent to our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal, by Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, expressing on behalf of all members of the Corps their condolences with her in her recent bereavement. Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to reply thanking General Phillips and all ranks for their sympathy.

* * *

In the May, 1947, issue of THE WIRE, we drew readers' attention to the fact that the Corps History is in two parts at 1s. each. After careful consideration, the General Secretary of the Signals Association has decided that in future Parts I and II together will be 1s. It will not be possible, however, to refund 1s. to readers who have already paid 2s. for both parts.

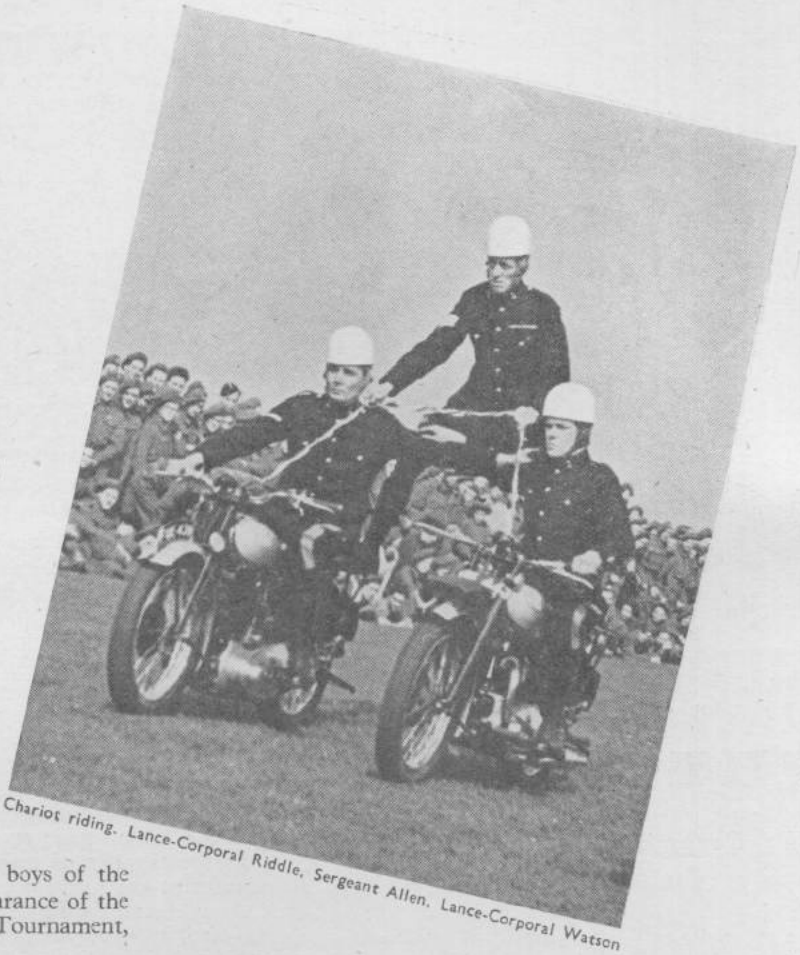
* * *

Readers are reminded that annual subscriptions to THE WIRE and the QUARTERLY JOURNAL run from January to December. New subscribers should therefore make their first payment sufficient to cover the cost of individual copies until the following December issue inclusive.

* * *

*The History of the First Infantry Division.* This has now been published. There are two volumes: (a) Anzio Campaign; (b) Florence to Monte Grande. Both volumes are extremely well supplied with both large and small scale maps and there is a number of photographs in each. The price of each volume is 4s. Copies may be obtained from "G" Branch, H.Q., 1st Infantry Division, M.E.L.F. Payment may be made by either postal order, money order, or cheque, but it should be noted that the sum of 1s. 3d. should be included in all cheques to cover banking charges in the Middle East. Copies will be despatched immediately on receipt of remittance.

# ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY



Chariot riding. Lance-Corporal Riddle, Sergeant Allen, Lance-Corporal Watson

A FANFARE of trumpets sounded by four boys of the Royal Corps of Signals heralded the appearance of the Motor Cycle Display Team at the Royal Tournament, Olympia, 12th to 28th June, 1947.

The Royal Signals Display, which is the team's official title, gave some very fine performances, combining moments of humour with feats of skill and judgment. Looking extremely smart in patrols and white crash helmets, they were received throughout with enthusiasm by the audience.

In the short space of ten minutes which they had at their disposal, the team performed no less than 19 items. The spectacular opening item was performed by Sergeants Allen and Duke, who each mounting an 18-foot wooden runway to a height of 2½ feet from the ground, leapt into the air at a speed of approximately 40 miles an hour, coming to earth again within a space of 40 feet. Signalman Croft rode round the ring perched on the top of a ladder attached to the rear of his motor cycle, while Corporal Coxall and Lance-Corporal Watson performed a masterly balancing feat in the shape of a double "Jimmy." Sergeant Allen seemed to have the most comfortable job riding the combination motor cycle and sidecar, but after a while we began to sympathise, as his passenger mercilessly removed the wheel from the sidecar; undaunted, the Sergeant rode on. Sergeant Duke found a new toy in an airborne Wellbike, which caused a great deal of amusement, particularly when he rode beneath the chariot formed by Sergeant Allen and Lance-Corporals Riddle and Watson.

The formation riding was outstanding for its accuracy and precision, and one wondered exactly what would happen if one of the team should make even the smallest error of judgment. The roar of the engines was impressive and added to the thrill.

It was interesting to learn that not only could human beings perform acrobatic feats, but that the motor cycles themselves took no small part in them: one machine had the weight of twelve men on it at one time, and another cruised round the arena with no one at the controls while Sergeant Duke was towed behind on a sledge.

In addition to the four Boy Trumpeters, the team consists of 21 men, their ages ranging from 18 to 28 years, and their lengths of service in the Army from 10 months to nine years. Although the Display team has been in existence since 1933, with the exception of the war years, and was well known in pre-war days with horses as well as motor cycles, none of the present members has appeared before in the team. It is unfortunate that "Patch," the pony, has not yet returned to the team, but it is hoped that she will re-enlist shortly with her offspring.

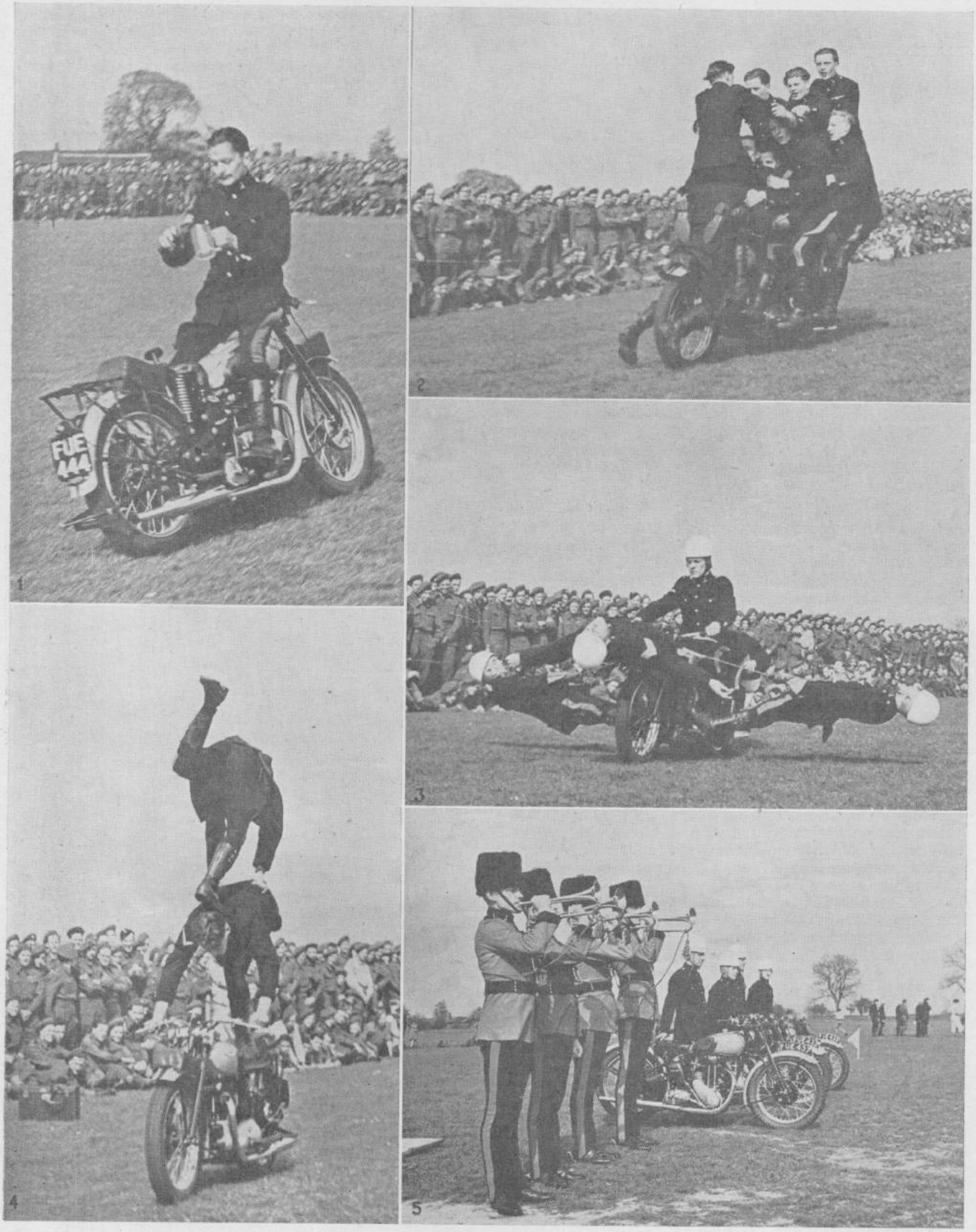
The motor cycles, supplied by the Triumph Engineering Co., Coventry, are Model 3T De Luxe 350 c.c. vertical twin solo machines and a 500 c.c. speed twin motor cycle combination. They had not been strengthened in any way. They have now been fitted with telescopic forks in place of girder forks, and the team is very well pleased with the change.

Three weeks prior to their appearance at Olympia the Display Team gave a performance for the Press and newsreel at Catterick, photographs of which appear opposite.

The show has had a good write-up, THE TIMES remarking that the Display Team very nearly stole the show. The B.B.C.'s commentary was more in the way of a doubtful compliment—"Piccadilly gone mad"!

Good luck to Captains Galbraith and Jackman and their team in their forthcoming engagements, and may their initial success continue throughout their tour.

Names of the team are:—Sergeant G. Duke, Sergeant K. Allen, Corporal D. E. Coxall, Lance-Corporal P. A. Riddle, Lance-Corporal J. Watson, Lance-Corporal A. J. Skelsey, Signalman I. L. Cox, Signalman H. James, Signalman J. Mann, Signalman R. F. Croft, Signalman E. G. Oram, Signalman J. Fortescue, Signalman E. S. Lovatt, Signalman W. Joel, Signalman H. R. Smith, Signalman P. Cave, Signalman T. Webster, Signalman K. V. Gatward, Signalman C. M. Astill, Signalman V. Emms, Signalman D. Harwood, Boy J. Eason, Boy A. Standen, Boy D. Hazel, Boy G. Waters.




(1) A cooling drink. Corporal Coxall says "Why wait?" (2) Twelve up on a 350 c.c. Standard Model Triumph 3T. (3) "Rosette," Lance-Corporal Watson riding. (4) Double Jimmy? Corporal Coxall on Lance-Corporal Watson. (5) The Olympia Fanfare. Boys Esson, Standen, Hazel and Waters

# Home Stations

## No. 1 DEPOT REGIMENT

*June*

Since our last message to the outer world appeared in THE WIRE, little of "writable" interest has occurred. Very unfortunately (for us), a large percentage of our staff, many of them old hands, have left us for the comforts of home life, but those who have taken over the Administration reins are putting up a good show, this being proved by the speed at which the "bods" come and go; for instance, the last few weeks have been hectic ones for our Release Office. Age and Service Group 50 brought high pressure work, equalled only in the past by the incoming and outgoing of Groups 24 and 26. The total number of Class A releases through this Depot now amounts to approximately 15,000, and only one was "erroneous."

The present heat wave gives us the long-awaited opportunity to spring clean the lines, which, after having been buried for so long, badly need renovating. The huts are being redecorated in cream distemper and battleship (?) grey paint, and are really beginning to look like genuine "prefabs." So! In consequence we have to watch for the "squatter" menace.

A number of changes have taken place, chief amongst them being that Major H. H. Kitchen is now O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Captain E. J. Angell Second-in-Command No. 2 Squadron, and Lieutenant A. C. Dawe is Officer i/c Releases. Major K. T. Snow succeeds Major Monk as O.C. No. 3 Squadron.

We should like to mention individually all those who have left us, but alas! space does not permit. We trust, however, that all will remember with something akin to nostalgia their stay here.

*Depot Aero Club.* During the "Great Freeze-up" several members of the Regiment turned their minds to aeromodelling as a means of relieving the monotony of hibernation, if not to keep warm. Now that the warmer weather has, we hope, arrived to stay, a Model Aero Club has been formed, under the patronage of Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton, with funds from P.R.I., and the use of a well-equipped large-type Nissen hut as clubroom. The present members are nothing if not versatile, and to date have tried their hands at diesel, petrol, and rubber driven models, flying scale types, and sailplanes, with varying degrees of success. New members are expected to swell our somewhat small ranks, and we hope eventually to enter contests with other clubs—including Catterick!

*Entertainments.* On Monday evening, 19th May, the Entertainments Section of the Regiment presented "Stand by for Broadcast," their own colourful show, in the Camp Theatre. Presented by Major F. G. Monk (Entertainments Officer) and Corporal Edwards, the show was a hit from the word "go," mainly due to its lively tempo, skilful presentation, and the slick stage management of Lieutenant F. R. Charlton.

The curtain went up on the Dance Band, led by Freddie Dedman, who set a lively pace with their opening number. Immediately following the band came the show's "crazy" man, "Slim" Edwards, of "Stars in Battledress" fame, who certainly lived up to his reputation of being a comedian of the first order. From the ridiculous to the sublime, the next number was Ray Smith, a young tenor of great merit, who delighted the packed house with his rendering of two well-known ballads. Cyril Trott next gave a very exhilarating display on the xylophone, the "dynamics" of which were offset by the beauty of two songs sung immediately afterwards by Mrs. Violet Beeton (soprano), which received great applause. Next the band again held the stage and were followed by "Syd and Tom," who brought the house down with their comedy singing. The clarinettist of the band gave a stirring performance of Artie Shaw's "Clarinet Concerto," and introduced the next act, "Junior" Crayford, who cleverly impersonated many well-known radio programmes, particularly Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth, and Felix Mendelssohn's Hawaiian Serenaders. Fred Clarke and his violin featured Massenet's "Meditation" and Drdla's "Souvenir."

Mrs. Violet Beeton and Raymond Smith gave an excellent rendering of two duets, which were greatly appreciated by all.

The band wound up the show with another popular number and the show ended with the cast on stage singing "Good-night, Sweet Dreams."

The C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton, Royal Signals), thanking the artistes and producers for their hard work and enthusiasm, hoped that this show would be the forerunner of many more.

The following evening, Tuesday, the show visited the Church Hall, Market Weighton, where they entertained a full house in aid of the Women's Land Army Benevolent Fund.

No. 1 Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, entertainment section

*Sport.* With the advent of spring, so sprung sport in the Regiment after its long period of hibernation.

Directed by our Second-in-Command, Major George Weeks, ably assisted by Lieutenant "Robby" Robinson, soccer teams took the field and inter-Squadron games produced some remarkable results and players.

With miles and miles of potential hockey pitches on the runways of the Airfield, the "Ponky" Wallahs soon had hockey going at a "ding-dong" pace, although there were perhaps a few too many "dongs" (on unfortunate shins) during some of the games. For some weeks our greatest problem was in trying to anchor the goalposts in howling gales sweeping the Airfield. Many old hockey "champs" were again seen in action—Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton, Captain "Bill" Moody, "Jack" Angel, "Gerry" Cosens soon warmed up after a couple of knocks.

Cricket has started in earnest now that a roller and grass cutter have appeared "out of the blue," like so many of the other stores which Signals occasionally acquire.

A brand new quota of tennis racquets and balls has been bought by our very generous P.R.I. and the game is becoming rapidly popular.

Winners of our football league and indoor sports leagues were given a "day out" in Bridlington in recognition of their hard-earned victories.

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*June*

BOYS' SQUADRON. *Training.* At Christmas, with more than a twinge of regret, we saw the end of technical training in the Boys' Squadron. The demands for a higher percentage of "A" Tradesmen and Foremen of Signals from ex-boys dictated the change of policy. After much paper work and a daily round of conferences a scheme of concentrated academic-scientific training until the age of 17½ years was produced and approved. At 17½ our boys now go to the appropriate units of the S.T.C. to qualify in their chosen trade and to take a drill and duties course before graduating to man's service at the age of 18.

The Northern Universities School Certificate was adopted as one academic aim, Army Cadet Certificate Parts I and II for Military Training and a grounding in Corps history, traditions and functions to give the necessary Signals bias.

The atrocious weather of the spring term, fuel cuts, unheated classrooms, and the growing pains of the new scheme were severe tests for all cadre, especially the dozen new R.A.E.C. instructors experiencing Catterick and boys for the first time.

Adjustments, found necessary by experience, were introduced at the start of the summer term, and a selected form of ten boys were entered for School Certificate. The zest and determination with which they are working is laying a first-class road on which every boy should have his feet firmly planted by Easter, 1948.

The long-awaited change of location from Kemmel to Somme Lines was accomplished in three days, but while we await the many R.E. alterations, accommodation is still very much "make do."

Summer camp this year will be held from 14th to 28th June in the maritime location of Hornsea, and we look ahead now with relish to two weeks of field training, sea bathing, night schemes, and mess tin cooking.

*Soccer.* A big attempt was successfully made to finish off the soccer competitions. The standard of playing is good but, generally speaking, keenness outshone technique.

CATTERICK DISTRICT BOYS' SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS

| | | Points |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | "C" Wing, Royal Signals | 18 |
| 2. | Catterick Youth Club | 17 |
| 3. | Richmond Youth Club | 13 |
| 4. | "D" Wing, Royal Signals | 11 |
| 5. | "B" Wing, Royal Signals | 9 |
| 6. | R.A.C. Depot | 9 |
| 7. | 54th Training Regiment, R.A.C. | 6 |
| 8. | "A" Wing, Royal Signals | 5 |
| 9. | 62nd Training Regiment, R.A.C. | 4 |
| 10. | 59th Training Regiment, R.A.C. | 2 |
| 11. | 57th Training Regiment, R.A.C. | 0 |

DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE. The Squadron 1st XI has done very well in this league and the civilian clubs always look forward to their matches against the boys at Catterick. The team have finished second in the league, with the following scores:—

DARLINGTON AND DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE

| Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals for | Goals against | Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 76 | 25 | 25 |

We have also reached the finals of the Collingwood K.O. Cup Competition and will be playing this match in the near future on Darlington F.C. ground against Eastbourne Old Boys "A," the league winners.

NORTHERN COMMAND ENLISTED BOYS' K.O. CUP COMPETITION. In this contest the boys gave a very good account of themselves with "B" Wing and "C" Wing winning through to the finals.

The final match was played with "Wembley" atmosphere, both teams' supporters turning out in their respective Wing colours, emblems, and mascots.

After a very hard-fought match, "C" Wing won by four goals to one. Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B.E., G.O.C. Catterick District, presented the trophy.

*Athletics.* The annual under 16 Boileau Trophy meeting took place on 31st May, on our very own Somme ground. The standard, considering the lack of opportunity for training, was generally good. The results of the meeting are as follows:—

1. 100 yds.—1, Boy Bower; 2, Boy Butterworth; 3, Boy Staniford. Time, 12.2secs.
2. High jump.—1, Boy Staniford; 2, Boy Johns; 3, Boy Tucker. Height, 4ft. 8ins, record.
3. Mile.—1, Boy M. White; 2, Boy S. A. Shaw; 3, Boy D. White. Time, 5mins. 29secs.
4. Discus.—1, Boy J. Kelly; 2, Boy Burt; 3, Boy F. W. Jones. Distance, 75ft. 8ins., record.
5. 440 yds.—1, Boy R. Stringer; 2, Boy Flaherty; 3, Boy Catton. Time, 64.8secs.
6. Shot.—1, Boy F. W. Jones; 2, Boy Bower; 3, Boy J. Kelly. Distance, 37ft. 3ins., record.
7. 220 yds.—1, Boy M. White; 2, Boy Butterworth; 3, Boy Staniford. Time, 27.4secs.
8. Cricket ball.—1, Boy Burt; 2, Boy Johns; 3, Boy P. Ashton. Distance, 241ft.
9. Long jump.—1, Boy Catton; 2, Boy Bower; 3, Boy Hunt. Distance, 16ft. 1½ins.
10. 880 yds.—1, Boy S. A. Shaw; 2, Boy D. White; 3, Boy Richardson. Time, 2mins. 27secs., record.

Points were given for place standard and for breaking a record. The final positions of the individuals were as follows:—

| | | Place Pts. | Standard and Record Pts. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Boy Bower | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 2. | Boy S. A. Shaw | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 3. | Boy F. Jones | 4 | 5 | 9 |

The positions of the Wings and points were:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | "B" Wing | 39 Points |
| 2. | "C" Wing | 25 ,, |
| 3. | "D" Wing | 25 ,, |
| 4. | "A" Wing | 7 ,, |

All the boys are now looking forward to the Inter-Wing Team Championships for the Tomes Trophy, which will take place on Saturday, 5th July, 1947.

*Cricket.* Each Wing has entered a team for the D'Arcy Hilyard Cricket Trophy, which is run in the form of a league. The matches played up to date are:—

"D" Wing 57 runs, Richmond Colts 61.
"D" Wing 18 runs, "C" Wing 21.
"C" Wing 38 runs, "B" Wing 32.
Richmond Colts 73 runs, "A" Wing 19.

## No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

*June*

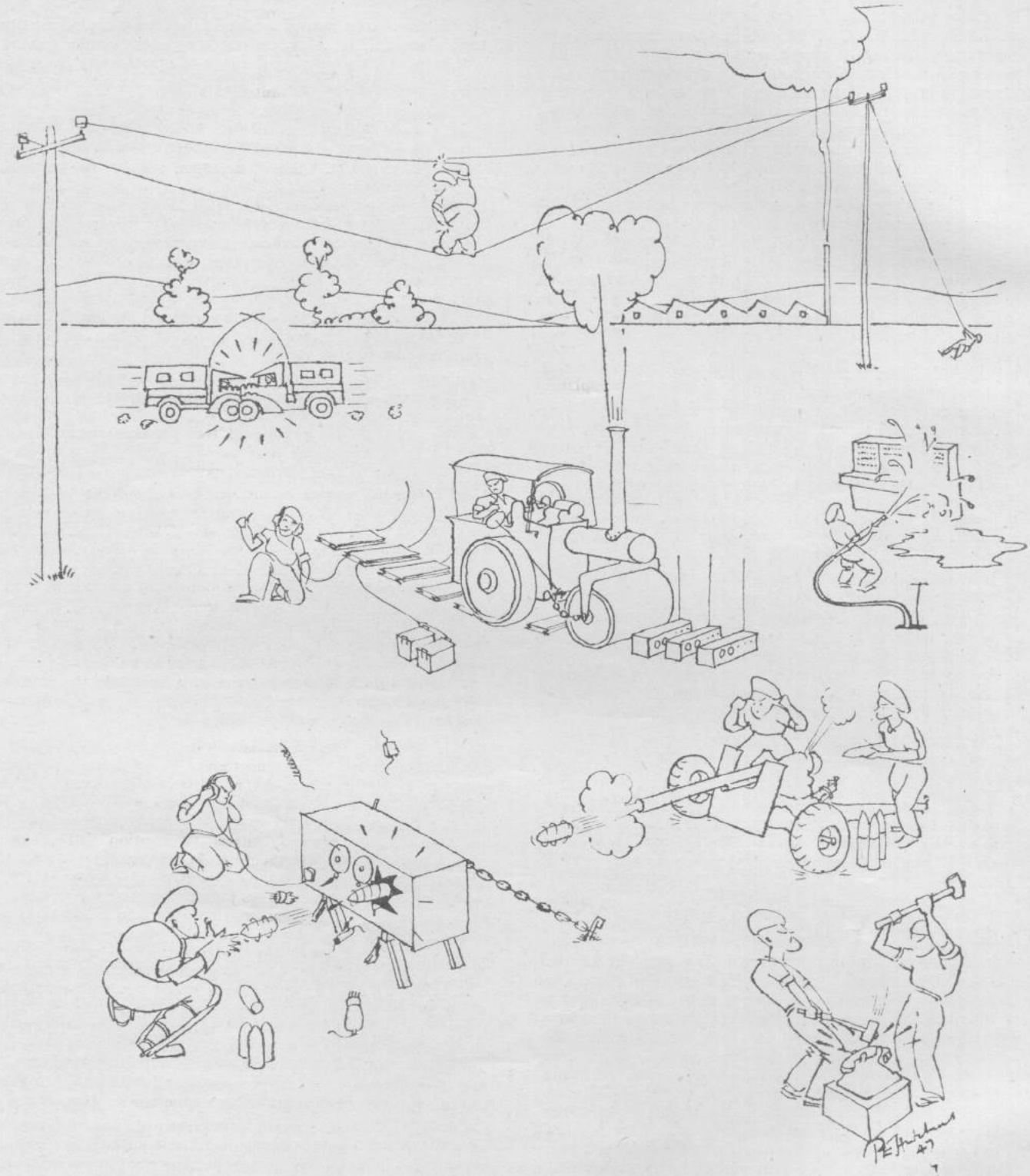
Summer at Catterick—yes, it is possible, and rather pleasant. Nowadays one sees many soldiers walking around chewing a straw, not trying to work their ticket—just busy on our Agricultural Scheme. We are using every available inch of ground to grow more food and looking forward to a bumper crop, subject to this weather continuing.

*Departures.* Lieutenant Brunswick and Sergeant Dow to Civvy Street.

*Entertainment.* The Sergeants' Mess held a tea dance on Saturday, 23rd May. Married families attended, and a large crowd enjoyed a long session, with no damage done. Thank 'evans.

*Griff.* The following would like to hear from old pals:—R.S.M. L. Howley, B.E.M., ex-"A" Corps Sigs. (Ind.) and 23rd Ind. Air Sigs.; R.Q.M.S. Martin ("Pincher"), ex-44th Ind. Armoured Air; S.S.M. Hunter (ex-Tara), ex-7th Ind. Div. Sigs.; S.S.M. Hayter, B.E.M., ex-4th A.F. Sigs., M.E.; Sergeant N. Smith, ex-B.D. and School, Paiforce; S.Q.M.S.

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—V.*



**User Trials Troop**

Radcliffe, ex-Northern Command Sigs. (Ind.); S.Q.M.S. "Pip" Spencer, "A" Corps Sigs., 'Pindi; Sergeant Barnes, 18th Div. Sigs., Singapore; S.S.M. Smith ("Busty"), Special Forces (Chindits); S.S.M. Ferguson, ex-1st Cav. Brig. Sig. Troop (Rizzy).

*Sports.* Our miniature rifle team are spending enjoyable evenings under the care of R.S.M. Howley and manage to win many more events than are lost.

Unit Sports were held on Friday, 30th May, and in spite of a heavy storm towards the end, went off like clockwork, thanks to the excellent organisation arranged by our Second-in-Command, Major Haslehurst, who, by the way, seems to discover runners with ease. Another one, Signalman Fields, looks like collecting a few pots this and next year.

The best performance occurred two days before, when the first of the three-mile events was decided. Corporal O'Brien, an Army cross-country colours, took advantage of the absence of Corporal Ross and set a cracking pace and won in 16 minutes 5 seconds on a grass track.

The other events were much more open, due to absence of established athletes on courses, leave, etc. Signalman Moynan proved to be in a class by himself in the long jump. Corporal Titchett won both discus and shot. The most exciting race was undoubtedly the one mile, which diminutive Hewitt won, after being third last year. The biggest applause was evoked by Signalman Maunders winning the 10-mile road walk, 200 yards ahead of Corporal Goodwin.

The Inter-Squadron Trophy was confidently expected to remain in 1 Squadron hands, but an unlucky draw in the tug-of-war, plus 3 Squadron's excellent packing in the road walk, gave the Permanent Linemen a lead that was not challenged. A faithful few remained on the field, undeterred by the rain, to see our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker, present the prizes.

Many of the finalists will represent the unit at the Catterick District Sports later on in the month.

Seven members of the Regiment represented the Corps in a special two-mile open invitation relay race, held at the Billingham Second Annual Sports on 31st May. A special Blackheath team was making its first appearance in the North of England. S. C. Wooderson, world champion, won the event in 9 minutes 27 seconds, 100 yards ahead of G. E. Monshall (who obtained his international colours this year). Corporal O'Brien, unfatigued by his spectacular win on the previous Wednesday, finished fourth, thereby winning a special prize for the first home from an unplaced team. Corporal Kinsey excelled himself to finish fifth, Lance-Corporal Hoskings was ninth, and Signalman Lawrence a disappointing eighteenth.

## No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

*June*

Since our last contribution to THE WIRE changes have been rung with kaleidoscopic frequency. During the past three months the unit designation has been changed from 3 Operators Training Regiment to 1 Operators Training Regiment, causing considerable confusion, for at the same time 1 Operators became 3 Operators. Then came another change and we found that we were to be called No. 3 Training Regiment. The effect of these changes was a good one. After living for many months in a state of apprehension as to our status in the S.T.C., we found that we had become a permanent all-time unit. Instead of living from week to week in fear of disbandment, we now experience a sense of security, for No. 6 Training Regiment have now taken our place on the moribund list and we can go on building up a reputation, knowing that it will not come to nothing with sudden disbandment. We are conceited enough to assume this as a feather in our caps and its effect on morale has been most marked. We are confident that our reputation will grow, and that our morale will reach new heights. Then, as if these changes were not enough, a T.M.O. became a T.O.M.; an I.P.C. became a Telecommunications Officer; a T.S.B.O. became an O.S.T. Who was the person who suggested that the P.R.I. should become R.I.P. ?

Changes in personnel have been in keeping. Of the better known members of the unit, Major N. A. C. Clubb, the previous scribe to THE WIRE, left us to join the Signal School in Norway. Reading between the lines of his last letter, it would appear that, although he is working hard, he can still find time for sight-seeing. In short, a form of extended summer vacation. Captain J. A. L. Archbold can now be found at Wolverhampton with 50th (T.A.) Air Formation Signals. R.S.M. "Badgey" Morton is preparing to finish his service with a tour overseas and we welcome his successor, R.S.M. Clarke. For the purpose of distinguishing him from the numerous other Clarkes, the initials are A. N. We understand that the initial N. stands for a Christian name and not the usual "Nobby." We also understand that he is taking steps to remove the lettering "Football Team Manager" from the door of his office.

The last of our Dutch trainees left us a month ago and most of them are now serving somewhere in the Dutch East Indies. To any of them who may read this we send our best wishes. The departure of the last Dutchman was a signal for some wag to write on the wall, "W.e.f. date, English will be the basic language spoken in No. 1 Squadron."

Of personalities still present, our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. R. Scott, is still receiving the distinction of being selected to represent the Corps at cricket. Captain Bob Edwards still holds the reins in the Adjutant's chair, although his assistant has been heard to mumble, on more than one occasion, something about the Adjutant spending most of his time on football. More of that later. Captain "Skipper" Rowe is spending his last few months of service grappling with the problems of training. Who said "Ignorance is Bliss" ? The latest newcomer to our ranks is Captain C. A. Smith. Going back a few years, round about 1935, some of you may remember him as Army Doubles Tennis Champion in partnership with Maurice Shardlow.

*Soccer.* Soccer fireworks have been produced this season by Captain Edwards and his team of amateurs. We say amateurs advisedly when one remembers the names of the various players in the ranks of our opponents—Mullen of Wolves, Wainwright of Everton, Davidson of Arsenal, and Barlow of West Bromwich Albion, to mention only a few. By teamwork the Regimental side toppled many star-studded sides containing players of the above class. Unbeaten in the Garrison League with 20 games played and 20 won, with 112 goals for and only 18 against, they won the League Cup easily. Similarly with the District Knock-out Cup. Four games took us into the final. In these four games the team scored 56 goals and had only two goals scored against them. After such a successful season the biggest disappointment to the side came in two cup competitions. In the Army Cup we lost to the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in the fifth round by five goals to three, and in the final of the Northern Command Cup we lost to the 6th Battalion R.A.O.C. by four goals to nil. These were the only two defeats of the season. Congratulations on a very fine show of teamwork.

*Athletics.* On Wednesday, 4th June, we held an Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting on the Catterick Garrison Sports Arena. It was a very successful afternoon and a number of useful runners were brought to light. After a hard afternoon No. 3 Squadron emerged as the winners with 115 points. No. 2 Squadron were second with 99 points, H.Q. Squadron third with 89 points, and No. 1 Squadron occupied fourth position with 86 points. The Inter-Squadron Tug-o'-war Cup was won by No. 1 Squadron—seemingly all brawn and

no skill. We have plenty of useful material on which to build our Regimental team for the forthcoming meeting.

*Swimming.* Here we have a headache, or rather Major A. E. Hollingshead has. There appears to be a dearth of good swimmers. In addition to attempting to form a Regimental team, Major Hollingshead is also responsible for the Corps team. In our first water polo match, against No. 6 Training Regiment, we were ingloriously defeated by 10 goals to nil.

*Hockey.* The Summer Hockey League has now started, and with Corps players Captains Edwards and Kitson, and trialists S.Q.M.S. Holt and Sergeant Gartery to call upon, we are fortunately placed.

So we close these notes in the hope that our summer season in the sporting realms will be as successful as our winter one. In the meantime we continue to turn out operators.

NOTSRUHT

## SCOTTISH COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*June*

On 5th June the unit had its first post-war annual Admin. inspection. A great deal of work was put in by all ranks for some time before the inspection to make it a good show. The inspecting Brigadier and his team seemed quite pleased with what they saw, and we are quite confident of receiving a favourable report. Two days before the inspection a certain officer enquired of a certain O.W.L.'s occupation, and received the ironic reply, " Operator Whitewash and Lines, sir."

It is with deep regret that we say goodbye to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Booth, who has been with us for well over a year. He leaves us on 20th June to take up a Staff War Office appointment with the Ministry of Supply, and with him go the best wishes of the unit and our thanks for all he has done to make the unit happy and of such a high reputation.

Several other changes have taken or are about to take place amongst the officers. Captain Anderson left us at the beginning of May on proceeding on demobilisation. Lieutenant Fyfe has taken over from him the command of Training Troop, but after having spent many late nights poring over state vouchers and stores, is now leaving us on detachment to Glasgow. Lieutenant Morrison-Low is to be the new O.C. Training Troop. Captain S. W. E. G. Bowser is leaving us shortly on posting, his place being taken by Lieutenant (Tom) Nicholas. May we wish them all " the very best " in their new jobs.

A demonstration team consisting of one A.C.V., two " Gin Palaces," and a cable layer left camp on 9th June for Stirling to show the T.A. and Army Cadets how the Signals really work. Also during the summer months several Cadets' camps are to be open in Scotland, thus causing a drain on our officers and N.C.O.s, who will be required for instructional purposes.

*Athletics.* The Lowland District Athletic Championships were held early this month in Glasgow, in which the unit turned out a mile relay team and one entry for the open mile.

The relay team put up a splendid show but the standard was too high to enable them to get a place.

Our miler (Signalman Tranah), who is capable of a 4 minute 40 seconds mile, unfortunately had to retire in the third lap, due to an old leg injury giving trouble.

*Cricket.* In spite of great difficulties, the unit has managed to field quite a useful cricket team.

We have been fortunate enough to get an allocation of a Command ground every Wednesday during the season. Although we were not successful in our first two matches against outside units, the players are keen and putting in some useful net practice which should help to effect some wins in the near future.

No. 2 SQUADRON. During the past weeks our new establishment of No. 2 Squadron of the Signal Regiment, has developed and broadened considerably. We feel our bachelor O.C. has added to the gaiety of the camp, and his endeavours to make " Broomfield " into a " large and happy family " have been very successful.

The fact that a percentage of our unit was quarantined for 10 days owing to a slight outbreak of chickenpox enabled them to say, " We won't give way, sir, it's being so cheerful that keeps us going."

Although we are " marooned " some six or seven miles from Edinburgh, by the edge of the Forth, the beauty of the surrounding countryside, at present in all its glory, makes ample amends.

We are indebted to our former Senior Commander Bottomley for the splendid new bicycles she procured for the unit. With these we are able to explore the surrounding countryside and acquaint ourselves with places we might never have seen.

Next week we take part in Scottish Command Sports. We ask the auxiliaries who are entering to put their best foot forward.

## PERSONAL

G. Gear, 32 Argyll Mansions, Hammersmith Road, London, W.14, would like to hear from any members of No. 56 Line Troop (1940 to 1945).

T. O. Greig, of 24 Dalvait Road, Balloch, Dumbartonshire, now working with the G.P.O., would like to get in touch with old friends of 152 T.E. Section and 1 Corps District Signals.

Ex-Signalman L. B. Clarke, Postmaster, P.O., Abercorn, Northern Rhodesia, wishes to send greetings to old members of Peshawar District Signals, 1934-37, 1st Cavalry Brigade Signals, 1937-40, and Southern (L. of C.) Area Signals, 1943-45. He would like to hear from any of them if they can find time for a word or two in their not too busy moments.

## NOTICES

*Tobruk, 1941.* An Officers' Dinner will be held at the Connaught Rooms, London, on 12th September, 1947. All officers and ex-officers of all three Services and of Dominion and Allied Forces who served in the defence and maintenance of Tobruk between 10th April and 10th December, 1941, are eligible to attend.

Particulars from Major-General Lomax, Flagstaff House, Colchester.

* * *

For Sale.—One cavalry sword; excellent condition. What offers ?—Apply Miss M. L. Davidson, 34 Bathurst Mews, London, W.2.

* * *

*Publications Received.* We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, May.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, May.

CA IRA, June.

THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, June.

# British Army of the Rhine

## 7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Bad Rothenfelde

*June*

Having got over the Whitsun holidays, we are now sweltering in a real continental climate with temperatures averaging up to 75 degrees in the shade. A very big difference from the state of affairs which existed when our last lot of WIRE notes were published, when the news consisted mainly of burst water pipes and members of the unit learning to ski. Now the weather has reached its other extreme and most of us are learning to swim, or the more fortunate ones basking in the sun and poking fun at our attempts. We are lucky enough to have one of the finest swimming pools in this part of the country and are making good use of it.

Early in the month the Regiment took part in the 1st Corps Exercise " Ashtray," and although many of our " bods " were comparatively new to the job, the Regiment received good reports.

*Arrivals.* Major Birkett from Staff College as Second-in-Command. Major Robertson from Post and Telegraphs as Lines Control Officer. Captain F. Williams from No. 11 Air Formation Signals to become Adjutant. Lieutenant Holdway from 31st Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron. R.S.M. P. Johnstone and S.S.M. A. V. Alexander, both from No. 2 Depot Regiment, Dalton. We wish them all a very pleasant stay with us.

Our married families are now settled in and new arrivals include the wives of Sergeant Hancock and Sergeant Rigby. We wish them a pleasant stay with us and hope that no posting orders arrive to spoil their present matrimonial happiness. S.Q.M.S. Philpott has been seen doing a spot of spring cleaning prior to the arrival of his wife, and many of our married members are already showing signs of " gardener's stoop."

*Cricket.* With the opening of the cricket season we found ourselves without a cricket ground, but soon practice was under way with what facilities were available, and under the expert guidance of Major T. P. Saunders, O.C. No. 1 Squadron, we have succeeded in getting a very good team together, as the following results show. Up to press, three friendly matches have been played, also two league matches, the first friendly being against H.Q. Squadron, which resulted in a win for Signals by 145 runs, scores being Signals 178 runs, H.Q. Squadron 33 runs. Major Saunders scored 53 runs before retiring. The second match, a return game with H.Q. Squadron, saw the tables reversed with Signals losing by the very narrow margin of two runs. Scores were: Divisional H.Q. Squadron 55, Signals 53.

This was followed by the first league match of the season, against 951 Company, R.A.S.C., which Signals won by 96 runs. Scores were: Signals 139 runs, 951 Company, R.A.S.C., 43 runs. Lance-Corporal Cooper (Signals) took five wickets for eight runs. The next match, a friendly against 31st Lorried Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signals, resulted in a win for Signals by 128 runs, scores being: Divisional Signals 193 runs, 31st Lorried Infantry Brigade Signals 65 runs. Lance-Corporal Cooper was the star performer, proving himself as capable a batsman as a bowler, scoring 116 runs. Corporal Roche, of Divisional Signals, took three wickets for five runs. Our second league match, against 58th Company, R.A.S.C., played at Munster, saw us once more victorious with a score of 201 for six declared to 58th Company's 51 all out. Signalman Smith, of Divisional Signals, had the highest score with 53 runs.

No. 2 Squadron of this Signal Regiment, stationed in the Oldenburg area, have also made a good start, in their first match defeating H.Q., R.A., by 21 runs. No. 2 Squadron batted first and their last man was run out with the score standing at 66 (Second-Lieutenant Lunt 31). The opening pair of H.Q., R.A., collected 35 runs before being parted, but as soon as their stand was broken there was a collapse and the whole side was dismissed for the addition of only 10 runs. Signalman Warr took five wickets for 10 runs and Major Ward five for 11.

On 10th May " E " Troop Signals visited No. 2 Squadron at Rostrup. The latter opened first and were dismissed for a modest 40 runs, Signalman Dudley taking six wickets for 12 runs. " E " Troop batsmen failed dismally and the whole side was returned for a mere 14 runs, Major Ward taking six wickets for nine runs and Signalman Warr three wickets for two runs. In the second innings No. 2 Squadron scored 58 and " E " Troop replied with 43 runs.

On 14th May Officers and W.O.s took the field against the O.R.s of H.Q., R.A. Captain Towers, who took four wickets for 11 runs, bowled steadily, and the O.R.s' XI was dismissed for 42 runs. The Officers and W.O.s replied in a very weak manner and no one seemed capable of dealing with Signalman Warr, who took six wickets for nine runs, and their innings produced only 24 runs. In the O.R.s' second innings Warr batted steadily and collected 31 of his side's 80 runs, Major Ward at this time on the opposing side taking six wickets for 26 runs. The Officers and W.O.s batted more confidently in their second innings but were only able to register 48 runs.

*Motor Cycle Racing.* The Whitsun holidays saw our newly-formed Motor Cycle Club in action at Kunsebeck in the Motor Cycle Scramble organised by 7th Armoured Brigade Workshops. Fine weather resulted in a good attendance, both military and German, and there were some very good performances. Highlight of the day was the riding of Signalman " Charlie " Ward, who at the last moment elected to ride for us and rode a terrific race in the standard 350 c.c. event, winning his heat easily and treating the spectators to a fine display of riding in the final. Sergeant Falkingham, of Divisional Signals, was riding a close second to Ward in the heat, but after losing his petrol tank cap, took a bad spill and had to retire, leaving Ward the field to himself. In the final Ward took and held a narrow lead for the first two and a half laps, the rest of the field being well behind. The second rider had engine trouble at this point, leaving Ward to run in with a lead of some two hundred yards, breaking the lap record for standard machines. In the non-standard events we were not so fortunate, engine trouble being the cause of many lost races, and it is hoped that our next meeting may produce some better results in this class.

*Footnote.* R.S.M. Johnstone has already found his feet and the billet area now resounds to his stentorious voice—his Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duty Course is well under way.

## No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

*June*

*Unit Sports Meeting.* On Whit-Monday the Inter-Troop and Regimental Individual Athletic Championships were held at Gluckstadt. Luckily we had perfect weather for the occasion and, being possessors of a pukka track, the meeting went well.

(1) Major J. McD. Glass (chief judge), with the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Barton, O.B.E. (2) Signalman G. A. Lowes, winner of long jump (3) Corporal T. A. Booker winning the 1,500 m. race (4) Captain H. D. Philps in the 800 m. race

The following members won the Individual Championships:—

100 metres—Lance-Corporal Vickers.
200 metres—Lance-Corporal Vickers.
400 metres—Lance-Corporal Vickers.
800 metres—Captain Philps.
1,500 metres—Corporal Booker.
High jump—Signalman Hendry.
Long jump—Signalman Lowes.
Shot—Second-Lieutenant Allen.
Discus—Second-Lieutenant Allen.
Javelin—Signalman Bridges.
Throwing the cricket ball—Signalman Millson.

*Troop Team Championships*

1. B (Operating) Troop ... ... ... ... 43 points
2. C (Admin. and Workshops) Troop ... 23 points
3. D (Research and Training) Troop ... 13 points
4. A (Operating) Troop ... ... ... ... 7 points

*Non-Championship Events*

Obstacle race—Signalman Bridges.
Old soldiers' race—Captain T. R. Craggs.
Sack race—Private Coates.

Three-legged race—Signalman Johnson and Signalman Wilmett, Signalman Hendry and Signalman Knox (dead heat).

The meeting was ably handled by: Major J. M. Glass, chief judge; Captain (Q.M.) E. Bradbury, recorder; Captain (T.O.M.) T. R. Craggs, starter; S.S.M. McQuade, announcer; Sergeant Cumming, timekeeper.

Prizes were presented by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Barton, O.B.E., and the meeting wound up after an excellent day's sport.

Highlights were: Captain Ted Bradbury sitting in state at his table with a few bottles on ice. Captain "Line Shooter" Craggs with his starting gun in back pocket. Captain "Chick" Philps in an incredible dress of gent's natty summer pinstripe, complete with braces and boots, brown B.D.

*Cricket.* We have great hopes of a successful season this year. Inter-Troop matches have brought to light some promising talent with bat and ball, and we expect to contest hotly for honours in the Hamburg District League "C." Results so far:

*v.* 27th Heavy Regiment, R.A., at home. Won by 46 runs. No. 1 Wireless Regiment, 98 all out (Signalman Crossley 50 not out); 27th Heavy Regiment, 52 all out (Corporal Ellis 3 for 5).

*v.* 27th Heavy Regiment, R.A., away. Lost by 2 wickets (rain caused delay). No. 1 Wireless Regiment, 87 for 3 declared; 27th Heavy Regiment, 117 all out.

*v.* C.C.G., Itzehoe. Won by an innings and 26 runs. No. 1 Wireless Regiment, 126 for 8 declared (Lance-Corporal Selman 62); C.C.G., Itzehoe, 56 (Lieutenant Gardiner 4 for 10) and 44 (Signalman Forrest 6 for 25).

*v.* R.A.F., C.V.T.S., at home. Draw. No. 1 Wireless Regiment, 135 for 2 declared (Signalman Crossley 68, Signalman Farrow 59 not out); R.A.F., C.V.T.S., 83 for 9 (Lance-Corporal Selman 5 for 6).

## No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Herford

*June*

HEADQUARTERS. We apologise for not having submitted any notes for the Corps Magazine since October, 1946, but we really can say pressure of work has delayed us slightly.

Originally designated No. 1 H.Q. Signal Regiment, the present Regiment was born on 1st December last by the amalgamation of No. 12 L. of C. Signal Regiment (commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Bayliss, M.B.E., M.C.) and No. 1 H.Q. Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Conway-Gordon assuming command of the new Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Bayliss proceeded on posting to Northern Ireland. All the best, sir ! Other appointments in R.H.Q. are: Administration Officer, Major W. C. Manning; Assistant Administration Officer, Captain G. A. E. Gavey; Adjutant, Captain J. W. Simpson, M.B.E.; Assistant Adjutant, Captain W. W. Fawley; Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) E. Adams; R.M.T.O.s, Major (T.O.M.) A. C. Shenton and Captain (T.O.M.) S. L. Martin. All will probably be remembered as old members of the Corps, especially "Joe" Shenton, who has turned out for the Regimental football team occasionally. No, I don't think they ever die !

R.H.Q., Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons are at present located in Harewood Barracks, Herford, and No. 2 Squadron in Bad Oeynhausen.

Detachments from the Regiment are located in Berlin, Minden, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Borkum, Magdeburg, Venloe, Brussels, Ludenscheid, Brandenburg, and there are also eight Medium Wireless Detachments in action on "Operation Woodpecker."

A R.E.M.E. L.A.D. Type "B," under command of W.O.I (A.S.M.) Baldwin, R.E.M.E., is attached to the Regiment. Their chief headache is collecting all the wrecked vehicles in the area.

The Regiment supplied both wireless and S.D.S. communications for "Operation Selection Board" in February, when several prominent Nazis were rounded up.

We have a D.R. Display Team, under Captain W. E. Brock, training really hard for the forthcoming Tattoos at Dortmund and Berlin—hard work, but they seem to thrive on it.

We notice that 8th Army Signals, in the May issue of THE WIRE, claim to have the only 10 set link working in the world. We are sorry to disillusion them. This Regiment has, since 21st November, 1946, had a 10 set link working from H.Q., B.A.O.R., Bad Oeynhausen to Minden, Minden to Bielefeld, Bielefeld to Iserlohn, with a further set at H.Q. in Herford for Administration purposes. This link is supplied by No. 4 Wireless Carrier Troop (Lieutenant F. G. Lawson). The link has now closed down (31st May) on disbandment of 1 British Corps District, and is now in extensive training ready for a further commitment on approximately 10th July.

The Officers' basket ball team is still undefeated. Any challenges ?

Billiards, snooker, and table tennis are popular pastimes, not forgetting the swimming pool which we are fortunate to possess in barracks. It looks like a corner of "Butlin's" on occasions, especially during hot spells.

We also have a Swing Club, Camera Club, Chess and Model Engineering Clubs, and a Quiz Team who have proved successful against local talent and are due to contest B.F.N. weekly champions on 10th August.

It has also been noted that some Regiments have quite a few "old sweats" with them. We have some 30 officers who were all serving prior to September, 1939, with a total of 614 years' service, an average of 20.2 years. The first six, headed by Major "Joe" Shenton, have over 30 years each, Joe 35 not out.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* H.Q. Mess is in Harewood Barracks, Herford, and No. 2 Squadron Mess in Bad Oeynhausen. Among the members of H.Q. Mess are R.S.M. Herberts ("Ginger"), R.S.M. Featonby (Jimmy), both ex-Wazirdist, R.S.M. Scott, of Cipher fame, R.Q.M.S. Will, S.S.M. Clayton ("Tubby") (Chief Clerk, R.O.R.), S.S.M.s Lathbury, Walsh, Parker and Pash, S.Q.M.S.s Blaikie Roberts, Roman, Whitbread, and Brady. Among the sergeants are the following pre-war Regular soldiers, Sergeants Bentley, Lansom, Simmonds, Scivier, and Charnock.

We said cheerio to the following members at the end of March:—R.S.M. Bowie, R.Q.M.S. Hall, S.S.M. Godfrey to M.E.L.F. and T.A. jobs, to S.S.M. Harry Gratton on demobilisation after 18 years, S.S.M.s Lloyd and Sims to T.A. jobs.

Occasional social evenings are held in the Mess. On 21st May a games tournament against No. 1 L.A.U. (a C.C.G. unit) was held, with the Mess winning the billiards, snooker, shove-ha'penny, and the weak horses. We lost heavily at darts and the boat race.

On 22nd May we had six members of the Mess giving a farewell party on the eve of their departure to Civvy Street, and 3s. 4d. for 20 plus a shilling a pint !—Sergeants McGregor, Parker, O'Dell, Richardson, Field, and Whittaker.

No. 1 SQUADRON, commanded by Major H. W. Philpott, M.B.E., with Captain J. L. Purdon (congratulations on the Regular commission, Jock) as Second-in-Command and Captain J. E. Sergeant as Squadron Captain, is nominally the Line Squadron, being composed of Construction, Terminal Equipment, Technical Maintenance, Line Carrier Troops, B.A.O.R. Signal Park, B.A.O.R. Cable Repair Factory, and 50 Line Restoration Detachment at Magdeburg. Two Construction Troops have recently completed some hard work in connection with "Operation Ashtray," the last before 1 Corps District closed down.

No. 2 SQUADRON, commanded by Major H. F. Jahn, M.B.E., with Captain (Q.M.) J. F. J. O'Connor as Second-in-Command, are responsible with No. 1 Company, A.T.S. Signals, Germany, for running H.Q., B.A.O.R., Signal Office and Rhine Army Switchboard, with a detachment at Minden for the B.A.O.R. U.K. Social Call Service. This Squadron also supplies the detachment at Copenhagen with the British Military Mission to Denmark, under Captain A. J. B. Goldie. Captain R. H. Stewart is Chief Signalmaster at H.Q., B.A.O.R.

The Signal Office is situated in the Reichpost Building in Bad Oeynhausen, and the Rhine Army Switchboard in one of the Bank Buildings—a 1,200-line automatic board.

Commitments are heavy, but are met despite serious losses of trained personnel on Class "A" Release.

The Mercury Theatre is largely run by personnel of both No. 2 Squadron and A.T.S. Signals and has, up to this month, maintained a production of one play per week. Unfortunately, lack of actors, etc., has caused a reduction to one per fortnight. Captain C. F. Bushell, who not only acts, is also a good producer.

The Merrico Ballroom provides dances four times per week and is proving exceptionally popular. The Rhinelanders Dance Band has now been reinforced by two really first-class musicians. Signalman Robinson has left the Regiment and his drum-playing will be missed by the jazz fans.

The Signal Office reliefs have taken advantage of the sunny weather to visit several places of interest in the locality, the most popular being Mohne See. One relief made three visits in May for picnics. The Speedway Stadium at Hannover is also very popular.

The open-air swimming pool in Bad Oeynhausen is proving very popular and it is hoped to organise a formidable swimming team for the forthcoming Divisional competition.

No. 2 Squadron is primarily the Signal Office Squadron, with Telegraph Operating, Telephone Switchboard Operat-

ing Troops, Cipher Troops under Major W. J. Cuffe, B.E.M., and one Technical Maintenance Troop (Captain G. Manning).

No. 3 SQUADRON, commanded by Major W. T. Stevenson, who unfortunately is proceeding on demobilisation this month after 33 years, is being taken over by Captain S. E. Miller (congratulations also, "Dusty," on the Regular commission). Captain F. E. Boon is Second-in-Command. This Squadron is the Wireless Squadron and has Medium Wireless Troops, High Speed and Wireless Carrier Troops, Signal Security Troop, and six D.R. Troops. It is responsible for all wireless communications from H.Q., B.A.O.R., plus the S.D.S. runs and S.D.S. Office at H.Q., B.A.O.R. We were fortunate in obtaining a few winterised jeeps during the past winter, although not so many as we would have wished; still, we managed to carry on. We hear that 53 sets are being issued to replace our 12s and 33s, which have done yeoman service since D-Day practically.

*Sports.* In the 7th Armoured Division Soccer League we finished second. We lost to 140 Wing, R.A.F., in the Divisional Hockey Cup, 3—2, having lost our best players, Hall and Godfrey, before the match could be played. We beat the Royal Leicesters 7—1 in the first game.

Congratulations to ex-Sergeant Billy Steele, late of No. 12 L. of C. Signal Regiment, for hitting the headlines—playing for Great Britain and his record transfer fee.

Swimming and athletics are now in progress, with the Regimental Athletic Meeting scheduled for 19th June. Cricket has hardly started as the weather has not been too good for it, also we are short of gear, but this is expected shortly. We played our first game in the Royal Signals Summer Football League versus No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment on 14th June and were soundly beaten 4—1.

## 2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Hilden

*June*

Divisional and Corps Exercises have ceased for the next three months, but that does not mean that here in Hilden we are resting on our oars—far from it. Individual training is the order of the day, and all available personnel are doing courses. We have Young N.C.O.s' Courses, Senior N.C.O.s' Courses, O.W.L.s' Courses, and on top of that many extremely keen athletes doing intensive training for the Division and Corps athletic meetings.

Major Button, O.C. No. 2 Squadron, is Officer i/c Training, and he is fortunate in his choice of instructors; the level of instruction given is extremely high and good results are being obtained. Another branch of Major Button's activities is the 30 yards rifle range, a highly popular rendezvous in off moments for the unit marksmen. We expect to put up a very good show in the Corps Shooting Shield Competition.

The opportunity to view the Dutch bulb fields was taken advantage of by many in the Regiment and thoroughly appreciated. Horticulture seems to have had many converts since.

The Regimental team did extremely well in the Division Football Competition. We went as far as the final, being beaten at Wuppertal Stadium by the 14th/20th Hussars. Better luck next season. Although the basket ball team played hard and well, they were defeated in the second round of the 1 British Corps District Sub-Unit Basket Ball Competition. We beat H.Q., Vogelsang Training Area, in the first round and went down to the Black Watch. Again well tried and better luck next time.

Captain J. Richards, O.C. "A" Troop, as Officer i/c Motor Cycle Trials, provided a real testing run for the Regimental Junior Individual Motor Cycle Trials. Out of a field of 92, including all-comers from Division, our first home was S.S.M. Cartledge, placed third; congratulations to him. Divisional Signals were also placed fourth and fifth, Signalman Wilkins and Sergeant Warboys being placed in that order. The race was a gruelling one and designed to test riders to the utmost. In the Divisional R.E.M.E. Motor Cycle Trial Lance-Corporal Stott, R.E.M.E., Divisional Signal Regiment, L.A.D., came in first; we offer congratulations.

In the cricket sphere, Lieutenant R. C. Pickering, ably assisted by S.Q.M.S. Higham and Corporal Bennett, is gradually welding together a team of stalwarts and we await great results. We have been told so many times just what this team is going to do, so let's have it.

Next on the sports calendar is the Regimental Potted Sports. Great secrecy is being maintained amongst troops as to the "times" their teams can do. Certain Troop Officers and Troop Sergeants can be seen snooping off in the evenings followed by their proteges to the "secret" training areas. We all await the appearance of the many dark horses tipped.

The swimming team is in strict training at the moment, under supervision of the Adjutant, Captain K. J. A. Adlam and Sergeant McGuinness. So far we have not had an opportunity to form an opinion as to the unit's prowess in this field, but the forthcoming Corps Championships are looked forward to with great interest.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*June*

"Oh to be in England now that April's there." This was the cry of the poet. But late April and May have brought forth the flowers, and spring is in the air. Celle has been just one glorious picture of beauty for the past four weeks. Blossom has bloomed on the bough, and now the June sun is forming the fruitful buds which promise a successful harvest this autumn.

*Entertainment.* The Unit Dance, held every Thursday, is still a leading attraction, although the weather does not encourage a dancing temperament.

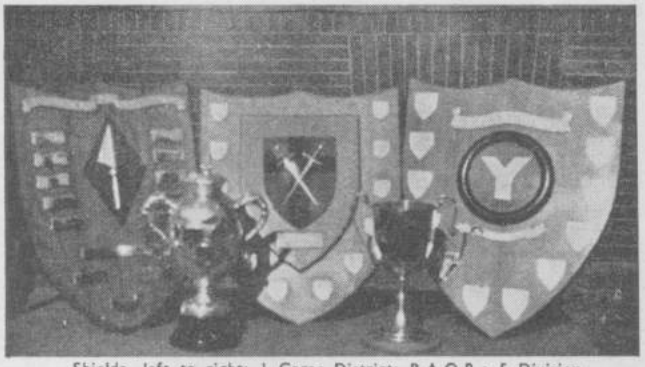
An All-Services Dance was held on 1st May and it was a change to be on a dance floor where an English atmosphere was prevalent. The W.A.A.F. and other female personnel were outnumbered by the male sex, but beer and refreshments swayed many towards and away from the bar. A further All-Services Dance is being held this week.

A Married Families Dance was held in the Sergeants' Mess at Goodwood Barracks on Sunday, 25th May. All personnel who were present undoubtedly took advantage of this new venture, and it is to be hoped that new friendships were formed which will bring about a community spirit among the English families in Celle.

The R.A.F. Union Theatre has produced many excellent shows during the last month. Drama, variety shows, opera, and Sunday night symphony concerts have each played their part in providing entertainment for Service personnel in Celle area.

Perhaps the most notable production of the month was a visit of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sergin Celibidahe. The programme included works by Berlioz, Ravel, Stravinsky, and Beethoven. The highlight of the concert was the rendering of "The Firebird" suite by Stravinsky and Beethoven's 7th Symphony.

A second noteworthy production was the play "The Third Man," by Louis Verneuil, and charmingly acted by Lucie Mannheim and Marius Goring. The play was produced in the Mozartean atmosphere of the Schloss Theatre and you could imagine Mozart being there himself leading the orchestra, before the thoughtful faces of the Celle Ducal.



Shields, left to right: 1 Corps District; B.A.O.R.; 5 Division
Cups, left to right: Maitland; 84 Group R.A.F., k.o.

*Football.* Since my last notes the Regiment has been successful in winning one more cup and one shield. The former, the Maitland Cup, was won on 10th May, when the Regimental team met and defeated T.U.S., Celle. The cup and medals were presented by Mrs. Maitland, wife of Air Vice-Marshal Maitland, A.O.C. 84 Group, R.A.F. The shield was won when the Regiment once again defeated T.U.S., Celle, in the deciding match for the league championship. The Regiment is now the proud possessor of four shields and two cups.

No. 1 Squadron, at Hamburg, has also won the league championship in the Hamburg District Junior League. This is certainly a very fine finish to a most successful football season for both No. 1 Squadron and R.H.Q. and Nos. 2 and 3 Squadrons combined.

The football season ended on Thursday, 5th June, with a win for the Regiment, who defeated Eintracht, Celle, by two goals to nil. Position of Regiment is as follows:—

| | | | | Goals | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Played | Won | Lost | Drawn | For | Against | Points |
| 22 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 97 | 12 | 39 |

*Cricket.* The Regimental cricket team is now operating, having played two matches, against 74th M.T.L.R.U. and R.A.F., Celle, respectively. The match against the former has still to be finished off, but against R.A.F., Celle, the Regiment were unfortunate in being beaten by two runs.

Inter-Troop cricket is going strong and already that spirit of friendly rivalry is beginning to show itself.

*Athletics.* On Wednesday, 4th June, the Regiment held its Annual Inter-Troop Athletic Competition at Highbury Stadium, Celle. The meeting, which was attended by a crowd of about 400, took place in perfect weather for athletics, and musical selections were played during the afternoon by the Union Theatre Orchestra.

The meeting was very successful and provided the crowd with several thrills, the outstanding one being the finish of the 3,200 metres race, when Signalman Forsyth, after a gruelling race, sprinted in from about 120 metres, thereby leaving a gap of about 10 metres between him and the second place and winning the competition for his Troop.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | 102 Tele. Op. Troop | 110 points |
| 2nd | 73rd Wing Signal Troop | 105 points |
| 3rd | Regimental H.Q. Troop | 91 points |

Although some good timing was made, there were no really outstanding athletes, but this may have been due to lack of training. The Regiment has entered for (a) 84 Group Inter-Unit Athletic Championship, (b) 13th Infantry Brigade Inter-Unit Athletic Championship.

Second-Lieutenant Graham has now taken over the duties of Officer i/c Athletics.

*Swimming.* The Regiment has entered a team for the 13th Infantry Brigade Inter-Unit Swimming Competition.

## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster in Westphalia

*June*

Summer seems to have arrived at last, and many of us who have been used to warm climes and sunshine are revelling in King Sol's latest effort. Also benefiting from the warm rays is our unit garden, and S.S.M. ("Mein Kampf") Maskery is seeing the results of his early struggles during bad weather conditions.

*Cricket.* Our cricket team has had a long series of victories, and on one occasion succeeded in trouncing No. 25 British General Hospital, who were up to that time an unbeaten team. Our team met their Waterloo, however, when they were beaten by 5th R.I.D.G. by 7 wickets, but the spirit of our team is still unbeaten and we applaud their efforts. Special credit goes to Signalman Perks for his staunch batting and a good runs average. A very promising player who recently joined the term is Sergeant Derby, to whom credit is due for his fast bowling and good batting. Corporal White and Signalman Stonier have earned fine reputations as bowlers.

*Swimming.* The warm weather and the recent opening of the open-air swimming bath in Munster have attracted many of us to the water. We are busily training a team of competitors for the forthcoming swimming gala which is to be held in this bath in the near future.

The wedding of Signalman and Mrs. Froud

*Indoor Sports and Entertainment.* The very full programme of events in the Red Diamond Club has been slightly curtailed since outdoor sport is now the popular pastime. Our weekly cinema shows and dances continue to be "special" nights.

A very special event took place last Saturday, when one of the Squadron, Signalman Froud, was married here in Munster. Fine weather prevailed for the wedding and many photographs were taken. We offer our best wishes to Signalman and Mrs. Froud for their future happiness.

OCTET

# Other Overseas Stations

## 13 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Padua

*May*

With the run-down of C.M.F. and the departures for M.E.L.F., this Regiment has turned over personnel at an alarming rate. However, we are managing very successfully in the old home town of Padova and its environs to cope with G.H.Q. communications.

For the information of those interested, the following are now with us:—C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hill, O.B.E., from No. 8 Air Formation Signals; Adjutant, Captain G. A. Hill, also from No. 8 Air Formation Signals (no relation except by name); Second-in-Command and O.C. No. 1 Squadron, Major B. W. Beale, also from No. 8 Air Formation Signals; while the following have departed for pastures new:—Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Paterson, O.B.E., to C.R. Signals, Trieste Area, and congratulations on the new arrival; Major A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., to the Army College of Science in the U.K.; Major L. B. Lander to 1st Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

*Ham Session.* Hams have become fashionable, claiming several members in its firm grip. They stagger down to breakfast bleary-eyed and grey from lack of sleep, exclaiming "Wonderful night, got so-and-so and so-and-so ad infinitum." Anybody interested tune in to the 20 metre band for a QSO from XAGM (Major Don Holt or Major Bill Beale), XAGN (R.S.M. Barrett and R.Q.M.S. Langham), XAGL (Lieutenant Jack Carter), XAEK (Sergeant Cowing), XAPQ (Lance-Corporal Kemp), XAKM (Lance-Corporal Vosey).

*Sport.* We have been very active in the field of sport, especially football and hockey. The Regimental Football XI has participated in two leagues and also in the Northern Italy Knock-Out Competition. The XI were runners-up to G.H.Q., C.M.F., in the Padua Garrison League, winning seven of the twelve matches played. Medals were presented to the team by the Garrison Commander at the end of a friendly match with G.H.Q. The Venice-Padua League has not yet been decided, but so far we have won seven and lost only one of the ten matches played. We also reached the final of the Northern Italy Knock-Out Competition (Padua Area), when we were beaten by G.H.Q.

Back row, left to right: Signalman Houston, Signalman Bryce, Sergeant Walsh, Signalman Dale, Signalman Palmer, Signalman Ashman. Front row, left to right: Corporal Barnard (captain), Signalman McDonald, Driver Maidment, Lance-Corporal Paton, Corporal Wilkins

Our hockey team at present lies third in the Padua Garrison Hockey League but are only three points behind the leaders. As there are still matches to be decided, we may yet win the league.

The Regiment has also fielded a Rugby XV on several occasions but opponents are not so easy to find.

In the sphere of boxing, Corporal Minshall reached the semi-final of the welter-weight class in the C.M.F.–B.T.A. Boxing Championships, held in Padua.

Inside the Regiment, basket ball (Army style!) is greatly in favour, and an Inter-Troop Competition is in progress.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Since our first and last list of Mess members, the following have departed for "other overseas stations":—S.S.M. ("Smoky") Hepworth (reclining in the shades of the Coliseum, we believe); S.S.M. Jimmy Feakes, who backed out of completing this roll in the attempt to get an Africa Star plus 8; S.S.M. Dick Cadwell, who went to Trieste area via Berlin; Sergeant "Sticky" Stickells, T.A.-ing somewhere in Blighty.

We bid farewell to those who have left us for the hardships and rigours of Civvy Street. To those about to leave, may we remind you that our whispering campaign ("Don't do it") is in full swing.

A hearty welcome is extended by us all on return of Sergeant Jimmy Bruford, ex-R.Q.M.S., on the rebound from Civvy Street.

We also have shortly to say goodbye to S.S.M. Bob Viney and S.Q.M.S. Bing Byron, who have got fixed up with a couple of cushy jobs in Trieste.

Our snoop also tells us that another S.Q.M.S. is going with them as a storeman—a "st-Hickey" job.

Entertainment in the Mess is looking up. The Sunday night dance still carries on but to eliminate the football match atmosphere it has now been organised quite successfully as a "Dance Club."

Our orchestral concerts are still very popular, but we should like to remind the member who persists in requesting "Spurs that Jingle Jangle Jingle" that this is the Mess and not the stables. (Anyway, our horses were flogged ages ago.)

Now that the good weather has at last arrived, our attention is once again drawn to outside sports. The brains of the Mess having been at work, we now have a "Beer Garden" in the process of being completed at the back of the main building. The opening took place on Sunday, 4th May, at 1700 hours, and will terminate—when ?

Well, folks, having the Release Bug at long last, I shall have to bid you all "Chow for now."

BOMBER

## No. 2 EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Moascar

*May*

April has been an eventful month as far as Canal Zone communications have been concerned. During March No. 1 Egypt Command Signal Regiment started to move from Cairo and Alexandria to the Canal Area, where they were to take over certain of the commitments of this Regiment and supplement and reinforce the communication of the area, which was rapidly expanding owing to the Delta evacuation.

On 13th April the hand-over and re-allotment of areas between the two Regiments officially took place and, due to the large amount of preliminary "spadework" carried out by all concerned during the preceding month, the two Regiments rapidly and smoothly settled down to the changed circumstances. The incoming Regiment, with its Head-

quarters at Fayid, took over our responsibilities in the north and south district of the Canal at Port Said, Fayid, and Suez, leaving this Regiment to continue to deal with the central district, including Moascar, Qassassin, Tel El Kabir, and the Sinai Desert.

As a result of the change, there were the inevitable cross postings between the Regiments, and we were sorry to lose our old No. 2 Squadron, which was transferred "in situ" to become No. 2 Squadron of No. 1 Egypt Command Signal Regiment. To take its place, our previous No. 3 Squadron, remaining at Qassassin, was redesignated as No. 2 Squadron.

Throughout the complications of the change-over the normal activities of the Regiment went on as steadily as usual, sport taking up the greater portion of our free time. Swimming is now in full swing and during the month truck-loads of swimmers were to be seen setting off each afternoon to the "Blue Lagoon," our bathing beach on Lake Timsah.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* In submitting our first contribution to the columns of the Corps Journal, the following members of the Mess wish to take the opportunity of sending greetings to their old pals wherever they may be stationed:—R.S.M. Irvin ("Darkie"), R.Q.M.S. Roscoe ("Shoey"), S.S.M. Rider ("Pop"), S.Q.M.S. Delicate, S.Q.M.S. Sheppard (ex 6th Airborne), Sergeant Billings (Jack).

During the month of April two very successful functions were held in the Mess. The first was an indoor games tournament, the visitors being our old friends, Warrant Officers and Sergeants, No. 1 Egypt Command Signal Regiment. At the conclusion of the games individuals were called upon to entertain, and in this connection R.Q.M.S. Lynnington's vivid rendering of "Gunga Din" merits special mention. The second function was a truly grand social evening, for which the organisers deserve the warmest praise.

No. 1 SQUADRON, MOASCAR. After the fluctuating conditions of the past few weeks in the Squadron area, things are now becoming more permanent and settled, and we can return to normal working at last. Despite the unsettlement, everyone has still been fully employed but not so much so that sport has had to take a back seat—far from it. In fact, sport has continued with all the zest and vigour of the past.

Football has now come to an end and most people have "hung up their boots," although the odd enthusiast may still be seen "punting in."

For the past few months it has been a race against time to play off the outstanding hockey matches in the Garrison League and thus enable the league to end next month. Consequently as many as three matches have been played each week. Excellent results have been obtained and we find ourselves challenging the league leaders, being only two points behind them. The Moascar Signals Team, a combination of R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron, fields a formidable side. This can well be estimated when one finds six of them (Major Masser, Lieutenants Brewin and Carolin, R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, S.Q.M.S. Delicate, and Sergeant Tatton) in a representative team.

To date only three cricket matches have been played, all of which have been in the form of trial matches, and all have been lost. Nevertheless we are discovering ample talent, and when the time comes for competitive games in the Garrison League we should have moulded together a well-balanced team.

Tennis appears to be popular with a few only and although there is no league available we have played one friendly match, in which we were the victors 6 matches to 3. The future we hope will produce further matches and successes.

No. 2 SQUADRON, QASSASSIN. Generally speaking, things are busier than previously, owing to increased moves. We have a few newcomers in the Squadron and we have also bade farewell to Port Said and Kantara detachments.

Cricket is now in full swing, although as yet no Garrison League has been started. Organised local games have included Tel El Kebir Detachment versus Qassassin, the former winning by 1 wicket. Competitive spirit is being encouraged by inter-Troop matches, which are now in full swing.

As there are very limited facilities for swimming at Qassassin, only a small amount of organised swimming has been possible. Eighty per cent. of the Squadron have passed the swimming test as set by the local authorities, and classes are being held for life saving and non-swimmers.

We are sorry to lose the services of Major Watkins and S.S.M. Burdes, and we heartily welcome Major D. L. Hyde and S.S.M. Kemp as our respective new O.C. and S.S.M. Additions include Second-Lieutenant Wilson and Second-Lieutenant Merrell.

*Arrivals and Departures.* R.S.M. Irvin's wife and daughter are expected to arrive here from U.K. in the near future and to them we extend our good wishes for a happy stay.

We take this opportunity of welcoming S.S.M. Rider's wife and family, who have recently arrived in the garrison.

We all miss the cheerful company of Sergeant O'Hara, who has left us to return to Civvy Street. With him go our best wishes for the future.

In conclusion, we feel that our appreciation must be placed on record for Sergeant Billings' good work in helping to maintain the bar profits, now that one or two regular customers have left vacant seats.

## 1st ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Qassassin

*May*

Our last WIRE notes were written in the bleak, inhospitable winter regions of Miramare and Grignano, not very far from the port of Trieste, which, as all school children should know, is infamous for its wind, the "bora." This wind was certainly "on form" whilst we were there and found every possible opening in our already threadbare battledress. Efforts to keep warm seriously reduced the number of trees in the neighbourhood and quite a bit of furniture mysteriously disappeared. It is reported that the Adjutant, armed with a typewriter brush, swept all the Orderly Room chimneys on several occasions in order to burn the contents of his third, fourth, and fifth pending trays.

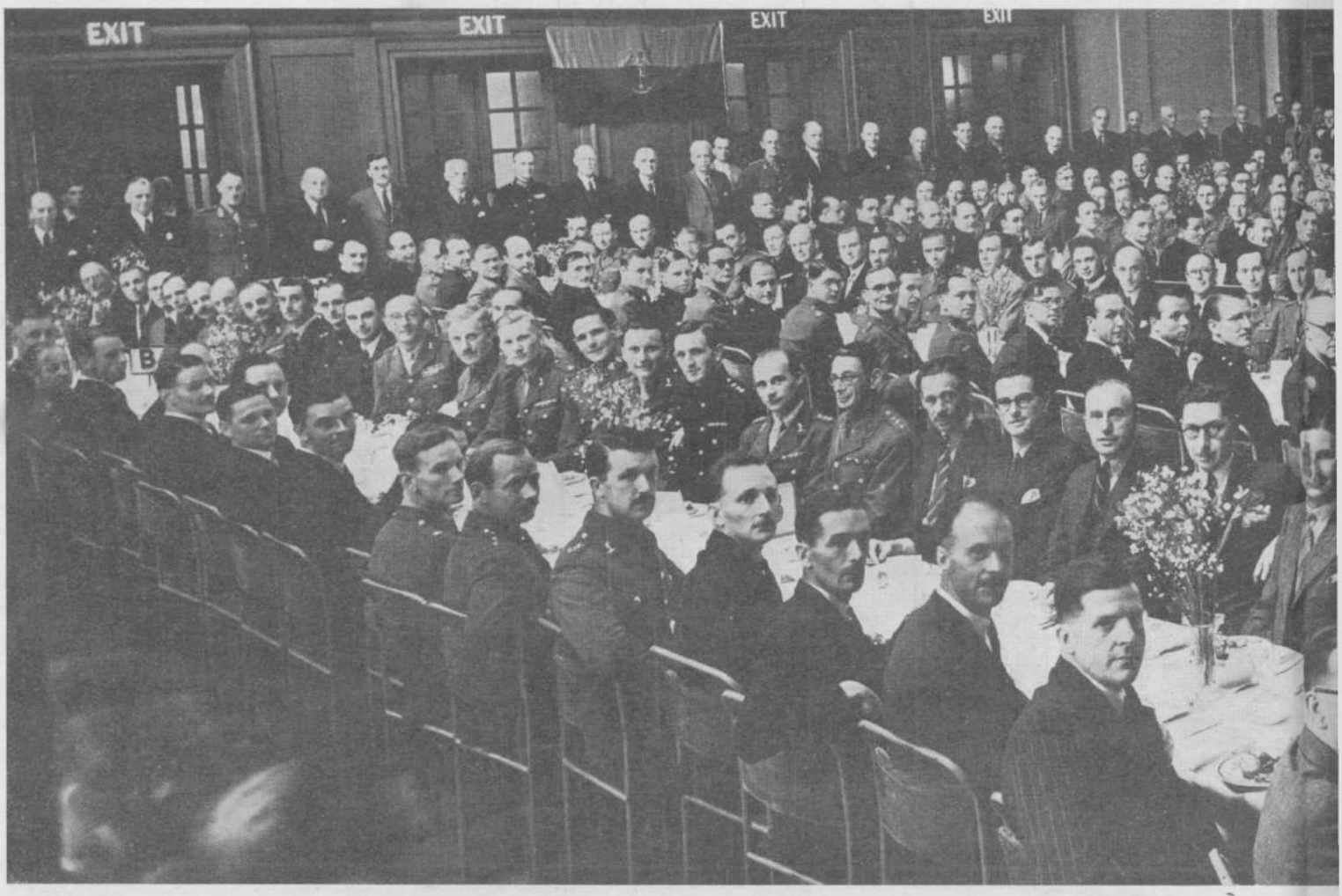
These notes were written partly on the eve of our departure for a warmer place (in more ways than one) and the remainder after arrival at our transit camp, Qassasin, which is in the middle of the desert between the Canal Zone and the Nile Delta. There were some really formidable impromptu parties before the embarkation in Venice to such an extent that an invitation to pull a bottle of Italian champagne on board our s.s. *City of Canterbury* was not accepted with that alacrity expected by the donors, Messrs. Major Fleming, Captain Hicks-Gill, and Captain Tom Bowler, all Royal Signals.

It was with very great regret that we saw the above three disappearing in the distance as we left the docks. They were very well liked and had done a lot for the Regiment. Major (Jasper) Fleming goes on a Short Telecomns Course, which he is viewing with sober determination. The other two are on the way to "Release" with mixed feelings, we think.

Most of the Regiment—keymen and all—managed to get away on home leave before leaving Italy. They were not deterred, apparently, by "fags" at 3s. 4d., snow and ice, floods, no beer, no this, no that. It is pleasant to witness the attraction that the Old Country still has for most of us.

We welcome to the Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. K. Stodart, who has come out from Catterick to sample the

*(continued on page 234)*




THE second post-war Annual Dinner of the Royal Signals Dinner Club was held at the St. Pancras Assembly Hall, Euston Road, N.W.1, at 9 p.m. on Monday, 2nd June, 1947.

The record number of 276 Royal Signals officers attended the dinner together with two guests from the United States Army and one guest from the Royal Navy of the Signal Division of the Admiralty.

The representative Colonel-Commandant, Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips, presided.

The toasts were to His Majesty the King, the President of the United States, H.R.H. the Princess Royal, and "Our Guests."

The representative Colonel-Commandant opened his speech by stating that the usual telegrams of good wishes had been sent to H.M. the King and H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

He read the reply received from the private secretary to H.M. the King and stated that no reply had been received from the Colonel-in-Chief, which was quite natural in view of Her Royal Highness's recent bereavement.

After welcoming those present, General Phillips went on to give a résumé of the Corps affairs during the past year. He knew that all would agree how lucky we were in having Brigadier Murphy as General Secretary of the Signals Association. The Association had done excellent work during the past year. He knew also that members would be very sorry to hear that Miss Clementi-Smith was retiring from the Association, and would wish to join with him in thanking her most sincerely for all the excellent and hard work she had put in, firstly on the Prisoner-of-War Comforts Committee and later on the Welfare Committee, and to wish her all the very best in her new employment.

General Phillips referred to the three Corps publications which were again being produced. He asked everybody to give the Editors of THE WIRE and the CORPS JOURNAL their full support and hoped that the quality of material in THE WIRE would be improved on pre-war standards.

General Phillips said that the latest proposals for the Corps War Memorial had not been altogether successful, as the Committees wanted far more money than was available to buy the necessary premises for clubs. Actually the target figure of £30,000 had been reached very easily, and a fault had been made in fixing this target too low.

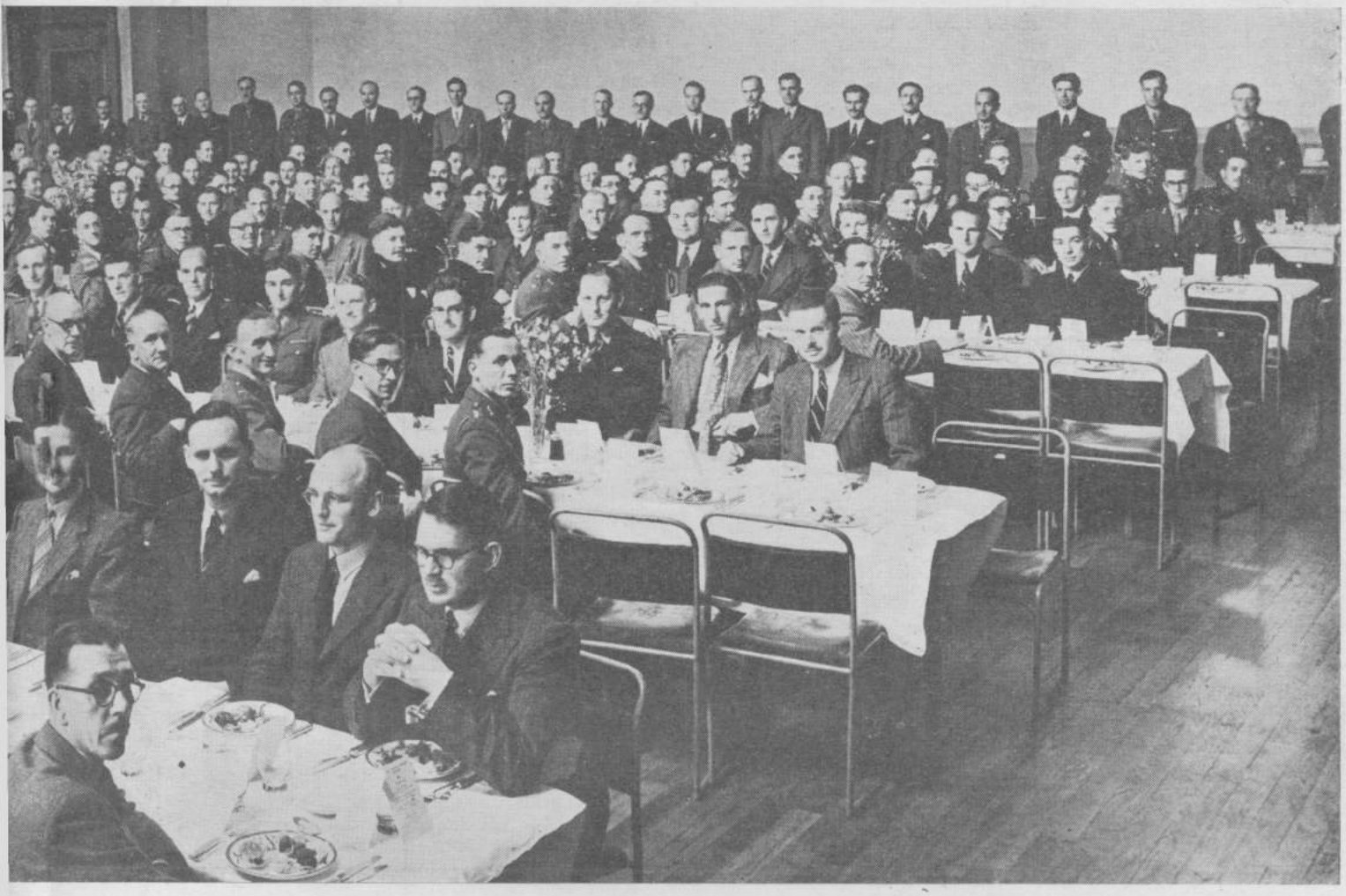
The representative Colonel-Commandant was followed by the Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy.

Before proposing the toast of "Our Guests," and after making a few opening remarks about the technicalities of the public address equipment, Major-General Vulliamy gave a review of the official affairs of the Corps during the past year.

General Vulliamy welcomed the fact that the T.A. had now been re-formed. He stressed the importance in the new Army of this force, and the fact that in its new form, in future wars, it would move out and take its place side by side with the Regular Army. He stated that it was hoped to increase the Regular Army staff in the Royal Signals Territorial Army units in the near future.

Turning to the Regular Army, General Vulliamy drew attention to the very small number of volunteers coming

# ANNUAL DINNER



forward for the Corps, and stated that the Corps would be extremely short of men next year. He told the company that the best service anyone could do for the Corps at the present time would be to encourage recruits to join.

Proposing the toast of the guests, Major-General Vulliamy said that he was very sorry General Lanahan had had to go back to the United States and was therefore unable to be present that night. He welcomed the presence of Major Glen S. Waterman and Major Perry A. Munro as representing the U.S. Signal Corps. As regards the remaining guest, he stated that Commander St. Quintin held a very special position as having been the only naval officer ever to have held the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief or Chief Signal Officer. He could not pay high enough tribute to the liaison qualities of Commander St. Quintin, who had co-ordinated successfully the communications of the three Services, including those of the United States in S.E.A.C.

In reply to the toast of the guests, Commander St. Quintin made an interesting and humorous speech, which was much appreciated by all present. Amongst other things we learned that he had been present at a land battle just about as far away from the sea as a sailor could possibly be. He praised the liaison and co-operative spirit which permeated Royal Signals, and he felt that the other guests (whom he had been unable to consult before his speech) would agree with him entirely in this statement.

For the first time a string sextet from the Corps Band played selections during dinner.

The list of those present is given below:—

Captain Adams, P. B.
Captain Amoss, L.
Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, J. E.
Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, E.
Captain Anns, J. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony, S. E. A.
Major-General Arcedeckne-Butler.
Major Arnot, J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Aston, C. J.

Brigadier Bagnold, R. A.
Lieutenant Baker, R. F.
Captain Banham, D. M.
Major Barley, J. H. T.
Brigadier Bastin, D. T.
Lieutenant-Colonel Bastyan, K. C. O.
Major Beattie, A.
Major Beaven, P. R.
Lieutenant-Colonel Bell, G. B.
Lieutenant-Colonel Bellairs, G. H.
Captain Blakeney, T. R.
Major Blaker, E. C. R.
Lieutenant-Colonel Boileau, T. W.
Captain Bond, D. A.
Colonel Boyd, L. C.
Major Boys, C. E.
Major Bradshaw, A. A.
Major Brindley, A. D.
Brigadier Brown, D. A.
Captain Brown, J. K.
Major Bryan, B. J.
Major Budgen, J. E.
Captain Burrell, J. N.
Major Buxton, W. R.

Major Campbell, J. L.
Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, T. S. A.
Captain Caton, J. A.
Colonel Chadwick, C. A. H.
Brigadier Clementi-Smith, H.
Captain Cleveley, N. C.
Major Coates, G. H.
Captain Cocke, J. W.
Colonel Cohen, J. Waley.
Captain Collins-Free, H. D.
Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Comfort, G. F.
Lieutenant-Colonel Conway, M. J.
Major Cook, T. R.
Major Cooke, H. R. V.
Major Cooper, J. H.
Brigadier Coryton, R. H. O.
Colonel Crawford, H. N.
Captain Creedy, W.
Major Crosthwaite, C.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dagg, S. J.
Major Dalton, D. A. W.
Major Daniel, H. C.
Captain Daniell, R. F.
Colonel Danielsen, J. W.
Captain Dare, S. C.
Captain Davis, W. B.
Captain Dossor, R. S.
Lieutenant-Colonel David, A. G.

Major Edwards, W.
Major Elliott, J. D.
Brigadier Elsdale, R.
Major Elston, J. W.

Brigadier Fairweather, C. C.
Lieutenant-Colonel Falk, G. F.
Major Fane, H. F. B.
Lieutenant Farnol, A. E.
Major Few, C. R.
Lieutenant-Colonel Fielding, T. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Firth, H. R.
Major Fisher, J. N.
Major-General Fladgate, C. W.
Major Flynn, G. H. R.
Major Franklin, R. H.

*Continued on page 246.*

***Other Overseas Stations*** *(continued from page 231)*

fruits of his 5 T.T.R. labours. Lieutenant-Colonel Boileau has departed for U.K., as has also R.S.M. A. N. Clark. We wish them both every happiness in the future.

With the run-down of Signal units taking place in C.M.F., we hope to receive the balance of some of the tradesmen of whom we are short. We then hope to settle down and to remain relatively unchanged for a period. The unit is getting into good shape and will, when allowed to function as such, become in every sense the premier Signal Regiment.

Detached from R.H.Q., No. 1 Squadron and No. 2 Squadron (now all together in Qassasin), are " J " Troop in Pordenone and No. 4 Squadron in Gradisca, both in N.E. Italy. Both are very healthy and thriving, and their respective Commanders, Captain Leslie Dutton and Major Leslie Lander, are quite certain of their superiority over the " home " Squadrons in every way. They will be joining us shortly and we will be able to put their theories to the test.

No. 2 Squadron is at present acting as host, father, mother, and nurse to R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron, who are passing through to Palestine, there to reverse the positions, it is hoped. All has gone extremely well so far except for a severe heat wave, which is proving a little trying. " The Gunners " are extending their hospitality to " J " Troop and No. 4 Squadron, too, after which they will follow on and join up in the Gaza area.

The Sergeants' Mess recently held an " at home " to the officers—a type of games night-cum-free fight-cum-anything else. Several games were played, in which the officers showed no little skill, and vice versa. The caterer sent for a new bottle-opener at half-time, shortly after which officers and sergeants alike donned oilskins for the serious business of the evening. Those who had no oilskins went home. The look of outraged modesty on the face of—(censored)—must have been worth watching.

Generally voted a good evening and, like Oliver Twist, we are ready for more.

RAMPANT RHINO—BY MAILED FIST—
OUT OF WAR OFFICE

## 23rd INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

### Taiping (North Malaya)

*April*

Reorganisation may be a sign of progress towards peace-time conditions, but it certainly brings little peace at the time. Things are too indefinite yet to give a picture of our new make-up, as even our new war establishment is scarcely in draft.

The last few weeks have seen one-seventh of the B.O.R.s go off with Groups 49, 50, and 51, taking with them such long-standing pillars of the unit as C.Q.M.S. Chester, C.Q.M.S. Garside, Sergeant Hermiston, Sergeant Marsh, Sergeant (" Little Boy ") Morris, and our soccer XI captain, Signalman Adams.

The Indian side of the unit has been even more disrupted. Having sent half of our I.O.R.s home on release, we are now sending the other half on leave to make room for a shipload of deferred reinforcements who have been collected from almost every Signal unit in India. But in the same few days as that is at its height, the unit communications of Divisional Headquarters and the North have to be handed over to a very much enlarged 49th Brigade Signals, commanded by Major Mathur, I.S.C. Everyone seems to be handing over equipment with one hand, signing receipt vouchers for new stores with the other, while welcoming new arrivals to his front and waving to departures in his rear. Why communications still go on at all, only Captain Collin, Royal Signals, and his No. 1 Company know.

Unit functions have included our Divisional Commanders, General B. H. Chappel, D.S.O., and Brigadier A. de Burgh Morris, D.S.O., and Mrs. Morris attending an Officers' Mess Regimental Ladies' Guest Night. The General's bouquets in his speech toasting the unit were as delightfully surprising as the bouquet itself produced by the secretary, Lieutenant Huyshe, and his helpers. R.S.M. Miller and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess entertained the Commanding Officer to dinner a la Ritz (pre-war), and the officers bade farewell to Jemadars Munuswamy (on leave) and Ghulam Rabanni (on release) in an eloquent aroma of all types of drink and urdu.

Last week Lieutenant Unwin, the messing officer, presumably in desperation, was seen disappearing into the jungle with a gun and some friends. This risky proceeding ended in the B.O.R.s getting for dinner the best pork we have had; so we are hoping someone will be brave enough to go out with Mr. Unwin again.

There has been a steady flow of B.O.R.s to the various Malayan leave centres. The Cameron Highlands seems the most popular, but those returning from any of them all look pleased with themselves and disgustingly healthy.

*Sport.* The B.O.R.s' football successes continue, and the local Press has just paid them the compliment of publishing their photo with the caption " One of the best teams in North Malaya." With the coming of the " dry season " little cricket has been possible this past month, due to grounds being waterlogged ! We await the " wet season " !

## No. 1 SIGNAL PARK SQUADRON

### Singapore and Rangoon

*May*

By the time these notes appear in print, it is anticipated that the Squadron will have ceased to exist. Some of the more unfortunate bods will be posted and then have to work for a living. Those more fortunate will still live in the lap of luxury in the B.O.D., Singapore, and A.O.D., Rangoon, doing nothing but feeding, drawing pay, and fighting in the queue to sign on as Regulars. Those still more fortunate (?) will be on their way back to U.K. and all the joys of the land fit for heroes to live in. (Who said you had to be a hero to live there?)

Corporal Sayer, Lance-Corporal Dain, Lance-Corporal Kent, Signalmen Milton and Gough from Singapore, and Signalman Power and Lance-Corporal Hamill from Rangoon, will by now be enjoying their Release leave. Driver Baxter is in transit camp. Major Evelyn, Signalman Thomas, and Driver Fletcher will be in transit by the time these notes reach home, waiting for that big ship. Captain Millichip will be leaving us for Singapore District Signal Regiment on 25th May.

Dame Rumour hath it that the Ministry of War Transport is diverting the *Queen Elizabeth* to Singapore in order that Major Evelyn may not be separated from his kit. It is not true, however, that the Services Amenities Shop, M. S. Ally and Sons, and the various traders of Arab Street have had to close down until fresh supplies arrive to replace those purchased by " Our Bob." Nor is it true that when bids for Japanese S.P. labour were called for, he asked for six each day for a fortnight to clear his few paltry boxes from his basha to M.F.O.—he found he could do it quite well with our mobile crane and twenty coolies.

Now that the Squadron is disbanding and this scribe will be on " that boat " in less than three months' time, perhaps the other units in South-East Asia will organise a sweep as to which is to provide THE WIRE notes from this theatre in the future. Come on, now, let's be hearing from you.

BUCK

## No. 1 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Palam

*June*

Under a temperature of 116 degrees, writing notes for THE WIRE, we try to picture the deadly winter of '46-'47 in U.K.

The " Met " fellows here on the airfield state that according to their instruments and isotherms, etc., the hot weather is to continue. There is one consolation, this weather does prove that an ice-cold bottle of " Allsopps " (Rs.1/6/6 per bottle) is a drink of the gods. Unlike you chaps at home, we have no shortage of beer and no Mr. Dalton to play around with the prices of our cigarettes. Player's Medium are still Rs.1/14/-, Player's No. 3 Rs.2/8/- per tin of 50.

A unit photograph, officers and B.O.R.s, was recently taken. A copy has been passed to the Editor with the hopes that he can reproduce it in THE WIRE.

*Outward and Homeward Bound.* R.Q.M.S. Cecil left us this week for U.K. and repatriation. He was a mere shadow of his usual self, owing to the fact that the powers that be had put back his date of reporting to Deolali. Why he was so anxious to get to U.K. we do not know. Since he has gone, we understand the female voice is no longer heard on the Quartermaster's house telephone, asking for R.Q.M.S. Cecil.

Back to the fold we welcome R.Q.M.S. O. G. E. Biggs, who returned from Lilop and Sewlrom. He looks so fit and well that we are beginning to wonder whether the shortages and difficulties at home are not doing everyone a power of good.

*Arrivals.* Lieutenant Harcharan Singh Pannu from Deolali and Lieutenant Godbole from Mhow reported their arrival. We hope their stay will be longer than is usual, as we seem to be losing personnel at a terrific rate, with tour expired, repats, and nationalisation, faces change almost daily.

Major David has proceeded to Barrackpore and taken over No. 1 Company. Major Archie Mitter (S.E.A. with clasp) has returned to Delhi and has taken over G.II lines in C.A.F.S.O.'s Staff, at Air H.Q.(I).

*Indian Families' Welfare Centre.* We have an Indian Families' Medical Inspection Room and Families Welfare Room, run entirely voluntarily with full attendance these days. Up to press, some six babies have been born under the motherly eyes of the Welfare Centre.

Mrs. Johnson, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. E. Johnson, now at Quetta, originally started the Indian Families' Welfare Centre going in this unit, and we are sure she would be pleased to know that the show she started is going really well.

Mrs. Barnett, wife of O.C. No. 2 Company, assisted by Mrs. Greig, wife of the Quartermaster, are at present running the centre. All they need is plenty of money, apparently.

It is known that the Commanding Officer hurriedly closes his safe when either of these two ladies is around.

*Cricket.* A two-day match has just taken place against S.S.Q., R.A.F., Palam. This unit scored 145 all out (Signalman Crumps 61, Lieutenant Ashfield 29, Signalman Turnstall 25, C.Q.M.S. Price 13 not out).

Officers and British O.R.s, 1 Air Formation Signal Regiment

The Accounts Section put up a splendid partnership, scoring 90 between them. The Adjutant, Captain Tuck, has not yet become acclimatised to this Indian summer since returning from U.K. leave, but managed a precious 1.

S.S.Q., R.A.F., Palam, were dismissed for 93 runs, the unit winning by 52 runs after a most enjoyable game.

Bowling analysis: Signalman Small 5 for 15; Lance-Corporal Shale 2 for 24; Signalman Crump 2 for 25.

## GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

*June*

*General.* We take this opportunity of extending our best wishes and future success to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Balment, Signalman Hyde, Signalman Grigg, and Signalman Hippey on their departure to Civvy Street. The Foreman especially has done some invaluable work on the technical side of the unit and was always a trier and a willing " stand in " at any sport. Signalman Hippey will be missed in the unit football team and was a good all-rounder for Line Troop.

With the approach of the King's Birthday, all units on the Rock can be seen busily preparing for the big parade. A small contingent from this unit will represent the Signals and we feel sure they will put up a good show as the Signals usually do on these parades.

*Sport.* The Inter-Troop Sports, between the three Troops,

is well under way. The outdoor sports are nearly completed, with Operating Troop proving themselves masters of the Hockey League, but it will be a close struggle between them and Line Troop for the football championship. Headquarter Troop will be content to win the Basketball League. At indoor sports Headquarter Troop look favourites but nothing can be taken as definite, because in these games anything can happen. Line Troop have made a remarkable recovery since their " stars " have returned from L.I.A.P. and are gradually piling on the points. Whether it is due to the return of the " stars " or their captain's (Lance-Corporal Lees) nickname, " The Technician," that is spurring them on we do not know, anyhow keep it up, Line Troop.

We are finding stars in every game. It is now common talk for the so-called former " Spivs " to challenge whatever team is selected to represent the unit. However, " Yorky and his Spivs " will have the chance to show their mettle when the league is complete.

The Garrison Rowing Club is now open, due to the splendid work done by our " voluntary " labour, and I think I am right in saying that it would never have come into being, at least not this season, if it had not been for the work put in by this unit. The canteen is managed by Signalman Heal and there are excellent facilities for tennis, rowing, and swimming. We hope to include some snaps of it in a future issue of our notes.

## NORTH BURMA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Meiktila

*May*

Many old members of this unit will fail to recognise it, due to its changed designation, so for their benefit I must add that we were, until 1st January this year, 17th Indian Divisional Signals. Although the name is changed, the tradition still exists and we are still very proud of the Black Cat (which, incidentally, still has its tail well up). Many other members of the Corps are bound to say, " Never 'eard of 'em," so here is a brief résumé of the unit's history.

The 17th Indian Division first arrived in Burma in January, 1942, nine days before the Japanese invasion began. A short time later it was forced to retire across the Salween River to the north. This was the beginning of a long and arduous withdrawal through Central Burma, across the Irrawaddy, and lastly on foot through Kalewa. Throughout the four months of withdrawal, the communications provided by Divisional Signals have been described as " nothing short of miraculous." After a brief rest, the Division returned to the battle and for two and a half years saw continuous action.

At the end of 1944 the Division had three months in Ranchi in which to re-equip, and in January, 1945, was back in action. The Battle of Meiktila, in which the Division played a major part, was the turning point in the whole of the Burma campaign. Then began a swift drive down the Rangoon-Mandalay road which culminated in the defeat of the Japanese forces in Burma. In October, 1945, after the break-out battle from the Pegu Yomas, which was staged by the Nips as a last desperate effort, and in which 17th Division inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy, the Division again crossed the Salween, this time from north to south, and re-entered Moulmein three years and ten months after it had left it.

Today the Signal Regiment remains one of the few founder units still serving in Burma, with a very large proportion of the original I.O.R.s who formed 17th Indian Divisional Signals.

Lieutenant Mohd Khan, who had been the subadar of 17th Indian Divisional Signals, had the honour of presenting a Japanese sword to H.R.H. the Princess Royal at Catterick Camp. The sword had been the property of a senior staff officer on the Japanese Army H.Q. and was made 230 years ago.

*Sport.* In the recent tournaments the unit reached the semi-final of the District Hockey Tournament, and a few weeks later won the District Soccer Tournament.

We have twice won the Inter-Unit Challenge Cup for sailing and are hoping to win it again this month and make it unit property. Our hopes are pinned on R.Q.M.S. Ted Lonton and Sergeant Bobby Breen, who are the star helmsmen of the Meiktila Yacht Club.

*Personalities.* We have just said farewell to our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. H. Higgins, who left us at 20 hours' notice to go on a telecomns course at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Our very best wishes go with him.

At present the unit is commanded by Major J. Hymers, O.C. No. 1 Company, Major J. A. Waite, Captain (Q.M.) A. W. (" Freda ") Froggart (who, incidentally, has decided at long last that it is high time he tried a little austerity and is looking forward to repat. like a Belisha Boy), Adjutant D. T. N. (" Dizzy ") Kent and H.Q. Company, Jimmy Barron.

In the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess we have R.Q.M.S. Lonton. I know what they call me, but it isn't printable. The other thieves are C.Q.M.S. Littleboy (Arthur), Robarts (Charlie), Sergeant Bobby Breen, Sergeant J. S. (" Green Eyes ") McCrindle, Sergeants (Jock) Kennedy, Ireson (" Lofty "), Seldon, Tattersall, and not forgetting the Cipher Staff, Sergeants Call, Sherry, Piper, and Strawbridge.

The G.I. (Ops.) is Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Knox, O.B.E., Royal Signals, and G.2 (Ops.) Major A. J. Woodrow, Royal Signals, so communications have to be good and the usual excuses (sun spots, decibels, and heterodynes) have to be improved on when anything does go wrong.

THAIRO

## WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

*June*

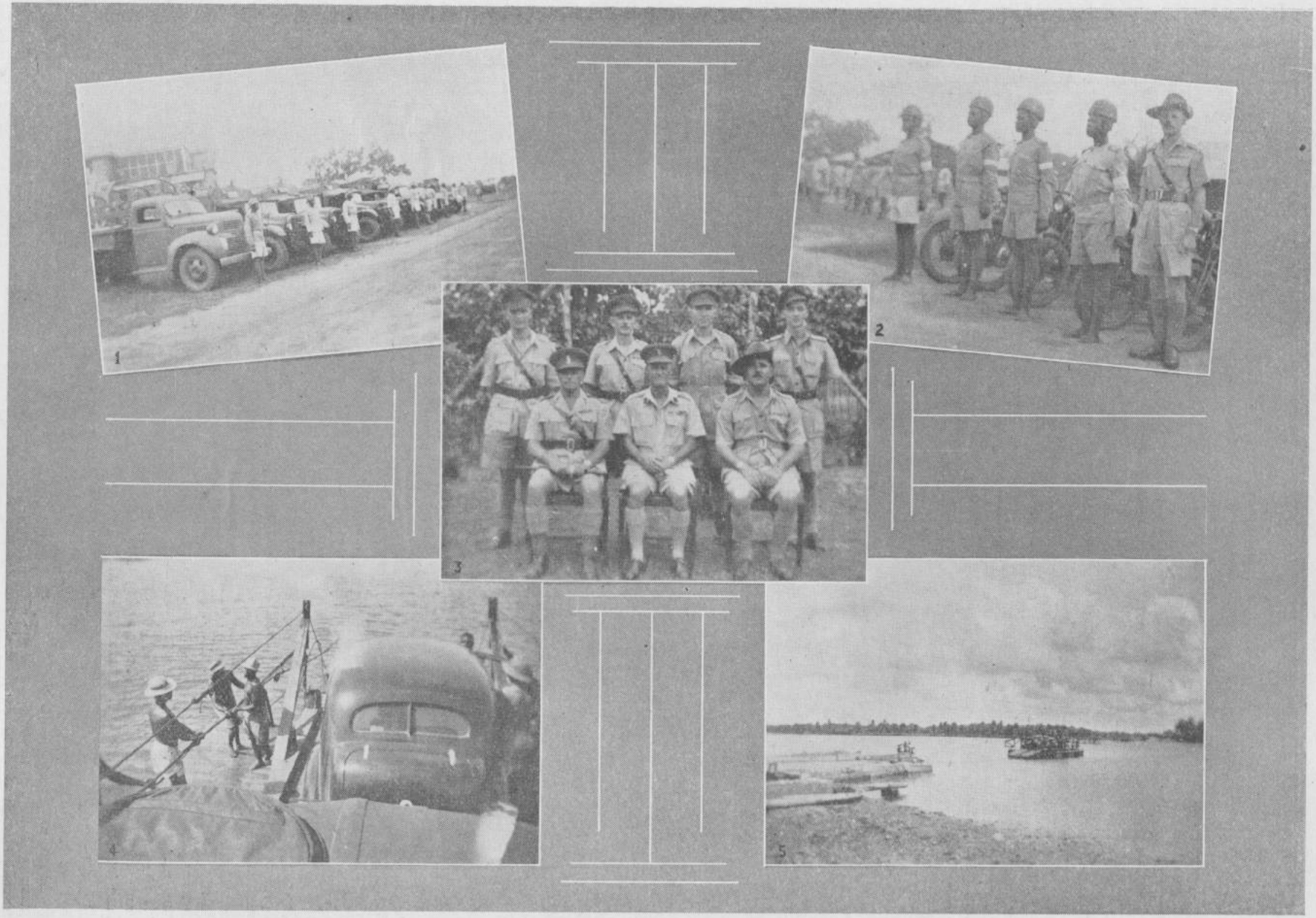
NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. Major C. G. R. Sewell has now joined us from Accra and settled in the Squadron, round hole, round peg method, vice Major F. G. R. Batt, who is still waiting for a boat. After a spot of well-earned leave in the U.K., he will return and carry on his good work.

Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., C.S.O. and O.C. West Africa Signal Regiment, visited the Squadron from 1st May to 6th May and inspected everything, plus a march past in which the A.O.R.s excelled themselves. Before the C.S.O. left a snap was taken, which, if considered by the Editor to be clear enough for publication, will be reproduced somewhere near these notes.

*Arrivals.* From U.K., S.Q.M.S. Maunder, Sergeant Yard, Corporal Allison, Corporal Barlow, Corporal Harrison, Lance-Corporal Cunningham, and Signalman Parker. From Bush, One spider monkey, Junior by name, being the youngest on ration strength of the Officers' Mess and guaranteed to uphold traditional monkey business customs.

Lieutenant R. A. Vogt has taken over the Area Signal Troop from Captain S. H. Vaughan and accepts responsibility without a qualm in spite of being reminded that Nigeria has 372,000 square miles—larger than the other three colonies put together and four times the size of U.K.

S. H. V.



(1) Unit Transport. (2) N.A. Signal Troop D.R.'s and O.C. (3) Standing, left to right: Second-Lieutenant P. Newman, Captain S. H. Vaughan, Captain H. Constantine, Lieutenant J. B. Maxwell. Seated, left to right: Major C. G. R. Sewell, Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., Major F. G. R. Batt. (4 & 5) A hand-operated ferry at Grand Popo, showing distance and method by which twelve coolies haul a load across the river

## MALTA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

*June*

Greetings to all from the George Cross Island.

Little water has passed under the bridge since our last notes were written, though we would like to take this chance to say goodbye to our F.S.S. Troop Commander, Captain D. C. Sidney, who has tried so hard to miss the boat, but alas ! H.Q. Malta Command Movements Branch have caught up with him and insists that he takes the next boat home. We welcome our new F.S.S. Troop Commander, Captain E. A. Knott, on arrival to this unit from X Branch, Malta Command, wishing him good luck in his new venture, knowing that he will shoulder the great responsibilities of F.S.S. Troop with the same cheerfulness as his predecessor.

Our energetic Administration Officer, Captain R. Norbury, will soon be leaving us to attend a R.C.B. in the M.E., and then two months' leave in dear old Blighty. We all wish him the best of luck.

The strength of the unit has been increasing steadily and feverish activity is taking place all over the island, due to the large scale reorganisation, which has caused a very heavy burden to fall on the shoulders of our Commanding Officer, Major E. J. Buirski, though he still finds time to attend to the unit welfare and to encourage all ranks at sport.

We all congratulate Corporal Warrington and Signalman Quinn, who successfully passed their courses in the Middle East, also congratulations go out to Lance-Corporal Anderson on his promotion to corporal, and Signalman Quinn on his promotion to lance-corporal.

Armouring the cable joint

*Sport.* Owing to the great activity in all Troops, we are sorry to say that for the time being we have had to cancel one or two cricket matches, but there is a rush for the 5.15 p.m. truck to St. George's Bay for swimming. St. George's Bay has been commandeered by the three services and turned into a Southern France seaside resort, hence the great rush (and dismal faces on return to the unit).

*Sailing.* The unit has been allotted a " Dory Bee " sailing boat, but we have been unable to get our Quartermaster, Sergeant Leach, to release it from his charge. He has wonderful ideas on how it should be used, and where it is going to be moored, though we know he wants the Corps Colours and name painted on it, so there will be little chance of it getting lost and causing him another headache.

Lowering the shore end of the cable

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* We welcome our new member, Sergeant Lawson. Though a non-drinker, his presence in the Mess has cheered up many dismal faces. Our P.M.C., S.S.M. Sharpe, is still going strong. He is due for discharge at G.D. after 25½ years in the Corps and does not relish the idea of saying goodbye to his many friends. Sergeants Freemantle and Bayfield are expecting their wives out here shortly. Sergeant Corfield spends his time running between his out-stations so we see little of him these days, though we must congratulate him on his recent efforts with the F. of S. to get the Golden Arrow W/T Station working.

*Submarine Cable Work.* Damage to two of the submarine cables crossing Malta's harbours was caused recently by underwater falls of rock during heavy weather. Tests showed that both of the cables were full earth but that one of the cables still had a water-tight sheath.

As this was the second time that falls of rock had damaged the cables on this route, it was decided to recover as much cable from both routes as possible in an attempt to recover enough serviceable cable to provide for one length to be relaid on a safer but longer route.

Prompt assistance from H.M. Dockyard with craft and divers made it practicable to recover 80 per cent. of the total cable laid on both routes in a serviceable condition. The seepage on the cable with the fractured sheath proved to be approximately 100 ft. in three days. This fracture was in 12 fathoms of water, and the diver reported that the cable was covered by about 6 ft. of fallen rock. The cable was 25pr/40 I.P.C.

The two serviceable lengths recovered were reflaked into a lighter and jointed. The armouring was married back over the joint in a 14 ft. splice. A joint box was not used as the cable had to be laid after jointing, and the greatest tensile strength possible for the joint was required.

The two photographs show the marrying back of the armouring over the joint in progress and one of the shore ends in process of being lowered to the diver for cleating in the under-water shore end chase. Air bubbles from the diver's valve can be seen rising to the surface of the water.

# Territorial Army

## 42nd (LANCASHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

We have had quite a busy time during the past month selecting officers and fitting W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s into the key jobs in the unit. We have had more applications from ex-warrant officers than we could possibly accept, and so unfortunately we have had to disappoint one or two whom we could not take in.

The Second-in-Command is Major J. R. Craigen, M.B.E., well known in 5th Divisional Signals, and the other Squadron Commanders are Major R. W. Rogers, previously in 4th Indian Air Formation Signals, and Major G. Marsden, formerly of 47th Divisional Signals and 19th Indian Divisional Signals.

Captain R. G. Sankey, who was with the unit pre-war, has returned to the fold. Captain G. Horsfall, of 14th Indian Divisional Signals, and Captain W. H. James, who was formerly with 53rd Divisional Signals, have also joined us.

No unit is complete without a bevy of Subalterns, and we have made a start with Lieutenants K. J. Hart, A. A. Edwards, W. M. Harrison, and J. B. Franks, all of whom have served in various outposts of the Empire.

Our Q Staff, R.Q.M.S. C. J. Glover, S.Q.M.S. J. Bell, and S.Q.M.S. D. Pemberton, were all serving with the unit in 1939, and are very busy dealing with all the stores which are now arriving in ever-increasing quantities.

S.S.M. T. Burke, D.C.M., has also rejoined the unit after war service in France, North Africa, Italy, and Jugoslavia with 1st Army Signals, 15th and 16th L. of C. Signals, and other units. He now has over 30 years' service to his credit, including service with the South Lancashire Regiment, the old Machine Gun Corps, and the 14th Hussars.

There are many others who have joined us, both N.C.O.s and men, and they are the nucleus around which we shall build up the unit.

Recruiting has slowed up considerably since the initial rush in May, but when we have more equipment and transport to justify our existence we hope to attract many more ex-tradesmen of Royal Signals in the Manchester area.

## "X" ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The newspapers may tell you that the T.A. is hanging fire, but don't let that make you jump to hasty conclusions. Be careful of that "I told you so" stuff. This unit is doing nicely in a quiet way. We are getting the right people; they are volunteers—in fact they insist on joining. Mostly they are old friends, so we know their worth and are glad to have them. We are hoping that more of the old members from 48th, 61st, and 78th Divisional Signals will throw in their lot with us. Their help in building up the framework of the new unit would be invaluable. The March of Time has ruled out a few of the old boys, to our great regret. We hope and expect them to visit us nevertheless. Ex-C.S.M. Robbins, Fred Bromhall, Joe Powell, Ted Harding, Sid Bright—all those and many more will no doubt visit the Sergeants' Mess when R.S.M. Brassfield is able to chase the builders out and get organised. If Bill Langham turns up we are going to slam the front door (with him on the inside) and get his story. Not that we shall believe any of it. Additional P.S.I.s at Cateswell House since our last notes are: W.O.II L. A. Jackson, Sergeants P. Hands, B. Howell.

Three of the married quarters in Green Road have been taken into use. The caretaker, Mr. Boyle, ex-W.O., Royal Artillery, has moved into the upstairs flat, which has been redecorated and well fitted. The flagstaff has been newly painted and "Jimmy" flies bravely in the Hall Green gales daily until sunset.

The first definite news of the proposed improvements to Army clothing is hailed with enthusiasm. It may help recruiting for the T.A., too. Although battledress can look quite smart on the majority of men, there is no doubt that the odd body who prefers to look like a tramp can achieve that ambition in battledress with a minimum of effort, especially when he goes on leave to a non-military town. It will be difficult to appear anything but a soldier in the new No. 1 Dress. In the nebulous future then, we may expect to see some smart, upright, well-dressed young men in blue—soldiers.

We aged ones recall the rivalry in dress between regiments in the far off days before No. 1 World War, when a soldier walking out was a thing of beauty and a joy until closing time. Woe betide the sapper with his hands in his pockets. Not that he would have attempted anything so slovenly. One of our early recollections is the issue of a new type of headgear to the R.E. at Chatham. They called it a Broderick. A peaked cap without the peak, if you see what we mean—like the Marines wear. There was a crop of sappers on the fizzer the morning after for bowling their Brodericks along the street with their swagger canes. Most reprehensible, if that is the word we want.

Now you can open the windows and let the service out. Arrivederci.

R. F. B.

## 26th A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP, T.A.

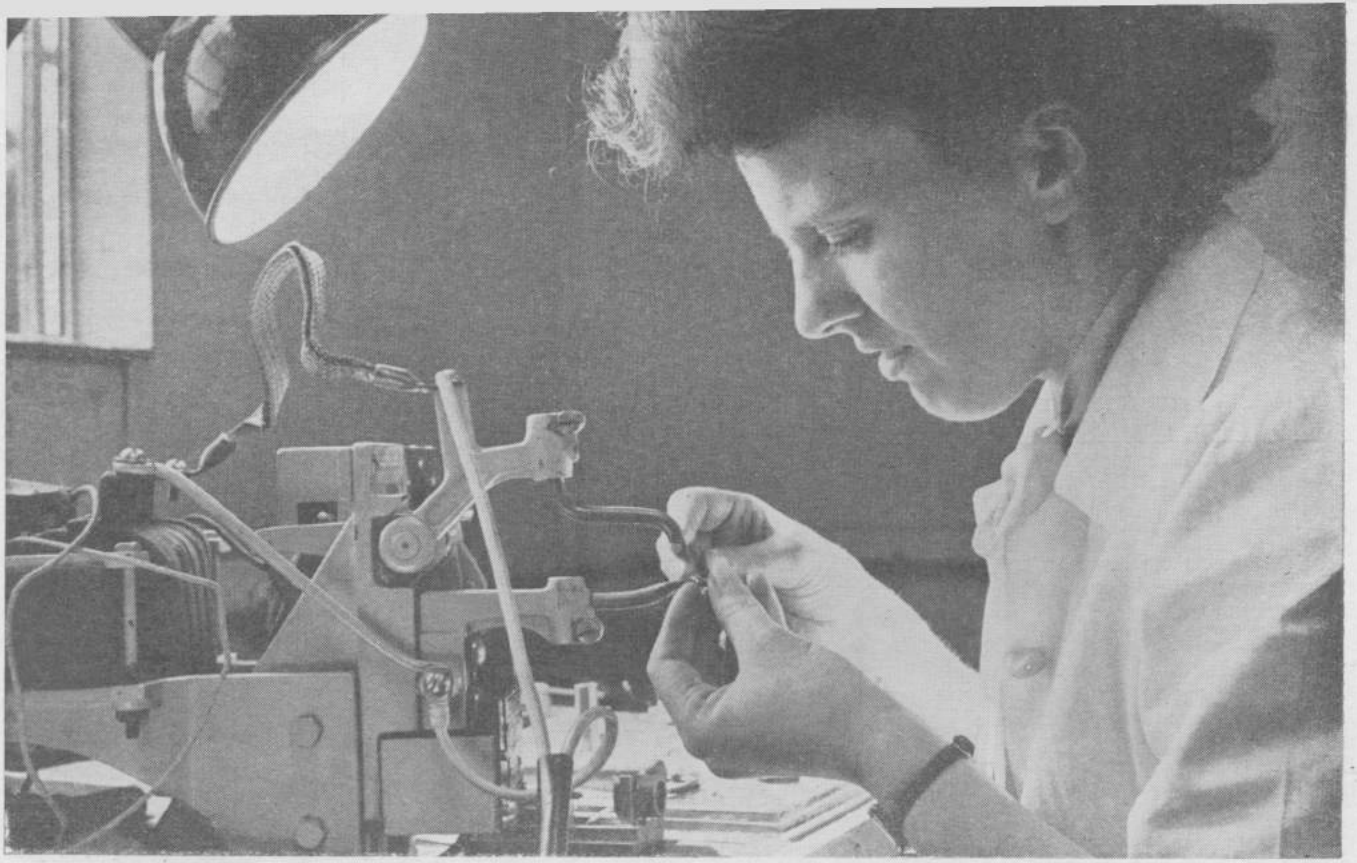
26th A.G.R.E. Signal Troop, T.A., is being formed in Salisbury. Some accommodation will be available soon in the T.A. Drill Hall, Wilton Road. In the meantime, any ex-Signals men interested should get in touch with Major F. J. Wheeler, late 43rd Divisional Signals and W. (Indian) L. of C. Signals, at 127 Harnham, Road, Salisbury.

*Have your personal copy of*

***THE WIRE***

*mailed to you direct*

Subscriptions for 1947 should be sent to:—
The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1



Electrode assemblies being spot-welded

# Behind the Scenes in a Radio Factory

WHILE Royal Signals, at their posts at home and in various parts of the world, are still "soldiering on," the thoughts of a good many must sometimes turn to what their counterparts in Civvy Street are doing. Particularly are they likely to be interested in those who are working in that branch of industry which supplies such a vast amount of material for Royal Signals use, radio and electronics. Here, therefore, is a brief review of the activities of Pye Limited, the radio manufacturers of Cambridge, who, incidentally, were responsible, amongst many other things, for the design and manufacture of the No. 18 Infantry set and the No. 19 Tank set, also the No. 22 and the No. 62 sets.

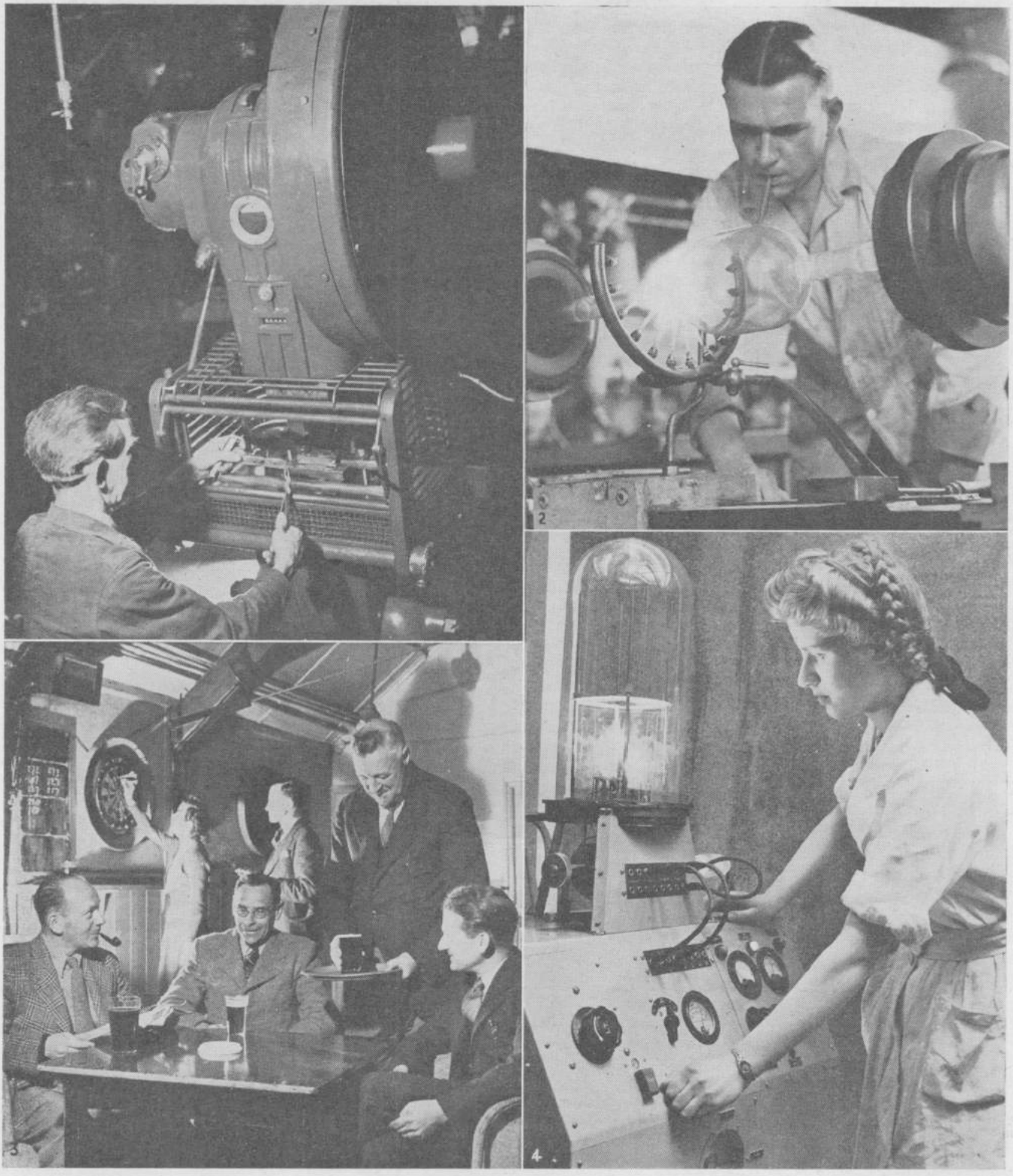
In the first place, let us say that at Cambridge we feel particularly fortunate in our surroundings. The fine old University town with its long tradition of scientific development, set in the pleasant East Anglian countryside which stretches away from our gates, makes an inspiring and refreshing background to our work. Of what that work consists we will try and give you an overall picture.

Royal Signals will not need to be told how complex and precise the design and manufacture of radio equipment must be. What will probably be interesting, however, are the kinds of jobs which people have to do to bring a wireless set into being and place it in the hands either of the home user or the Service or commercial operator.

The design of a new set can start in several different ways, either as a twinkle in the eye of the Chief Engineer, as a breathless whisper in the Board Room, or as a result of the Sales Department asking as many people as possible as many questions as possible to find out what they want (and sometimes ending about as wise as when they began). This last method, incidentally, is called "Market Research" and we hear a lot about it in the post-war business world. It's like some of the weapons we used in the war, very effective if carefully handled. Of the three sources of inspiration we have mentioned, all have their advantages and, at different times, all have produced good results, either singly or together.

When the project for a new design has been thoroughly discussed by the Chief Engineer and his colleagues, in conjunction with the Sales Manager, the job is handed over to a team of development engineers who will work the idea out on paper and, at the same time, build up a model. In this team you will probably find several young men working with one or two senior engineers. There is plenty of room for imagination and initiative in these teams, and the younger engineers are given every chance to develop their own ideas. To help them on the theoretical side they may call in the assistance of our physicists and mathematicians and, on the construction side, the help of the Model Shop. Our Model Shop at Cambridge, incidentally, is believed to be almost unique in not having any experience of flint lighter design !

When the prototype of the new set has been rigorously tested and finally approved, the senior draughtsman, who probably has already had a watching brief on the job, is called in to take over the preparation of drawings. At the same time



1 Pressing steel parts in the machine shop 2 Glass blowing in the vacuum laboratory 3 Off duty! They foregather at the Pye Sports and Social Club
4 Evaporating metal in vacuum to obtain perfectly clean surface

stock lists are prepared of all parts which will be used in the manufacture of the set. Immediately these lists are ready and approved, they are sent to the Works Manager and the Purchasing Department who, respectively, will make the arrangements in the factory for the making of the parts and the purchase of the raw materials which the factory will require. This side of the business, in these days, is quite as important and, in its way, as highly skilled as the actual designing of the set. Raw materials are terribly scarce. They have to be bought in bulk a long way ahead and sometimes

a great deal of improvisation is necessary to adapt materials for special uses for which they were not originally intended. Nowadays, the whole art of manufacture is, for these reasons, most complicated. Production arrangements need to be kept very fluid, with every member taking a keen interest in doing his or her job, always with an eye to saving materials and devising improved methods. The Purchasing Staff, of course, need to be veritable encyclopedias in their knowledge of materials and prices. They never complain that their work is monotonous. They may be buying steel sheet for chassis one moment and dainty pieces of silk for fret screens the next. They have to know a lot about what seems an infinite number of trades and on their knowledge to a large extent depends our ability to manufacture at an economical price.

While on this question of prices we might add that when the stock list for a new set is prepared, a copy is also sent to the Works Accountant, who will indicate from it what will probably be the cost price of the set. The Sales Department will previously have stated what quantities they require to be produced.

Following a period of intense activity on the part of the Outside Progress Department, whose work is to ensure the earliest possible receipt of the materials which have been ordered by the Purchasing Department (and no D.R. in the heat of battle ever travelled harder or faster than these chaps on the trail of the lurking and lagging bits and pieces), the Inspection Department " vet " the incoming goods, which are passed to the factory stores ready for use.

The work of the factory falls into three main categories: the manufacture of component parts, the assembly of these components into complete units, and the thorough test of all parts and finished products. Other services which are, of course, included, are packing and despatch.

The personnel who are employed on the assembly lines are chiefly women and girls, but in other departments, such as the Machine Shop, which is engaged on the pressing of chassis and manufacture of metal parts, the operatives are nearly all male. A good number of these were in the Services during the last war and some in the 1914-18 war.

When the complete unit, duly packed, is ready for despatch, the Sales Department, so to speak, takes over. This department is concerned with the distribution of Pye Radio and Television not only at home but throughout the world. The main job of the Sales Department, as you probably know, is to ensure that the maximum quantity of goods travels through our distribution channels in the shortest possible time. Since the war that task has temporarily been made easier in one direction because the demand for all types of equipment has far exceeded the supply. Nevertheless the whole Sales Organisation is keyed up for the time when every effort will be needed, and we are not cherishing any illusions about the duration of the sellers' market either at home or abroad. It is on the sales side again that you will find plenty of youth, tempered by the right percentage of experience.

In this rough outline of our activities we have only tried to give you a general picture of what goes on in our laboratories and factory. Filling in details would take up far too much space. However, we cannot close without a visit to our Sports and Social Club, where you will find Pye people after the day's work and at week-ends. There we have facilities for cricket, both codes of football, hockey for both sexes, netball, tennis, bowls, rowing, swimming, and a jolly good club room with all the trimmings, where the less strenuous forms of sport and entertainment are to be enjoyed.

We could hardly leave you at a better place, to ruminate on how the " other half " lives and with some idea, we hope, of what goes on behind the scenes in producing the radio equipment for your job—and also for your entertainment.

## THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1*
*(Tel: Victoria 9194)*

### Benevolent Fund

During the month of May, 1947, 107 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £614 18s.

*Summary of Grants Disbursed*

| Purpose | No. of Cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance ... ... ... | 34 | 130 | 19 | 0 |
| Rent, rates and insurance ... ... | 8 | 34 | 10 | 0 |
| Cots and prams ... ... ... ... | 10 | 59 | 0 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding ... ... ... | 7 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Furniture ... ... ... ... ... | 9 | 77 | 10 | 0 |
| Clothing ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Doctors' bills ... ... ... ... | 5 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Convalescence ... ... ... ... | 5 | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Dentures ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 18 | 3 | 0 |
| Removals ... ... ... ... ... | 6 | 33 | 10 | 0 |
| Travelling ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation ... ... ... ... | 3 | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| Emigration assistance ... ... ... | 1 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Funeral expenses ... ... ... ... | 6 | 47 | 6 | 0 |
| Totals ... ... ... | 107 | £614 | 18 | 0 |

*Analysis*

Discharged or released soldiers, 63; widows of deceased soldiers, 8; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 28; B.A.O.R., 3; M.E.L.F., 4; India, 1.

*Donations received for the Fund*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3rd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment | 59 | 13 | 7 |
| 46th Divisional Signal Regiment ... ... | 51 | 18 | 9 |
| A.F.H.Q. Signal Squadron ... ... ... | 117 | 0 | 0 |
| "E" Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron ... ... ... ... ... ... | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 14 Special Wireless Company ... | 11 | 4 | 0 |
| Headquarter Officers' Mess, S.T.C. ... | 15 | 7 | 2 |
| Sergeant R. Ridgewell, Royal Signals ... | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Sergeant E. T. Symonds, Royal Signals | | 10 | 0 |
| 40th Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment ... | 19 | 7 | 10 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... | £291 | 9 | 4 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these subscriptions and donations.

**HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?**

## Old Comrades' Association

New members registered during the month of May, 1947:

Life members ... ... ... 49

Annual members ... ... 114

Two new branches of the Association are about to be opened at Wolverhampton and Bedford. Committees have not yet been elected but those interested should write to Captain R. W. Seabrook, 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment, T.A., West Park Drill Hall, Wolverhampton, and R.Q.M.S. C. Thurley, 20 Kingsbrooke Road, Bedford.

## Information

*Education.* No further applications will be considered for *men* in this country after 30th June, 1947, or for *men* serving overseas after 31st August, 1947, for the Emergency Training Scheme for Teachers. These dates apply only to men desiring to teach in primary or secondary schools, and not to candidates for special technical subjects. Attention is drawn to the following points:—

(a) Men still serving in the Forces can apply now, even if they do not expect release for some time ahead.
(b) Although the minimum age for admission to emergency training is 21, applications will be accepted from men between the ages of 20 and 21 on 30th June, 1947.
(c) Men called up at the age of 18 under the present call-up arrangements for a fixed period not exceeding two years are not eligible for emergency training.
(d) Men who are too young for emergency training, or who prefer a period of normal training, can apply for admission to training at a two-year Training College or a University following completion of their period of national service.

Applicants who have been interviewed under the scheme but whose applications have been rejected, can ask to have them reviewed after 30th June, 1947. Application should be made to the Ministry of Education, Teachers Branch (R.E. 1v), 14-22 Lennox Gardens, S.W.1, and should be accompanied by the reference number of earlier correspondence, details of any experience or study undertaken since the Ministry's previous decision, and a recommendation from some person of responsibility in educational work.

*National Service: University Students.* In consideration of applications for entrance to Universities in Autumn, 1947, priority will be given to men and women discharged from the Services or who have performed certain periods of civilian National Service.

Any remaining places may be filled:—(a) by the deferment of men born between 1st October, 1928, and 31st July, 1929 (both dates inclusive), i.e. men of the age group eligible for deferment until 31st July, 1947, to sit for the Higher School Certificate or a comparable examination; (b) by men in medical grades III and IV; (c) by men who are no longer available for military service but whose period of employment in civilian work is insufficient to enable them to be included in the Priority Classes; (d) by men born after 31st July, 1929.

With regard to category (b), those who have been provisionally accepted by a University should apply to the appropriate University Joint Recruiting Board (through the Principal of the Educational Establishment which they are, or have been, attending) to be placed on a provisional list. This will protect them from military service until the final selection is made. An applicant who is accepted for a University course will be granted deferment until the course is completed (provided his progress is satisfactory) but will be liable for military service after completion of the course.

Men born after 31st July, 1929, will not be eligible for priority, but any man who has been provisionally accepted should proceed as in the foregoing paragraph. If his application is successful he will be granted deferment until 31st July, 1948, and his position will then be reconsidered.

# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

### Birmingham

The principal topic at the meeting in the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, on Thursday, 29th May, was Operation Mercury. The visit of the Royal Signals Band is being eagerly looked forward to. In our next notes we shall be able to tell you what happened.

The membership continues to increase although a number of members have been transferred to the new Coventry branch, whilst a few others of whom we have heard nothing at all for a long time have had to be crossed off the list. The latest figure, which includes A.T.S. members, is 763. A few members are behind with subscriptions. We would ask them to spare a few moments to check their renewal dates and, where necessary, to send along the postal order. Better still, bring it with you on the last Thursday in the month, and never mind the apologies. A very handsome bronze plaque bearing the Corps badge and the title of this branch has now been placed in the hall of the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. We emphasise Broad Street because there are at least two other Crowns in Birmingham.

A provisional booking of the Drill Hall at Cateswell House, Hall Green, has been made for 11th November. This is a long way ahead, but other people may have the same idea. The Air Ministry are to be congratulated on a well-planned heat wave, which at the time of writing seems to be trying to stage a "come-back." It is hoped that they will do their best to produce another for the week-end 4th-6th July.

We apologise for the brevity of our notes this time and promise news in plenty after the gathering in early July. The Committee are understood to have a big sigh of relief all ready to let go when the time comes.

R. F. B.

### Leeds

On Friday, 30th May, a Committee meeting of the Leeds branch was held in the Fenton Hotel, Major W. L. Moxon, T.D., taking the chair.

Full details for the forthcoming reunion trip to Catterick were decided upon, it being laid down that members taking part in the reunion should assemble on 22nd June at Marsden's Monument at 8 a.m., leaving Leeds at 8.15 a.m., and arriving at Catterick at 10.20 a.m.

To the accompaniment of hearty cheers from the thirstier of the assembled warriors, it was announced that beer had been arranged in sufficient quantities at the Malt Shovel, Boroughbridge, where the Leeds branch would halt at 7 p.m. on the homeward journey.

Major Moxon revealed that at the recent wedding of Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. McLaren, T.D., he sent a telegram on behalf of the Leeds branch, congratulating the happy couple.

Major Moxon reminded the meeting that the date for the Association Dinner was 7th November. The next Committee meeting was fixed for Friday, 27th June.

* * *

The following changes of Hon. Secretary have recently taken place:—

Liverpool branch: F. J. Johnsey, Esq., 34 Norville Road, Broadgreen, Liverpool, 14.

Norwich branch: D. P. Moulton, Esq., 45 Jex Road, Norwich.

# Sports Notes

### Rugby

In spite of the long spell of frost and snow in the early part of this year, rugger has flourished during the 1946-47 season, which finished on 21st May with the Northern Command Seven-a-side Championship.

Royal Signals (Catterick) R.F.C., in its first year as an organised team composed of all the Signal units in Catterick, has done a great deal to put Royal Signals "on the map" among the civilian clubs. Everyone in the rugger world in the North now knows the worth of the Royal Signals XV and enquiries for fixtures for 1947-48 have been received from a number of the best-known clubs. Our reputation in the rugger world has had its effect on recruiting and quite a number of rugger players have been attracted to the Corps.

An account of matches before Christmas was given in a previous issue of THE WIRE, and results since then have included victories against Northern and Durham City.

The weather unfortunately ruled out such excellent fixtures as Headingley, Oxford University, Greyhounds, Glasgow University, etc. Seven-a-side competitions have been popular towards the close of the season.

On 26th April a Royal Signals (Catterick) "Seven" took part in the preliminary rounds of the Twickenham Sevens in London, but lost in the third round to the Metropolitan Police, after defeating Old Merchant Taylors in a gruelling game. On the same day our second "Seven," from Catterick, got into the semi-finals of the Billingham tournament. On the following Saturday, 3rd May, one "Seven" went to Huddersfield, where they reached the semi-final of this tournament, while the other "Seven" won the Northumberland "Sevens" against strong opposition at Newcastle—a very creditable performance.

No. 6 Training Regiment won the Garrison Seven-a-side Championship on 21st May by beating 62nd Recce Training Regiment in the final. They were defeated, however, 17—13 by 33rd P.T.C. in the final of the Northern Command Cup, very largely due to the fine play (and a characteristic drop goal) by N. M. Hall, the England stand-off, who had arrived at 33rd P.T.C., Halifax, only the night before.

Prospects for 1947-48 look bright and it is expected that Royal Signals will have a good season.

The Rugby Sub-Committee has been composed as follows:—Major G. M. Fraser, No. 6 Training Regiment, Royal Signals (President); Captain H. McD. Chapman, School of Signals; Captain J. M. Westwood, No. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

The club owes much to the support and encouragement of the Chairman of the Sports Committee, Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., and to the enthusiasm of Major R. H. J. Rowntree, the Brigade Major.

The following played in representative matches:—

Scotland: Captain T. G. H. Jackson.

Wales: Signalman Glyn Davies.

Army: Second-Lieutenant T. E. Richardson, Officer-Cadet J. K. Williams, Captain T. G. H. Jackson, Signalman Glyn Davies.

Yorkshire: Signalman Froggett.

Lancashire: Officer-Cadet J. K. Williams.

Army XV: Captain J. M. Westwood, Sergeant Reynolds, Sergeant Parfitt, Signalman Rawson, Captain D. Galbraith, Signalman Froggett.

Northern Command XV: Captain H. McD. Chapman, Captain Hamer, Captain P. D. Parker, Sergeant Reynolds, Second-Lieutenant Richardson, Major Evans, Sergeant Parfitt, Captain J. M. Westwood, Officer Cadet Williams, Signalman Rawson.

Reserves: Sergeant Payne, Corporal Wilson, Corporal Newcombe, Signalman Cavanna.

Next season the club are starting early with a fixture against Percy Park on 6th September, at South Shields, followed by games against Huddersfield, Melrose, and Northern.

Colonel Hobson, Commanding No. 1 Training Regiment, has placed the old No. 1 T.T.R. Sergeants' Mess, which has now become vacant, at the disposal of the club, as a club room, and this amenity should do much to keep rugger enthusiasts together and to foster the team spirit.

### Hockey

*Corps Games*

The following is a summary of results for the season 1946-47:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *v.* R.A.O.C. ... ... ... ... | Won | 5—0 |
| *v.* R.E. ... ... ... ... ... | Won | 5—0 |

Matches with R.A.S.C. were cancelled due to bad weather.

*Royal Signals, Catterick*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *v.* Leeds University at Leeds ... ... | Won | 4—2 |
| *v.* Manchester University at Manchester | Won | 5—1 |
| *v.* Darlington H.C. at Catterick ... ... | Won | 14—0 |

The above are the results of the matches played during the 1946-47 season. The weather played havoc with all fixtures and many attractive games had to be cancelled. It is hoped that next season the weather will be more kind, as the fixture list is well filled throughout the season.

Inter-Corps games are already arranged with the R.A.O.C., R.A.S.C., R.A., and R.E. Awaiting confirmation are games with R.E.E.E. and R.M.A.

The Royal Signals, Catterick, fixture list is also well filled against many first-class civilian teams.

*Inter-Unit Catterick District Hockey Final*

No. 6 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 3; No. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 1 (after double extra time).

*Inter-Unit Northern Command Hockey Final*

No. 6 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 2; S.M.E. (R.E.), Ripon, 1 (after double extra time).

Six-a-side Hockey Final, Northern Command, was won by No. 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

### Cross-Country Running

7th December, 1946. Royal Signals Team won the North Yorks and South Durham Harriers League Cup.

8th February, 1947. Royal Signals Team won North-Eastern Counties Cross Country Championships.

21st February, 1947. No. 2 Training Regiment won the Catterick District and Northern Command Championship, with Royal Signals O.C.T.U. as runners-up.

8th March, 1947. Royal Signals Team finished ninth (out of 50 teams entered, 34 teams qualifying) in the English National Cross Country Championship.

27th March, 1947. No. 2 Training Regiment won the Army Team Championship. Corporal Ross second and Signalman Moynan third.

4th April, 1947. Royal Signals Team won the Grantham Trophy, breaking the existing record by 15 minutes. Lance-Corporal Hoskins breaks the previous 3 miles lap record by 15 seconds (holder, J. Burns).

9th April, 1947. Royal Signals found five runners and three

reserves out of the Army Team of eight runners and four reserves that came second to the R.A.F. in the Inter-Services Cross Country. Army Colours are awarded to Corporal Ross, Signalman Moynan, Corporal O'Brien, Lance-Corporal Kinsey, and Signalman Grainger. Signalman Lawrence, Signalman Hewitt, and Lance-Corporal Hoskins are selected as reserves.

**Boxing**

Results for the 1946-47 season are summarised below:

*Catterick Garrison and District Championship Team Boxing Championship, 1946-47*

Winners: No. 5 Training Regiment.

*Northern Command Team Boxing Championship, 1946-47*

Winners: No. 5 Training Regiment.

Army Team Boxing Championships were not held for the season 1946-47.

*Individual Championships, 1946-47*
*Catterick Garrison and District Championships*

Lance-Corporal J. Murphy, winner, Flyweight.
Signalman A. Noon, winner, Featherweight.
Lance-Corporal W. J. Prentice, winner, Lightweight.
Corporal F. Leyland, winner, Welterweight.
Corporal D. Mathews, winner, Middleweight.
Corporal M. T. W. Forrester, runner-up, Lightweight.
Signalman P. Taylor, runner-up, Light-Heavyweight.

*Northern Command Individual Championships*

Lance-Corporal J. Murphy, winner, Flyweight.
Corporal M. T. W. Forrester, winner, Lightweight.
Corporal F. Leyland, winner, Welterweight.
Lance-Corporal W. J. Prentice, runner-up, Lightweight.
Signalman A. Noon, runner-up, Featherweight. (Lost on narrow margin of points to S.I. Traynor, I.S.B.A.)

*Army Individual Championships*

Lance-Corporal J. Murphy, winner, Flyweight.
Corporal M. T. W. Forrester, winner, Lightweight.
Corporal F. Leyland, lost on points in the Semi-Final to S.I. Ryan, A.B.A. Champion.

*I.S.B.A. Championships*

Lance-Corporal J. Murphy, winner, Flyweight.
Corporal M. T. W. Forrester, lost on casting vote decision.

*A.B.A. Championships*

Lance-Corporal J. Murphy, lost on casting vote decision to Clinton, of Scotland (winner) in the Semi-Final.

Lance-Corporal J. Murphy represented England in the European Championships in Dublin and after winning his first fight was found to be 1 lb. overweight for his second fight.

Corporal M. T. W. Forrester also gained international honours, season 1046-47, and he and Corporal Prentice were first and second string lightweights in the I.S.B.A. Boxing Team, 1947.

The 1946-47 season produced:—

Two Internationals. Great Britain: Corporal Forrester and Lance-Corporal Murphy.

Three I.S.B.A. Team Members.

Four Army Representatives.

Corporals Murphy and Forrester have been selected to become members of the Olympic Games training team in preparation for the Olympic Games, 1948.

**Cricket**

*Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers*

Played at Catterick on 30th and 31st May, 1947. Signals won the toss and batted first on a wicket which showed plenty of life. Gale was bowled in the fourth over, but a good stand between Walford and Squires brought the score to 50. The next three wickets fell for the addition of only 14 runs, but with Scott and Blakey batting very carefully, the score was raised to 87 for six wickets when a thunderstorm brought cricket to an end for the day. Play had been in progress for 3¼ hours. Eackersley, by bowling fast-medium left-hand, soon brought the Signals innings to a close, taking the last four wickets for nine runs. The bowling was very accurate and aggressive and the fielding very good, Simpson taking a brilliant catch in the gully to dismiss Seabrook.

On the resumption of play on the second day, the bowling of Ellison on a responsive wicket was the feature of the play. He took seven wickets for 23 runs, bowling his medium-paced off-spinners and leg-swingers with great fire. Simpson and Campbell both batted confidently, but the other nine batsmen could only make 22 runs between them, and the innings closed for 79.

In the Signals second innings the first two wickets fell cheaply, but a very good innings by Walford, together with useful contributions by Evans, Parker, and Scott, brought the score to 81 for four wickets when Signals declared, leaving R.E. to score 109 to win.

When Simpson was caught in the first over it appeared that Signals had a chance of victory, but the wicket had now become much easier and Marlow played a very sound innings to make a draw certain. Ellison again bowled well but without taking a wicket. This was a most enjoyable match which was spoilt by the thunderstorm on the first day.

ROYAL SIGNALS
First Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant Gale b Marlor ... | 2 |
| Officer Cadet Squires c Moor b Eackersley ... | 28 |
| Ma'or Walford c Campbell b Simpson ... | 14 |
| Major Evans c and b Harper | 4 |
| Captain Parker c Moor b Harper ... | 6 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Scott c Moor b Simpson ... | 11 |
| Signalman Blakey b Eackersley | 12 |
| Ma'or Rickman lbw b Eackersley ... | 0 |
| Signalman Seabrook c Simpson b Eackersley ... | 0 |
| Lance-Corporal Ellison b Eackersley ... | 8 |
| Second-Lieutenant Turner not out ... | 6 |
| Extras ... | 15 |
| Total ... | 106 |

ROYAL ENGINEERS
First Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson b Ellison ... | 24 |
| Sapper Marlor b Ellison ... | 1 |
| Officer Cadet Hearn st Turner b Squires ... | 9 |
| Lieutenant Rambant b Squires | 2 |
| Captain Campbell b Ellison ... | 31 |
| Officer Cadet Frank run out ... | 3 |
| Captain Wilkinson lbw b Ellison ... | 0 |
| Captain Moor b Ellison ... | 0 |
| Second-Lieutenant Munn b Ellison ... | 0 |
| Captain Harper not out ... | 7 |
| Second-Lieutenant Eackersley lbw b Ellison ... | 0 |
| Extras ... | 2 |
| Total ... | 79 |

BOWLING

ROYAL SIGNALS

| | O. | M. | R. | W. | Av. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ellison ... | 15 | 4 | 23 | 7 | 3.3 |
| Walford ... | 3 | — | 6 | — | — |
| Seabrook ... | 3 | — | 8 | — | — |
| Squires ... | 13 | — | 34 | 2 | 17 |
| Scott ... | 2 | — | 6 | — | — |

ROYAL ENGINEERS

| | O. | M. | R. | W. | Av. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eackersley ... | 19 | 6 | 35 | 5 | 7 |
| Marlor ... | 17 | 5 | 27 | 1 | 27 |
| Simpson ... | 12 | 1 | 23 | 2 | 11.5 |
| Harper ... | 2 | — | 5 | 2 | 2.5 |
| Munn ... | 2 | 1 | 4 | — | — |

ROYAL SIGNALS
Second Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant Gale c and b Marlor ... | 5 |
| Officer Cadet Squires c Rambant b Eackersley ... | 5 |
| Major Walford not out ... | 34 |
| Ma'or Evans b Eackersley ... | 11 |
| Captain Parker c Hearn b Eackersley ... | 12 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Scott not out ... | 11 |
| Signlman Blakey, Major Rickman, Signalman Seabrook, Lance-Corporal Ellison and Second-Lieutenant Turner did not bat. | |
| Extras ... | 3 |
| Total (for 4 wkts. dec.) ... | 81 |

ROYAL ENGINEERS
Second Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson c Blakey b Squires ... | 1 |
| Sapper Marlor not out ... | 28 |
| Officer Cadet Hearn lbw b Seabrook ... | 14 |
| Lieutenant Rambant b Squires | 7 |
| Captain Campbell not out ... | 4 |
| Officer Cadet Frank, Captain Wilkinson, Captain Moor, Second-Lieutenant Munn, Captain Harper and Second-Lieutenant Eackersley did not bat. | |
| Extras ... | 2 |
| Total (for 3 wkts.) ... | 56 |

BOWLING

| Royal Signals | O. | M. | R. | W. | Av. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ellison ... | 9 | 3 | 13 | — | — |
| Squires ... | 12 | 4 | 27 | 2 | 13.5 |
| Seabrook ... | 3 | — | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| Scott ..... | 3 | — | 7 | — | — |

| Royal Engineers | O. | M. | R. | W. | Av. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eackersley | 13 | 4 | 20 | 3 | 6.6 |
| Marlor ... | 7 | — | 25 | 1 | 25 |
| Frank ..... | 2 | — | 7 | — | — |
| Simpson ... | 5 | — | 11 | — | — |
| Munn ... | 3 | — | 6 | — | — |
| Moor ... | 2 | — | 9 | — | — |

*Royal Signals v. Yorkshire Gentlemen*

Played at Catterick on 15th June, 1947. Signals won by 76 runs.

On the morning of 15th June it appeared that play would be out of the question, as it had been raining for more than 24 hours. It proved impossible to warn all the Yorkshire Gentlemen that the match had been cancelled but, eventually, by completing both teams with volunteers from Catterick, it was decided that it would be possible to start the match after lunch.

Signals won the toss and went in to bat on a wet wicket. A poor start was made, the first three wickets falling for 14 runs. Good innings by Evans and Robertshaw saved the situation, and the tail-enders attacked the bowling with spirit, three sixes being hit. Signals declared at 141 for eight wickets.

The two left-hand bowlers, Walford and Austin, took six of the wickets that fell, Austin's in-swingers proving particularly difficult to the early batsmen.

The Yorkshire Gentlemen's batsmen were quite unable to cope with the bowling of Ellison, Evans, and Squires. Ellison bowled unchanged through the innings, taking five wickets for 15 runs in 14 overs. The Yorkshire Gentlemen undoubtedly had the worst of the wicket, which had begun to dry out during their innings. Their total reached only 65 runs, the last wicket falling in heavy rain with 20 minutes left for play.

This was a most enjoyable game considering rather unpleasant playing conditions.

| Royal Signals | |
|---|---|
| Signalman Blakey lbw b Walford ..... | 0 |
| Signalman Peers c and b Austin ..... | 1 |
| Captain Porter p.o. b Austin | 5 |
| Signalman Robertshaw c Rogerson b Walford ..... | 34 |
| Major Evans b Hutchinson ... | 32 |
| Officer Cadet Squires c Forbes-Adam b Hutchinson ..... | 12 |
| Lieutenant Gale lbw b Walford | 5 |
| Lance-Corporal Ellison not out | 19 |
| Second-Lieutenant Turner c Forbes-Adam b Walford ... | 8 |
| Signalman Emblem not out ... | 10 |
| Extras ..... | 15 |
| Total (for 8 wkts. dec.) | 141 |

Signalman Atkins did not bat.

| Yorkshire Gentlemen | |
|---|---|
| Rogerson b Ellison ..... | 3 |
| Forbes-Adam b Evans ..... | 3 |
| Terry b Ellison ..... | 6 |
| Birchett b Squires ..... | 6 |
| Hutchinson c Gale b Evans ... | 0 |
| Austin b Squires ..... | 1 |
| Gossup p.o. b Ellison ..... | 13 |
| E. Hutchinson lbw b Ellison | 14 |
| Cole b Ellison ..... | 0 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker b Squires ..... | 4 |
| Walford not out ..... | 11 |
| Extras ..... | 4 |
| Total ..... | 65 |

Bowling: —

| Royal Signals | O. | M. | R. | W. | Av. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ellison ..... | 14 | 3 | 15 | 5 | 3 |
| Evans ..... | 7 | 1 | 28 | 2 | 14 |
| Squires ..... | 6 | — | 18 | 3 | 6 |

| Yorkshire Gentlemen | O. | M. | R. | W. | Av. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austin ..... | 10 | 2 | 25 | 2 | 12.5 |
| Walford ... | 10 | — | 44 | 4 | 11 |
| Hutchinson | 11 | 3 | 20 | 2 | 10 |
| Forbes-Adam | 2 | — | 12 | — | — |
| Terry ... | 5 | 1 | 18 | — | — |
| Cole ..... | 3 | — | 7 | — | — |

DINNER LIST

*(Continued from page 233)*

Captain Fraser, A. D.
Major Fuge, W. V. G.

Major Gadd, P. G.
Lieutenant-Colonel Gambier, P. B. G.
Major Gammage, W. J. E.
Lieutenant-Colonel Gandy, R. F.
Lieutenant-Colonel Gardiner, C. D.
Major Gentry, L. H.
Colonel Giblin, R. G. L.
Captain Gillard, R.
Major Glass, J. M.
Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker, P.
Lieutenant-Colonel Graham, G. E.
Colonel Gravely, T. B.
Brigadier Gray, F. P. L.
Lieutenant-Colonel Griffith, D.
Major Goldsmith, D. J.

Colonel Hagon, H. K.
Lieutenant-Colonel Haigh, J. D.
Captain (Quartermaster) Hale, J. E.
Major Hammersley, J. H. St. G.
Major Hankin, B. D.
Captain Harfoot, B. T. E.
Brigadier Harris, A. L.
Major Harris, D. J.
Major Harry, L. A.
Major Harvey, J. A. W.
Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, H. D.
Colonel Haslehurst, A. K.
Major Haslehurst, D. M.
Major Hawke, J.
Captain Hay, M.
Captain Haycock, K. F.
Colonel Henderson, J. L.
Brigadier Henderson, R. A. C.
Lieutenant-Colonel Henn-Collins, C. A.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hey, W. L.
Brigadier Hickman, J. B.
Lieutenant-Colonel Higgs, R. N.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hills, J. D.
Major Hinds, C. D.
Captain Hoerder, G. H.
Major Holden, G. N.
Lieutenant-Colonel Holland, V. C.
Captain Holliman, E. S.
Lieutenant-Colonel Howard, H. L.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hue Williams, F. R.
Captain Hunter, H. B. de M.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hyde, P. R.
Major Hayles, B. R. M.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, L. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, W. F.
Brigadier James, E. A.
Colonel Jones, F. E. B.
Major Jones, J. C.
Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, R. E.

Major Keeling, A. M.
Captain Kent, G. T.
Major King, M. P.
Captain Kirby, B. D. E.
Lieutenant-Colonel Knight, E. W. G.
Brigadier Knowles, C.

Captain Laing, W.
Lieutenant Lander, C. F.
Major Lawrence, F. G.
Lieutenant-Colonel Lazenby, R.
Major Leahy, A. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Lilly, J. L.
Captain Little, K.
Major Llewellyn, A. H. D.
Lieutenant-Colonel Longfield, J. F.
Lieutenant-Colonel Lovegrove, S. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Lugton, J.
Captain Luxton, C. R.
Brigadier Lycett, C. V. L.
Major Lyne, E. F.

Major McGill, A. F.
Major McKowen, G. H.
Lieutenant-Colonel McNair, A. J. G.
Captain MacTivish, R. T.
Colonel Martin, G. St. J.
Major Mathews, R. E. D.
Captain Maunsell, R. S. D.
Captain Menzies, A. C.
Major Merchant, F. V.
Lieutenant-Colonel Miller, R. G.
Lieutenant-Colonel Mills, J. W.
Major Mitchell, C.
Major Mitchell, J. S.
Colonel Moppett, E. J. H.
Colonel Morgan, F. S.
Lieutenant-Colonel Morris, W. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Morton, F.
Colonel Mountford, H. D.
Lieutenant-Colonel Moyse-Bartlett, H.
Major Mulliss, T. V.
Lieutenant-Colonel Munro-Smith, W.
Brigadier Murphy, E. J.
Brigadier Morrison, A. E.

Major-General Nalder, R. F. H.
Major Nanney-Wynn, E. R.
Major-General Naylor, R. F. B.
Major Naylor, S. R.
Major Nettleship, C.
Major Newbery, R. T.
Captain Nicks, W. J. A.
Lieutenant-Colonel Niven, T. M.

Major Ollard, M. P. M.
Lieutenant-Colonel Orange-Bromehead.
Lieutenant-Colonel Orchard, J. R. S.
Captain Orr, H. D.
Lieutenant-Colonel Oswick, R. A.
Major Page, C. E.
Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer, P. J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Pargeter, H. O.
Captain Patterson, R.
Lieutenant-Colonel Peachell, W. A.
Captain Pemberton, J.
Major-General Penney, W. R. C.
Major Perkes, W. A.
Captain Pett, J. P. C.
Lieutenant-Colonel Philcox, S. A. W.
Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips.
Major Pickstone, W. H.
Captain Pidsley, N.
Major Pigott, R.
Captain Priestman, J. C.
Brigadier Prescot, C. P.
Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, N.

Major Rata, S.
Major Rawson, A. S.
Major-General Rawson, G. G.
Colonel Reading, J.
Lieutenant-Colonel Rhind, D. M.
Captain Robson, L. J.
Major Roberts, T. A.
Captain Robinson, J. A.
Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers, H. C. B.
Brigadier Rogers, W. H. G.
Major Rowe, B. J.
Colonel Rowley, B. G.
Major Ryan, J.
Lieutenant Robertson, C.

Major Samuels, J. G. J.
Captain Sandys, C. G.
Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, T. A. R.
Brigadier Scott, W.
Brigadier Scott, W. A.
Captain Seys-Phillips, M. H.
Captain Sheepshanks, J.
Captain Sherrard-Smith, D.
Captain Shock, J. W.
Captain Short, R. F.
Brigadier Sketch, C. C.
Major Skinner, D. R.
Colonel Smijth-Windham, W. R.
Major Spicer, E. H.
Captain Smither, H.
Major Stanton, E. P.
Brigadier Steward, R. H. R.
Lieutenant-Colonel Stoneley, C. H.
Major Strallen, P. D. V.
Brigadier Straight, F. S.
Major Stow, J. D. F.
Captain Strange, F. G.
Lieutenant-Colonel Stripp, W. A.
Major Sully, R. B.
Captain Sumner, G. J.
Major Stuchbury, K. J. H.
Lieutenant-Colonel Swainson, F. J.
Brigadier Sykes, A. C.
Major Tate, A. S.
Major Tate, N. de la P.
Captain Taylor, H. T.
Major Tew, F. R.
Brigadier Tillard, J. A. S.
Colonel Tozer, A.
Lieutenant-Colonel Tozer, L. A. E.

Major Van der Goot, D. N.
Colonel Vigers, T. W.
Major-General Vulliamy, C. H. H.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walker, G. F. H.
Major Warner, F. E.
Captain Warren, N. T.
Lieutenant-Colonel Julian Watson.
Major Weaire, R. F.
General Sir H. Colville Wemyss.
Brigadier Wheatley, M. S.
Major Wheeler, A. B.
Brigadier Wickins, G. C.
Brigadier Willan, R. H.
Major Williams, P. C.
Brigadier Willway, A. C. C.
Colonel Wilson, F. K.
Lieutenant-Colonel Winterbotham, H.
Lieutenant-Colonel Withers Green, E. P.
Captain Woolhouse, A. M.

Lieutenant-Colonel Yarnell, A. L.
Lieutenant-Colonel Yolland, R. G.
Lieutenant-Colonel Yule, J. S.

*GUESTS*

Commander C. S. W. St. Quintin, R.N.
Major Perry A. Munro, U.S. Signal Corps.
Major Glen S. Waterman, U.S. Signal Corps.

# ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

## General Fund Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1946

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | SUNDRY CREDITORS: | | |
| | 366 | Expenses Accrued .. .. | 545 1 2 | |
| | | Subscriptions paid in advance: | | |
| | | The "Wire" .. .. | 71 9 0 | |
| | | Officers' Gazette .. .. | 31 10 0 | |
| | | Quarterly Journal .. | 38 14 7 | |
| 366 | | | | 686 14 9 |
| | | OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION: | | |
| | | Life Membership a/c.: | | |
| | 1,233 | Accumulated, 1928/45 .. | 2,852 18 4 | |
| | 1,620 | *Add:* amount received during year .. .. | 3,791 4 0 | |
| 2,853 | | | | 6,644 2 4 |
| | | (Note: The proportion received prior to 1st January, 1928, has been incorporated in Capital a/c.) | | |
| | | CAPITAL ACCOUNT: | | |
| | 2,946 | Balance, 1st January, 1946 .. | 2,851 10 2 | |
| | 94 | *Less:* Excess of Expenditure | — — — | |
| | | *Add:* Excess of Income over Expenditure .. | 705 15 3 | |
| 2,852 | | | | 3,557 5 5 |
| £6,071 | | | | £10,888 2 6 |

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | CASH: | | |
| | 1,410 | Lloyds Bank Ltd., current a/c. .. .. .. | 6,131 1 6 | |
| | 6 | Petty cash in hand .. .. | 17 5 4 | |
| 1,416 | | | | 6,148 6 10 |
| | | SUNDRY DEBTORS: | | |
| | | Subscriptions to "Wire" and O.C.A. .. .. | 170 6 10 | |
| | | Advertisements in "Wire" | 100 6 3 | |
| | 3 | Interest .. .. .. | 2 16 2 | |
| | 72 | Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund .. | 71 18 0 | |
| | 407 | War Benevolent Fund .. | 1 0 0 | |
| | 37 | Officers' Central Fund .. | — — — | |
| | | Sundry Loans .. .. | 5 17 9 | |
| 519 | | | | 352 5 0 |
| 30 | | Loans to Branch Associations | | 150 0 0 |
| | | INVESTMENTS AT COST: | | |
| | 1,290 | £1,287 12s. 8d. 3½% War Loan .. .. .. | 1,289 14 10 | |
| | 200 | £194 7s. 7d. 5% N.S.W. Stock, 1947/57 .. .. | 200 0 0 | |
| | 200 | £226 8s. 1d. 4% Consolidated Stock .. .. | 200 0 0 | |
| | 500 | £682 9s. 3d. 3½% Conversion Stock .. .. | 500 0 0 | |
| | 400 | £400 5% National Savings Certificates of 100 Units.. | 400 0 0 | |
| | 391 | £400 3% Funding Stock .. | 391 1 0 | |
| | 993 | £1,000 2½% Funding Loan Stock, 1956/61 .. .. | 993 4 6 | |
| 3,974 | | | | 3,974 0 4 |
| | | (Market valuation of the above at 31st December, 1946, £4,674 12s. 9d.) | | |
| | | STOCKS ON HAND AT COST: | | |
| | 12 | Sports Clothing, etc. .. | 5 0 8 | |
| | 1 | Car Badges .. .. .. | 28 7 6 | |
| | 21 | New Signals History .. | 20 19 2 | |
| | 40 | Association Badges .. .. | 157 4 0 | |
| 74 | | | | 211 11 4 |
| | | OFFICE FURNITURE AT COST, LESS DEPRECIATION: | | |
| | 57 | Balance, 1st January, 1946 .. | 57 14 5 | |
| | 10 | Additions during year .. | — — — | |
| | 67 | | 57 14 5 | |
| | 3 | *Less:* Sales during year .. | — — — | |
| | 64 | | 57 14 5 | |
| | 6 | *Less:* Depreciation at 10% | 5 15 5 | |
| 58 | | | | 51 19 0 |
| £6,071 | | | | £10,888 2 6 |

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers of the Association, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. I have verified the correctness of the Bank Balance, and ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees.

1/5 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2., 15th May, 1947.

(Signed) H. S. BAKER, F.C.A., *Chartered Accountant*, Auditor.

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December, 1946

DR. EXPENDITURE

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 455 | To Secretary's Salary .. .. | 375 0 0 | |
| | 466 | „ Clerks' Salaries .. .. | 1,234 9 5 | |
| 921 | | | | 1,609 9 5 |
| 53 | | „ Pension—W. Butler .. | | 55 16 0 |
| 583 | | „ Rent, Rates, Heating and Lighting .. .. | | 458 9 3 |
| 17 | | „ Insurance .. .. .. | | 10 18 6 |
| 42 | | „ Telephone .. .. .. | | 33 9 1 |
| 247 | | „ Printing and Stationery .. | | 360 1 4 |
| 263 | | „ Postages and Sundry Expenses .. .. .. | | 482 6 4 |
| 147 | | „ Travelling Expenses .. | | 113 19 11 |
| 21 | | „ Audit and Accountancy Charges .. .. | | 31 10 0 |
| 1 | | „ Bank Charges .. .. | | 1 10 2 |
| 15 | | „ Signals' History .. .. | | — — — |
| 24 | | „ Repairs .. .. .. | | 29 8 8 |
| 124 | | „ Bad Debts written off .. | | — — — |
| 56 | | „ Income Tax .. .. | | 57 2 11 |
| | | „ Loss on Publications: | | |
| | | The "Wire": | | |
| | | Cost of Printing .. | 407 5 7 | |
| | | *Less:* Advertising charges | 100 6 3 | |
| | | | 306 19 4 | |
| | | *Less:* Subscriptions .. | 272 6 6 | |
| | | | | 34 12 10 |
| 2,514 | | Carried forward .. .. .. | | 3,278 14 5 |

INCOME

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 408 | | By Subscriptions and Donations to Old Comrades' Association .. .. | | 857 4 11 |
| | | „ Income from Investments: | | |
| | 45 | 3½% War Stock .. | 45 1 4 | |
| | 10 | 5% N.S.Wales Stock .. | 10 4 0 | |
| | 9 | 4% Consolidated Stock | 9 1 0 | |
| | 24 | 3½% Conversion Stock .. | 23 17 8 | |
| | 12 | 3% Funding Loan .. | 12 0 0 | |
| | 13 | 2½% Funding Stock .. | 25 0 0 | |
| 113 | | | | 125 4 0 |
| | | By Income from Publications: | | |
| | | Quarterly Journal: | | |
| 37 | | Sundry Receipts .. | | 40 4 0 |
| | | Signals' History: | | |
| 1 | | Sales .. .. .. | 10 0 | |
| | | *Less:* Cost of Copies Sold .. .. .. | 4 0 | |
| 1 | | | | 6 0 |
| | | The "Wire": | | |
| 29 | | Subscriptions received during the year .. | | — — — |
| | | „ Sundry Income: | | |
| | 9 | Sale of Corp's Clothing, etc. .. .. .. | 8 10 6 | |
| | 7 | *Less:* Cost of Clothing sold .. .. .. | 6 19 6 | |
| 2 | | | | 1 11 0 |
| | | „ Sales of Car Badges .. | 9 9 0 | |
| | | *Less:* Cost of Badges sold | 8 4 8 | |
| | | | | 1 4 4 |
| 590 | | Carried forward .. .. .. | | 1,025 14 3 |

## Income and Expenditure Account (continued)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,514 | Brought forward .. .. .. | | 3,278 14 5 | 599 | Brought forward .. .. .. | | 1,025 14 3 |
| | Officers' Gazette : | | | 10 | „ Sale of Association Badges | 128 7 6 | |
| | Cost of Printing .. | 159 15 0 | | 3 | *Less :* Cost of Badges sold | 95 14 6 | |
| | *Less :* Subscriptions .. | 97 3 0 | | 7 | | | 32 13 0 |
| | | | 62 12 0 | 4 | „ Sale of Diaries .. .. | 7 13 9 | |
| | Depreciation : | | | 3 | *Less :* Cost of Diaries sold | 7 4 10 | |
| 6 | Office Furniture .. | | 5 15 5 | 1 | | | 8 11 |
| — | „ Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year .. .. .. | | 705 15 3 | | „ proportionate amounts on account of Administration Expenses received from : | | |
| | | | | 1,716 | War Benevolent Fund .. | 2,844 0 11 | |
| | | | | 112 | Officers' Central Fund .. | 150 0 0 | |
| | | | | 1,828 | | | 2,994 0 11 |
| | | | | 94 | „ Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income for year .. .. .. | | — — — |
| £2,520 | | | £4,052 17 1 | £2,520 | | | £4,052 17 1 |

## Benevolent Fund (No. 1 Account) Incorporating Emigrant Loan Fund Balance Sheet as at 31st Dec., 1946

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | CAPITAL ACCOUNT : | | | | | CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND : | | |
| | 4,437 | Balance, 1st January, 1946 .. | 4,886 8 6 | | | | Lloyds Bank Ltd. : | | |
| | 449 | *Add :* Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year .. .. .. | 503 12 3 | | | 27 | Current Account .. .. | 7 13 3 | |
| | | | | | | 374 | Deposit Account .. .. | 903 4 10 | |
| 4,886 | | | | 5,390 0 9 | | 3 | Petty Cash in Hand .. | — — — | |
| | | | | | 404 | | | | 910 18 1 |
| | | (*Note :* At 31st December, 1946, the amount standing to the credit of the Emigrant Loan Fund was £455 18s. 0d. as per attached statement, which is incorporated above.) | | | | | SUNDRY DEBTORS : | | |
| | | | | | | 34 | Income Tax Recoverable .. | 60 12 3 | |
| | | | | | | | Interest due but not yet received .. .. .. | 3 15 8 | |
| | | | | | | | War Benevolent Fund .. | 16 2 6 | |
| | | | | | | 34 | | | 80 10 5 |
| | | SUNDRY CREDITORS : | | | | | INVESTMENTS AT COST : | | |
| | 72 | General Fund .. .. | 71 18 0 | | | 941 | £941 15s. 1d. 3½% War Loan (including £291 15s. 1d. nominal value relating to the Emigrant Loan Fund) | 941 4 0 | |
| | 20 | War Benevolent Fund .. | 20 0 0 | | | | | | |
| | | Deposit—Guards' Division Signals .. .. .. | 50 0 0 | | | 840 | £850 3% Funding Stock, 1959/69 .. .. .. | 838 18 11 | |
| | 92 | | | 141 18 0 | | 313 | £300 3½% Australian Stock, 1954/59 .. .. .. | 313 1 0 | |
| | | | | | | 1,930 | £1,900 2½% National War Bonds .. .. .. | 1,900 0 0 | |
| | | | | | | 546 | £550 2½% Funding Loan, 1956/61 .. .. .. | 546 6 4 | |
| | | | | | 4,540 | | | | 4,540 10 3 |
| | | | | | | | (Market valuation of the above at 31st December, 1946, £4,735 8s. 5d.) | | |
| £4,978 | | | | £5,531 18 9 | £4,978 | | | | £5,531 18 9 |

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers of the Association, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. I have verified the correctness of the Bank Balances, and have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees.

1/5, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.2. 15th May, 1947.

(Signed) H. S. BAKER, F.C.A., *Chartered Accountant*, Auditor.

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December, 1946

DR. EXPENDITURE — INCOME CR.

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | To Subscriptions and Donations : | | | 343 | | By Subscriptions and Donations .. .. .. | | 390 0 9 |
| | 1 | Army Technical School | 10 0 | | | | „ Investment Interest—Gross : | | |
| | 1 | Royal Cambridgeshire Home for Soldiers' Widows .. | 2 2 0 | | | 33 | 3½% War Loan .. .. | 32 19 2 | |
| | 2 | Netley Charitable Fund | 2 0 0 | | | 25 | 3½% Funding Stock, 1959/69 .. .. | 25 10 0 | |
| | 10 | Regular Forces Employment Association .. | 10 0 0 | | | 10 | 3½% Australia Stock, 1954/59 .. .. | 10 10 0 | |
| | 5 | Corps of Commissionaires .. | 5 0 0 | | | 48 | 2½% National War Bonds | 47 10 0 | |
| | 20 | | | 19 12 0 | | 7 | 2½% Funding Stock, 1956/61 .. .. | 13 15 0 | |
| | 448 | „ Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year .. .. .. | | 503 12 3 | 123 | | | | 130 4 2 |
| | | | | | 2 | | „ Interest on Bank Deposit .. | | 2 19 4 |
| £468 | | | | £523 4 3 | £468 | | | | £523 4 3 |

## Emigrant Loan Fund (Merged with the Benevolent Fund) 31st December, 1946

| 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | 1945 £ | £ | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 436 | | To Balance—Brought forward | | 445 13 10 | 446 | | By Balance—Carried forward | | 455 18 0 |
| 10 | | „ Interest accrued on £291 15s. 1d. 3½% War Loan for the year ended 31st December, 1946 .. | | 10 4 2 | | | | | |
| £446 | | | | £455 18 0 | £446 | | | | £455 18 0 |

# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 10

AUGUST 1947

# THE WIRE

*The Corps Magazine of the*
**ROYAL SIGNALS**

*The Official Organ of the*
**SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

*All correspondence and notes for "The Wire" should be addressed to: The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.*

☆

**AUGUST • 1947**

**Volume 1** *New Series* **No. 10**

☆

**PRICE: ONE SHILLING**


# Editorial

JUST at the moment when a fresh cut in supplies of newsprint is announced, we are paradoxically able to present THE WIRE printed on a better quality paper. The paper of the July and this issue is whiter and slightly thicker than before, with consequent improvement in photographic reproduction and general appearance. Whether this desirable change is the forerunner of still further upgrading, or whether a relapse will coincide with the national worries of next winter is a matter beyond the forecasting range of the editorial department of prophecy, but we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Also on the small mercies list is a better inflow of photographs from contributors, but although this has reduced the frequency of emotional outbursts in this office, as reported in the May "Editorial," it is not yet nearly difficult enough deciding which pictures to reject. We would again stress the need for good, clear prints in order to give the printers a fair chance.

* * *

Copy is still often received typed with only single spacing of the lines. This doubles the difficulties of editing, and contributors would be doing a very good deed for the month if they would set the typewriter for "double spacing" before committing their inspiration to paper.

* * *

One more plea—for ranks to be spelt out in full instead of being abbreviated. A small point but one which saves a great deal of time on that critical day—the sixteenth of each month.

* * *

Daring exploits as a saboteur while in enemy territory have won the British Empire Medal for Mr. Vivian Pottle, of 38 Pinkham Mansions, Chiswick, who has lived in the district for more than thirty years, is an old Central School scholar, a member of the Chiswick branch of the British Legion and of the Brentford and Chiswick Conservative Association.

Joining the Royal Corps of Signals, Mr. Pottle was taken prisoner in France in May, 1940, and spent more than five years in a German prison camp. His work as a saboteur is mentioned in the official citation, which states that while working as an electrician at a factory at Adelsdorf he engineered a fire which destroyed the whole of the plant, and also planned two other fires which did considerable damage.

* * *

### BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held at Beachley Camp, Chepstow, on Saturday, 27th September, 1947. The provisional programme is as under:

26th Sep., 47. Dance, arranged by H.Q. Branch, 8 p.m.
27th Sep., 47. 10 to 11.30 a.m. Visit to Workshops.
11.30 a.m. Visit Lines, Institutions, etc.
5 p.m. Annual Meeting.
7.30 p.m. Annual Dinner.
28th Sep., 47. 9.45 a.m. Divine Service.
2.30 p.m. Cricket, Football or Hockey matches.

All ex-boys of the School, whether members of the Association or not, are cordially invited to attend the Re-Union, and it is hoped that a large number will avail themselves of this opportunity of re-visiting the School.

All those wishing to attend are asked to notify:

The Hon. Secretary,
B.O.B.A.,
Beachley Camp,
CHEPSTOW, Mon.

On arrival at the Camp, Old Boys should report to the Guard Room where guides will be available to conduct them to their rooms.

# PRESENTATION

# TO OUR

# *Colonel-in-Chief*

To mark the occasion of the silver wedding of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, a statuette of "Jimmy" was personally presented to Her Royal Highness on behalf of all ranks of the Corps by Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips.

We reproduce below a photograph of the statuette, which is five inches high, the figure being of solid silver and the scroll of gilding metal.

The texts of the letter of presentation and Her Royal Highness' reply are also given below.

Catterick Camp,
Yorkshire.
*23rd June,* 1947.

Madam,

Your Corps desire me to present to Your Royal Highness this silver stauette of "Jimmy" as a small token of their sincere regard and affection.

They ask me also to express their deep appreciation of the great personal interest always shown by Your Royal Highness in all matters pertaining to Your Corps, and for the many visits paid to Signal Regiments during the war years by their Colonel-in-Chief. Both Regular and Territorial Signal Regiments look forward to being honoured by further visits from their Colonel-in-Chief in future years.

May I conclude by conveying Your Royal Highness the loyal greetings of all ranks of Your Corps, and by expressing their deep sympathy in Your Royal Highness' recent sad bereavement.

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Your humble and obedient servant,
L. G. PHILLIPS,
Major-General,
Representative Colonel Commandant,
Royal Signals.

Harewood House,
Leeds.

Dear Sir Leslie,

I was touched by your bringing me the charming statuette of "Jimmy" as a silver wedding present from my Royal Corps of Signals. I value also very much the message that accompanied the gift, and appreciate the sympathy you extended to me from all Ranks on the death of Lord Harewood. I shall be grateful if you will express my warm thanks to all the donors, and assure them of the great pleasure it has given me to receive the statuette.

The welfare of my Corps is indeed a matter of the closest interest to me, and I look forward to the future visits I hope to pay to the Regular and Territorial Signal Regiments.

Yours sincerely,
MARY,
Colonel-in-Chief.

*June 26th,* 1947.

---

**PERSONAL**

Calling ex-members of 30 Corps Signals. Ex-Corporal L. Jowett (324 T.P.O.) and E. W. Wood (139 T.E. and C.C.G.) wish to announce their marriage on 12th July, 1947, and would be pleased to hear from old friends. Address: Greengate House, Keighley, Yorks.

* * *

*Publications Received.* We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, June, July.

R.E.M.E., July.

THE BORDERERS' CHRONICLE, June.

THE WISH STREAM, July.

# Home Stations

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*July*

*Athletics.* The unit had an athletic meeting on the 4th June. All Squadrons were represented. The summarised version of points scored is shown below.

| Event | Admin. | Boys | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 yds. | — | 8 | 4 | — | 8 |
| 220 yds. | — | — | — | — | 20 |
| 440 yds. | 4 | — | — | 10 | 6 |
| 880 yds. | — | — | — | 18 | 2 |
| 1 mile | 6 | — | — | 12 | 2 |
| 3 miles | 4 | — | — | 8 | 8 |
| Long Jump | — | 4 | — | 5 | 1 |
| Shot | — | — | — | 4 | 6 |
| High Jump | — | 4 | 1 | 5 | — |
| Javelin | — | 4 | — | — | 3 |
| Discus | — | 7 | — | — | 3 |
| Total Points | 14 | 27 | 5 | 62 | 59 |

Boys' Squadron did very well having only two competitors, 2 and 3 Squadrons who were fighting hard for supremacy all the way.

As a result of this contest competitors were sent to compete in the Garrison Individuals on the 11th. Lieutenant A. G. Smith won the 120 yds. hurdles, the long jump and was placed in the high jump and pole vault. Lance-Corporal Goddard did well in the javelin, and Boys Seymour and Barrows in the 100 yds. Corporal Jefferson won the hop, step and jump.

All the above went forward into the Northern Command Individual Championships on 25th June. In this competition Lieutenant A. G. Smith took places as follows:

Lieutenant A. G. Smith—120 yds. hurdles (1st); long jump (1st); high jump (2nd); pole vault (2nd).

In the "Enlisted Boys"—Boys Burrows (1st); Seymour (2nd) Thompson (3rd).

Lieutenant A. G. Smith further won in the Army Championships when he beat all comers in the 120 yds. hurdles.

A medley team was sent to compete in the No. 2 Training Regiment Sports, which we won decisively with Lance-Corporal Goddard, Signalman Cox, Signalman Urquhart and Lance-Corporal Cooper.

The same team was unsuccessful in the School of Signals Tournament.

The Gwynne brothers of No. 2 Squadron took part in the open mile race at the O.C.T.U. sports, taking 3rd and 4th place respectively.

The unit is training hard for the Garrison Team Championships to be held on the 24th, 25th and 26th August, in which we hope to excel.

Special congratulations to Lieutenant A. G. Smith on his splendid performance in winning the Army Championship in the 120 yds. hurdles.

No. 2 SQUADRON. This month has seen expansion of the Squadron into the large portion of "Loos" lines to occupy the old haunts of No. 5 Training Regiment, D.R. Squadron, who have moved to Tholthorpe. This has permitted single bunking to be introduced.

The Regimental Dances under the auspice of No. 2 Squadron are now held, twice weekly, in Loos N.A.A.F.I. and are becoming a very popular social feature in the night life of Catterick. In connection with these dances tribute must be paid to Lance-Corporal Breen for his efforts in effectively decorating the hall.

We welcome to the Squadron Lieutenant E. Smith, ex-India and Second-Lieutenant G. Kitchen, ex-O.C.T.U., and the following now posted to Cadre: Lance-Corporal Roche, Peek and Signalman Kent.

Installation of our local broadcasting system is nearing completion, the "Play Reading" Circle are equipping a studio with the intention of broadcasting their readings and occasional recordings of Signals Theatre productions.

The response to our appeal for news from ex-Squadron members has not been very great—What about it lads?

No. 3 SQUADRON. Firstly we extend a very hearty welcome to our new O.C., Major P. G. Curry and sincerely hope that his stay with us will be a long and enjoyable one; we also welcome Captain A. J. Wildy, Second-Lieutenant C. K. Mylne and S.S.M. Trott, the latter having just returned from a three years "rum supping" campaign in Trinidad, and who is a very useful addition to our unit hockey eleven. The remaining officer in the Squadron is Lieutenant C. Waugh who joined us towards the end of last year, and is our Officer i/c Technical Training. Coming next to the senior N.C.O.s in the Squadron we have S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Eeckelaers (ex Waz Dist and Mhow), S.Q.M.S. King (ex Pesh Dist and "A Corps," Pindi), S.Q.M.S. Langley (ex Waz Dist, Poonah and "A Corps," Pindi), and finally S.Q.M.S. Halsey who is, oh! so well known to all young line and tele mechanics wherever they may be.

In the last issue of these notes you read that a Cycling and Hiking Club had been formed. The Cycling Club runs have included Swaledale, as far as Keld; Wensleydale, as far as Hawes, and a short run to Ripon where the Cathedral formed a worthy centre of attraction. It is hoped that weather will permit further club runs to these and other places.

The Hiking Club has an increasing membership with the Youth Hostels Association and finds little difficulty in accommodation for hikes at week-ends. Rumours have it that S.Q.M.S. Langley slept in the Buttertubs Pass under an anti-gas cape—careful, if you sleep walk, "Q."! Also Corporal Baxter was seen mixed up with a cow and/or groundsheet.

The next Inter-Squadron Athletics Meeting is on 13th July 1947 and we are marshalling our talent to pit against our rivals, No. 2 Squadron.

## No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

*July*

*Sergeants Mess.* We extend a very hearty welcome to our new members, Bill Hitchings, Eric Dawes, Reg Chilvers and Jack Brown and congratulate them on their recent promotion..

Sergeant Jack Brown is also worthy of special mention in that he won the 880 yds. flat race at the meeting of the Northern Command Athletic Championships on Wednesday, 25th June.

A children's party was held on Sunday, 22nd June and it was a great success. As may be expected the fathers had their "party" later in the evening.

*News of Junior N.C.O.s.* We are all very concerned for the welfare and safety of "Atom" (Corporal J. B. Livesey), who has recently purchased a motor cycle. Contrary to the usual custom, the bike seems to ride him and not he the bike. Don't forget, corporals, his favourite flower is the lily.

Our sincere sympathies are extended to Lance-Corporal Howe, who on July 9th took the final plunge into the sea

of matrimony. Joking apart though, we offer him and his wife (Dorothy), our very best wishes for their future happiness. This offer also goes out to ex-Corporal Hitchings who was married on 21st June.

Our congratulations are extended to Corporal O'Shea, A.T.S., for her magnificent feats at the recent athletic meetings. Good show Audrey.

We welcome to our midst two new fellows, Lance-Corporal Lait and Lance-Corparal Holmes. We may appear to be a queer lot at first but you get used to us all in time. Settle down and make yourselves at home. You will be as "mad" as us before many weeks have passed. We are also glad to have seen Corporal Anderson safely on demob. after recovering from his illness.

Finishing on a serious note, we all offer our sincerest sympathies to S.S.M. Collie on his recent sad bereavement.

*Hockey.* Having won the Garrison 6-a-side Knock-out Competition, the unit team, consisting of Major K. Evans, Major F. A. L. Terrey, Captain I. K. Parkinson, Second-Lieutenant D. Turner, S.Q.M.S. Black and Corporal Rees, journeyed to Fulwood Barracks, York, to play in the Northern Command 6-a-side Competition.

Receiving a bye in the semi-final, the team played No. 2 Army College (winners of North Midlands District), in the final and won easily by 5 goals to nil. Scorers were Captain I. K. Parkinson (4), Corporal Rees (1).

At the conclusion of the game the cup was presented by Major-General C. B. Smith, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Chief of Staff, Northern Command.

*Royal Signals Tennis Tournament.* The Corps Individual Tennis Tournament was played on the 16th to 21st June, culminating in the finals of the singles on Tuesday, 24th, and the Doubles on Thursday 26th. The number of entrants was over 140 and all matches were played on the courts of the Officers' Club. This unit was well represented, both the singles and the doubles being won by the members shown.

SINGLES FINAL—Lance-Corporal E. Woodruff (4 T.R.), beat Lieutenant R. O. Cant (6 T.R.); score: 6—1, 6—2, 4—6, 7—5.

DOUBLES FINAL—Captain G. F. Lowe (4 T.R.) and Lance-Corporal E. Woodruff (4 T.R.) beat Captain C. A. Smith (3 T.R.) and Lieutenant R. O. Cant (6 T.R.); score: 6—4, 6-4, 6-3.

Both matches were played before a large crowd of spectators, the singles especially being a hard fought and long drawn out match.

*Cricket.* Second Round, Garrison Knock-out Competition. The unit team played R.A.M.C., Catterick, on Monday, 16th June. Batting first, the R.A.M.C. could only manage to compile 34 runs. S. I. Wyatt, bowling extremely well, finished with an analysis of 8 wickets for 7 runs.

The runs required were obtained for the loss of 2 wickets, and when stumps were drawn, the score was 53 for 3 (Second-Lieutenant Turner 27).

## ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*July*

*Pass-off Parades.* There were two pass-off parades during June, Courses 182 and 183. Course 182 pass-off parade was on the 10th, when Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Treseder, O.B.E., took the salute. The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet T. G. Flynn, and the Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet R. W. J. Scott.

Course 183 was honoured to have Major-General Sir L. G. Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, to take the salute on their pass-off parade on 23rd June. The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet J. M. Sims, whilst the award of the Commandant's cane was made to Officer-Cadet C. K. Mylne.

*Re-Organisation.* We now have less than 200 cadets under training and with effect from 23rd June, the Cadet Wing was re-organised from three to two squadrons. Captain J. C. Garlick continues as O.C. No. 1 Squadron, whilst Captain H. L. H. Tayler assumes command of the re-organised No. 2 Squadron.

*Music Club.* On Sunday, 22nd June, Officer-Cadet R. Truby, on the eve of his being commissioned, gave a brilliant pianoforte recital of Beethoven's Sonatas.

His very lucid renderings were much appreciated by all those present, and his departure will be a loss to musical circles in the garrison, where he has built up for himself a reputation of being a pianist with a future.

By the time these notes appear in print, the music club will have suffered another serious loss in the departure on release of the President of the club, Captain A. G. Brown. An earnest and enthusiastic officer, with great ideas, he will be missed, not only in the music club, but also as a wireless instructor and Unit Education Officer. We wish him the best of luck for the future.

*Signals O.C.T.U. Theatre Club.* On the 23rd and 26th June, Course 187 presented a comedy-thriller in three acts, entitled "Someone at the Door," by Dorothy and Campbell Christie.

The production was a great success and drew filled houses on both nights. The producer, the cast and the whole of the course are to be congratulated on an excellent show which took up a lot of their spare time. We hope that this effort will be followed up by other courses.

*Shooting.* The Catterick Garrison Miniature Rifle League has just completed its season, and we have every reason to be proud of our team which has headed the league throughout and gone through the season without having lost a single match in the nineteen matches fired. Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., and all members of the team have had to give up much of their leisure to maintain such a consistently high standard.

*Golf.* The unit was well represented in the Royal Signals Monthly Medal Competition for June, which was held at Catterick Golf Club. Driver Shaw was first with a net score of 73, whilst Cadet Grainger was second with a net score of 75.

*Cricket.* Cricket enthusiasts in the unit have been well catered for in the very full cricket fixtures arranged during the month. There have been so many keen cricketers wanting to play that it has been difficult to select a Unit Team. We were unfortunate in drawing the School of Signals in the first round of the Garrison Inter Unit K.O. competition as they were last year's winners, and could field an older and more experienced team than us. Most of our cadets suffer from lack of cricket at school during the war years, but this is largely made up for by enthusiasm. The team is steadily settling down and improving and we hope to put a stop to our present defeats.

*Tennis.* The Royal Signals Tennis Tournament attracted a number of entrants from the unit, though none were able to survive the quarter finals.

Captain Osborn, who was beaten by Captain Low (4 T.R.) in the third round of the singles, has been selected to play for the Corps against the Sappers.

*Inter-O.C.T.U. Visits.* During the week ending 28th June, the R.E. O.C.T.U. were at home to teams from this unit.

The fixture included the following events: athletics, boxing, swimming, cricket, shooting and golf. Our Sapper hosts won the athletics, swimming and cricket matches and so can rightly be considered as having won the meeting.

(*continued on page* 254)

## *Major-General*

# W. R. C. PENNEY

## *C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.*

MAJOR-GENERAL W. R. C. PENNEY, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., late Royal Signals, is one of the most highly qualified and experienced officers in the Army. Apart from achievements which to most ordinary mortals are considerable General Penney rose to be a Signal-Officer-in-Chief in an active theatre of operations, commanded a Division in action, was Director of Military Intelligence at Supreme Headquarters S.E.A.C. and is now Assistant Controller of Supplies (Munitions) at the Ministry of Supply.

Nobody would care to put a limit to his future.

Add to such professional attainments skill at field sports and games, which took him into Army rugger, the accomplishments of a good host and a good guest, including a very pleasant tenor voice, and one has the make-up of one who has really learnt how to serve and how to live.

William Ronald Campbell Penney was born in 1896, educated at Wellington and the R.M.A. He was commissioned Second-Lieutenant, Royal Engineers in November 1914. He served in France and Belgium with R.E. Signals throughout the war of 1914, winning the Military Cross, the Belgian War Cross and the French War Cross.

In 1919 he came home to be G.S.O. 3 at H.Q. Signal Training Centre. It was during this period that he played rugger for the Army and was one of the builders of the very successful Corps side of 1920-1922.

He transferred from R.E. to Royal Signals in 1921 and in 1922 went to India to be Assistant to the Signal-Officer-in-Chief, coming home in March 1926 to be instructor at the School of Signals.

In the meantime he had gained a vacancy at the Staff College, Camberley. On completion of the course he was posted, early in 1929, to a War Office staff appointment which he held until he was sent to Shanghai as Brigade Major in 1931.

Marked for rapid promotion in the Army he was made brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in 1934 and substantive Lieutenant-Colonel in 1935. He then came back to regimental duty and commanded 1st Indian Divisional Signals, being engaged in active operations on the North West Frontier of India in 1936-1937, winning the D.S.O. by his services.

Early in 1939 Colonel Penney was selected to attend the Imperial Defence College. This singled him out for further promotion and on completion of the course in October, 1939, he was appointed Deputy Director of Military Intelligence, the War Office, where he remained until the end of 1940 when he was selected to command an infantry brigade.

In October, 1941, he was promoted temporary Major-General and appointed to be Signal-Officer-in-Chief, Middle East. In January, 1943, he accompanied the then General Alexander to North Africa as Chief Signal Officer 18th Army Group. On completion of the North African campaign he remained with General Alexander's Army Group for the Sicily and early Italian operations until selected to command 1st Division.

It was quite clear to C.R. Signals of that formation that the one thing his divisional Commander would not require would be technical advice on signal matters in the division. On the other hand no C.R. Signals could have had a more appreciative divisional Commander.

General Penney was severely wounded in action whilst commanding his division at Anzio, having had most remarkable escapes. After convalescence he was appointed Director of Military Intelligence at Supreme H.Q., S.E.A.C., which post he was holding at the historic moment of the signing of the terms of surrender by the Japanese.

On his return to the United Kingdom he was appointed to the post at the Ministry of Supply which he now holds.

Such a career of regimental duty, Staff appointments, high signal appointments and high command is an inspiring achievement.

***Home Stations*** *(continued from page 252)*

On the other hand we won the boxing, shooting and golf. Forthcoming meetings will include visits to the R.A.F. Regiment O.C.T.U. and the R.A. O.C.T.U., when we shall do our best to achieve better results.

## SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*June*

A few weeks ago the camp was invaded by a number of A.T.S. Whether this has been the cause of the apparent campaign of politeness and good manners is not so easy to ascertain, but several men have actually been seen to eat peas with their forks, and the customary phrase of "Oi mate, chuck the salt" has become practically extinct.

The former No. 3 Squadron at Cheltenham now finds itself under No. 2 Squadron as D.T.N. Cheltenham Troop. No. 1 Squadron deals with F.S.S. Communications and with administration and maintenance at Figsbury Barracks. A new No. 3 Squadron (Field) is being formed in which troops undergo training to keep their standard of efficiency at the highest possible level. This will be an operational Squadron and will be ready to take the field whenever it may be called upon to do so. The new O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Major Tidey, under whose command many of us had the good fortune to serve at Cheltenham, has taken over his present command from Captain Blake who was released a short while ago. Many of us in No. 2 Squadron, and especially the clerks, will remember Captain Blake as a fair and understanding officer. We wish him every success in civilian life.

The only setback that our table tennis players have suffered in past months was without doubt a real breath-taking defeat: ten games to nil. The games were played against P.O.W. invited from Larkhill Camp. The result, though sweeping, was to be expected, because the German team consists entirely of men who have been prominent champions in Germany, including Potass, who was in 1939 Lawn Tennis Champion in Germany; and Gueth, who won championships in Minden, Bielefeld, Bochum, Gelsen-kirchen, Munster, and many other cities. Seeing that their team has so far remained unbeaten, our camp team may count it to their credit that one or two of the games reached a score of 20 all.

Royal Signals played a very important role in the recruiting drive forming part of the annual Bath and West Show which this year was held at Cheltenham. Many branches of the Army were represented, but Signals, with their flag flying majestically in the breeze, attracted a far greater proportion of the crowd than did anyone else. The equipment on show included several types of wireless sets, including the "suitcase" set, but the things that drew the crowds and held their attention with such absorbing interest were the teleprinter (which was connected to the nearby D.T.N. switching centre); the "Walkie-Talkie," and the wire recorder. The voices of several people, mostly girls, were recorded by means of the wire recorder. When they were allowed to hear their voices later it was extremely interesting to note how each was surprised to hear what her own voice sounded like from a distance.

The teleprinter was connected in turn to Edinburgh, Northern Ireland, and—to the amazement of all—Hamburg. Its paper carriage drew the eyes of the onlookers like a magnet, especially when the distant stations replied, their messages unfolding themselves quickly and accurately whilst the operator just sat and watched.

One old farmer, who had watched the whole proceedings with the most studious and calculating expression, summed up at the end when he opened his mouth for the first time: "Now I sees 'ow 'e works. If 'ee speaks into this moic 'ere, wot 'ee sez comes owt on these 'ere teleprinter."

The three representatives of Southern Command Signal Regiment were Sergeant Richardson, Lance-Corporal Guerney, and Signalman Betts. Corporal Griffiths and Lance-Corporal Males represented No. 2 Parachute Brigade Signals.

## WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*July*

As the photographs show, this "Mixed" Signal Regiment is getting into its stride. These photographs were taken during one of our periodical jobs in aid of the Civil Police.

We have had many changes of Officers and other ranks, but are settling down slowly but surely in our new location. Weekly dances are held and are very popular as are the newly formed dancing classes. Our main sport at present is Cricket and the team is doing very well against all comers.

In the Command Rifle Meeting our team got sixth place out of about twelve entries. A good effort.

Warrant Officer II R. W. Nuttall and Signalman Redden attended an Old Comrades meeting in Catterick and met many old friends.

A list of Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants who are with us now is given for interest:—

*Officers*: — C.O.—Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau (O.B.E.), O.C. 1 Sqdn.—Major A. V. Brandle (M.B.E.). O.C. 2 Sqdn.—Major R. C. Wilson (M.B.E.). Adjutant—Captain H. J. M. Stephenson. Captains—B. E. Hayles, (Q.M.) F. R. Goble, (T.O.T.) B. Bevan, I. R. Cox, (Q.M.) W. G. Walters, (T.O.M.) R. B. Newman, (T.O.T.) G. H. Diamond (M.B.E.), (T.O.T.) W. E. Butler, W. L. Jarvis, G. W. West. Lieutenants—K. L. Wilkinson, H. R. Jones, H. B. Harper. Second Lieutenats—A. Coward, H. J. G. Willitts, R. Shavinsky.

*Warrant Officers and Sergeants*: — R.Q.M.S. R. W. Nuttall, R.Q.M.S. H. Bradbury, S.S.M. K. W. Smith, C.Q.M.S. T. L. Wilson, C.Q.M.S. T. D. McVicar. Sergeants—S. A. Brookes, M. R. Bailey, S. B. Acton, C. G. Matthews, C. J. Beckerton, T. Coyle, S. Samuels.

*Officers, A.T.S.*:—T/Senior Commander M. W. Carlton, T/Junior Commander M. Nalder, T/Junior Commander

*(Published by kind permission of the "Manchester Evening News")*
Private Skidmore, Private McGill, Sergeant Matthews

*(Published by kind permission of the "Manchester Evening News")*
Left to right: Signalman Sutton, Major Wilson, Sergeant Matthews, Private McGill, Private Skidmore, Lance-Corporal Smith

M. Foster. Subalterns—S. N. Burnett, M. Minkin, Coombes, M. Holmes, M. Cunliffe, J. R. Flitter.

*Warrant Officers and Sergeants*:—WS/Warrant Officer II D. Melmore. Sergeants—N. K. Abraham, R. Carberry, A. Tucker, M. Turnock, M. Gardiner, Miller, Sullivan.

### No. 51 SIGNAL EQUIPMENT TROOP (SPECIAL)

*June*

Yes! We're back after six months' silence. This lapse in our correspondence was due to us losing our very competent and able journalist, Lieutenant R. T. Webster, now in A.A. Signals, to whom we all send our best wishes.

Since our last appearance, the Unit has moved to C.O.D., Donnington, Shropshire. We missed London at first, but, as usual, it didn't take us long to get established, organised and our "feet under the table." Amongst other observations it was found that the beer was much the same here as in other Dens of Iniquity frequented by certain personnel of this Troop. This amazing discovery was reported by our famous connoisseur of "Mild and Bitter," Sergeant T. S. Wood, of Hadley fame.

Our present O.C., Captain (Q.M.) R. H. Ivison, who has been with us for the past three months, will, by the time these notes appear in print, have departed to Civvy Street. He will be missed by many, including myself, the Troop, and the many friends of his sojourn here, both male and female. Although I am most unqualified, a mere 2323 . . ., to bid adieu to such an old soldier and athlete of the Corps, it is with regrets that we say cheerio and wish him all the best, and as much success in his new spheres of life as he has had in the Corps. The other "poor unfortunates" who have left us on posting to the ranks of demobbees, are Corporal Wilson and Signalmen Taylor and Lock. We also wish them all the best.

*Promotions.*. Certain of our members have aspired to dizzier heights than others, one, Lance-Corporal Donohoe, now being the proud possessor of two tapes, making room in the ranks of the one-tape types for Signalman Turner, who, incidentally, now specialises in N.A.A.F.I. charge-hands, not mere assistants—these Lance-Corporals, WOT ! His mother is still speaking to the neighbours though.

*Births.* A point of interest to ex-members of No. 52 Signal Park (now amalgamated with No. 51 S.E.T.)—Signalman Lock, known to us as the "Gripper from Trincomalee" is now the proud father of a daughter. The section extend their heartiest congratulations to both Mrs. and Signalman Lock.

# British Army of the Rhine

### 7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

#### Bad Rothenfelde

*July*

At the time of going to "press," the Regiment has been almost completely reshuffled and Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons have ceased to exist. At the moment almost everyone is on training in his respective trade and it is like old Catterick times to see operators trooping in to lecture rooms to pound out an hour's morse on training keys or delving into the innards of 19 and 22 sets ! The Regiment has now been divided into two branches, namely, training and administration, and this has meant much hard work on the part of officers and senior N.C.O.s. Sergeant Osborne has taken over the job of A/S.S.M. of the training branch and has Sergeant Durber as his wireless training instructor. Captain Thimont is O.C. Training Branch, assisted by Captain Alcock, Lieutenant Holdway, and Second/Lieutenant Waterlow who has just joined us from No. 2 Depot Regiment. Quite a surprise item on the weekly training programme is "P.T." This was at first met with uplifted eyebrows by the majority of our trainees, but they have now got into the swing of it and it is now an event which the German population of Bad Rothenfelde look forward to each morning ! Sergeant Falkingham, our P.T. instructor, has been doing some very serious "punching-up" on his basic tables and succeeded in making quite a presentable squad out of the operators and drivers.

M.T. seems to have been capably sorted out by Second/Lieutenant Trott (also just joined from No. 2 Depot Regiment) with the assistance of Sergeant Scott, under the very keen eye of Major Birkett ! The latter is performing the duties of C.O., in the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison, M.C., who is at present on a tour of the North-West Europe battlefields.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Trips to the Mohne See and the ancient town of Hamelin have been highlights in the happenings in this Mess during the last month and the married families were invited along on each occasion. The Mohne See Dam, which was destroyed by Wing Commander Gibson, R.A.F., during the war months, was of especial interest and we succeeded in getting some very fine snaps of the Dam and the very intricate camouflage work which the Germans put up to try and defeat our bombing attempts, and which proved fruitless. Although the weather was very dull and threatened rain, a picnic meal was eaten on the grass surrounding the huge expanse of water, and two members of the Mess, R.S.M. Johnstone and Sergeant Falkingham ventured into the water for a swim. Members of the Mess were able to perform a "good deed" during the course of this picnic. Two soldiers on leave at the Mohne See Leave Centre got into difficulties with a boat they were trying to row back to their camp. The wind and slight swell of the water was proving too much for them and they had reached a state of exhaustion when several members of the Mess waded out to them and dragged the boat on to dry land, afterwards reviving their very broken spirits with tea and cakes !

The trip to Hamelin was also of great interest, the families being treated to stories of the Pied Piper, and the children paddling in the river into which the Rats of

Hamelin were led to their death by the piping of the Pied Piper.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Sergeant Duggie Earnshaw and Fraulein Louise Bolz who were married at the English Church in June. Other members of the Mess are due to "toe the line" in the very near future and there seems to be quite a deal of interest being shown as to who will be next.

*Cricket.* In the Western Section of the Divisional Cricket League we have played five matches, winning four and losing one. Our last match was on 5th July against No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, whom we defeated.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison, M.C., our Commanding Officer, and Major T. P. Saunders were selected to play for the officers of the Division against the Ironsides, a team selected from the R.A.C. in B.A.O.R. during the Royal Tank Regiment week which was held at Detmold from 30th June to 5th July. Major Saunders has also been selected to play in the Divisional side which tours Denmark from 22nd to 30th July.

From No. 4 Squadron comes the news that Corporal Binks was selected to play for a Rhine Army team, but he was unable to play owing to injuries.

*Motor Cycle Club.* The Motor Cycle Club held its first Grass Track Meeting at Aschendorf, near Bad Rothenfelde when 18 riders from Regiments in the Division turned up to give us an excellent afternoon's sport. Signals fared well in the eliminating races, but only one rider succeeded in reaching the semi-final, in the person of our E.M.E., Lieutenant Husband, who failed to get away to a good start in this event. The 1st Battalion the Rifle Brigade and 7th Armoured Brigade W/S took all the honours, mainly due to the fact that their machines were far superior to ours. However, now that the sport has been recognised by B.A.O.R. and with the promise of machines on purchase no doubt we may be able to find some winners among our riders who include Sergeant Falkingham, Signalmen Andrews Badcock, Young and Mosley. R.S.M. Johnstone who was finding his feet for the first time on a Grass Track was heard to admit that "it ain't no mug's game." The meeting was a big success and now attracts a big following including our C.O., Major Birkett, Major Saunders (who both put up extra prizes for the best riders of the day) and Captain Moore who performed the rather difficult duty of Track Judge. There were several exciting spills, the main one being when Lance-Corporal Rothwell of Signals lost his front wheel when leading in his event. Rothwell had broken a vertebra in his spine some weeks ago when riding in a scramble meeting but insisted on riding again in order to regain his nerve. He was riding magnificently when his front wheel hit a bump, the machine leapt into the air and the wheel left the forks and went bounding on ahead with Rothwell following it. In spite of what seemed a serious spill he received a bruised shoulder, but has now withdrawn from riding having only ten days to go before demob.!

We should like to take this opportunity of welcoming newcomers to the Regiment and wish them the very best of luck for very shortly they will be left to carry on the job of upholding the name of the Division.

J.H.F.

## 2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Hilden

*July*

This last month has been one of Sports Meetings within the Division and the Regiment has taken a very active part in all and given a very good account of itself.

The swimming team won the 4th Brigade Swimming Shield, and we went on to the Divisional Championship held at Dusseldorf on 27th June. The R.W.F. team turned the tables on us and beat us by 1 point for 1st place—a very good effort indeed and an extremely hard fought contest which provided first class entertainment for the large numbers of spectators present. The final result was:

1 R.W.F. — 100 points 2 Inf. Div. Signal Regt. 99 points

Placing of the Regimental team in each events was as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 x 50 metres free style | —4th | 4 x 50 metres breast stroke | —3rd |
| 4 x 100 metres breast stroke | —1st | 3 x 100 metres Medley Relay | —3rd |
| 4 x 50 metres back stroke | —1st | Diving | —1st |
| 4 x 100 metres free style | —4th | | |

The Regimental team consisted of the undermentioned N.C.O.s and men:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sergeant Kelly (H.Q.) | Lance-Corporal Skudder (J.) |
| Signalman Heyland (K.) | Lance-Corporal Standing (M.) |
| Signalman Ball (B.) | Driver Cheetham (E.) |
| Driver Greaves (J.) | Signalman Wells (C.) |
| Signalman Parker (J.) | Signalman Willmott (C.) |
| Signalman Taylor (J.) | Signalman Eldridge (A.) |
| Signalman Gotrel (O.) | |

In the individual Championships held on 28th June, members of the team scored further successes as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1500 metres free style ... ... | 1st—Signalman Eldridge (A.)<br>5th—Signalman Yates (B.) |
| Diving: 3 metres Board ... | 2nd—Driver Cheetham (F.)<br>3rd—Lance-Corporal Standing (M.) |
| Diving: 5 and 10 metres Board | 2nd—Sergeant Kelly (H.Q.) |
| 200 metres breast stroke ... ... | 2nd—Lance-Corporal Standing (M.)<br>5th—Signalman Taylor (J.) |
| 100 metres back stroke ... ... | 3rd—Signalman Heyland (K.) |
| 400 metres free style ... ... | 1st—Signalman Eldridge (A.) |

The Regimental Medley Relay team competed in the invitation relay race held at No. 5 Squadron R.E. Sports on 18th June, and came second in a very close race, being beaten by a team from the Middlesex Regiment. Our team was as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 200 metres—Sergeant Bragg | 400 metres—Lance-Corporal Griffin |
| —Signalman Lund. | 800 metres—Sergeant Rowe, M.M. |

The result of this race was in doubt up to the very last yard and was won by inches—a very fine try indeed, and better luck next time.

On 18th June, the Unit Elimination Sports were held at Wuppertal Stadium. We had perfect weather and the keenness and high standard of fitness shown by the competitors was extremely heartening. As a result of these Sports we picked a team to represent the Regiment in the 4th Brigade Sports on 3rd June. Lieutenant Lloyd ran a splendid race, being first home in the 5,000 metres and we have great hopes of him winning the Divisional Individual Championship at this distance.

In the 4th Brigade Sports Championship the Regimental team were up against strong opposition and were eliminated by well trained Infantry teams. The winners were 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards who have now won the Divisional Championships.

At the 6th Brigade Sports on 5th May, the Regiment sent a team to compete in the 1 mile open medley. This was a gruelling race and we were very pleased to win against strong competition, our team was Sergeant Rowe, M.M., Signalman Lunt, Signalman Mees, Private Owen.

Considering that this team had had little opportunity to practise together the result is all the more creditable.

The wonderful weather, which we have been enjoying, has lent itself to Cricket. On 20th June a very enjoyable match was played, Officers versus Sergeants. The Sergeants won by about 20 runs. What was lost in skill was certainly gained in enthusiasm and enjoyment. A return match on the following week again resulted in a win for the Sergeants, but this time by a much closer margin. Sergeant F. Ray's surprising stand turned the tables.

The next big event in our Sports card is the Divisional Rifle Meeting; under Major R. E. Button the Regimental team is practising every available moment. Last year we won the Young Soldiers Competition and mean to add to those honours this year.

On 1st July a trip for O.R.s was arranged to go up the

Rhine on one of the Rhine steamers. Our complement was over a hundred men and, although the weather turned to a slight drizzle and haze, the wonderful scenery enjoyed made the trip well worth while. The journey was through the wine growing part from Cologne to Coblenz, and the general opinion was "we only wish that we could have gone on still further." The banks on either side are rich in legend and fairy-tale. A most enjoyable trip indeed and one which we hope will be repeated at a not too distant date.

## 5th INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Brunswick

*July*

*Married Families' Outing.* Tuesday the 1st of July will stand out as a sweet memory to many of the Married Families of the 5th Divisional Signal Regiment, for on that day they were the guests of the Regiment at an outing to the lake called Steinhuder Meer.

About thirty-two families took advantage of this invitation. A charabanc was hired and travelled to the lunch halt at a steady 35 k.p.h.

Lunch was served in a nicely shaded glen just off the Autobahn and it was a case of all the menfolk acting as "Herr Ober" in a grand and efficient style.

After lunch all embussed to the Camp Site, near the lake, where Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Yule collected the party and escorted them to the waiting motor-launch, which took them for a trip on the lake, calling at the Island, where the old Castle, or Schloss, was visited and an interesting discourse given by the Frau in charge. The Frau spoke in broken English, but it was noticed that one or two of the wives tried their hands at "Sprechen the Deutsche."

When the party arrived back at the Camp Site, a meal was awaiting them, and, judging by their appetites the air around Steinhuder seems to be a grand tonic.

After tea sports were indulged in, and from the laughter evoked everybody seemed to be really enjoying themselves.

The first race was for "Ladies Only." After a hearty tea it was thought and carried that a nice "Question Race" would be more suitable than a 100 yds. "dash," so Major Hawkins, the Second-in-command and S.S.M. Judd carried out the work of race officials. Such questions as—"Any lady who gave her husband tea in bed this morning take four paces forward." Would you believe it but only two ladies had had the honour.

The race was really thrilling, with Mrs. Baldock the winner, Mrs. Robertson second, and Mrs. Carn, third. (The paces forward taken by a certain wife were twice the length of any pace she had to take back.)

The "Men's Race" was run with a handicap start, one yard for each year's service, and S.S.M. Maxwell had a grand lead there. The Colonel had the next good start but the race was won by Signalman Corcovan starting from scratch.

The final was a "Three-Legged" race and grand fun it was both for spectators and competitors.

The winners were as follows—1st race: 1, Sergeant and Mrs. Lawrence; 2, Lieutenant and Mrs. Carn. 2nd race—1, Sergeant and Mrs. Campion; 2, Signalman and Mrs. Wynne.

Mrs. Yule graciously presented the prizes, and thanked all the people concerned for organising the outing.

The day was blessed by good weather, and all embussed tired but happy for the journey back to quarters.

*Gardening.* A "Growmore-Eatmore" campaign by hand-picked D.P.s under the watchful eye of our R.S.M. has produced a fine display of vegetables of all kinds and flowers.

*The Cinema.* The Regiment is now in possession of a 16mm Sound Projector and training films are shown weekly, on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. A small cinema has been fitted up by Sergeant Jagger and Lance-Corporal Cooke (both of whom have now been released) and their good work is being carried on by the present Education Staff.

Amongst the training films which have been shown so far are "Burma Victory" and "The Way Ahead." "The Way Ahead" was a great success all round and a special show was given one evening for the benefit of the Families.

*Sporting interest* is centred in Cricket, although there is an inter-Unit Summer Football League functioning in B.A.O.R.

An inter-Troop Cricket Tournament is in full progress and competition is keen. The Unit have played several matches and given a good account of themselves. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Usher on being selected to play in the 5th Division side, which reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Tournament, only to be beaten by 7th Armoured Division.

Tennis is also in full swing although we have been handicapped owing to lack of equipment. We hope to have one or two entries in the Divisional Open Tournament taking place this month.

Like all other units this Regiment is having great difficulty in getting and keeping a football side together, due to demobilization, etc. In spite of this, however, we have entered a team in the B.A.O.R. Signals League, and although we have no successes to report we have at least stimulated interest in the younger element. We hope to do better next season.

One of the bulwarks of the side for the past three years, Lance-Corporal Boardman, has recently left us and should be adorning a professional side next season.

Results to date are as follows:—versus 32 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, draw 0—0; versus 7th Armoured Division Signal Regiment, lost 0—1; versus 2nd L. of C. Signal Regiment, lost 1—4.

## No. 1 BRITISH CORPS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Iserlohn

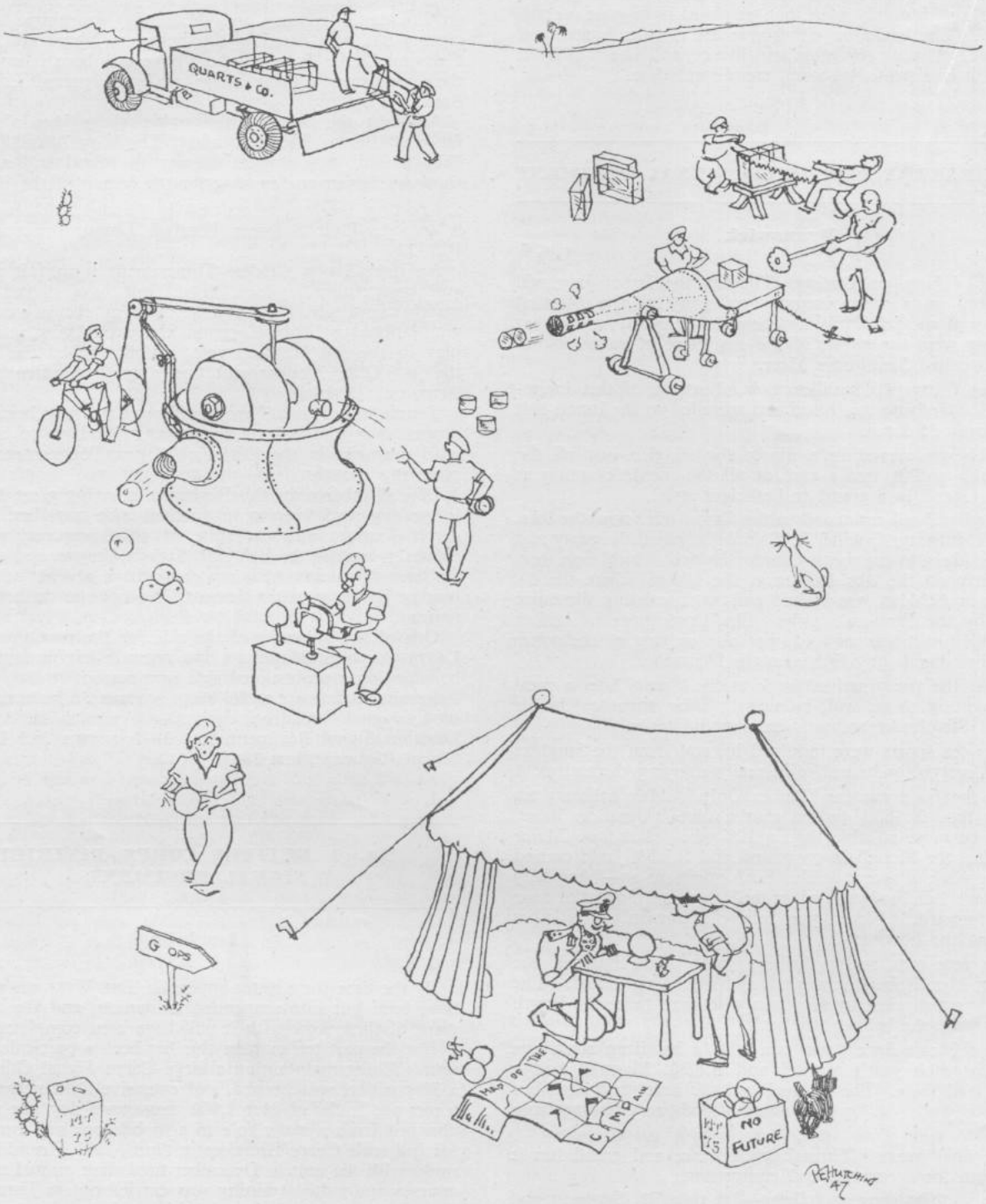
*July*

By the time these notes appear in THE WIRE the unit will have been put into suspended animation, and the disbandment of those now with it will have been completed.

For the past ten months this has been a particularly busy unit. Whilst maintaining a large Corps Signal Office, with a 12-position switchboard, and extensive D.R. network, and a message traffic of over 1,000 messages a day, the unit has changed from a static role to a mobile one and turned out for full scale Corps Exercises in April, 1947. In addition all ranks with the unit in December fired their annual musketry courses, individual training was carried out in January and February and a trade-board held in May.

At no time has it been possible to rely on any plans of more than a month ahead, for unexpected commitments such as operation "Selection Board" (a wireless network provided for the C.C.G. to assist them in rounding up political suspects) and many live projects, have kept cropping up. Such short term planning, coupled with constant changes in personnel due to release, and to the present system of leave being at any time of the year, has been a

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—VI*




**Crystal Grinding Team**

most serious and constant handicap, and has not allowed enough leisure for men to enjoy the excellent amenities which exist in and near Iserlohn.

Captain Staerck, one of the old Corps Rugger players, has however, done excellent work in running the unit Summer Rest Camp at Sorpe See (originally built by 49 Divisional Signals and 1 Corps Signals together) and Jimmy's Club in Iserlohn, which was started in the time of Lieutenant-Colonel Deakin.

As there is no Signal Unit to take over the former it is going to H.Q. 5th Infantry Brigade, so that their Signal Section will have full use of it. Jimmy's Club is being taken over by our new friends, 2nd Divisional R.E., together with our barracks.

Most officers and O.R.s are going to other Signal Units in B.A.O.R., and whilst sincerely hoping that I shall meet many of them again, I would like to express, in this our Corps Magazine, my appreciation of the way that all have co-operated in producing the goods, often at short notice, but never in short measure.

In saying good-bye to the unit for the second time in twenty years, I wish everybody the best luck in their new stations or in civilian life.

*Sports Summary.* The football within the unit finished really well with the unit team easily winning the Iserlohn League, being four clear points from our nearest rivals. The team also proved itself worthy against other units within Germany and reached the semi-final of the 2nd Division Area of the B.A.O.R. knock-out cup. We were defeated by 1st. Battalion Black Watch 4—1 at Duisburg Stadium. Our stable player of the side, Lieutenant E. Carr was fortunate in being chosen to represent the Combined Services of Germany against West Ham at Brunswick: the result being another win for the Services 4—1. This concludes an excellent soccer season for the unit, their having only been beaten twice.

The approach of the hot weather turned soccer into cricket and up to press the unit XI have held their own and out of eight games played, four have been won. Besides these games our Wednesday afternoons have been taken up with matches such as Officers v. Sergeants and Junior Officers v. Senior Officers, all of which proved very successful and enjoyable and the glorious weather added to the enjoyment. The only Signal visitors to Iserlohn have been 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment from Herford, and after a very enjoyable game the result was in our favour.

Swimming has now become the main topic within the Unit, and after having much practice in our own swimming bath, Major Toombs, O.C. No. 2 Squadron, is testing our talent by organising a Swimming Gala. The Gala covers events for experts and novices and many prizes are available for all. We anticipate an enjoyable and exciting time.

*Swimming Gala.* The unit had a very successful Swimming Gala on Friday, 4th July, 1947. The morning was devoted to swimming off the various heats and the finals took place in the afternoon. In all some 100 entered for the various events which were all very keenly contested.

By far the most outstanding swimmer of the meeting was Private Last of the Royal Warwicks who is doing duty with us as a Despatch Rider. Talk about the first being "Last" and the "Last" first! At the prize giving it was almost monotonous, it was not so much a question of who had won first prize—Last—but who was second and third. Considering that Private Last is only just twenty years of age, I think that with training he has a definite swimming future in front of him. Well done Last—"Mind my Bike."

The events which aroused the most enthusiasm were undoubtedly the inter-Troop relay, inter-Squadron water polo, diving and "Old Crocks" race, the latter being a three-cornered affair between Captain E. A. Staerck, Captain A. J. Bleach and R.S.M. Warburton. Many old Corps members who will remember Ted Staerck in Maresfield where he was a very stout pillar of the Corps Boxing team, and also hooked very successfully in the rugger team will not be surprised to hear that he won the diving competition, another example, if example be needed, that the "old 'uns" can still show the "young 'uns" a thing or two.

The water polo was a duel between H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons. What the players lacked in skill, they more than made up with enthusiasm. The first round between H.Q. and 2 Squadron resulted in a win for 2 Squadron by 2 goals to 1. Once again I have to report that that "old crock," Captain "Ted" Staerck was keeping goal for H.Q. Squadron and it was only thanks to his magnificent keeping that 2 Squadron didn't have a run-away win.

The final between the much fancied (by themselves) 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron resulted in a win for the latter by 7 goals to 2. Mention must be made of Private Last—what again?—and Lieutenant Langton who were the mainstay of 2 Squadron attack and 6 ft. 2 in. Sergeant Hawkins their "goalie." Of the seven goals scored by 2 Squadron, Private Last scored six, all off passes from Lieutenant Langton, the seventh being scored off a pass by Private Last.

At the conclusion of the events, prizes were presented by Mrs. Milner, wife of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E. And what prizes! Cricket bats, Tennis racquets, Squash rackets, Rugger balls, football boots, etc. The Victor Ludorum prize, a ten-guinea B.S.A. cycle, was won—needless to say—by Private Last—"Mind my bike."

*H.Q. SQUADRON.* The disbandment of this unit will have been completed by the time these notes appear. From Iserlohn, the tentacles of communications once stretched far and wide over the British zone and this Regiment was proud of its position in the scheme of things; but now we have reached the end and, with all due modesty, we feel we can look back on a job well done.

In May, the I Corps exercise, "Ashtray," took place and the whole unit went out. The weather, fine at the start, soon deteriorated and strong winds and rain made mock of our efforts at camping in comfort. Nevertheless, communications were established and maintained and this, the first big exercise in Germany since the war's end, was a definite success, thanks to the hard work and camaraderie of all concerned.

Sport is reported elsewhere, but we should like to mention the very enjoyable cricket matches which took place over Whitsun. These were played in magnificent weather, the teams being made up of members of the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' messes and Other Ranks.

In June, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, with the married families, spent an enjoyable week-end at Mohne See.

The tattoo will take place at Dortmund again this year and members of 43 T.M. Troop are fully occupied with the installation of the P.A. equipment. We have seen the programme of events and it promises to be even better than last year's. B.F.N. has mentioned—"the highlight of last year's tattoo—the Signals D.R.s—"and we feel sure that that success will be repeated this year. No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, are supplying the team this year and there is no doubt about their ability to maintain the reputation of the Corps.

The officers of H.Q. Squadron include the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, Captain Sexton, O.B.E. (Adjutant), Captain E. A. Staerck (O.C.), Captain Deamon (Q.M.), Captain Prickett (M.T.O.), Captain R. J. A. Turner (T.O.M.), Lieutenant Gough (Assistant Adjutant). To these and all other ranks of H.Q. Squadron we wish the best of luck.

"NOBBY"

No. 1 SQUADRON. Since returning from Operation "Ashtray" we have found ourselves very busy preparing for "Suspended Animation" and the foremost thought in each individual's mind is "where are we bound for?" Some of us already know our destinations and as their names are too numerous to mention here, we wish them all the very best of luck in their new units.

Although Operation "Ashtray" is something of the distant past, I am sure the work undertaken by No. 1 Squadron will remain fresh in the minds of most of us for some time to come. The total number of miles of cable laid and built (approximately 450 miles Carrier Quad) will give our readers some idea of the energy expended by our Linemen, and the length of Line Communications for which we were responsible.

It was a pleasure and priviledge to have "Joe" Lynch and his merry men under our command, and we take this opportunity of saying "Thanks, Joe" for the way he looked after us both during the exercise and after, when the more tiresome task of "reeling in" called for the best from all.

Captain Evans with his Mobile Magic Boxes (T.E.V.s to you) and his M.M.B. Crews (all best P.O. Types) were very much in the limelight—I'm wondering if they've made up for all the sleep they lost on this occasion. It is rumoured that our O.C. and Captain Evans kept a log book of their sleeping time on the operation, and both handed in blank ones!

On Sunday afternoon 29th June, a quiet gathering assembled at the Garrison Church, Iserlohn, at the christening of Janice, daughter and heiress of S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Page. Congratulations to you both—Fay and Darkie! Afterwards the gathering at 46 Teicher Strasse was not so quiet, and "Nobby" Clarke—as usual—obliged us with a few of his shaggy dog stories.

Congratulations, too, to S.S.M. Rockall being picked to represent 2nd Infantry Division in the Inter-Division knock-out Hockey Competition.

*Finale.* In conclusion we offer our O.C., Major L. J. Parker, Royal Signals, a fond farewell, and wish both him and his family the very best of luck in Plön. "Bon voyage, Sir!"

No. 2 SQUADRON. This past month has been a hectic one for the Squadron. Unit training culminated in a Corps five-day exercise held at the beginning of May in the Bremen area, 200 miles north of our location at Iserlohn. The unit turned out complete and this Squadron was fully occupied in manning both line and wireless terminals and running three Signal Offices. However, everybody got back safely and although the weather was unkind to us in the closing stages of the exercise, we all enjoyed it in retrospect.

On our return, we started the sad task of preparing ourselves for disbandment. Vehicles and stores to be checked over and handed in, troops to be made up ready for posting, etc. On the disbandment of No. 3 Squadron, most of its personnel came to us.

Our first departure was 53 D.R. Troop, which, headed by Sergeant Newton, left us for 33 L. of C. Squadron at Dusseldorf. At the same time, 43 Op. Troop was disbanded and Lieutenant Mills, their enthusiastic troop commander, took over the recently formed Unit M.T. Pool. Later, 126 T.O. Troop went off to 31 L. of C. at Hanover and 29 T.O. and 5 D.R. Troops to 33 L. of C. Cipher Troops and "A" and "B" Wireless Troops will, unfortunately, be broken up. Let us hope that they will all find good homes.

Recent departures include Lieutenant Bass, Lieutenant Noonan, Sergeant Littlewood and Sergeant Parkin.

The Squadron will finally disband at the end of July, but the way things are going at present, it will be here only in the spirit long before that date, so we would like to take this opportunity of wishing all past and present members of the Squadron good luck and happy hunting wherever they may find themselves.

P.A.T.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*July*

The weather continues to be fine in the Celle area. Fifteen hours of sunshine is a daily occurrence. But within a fortnight we usually have a continental storm, which clears the air for a further period of bright sunshine.

These climatic conditions have promoted the growth of plants and flowers in the gardens surrounding the barracks. The allotments of which there are a great number in Celle also show promise of producing a bumper crop this year.

The unit has been in a state of fluctuation for the past fortnight. No. 1 Squadron 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment has now been transferred to the Command of the 15th Air Formation Signal Regiment. We very much regret the loss of this Squadron and wish them the greatest success in their new Regiment. From the nucleus of what used to be No. 3 Squadron 15th Air Formation Signal Regiment, we are forming another Squadron to replace this loss.

*Entertainments.* "The Regimental Dance" held fortnightly and an "All Services Dance" held monthly are still regular entertainment features, organised by the Unit Entertainments Committee. We were pleased to welcome at our last "All Services Dance" a number of freshly arrived W.A.A.F.s from England. They still retained that spirit of homeliness which we hope will not have been extinguished when we next have the pleasure of their company.

The R.A.F. Union Theatre, Celle, have maintained their position as a leading light in the entertainment circle of Celle. During the month of June their selection has covered Drama, Variety Shows, Opera and Ballet. Unfortunately the weekly Symphony Concerts, which were a great success with service personnel stationed in Celle area, have not been on the bill during the month of June.

The Combined Services Entertainments presented the American comedy play "The Man Who Came To Dinner." The witticisms and characters of this play are so delightfully humorous that one could seldom stop laughing from the beginning of the play until the fall of the curtain. One was only sorry to see such a small audience supporting such a noble effort.

Also during the latter end of the month the Brunswick State Theatre gave a Grand Ballet Evening with a full "Corps De Ballet." The programme included a selection of dances from Ballets by Liszt and Borodin. The notable performance of the evening was "The Dance of Death," a selection by Borodin.

Also at the Union Theatre we had the pleasure of hearing the Brunswick State Opera Company give a marvellous rendering of "Rigoletto."

A fair selection of films have reached the box-offices of the cinemas in Celle throughout the past month.

Even though due to demobilisation the unit is in a constant state of change, we are trying to form a Unit Dance Band. Finally we have recently made a request to be represented on "live broadcast" in the programme "On Parade," which is to become a weekly event on the B.F.N. So get your ears keyed ready. We might be on the air before long.

*Farewells.* During the past month many familiar faces have left the unit.

We very much regret the loss of Major Salter, Second-in-Command, who has been transferred to a Home Command.

Amongst those who were demobilised in the early 50 Groups, are Sergeant Hicks, Sergeant Cell, Lance-Corporal Hearl and Lance-Corporal Bartlett.

*Sports.* With the closing of the Football Season all efforts

are being concentrated on summer events and athletics, cricket, swimming, etc., are the topics of the day.

At the recent 84th Group R.A.F. annual athletics meeting the Regiment were invited to enter for the Junior Championships in which they competed against 84th G.C.C.

The Regiment, after a hard struggle, managed to win the Athletics Shield.

The placings were as follows:

100 Metres—1st, Sigmn. Philips; 2nd, Sigmn. Anderson.
200 Metres—1st, Sigmn. Hall; 2nd, Sigmn. Cowley.
400 Metres—2nd, Sigmn. Crosbey; 3rd, Sigmn. McNiel.
800 Metres—Sigmn. Fullwell (walkover).
1600 Metres—3rd Lance-Corporal Price.
4 x 100 Metres—2nd
4 x 200 Metres—2nd.
110 Metres Hurdles—1st, Sigmn. McNiel; 2nd, Sigmn. Smith.
Long Jump—1st, Sigmn. Jones.
Throwing the Discus—2nd, Capt. Bateman; 3rd S.Q.M.S. Bain.
High Jump—1st, Sigmn. Smith; 2nd, L/Cpl. Caird.
Throwing the Hammer—1st, S.Q.M.S. Bain; 2nd Capt. Bateman.
Putting the Shot—1st, Capt. Bateman; 2nd, S.Q.M.S. Bain.
Tug of War—Runner up.
Hop, Step and Jump—1st, Sigmn. Lake; 3rd Sigmn. Aries.
Throwing the Javelin—4th, Sigmn. Clarke.

The Regimental Cricket team is doing exceptionally well for in nine matches we have lost only one and that by a very narrow margin, when R.A.F. Station Celle managed to defeat us by 3 runs only.

Herewith results:

CELLE CRICKET LEAGUE:—

11th Air Formation Signal Regiment, 204 for 5 v. 74 M.T.L.R.U. The play stopped owing to rain, 74 unable to turn out team points to Regiment.
R.A.F. Celle 108, v. Regiment 105. R.A.F. Celle won by 3 runs.
R.A.F. Scheuen 13 v. Regiment 82 for 9.
Regiment 6 for none v. 84 Group Unit 72. Rain stopped p'lay.
Regiment 125 v. 84 G.C.C. 32.
H.Q. Military Government 23 v. Regiment 40.

13TH INFANTRY BRIGADE K.O. COMPETITION.

1st Round—R.A.C. Training Centre 87 v. Regiment 95.
Semi-Final—Regiment 208 v. 13th Infantry Brigade H.Q. 64.

The Regiment is scheduled to meet the Royals in the final of 13th Infantry Brigade Cricket K.O. Competition on Wednesday, 9th July.

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Gutersloh

*July*

R.H.Q. and No. 2 SQUADRON. *General.* By the time these notes are in print the final reorganisation of this unit and 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment will be completed. The following Troops, and 3 Squadron H.Q. have left us to join 11 Air Formation: 80, 81, and 83 Wing Signal Troops; 53 Con Troop; 118 T.E. Troop; and 145 D.R. Troop. We extend a welcome to 129 Line Troop who are due to join No. 1 Squadron at B.A.F.O. H.Q. This Troop came from Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron, Austria. The former H.Q. 1 Squadron of 11 Air Formation is now 3 Squadron 15 Air Formation and has its H.Q. at Hamburg and consists of the following Troops: 31 Con, 59 Wing, 131 T.E., and 135 Tele. Op. Troops. 41 Wing Signal Troop now belongs to No. 2 Squadron of this unit and they have their Troop H.Q. in Berlin. So now we have commitments at B.A.F.O. H.Q., R.A.F. Station Sundern, Hamburg, Berlin and Istres in the South of France. To all these Troops we extend a hearty welcome to 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment. These notes are beginning to look like Pt. II Orders, but as you can see it is quite an upheaval. However, by the end of July, we will all have settled down and things will be back to normal.

During these summer nights Indoor Sports have dropped off; most of us like to get out and about, but dances are still held once a week in the Signals Inn. We hope to close the Inn for about a week towards the end of this month for redecoration and to start up again with a re-opening dance.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Owing to demob. we are left with only eight members, so that during the month of June we had nothing to report, but we hope to get cracking again during August. Sergeants Nicholls, Illingsworth, Halford, Holloway, Guy, and Stoney, all left us on demob. in June and we wish them all the very best in Civvy Street. Sergeants Todd, Johnstone and Fraser have also left us to join 11 Air Formation.

*Congratulations.* Congratulations to S.S.M. (Jock) McCulloch on his appointment to R.Q.M.S. and to Corporal Fraser on his promotion to Sergeant.

*Arrivals.* Lieutenant (Q.M.) V. S. Hayden who was doing an operational job in No. 1 Squadron has now joined R.H.Q. to take on the duties of Q.M. in place of Captain (Q.M.) A. F. Wiggins who is due for demob. on the 16th July, 1947. Welcome Sir, and we hope you will soon settle down in your new job.

*Departures.* It is with regret that we say farewell to that small, but solid pillar of strength, Captain (Q.M.) A. F. Wiggins after having served twenty-seven years in the Corps. He has decided to try his luck in Civvy Street. He will be remembered by many older hands in the Middle East where he was resident comedian for the Egyptian State Broadcasting System. He joined the R.E. Signals as a Signalman in 1920 and was commissioned in Egypt in October, 1942. In saying farewell Sir, on behalf of 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment, let me say thanks for all your good work for this unit both Socially and Regimentally and we wish you all the very best of everything in Civvy Street.

*Football.* We have been doing extremely well in the B.A.O.R. Signals Summer League and are at present on top. On the 15th June we played against 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and won by 4 goals to nil. Our goal scorers were, Signalman Storey, 1, Signalman Breeze, 2, and Signalman Shuttleworth, 1.

On Saturday, 28th June, we played 32 Independent L. of C.

(*continued on page* 264)

# Royal Military Academy

## *SANDHURST*

FOR the post-war Regular Army the majority of officers will be found from officer cadets trained free at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, which has taken the place of the pre-war Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

Entry to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, can be by either passing the Army Entrance Examination whilst still at school, or by personnel whilst undergoing compulsory military service or serving on a Regular Army engagement being specially selected and passing the R.M.A. Sandhurst Selection Board.

The Army Entrance Examination is held twice yearly and comprises a written part, of an educational standard approximating to that of the School Certificate plus one year's work, and an interview by the R.M.A. Sandhurst Selection Board controlled by War Office. Candidates who wish to enter the Academy from the ranks are selected as a result of their all-round qualities of leadership displayed during their Army service. They are not required to undergo the Entrance Examination but are interviewed by the R.M.A. Sandhurst Selection Board, and must pass an education test of approximately School Certificate standard to ensure that they can compete with the academic part of the course at the Academy.

All entrants to the Academy have to serve in the ranks for a period of up to six months before starting the officer cadet training.

The Academy opened last January and has just received its third intake of cadets. When running at full capacity it is intended that there will be approximately 1,400 cadets under training who will be organised in three battalions. Specialised military instruction in driving and maintenance, and in communications, is carried out in technical wings. There is also a physical and recreational training wing.

The 18 months' course at the Academy is designed to fit the cadet for the arm into which he is to be commissioned, with a properly balanced educational background, including a sound knowledge of world affairs. The leaving standard for a cadet destined for the more technical arms will be that of an Inter. B.Sc. Degree for London University. The instruction given includes science, mathematics, economics, Imperial history, foreign affairs and languages, as well as basic military knowledge common to all arms, and the course is also designed to achieve the development of the cadet's character and his powers of leadership, and a high standard of individual and collective discipline. Every cadet is taught to drive a car and ride a motor cycle. He learns the broad theory of the internal combustion engine and is ingrained with the necessity for good maintenance by the task system of the vehicles which he will find in his unit.

In view of the fact that the cadet, after leaving the Academy, will complete his technical training at his Arms School, the scope of instruction in weapon training, field-craft, and battle drill is limited to ensure that the cadet leaves the Academy knowing how to supervise training in these subjects without necessarily being a qualified instructor.

Every chance is given to cadets to follow their own bent and to take those voluntary subjects which interest them most. It is necessary for those who are destined for the more technical arms to specialise in certain obligatory subjects to ensure that their subsequent training is not unduly prolonged,

(*continued on page* 276)

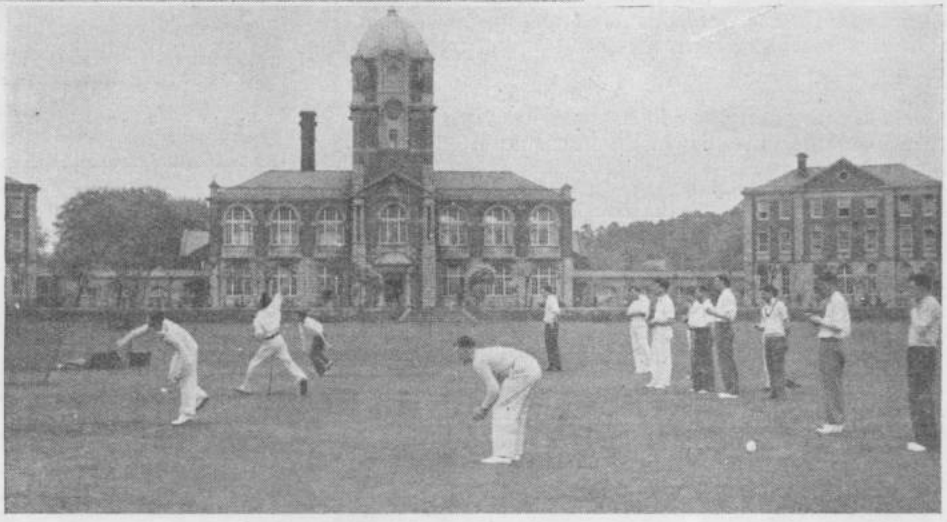
Photos above:

1 An experiment in the speed of sound in one of the science laboratories

2 Presentation of Colours by H.M. the King, 14th June, 1947

Instruction in traffic discipline and road safety

March past



Cricket practice at the nets

***British Army of the Rhine*** *(continued from page 261)*

Signal Squadron and won 5—nil. Our goal scorers in this game were Signalman Breeze, 4, and Signalman Aaron, 1.

We have only one more match to play and that is against 5th Divisional Signal Regiment at Brunswick on 27th July. We are getting a pretty strong team together for this match and hope to win both this game and the League.

*Swimming.* Towards the end of July we hope to hold a Regimental Swimming Gala. We have quite a few good swimmers in the Regiment, so there should be no lack of entries for the various events which have already been published, so that any budding Johnny Weissmullers can get a spot of practice in.

No. 1 SQUADRON (BUCKEBURG). Now that Mid-summer is here in full swing we in No. 1 Squadron have been taking full advantage of the warm sunshine to work hard and play hard out of doors. Our Sporting Activities are steadily growing and everyone plays their part with abounding enthusiasm.

The R.A.F. Police School left Buckeburg Barracks during the last month for Gutersloh and we are now sharing them with our very good friends No. 2897 Squadron R.A.F. Regiment, with whom we are combining to enter teams in the forthcoming B.A.F.O. Inter-Unit Sports Competitions.

*Arrivals.* We welcome the arrivals of Lieutenant G. Ellis, Second-Lieutenant J. R. Finn and Second-Lieutenant I. R. Mitchell who have already firmly established themselves. We also welcome all the new O.R. arrivals too numerous to mention by name and hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

The Squadron heartily welcomes the arrival of Mrs. Wheeler, the wife of our O.C., Major C. W. Wheeler, and hopes they will be very happy in their new quarters.

*Departures.* Second-Lieutenant R. Broome has left us to explore fields anew in the Hamburg area.

S.S.M. "Geoff" Spearman has left many broken hearts in Buckeburg on his posting to No. 3 Squadron at Wahn.

We send our best wishes to all those released in A. and S. Groups 52, 53 and 54 and hope they will speedily settle in successful civilian careers.

*Sport.* We are at present competing against No. 2897 Squadron R.A.F. Regiment to select the representatives for our combined teams in Athletics, Swimming, Cricket and Tennis to take part in the coming B.A.F.O. Inter-Unit Competitions. Enthusiasm runs high and we have high hopes of once more gaining many successes and trophies.

Unit are holding a swimming gala on 31st July, and we are busy arranging and training our entrants.

Basketball is arousing keen interest and we hope to hold our own inter-troop matches in the near future.

## No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Herford

*July*

HEADQUARTERS. We must again apologise for our June notes arriving late but hope to be in time this month.

*Sport.* Athletics and Swimming are the chief topics these days. On 19th June we held an Inter-Squadron Athletic meeting at Bad Oeynhausen. No. 2 Squadron ran away with the Athletic Cup with 56 points, No. 3 Squadron were second with 50 and No. 1 Squadron third with 48 points. Whilst no Army records were broken a really good effort was made by all competitors and from this we managed to select a team to contest 7th Armoured Divisional Troops Competition on 28th June which we won by a margin of seven points from 105 Reinforcement Group and now go forward to 7th Armoured Division Inter-Unit Championships on 11th and 12th July.

The Swimming team came second in 7th Armoured Divisional Troop contest gaining quite a few medallions. The Water Polo team reached the Division Finals but were beaten 4—2 by H.Q. B.A.O.R.

Cricket is flourishing but we still require more players.

At Soccer the Regimental team beat 5th Divisional Signal Regiment 4—1 on 29th June in the Signals B.A.O.R. Summer League.

An inter-troop Basket Ball competition is at present in full swing —it is hoped to have this completed by the end of the month.

No. 2 SQUADRON. As already noted, the Athletic Cup is ours for the next year—we do admit having quite a few assistants from Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons who are stationed with us to help us out. The Cup was duly christened in champagne.

The main topic seems to be romance in the Squadron at present, Lieutenant (Tony) Berwick and Subaltern Cooper (A.T.S.), were married in U.K. on 28th June. Lieutenant (Joe) Taylor and Subaltern Richardson have proceeded on demob. and have arranged a wedding. Captain (Dickie) Armstrong and Subaltern Porter have also become engaged.

No. 3 SQUADRON. This month we say farewell to our O.C. Major W. T. Stevenson (Jock), who has proceeded on leave pending retirement after thirty-three years' service. His cheery smile and invaluable services will be missed, not only in the Regiment but in the Corps as a whole. Mrs. Stevenson together with daughters Audrey and Jean left B.A.O.R for home on 20th June.

We welcome Major S. E. Miller (Dusty) from No. 2 Squadron as our new O.C. and congratulate him on obtaining his Regular Commission and also the re-grant of T/Major.

Second-Lieutenants Warner and Lilley are also welcomed to the Squadron.

*General.* Congratulations to Captain J. L. Purdon and Lieutenant A. R. Wythe, both of No. 1 Squadron, on being granted Regular Commissions. Welcome to Second-Lieutenants Jones, Winder and Cullen who have joined the Regiment.

We are also saying farewell to Captain (T.O.T.) F. J. Dowie who is leaving us in the near future on posting to S.E.A.L.F.

Among other departures for U.K. will be Mrs. Sargeant and daughter, Mrs. Moore and daughter.

We also welcome Mrs. Ridgeway to B.A.O.R.

## 4th INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Luneburg

*July*

Since we last appeared in these columns we have welcomed quite a few new faces to the Squadron.

Some have joined us from home and some from disbanding units and we wish them a happy and prolonged stay. As for departures, this is the first month since V Day in which we have had no demobs. and our average demob. grouping is very high at the present.

We welcome into the Corps and into the Squadron on posting from attached strength those two gay Gordons, Privates—now Signalmen Colthart and McKinley. Now that they have got over their teething troubles as D.R.s—one jeep, one broken ankle, they are settling down with us quite well.

H.Q. Troop is towered over now by its new Troop Leader. Second-Lieutenant Pearson is capable of inspecting a rank by aerial methods due to his enormous height.

We give the welcome hand to Mrs. Smith, wife of Lieutenant Smith, O.C. F. Troop away in Kiel, who has just joined him at that Station.

It is hoped that our new Cookhouse and Messroom, the installation of which will make us a completely self-contained outfit in our own block of the Barracks here in Luneburg, will be completed in a few days' time and preparations are in full swing for the grand opening night.

*H.Q. TROOP.* For the benefit of the older members of the Corps, it would probably be interesting to mention the older hands in this Troop. Our S.S.M. is Bill Nurse ex-Egypt Signals, who incidentally is looking very harassed these days, due no doubt to the rather intricate job of compiling his civil labour returns. S.Q.M.S. John Roake, ex-India, ministers to our wants in a most efficient manner. S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) John Le Hardy, ex 8th Army Signals. Sergeant Acock who looks after the Troop—when he can find them—and our Sergeant V/M—Dick Malton, better known these days as "B.L.R." Balton.

*W. TROOP.* This Troop is not so well "blessed" with older hands but perhaps there are many readers who recognise the name of Sergeant Harcourt, Troop Sergeant, who is very busy these days brushing up the Operators ready for upgrading tests in the near future.

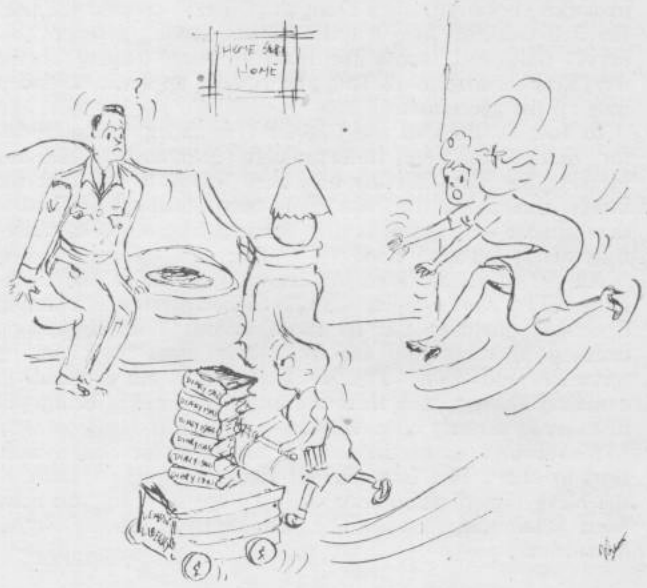
*Sport.* H.Q. Troop are at present the victors in most contests against W. Troop but the friendly rivalry is bringing out the best possible teams for Squadron games and next season we shall go all out as a separate team for the Brigade Soccer Cup instead of joining the Brigade Administration Group as in the past.

Lively interest is shown by most members of the Squadron in Soccer, Hockey and Cricket of which at least one game per week is played.

We could not wish for a better coach than S.S.M. Nurse at Cricket and the keen Soccer players under the eagle eye of Sergeant Acock, an old Paiforce Player, have already played a number of games.

Cricket has not been played as much as we would have liked owing to the shortage of grounds but we can say that we have a team that will hold its own against any unit of our size. In the last game the Squadron beat H.Q. Squadron 4th Armoured Brigade by an innings and 45 runs.

Next month we hope to be with other contributors again to tell you of more of our activities.



## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster in Westphalia

*July*

The disbandment of H.Q. 1 British Corps District, our parent unit, left us as "orphans" for a while, but we now proudly display the H.Q. B.A.O.R. flash.

Our very interesting role in this theatre keeps us extremely busy, and our latest commitment is to put the military units stationed in Hamm on to the military telephone network. Readers will recall that, during the war, this town was often mentioned as a target for our planes. The thoroughness of the bombing rendered communications extremely difficult and from the resultant shambles we are trying to find some really serviceable cables to provide a link-up. This state of affairs is not new to us over here however, and what we learnt by our previous experiences will be of great assistance on the new job.

*Entertainment.* A "quiz" team from this unit proceeded to the B.F.N. Studios at Hamburg on 29th June, and were matched against a team from Hamburg district sub area H.Q. We lost by a very narrow margin. Reception from B.F.N. that night was poor due to electrical disturbances in Westphalia, but the recorded repeat, later that week was received well. The "Roving Mike" from B.F.N. is visiting us on 7th July, to interview a few of the chaps in the Squadron.

*Sergeants' Mess.* A challenge quiz, Sergeants v. O.R.s resulted in a win for the Mess, 33 points to 25. The Sergeants' Mess is also well represented in the unit cricket team which has successfully faced all comers.

*Arrivals and Departures.* We warmly welcome to the Squadron the following long awaited reinforcements. Officers: Captain Fish, Second-Lieutenant Lockhart and Second-Lieutenant Palmer; also very recently Captain J. Randall, Royal Fusiliers, has been attached pending transfer to the Corps.

Demobs. and reinforcements are too numerous to mention each individual. With those who leave us go our best wishes for their future and to those who join us we hope their stay will be enjoyable.

"OCTET"

## No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

*July*

*General.* Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Barton, O.B.E., left us on 30th June for U.K. and to retire from the Service after completing thirty-one years. All ranks of the unit wish him the very best of luck in his retirement and long life to enjoy all that is due to him on completion of so many years of faithful service. The Command of the Unit has now been taken over by Major J. McD. Glass. Other Officers at present serving with the unit are: Major J. H. Smith, Captain B. S. Walker, Captain (Q.M.) E. Bradbury, Captain (T.O.M.) T. R. Craggs, Lieutenant R. S. Gardiner and Second-Lieutenant H. G. I. Allen. The Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s serving with the unit are: R.Q.M.S. L. V. Stratton, S.S.M. J. F. McQuade, S.Q.M.S. H. Ramsden, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) J. Harwood, Sergeants J. Flooks, F. Shaw, G. Hutton, P. Eccles and F. Holford.

*Births.* Our first arrival in the unit. A daughter born to Major and Mrs. J. H. Smith (Judith Patricia Preece) at 94

General Hospital, Hamburg, on 27th June, 1947. Congratulations.

*Sporting Activities.* The main activities are centred on Cricket and Swimming.

The Regiment is in the Hamburg District Cricket League. Results up to date in friendlies and League games are shown below.

FRIENDLIES

| | |
|---|---|
| 27 Heavy Regt. R.A. (home) | Won: 98—52. |
| 27 Heavy Regt. R.A. (away) | Lost: 87 for 3 declared—117. |
| C.C.G. Itzehoe (home) | Won by an innings and 26 runs—126. 56 and 44. |
| C.C.G. Itzehoe (away) | Drew: 1 Wrls. Regt. 123 all out—C.C.G. 87 for 8. |

LEAGUE

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 C.V.T.S. (home) | Drew: 1 Wrls. Regt. 135 for 2 decl. (Crossley 68, Farrow 59 not out)—C.V.T.S. 83 for 9. |
| 2 C.V.T.S. (away) | Drew: 1 Wrls. Regt. 99 all out—C.V.T.S. 90 for 9. |
| 980 Coy. R.A.S.C. (home) | Lost: 67—53. |
| A.P.O. (away) | Won: 119 for 6 decl.—62. |
| H.M.S. Royal Albert (away) | Won: 123 for 8 decl.—54. |

| *Batting* | *Inn.* | *Not out* | *Runs* | *Highest* | *Average* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Farrow ... | 9 | 2 | 198 | 59 not out | 28.3 |
| Crossley ... | 9 | 1 | 212 | 68 | 26.5 |

| *Bowling* | *Runs* | *Wickets* | *Average* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crossley ... ... | 162 | 28 | 5.8 |
| Farrow ... ... | 151 | 21 | 7.1 |

The brilliant weather of a week or so ago brought our swimmers and "hope to be" swimmers crowding into our magnificent pool. We hope to hold a Swimming Gala on August Bank Holiday, of which more anon.

## 42 GARRISON SIGNAL TROOP

### Brussels

*July*

This edition of THE WIRE notes from 42nd Garrison Signal Troop brings news of the departure of our old O.C. Captain T. H. Luscombe, and his wife. Captain Luscombe is leaving B.A.O.R. for the Middle East and we wish him the very best of luck in his new field of operations. On 19th April, a farewell party in honour of Captain and Mrs. Luscombe was held in a reserved room in the Montgomery Club. The party was a great success, and the Tombola, the main item of the evening, proved most entertaining.

On the same occasion, we welcomed as our new O.C. Captain H. S. P. Miles, and, to quote our chief orator, "We hope we shall be as happy under his command as we were under that of Captain Luscombe."

Through the speed-up of demob., the circle of faces in this Troop is ever changing. we have said "goodbye" to Corporal Tingey (reputed to be known as 2nd i/c Troop), and Signalman Currie, who is, we believe, to return to Brussels despite the hazardous life of the local inhabitants. Many unseasoned soldiers have joined us to replace released and posted personnel. We welcome Signalman Anderson, of fame with Aberdeen Football Club. The prestige of the Troop team has risen considerably since his arrival. Amongst the remainder of the less noted, but still welcome arrivals to Brussels are Signalmen Ketch, Twist, Boyle, Edwards, Horrod, Scott, Nock, Corporal Yates and Signalman Walters (the latter known as Joe Baksi, owing to his pugilistic abilities).

Brigadier Power (C.S.O. I Corps) visited the Troop and was surprised at the large commitments still in Brussels. With further de-requisitioning of buildings a lot of hard work lies ahead to set up new communications in a more concentrated area.

By the time this appears in print, we shall have said "goodbye" to the Officers and men of 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron and "hullo" to 33 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron.

Life in Brussels, so far as 1483's allow, is still very hectic, and often these days spiced with a local tram strike. A few of our personnel are turning a little grey in the knowledge that the Monty Club will not be open for much longer. The remainder of the personnel seem to have their feet well and truly under the tables of the local inhabitants.

We are hoping that we shall "live" long enough for our copy of next month's notes to be published and until then, we send our regards to all of you who have known us.

## HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

*July*

Several inches of water have passed under the bridge since we last wrote, carrying with them our old friends the R.E.s and R.B.s; consequently until their replacements settle in, the full weight of camp duties falls upon us, "The Signals." That is why, after having had our noses pressed firmly against the grindstone for the last few days, we are walking around with a slightly worn look.

To-day is passing out day for all our harrowing products, when betwen 1600 to 1800 hrs. our runner beans, firmly entwined round their harp, will run; flowers will smell, and cabbages and lettuces murmur sweet nothings before the startled eyes of the judges. Whilst Tommy Tupper and Brad, faces of roseate hue, burning with conscious pride, wait to hear the congratulations of the deciding Dieties, before being escorted to the nearest mess to cool down with the fiver that is to be given for the first prize. When we have won this, we are then eligible for the B.A.O.R. Gardening Championship; wonder how much they pay out on that?

*Speedway.* At Lübeck on Saturday, June 28th the Hamburg Lions (the Hamburg District Speedway Team) which incorporates several of our D.R.s, won their match against Lübeck by ten points after a thilling afternoon's sport.

It was plain to see that the Hamburg riders were the better. They scorched along to victory; despite the fact that the other team had superior machines.

Heat No. 3 was terrific, people jumped cheering to their feet when Lance-Corporal Bernard (Hamburg), after dropping half a lap behind, came in to take second place. It was seen from the first he had trouble, his clutch cable had jumped its socket, however, when Douglas (Lübeck) crossed the line, Bernard was only two lengths behind, having given by his nerve, skill, and tactics the most thrilling display of the day; and earning to the full the riotous applause accorded him by the spectators.

In heat 11, Bernard and Clayton (Hamburg) going all out for first place were unfortunately dismounted, Bernard injuring his foot. We are now very happy to say that the injury, though painful, was really only a bad sprain, and is now almost well again, whilst Bernard himself talks cheerfully about his next ride.

All our D.R.s are keen to become members of the Hamburg Allied Motor-Cycle Club, which, apart from running Speedway matches has its more serious side; organising training matches on strictly Army lines by running scrambles and trials. The B.A.O.R. Trials are expected to come off shortly, and therefore all spare time is being put in to make a really good show.

This brings us to the end of our copy for this month. But, to crib a line from an old signature tune, "Here's to the Next Time," when once again I hope to bring you news from Hamburg, and, The Hamburg District Signal Squadron.

"GRIPPER"

# "D" Day Anniversary

TWO Beach Signals officers crouching in a "foxhole" on the Normandy beaches, during a particularly heavy dive-bombing attack, vowed if they lived through that "strafe" and the war, they would celebrate their survival by meeting each "D" Day Anniversary, 6th June, 6 p.m., under the comfortable roof of "Captain's Cabin," Haymarket.

This year was the first opportunity that occurred for the re-union. Those taking part were Major T. Martin, Captains Banning-Lover, P. Galbraith, G. N. Lugg, and Messrs. J. W. Curtis, H. Hanson, and J. V. Byrne. After suitable refreshment had been absorbed an adjournment was made for supper to the Coventry Street Corner House. During the evening a toast of absent members was drunk and we particularly remembered one of the greatest of "Beach Signallers"—Captain J. N. Strachan, who did so much in the formation, training and mobilisation of Beach Signal Sections, and who lost his life in the Normandy landings.

This note may catch the eye of an old member of "Beach Signals" and you may well wonder what the topic of conversation was during those few precious hours of remembering and reminiscing. We covered a lot of ground and time from Crookston Camp to Brussels, of sections and men and equipment. Of landings and battles and places and scenes. Dieppe—with its hard-earned decorations which were never awarded, Madagascar, North African landings, Pantalerra, Sicily, Italy, Anzio Beach-head, Normandy landings. Of the treks across country to Ypres, Calais, Eindhoven, Niemegen, and Germany. Yes, we talked of the days in Brussels, with its varied and wide-flung commitments, ranging from the civil auto-exchange and repeater stations to the F. and F. boards of Brussels Garrison.

Ostensibly we met to celebrate and remember "D" Day, but what could we say about it? To have recounted those stirring and at times awesome moments from the time of setting forth in the dull, cold dawn from Southampton several days before "D" Day to the time we touched down on the Normandy Beaches and those first four days (and nights), it would have taken far too much time.

Possibly we remembered the brighter moments—of the officer who was still buckling on equipment as his L.C.A. touched down, and the curious little Arab boy who offered to carry a particularly ferocious section sergeant's Thompson sub-machine gun for "cinq sous" as he made a wild rush over a North African beach.

Names and places and incidents came cascading down as the time passed —brave men whom we'll never forget, the wounded, the killed, and the chaps who did a particularly good job. We also talked of some of out-of-the-ordinary jobs the various sections did. The recovery of that fantastic web of wires and cables from the coast to Caen, the reconstruction of the cables and overhead routes in the city and Caen docks area, the maintenance of the Ypres area civil cables, we certainly did some contrasting work from operating 18 W.T. sets and laying assault cables for a landing to taking over L. of C. commitments in the matter of buried P.C. cables, exchange restitution, and the construction of repeater racks (out of 3 ins. by 2 ins. wood in the absence of iron racking) and the installation of repeaters.

All too soon the time came for "good-byes" to be said. Before we broke up Geoff. Lugg offered to act as corresponding member for the forthcoming year at least. We will be pleased to hear from old members of "Beach Signals" with a view to arranging another "do" next year

His address is: Captain G. N. Lugg,
Rowley Cottage,
Iford,
Bath.

So cheerio, "Beach Signals," and good luck wherever you may be.

T.M.

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## AMATEUR RADIO

The following is a list of stations worked by Signals or ex-Signals "Hams":

G3BNI, operated by D. L. Coppendale (ex-Sergeant), of 9 Morden Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex. Frequency 1.7 mc/s. Would like to QSO any ex-members of A.L.F.S.E.A. Signals, S.E.A.C.

G3CFN (ex-XAFN), operated by R.S.M. H. A. Edwards, 56 Armoured Divisional Signals (T.A.), Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham Park, London, S.W.12. Frequencies—all main bands C.W. Will QSP for Royal Signals overseas.

G5ZZ. N. T. Warren, Silkstead Cottage, Shawford, Winchester, Hants. Call sign, MD5KH; location, Fayid, Egypt; operator, Major K. J. Hinton; address, C.S.O Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.

VU2FO, Captain (Q.M.) T. H. Greig, 1 Air Formation Signal Regiment, Palam. 14 and 28 Mc/s.

| Call Sign | Location | Operator | Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| XABK | Achers, Greece | L/Corporal Ashworth | 18 L. of C. Signal Regiment |
| XABU | Rhodes, Dodecanese | Major McAnsh | Dodecanese Signal Squadron |
| XABX | Salonika, Greece | Major Sylvester-Bradley | 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment |
| XACT | Venice, Italy | Captain R. H. Maxfield | 4 Squadron, 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment |
| XACV | Salonika, Greece | Signalman Webster | 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment |
| XACW | Salonika, Greece | Corporal Tasker | 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment |
| XACY | Trieste, Italy | C.R. Signals | 1 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment |
| XACZ | Trieste, Italy | C.R. Signals | 1 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment |
| XAEK | Padua, Italy | Lieutenant Carter<br>Sergeant Cowing | 13 Corps Signal Regiment |
| XAEY | Caserta, Italy | Sergeant Cooke | S.L.U., A.F.H.Q. |
| XAFK | Padua, Italy | Captain Bosworth | 13 Corps Signal Regiment |
| XAFO | Athens, Greece | Lance-Corporal Oxley | C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., L.F.G. |
| XAFP | Greece | Major Edwards | 18 L. of C. Signal Regiment |
| XAFZ | Grece | Corporal Hart | c/o C.S.O.'s Branch H.Q., L.F.G. |
| XAGA | Greece | Signalman Tackley | c/o C.S.O.'s Branch H.Q., L.F.G. |
| XAKM | Padua, Italy | Corporal Barbone | 2 Squadron, 13 Corps Signal Regiment |
| XAPQ | Padua, Italy | Corporal Lambert | 2 Squadron, 13 Corps Signal Regiment |
| XAZO | Padua, Italy | Signalman MacKenzie<br>Signalman Houghton | 2 Squadron, 13 Corps Signal Regiment |

The frequencies used by the above stations are:—7.0-7.3, 14.0-14.4, 28.0-30.0, 58.5-60.0 Mc/s.

ZB1AC Malta, Captain Speakes, Malta Command Signals, frequencies 14, 28, 58.5 Mc/s.

A landing craft goes ashore crowded with soldiers brought safely from Greece by the British Navy

# EXIT FROM

ON about the 13th April, 1941, I was informed by G.H.Q. Middle East that I might have to go off somewhere in a rush. About 9 p.m. that evening a very senior officer came and informed me that I was to fly with the Commander-in-Chief General Wavell to Greece the following morning at 5 a.m. He added that he had come specially to see me as it had been decided it was only fair to tell me that all hope of holding Greece had gone, and how I should get out again was another matter. During the next hour I don't think I shall ever feel more important in my life, since I was 'phoned personally by the Chief of the General Staff, the Director of Movements and General Wavell's A.D.C. to know if I had got my orders!

Our flight over was uneventful, but on arrival a staff officer requested that we should get into our cars quickly as twelve German bombers had just been reported approaching the airfield. He did not have to repeat his request. It is always easy to be wise after the event, but looking back I often wonder how I can have been so stupid as to pack the small amount of kit I took in the fitted dressing case my wife had given me as a wedding present. Although I did not lose it on the airfield I lost it soon after.

The next few days passed quickly in usual planning, replanning and counter planning, and about the 25th April evacuation from beaches started in earnest. From then on it was impossible to hide from Greek civilians what was happening. It was a most heartrending business abandoning a nation who had fought so well, and the sight of women weeping in the streets touched us all. But nowhere did I see the slightest slackening in their efforts to assist us even though it was to get away. Our orders were to cut everything to the minimum and get the maximum number of men to embarkation beaches. I thought I had done really well in disposing of about 1,200 of the 1,400 H.Q. and L. of C. Signals and only keeping 200 to withdraw finally with the Headquarters. They were despatched to Kalamata at the southern tip of the Peloponnese but as events turned out it would have been better for them if they had never seen Kalamata. Well was it nicknamed "Calamity."

As far as I know only two parties of Signals got away from Kalamata and this was probably a higher proportion than most Corps. The first one was about 200 men under Major Shoubridge. Major Shoubridge was faced with one of those awful problems which arise in War; two conflicting direct orders. One was to march his men on arrival up to the mashalling camp, the other was to embark them at once or the Navy would have to sail without a full quota. How glad all must have been he decided as he did.

The other party was a detachment of a line section under Sergeant A. A number of thousands of troops in the marshalling camp were surrounded and ammunition having run out surrender was imminent. They however, decided to try and break out on their own, during the dark. In this they were successful and making their way down the coast found themselves next morning near a small fishing village, where two motor caiques loaded with hay lay alongside the jetty. (Note: a caique is a large sailing boat often with an auxiliary motor and quite capable of a sea voyage of 100 miles or so.)

The air was buzzing with German planes and they were soon spotted and had only just time to get off the caiques before both were set on fire. Realising they had been spotted they decided to move on further south. Next morning they found another fishing village which also had a caique at the jetty. But they decided not to approach the caique in daylight and retired to an olive grove to await dusk. The air was still buzzing with German planes bent on destroying all means of escape and they watched attempts, eventually successful, to sink the caique.

That night they decided to move on again but were now near the southern extremity of the Peloponnese and next day they were unsuccessful in their searches for a boat. In the evening all chances of escape seemed gone and German troops had been seen in the neighbourhood. However they had a pocket torch with them and two men who knew a little morse suggested going on to the headland in the hopes that they might attract some warship searching the coast.

It was a dark night and indiscriminate torch flashing might easily have been seen by the enemy, but well after midnight they thought they noticed something out to sea, they flashed their torch and were immediately answered. It was one of our destroyers patrolling the coast for escapees and was just leaving the coast in order to be well clear of enemy aircraft by daylight. They had literally escaped at the last possible moment.

To return to my own journeys, on the evening of the 26th April I was sent with two trucks to select a site for headquarters near the village of Argos so as to be near our proposed evacuation point at Nauplias. Just as we were about to start I noticed a movement under some blankets in the second truck and found hidden, a Greek girl. I had to order her out but have a strong feeling that as I started off in the first truck she again got into the second. However during the night the two trucks got separated and it was impossible to go back and search for it so I never saw the second party again.

Luckily it was a moonless night and Jerry had no planes out, but even so the journey along a road packed with transport winding its way along through the litter of burning remnants of vehicles, houses and mules caught during the day by the German Air Force was quite bad enough. However somewhere about 3 a.m. we crossed the Corinth canal. A burning train caused a little difficulty but in spite of this other trains ran during the day carrying troops southward until all had been destroyed.

Shortly after dawn I reached Argos Airfield. It was a sorry sight as the previous evening the Bosch had destroyed our last six fighters on the ground. Gerry knew he was no match for our fighters in the air and concentrated on attacking airfields. Unfortunately for us this method proved very successful for him and to the soldier appeared to more than counterbalance our successes in the air. However since he might consider a raid or two more I moved on to an olive grove near the village of Mylos. Mylos was situated on the opposite bank of the gulf to the small port of

On the road in Greece during the retreat to the coast

British soldiers destroying equipment which might be of use to the enemy

# GREECE, 1941

**by BRIGADIER R. H. R. STEWARD**

C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

*(The dates in this article may be slightly inaccurate since I lost everything including some of the clothes I stood up in. For a similar reason I have had to use A, B, C etc. in some places for names.)*

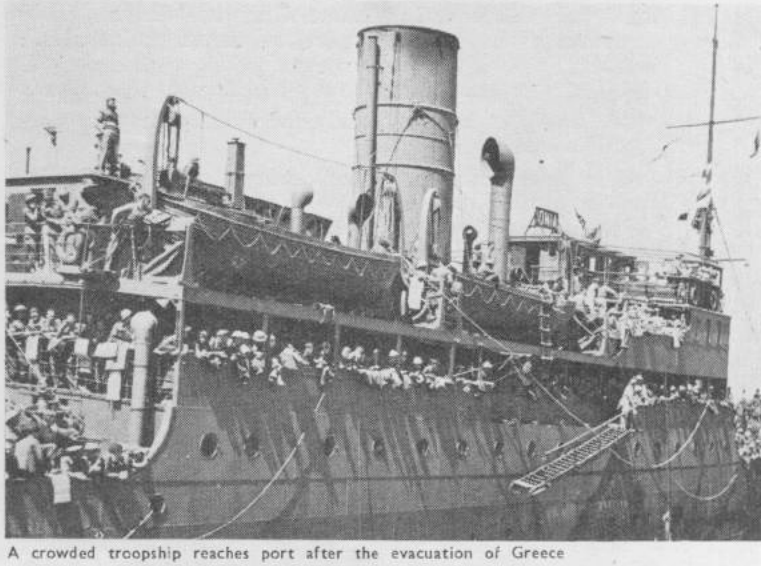
Nauplias where we hoped to embark. Nauplias was a depressing sight, the Ulster Prince had run aground the previous night and all morning dive bombers came over to attack her. It was fascinating to watch flights of eight or so peel off in succession and drop their bombs but it was not till about noon that they set her on fire, though there was practically no A.A. fire to put them off their aim.

We spent the whole of that day and the next in the olive grove. Of the communications we managed to provide the less said the better. We had no suitable field sets which would get the distance we wanted. I have forgotten the sets we had but in those days we did not have even a No. 19 Set, let alone a No. 76. We struggled with what we had got and occasionally got through but it was rather like putting a D.III telephone on the end of a trans-atlantic cable.

On the evening of the 28th April, with the exception of a small party under Major Smitherman who went to Monemvasia at the southern tip of the Peloponnese, we smashed our wireless sets and proceeded to Nauplias via Argos. It is to the great credit of the inhabitants of Argos that although the Germans were reported (possibly incorrectly) to be only a mile or two away quite a number turned out to give us a cheer. At Nauplias an order was issued to destroy our vehicles, but I strongly objected, pointing out that a few vehicles would be of little use to the Germans whereas if all of us were not taken off that night it gave those unfortunate ones a further chance to make a dash for one of the embarkation points at the southern tip. I won my point and I often wonder if any (and there were some) of the unfortunates who were not taken off were able to get away on them.

The embarkation itself was well organised but the sea was rough and we were using every kind of vessel from large motor caiques to towed whalers. I found it terrifying and

*(continued on page 276)*



A crowded troopship reaches port after the evacuation of Greece

The smoking ruins of a small Greek village

# Other Overseas Stations

## SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Poona

*July*

Reading the April edition of THE WIRE we came across the heading "Southern Command Signal Regiment," marked by some Mess member in red. We were soon disillusioned, however, by the reference to A.T.S., realising sadly that it was not our unit.

Here then are our first notes, better late than never. We are firmly settled in Poona, and thoughts of Bangalore—the location of our War time H.Q.—grow fewer. Although many regret leaving that most modern of India cities. At least one — Second Lieutenant Crighton — retains vivid memories of the move up here, as shown in his article below.

Previous issues of THE WIRE have been very much appreciated out here, especially the Blighty news of personalities and events.

The opportunity was taken during the S.O.-in-C.s inspection of the Unit—2nd July—to take a group photograph of the Officers, together with Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C., and Brigadier C. H. I. Akehurst, O.B.E.

The Unit is changing very rapidly in the period of Indianisation we are passing through. On the whole a process of centralisation is being effected in comparison with the wartime dispersal of detachments.

Under the able hand of our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel G. Walton, the Regimental H.Q. and 1 Company is situated in Poona, and 2 Company in Bombay. New personalities in the Unit are Captain G. W. Nation (Adjutant), Captain F. Dakin (Q.M.), Captain Cracknell (D.S.O.), and Captain Newbury (British Company).

Major A. J. Ball has moved to 2 Company, Bombay, where he is situated as near the boat as possible. Captain Fournier d'Albe has suddenly contracted demob. fever. Captain R. M. Le Peltier has left for Nagpur Signals and Captain L. A. Walker for Kharakwasla. We still hear muffled comments from Captain Gardner (Q.M.) about living on packing cases and still hoping. Captain Ahmed, our Cipher officer is now in Mhow and is replaced by Captain Tornay. Major Stonestreet made a very short stay in the unit and is now at Eastern Command Signal Regiment. Last but by no means least, great speculation among five Subalterns over the rumour that four are due to go shortly.

THE MOVE. May I begin by saying how pleased I was the other week, to see my first copy of THE WIRE. I am one of the younger generation who either volunteered, or were conscripted into this army during the years when the war was already in full swing. The army of pre-war days meant little to us save when we recalled the blood-thirsty tales of our forebears, of the mud and slime of France "14—18."

When I volunteered I had little or no idea that I should eventually find myself in the "Corps," but now I have no desire to leave it. I am digressing.

It was in those far distant days, when H.Q. Southern Command was situated in Bangalore, late in '46, and rumours were rife of our impending return to our pre-war home, Poona.

As a very young Second-Lieutenant, I was suddenly faced with the overawing proposition of having to take the road convoy from Bangalore to Poona, assisting also in the organisation of the advanced Command Signals.

Without a clue as to how to set about organising a convoy of very mixed, but very "Signals" vehicles (from 5-ton Studebakers fitted with S.C.R. 399 medium wireless stations, to 8-cwt. Standard cars), I gathered my party about me, drew some petrol, and somehow managed to cajole the cookhouse N.C.O.s into letting us have some "khana."

We discovered the trucks under a mass of garlands that appeared over night, and after pulling the orchids from our ears, we managed, with a deal of bad language and good natured jesting, to start up.

Whistles were blown (after all, one must adhere to standing orders for Convoy Commanders—if only for the first few minutes), and with an impressive jerk, which nearly

"On the move." Second-Lieutenant Crighton, Corporal Gregory, Signalman Burgess, Signalman Hardacre, Corporal Winstanley, Lance-Corporal Edwards, Lance-Corporal Davies, Lance-Corporal Trill

ejected the Subedar Major's goats from their precarious stall in the back of a P.U., we shoved off. After 25 yards we experienced our first breakdown, a petrol stoppage (the first of 105!)

The leading truck managed to get quite easily lost in Bangalore City, and like lost sheep the others followed, although the sign posting was unusually clear. Turning a 5-ton lorry with trailer in a 15 foot road is some feat.

At last we hit the open road, where the heat hit us. We found afterwards that a "chico" had opened all the water cocks on our "Pani waggon." How we loved India!

Then followed four days and nights of driving, the days along the dusty roads that vary in colour between a brick red to a grey sand, at night battling in clouds of mosquitoes and moths. One by one the trucks dropped out with faults and one by one, a few hours later they caught up again, save for three who just could not make it. A 5-tonner had an argument with a tree while being towed, the water waggon decided it just did not like the road, the third executed a lazy roll down a bank after being forced off the road by a mad civilian transport driver—but then, they are all mad in India.

None of the B.O.R.s on that trip, Wyn, Taffy, George, Rusty and the others will ever forget that one uproarious night in Belgaum when we all went off to the cinema. During our search for "a chota peg" after the show, we drove on to the verandah of the Resident Colonel's Bungalow

—he was in the middle of a cocktail party—thinking it was the "Green Hotel."

Those hectic nights looking for P.O.L. depots that were not there and for water tanks that produced only a dribble of rusty liquid! The "bridge" too, emblazoned with notices that stated "Five Ton Limit," but took 8-ton Dodges O.K. A later convoy had to make 100 miles detour on the coast road to avoid it, I suppose we were just lucky.

Taffy, a 5 foot nothing Welshman, executed a feat the like of which I have never since seen, when his Dodge towed a Studebaker and trailer for 230 miles without mishap, when he could hardly see over the dash board.

At last we struggled into Poona and met the advanced elements of the unit, who had arrived the day previously by rail. It was one mad rush to the nearest bath and then sleep, in which we pictured ourselves driving over the whole 600 miles again.

## No. 1 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Palam

*July*

The B.O.R.s are looking very cheerful nowadays. Eight vacancies allotted the unit for August L.I.A.P., probably has something to do with it, as it means that every B.O.R. eligible in the unit may go.

Delhi has had the hottest June for 75 years, according to a newspaper report. We can quite believe this too. 112 to 116 degrees for weeks. The monsoon arrived at 1500 hrs. on Tuesday last and left at 1515 hrs. One or two isobars out of order again.

"Our" airfield here at Palam was in the news last week. On Monday, 23rd June, Field Marshal Montgomery landed and was met by His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

C.Q.M.S. Mills of this unit is still talking about the Barra Salaam he received, in return, when saluting the Field Marshal.

*Outward and Homeward Bound.* Corporal Storey, Lance-Corporal Webber and Signalman Bowen arrived back in the Unit from L.I.A.P. It cannot be so bad at home, as all the chaps come back fit, in most cases having put on weight. Rationing has its good side apparently.

Lance-Corporal Webber and Signalman Bowen being surplus to the new P.E. have been posted to Southern and Northern Command Signals respectively. Good luck chaps, you cannot have it all ways.

B.O.R.s for the July quota are standing by to proceed.

We wonder why they are taking all their kit with them.

*Departures.* Major D. C. Barnett, I.S.C., has left us to join the staff of G.H.Q. on 30th June. We are all sorry to lose him. He will be missed by No. 2 Company, which he commanded.

Mrs. Barnett will also be missed, for her fine work with the Indian Families Welfare Centre, in the Unit. We wish Major and Mrs. Barnett the very best of luck in their new sphere.

*C.Q.D.X.* 14 *and* 28 *M.C.S.* Amateur Station VU2FO, in pre-war days operated by Lieutenant-Colonel Drudge Coates, Royal Signals is now owned and operated by Captain (Q.M.) T. H. Greig of this Unit, who would be pleased to Q.S.O. other Royal Signals "Hams."

## CEYLON SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Colombo

*July*

This being our first appearance in THE WIRE we should explain at the outset that the Ceylon Signal Squadron is all that remains of the many and divers Signal Units that have been stationed in Ceylon during the last eight years. The days when Ceylon was the communications centre for the war in the Far East have long since passed, and we have quietly assumed the role of a Garrison Signal Unit and the signal responsibilities of an island the size of Ireland.

Although small in numbers we have a few well known members of the Corps with us, notably of course the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. Holmes, who has been out here almost three years and with Mrs. Holmes will shortly be thinking of leaving us.

The Squadron itself, straightforward enough in its organisation, has been commanded by Major J. M. W. Badcock for almost ten months and is based with No. 1 Troop under Captain P. A. Tighe, in Colombo. Unfortunately we have no Signals Mess but in any case it is rarely outside working hours that we see our three married families, Captain H. S. Hodgson (the Q.M.), Captain (T.O.T.) W. McCulloch and Captain H. D. Wilmot, who, incidentally is probably the oldest military inhabitant of the island, having been here since 1939. Mention must also be made of the main bulwark of the Sergeants' Mess, S.S.M. Toogood.

Leaving Colombo for a quick tour of the Island we can show you the remainder of the Squadron. Going North to the Naval base at Trincomalee we find 2 Troop, under Captain A. L. Dowell, a similar troop to number 1, with equal Line responsibilities. In the South, near Colombo is the Highspeed Wireless element, the Ceylon link in the army wireless chain. Split into a transmitting site at Ekala under Captain A. M. Dowson and a receiving site at Hora Hena (Captain L. A. R. Knight), the troop is commanded by Captain S. J. Thompson, soon to leave us for Singapore. Finally 4 Troop at Negombo commanded by Captain J. C. F. Kirkman which is the Air Formation element with sections at various R.A.F. airfields in the South. So much for the lay-out of the Squadron, which contains equal numbers of Royal Signals' B.O.R.s and C.O.R.s of the Ceylon Signal Corps, plus a large number of civilians. The work is mainly of a Fixed Signal Service nature, with the usual problems and troubles to be tackled.

Since we form the majority of the Troops in Colombo we find ourselves well represented on all official parades and ceremonies, such as the Special Session of Parliament at which H.E. the Governor announced the offer of Dominion Status to Ceylon; we also took part in an impressive ceremony on the King's Birthday.

Release has been taking its toll among all ranks, and no doubt will continue to do so for some time to come. From those of us who remain, complaints about life out here are remarkably few. There is plenty of sport, the Squadron Soccer team plays regularly, our closest rivals being the R.A.F. and visiting teams from Units of the East Indies Fleet. Local leave is usually spent in India, or in the cooler climate up-country. Right now we are experiencing the monsoon, which means cool days and erratic showers.

Nominal rolls seem to change like the seasons, and by the time we next write the U.K. bound ships will have ensnared yet more of our number, and there will be new faces amongst us of which to write. Until then, greetings from all Royal Signals in Ceylon.

## MALTA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

*July*

This month has found most Royal Signals personnel on the island working infinitely harder than they have ever done in their lives. Cyrenaica District and Tripolitania District have been brought under this command and we in our turn have ben brought under command of M.E.L.F. These changes of command have necessitated the establishment of additional communication channels, mainly wireless. The additional commitment of the preparation of the communication layout for an exercise has also added to our load. We have received the generous loan of some O.K.L.s from Tripoli and some linemen from M.E.L.F., to give us a helping hand in dealing with this extra work. It might be added that this loan is appreciated infinitely more by all concerned on the island, than Mr. Dalton could possibly appreciate the American one. Sergeant Cade and his Gallebia and Taboosh linemen, having dug in, are acquitting themselves in no mean manner.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* After prolonged and intensive farewell parties, our genial president, S.S.M. Sharpe, has left us temporarily to spend a few weeks on L.I.A.P. in the U.K. We know he will enjoy himself so it is superfluous to exhort him to "have a good time." He has taken his hydrometer with him just to check on the S.G. of the beer.

Sergeant Freemantle, our very popular Chief Clerk, has now been joined by Mrs. Freemantle and so we are deprived of the pleasure of his constant company in the Mess. However, he and his wife call to see us occasionally and the Mess is so much the brighter for the temporary presence of an Englishwoman.

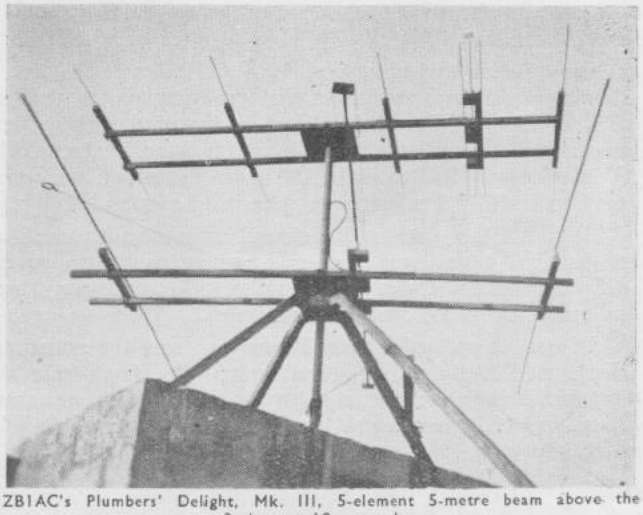
Sergeant Corfield, who has taken over the duties of S.S.M. for the time being, broke his self imposed "tack" a few weeks back and is now feverishly but unsuccessfully trying to replenish his dwindling financial resources. However, he certainly enjoyed himself, even though his birthday will now, of necessity, have to be spent very quietly.

Sergeant Bayfield, having shown great perception and "taken on" for a Regular Engagement, will shortly be joined by Mrs. Bayfield.

S.Q.M.S. Broun-Saul, our irrepressible Foreman of Signals, who has been working at extremely high pressure during the past months, on many and varied communication installations, is now torn between joy at his impending release and anxiety at the possibility of his being deferred—O.V. We cannot induce him to "sign on" under any circumstances, and so the Army will shortly be losing a very cheerful and extremely efficient Foreman.

Sergeant Cade, a new arrival on attachment from Egypt, is a welcome addition to the Mess. He is very happy here, living in what is comparative luxury after the discomfort of a tented, sand-smeared camp. He would like to stay with us and this wish is mutual. Is it right, Sergeant Cade, that you are thinking of postponing your L.I.A.P.?

*Sport.* Being blessed with unending sunshine, we have been able to plan our cricket fixtures without any of those qualms which are apt to assail those of you at home. Of course, cricket out here is somewhat different in character to the game as it is played in England, as most of our games are played on parade grounds where the actual pitch is a strip of concrete covered with coconut matting and where the heat and glare of the sun make themselves very unpleasant at times (but it is still better than the wind and rain that so often marrs the enjoyment in more temperate climates.) The high spots are when we have a fixture at the Marsa Club, still with concrete and matting, but set so pleasantly in a grass field surrounded by trees and flowering shrubs. The week end representative games here are bright social events apart from keen cricket, and at such times the Marsa is about the nicest place in the Island.



ZB1AC's Plumbers' Delight, Mk. III, 5-element 5-metre beam above the 3-element 10-metre beam

We are able to report that Jimmy is a respected opponent and is yet unbeaten by a service side, even though one match was against a member of the senior league (we, by reason of numbers and not cricket ability, are confined to the junior league).

In representative games, Major Buirski captains the Army team with Captains Knott and Sidney lending a hand. Again, Signals have had a little success; in the recent match against the Navy, time was up with the Navy needing 6 runs to win 2 wickets in hand—Major Buirski gave them one extra to allow the chance of a decision. A wicket fell to the first ball, four runs were scored and then the last wicket fell to the last ball of a very exciting and keenly contested game.

We are not altogether unknown in yachting circles and our Sharpie "Greenfinch" has raced regularly, her best yet being in the race to Kala Mistra Bay, an open sea course of some ten miles. Sailed in a heavy sea that necessitated constant bailing, "Greenfinch" came sixth of the whole fleet, which included yachts of all classes. We also hold our own in the weekly races and have more than one first to our credit. The O.R.s are to have their own sailing club and have just acquired a Dory Bee. Moorings are being sunk and we hope to take part in the special races for Dories that are to be held every other Sunday. The men are very keen and we have some experienced skippers so are looking forward to our debut with some excitement.

Swimming takes a large place in our lives and the water round Malta is such that it is just not possible to dislike swimming parades. It is still early enough in the season for the water to be really refreshing and we enjoy ourselves at the Lido (built by General Robb for the sole use of the Army) whenever the time permits.

*Amateur Radio.* ZB1AC has had to change QRA recently and few contacts have therefore been made. The 10-metre band is particularly dead except for spasmodic periods of activity when signals come roaring through and then disappear just as quickly. The 20-metre band is as usual full of signals all causing QRM to each other. The most interesting band therefore these days is the 5 metre band.

ZB1AC feels that daily QSO's on 5 metres should now be possible with stations located in Italy and wonders whether the Amateur Stations that notified THE WIRE that they were active on 58.5 megs are still interested.

A photograph, that is certain to be of interest to many, of the stacked 5-metre on 10-metre rotary beams shows the 3-fold radiators which are 72 RF twin fed.

# Territorial Army

## 43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The 43rd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A. is back once more. We have had a few geographic changes since the war and our R.H.Q. is now in Taunton instead of Exeter. We have No. 1 Squadron at the Priory Drill Hall, Exeter, No. 2 Squadron at the Drill Hall, Bridgewater, No. 3 Squadron at the Old Town Hall, Torquay, H.Q. Squadron with R.H.Q., The Territorial Hall, Taunton. We have the same snags as our friends in the North, a shortage of space for vehicles, and lack of married quarters for the P.S.Is. although we are much luckier in our quarters than the London Units. We have clubs running in the Squadron Locations and beer or local cider (scrumpy) Mk. 5 is the inevitable end on Drill Nights.

We started recruiting, like everyone else on the 1st May. We held a demonstration of Signal Equipment in our fair towns. The equipment was kindly loaned to us by Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E., of the Signals Wing, Bovington. It certainly gave us something for the "shop window" and the results were most encouraging.

In June we held a series of social events at each Squadron. The Regimental party was held at Exeter and we welcomed many guests including General R. E. Vyvyan, General W. G.

Brigadier V. F. S. Hawkins, Comd. 130 Brigade, Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.S.O., Southern Command, Major-General R. E. Vyvyan, Major-General W. B. Mitchelmore, Lieut.-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, Royal Signals, C.R. Signals, 43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. Seated: Mayoress of Exeter, Mayor of Exeter and Mrs. W. F. B. Nott

Mitchelmore, Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.S.O. Southern Command.

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott who served before the war in 44 Divisional Signals T.A. During the War he served with Corps Signals and on the Staff at G.H.Q. Delhi, later commanding R. L. of C. Signals India and finally as D.C.S.O. Berlin. The Adjutant is Captain J. C. Clinch, formerly of Guards Armoured Divisional Signals in B.L.A. and 3rd British Infantry Divisional Signals in M.E.L.F. The Q.M., Major F. F. West, M.M., who is known by so many in the Corps, joined us from School of Signals, Catterick. Our Squadron Commanders are Major F. Signay of 30 Corps in B.L.A., Major L. E. O. Evans from P.A.I.C., Captain M. Tapley of 17 Air Formation B.L.A. We have Captain F. Turton from B.L.A., Captain F. Field from B.L.A., Captain J. Carlton-Stiff from N. Africa and Italy, Lieutenant Golding from Burma, Lieutenant Galloway from India.

The R.S.M. of the Unit is R.S.M. L. Bainbridge who has arrived back from Middle East after six years. At Exeter we have S.S.M. P. Hall who arrived from Catterick and at Torquay S.S.M. G. Brown who has managed to get to his home town. At Bridgwater, Sergeant V. Sampson mustered No. 2 Squadron. At R.H.Q. we have Sergeant R. Greenslade who came to us from the War Office and Corporal D. Nicholls from London District.

We are fortunate in our recruiting as we are working on old ground and we have at present a Unit of 80 men and hope to raise the figure to 100 for Camp in August.

The Unit is having four days in August at Braunton near Barnstaple, N. Devon, and if the weather is kind it should be a good show.

We would like to express our thanks to the members of 43 Divisional Signals in B.L.A. for their generous assistance to us when they broke up last year.

Our thanks go also to "Bram" whose assistance has been willingly offered these last few months. They are all going perfectly.

A word to the Old Comrades in Exeter. The Priory Drill Hall—your old home from home—is once more blue and white.

## 50th (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

To the old sweat and desert campaigner of the famous 8th Army and 21st Army Group, the above unit requires no introduction. Providing the network of communications to the "Fighting 50th" during the African campaign and Sicilian landing, they crowned their success by being the first Infantry Divisional Signals to land on "D" Day. Can one wonder that their name became as far famed as the Burmese jungle? It is with pride and satisfaction that we hear of this unit being reformed in the "New Territorial Army." It will inherit a tradition of steady gallantry extending over the last war.

In common with other T.A. units throughout the country, a recruiting drive has been carried out since 1st May. Leaflets, slogans, posters, personal contact, and gentle pressure has resulted in many of the old members of the Division re-joining at Middlesbrough and Gateshead, but a recruiting boom is not yet in evidence at Darlington. Nevertheless, our scouts are on the look-out for a few more of the old Gang, which includes (Four Dots) Small, Ernie Walker, (Knock Knock) Thornton, Gibson, Smith, Nickling, Glancy the Div. boxer, and (Curry Wallah) the Darlington Scribe to the "Wire."

With H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron at Larchfield Street Drill Hall, Darlington, No. 2 Squadron at Middlesbrough, and No. 3 Squadron at Gateshead, the new "50 Div Sigs" is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, well known to all ex-div. wallahs since 1929. Other old timers are, Major (Wally) Lee, Second-in-Command, Captain T. B. McVickers (Adjutant), and Captain (Norrie) Norcross. Regular Army P.S.Is. are R.S.M. (Khassadar) Grant, S.S.M. (Taffy) Sanger, S.S.M. (Badgy) Hicks, S.S.M. (Gripper) Scott.

At present the Drill Hall is in the hands of the painters,

and is beginning to look very fresh and clean. Soon it is hoped to hold an opening night.

A sore point with the old 3 Company was their drill hall. If ex-members do drop in at Elmsgrove Terrace for a grip in the evening, they will find the new structure a very much improved place to the corrugated iron, "garage-cum-stable" in which they used to hold their socials in pre-war days.

No. 2 Squadron held a "smoker" on the 29th May, a number of old members were there, and a general "do you remember" discussion was held. This squadron is in the lead during the present recruiting drive.

"KHASSADAR."

## 53rd (WELSH) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

I am sure when the above heading is read many of our readers will have pleasant memories brought back to them and will surely wish the new team starting afresh in Cardiff the best of luck. Recruiting at the moment is disappointing but we are looking forward to an improvement in the near future.

A lot of old timers have spoken to us and it looks as if interest has been aroused if nothing else. This was shown by the kind words heard at the second Reunion Dinner of the Old Comrades Association of the 53rd and 38th Divisions. I take the opportunity of thanking the association for their kind invitation on behalf of the new staff.

Readers may like to know the names of the staff in Cardiff so here they are: the C.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins, O.B.E., T.D.; Adjutant, Captain T. H. G. Fletcher; Quartermaster, Lieutenant F. C. Dixon; R.S.M., A. E. Marshall; Sergeants, J. Brierley, F. Bergelin, J. Larson, A. Greatorex, and Corporal F. Clifton.

Unfortunately we have not gone back to the Drill Hall at Park Street but are in a hutted camp on the outskirts of the town.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to the Motor Cycle Display Team on conclusion of the Royal Tournament at Olympia. To Captain Galbraith, Ken. and Jeff. all the best from James B.

We are pleased to report the opening of a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. After some hard work and elbow grease it looks very nice.

*Matches.* The marriage took place on 31st May, of Captain T. H. G. Fletcher and Miss K. M. Walton at Bromley. The honeymoon was spent in Switzerland. Our heartiest congratulations to you sir and Mrs. Fletcher.

J.B.

## No. 21 (N) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The 21 (N) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) is forming as part of the reconstituted Territorial Army in the pre-war location of North Midland Corps Signals (late 46 Div. Signals) at the Royal Signals Drill Hall Phœnix Street, Derby.

The spade work commenced last February and despite many difficulties not the least being the drill hall roof where the floor ought to have been we are now progressing steadily if slowly. Unfortunately the drill hall in Derby is only a temporary one and we are cramped for space although with the Corps motto in mind we have allocated the bulk of the space to the men's Social Club (canteen to you "Regular types"). We are however more fortunate with our drill halls in Chesterfield (Ashgate Road) and Nottingham (Derby Road) although in the latter case District H.Q. are firmly entrenched and show little signs or inclination to depart.

Squadron H.Q.s have now been formed and are as follows:—1 Squadron (commanded by Major R. Pickford) at Chesterfield. 2 Squadron (commanded by Major R. Grimwood-Taylor) at Derby. 3 Squadron (not yet appointed), at Chesterfield. 4 Squadron (not yet appointed), at Nottingham. 86 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron (commanded by Major A. F. Dowling, M.B.E.), at Nottingham. 21 A.G.R.E. Signal Squadron (not yet appointed), at Nottingham.

The C.O. is Colonel R. J. de C. Barber, O.B.E., T.D., M.A., whom many of you will remember as the genial C.R.Sigs of 30 Corps and 10 Corps in the good old desert days (no gripping please) and later as C.S.O. Air Formation Signals in Italy.

Major R. Waldron ("Wally") is back as second-in-command having commanded an Air Formation unit in India, and is now busy organising the social side of the unit and he promises ere long to have the best canteen in the T.A

The permanent staff is now complete and consists of R.S.M. A. C. Gorringe, S.S.M. J. F. Boldison (B.E.M.), S.S.M. L. Howard, Sergeant S. G. Hilton, Sergeant J. Smith, Sergeant J. Timson, Sergeant S. Hodgson, Sergeant D. Allen, Sergeant H. Perrin, Corporal K. Theaker and Sergeant H. Matthews who is unfortunately in hospital at present having strained his back (too many floors to sweep.)

The Adjutant is Captain F. E. Berry, R. Signals, and the Q.M. Captain (Q.M.) J. Moore, R. Signals.

The Derby Branch of the Old Comrades Association is now affiliated to the unit and meets on the first Friday in the month (our beer allocation can just stand the strain) and all members are members of the social club.

At present we are busy holding a recruiting week and the R.S.M. is almost voiceless, having talked himself hoarse with a mobile P.A. van trying to persuade the youth of Derby "to come and join us." We are also displaying a small amount of modern signal equipment.

So far we have 30 recruits all duly attested and fully "licensed to kill" and the future of the unit is assured as many more are making enquiries and having a look at us with the intention of joining just as soon as they know just what their respective employers will do about the camp situation.

We are always open now and any old members of N. Midland Corps Signals or anyone wishing to join can be assured of a good reception at any time.

## SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A.

Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment has reformed as the only Signal Reporting Regiment in the whole of the new Territorial Army.

Its debut under Royal Signals as a "Phantom" Unit adds just one more role to its distinguished and varied repertoire.

Formed in 1908 as the "13th London" Regiment, the "Kensingtons" provided two Infantry Battalions in World War I, and two Machine Gun Battalions (subsequently converted to support Battalions employing Vickers Machine Guns, Heavy Mortars, and Oerlikon A.A. guns) in the last conflict.

The 1st Battalion assisted the 51st Highland Division in France 1940, and, after fighting a fierce rearguard action,

was partially extricated ten days *after* Dunkirk! It was committed again in Sicily and throughout the Italian campaign.

The 2nd Battalion helped garrison Iceland and finally took part in the invasion of N.W. Europe and Germany. Both Battalions earned highest praise from all the formations in which they served.

To launch the Unit on its new task the following Royal Signals personnal have appeared at the Hammersmith Hall.

Major E. R. Nanney-Wynn, well known in the Corps circles, joined as second-in-command, having come from the War Office. As befits an experienced "Phantom," Captain R. S. D. Maunsell was suddenly spirited away from Japan by air and deposited in the Adjutantal chair. Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. Dewhurst and S.S.M. G. E. Fox have come from the Sudan and Egypt and S.S.M. W. C. M. Lloyd (Chief Clerk) from B.A.O.R. Sergeant S. R. Hatton, Sergeant P. W. Evans and Corporal D. J. Jones complete the team.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E., is a very popular "old Kensington." He served with the 1st Battalion in France 1940, and commanded a battle group from the same unit in close support of the infantry during the bitter fighting in Sicily and Italy. He was transferred as Second-in-Command to 5th Battalian Northamptonshire Regiment which he subsequently commanded for a short while with rare leadership and enthusiasm.

Recruiting since May has been slow. A small cadre of officers has been got together which comprises a good blending of "ex-Kensingtons" and Royal Signal stalwarts. Among the latter are such names as J. W. Kearsley, J. C. Matthews and E. G. Jones, some of which may be known to many readers.

There is an urgent need for more ex-Royal Signals personnel of all categories, particularly other ranks, and volunteers will be warmly welcomed.

Recruiting is in progress daily and all details can be got from the Adjutant, G.H.Q. Signal Reporting Regiment T.A., 190 Hammersmith Road, London, W.6 (telephone RIVerside 7673).

This H.Q. is large and well appointed and offers every facility for the social side of things as well as training.

Tell your friends about us. Ex-Royal Signals personnel are really needed urgently by this unique Unit, the only Signal Reporting Regiment in the whole of the new T.A.

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# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

**Birmingham**

The membership continues to rise. The latest figure reported at the monthly meeting in June was 775 with more coming in. I am not sure how many of the members read THE WIRE, but if any of them see this, I hope they will show it to those of their friends who are sleeping members. A sleeping member, for your vocabulary, is one who pays his subscription (bless him) never appears at a meeting, and fails to reply to the Secretary's many notes and circulars on the subject of entertainments, etc.

An extraordinary number of people appear to find it quite impossible to fill in a line with the words "Yes" or "No." An even greater number are, it seems, physically incapable of affixing a stamp to an envelope and inserting it in a letter box. Goodness knows who does their football coupons. We are very fortunate in having a most energetic Secretary in Captain Ralph Ironmonger and it must be very discouraging for him to receive only 120 replies to nearly 800 letters. After all he is working for YOUR branch of the Association. All right. You may sit down.

Captain Ironmonger, with Major Howard Bolton and Captain Rex Spurr attended the General Meeting at Catterick in June and appeared to have enjoyed the trip. No doubt the business was very important, but I was more interested to hear about ex-Sergeant Paddy Walsh, a resident of Chelsea and a visitor to Catterick. He wore a famous uniform and described himself as a Chelsea Commando. My last recollection of Paddy is associated with the Chequers, a well known hostelry situated just outside the Main Gate at Maresfield Park Camp. Circa 1920. He was the Police Sergeant, and was trying not very enthusiastically, to persuade the five hundred or so customers to go home. One could find beer for the multitude in those days. Good luck Paddy me boy.

As you are a regular reader of these notes, you will naturally want to know something about our Operation Mercury. I will start by telling you right away that the whole operation was an unqualified success with every objective attained and no casualties. Having said that it is not easy to know where to start and even more difficult to know where to finish. The Editor will probably decide the latter anyway.

The Corps Band arrived complete with Mr. Judd early enough on Friday, 4th July, to broadcast from Midland Regional from 6.30 to 7 p.m. They were comfortably installed in the New Victoria Hotel, Corporation Street. Yes. All of them. The Dance in the Botanical Gardens Ballroom at Edgbaston from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. followed, and was something to remember for all time. The Band, the Bar and the Buffet were superb, and none of them gave up. We were honoured to have Major-General Sir Leslie and Lady Phillips with us throughout this memorable week-end. General Phillips was kind enough to say a few words to the company in the ball-room during the interval. Others present included Brigadier E. J. Murphy, C.B.E. (General Secretary), Brigadier and Mrs. E. A. James, Colonel and Mrs. F. E. B. Jones, Colonel and Mrs. M. E. Holdsworth, Colonel P. H. and Miss Keeling, Colonel J. W. and Miss Danielsen, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. F. S. Lodder and many more old friends, a list of whom would run away with our space. One of the "Spot" dances was won by Mrs. Ralph Ironmonger and Mr. Judd, the Bandmaster. A Special Court, held on the spot, decided that there was no wangle. The accused were acquitted and told not to do it again. The beautiful feathered birds in the aviary through which one passes en route to the ball-room have obviously been trained by visiting G.I.s. The peculiar whistle reserved for lovely ladies was appropriate no doubt, but highly disconcerting if a gentleman happened to be standing around waiting for his partner. Even I received a pretty icy stare once. With a sincere word of congratulation to Captain Frank Davis and his sub-commitee on a grand job of work, we must leave the Botanical Gardens. Truly the success of this dance was assured by the B.s, Bar, Band, Buffet and Birds (and don't get me wrong pal).

On Saturday, the Corps Band played in Lightwoods Park at 3 p.m. and in Handsworth Park at 7.30 p.m. Grand performances that were very much appreciated by the many people who gathered to listen. Mr. Judd has a splendid company of musicians in the Band, but we notice that the years have taken away many of the old familiar faces. Sunday, 6th July was sunny but breezy. Rain was happily absent as over one hundred old comrades paraded behind the band for the march from the Municipal Car Park to the Cathedral. Brigadier E. A. James commanded the parade which had for its leading section the old R.E. Signals who had backs as straight as any of the Ex-48 and 61st Divisional

Row West by Major-General Sir L. G. Phillips. Present also at the saluting base was Brigadier J. R. Patten, C.B.E., Signals who followed. The salute was taken in Colmore M.C., C.S.O. Northern Command, and Captain T. W. Baynes, Adjutant "X" Army Signals T.A., who acted as A.D.C. to General Phillips during Operation Mercury. The Band supplied the music in the Cathedral for a beautiful and appropriate service. The address was given by the Rev. H. D. Barton, M.A., our old pre-war friend and padre of 48th Divisional Signals, now Vicar of Coleshill.

Six Corporation buses and many cars carried the congregation to the Drill Hall at Hall Green, the Headquarters of "X" Army Signal Regimental T.A. The loan of this spacious hall was much appreciated and thanks are due to Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., the Commanding Officer, for permission to use it. An excellent tea was served to nearly 400 people with much help from members of the A.T.S. section of the Branch. Relatives of fallen members of the Corps were present from Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire and some of them were able to chat with men who had known and served with their loved ones. Brigadier E. A. James took the opportunity before the Band left to thank them for their services. Without them, of course, the Operation would never have left the start line. The Band went off to Victoria Park, Small Heath and played until 8 p.m. From there, they dashed to their hotel, changed, packed and so to New Street Station for the 10.25 p.m. to the North, tired but quite happy and looking forward to some leave. Mr. Judd, and members of the Royal Signals Band, we thank you most sincerely for your services and hope to have the pleasure of seeing you all in Birmingham again in the not distant future.

Many people have already written to ask if Operation Mercury could be made an annual event. This, I can assure them, is going to be carefully considered and an announcement will be made in due course. This pleasant and highly successful week-end was never achieved without a lot of hard work on the part of Brigadier James, our President, and Captain Ironmonger, Hon. Secretary, together with their small sub-committees. We, who reaped the benefit, offer them our sincere thanks and congratulations on the triumphant conclusion of Operation Mercury.

"BARLEUX"

**Salisbury and District**

Many apologies for the absence of notes from this branch in the July issue. This was partly due to the extra work involved in organising the Band Concert, and partly to having nothing of importance to report.

The Corps Band paid a visit to Salisbury on 29th June, and kindly gave a concert in the Gaumont Palace, which unfortunately was not attended by a great many as anticipated, owing mainly to the brilliant weather. However, the people who were fortunate enough to be able to attend, were entertained to what was generally termed the finest military band to visit the City, and we should like to thank Mr. Judd and the members of the band for putting on such a fine concert.

Our monthly meeting in July was held at Bulford Village Hall so that the district members could attend. We feel sure that it was an evening well spent as apart from gathering in long overdue subscriptions, fresh members were enrolled and with the co-operation of our active members in the Bulford area we feel that we shall redeem our pre-war prestige.

Unfortunately we have to say farewell to our treasurer, Major Spindler, who has served the branch with exceptional satisfaction. We wish him good luck, while at the same time sending out a hearty welcome to Major Tradmore who has been posted to Southern Command Signal Regiment and has taken on the position of Honorary Treasurer to our branch.

"SARUM"

**Leeds and District**

It was with happy thoughts that a party of 64 members set out from Leeds to the re-union at Catterick. We had a very pleasant journey, arriving at the Signals Theatre at 10.20 a.m.

After a few had renewed old acquaintance with the stables of former days, we went into the theatre for the General Meeting.

It was a very pleasant affair and the members came away with the knowledge that in Brigadier Murphy they had a very capable "Minister of Labour," who would, with untiring effort, set himself out to help all ex-signallers of the Corps.

On arriving at the Sports Ground, we found a most efficient programme had been arranged for our benefit. Having refreshed our thirsty throats we sat down to a splendid meal, and then proceeded to be beaten in the cricket match, which was followed by "adieus" at 7 p.m.

We look forward to the next event and feel that Catterick may have to be enlarged after the news has been spread about this re-union.

Best wishes to all at Catterick, and thanks for a very enjoyable day.

"LEODONIS"

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***Exit from Greece, 1941*** *(continued from page 269)*

in making certain that if we were capsized I should have a chance to swim I lost the last bits of kit I had managed to carry with me. However beyond several narrow shaves we reached the destroyer H.M.S. Isis safely. It is wonderful the sense of security the British Navy inspires, we all flopped in various places feeling our troubles were over. So they were for us in H.M.S. Isis but next morning the German Air Force spotted our convoy and we were bombed almost continuously all the next morning. Out of two merchant ships and three destroyers in our convoy, one merchant ship and two destroyers were sunk. I well remember towards the end of the morning hearing a voice from the depths of the destroyer shouting up: "Tell them if they want to shoot any more at the b——s they'll have to sling up depth charges."

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***R.M.A., Sandhurst*** *(continued from page 262)*

but others are given opportunity for additional subjects of their own choice, selected from the military, modern or scientific parts of the curriculum.

Such, in brief, is the working of the new R.M.A., Sandhurst.

The knowledge required by the officer of to-morrow is vastly greater than heretofore, and the Academy is planned to provide it, while sustaining the high traditions of discipline and morale which were the pride of the two establishments it has replaced.

**HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?**

# Sports Notes

3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 1946-47. Winners, Catterick District Challenge Cup. Catterick District League Championship. Finalists, Northern Command Challenge Cup. 5th round, Army F.A. Challenge Cup

Standing: Sergeant F. Priddy (trainer), Signalman J. Emblem, Lance-Corporal D. Heath, Lance-Corporal R. K. Caldwell, Lance-Corporal S. D. Robson, Lance-Corporal G. A. Jones, Corporal D. J. Absom, Corporal F. Nullmeyer, S.S.M. J. Hopkins (assistant trainer). Sitting: Corporal D. Knight, Signalman W. Pattison, Lieut.-Colonel T. A. R. Scott (Comd. 3 Training Regiment), Sergeant R. W. Morgan (captain), Captain R. O. Edwards (O. i/c team), Corporal W. Gage, Signalman L. A. Atkins. On ground: Lance-Corporal W. Dare, Signalman A. Elmes. In hospital: Corporal L. O. Jones

## ATHLETICS

The results of the Northern Command Individual Athletics Championships held at the Athletics Stadium on 25th June, 1947, were as follows:

| *Name* | *Unit* | *Time or Dist.* |
|---|---|---|
| 100 yds. | | |
| 1st SI Madden, J., APTC | 45 PTC | 9-6/10 s |
| 2nd Sigmn Gray, M. E. F. | 6 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 3rd Sigmn Drinkwater, D. A. | 6 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 220 yds. | | |
| 1st Sigmn Drinkwater, D. A. | 6 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 24-1/5 s |
| 2nd Sigmn Gray, M. E. F. | 6 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 3rd Lt Layton D. | 6 PTC | |
| 440 yds. | | |
| 1st Sigmn Jackson, A. G. | 3 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 54 s |
| 2nd Cpl Withers, J. A. | 62 Trg Regt, RAC | |
| 3rd Cpl Bell | 51 PTC | |
| 880 yds. | | |
| 1st Sgt Brown, J. | 4 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 2 m 8/10 s |
| 2nd L/Cpl Kinsey, W. | 2 Trg Regt, R. Sigs | |
| 3rd Pte Derrington, M. G. | HQ, North Mid Dist | |
| 1 mile | | |
| 1st L/Cpl Hoskins, T. G. | 2 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 4 m 38-2/10 s |
| 2nd Pte Derrington, M. G. | HQ, North Mid Dist | |
| 3rd L/Cpl Lawrence, E. | 2 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 3 miles | | |
| 1st Cpl O'Brien, A. W. | 2 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 15 m 50 s |
| 2nd Sgt Cranko, P. | 19 PTC | |
| 3rd Cpl Ross, J. | 2 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 120 yds Hurdles | | |
| 1st Lt Smith, A. G. | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 17 s |
| 2nd Capt Harrison, H. | 19 PTC | |
| 3rd Spr Barlow | Home Postal Centre, RE | |
| High Jump | | |
| 1st L/Cpl Nicholson, D. | 5 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 5ft 9in |
| 2nd Lt Smith, A. G. | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 3rd Sgt Clare | 51 PTC | |
| Throwing the Hammer | | |
| 1st CSMI Litherland, N. APTC | 65 PTC | 119ft 4in |
| 2nd CSM Cogan, C. H. | 250 (G) PWWC | |
| 3rd S/C Smart | 6 Bn, RAOC | |
| Long Jump | | |
| 1st Lt Smith, A. G. | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 19ft 10in |
| 2nd L/Cpl Howrie, T. | 59 Trg Regt, RAC | |
| 3rd Pte Hall, N. M. | 33 PTC | |
| Pole Vault | | |
| 1st Cpl Ashley, H. | 62 Trg Regt, RAC | 9ft 3in |
| 2nd Lt Smith, A. G. | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| Throwing Discus | | |
| 1st RSM Bendy A. | 196 (G), PWWC | 129ft |
| 2nd Sgt Griffen, J. | 8 Bn, REME | |
| 3rd S/C Smart, W. | 6 Bn, RAOC | |
| Throwing Javelin | | |
| 1st Lt Chote, M.V.H. | 10 PTC | 178ft 1in |
| 2nd CSMI Litherland, N., APTC | 65 PTC | |
| 3rd Capt Fairman, D. | School of Signals | |
| Putting the Shot | | |
| 1st Sgt Griffen, J. | 8 Bn, REME | 42ft 6in |
| 2nd CSMI Litherland, N., APTC | 65 PTC | |
| 3rd Lt Lowry, D. RAMC | 68 PTC | |
| Hop, Step and Jump | | |
| 1st Sigmn Miller, G. W. | 6 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 38ft 1½in |
| 2nd 2/Lt Shawcroft, J. V. | 19 PTC | |
| 3rd Pte Upton | 6 Bn, RAOC | |
| Medley Relay (2 x 220—2 x 440) | | |
| 1st 57 Trg Regt, RAC | | 2 m 38-4/10 s |
| 2nd 33 PTC | | |
| 3rd 45 PTC | | |
| 100 yds | | |
| 1st Boy Burrows, R. D. | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | 11-8 s |
| 2nd Boy Seymour, B. T. | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |
| 3rd Boy Thompson | 1 Trg Regt, R Sigs | |

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☆

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# *Editorial*

WE write our Editorial this month from a London almost as hot as Calcutta (or so the old hands knowingly tell us); never a cloud in the sky, hardly a breath of wind, and Choc Ices up to ninepence. Paradoxically, this seems to be the time chosen not only by English people but also by visitors from overseas for a visit to London, and the purlieus of Victoria swarm not only with family parties doggedly not complaining about the heat but also with interested young men in white socks, sandals, and plus-fours, reading maps, and interested young ladies in French shoes reading guide-books. We bash our way through the crowds feeling insular, dusty, and full of the consciousness of virtue on our way to work. We also feel very much inclined to envy all of you who write to us so nonchalantly about the joys of sailing and swimming in foreign parts.

* * *

Our life in Pimlico, however, far removed from holiday delights, as well as fire piquets—no seas, no rivers, no lakes, harbours, swimming pools (yes, we know there is the Pool of London . . .)—is still not without interest and incident. When we raise our head from reading about your doings and wondering if it is cooler in Catterick or torrid in Taiping, we look out on to the splendid prospect afforded by the Dogs' Home opposite. It can now be revealed for the first time, as they say, that these august premises are patrolled all day by a succession of people with pets, ranging from very small kittens mewing inside shopping bags to decrepit milk-round ponies who arrive majestically in the horse-ambulance. Fascinated by this procession of live-stock, we sometimes almost forget to quench the editorial thirst (in tea), and gaze pop-eyed over our balcony to see them come; all the multitude of dogs with mixed but splendid parentage, waving feathery sheepdog tails, sniffing with sophisticated dachshund noses, treading the dust with the practical flat feet of the Golden Labrador. Except for the yellow-and-white puppy with hysteria last week, they are very stoical about their illnesses: and we often find ourselves remarking, rather smugly, on the unmoving countenance and aspect of the British people, as they pass by our window with or without their pets. Crisis after crisis breaks about their devoted heads, but still they trundle past in their sober way, with shopping bags, with bundly suitcases, with parcels. It is, and has been, fantastically hot—even the red caps of the Military Police have faded to a rather prissy shade of pink with the constant glare—but Englishmen for the most part continue to wear cosy tweed jackets, and Englishwomen sensible winter coats, and even those without carry little woolly jackets in case it should turn cold later. True, there has been such an outbreak of white summer shoes and straw hats liberally garnished with flowers that the Buckingham Palace Road has acquired a faint look of the Boulevard Magenta, but for the most part it would appear to the unbiased observer almost as though we were, fundamentally, a conservative people. Certainly we preserve our solidarity of behaviour and dress, whatever extremes of misfortune or weather beset us, and if we like to count this for a virtue, surely there will not be many to deny us?

### THE RETURNED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION

Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940, the Association, which began to function in August, 1945, offers to British ex-prisoners of war a permanent headquarters where they can obtain advice and practical help on all matters concerning rehabilitation.

The Association co-operates actively with the British Red Cross, Civil Resettlement Units, Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association and other organisations with similar aims, and also with local authorities on the more distressing housing problems. Help is given in all matters of employment, studies, accommodation, and domestic and medical problems.

*New Address.* The Club and Offices have now moved to their permanent home at 34 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1, where old and new members are always welcome. The Club is only a few minutes from Sloane Square, Victoria or Knightsbridge Tube Stations. A canteen functions from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., where, in addition to teas and snacks, a lunch is now served daily to as many as 25 members at only 1s. 6d. a head.

*Library.* An appeal issued to leading publishing houses has resulted in the acquisition of nearly 600 books, both fiction and non-fiction, which now form the nucleus of a lending library at headquarters. Special facilities are available to students requiring technical books.

# Home Stations

### ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*August*

*Pass-Off Parade.* On Tuesday, 22nd July, 1947, the Cadet Wing paraded in four half-squadrons under the Senior Under Officer, Officer/Cadet T. C. L. Davidson, for the Pass-Off Parade of 184 Course, consisting of 27 Cadets.

Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Commandant, H.Q. School of Signals, took the salute.

The Commandant's Cane was awarded to Officer/Cadet H. J. Perry. Among the spectators was Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., C.S.O. Palestine, who later inspected some of the unit's instructional activities.

*Inter-O.C.T.U. Visits.* During the week ending 26th/27th July, 1947, the R.A. O.C.T.U. were "At Home" to teams from this Unit.

The Sports Fixture consisted of the following events: Cricket, Athletics, Boxing, Tennis, Shooting and Golf. After a hard and well fought contest we were beaten, but not overwhelmed, in all events except shooting and golf. The Gunners entertained our teams in a right royal fashion, and we now look forward to a return visit from them and shall do our best to reverse the results.

*Shooting.* The results of the Garrison Miniature Rifle Shoot for the season ended June, 1947, have been published. We head the League with a possible of 36 points, with the 62nd Training Regiment R.A.C. second with 32 points and P.T.C. third with 20 points.

During the season the unit has won the highest aggregate score four times. Officer/Cadet Walker, with a score of 98.5 won the medal and a money prize for the highest individual score during June. The Challenge Cup and Medals are to be presented at the conclusion of the Garrison Flower Show this month.

*Northern Command Rifle Meeting.* Twenty-six units were represented in the Northern Command Rifle Meeting which took place in July.

The Unit team was second in Match No. 2—Fire with movement, Officer/Cadet Coveney winning a cup and cash prize for the highest individual score.

Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M. R. Signals, was fourth in the Revolver (Individual) Shoot.

In the N.S.R.A. Army Small-bore Rifle Match 1947, for the I.C.I. Challenge Cup, the Unit Team gained eighth place out of the 79 teams who returned completed cards.

*Cricket.* Although our cricket team has yet to score a win, some very enjoyable matches were played during July. Mention should be made of the consistently good bowling of Officer/Cadet Squires, and of the very useful 63 runs scored by Signalman Burns in the match against the Catterick Combined Services.

### SCOTTISH COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

"Scottish Command Signal Regiment at play after getting really 'mixed.'"

Junior Commander H. Brown, Subaltern M. Butler, Captain J. Fyfe, Subaltern W. Griffith, Senior Commander F. Murphy, Major J. N. Evans (C.S.O.'s Branch), Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Booth.

### NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

*August*

Well lads, here we are once again giving the news and views from Lisburn. Our omission to send in our news for last month can best be described as a "technical hitch," no doubt due to the preparations and rehearsals for the "Orange Day" Parades.

We should start this month by saying *au revoir* and *bon voyage* to our old friend and WIRE representative, Lance-Corporal George Cook ("Cookie"), who departed into the cold world as a civilian after a spell of over five years in N.I.D.—no doubt due to the fact that he dealt with the postings. We feel the odour of his pipe (which was not altogether favourably looked upon on the morning bus) will be missed from the Orderly Room, and we are sure it is the chief topic of conversation in the Latin/American News Room of the Overseas Department of the B.B.C. at Aldenham House now that "Cookie" has started work. We do wish you all the best "Cookie," and hope one day we shall have a visit from you, if you return to the Emerald Isle.

Our female personnel are increasing day by day with almost alarming regularity. Although we welcome them with pleasure, we poor males are now outnumbered almost two to one and are contemplating walking around in pairs for safety. Even the Orderly Room now have more females than males which enables our Pay Clerk, Corporal Arthur Marsh ("isn't he nice looking without his glasses") to keep his eyes on figures both at work and play.

Signalman "Jacko" Jackson started a "Swing Club" which took place every Wednesday in the Gymnasium, while Lance-Corporal Joe Dix was responsible for the playing of the records which contained such old masters as "Beat me Brother with a Solid Beat" and other self explanatory pieces! This however has now turned into a dance which started as a small item of the Club but has now grown and swallowed up the swing completely. As this is the only dance held here since the Saturday Night Hops have stopped for the summer, plus the fact that admission is free, the numbers are increasing week by week.

The Mount Stewart Horse Show which has lately taken place was the scene for some more "Signals doings." Our lads were helping with the communications for the show, and had been working from the morning until 1600 hrs.—by which time they were feeling rather hungry—so Lance-Corporal Jim Higgins turned to a fellow standing near and asked with apparent boredom, "How long does this DO last Mate?" This remark led to them being served with tea by "Mate"—who was none other than Viscount Bury who was organising the show. Who says democracy doesn't exist?

August Bank Holiday was the scene of a trip to Bangor by the male and female personnel of the Squadron. About 20 went and had a lovely day on the sands (although the girls who had not brought costumes were seen lying in the water as if thrown there!), and as a finale all went to a Gala Ball. The next day found them rather sorely sunburned and very tired—but that is what makes a day on the beach good.

Sergeant Monty Aldridge and Signalman Harry Jarvis are the only names we can mention in connection with sport. We have no cricket team in the Squadron (unaccountable but true) so these two play for Headquarters. Both have very good batting and bowling averages, as can be seen when we say that in a couple of the latest matches Signalman Jarvis took three for 25 and Sergeant Aldridge—not to be outdone—took three for 9. The batting opposition in these games could, we thing, be ably described in the poem by Robertson-Glasgow:

'"Put on those pads," his father said, as if conversing with the dead,
"And show the Gentlemen the stroke, Concerning which I lately spoke,"
He donned them, filially resigned, I gave him guard to leg inclined,
I bowled him long hops free from guile, Full pitchers you could hit a mile,
Half volleys straight, half volleys wide, Swervers delicious for the glide,
He never swerved, nor lost his grip, But snicked the ruddy lot to slip.'

Well that seems all for now so we will close down until next month. All the very best to you all from N.I.D.

"RAY"

### WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

*August*

Many changes in personnel have occurred since our last notes appeared. Old stagers are turning up; some ex-overseas, others back to renew Army life after a short trial in Civvy Street and who apparently consider it well worth while to do those few more years to earn a pension. Among those old hands we welcome:—2317976 W/S.Q.M.S. H. Turner, 2323262 W/S.Q.M.S. R. Brennan, 2312214 W/Sergeant S. E. Farmer (ex "K" Company and R.S.M. Malaya Command Signals), and also the 26 ex-boys from Catterick and 117 from all parts of the world.

Our departures were mostly for civil life, but postings have taken from us some old hands, whom we were sorry to lose:—R.Q.M.S. R. T. Lundie, D.C.M. (known in Corps cricket), to 51st L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.; S.Q.M.S. M. Knight to Civvy Street; S.Q.M.S. C. Scantlebury to Northern Ireland District Signals Squadron; S.Q.M.S. W. E. Welsh to No. 2 Depot Regiment; Sergeant J. W. Chapman to 97th A.G.R.A. (A.A.), T.A.; Sergeant S. H. Neate to No. 2 Depot Regiment.

Our address is becoming much more widely known owing to the many Corps visitors to the Junior Officers' Club (Nuffield) which has been opened at No. 93 Eaton Square, next door to us. We much regret that those two popular clubs in our neighbourhood, the Lion and the St. Columba in Eaton Square, will shortly be closing down. We shall miss them, for their passing will leave only the Y.M.C.A. at Victoria Station to cater for the still many Service men who have to spend time around Victoria.

Members of other Regiments of the Corps will remember the hospitality offered to them by these two clubs, though men of this Regiment were invariably predominant in the evening hours partaking of the usual light refreshment. With the canteens being open till midnight, we had, and for a short time yet will have, this advantage over units which are not quite so conveniently located.

Many of you will remember the red setter which was the constant companion of the Lion Club receptionist. How many of you know that the cheerful little lady who served the coffee was the Countess of Mayo? Her numerous bracelets and bright smile for all comers were features of the canteen. The juke box in the corner with its never-ending boogy woogie and jive, which the canteen workers swore they would destroy, continues its numbered days amongst us, though its volume has been stepped down from time to time to its present almost inaudible state.

The Knights of St. Columba Catholic Services Club, to give it its full name, has been a pleasant rendezvous at the close of day. Small groups of Signals personnel, guardsmen, Belgians, and Poles are only a few I can mention of its varied clientele. Due respects to the local A.T.S. for their omission in my last sentence. Furthermore, it is one of the few clubs, other than N.A.A.F.I., which can boast a bar.

*Cricket.* Though we are in no league, we have enjoyed some very interesting games with other regimental and civilian teams in London. Our record so far is:—

Played 8, won 6, lost 2.

One of our best games was with the Thames Police at Hayes, who won by 29 runs, scoring 129 to our 100. Signalman K. Barrett is top in batting and Signalman E. S. Noble and Signalman H. R. Kitchen are so far our best bowlers.

*Swimming.* The London District Championships were held at Beckenham (Kent) on 16th July, and we have reason to be proud of our representatives. We either won or were placed in every event. The results were:—

100 yards free style.—2nd, Signalman Beale.

Diving, firm board.—1st, Sergeant Dignan.

100 yards back stroke.—1st, Captain G. Klosser; 3rd, Signalman Mathews.

Diving, spring board.—1st, Sergeant Dignan.

220 yards free style.—1st, Signalman Beale.

Plunging.—2nd, Captain G. Klosser.

100 yards breast stroke.—1st, Captain G. Klosser; 3rd, Corporal Moore.

Inter-unit relay.—1st, War Office Signal Regiment (Signalman Whyte, Signalman Harvey, Sergeant Carroll, Sergeant Dignan, Signalman Beale, Captain G. Klosser).

Captain G. Klosser, Sergeant J. Dignan, and Signalman C. D. Beale represented London District in the Army Championships at Derby on 12th and 13th August, where, I understand, the swimming was of a very high standard, some Army records having been broken.

## *The Way It Is*

Once upon a time there was a Signalman called Signalman Shoolbred,
A fine, upstanding character he was, though his friends used to say, as friends will, that he looked like something that had come out of a dark corner in a toolshed.
However, he was simply madly keen, and performed his tasks with such enthusiasm and zeal
That the Major said to the S.S.M. " Frankly, S.S.M., I feel
We ought to do something for Shoolbred, I'm sure his character is simply bursting with hidden beauties,
What's he on? " And the S.S.M. looked it up, and replied in a voice like a rasp, " He's on Sanitary and Water Duties."
So the Major said, " Send him on a course, there's a dear good fellow,"
And the S.S.M. said " Sir! " and the Major went off to have a drink before lunch feeling uncommonly big-hearted and mellow,
A thoroughly decent type he felt, especially after the third gin.
And in the meantime a runner fetched Shoolbred to Squadron Office, and he came, full of the consciousness of sin,
Because he had lost a shirt, angola, drab, and two of his identification discs.
Life is too turgid, said Shoolbred, shuffling sadly in the Orderly Room, but where should we be, one asks oneself, if none of us ever took any risks?
So he raised his sad-coloured eyes to the S.S.M. and said " Sir! "
And the S.S.M., of course, replied harshly " As you were! "
Then he went off to the Sergeants' Mess to drink their cool, delicious, sparkling beer,
And the Orderly Room Corporal, who was anxious to go to lunch, said " Come 'ere:
You're to report with full kit at 09.00 tomorrow for a lovely course at Camberwell."
So Shoolbred said " O, *bother*! "
But being a good type he went away in a 3-tonner to the train,
And it was three weeks before the camp saw him again,
But he came back, as people off courses not infrequently do, looking drab, part-worn, and disinclined,
And after a month the Major came bashing along from the Mess, and what did he find
But Signalman Shoolbred in some disgusting old denims carrying a repulsive bucket full of dirty water and a frightfully filthy mop,
So the Major said " STOP! "
Surely you're Shoolbred, who went on a course, and whose character is simply bursting with hidden beauties,
What did you learn on the course if you come back looking like this? " So Shoolbred said, " Sir, Sanitary and Water Duties."



# British Army of the Rhine

### 7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

#### Bad Rothenfelde

*August*

*General.* The visit of the Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., provides our main item of interest for this month. Arriving shortly before lunch on 11th July, he inspected the unit in every stage of its daily work and exhibited special interest in the new A.C.V.s. Major-General Vulliamy stayed with the unit about six hours, taking tea with the officers, after which he left for the aerodrome at Gutersloh, headquarters of No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment, where he was entertained to dinner.

*Arrivals.* Second-Lieutenant Hampton, S.S.M. Worcester and S.S.M. Homer from 1st Corps Signals, which has now broken up.

*Birth.* To Sergeant and Mrs. Earnshaw, a daughter, at 25th British General Hospital, Munster.

*Marriage.* Corporal J. Oakland to Fraulein Lisa Prange, at the Garrison Church, Bad Rothenfelde. We take this opportunity of wishing them the best of luck and all happiness.

*Cricket.* Major Rice, Major T. P. Saunders, and Lance-Corporal Cooper were selected to tour Denmark with the 7th Armoured Division cricket eleven on 22nd July. Major Rice captained the team, which had a victorious tour, during which they distinguished themselves against Danish teams, one of which had very recently defeated a Cambridge University eleven.

*Motor Cycle Racing.* August Bank Holiday drew a large gathering of spectators to the meeting jointly organised by Divisional Signal Regiment and Divisional Workshops, and held on the Regiment's circuit at Aschendorf, near Bad Rothenfelde. Signals and Workshops had previously held the track record with a time of 1 min. 46 secs. and this was lowered by Craftsman Wilkinson, of Divisional Workshops,

Lance-Corporal Burton and Craftsman Wilkinson, both of Divisional Workshops, rounding the last bend to take 1st and 2nd place in the Final event.

7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. Motor Cycle Racing Club
Left to right: Signalman Mosley, Sergeant Falkingham, Signalman Badcock, Signalman Young, R.S.M. Johnstone, Signalman Andrews T.

with the time of 1 min. 44 secs. The best race of the day was provided by S.Q.M.S. Richmond, of Divisional Workshops, and Sergeant Falkingham, of Divisional Signal Regiment, after another rider in their race crashed into the trees bordering the circuit, necessitating his removal to hospital. S.Q.M.S. Richmond, who is a newcomer to track riding, took the lead from the start, but Sergeant Falkingham took advantage of R.Q.M.S. Richmond's wide cornering to cut in on the inside position and take the lead for three laps. In the fourth and last lap S.Q.M.S. Richmond put on an extraordinary burst of speed and crossed the finishing line a wheel ahead of his opponent.

His speed, however, was too great for him to take the bottom bend, and he too finished up in the trees, injuring his ankle but being able to ride later in the meeting. In the final, Divisional Workshops held the lead all the way, obtaining first and second places, with Signalman Mosley, of Divisional Signal Regiment, taking a very close third place. A road race on T.T. lines is being held at Belsen, with entrants from the whole of B.A.O.R., on 17th August. The unit has seven entrants, so we hope that next month's WIRE notes will contain further news of the Regiment's successes in the motor cycle racing sport.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Members of the Mess visited No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment's Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Herford, where a very enjoyable evening was spent. During the course of the evening a games tournament was played and our hosts proved themselves far superior, winning six games to our one. Our own get-together evenings each week, with the married families giving us strong support, are proving a huge success, thanks to the untiring work of the President, R.S.M. P. H. Johnstone, and Sergeant Hancock, of the Entertainments Committee.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION?



### 2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

#### Hilden

*August*

On 10th July, 1947, the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Director of Signals, accompanied by C.S.O. B.A.O.R.

The Director inspected the Unit at normal work, but his visit was marred by rain—the first we had had for weeks.

Major J. A. Wedgbury, O.C. No. 1 Squadron and Second-in-Command left us on 15th July, on release. " Jim " Wedgbury is well known in the Corps, having served for over 25 years, and to say that the Regiment is very sorry to see him go is putting it mildly. We all join in wishing Major Wedgbury every success and happiness in Civvy Street. We welcome Major P. A. Toombs as Major Wedgbury's successor from 1st British Corps District Signal Regiment. The grant of an S.S.C. to Captain A. Tranah, O.i/c " J " Troop, in the Royal Artillery has meant another loss to the Regiment and although Captain Tranah is still in the Division, in his new capacity as Artillery Officer, we hope that he will keep in touch with the Regiment; our loss is the Artillery's gain. Captain W. R. Pearse has taken over " J " Troop and Captain D. F. L. James is now O.i/c " O " Troop vice Captain Pearse.

Lance-Corporal Eldridge went forward to represent the Division in the B.A.O.R. individual swimming championships at Hamburg and did extremely well, coming in fourth in the 1,500 metres free style and fifth in the 400 metres free style. Lance-Corporal Eldridge employed an over-arm side stroke and we congratulate him on his very fine efforts.

Second-Lieutenant J. Lloyd ran in the individual Divisional Championships and came in a very good third in the 5,000 metres, a fine try indeed.

Sports Meetings are now over for the year, and the Regiment took a very active part in all meetings within the Division and ended up with a very good record of results. The next Meeting of importance is the Divisional Rifle Meeting which takes place on 10th—15th August. Major R. E. Button has put in some very hard work organising teams for the many events scheduled. There are separate entries for Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants, Corporals and men and Young Soldiers—individuals and teams are expected to do very well and we look forward to the results with great interest.

On the disbandment of 1st British Corps District Signal Regiment, we were presented with 17 new cycles—a very welcome gift indeed, which we thoroughly appreciate. It is now intended to form a Unit Cycling Club under Second-Lieutenant Lloyd—given the glorious weather we are now enjoying some fine outings should be organised in the near future.

The Regiment has organised weekend parties from " A.D." Saturday till Sunday evenings for personnel at Huckeswagen lake side. The lake is a really beautiful stretch of water, set amid some of Germany's best scenery. Facilities offered are swimming, sailing, canoeing, fishing and walking. It is hoped that the heat wave may continue so that as many people as possible may take advantage of the Camp.

The Divisional Motorcycle Trials are scheduled for 17th August and we have entered a team and also one from Divisional Signals L.A.D., as well as two individual entries. We expect to pull off the Championships this year, although rumour has it that the course is a really testing one—much more difficult than formally.

The Regimental Cricket team has had a few fixtures and the results are as follows:—

*Versus 4th Brigade Signals Troop*:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4th Brigade | — | 109 for 5 declared |
| Divisional Signals | — | 102 |

Corporal Bennett put up a fine innings of 59.

*Versus 6th Brigade Signals Troop*

6th Brigade — 75
Divisional Signals — 75 for 4

S.S.M. Vaughan scored 40 and Signalman Bailey took five wickets for 14 runs.

*Versus 4th Brigade Signals Troop*

4th Brigade — 109
Divisional Signals — 115

Corporal Cornford scored 40. S.S.M. Vaughan took four for 21.

*Versus Divisional H.Q.*

Divisional H.Q. — 82 for 5 declared
Divisional Signals — 73 for 6 rain stopped play.

Captain Adlam was interrupted at 21 not out.

In the football world "O" Troop seems to be winning their games against all comers.

For the August Bank Holiday week-end a Second Rhine Trip was organised through Welfare Channels. The perfect weather made this trip a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by the complement of fifty or so who went from the Regiment. It is hoped that we may be allotted further vacancies on these trips.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*August*

It is many years since we have experienced a summer like this one, where here in Celle one rarely meets with a dull day. This return of the summers we used to know is general throughout the continent including our native island, noted for its watery atmosphere. Seldom has one heard this summer, the complaint "It did nothing but rain" from a soldier returning from leave in the United Kingdom.

Here in Celle the River Aller has been at low ebb for the past month, and a small tributary only 300 yards from the Barracks has become almost a mud bath, much to the dismay of those who enjoyed their nightly dip there. Another change within the Town is the reinstatement of a German Information Centre, where books, journals and magazines of all types are available to the German population.

Under the watchful eyes of S.S.M. Mudge the garden and allotments within the Goodwood Barracks are bringing forth both flowers and vegetables. We should like to pay a passing tribute to S.S.M. Mudge, who recently celebrated his 27th anniversary of Army Service.

Not only do the gardens show a fruitful harvest but also the barrack rooms have taken on a homely appearance now that sheets have been issued to all personnel. (We are looking forward to the bed-side lamps now.)

*Entertainment.* Entertainment within the Unit has shown a tendency to decline during the latter month, but this is only to be expected with such a glorious summer in being. However under the guidance of S.S.M. Mudge the fortnightly dance is still a popular feature. A Classical Music Club now hold a recorded weekly concert in barracks. Attendance is expected to grow as the winter months approach, but a good start has already been made. It is hoped that this effort will be followed by the formation of a "Swing Club" but the difficulty is obtaining the right kind of records for the swing enthusiasts. A notable event of the month was a "Tea Party" arranged for the members and children of the British Wives Club Celle. From reports the children had the time of their lives in the happy atmosphere of the A.O.C.'s garden. Besides the Tea Party, games, races and side stalls kept these bouncing youngsters in full spirits, whilst fairy light illuminations and music from loud speakers kept their ears and eyes wide open.

For the adult community the Union Theatre Celle still provides the leading entertainment facilities. They certainly believe in the motto "Variety is the Spice of Life," for during the past month, variety shows, drama and ballet have each had their turn on the bill.

The production of a comedy-drama play "The Hasty Heart" by John Petrick, with Macpicton playing his original West End part, was an out and out success. One was pleased to note that the performances of this play were well supported by very responsive audiences. Another delightful production was a grand evening of ballet "Capriccio in Summer" with soloists from the Hamburg Opera House.

The N.A.A.F.I. Riverside Club, Celle, has had some interior and exterior changes during the past month. One lounge has now been converted into a games room and an enlargement of the "bar and tap department" has given more room to the "Beer Boys." The exterior gardens bordering the river are now showing the greenness of leaf and grass. A professional photographer now peeps in twice weekly, and snaps you romantically with the drooping willows and river forming a background.

The Malcolm Club, Celle, celebrated its fourth anniversary on Saturday 26th July, with a Grand Party and Dance. The W.A.A.F.s turned up in full strength, and a good time was had by all. The highlight of the evening was the magician who produced from a normal sized bag a dove and a small dog, besides numerous miscellaneous articles.

*Hail and Farewell.* No. 1 Squadron personnel, recently transferred from 15th Air Formation Signals, have now settled down comfortably in Goodwood Barracks. We wish them all a pleasant stay with us.

We very much regret the loss of Captain (Q.M.) R. C. Hart, who has retired from the service, having served for 27 years. We wish his family and himself all the best for the future. Major Hotchkiss has now taken over the vacancy left by Major Salter as Second-in-Command of No. 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment. We express the hope that this Regiment will prove to be one of which he may be proud.

*Cricket.* As the cricket season draws to a close, the Regimental cricket team may survey it with a feeling of hard fought success. The team won the final of the 13th Infantry Brigade Cricket K.O. Competition by defeating the 1st Royal Dragoons.

RESULT

No. 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment 91 for 10.
Royal Dragoons 45 for 10

At the moment we hold the third position in the Celle Cricket League, having played eleven games, won eight, and lost three.

RESULTS—CELLE CRICKET LEAGUE

No. 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment 51 for 10
84 Group 83 for 8 declared

74 M.T.L.R.H. 21 for 10.
No. 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment 42 for 10

H.Q. 84 Group 162 for 10
No. 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment 42 for 10

No. 11 Air Formation Signals Regiment 61 for 14 dec.
R.A.F. Celle 57 for 10

Inter Troop cricket is just beginning to get into its stride. Competition is keen and with the regrouping of troop teams due to the recent influx of personnel from No. 5 Air Formation Signals Regiment the teams have been greatly strengthened.

*Tennis.* Under the guidance of A.S.M. Simpkins a few tennis enthusiasts have enjoyed many delightful hours at this game. No Wimbledon star has been produced but we are hoping to field a team soon against the Wing Sections.



## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Gutersloh

*August*

R.H.Q. AND No. 2 SQUADRON. On 11th July we were honoured by the visit of Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by Brigadier H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., and Colonel W. D. McGregor, O.B.E., who first visited the Sergeants' Mess and then attended the Officers' Mess for dinner. The evening went very well and an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Squadron has changed to such an extent during the past couple of months that old "bods" would not recognise it. We have lost the following Troops:—53rd Con Troop, 80th and 83rd Wing Troops, and 145th D.R. Troop, and have gained 141st Line and 41st Wing Troops. To those who have left we say "Thanks for the good work you did," and to the newcomers "Welcome." The Squadron at the moment resembles a transit camp more than an operational Squadron, owing to the influx of newcomers from all places, but mostly from U.K.

*Departures and Arrivals.* This month saw the departure of Captain Wiggins, after 27 years with the Corps. After a short while in England, he is off to Africa to join the Nairobi Broadcasting Company. In his place we welcome Lieutenant ("Uncle Vic") Hayden and wish him every success here in Gutersloh. Another new arrival is Lieutenant Gough, who has come to join us from 1 Corps. During the month we reluctantly said farewell to Sergeant Spanswick ("Spanner") and Sergeant "Sweeney" Todd, both bound for Civvy Street. We wish them all the best.

*Sport.* The Squadron soccer team has done very well in the B.A.O.R. Signals Summer League, and, although the final league results have not been received, we are confident of having won the league. Here is our record to date:—

No. 15 A.F. Signal Regiment 2; 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 2.
No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment 1; No. 15 A.F. Signal Regiment 4.
No. 15 A.F. Signal Regiment 5; 32nd Independent Signal Squadron 1.
5th Divisional Signal Regiment 1; No. 15 A.F. Signal Regiment 6.

For the coming winter season we are entering teams for the Hockey, Rugby and Football Leagues and Knock-out Competitions, and judging by the amount of talent we anticipate a good all-round season.

## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster in Westphalia

*August*

It seems that it was but a few days ago since this harassed scribe last penned some notes, but as the diary says "WIRE notes" obviously thirty-one days have passed by.

The excellent weather has given our cricket team every opportunity of maintaining its fine form. A friendly match with 7th Armoured Brigade Signals at Warendorf resulted in a win for us.

Sun worshippers and lovers of outdoor life have taken full advantage of the recreational outings from this unit to the Moehne See (lake in English). Armed with haversack rations and cameras, each party has thoroughly enjoyed itself. A point of interest at this spot is the dam that was so spectacularly bombed by our aircraft during the war. I gather the feat was even more surprising to the other side, who were confident that the camouflage and protecting nets would stop anything, but the pilot of one of the aircraft flew through the nets with one wing pointing to the earth and the other pointing skywards, in order to reach his objective. The actual aeronautical term for this particular bit of aerial acrobatics evades the scribe!

A party visited the Dortmund Tattoo last month—a fine sight which was applauded loud and long by all who witnessed it, particularly the trick motor cycling display by a team of Royal Signals despatch riders.

*Sergeants' Mess.* Congratulations to S.S.M. Hutchins, who was married quite recently. We offer him and his wife our very best wishes for their future happiness.

A sporting flash from the Mess is that Sergeant O'Neill passed the swimming test recently.

Sergeants (young soldier) Grummett and Thornton were "on the air" when the B.F.N. roving mike visited us recently.

*Increase to Establishment.* Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Fish on the safe arrival of another son. The formality of T.O.S. was observed in the Sergeants' Mess, Captain Fish presiding.

*Departures and Arrivals.* Captain V. F. L. Hazelwood departed for warmer climes and Lieutenant E. C. Chapman, Royal Signals, left us on demobilisation during July. His departure certainly "took the cake" (a novelty that looked like a real cake but sprang into bits when the candle was lit!) Second-Lieutenant Lockhart (also a lover of cake it seems) has departed on a bakery and confectionery course, prior to demobilisation in September.

Sergeant O'Neill has left us on posting and our interpreter, Sergeant Derby, on demobilisation. Cheerio and all the very best to these who have left us, and "Hello" to Captain B. Hudson, Royal Signals, who has taken over the Operating Group, and all who have joined this unit during the past month.

*Tailpiece.* Do not build up a picture, readers, of a land of perpetual sunshine because, as I finish off these notes, we are experiencing heavy rains and strong wind.

OCTET

## No. 31 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Hanover

*August*

*General.* After a depressing July "tail-end," summer came in again with a burst of sunshine in Lower Saxony, and it is prolonging its initial arrival—much to everybody's joy—and great pains (I think I've said the right word there!) are being taken to acquire that "leave-tan!"

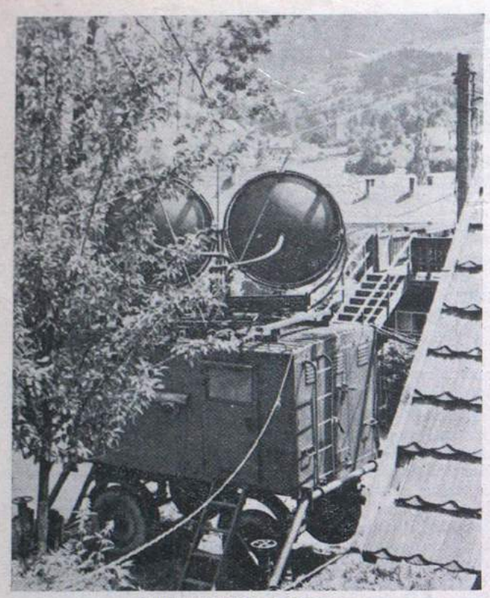
Our Sergeant-Major Abbiss has returned from Blighty leave—and Sergeant Stubbs, his "stand-in," has retreated to the wilds of Hameln, to No. 32 Assault Engineer Signal Troop. (He has promised to put "32" "on the map" so that I can include them in these notes.)

The Sergeant-Major's pride is still his garden—his special joy are two rows of extremely seedy tomato plants, struggling for existence under his loving(?) care!

*Arrivals.* At the beginning of the month we welcomed 11 "bodies" from 54 R.H.U. We say the usual, lads. There are no Officer arrivals to report.

*Departures.* Lance-Corporal Richardson, Signalman Cocks and Lance-Corporal Hunwicks have left us with 55 Group. The last-named has left a sad gap in 110 Operating Troop Office. One of the best-liked N.C.O.s in the

*(continued on page 288)*



Spital. Stuhleck in the distance.

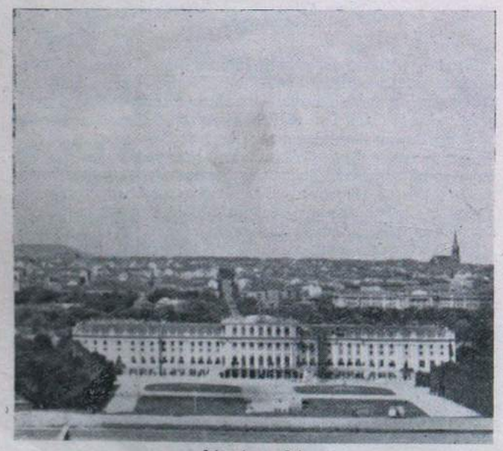
# RADIO TRUNKS IN AUSTRIA

By **A. BRYAN SAUNDERS**

*A brief account of the use of Wireless Set No. 10 in B.T.A., 1945—1946*

THE Wireless Set No. 10 was developed during the war and first used operationally in the invasion of France in 1944. In that same year a number of them were sent to C.M.F. and proved their worth in Italy in the first half of 1945. Later that year No. 1 Wireless Carrier Section moved up into Austria, equipped with 10 Sets, to serve B.T.A. Before going on to an account of their service in Austria, something should be said about the 10 Set itself.

The 10 Set transmits eight speech channels on a radio carrier having a wavelength of six centimetres. A system known as "pulse modulation" is used, whereby the six centimetre carrier is transmitted in a succession of very short "spurts" or "pulses." Each speech channel is carried on a pulse and the eight channel pulses follow one another in a "train" that recurs nine thousand times each second. Speech vibrations modulate the duration of the appropriate channel pulse, and this modulation is reconverted into speech in the distant receiving apparatus.



Schoenbrunn Palace.

Owing to the extremely short wavelength of the radio transmission, it is strictly optical, that is to say that, like a beam of light, it will not bend round an obstruction. Unlike light, however, it will penetrate any amount of cloud and fog. Since the surface of the earth is curved, it is necessary to site 10 Set stations on mountains if optical links of any length have to be established. If a station is sited at a height of 1,000 feet above a flat plain, for example, the theoretical horizon will be 30 miles distant, and this will be the maximum range of a 10 Set under these conditions.

In Austria this need for an optical link has imposed some interesting problems. When the British Element of the Allied Commission was set up in Vienna in mid-1945 it became obvious that there would be difficulties in the way of providing adequate communications. The British-occupied territory nearest to Vienna was at Semmering, 60 miles away. The intervening territory was Russian-occupied and the only existent communications across it were in one underground cable. Russian permission had to be obtained before circuits in this cable could be diverted to British use, and then a failure of the cable would have left Vienna with no telephone communications with the British zone. The O.C. No. 1 Wireless Carrier Section was therefore ordered to carry out a reconnaissance with a view to establishing radio telephone circuits between Vienna and the British zone, using 10 Sets.

Reference to the map showed that there were high mountains just inside the British zone, south-east of the Semmering Pass. From some of these mountains Vienna was theoretically visible and it was hoped that a link might be established direct from the Schoenbrunn Palace, which housed the

Vienna Terminal. The Gloriette.

British Element of the Commission, to such a mountain, and from the mountain to some convenient telephone centre in the British zone. There would thus have to be two 10 Sets on the mountain, which together would comprise a relay station.

In pursuance of this plan, an extensive jeep reconnaissance of these mountains was carried out. It was found that in no case could the summit be reached by road, but it seemed that some use might be made of Stuhleck, a 6,000-foot mountain near the Semmering Pass itself. A good road passed over the Pfaffensattel, a col a mile and a half from Stuhleck and 1,500 feet below the summit. Even from the top of Stuhleck, however, there would not be an optical link to the Schoenbrunn Palace, for there were high mountains near Wiener Neustadt. It seemed possible, though, that an optical link might be established between Stuhleck and Kahlenberg, the hill which overlooks the north of Vienna. A further relay station would then be required at Kahlenberg, to work down to Schoenbrunn. This plan was developed. A section was taken from the map between Stuhleck and Kahlenberg and, after a calculation to allow for the curvature of the earth, it was found that the wave-path would clear Hoeher Lindkogel by 44 feet! Two major problems remained: where to terminate the radio circuits in the British zone so that they could conveniently be connected to the existent trunk telephone system there, and how to transport two 10 Sets (each weighing three tons) from Pfaffensattel to Stuhleck, up one and a half miles of extremely steep, rough mountainside, together with crews, generators for power supplies, petrol, rations, spare parts, and all the other paraphernalia that such a project entails. The first problem was easily solved, for Stuhleck was visible from Spital-am-semmering, a village lying on the main road, Route 116, along which runs the main State telephone cable. The second problem was more difficult.

Late in August the Royal Engineers were asked to construct a track for jeeps from the Pfaffensattel to Stuhleck. By early September they had started, with 150 German prisoners of war and two bulldozers. A fortnight later the first jeep went up this track to Stuhleck. This was a great feat, for at least a mile of this track had to be dug out of the virgin hillside with pick and shovel, being too steep for the bulldozers. In fact, one bulldozer, trying to work on steep ground, rolled over and somersaulted down the hillside.

As soon as the track was finished, six jeeps started work. Two 10 Set trailers were brought to the Pfaffensattel ("Halfway House" as it came to be called) and taken to pieces. The jeeps took the components to the top, a little at a time, where the trailers were re-assembled. By good fortune there already existed a ski-hut at the top, but a Nissen hut had to be taken up and assembled, to accommodate the generating plant that supplied power to the 10 Sets. It was anticipated that the jeep-track would become impassable from the beginning of November, due to bad weather, and it was not expected that it would dry out again until June. During this seven-month period the Stuhleck detachment would be "lighthouse-keepers," accessible only to a man on foot. This meant that 8,000 gallons of petrol, 60 tons of wood-fuel, oil, rations, and all the necessaries of life and work for seven months had to be taken up in jeeps during the days of October. Fifteen jeeps were applied to the task, and finished it in sixteen days, but seven of the jeeps were finished, too.

Compared with these difficulties, the installation of the relay station at Kahlenberg was easy, but not without interest. By good fortune, a summerhouse was found at Kahlenberg, which had a flat copper roof and room inside for two 10 Sets. This was ideal for it enabled the two sets to be mounted in one room, where one operator could watch them, and the aerial equipment could be mounted on the roof directly above the sets. This layout was neat and compact and easy to operate.

By the end of September the radio chain was complete. The circuits were carried in underground cable from the

*(continued on page 310)*

***British Army of the Rhine*** *(continued from page 285)*

Squadron, his Troop has a lot to thank him for. In the dim, forgotten days when 50 cigarettes was a free issue, "110" was always the first to receive their "whack"! Laundry was always punctual; under his capable hands, the little things that mean so much were always "on time."

Corporal Melville takes over the reins.

A few O.W.L.s have been attached to 32 A.E. Signal Troop at Hameln.

*Sport.* Of late, this has been at a minimum. The end of August will see the start of the Army Cup—in which our Soccer Team is entered.

Inter-Troop cricket and hockey takes place regularly amid scenes of the greatest rivalry.

Our intrepid Dirt-Track riders, Corporal Boden and Signalman Webster—risk their lives every Sunday at the "Hanomag"—the local speedway. They have a great following in the Squadron—the Speedway has "caught on," as it were. All the bikes are "home-made," of course—and it's a known fact that D.R.s eat, drink and talk motor-bikes!

* * *

If Corporal Hill, of East Africa, ever reads these notes—will he drop me a line?

"TOSH"

## No. 32 INDEPENDENT SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Plön

*August*

On 30th June we regretfully said "farewell" to our O.C., Major "Tommy" Dalton, and to our M.T.O. and Dirt-track "King," Captain J. C. deC. Ozanne, who both left us with their release books in their hands and our very best wishes ringing in their ears.

On the very same day we also said "Cheeroh" to Captain and Mrs. Stuart Smith who left us for No. 5 Division, Captain Smith having obtained a Regular Commission in the R.A.—(congratulations, Gunner!). Captain Jock Cathmoir assumed command of the Squadron and steered us ably and happily through until the arrival of our new O.C., Major L. J. Parker, from the disbanding No. 1 Corps District Signal Regiment. To Major and Mrs. Parker, and Miss Gillian, we extend a right hearty welcome.

We have lost many more of our old friends during the last month including Lieutenant P. Fisher (your erstwhile scribe), Sergeant Paggett and Signalman Strathie (a great loss to our soccer team). In recompense, however, we extend the hand of welcome to Lieutenant Michael Sinclair from Paris, and to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Page and Family, Sergeant Josephs, and to Mrs. Butler, wife of our S.S.M., and family. The families of Signalmen Langston and Burden have also joined our community.

Even though in this issue we combine two months' notes there is still a dearth of news which might be said to have an interest for the Corps as a whole. Being a small Unit, most of our activities are bound up with those of the Sub-Area H.Q. which we serve and are not, strictly speaking "Unit Bandos."

We do however, try to make a name for ourselves as a Squadron and to keep from being swallowed up in the obscurity and anonymity of "H.Q.S.H.S.A."

We were the only Independent Squadron to enter a team in the Signals Summer League for Football, and although we were knocked about a bit we had some very enjoyable games, and the visits to and from the other Units were something to be remembered for a long time.

In the H.Q.S.H.S.A. sports meeting on 14th July, we entered as a Unit team and took second place to "Camp" leaving the Provost Company well behind, much to the approbation of the spectators.

At the Hamburg District Sports meeting a number of our athletes were borrowed by the H.Q. to make up the team, but some individuals were entered as Squadron representatives. Sergeant Jeffries (sharing a lane) came fourth in the 200 metres and Signalman Green ran a very good 1,500 metres. Signalman Garner won the Javelin with a throw of 155ft. 15ins., and the long jump with 20ft. 4ins.

In the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships at Hanover, Signalman Garner, throwing an aluminium javelin, instead of the ash with which he had trained, missed first place by a few inches. Good luck to him at the forthcoming Inter-Services Tournament at Berlin!

## 4th INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Luneburg

*August*

H.Q. TROOP. There has been very little of interest during the past month apart from a visit to the Squadron by our new C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., who came to see us on Thursday, 7th August.

As there have been no repercussions up to press, we assume everything was satisfactory.

Sport has been rather curtailed of late owing to the bad weather, although several games of cricket have been played.

W. TROOP. The month which has elapsed since our last "buzz" has been very uneventful, with but one or two noteworthy incidents.

During the past month a certain portion of our operator community has been frantically "mugging" for the B2, resulting in Corporal Jones, Corporal Baker, Lance-Corporal Thompson, Signalman Richards, Signalman Skeene, and Signalman Rogers successfully hoodwinking the examiners. Well done, chaps.

The vegetable garden is flourishing splendidly and is repaying in full the very hard work that has been put into it.

The long-expected and desired opening of our own Mess has not yet occurred, as a result of which a great many of us are taking on decidedly haggard appearances occasioned by constantly missing breakfast. May the opening take place very soon.

*Gliding-Soaring.* Despite unfavourable weather conditions, with a consequent dearth of thermals, and infuriating difficulty with the tow car, the past four weeks have proved very successful and, as always, abounding with interest and excitement for Signals members of 4th Armoured Brigade Gliding School. Particularly so for Signalman Watson, who succeeded in gaining his A and B licences. Congratulations, Watson, and good flying to a speedy C.

*Ham Radio.* A recent addition to our already congested wireless world—with a difference, this one actually works—is the advent of a 25 watt amateur radio station built by Signalman Barrance, Corporal Easton, Signalman Hardwick, Rifleman Godin, and not forgetting our F.O.S., S.Q.M.S. Le Hardy.

The "set up" is housed in a lofty and ideally situated position at the top of the building, in a room which affords excellent scope for our enthusiastic "bugs." And incidentally these "five little wonders" have a pretty lofty opinion of themselves since contacting and working the West Indian island of Martinique at a five signal both ways.

They wish to extend to all "comrades in wires" this invitation:—"CQ CQ CQ this is D2GN calling on the 40 metre band. Dah dit dah someone please dah dit dah."



## No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

### Gluckstadt

*August*

*Swimming.* On August Bank Holiday the Regimental Inter-troop and Individual Championships were held in our H.Q., Peterborough Barracks, Gluckstadt, Schleswig Holstein.

The meeting was exceptionally well organised by the Swimming Committee headed by Captain "Chick" Philps. Glorious weather prevailed throughout the day and the Regiment gathered in full strength round our Swimming Pool to see a good day's sport. Exceptionally good times were put up by Private Smith in the 50 metre free style and 25 metre back stroke. Following are the results:—

TEAM EVENTS

(a) Under water endurance test.—"A" Troop, Signalman Ayling, 50 metres.
(b) Back stroke using legs only.—"D" Troop, Captain Philps, 27 secs.
(c) One length free style.—"D" Troop, Private Smith, 35.2 secs.
(d) Paddle race on motor car tubes.—"C" Troop, Signalman Gunston, 29.8 secs.
(e) Race in denims.—"D" Troop, Captain Philps, 23.4 secs.
(f) One length breast stroke.—"D" Troop, Private Smith, 44.2 secs.
(g) Long plunge.—"D" Troop, Private Cummings, 45 ft. 5 ins.
(h) Back stroke using arms and legs.—"D" Troop, Private Smith, 18.6 secs.
(i) One length crawl or side stroke.—"D" Troop, Corporal Liggins, 35.8 secs.
(j) Relay race.—"B" Troop, Signalman Pearce.
Winning team—"D" Troop—Captain Philps, Corporal Liggins, Lance-Corporal Wood, Private Cummings, Private Smith—36 points.

OPEN EVENTS

(a) Diving for plates.—Signalman Bottomley.
(b) Log fight.—Lance-Corporal Wood.
(c) Blindfold race.—Signalman Hull.
(d) Diving.—Signalman Pearce.
(e) Obstacle race.—Signalman Pearce.

*Cricket.* Our Cricket team is still having a fairly successful season although we were heavily defeated in the 2nd Round Schleswig Holstein K.O. by 95 C.R.A.S.C.

Results so far in Hamburg District League are:—Won 6, Lost 2, Drawn 4. Latest League positions have not yet been published.

*Tennis.* Second-Lieutenant Allen and S.S.M. McQuade entered for the B.A.O.R. Championships held at Hamburg on 4th and 5th August, 1947. Lieutenant Allen was beaten in the second round and the pair were beaten in the first round of the doubles. It has been difficult to get any practice owing to the poor state of the courts available here.

*Shooting.* Captain B. S. Walker and 6 O.R.s are entered for the Individual B.A.O.R. Championships, Hamburg eliminating rounds. They are keenly shooting away each evening and hoping to get the Regimental name among the shooting honours.

## 42 GARRISON SIGNAL TROOP

### Brussels

*August*

This month has brought about no major changes in the layout of this Troop, although we had been expecting, or rather fearing, several postings. However, the monthly move of the Signal Office has taken place and the Signal Office personnel are now digging in and preparing for the next move. Our cipher bods are still with us but are wandering around with an "out-of-work" appearance. Even the telephone operators have had to send home for more cross-word puzzles to keep them occupied in office hours. Troop Office staff are rather busy, and after reading the results of the 2nd Division Delousing Competition are spending quite a lot of time trying to find out who started off from scratch. The O.C. presumes that the first killer is the winner.

We were most surprised to read in an article in the DAILY EXPRESS that our Monty Club had closed down. This is not the case for the Monty is still ministering to the needs of the thirsty ones although the place is not what it used to be. The dance hall has been closed and there is a noticeable absence of the Belgian young ladies who used to spend their evenings entertaining the chaps.

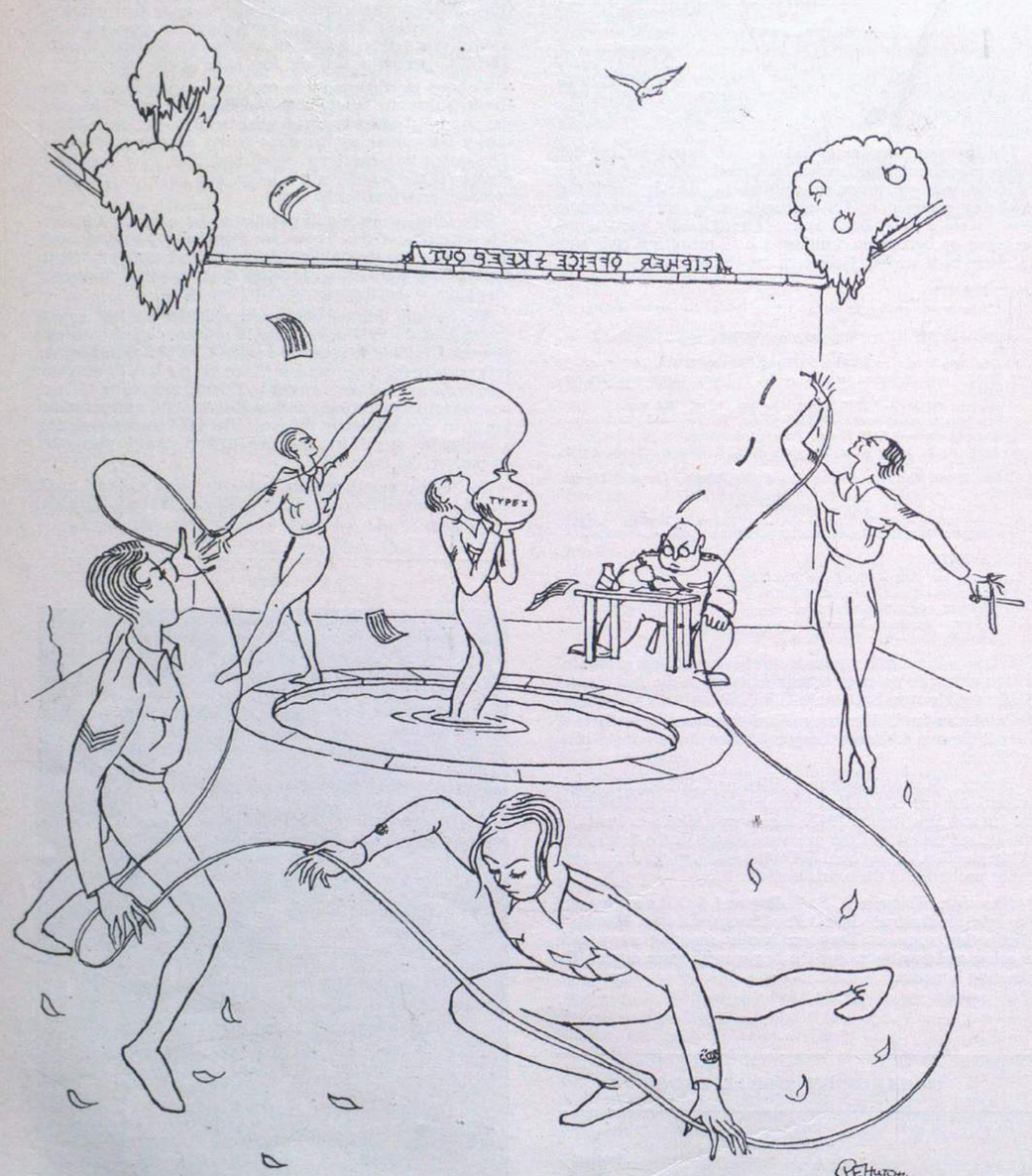
The town centre is still paradise so far as shopping goes. The members of this Troop are overwhelmed with requests for nylons from the people at home, who invariably forget to send the necessary cash. The only snag against all this heavy shopping is the shortage of duty free labels.

We can say little of our sports activities for this month as most of the cricket matches have been played with our personnel helping to make up a side. C.Q.M.S. Harding, we believe, is making his name in Army *versus* R.A.F. matches. The main sport of the moment is, I think, swimming. There are several large "solariums" in Brussels and our personnel are often seen basking in the sun. The O.C. is contemplating a few games of golf but is unable to find enough volunteers to recover the balls.

So for this month we send a hearty "Best wishes" to all our old troopers, from us who go soldiering (?) on in Brussels.

Olympia 1947
"—and I'll be in Scotland 'afore ye."

## SIGNALS IN ACTION—VII




**Cipher Pool Troop**



# Other Overseas Stations

### PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

#### Jerusalem

*July*

No. 1 SQUADRON. In the words of the old adage, much water has flowed under the bridge since the Cheshire Yeomanry departed this L. of C. in 1944 and Palestine Signals came into being.

In making our debut in THE WIRE we feel that a few details of our activities here are necessary by way of introduction. Our commitments cover practically the whole of South Palestine. This entails the maintenance of a large telephone network, and of Palestine Central—the largest telephone and teleprinter trunk exchange in this part of the M.E. We also provide the Central Signal Office for South Palestine, and our S.D.O. is the focal point for all S.D.S. runs from the north, south, and east. In all this we are receiving the very welcome assistance of a number of detachments from No. 7 H.Q. Signal Regiment, commanded by Captain D. Leach. As our commitments have increased, so has our strength, and old members of the Squadron will learn with interest that our numbers have almost doubled during the past year.

In common with other units, we are witnessing a continuous flow of arrivals and departures, and although you would not find it in the telephone directory, "No. 1 Squadron Transit Camp" is rapidly becoming our new unofficial designation.

*Personalities.* Our present O.C. is Major Jack Funnell, who took over from Major "Airborne" Smith on his departure to U.K. on a Telecommunications Course. (Who's sorry now?) The Second-in-Command is Captain G. H. Carter, of ex-India fame. Captain E. G. Brice is O.C. Palestine Central, Captain P. F. C. R. Locke commands the detachment at Gaza Sub-District, and Lieutenant D. E. Crerar, who recently joined us from S.D.F., is O.C. Operating Troop.

Other personalities of the Squadron are S.S.M. ("Skipper") Greenstreet, who has been with us for almost three years and is now eagerly anticipating Python in September, and S.Q.M.S. Jack Tyler, formerly of 6th Airborne Division. We also extend a hearty welcome to our Foreman of Signals, S.Q.M.S. Davies, who recently joined us from Catterick.

*Departures.* Among the many notable characters who have recently left us for Civvy Street are Sergeants Cass, Rimmer, Dunham, McLennan, and "Nobby" Clarke.

*Congratulations.* Our heartiest congratulations to S.S.M. and Mrs. Greenstreet on the birth of a daughter, Susan, on 7th May, 1947.

*Entertainments.* The much-publicised behaviour of some of the local inhabitants has somewhat restricted our activities outside the camp, and sightseeing week-ends in Tel-Aviv and the long, long trail to the night life of Rishon-le-Zion are things of the dim, dark past. However, the garrison possesses an excellent cinema, swimming pool, N.A.A.F.I. Club, stadium, and tennis courts.

*Last Season's Football.* The Squadron soccer team had a very successful season, finishing top of Division II in the Sarafand District League. They also reached the final of the Sarafand and District Cup and were rather unluckily beaten 4—2 after extra time by R.E. Zone Beit Nabala first eleven.

*Cricket.* Up to the time of going to press, the Squadron eleven are having a very successful season, having played 20 games, won 17, lost 2, and drawn 1. We are top of Division II Sarafand and District League and have reached the quarter finals of the Cup.

Signalman Bryant, our star bowler, has taken over a hundred wickets so far, and has gained a place in the South Palestine eleven. Good luck to him !

*Tennis.* Tennis is very popular in the Squadron and although no organised tournaments have as yet been played, it is hoped to arrange one in the near future. Major H. J. Funnell and Captain A. Sharp still remain the undisputed champions of South Palestine District.

*Hockey.* We have just introduced hockey into the Squadron and are hoping to enjoy the same success as our football and cricket teams.

### No. 1 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

#### Palam

*July*

We are passing through historical times at the moment, with the change-over to Dominion status of India.

Much hard work and many headaches must have gone into dividing the Services. A truly colossal task all round, we feel it even in one small unit, so what the job must be for the staff who are carrying it out in the division cannot be imagined.

We hope to hold a Bara Khana on the 15th August, to which all ranks will be invited to commemorate the day.

We note that Fort St. George, Madras, has been handed over to Indian troops at a ceremonial "Retreat" parade, after which B.O.s and B.O.R.s drank a toast to the incoming Indian troops.

*Homeward and Outward Bound.* Captain S. P. S. (Pal) Bedi, I.S.C., reported arrival, and has taken over the onerous duties of Adjutant. He arrived with three dogs and a mountain of baggage, the most important piece, of course, being lost on the railway. The Quartermaster's branch, however, managed to locate and retrieve the missing trunk.

Lieutenant Don Ashfield is back from a month's leave at Nani Tal, looking fit and bronzed, with hair-raising tales of eagle hunting, a new sport by the sound of things. We have persuaded him to give an eye witness account of an eagle hunt in this month's issue.

C.Q.M.S. Mills is away to Kashmir for a month's leave. Some chaps are lucky !

Nine B.O.R.s have left for U.K. on Liap this month and five have returned, much to their surprise.

We have definitely said goodbye to Lance-Corporal Rose, Class A release, and to Signalman Egner to "Predu," and wish them both the best of luck in their new jobs.

*Old Timers.* It is pleasing to see in Unit Notes names which conjure up pleasant memories and to know their owners are still serving on the active list. Captain (Q.M.) T. H. Greig, M.B.E., of this unit, wishes to be remembered to Major Bert Trapmore, Major Bert Beattie and family, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Paddy Connaughton and family, Lieutenant (Q.M.) Wally Cargill, and last but not least Jock Glass.

We wonder if Aldershot Signals still hold the yearly reunion, which was always enjoyed by old timers and youngsters alike.

*Cricket.* In the first match of the Palam Cricket League, against Station Headquarters, the unit eleven were defeated by 48 runs. The game was played in a temperature of 100 degrees in the shade with humidity running a close second.

Winning the toss, our worthy captain, Corporal Storey,

elected to bat. The unit team batted disastrously, losing 7 wickets for 20 runs. However, an eighth wicket partnership by S.Q.M.S. Price and Lance-Corporal Beaumont saved the team from a heavy defeat, the final score being:

S.H.Q. 103; No. 1 Air Formation Signals 55 (S.Q.M.S. Price 22, Lance-Corporal Beaumont 7).

*Football.* After losing three friendly matches, the unit football team won their first league match in the Palam League, and just as things looked bright they lost to S.H.Q. This we think was due to an experiment in changing the team which did not prove very successful.

LEAGUE MATCHES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *versus* Daily Servicing | Won | 1—0 |
| *versus* Station Headquarters | Lost | 0—5 |

FRIENDLY MATCHES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *versus* 309 M.U. | Lost | 0—3 |
| *versus* G.P.T. Company | Lost | 0—3 |
| *versus* Station Headquarters | Drew | 0—0 |
| *versus* 309 M.U. | Lost | 1—4 |

## No. 2 EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Moascar

*August*

Having just returned from a very welcome Liap, the present writer finds himself rather out of touch with recent occurrences in the Regiment. From a few days' casual observation it seems that the Regiment is working as hard as ever, although all departments are somewhat hard pressed owing to the continual change over of personnel, caused by ever more frequent departures to U.K. on Liap, Python, and Release.

We continue to welcome a few new arrivals and two new faces have recently appeared in the Officers' Mess, namely Captain Angell, our new T.O.M., and Captain Ball, who is taking over the duties of M.T.O. We wish them both a happy stay in Moascar. We gather that Captain Angell is not an equestrian artist and wish to deny any rumours that he had a special course in "horse maintenance" before being posted here.

A recent innovation was the opening of a Corporals' Mess in our N.A.A.F.I. "Jimmy Club." A Mess Committee is being established and it is hoped that dances and social functions may be arranged. The corporals have, I am told, made a good start by arranging to have beer "laid on" until 2130 hrs. instead of the usual 2100 hrs.

We might also note, in connection with the "Jimmy Club," that it has been placed first in both the Canal Central District Competitions for Restaurants and Gardens, 1947. Our congratulations to the manager and staff on this achievement.

Combined No. 1 Squadron and R.H.Q. teams in hockey and cricket have continued to make good progress; full reports of important matches are included in No. 1 Squadron sports notes.

The annual Inter-Squadron Cricket Knock-out Competition was won by R.H.Q., who defeated No. 2 Squadron in the final round by 45 runs despite excellent bowling by Corporal Collins, of No. 2 Squadron, who took 5 wickets for 17 runs. The Adjutant, Captain Hall, made a useful 37 for R.H.Q., and Signalman Everett's swingers created havoc amongst No. 2 Squadron batsmen, taking 4 wickets for 8 runs.

In the first round No. 2 Squadron defeated No. 1 Squadron by four wickets in a slow-scoring game. No. 1 Squadron batted first and were all out for 61 runs, Lance-Corporal McDonald contributing 35. No. 2 Squadron batted very steadily and made the required runs with four wickets to spare.

There has been a full month of activity at the Sailing Club this month, with inter-club racing against the Officers' Sailing Club, the R.A.F. Sailing Club, and a triangular race between Moascar, R.A.F. Ismailia, and 109 M.U. (Fayid). In the latter the Moascar helmsmen proved their ability by winning all events. This Regiment was well represented in the winning teams, no less than three helmsmen and five crews helped to form the winning team of twelve which defeated the R.A.F. in the monthly event.

Swimming activities have been curtailed recently owing to the lack of a safety boat on our own portion of beach. Nevertheless, most of our enthusiasts get down regularly to other noted (and guarded) beaches in the district. We hope to have the Regiment well represented in most of the events in Canal Central District Swimming Championships, to be held at Qassassin on 15th August.

In the recent Canal Central District Tennis Tournament our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Hardy, partnered by our sporting live wire, R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, just failed to carry off the open doubles after a keen fight. R.Q.M.S. Roscoe was also unlucky in the other ranks singles, winning the first eight games but eventually losing after a very exciting match.

No. 1 SQUADRON, MOASCAR. Next month we shall be losing our popular O.C., Major C. B. Masser, who is going home on Python. We shall miss him, particularly on the football and hockey fields, and behind the cricket stumps. Unfortunately he has been on the sick list for the past few weeks but we see him occasionally in the Squadron Office, where Captain O. Ditchfield is now carrying out the duties of O.C. Squadron.

Our Duty Signal Officer, Second-Lieutenant Faulkner, also leaves shortly on Class B release for return to University and completion of his studies. We wish him the best of good luck on return.

Two other mainstays of the Squadron have recently returned home for release, Lance-Corporal Joe Quayle and "Old J.B.," otherwise known as Lance-Corporal Priestly. The latter, who was our Post Corporal at the tail end of his Army life, was one of the original "45" boys and noted for his even temper and good humour. We wish them both the best of luck in Civvy Street.

*Cricket.* Friday, 25th July, is a date which will be long remembered by the members of our cricket eleven for it was on that day that we achieved an ambition shared by several other Garrison League teams—to defeat the acknowledged "top dogs" of local cricket—H.Q., B.T.E. A narrow margin of 17 runs separated the final scores but was great enough to cause much rejoicing. This was the first time that B.T.E. had been beaten by a Services team this season, and as one B.T.E. supporter was heard to say at the end of the match, "Well, it took the Signals to beat us."

The game was most exciting, for at one time B.T.E. had all their wickets intact with only 43 runs required for victory, but some deadly and consistent bowling by C.Q.M.S. Dean and Lance-Corporal Burgin sent the wickets toppling, and all ten went down for 25 runs, while Dean captured 4 for 21.

We now occupy second position in the Garrison League, having won ten of fourteen games played.

On 9th August we are travelling to Cairo for the week-end to meet two of the city's famous teams, Willcocks and Gezira Sporting Clubs. We have a strong eleven headed by Captain J. R. Hall and are confident of putting up a good show.

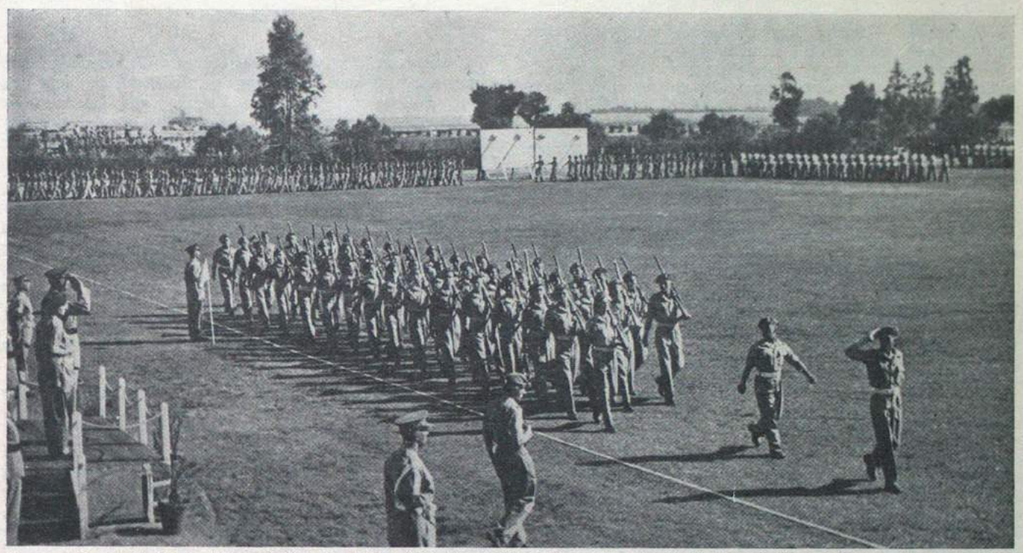
*Hockey.* We defeated our noted rivals, the 6th R.H.A., by one goal to nil, in a friendly match played at Moascar at the end of the month. The hero of the game was S.Q.M.S. Delicate, our goalkeeper, who, prancing about the goalmouth like a two-year-old, saved shot after shot, and thus the game.

The only goal of the match came in the sixtieth minute when, from a corner, Lieutenant Carolin netted after a shot by R.Q.M.S. Roscoe had rebounded from the upright. Our goal had some narrow escapes but we managed to maintain our advantage and the lead.

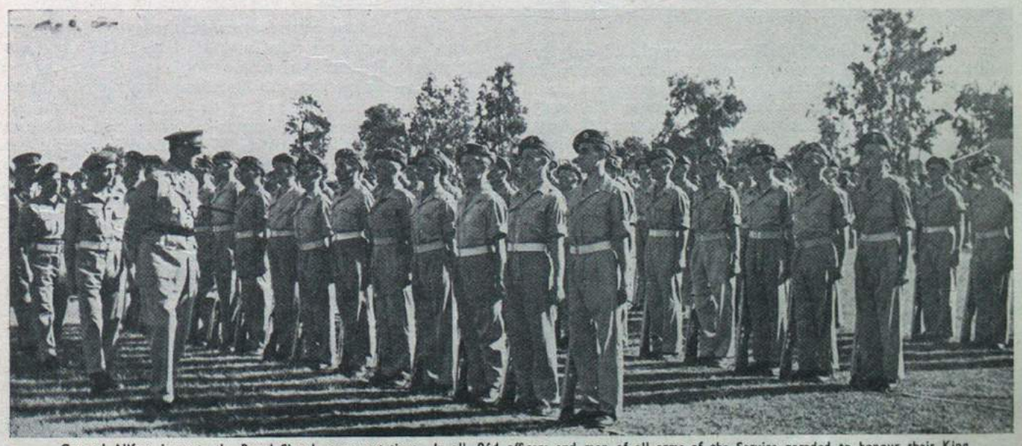
On 5th August the well-known H.Q., B.T.E., "Grass-



## KING'S BIRTHDAY PARADE, B.T.E.



Lieutenant General Sir Charles Allfrey, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., General Officer Commanding the British Troops in Egypt, takes the salute as the Royal Signals Detachment, headed by Captain O. Ditchfield and R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, marches past.



General Allfrey inspects the Royal Signals representatives. In all, 964 officers and men of all arms of the Service paraded to honour their King.

hoppers" did not hop as well as expected and we were the winners by three goals to one.

Our return match with 380 P.W. Camp (Fayid) resulted in a 1—0 win for us, Lieutenant Carolin again being the scorer.

*Basketball.* Captain Brewin (congratulations, Bill) has spent much time recently organising an Inter-Section Basketball Tournament. The experimental stage is now well in hand and the tournament will soon be under way. Valuable coaching has been given by Q.M.S.I. Neilson, of the A.P.T.C., to whom we are most grateful.

No. 2 SQUADRON, QASSASSIN. We heartily welcome to this Squadron Captain Wood, M.B.E., as O.C. Tel-el-Kebir Detachment, in succession to Lieutenant Mason, who is shortly proceeding on release.

Amongst the members of the Squadron the newly-opened N.A.A.F.I. "Seaview" Holiday Camp at Port Fouad is acquiring a very good reputation and is now rivalling the already popular Timsah Leave Camp at Ismailia.

*Sport.* So far this season the Qassassin cricket team is holding its own in the league. They have been very unlucky in three games, being beaten each time by less than seven runs. The last game they played against R.P.C. team ended in defeat. The R.P.C. batted first and were all out for 74 runs. The Squadron opening pair were slow in scoring and left the remainder of the team to make 24 runs in 25 minutes, a task which was not fulfilled.

Football started here last week, in spite of the hot weather, with a match between Signal Office and Line Troops, the game ending in a draw. It is evident that it will not be long before the football fans are out in full strength again.

Tennis is extremely popular with many of the Squadron and a singles tournament is being arranged on the lines of the previous, and very successful, tournament.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* In the last six weeks the Sergeants have developed a great mania for work, someone having suggested that it was time for another dance, and an outside "arena" being required. Six weeks may sound a long time, but it was nevertheless amazing how, during that time, the area at the back of the Mess changed from a patch of waste ground into a decent dance floor. If some of the "old timers" were here to see it they would not believe their eyes.

The night of the dance came along, and such a night has not been seen in the Mess for a long time. The M.C.s—Sergeant Tatton and Foreman of Signals Pugh—worked hard and very well keeping things going and the whole function was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all who were present.

It was said that the "Q" Branch foregathered early to "oil the wheels," and certainly the only parties that lasted it out were Captain (Q.M.) Robinson and his worthy assistant in crime, R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, better known as "Shoey." Reports will have it that it was necessary to wear tin hats in the area.

In the very near future we are destined to lose "Shoey," our oldest inhabitant, as it appears that he has now completed a Python tour! He has seen many changes since his arrival, the Regiment then being known as No. 6 L. of C., and I am sure that during the cold winter nights to come he will be well able to entertain his family. There is one tale about a trip up to Suez in a yacht . . . !

We all say hail and farewell to Foreman of Signals Pugh, who arrived here from Cyrenaica and departed three weeks later. He was a welcome addition to the Mess and we wish him good fortune. We also welcome his successor, Foreman of Signals Sinclair, and hope he will be present with us for a rather longer time.

I am pushed to get these notes into press, the P.M.C. being round every few minutes to enquire of their progress, so will close with all good wishes to old pals wherever they are.



## CEYLON SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Colombo

*August*

News is in short supply this month. We are stationed, if not in a backwater of this part of the world, certainly in a quiet and unhurried island, and arrivals and departures are outstanding milestones in the daily routine, involving as they have done in the last few weeks considerable changes within the Squadron.

We shall be bidding farewell to the O.C., Major J. M. W. Badcock, in a few weeks. He returns home having commanded the Squadron for over eighteen months, and has had the good sense to celebrate the fact by recently becoming engaged. We wish him the best of luck, and welcome in his place Major E. W. Townsend, who is returning to Ceylon after an absence of over seven years. There will be few familiar faces to greet him, however, especially since Donald Wilmot and his family have departed for the U.K. after eight years' sojourn.

The High-speed Wireless Troop has been taken over by Captain R. Cocks, who comes to us from Singapore by way of several similar units. Captain A. E. Dowell has exchanged the tranquillity of Trincomalee for the more active life of Burma Command Signals in Rangoon, his successor being Captain D. V. Geary. And finally at the Air Formation Signal Troop Captain Langwith has replaced Captain J. F. Kirkman, who has left to be released in U.K. Incidentally he did not leave unaccompanied. The predatory homeward bound troopers have taken their usual toll, and if we have to say goodbye to many old friends, for those remaining there is the consolation of promotion and a fair amount of work. S.Q.M.S. Hasnip and Sergeant Noyes can bear this out.

The work of the Squadron is clearly divided: on the one hand the unvarying routine of the high-speed wireless element, and on the other the continual battle by the Line Sections of the other Troops against cable theft throughout the island. Nos. 1 and 2 Troops are the main victims of this; few U.G. cable routes seem to escape attention, and even the submarine cables in the harbour at Trincomalee have suffered in their turn. However, it keeps us busy, if a little ill-tempered at times.

Other Squadron activities are in the sphere of soccer, hockey, and cricket, games in which both B.O.R.s and our Cingalese O.R.s take part with enthusiasm. Out of the five league matches in which the Squadron team played in June, only one was lost, that against the Colombo Sports Club. Since the south-east monsoon is in full swing, bathing on the west coast is confined to Mount Lavinia, where it is reasonably safe. Motor canoeing and sailing in Colombo Harbour are popular sports, organised by Corporal Withenshaw, and the Model Aero Club, under the patronage of Sergeant Bottoms, is flourishing and many fine scale and duration models can be seen flying round Echelon Barracks.

The racing season has at last started this month at the Royal Colombo Racecourse. This attracts enormous crowds on Saturday afternoons, and rumour has it that the Squadron Office peon has the tips and for a 10 cts. bet will return you Rs.9.00.

As we mentioned at the beginning, life here is quiet and pleasant and the days pass by unhurried but well used.

To all readers of THE WIRE, best wishes and good luck from Ceylon Signal Squadron.



## 8th ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Klagenfurt

*August*

The Regiment still continues, but for how long will depend on when B.T.A. ceases to exist; news on this point is uncertain but at least it seems that we can be prepared for the coming winter. Firewood and winter sports already are being discussed, meanwhile we are all in drill, and shirts are discarded during heavy fatigues. On the whole we are a happy unit and keeping our end up in the Signal Office and in sports.

The R.S.M. of this Regiment, R.S.M. Pfeiffer, has returned to U.K. under the Python scheme. It is not out of place to acknowledge here the great debt that is owed to R.S.M. and Mrs. Pfeiffer by all ranks of this unit.

The usual shuffle has taken place with R.Q.M.S. Mellor, S.S.M. Williams, S.Q.M.S. Gerrard, and Sergeant Milton each assuming the responsibilities of the rank above for the present. In respect of other N.C.O.s we have been lucky this month. The losses by release of experienced N.C.O.s, which is so serious a problem normally, has, in July of this year, affected us very little.

The officer situation has changed rather more. Captain B. G. Sell, C.D.S.O. at H.Q., B.T.A., for a long time, and an old member of 8th Army Signal Regiment, has just left to assume a S.O.III appointment with C.S.O.'s staff. Lieutenant A. R. Dale, of No. 1 Squadron, has also left to become firstly the acting editor of the *Styria and Carinthian Welfare Review*, and more latterly to take up a position with the *Union Jack*, our local daily newspaper. Lieutenant Dale may be remembered as a sub-editor and contributor to the *Catterick Express* for some considerable period last year when he was stationed at Catterick. Major Cooper and Captain John Bow, our Adjutant, are leaving and we wish them the best of luck in civil life. Lieutenant "Bunty" Booth, attached for so long from the Lancashire Fusiliers, has gone to U.K. on release; the soccer team will miss him.

We welcome Lieutenant A. B. Kennard, Second-Lieutenants T. G. Flynn, R. L. Field, and A. B. Acton, who have joined. First, they tried a week with an infantry battalion, and after two more weeks M.T. and other hard G.D. training have been "thrown to the wolves," and they are now full working members of the unit. Second-Lieutenant John, who has so long been the junior subaltern, now relinquishes that position. His marriage in England during April of this year has not, I think, been reported before in this publication.

Mrs. L. B. H. Custance Baker, Mrs. O.C. No. 2 Squadron, has returned home, and Mrs. Lieutenant Rayner is in Austria for a brief two months. Corporal Gentry has become a sergeant and Lance-Corporal Dawe a husband. Signalman French, of No. 2 Squadron, is one of the few signalmen remaining who wear a green ribbon with thin yellow edges at the end of their ribbon bars.

In Klagenfurt, R.H.Q. and No. 3 Squadron have instituted a very early start to the day so that they may benefit from a long evening with swimming, fishing, and sailing, while the sun is warm. No. 2 Squadron have retained their later hours to take advantage of Viennese wine, song, and gaiety.

The threatened re-routing of Medloc "C," our way home, has at last come to pass, and we shall go in the future via the Hook of Holland and not Calais as before. Reports from our first batch of leave men are anxiously awaited. There has been a new spell of enthusiasm for courier duties—see Holland next.

*Games.* The Regiment's most recent success has been in swimming. The 138th Brigade, who administer Carinthia, held a swimming gala on 19th and 20th July at the Worthersee Lido. It poured with rain but the Regiment won with 40 points against 32 scored by the second best. Three infantry battalions and three other units were competing. Lieutenant Hothersall, who trained our team, showed up in the water polo at centre-half. He held them together, and Corporal Shepherd, Sergeant Bircumshaw, and Signalman Storey starred. The team won all its matches. The last-named, Signalman Storey, won the 100 and 400 metres free style and was undoubtedly the best all-rounder in our team. Fusilier Jebb and Private Gamble, both permanently attached, won the 1,500 metres free style and the diving respectively. Perhaps our most unexpected success was the winning of the

No. 2 Squadron at the Schoenbrunn Palace, Vienna, on the National Day of Prayer.

battle team race—swimming in battledress and battle order with a minimum of 20 lb. weight.

Signals, but not all from this unit, were in the front of the ensuing B.T.A. Swimming Gala, on 25th and 26th July, before an impressive crowd of spectators and under a more kindly sky. Fusilier Jebb and Signalman Storey were first and second in the 400 metres free style. Private Gamble was second in the diving. Captain Hollifield, of Graz Garrison Signals, won the 100 and 1,500 metres free style, and Major Elsmore, of C.S.O.'s Branch, the 100 metres back stroke.

Lieutenant Terry Cross took the motor cyclists under his wing and the Regiment won the Motor Cycle Trials held at Viktring, in Carinthia, on 6th July, with the loss of 53 points against 73 by our nearest competitors.

In cricket our enthusiasm has been boundless but our results mediocre. Squadron teams have won and lost an equal number of games.

Squadron soccer has been very good. In the B.T.A. League, No. 1 Squadron, who have now ceased to exist, were top, followed by No. 1 Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron, with No. 3 Squadron third—a very good showing against many and competent adversaries.

## 23rd INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

### Malaya

*July*

THE UNIT'S HISTORY ENDS

Ahmednagar, December, 1941 – Taiping, May, 1947

This is about the last time current notes of 23rd Indian Divisional Signals will appear, for though we have outlived almost all our contemporary war-raised British-Indian Divisional Signals, our time has come at last to hand over.

*British Ranks.* The British ranks with some of the officers stay on in Malaya, doing much the same job as hitherto, but as part of a new all-British unit, which will be responsible for virtually the whole of Malaya. Most of them remain in Taiping, where, reinforced by a Malaya Command Signals contingent, they have formed the Northern Squadron of the new Malaya District Signal Regiment; some join Captain Fairlie to help form the Southern Squadron at Malacca and Seremban.

R.S.M. Miller, and his hat, go to Kuala Lumpur as R.S.M. at the H.Q. of the new unit. They hope to see you often back in Taiping, Dusty ! R.Q.M.S. Skinner is expecting leave in Java soon. There must be something in the Dutch air there we feel. C.S.M. Fry stays to look after the Taiping Squadron and to enjoy the local fishing. "Fresh Fry'd fish" is the mess caterer's cry. At Taiping stay Sergeants Fuller, MacInnes, Marshall, Kind, and Moffatt, while the Southern Squadron claim C.Q.M.S. Silverwood and Sergeant Bowen.

Sergeant Machin has decided not to go back to India, as was expected, to spend his time before his release disbanding the unit. The Adjutant had agreed to help him, but is now faced with the burden of the task alone in his glory.

Sergeants Jackson and Nelson, Corporal Deans, and Lieutenant Huyshe, of Officers' Mess fame, have gone to sea. We imagine they will reach U.K. in June. We wish them all, and all the others with them unnamed here, the very best of luck.

*Indian Ranks.* The largest part of the old hands are at their homes on leave. The rest of the Indian element of the unit is for the move, including the P.M.s of 37th Indian Infantry Brigade Signal Section and the Madrassis of 49th Indian Infantry Brigade Signal Section, together with a swarthy body of 300 reinforcements, old soldiers from many I.S.C. units who arrived a few months ago. They are all on their way back to India to Jubbulpore, where presumably they will soon disband. With them go Subedar Santhalingam and Jemedars Samuel and Joseph. Someone who gets all these old war-time soldiers will be lucky. For years they have fought and worked and played alongside their British fellow-members of the unit and together have given that example so typical in Indian Signal Units of British and Indian, Christian, Mohammedan, and Hindu, "mucking in" and producing one efficient and happy team. It is sad to see them go, but at least it is good to remember that, like millions of others, they have shown that "it can be done." Farewell, and our very best wishes go with you.

*The Officers.* Lieutenant-Colonel Conner is shortly bound for home at last, and Major Farr is already there, enjoying leave before coming back to the new unit in Malaya. Major Mathur is taking the India-bound contingent back, closely followed by Captain Maya Das, the Adjutant, and Captain South, Q.M., with the rear party. With them go Lieutenants Beaman, Kashyap, and Vieyra. Captain Atma Ram is already there. Those staying with the British element in Malaya are Captains Collin, Mahony, Farleigh (to friends "Fearless"), and Lieutenants Unwin and Wood, all at Taiping, and Captain Fairlie at Malacca.

The *Strathnaver,* homeward bound, accounted for Lieutenant Huyshe and ex-members Captains Harland and Stewart. Few units can have retained so many of its war-time officers for so long. One and all, we wish them well.

*Java Star.* The "Java Star" is the quite erroneous title we have given to the G.S. Medal (with S.E.A. Clasp) to which all British and Indian ranks are entitled who served for a day in Java or Sumatra on the strength of a unit there. Ex-members of the unit who served with it in Java will be interested.

*Welcome.* As an interlude in all these farewells, it is doubly pleasant to welcome a new arrival and to congratulate Mrs. and C.Q.M.S. Miles on the birth of a daughter in Taiping this month. The Sergeants' Mess and all offices in the neighbourhood closed down to celebrate on the Saturday morning of her arrival.

*Farewells.* The process of dismemberment of the unit has been protracted and sudden changes of movement orders upset our programme, and the I.O.R.s' "bara khana" has been postponed for Jubbulpore. The B.O.R.s marked the farewell to the old and inauguration of the new unit at the first superior weekly supper bar they have started. Amid fruit and sandwiches and cakes, the C.O., supported by the new at least temporary O.C. Squadron, Captain Collin, proposed the toast of the old unit coupled with that of the new, and it was drunk in good English ale.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess invited the officers to a smoker on their last night. Mention was made of the final subscription from the Mess to the Corps Benevolent Fund, the British Red Cross, and St. Dunstan's. Suggestions were made for a unit dinner in London in after-years. The R.S.M. made a speech on behalf of the members of the Mess, which gave cause for the C.O. never to forget them, and the C.O. appropriately and warmly replied. The evening became so musical and uproarious that the Senior Indian Officer rang up to ensure his friend the R.S.M. was not in trouble.

The officers, as many as were left, having held their final Regimental Guest Night earlier, marked the last evening of the R.S.M. and the S.I.O., Subedar Santhalingam, with the unit by inviting them both to dinner. The R.S.M. had been with us in Java, while the Subedar was literally the first man in the unit and stayed with it throughout its whole history, staying until the end. "Fighting Cock" cards were produced inscribed "Ahmednagar, 1941 – Taiping, 1947," and signed and presented, and stories of the intervening years poured out as the beer and rum poured in. The R.S.M. had

*(continued on page 298)*



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

VIMY ! To thousands of Royal Signals, past and present, this name conjures up visions of antiquated, uncomfortable, single-storey huts on windswept Whinny Hill.

Let us take a flying visit across the Atlantic to another Vimy, the home of the Royal Canadian School of Signals at Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Here we will find the complete contrast to Catterick in what are probably the most modern and well-appointed Signals barracks in the Empire.

To quote the commemorative tablet in the entrance of the Forde Building, "Vimy Barracks was conceived, designed, and the construction supervised by . . ." Colonel Elroy Forde, D.S.O., V.D., Royal Canadian Signals, at the time he was commanding the Canadian Signal Training Centre. The foundation stone was laid in 1935 and the barracks completed in 1937.

The main buildings consist of the Forde Building, so named in tribute to Colonel Forde, containing administrative and training offices, lecture rooms, technical laboratories and workshops; two barrack blocks for other ranks' accommodation, with well-ventilated rooms, wet and dry canteens, and recreation rooms; accommodation for junior single officers; the Officers' Mess; and the Sergeants' Mess.

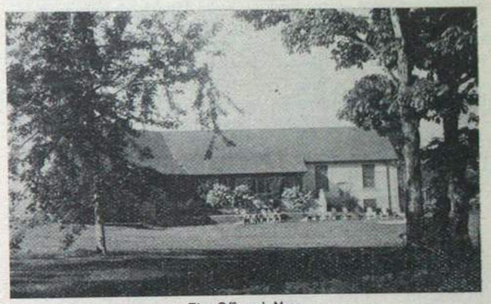
Located two miles east of Kingston, Vimy Barracks are situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence River where it flows out of Lake Ontario. The river offers facilities for swimming and boating in the summer, and for skating in the winter, for even at 44° 15′ north and 800 miles from its mouth, the two-mile wide river is completely frozen over from December to April, and it is possible to drive cars over to Wolfe Island and the U.S.A. with safety.

The expansion of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals during the war necessitated the construction of many temporary buildings in the camp area. These, having become redundant for training or troops' accommodation, have been skilfully converted into married quarters for officers and other ranks, thus filling an acute need—for the housing problem is nearly as difficult in Canada as in England.

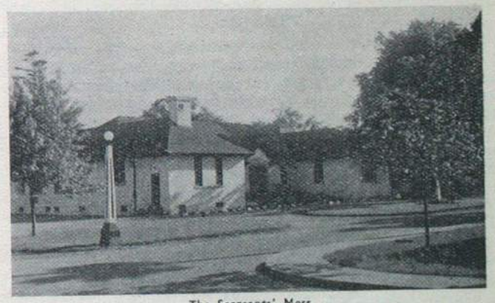
A further contrast will be found on the sports field. Here you will not hear the sharp click of cricket ball on bat nor see a game of rugger. Instead, in the summer it is soft-ball—which is akin to baseball—and in the winter the main sport is hockey, not as we see it in England, but on ice. Volleyball and basketball are extensively played, and adequate facilities exist for tennis, badminton, and all field and track sports..

And so we conclude our brief visit to Vimy Barracks, Kingston, where under different conditions the traditions of Signals are maintained, and where the figure of "Jimmy" is as prominent as in Catterick over the motto of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals—*Velox Versutus Vigilans.*

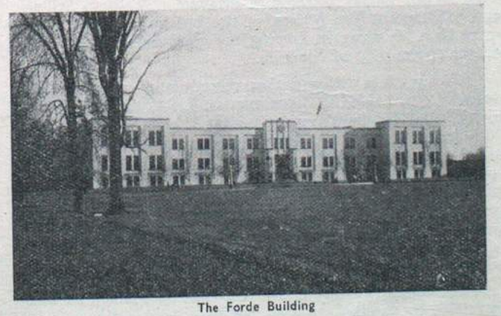
Junior Officers' Quarters



The Officers' Mess



The Sergeants' Mess



The Forde Building

Barrack blocks

***Other Overseas Stations*** *(continued from page 296)*

the night to recover before leaving on the next morning's train, which, despite all betting, he caught, but at the end of the evening we went to see the S.I.O. off at the station. We shall never forget the sight of the C.O.'s driver arriving breathless as the train was moving out, having been sent back for the Subedar Sahib's forgotten hat, and the cherubic, jovial countenance of the Sahib swaying precariously at an open door, waving to a crowd of cheering officers and V.C.O.s as the train bore him off towards his native India.

*Finale.* There is no room here for a unit history. The unit was raised in Ahmednagar to fight the Jap in 1941, and early made a distinctive name for itself in the Division, being paid the usual compliment of all good Signal units of being soon entirely taken for granted. All its generals have congratulated it, but only those people in the unit, and involved at the various critical times that arose in operations, will ever know what went in to producing the Division's communications and into the administering of the unit. Sufficient for those of us who joined the unit more recently that we helped to maintain its old reputation—that it never failed.

There must be a great crowd now scattered through the British and Indian Armies, in British Civvy Street and in Madras and Punjab villages, who, whenever this last war is mentioned, will look back with pride and pleasure to the times when they wore the " Fighting Cock " in India, Burma, Malaya, or Java in the 23rd Indian Divisional Signals.

Good luck to them all !

## NORTH BURMA DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Meiktila

*July*

The monsoon season is well and truly upon us and here in Meiktila we are very grateful for the cooling showers and breezes. Fortunately we are in the dry belt and do not suffer the incessant rains, although we have had a few terrible gales which have wrought havoc in the area, causing £30,000 worth of damage in two days. The hospital was almost completely wrecked and most units' tentage was flattened to the ground and torn to shreds. Signals, however, escaped comparatively lightly and communications were kept through. The weather seems to have settled down now and work goes on as usual. Dacoity in Burma still goes on and we supply the many communications demanded by the units who are engaged in chasing the bad hats around.

*Sports.* Although we are still on an operational basis and amenities are few, we manage to make the most of what is available. We recently had a " Meiktila Week " with a fairly full programme: —

Wednesday, 18th June—Race Meeting. Main event, the General's Cup.

Thursday, 19th June—Golf Tournament, Handy Hunter Trials.

Friday, 20th June—Cricket, Meiktila *v.* 2nd D.L.I.

Saturday, 21st June—Race Meeting. Main event, the Governor's Cup.

Sunday, 22nd June—Regatta.

Signals played no mean part in the organisation and also won a few more laurels. In the cricket match we supplied six players and made four catches. Meiktila won by seven wickets.

Saturday was the big day, when Havildar Major Mohd Amir won the Yacht Club Cup riding " Gama " in the five furlong flat race. Lance-Naik Mohd Ashgar won the Governor's Cup on " Admiral Huck." It was a great race, won by half a length. Major A. J. Woodrow had very bad luck in both race meetings, bringing off two very close second places and a third place.

Signals won the Inter-Unit Challenge Cup for Sailing, thanks to R.Q.M.S. Lonton and Sergeant Breen. Altogether it was a great week for Meiktila and an even greater one for Signals.

*Personalities.* We reluctantly said farewell to our G.1 (Ops.), Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Knox, just before Meiktila Week. He would certainly have been in the running for the Handy Hunter Trials and the Governor's Cup. The best wishes of the whole unit go with him.

Captain N. G. R. Halliday has left 64th Brigade for the U.K. We congratulate him on becoming a Regular and hope he will continue to " show 'em how it should be done." The Halliday Recreation Room will serve to remind his successor that 64th Brigade Signals maintains a high standard in all things.

Captain Slim Mirza has left us to take a seat behind a desk in " X " Branch, Burma Command. No doubt we'll be hearing his golden voice frequently. Good luck to you, Slim.

*Hams.* Sergeant Tattersall, aided by a few keen enthusiasts, is very active on the 14 m/cs. amateur band under the call-sign of XZ2AG. Although only using a modest 45 watts, he would be very pleased to contact other Signals " hams," especially those in the Middle East and Europe. In the near future he hopes to be working on 10 metres and to have many pleasant QSOs on that band. A newcomer to this unit (VU2JU) is also a keen " ham." At present he favours CW, but hopes to work 'phone as soon as the necessary equipment has been built. The best of 73s and DX from XZ2AG and VU2JU to all Signals.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Chief topics of the past month have been the weather and a Sports Week. Regarding the former, we have suffered in common with the rest of the unit in being partially drowned, but no really serious damage. The second event was a week of relaxation in which pukka sahibs mixed with the gentry and vied with them in saddle-busting, golfing, and yachting. When it was all over someone wanted another week to get over it.

As reported by the unit scribe, Signals did exceptionally well and we in the Mess had our little share in the honours list, providing players for the Butterfingers *v.* 2nd D.L.I., which, thanks to Sergeant Myers' steady batting, enabled the local team to win handsomely.

We have said farewell to Sergeants J. S. McCrindle and Piper on release, and to Sergeant Call on posting to Burma Command. We also welcome C.S.M. Booker from Rangoon. This month we say goodbye to Sergeant (" Taffy ") Seldon and to Sergeant Jim Myers, of the L.A.D., who has done more than his share in keeping the good name of the unit on the sports map of Meiktila.

*Obituary.* It is with very deep regret that we announce the death of No. 14858785 Signalman H. J. Mitchell, who died in Meiktila Hospital from typhoid at 11 p.m. on Thursday, 26th June. It came as a very unpleasant shock to the whole unit as he was extremely popular with all ranks. He played cricket for Meiktila on Friday, 20th June, and made a brilliant catch. After fielding all day in the sun he felt unwell and did not go in to bat, at his own request. He was later admitted to hospital, where it was discovered that he was suffering from typhoid, though he had previously felt no ill effects.

A pleasant personality and a first-class sportsman, he will be missed by us all.



## WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

*July*

H.Q. SQUADRON AND GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON. Since the publication of our last notes, which appeared in the May issue of THE WIRE, many of the well-known figures in H.Q. Squadron and Gold Coast Signal Squadron have disappeared. Captain R. L. Murray, Captain R. W. Friggins, and Captain D. Anderson have returned to U.K. for release, while Captain W. Potesta, Lieutenant (Q.M.) T. Trout, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Balsom have returned to U.K. for a spell of service at home on the expiration of their tours. Captain A. Emslie is also expected to go home for release in the near future.

Since the beginning of this year, however, we have welcomed several new faces to the Gold Coast. Captain F. A. Wragg, Captain D. Dawe, and Lieutenant G. W. Churton arrived in January, while more recent arrivals have been Major W. J. Main, M.C., Captain W. J. Perry (for C.S.O.'s branch), Captain P. Smith, Captain R. G. August, Captain (now Major) D. H. Michell, Lieutenant J. Chambers, Second-Lieutenant D. A. Blackman, and Second-Lieutenant E. V. Vousden. Major J. J. Thorley, of our C.S.O.'s branch, has just returned from leave in the U.K.

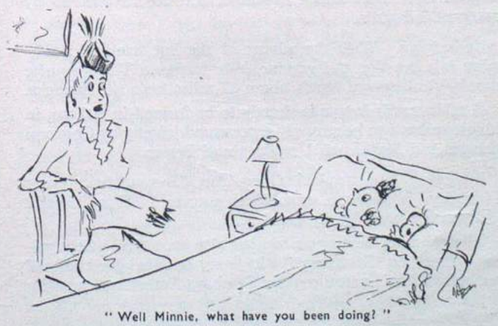
At the time of writing these notes only one officer from our two Squadrons, Captain W. L. Heward, has his wife out here; she has been with us since December, 1946. However, in the near future, as soon as married quarters become available, we hope to be extending a hearty welcome to the wives of Major Michell and Captain Wragg respectively.

A Regimental Dinner was recently held in the Mess, at which the guests of honour were the G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General N. M. S. Irwin, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and the Brigadier in charge Administration, Brigadier R. M. J. Goldie, O.B.E. The function passed off very successfully and everyone spent a most enjoyable evening.

*Sport.* Sport in this part of the world is a very important part of our daily routine, not only because it helps to relieve any sense of boredom but also because it is particularly beneficial to the health in this type of climate. We already have keen hockey and football teams (even the Officers' Mess, whose strength is only fifteen, can field quite formidable teams in both games), and now we are beginning to take an interest in golf.

Two of our more recent arrivals, Major Michell and Lieutenant Chambers, are keen golfers, and under their expert direction our spare time is now being occupied in building a nine-hole course on some waste ground behind the Officers' Mess. Even the complete novices are becoming very enthusiastic about the game, and on certain noteworthy occasions some of us have actually managed to hit the ball with the first swing, which is no doubt due to the excellent tuition we are receiving from Lieutenant Chambers. Noting the rate at which the ground is being ploughed up by the beginners' strenuous efforts, however, certain cynical observers have been heard to remark that the novices and their clubs would be very much more appreciated if they were back in the U.K. assisting the agricultural drive.

But still, we all have to learn, and we have high hopes that our nine-hole course will prove to be a training ground for some future champions of the golfing world.



" Well Minnie, what have you been doing? "

*Hockey.* Our hockey team had a very successful run in this season's knock-out competition for the Gold Coast Area Hockey Trophy. There is very keen competition for this coveted trophy and our team reached the final round only to be beaten, more narrowly than the score of 4—2 would suggest, by the West Africa School of Infantry and Education. The final was a hard-fought game, full of thrills, with the initiative swinging from one side to the other in a ding-dong struggle for victory. We should like to congratulate the School on defeating our team, which we consider to be no mean feat.

The stages by which we reached the final were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Round *versus* 37th Military Hospital | Won 8—1 |
| 2nd Round — Bye | |
| 3rd Round *versus* 2nd Light Battery W.A.A. | Won 2—1 (Captain Heward 1, S.S.M. Hendry 1) |
| Semi-final *versus* I.G.C.R. | Won 2—0 (Captain Heward 2) |
| Final *versus* School of Infantry | Lost 2—4 (Captain Heward 2) |

Our team for the final was: —Corporal Shorter; Lieutenant Shepherd, Captain Smith; Corporal Bourke, Lieutenant Trout, Captain Anderson; Corporal Ellement, Sergeant Metcalf, Captain Heward (captain), S.Q.M.S. Field, S.S.M. Hendry.

*Football.* This sport is also in full swing in the Regiment and we are proud of our team's achievements in competition with other local Army units.

Some recent results have been: —

R.E.M.E. 0, Signals 3.
Signals 5, C.S.D. 1.
Signals 1, H.Q. W.A.C. 0.
I.G.C.R. 0, Signals 3.
R.E.M.E. 4, Signals 4.
H.Q. W.A.C. 3, Signals 0.

Our chief scorers have been Captain Wragg, Captain Mitchell, S.S.M. Hendry, and Corporal Ellement.

*Junior Ranks' Mess.* Among the many and varied activities of our junior N.C.O.s is a fortnightly trip, which takes place on alternate Sundays. They start off early in the morning, in Army recreational transport, carrying food with them, and spend the day in visiting different places of interest in the vicinity of Accra.

Recent trips have taken them to Senchi and to Aburi. Senchi is a small native town about 50 miles away on the banks of the River Volta, and excellent facilities exist there for boating and swimming, while at Aburi, some 25 miles away, are the experimental gardens developed by the Department of Agriculture of the Gold Coast Colony. These gardens are very beautiful and all types of plants suitable to the climate are cultivated there.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. There is little to report from Nigeria. Among recent arrivals are Captain F. V. B. Philp, Second-Lieutenant J. F. Philpot, Sergeants E. Dunnaway and F. Stockdale—all very welcome additions. Friends of Sergeant F. Elsom will be pleased to know that he is now W.O.II (cipher), a well-merited promotion.

A team has been entered for the Command Central Rifle Meeting and will shortly be off to Accra, Gold Coast. Unfortunately, there has been little opportunity for range practices owing to weather conditions, "big rains" being upon us.

Those who have served in Nigeria will be interested to know that the old T.X. at Lancaster Barracks has now been moved to Apapa. The H.Q. N.A. Signal Office has been reconstructed internally and work will shortly commence on a new signal office at Abeokuta.

Recruiting and deferments among the A.O.R.s is keeping pace with releases, and except for workshop trades we are in a happy position.

## GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

*July*

*The King's Birthday Parade.* The parade marched past His Excellency the Governor and C.-in-C. Gibraltar, Lieutenant-General Sir K. Anderson, K.C.B., M.C., and was reminiscent of the pre-war parades. Every unit in the Command participated, also the local Police, Girl Guides, and Boy Scouts; altogether a very impressive scene. This unit was represented and they can be congratulated on a very smart turn-out; as Corporal Mason remarked, "A fitting end to a colourful Army career." He was repatriated to U.K. after finishing a Python tour a few days later and is shortly due for demobilisation.

The unit misses Corporal Mason, for apart from his unit work he was our star hockey player and was found to be a useful goalkeeper at soccer. This nobody knew until the last two games of our Inter-Unit Tournament, when he turned out one Sunday afternoon to "make the number up." However, we take this opportunity of wishing him every success in civilian life.

A garden fete was organised by Lady Anderson for Military Charities and was held in the Governor's garden on Saturday, 28th June. As usual, Signals were called in to give a hand in the way of installing loudspeakers, etc. It was a huge success and over 5,000 people paid to go in to see the various shows and stalls. Mrs. R. A. McIntosh, our Commanding Officer's wife, had the lucky dip stall, which was very popular, the whole of the prizes, which were considerable, being won in less than three hours with a profit of nearly £40. Mrs. McIntosh was also the "fortune teller." Suitably dressed for the occasion, she must have impressed her customers, as I hear that she had considerable difficulty in getting rid of them after delving into their futures.

Lance-Corporals Ratcliffe, Lees, Signalmen Lee, Jackson, and Driver Barlow proceeded to the U.K. on Liap, and judging by the amount of "loot" taken by each, they should be very welcome when they arrived home. Not so cheerful were the returning leave party, headed by S.S.M. Spelman, all with varied tales from "austerity Britain."

His Excellency the Governor visited the Signals units on the Rock on 2nd July. There was no parade, H.E. being mostly concerned with welfare and accommodation. We came through the "ordeal" very well considering the amount of work that is being done in a normal working day and the extra that this visit entailed.

*Sport.* Not much to report on this month owing to pressure of work, leave, etc. The unit entered for the novices' rowing and beat the Cameronians "A" team by three lengths, but in the next round the Cameronians "B" team revenged their colleagues by beating us by five lengths and going on to win the trophy. Once again, hard luck, Signals.

Congratulations to No. 20 Wireless Troop basketball team on winning the Basketball Knock-out Competition, having beaten the Royal Engineers in the final by 25—17 points. It can safely be said that the issue was never in doubt from the first round as they were very unfortunate not to win the league championship after leading for most of the way this season. However, this was some consolation. The winning team comprised the following:—Corporals Figley, Ware, Brown, Dalton, and Lance-Corporal Marsh.

## B.T.G. SIGNAL SQUADRON AND B.M.M.(G.) SIGNAL TROOP

*July*

We make our first appearance in these notes somewhat late, but nevertheless certain that we are still worthily upholding the high traditions of the Corps.

Theoretically we came into being on 1st April, the majority of personnel being posted from either 18th (County of London) L. of C. Signal Regiment or 4th Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

The Squadron and the Troop are two separate units, having two separate formation signs, the Squadron, being part of British Troops, Greece, uses the old 4th Infantry Divisional sign (the last quarter), and the Troop, who belong to the British Military Mission, using the Greek national emblem (Andaxi breast badge).

Despite the two separate identities, we are considered as a single entity, living and working together, running joint communications, and manning a joint Signal Office.

*Sport.* Cricket: After a lot of practice at the nets, the unit side is shaping well. Matches have been played against:

| | |
|---|---|
| B.I.T., R.E.M.E. | Won by 60 runs |
| H.Q., B.T.(G.) | Won by 15 runs |
| H.M.S. *Veryan Bay* | Won by 9 runs |
| B.I.T. R.E.M.E. | Won by 6 wickets |

More fixtures are being arranged and it is hoped that our early form will be maintained.

Lieutenant Bennett and S.S.M. Doherty are the mainstay of the attack, having taken 23 and 16 wickets at 4.7 and 6.25 runs each respectively.

Sergeant Edwards and Signalmen Hammond and Donkin have batted very well, their averages being 21, 17, and 12.5 respectively. Best knock of the season so far was 33 by Sergeant Edwards.

*Swimming.* With the advent of the hot weather, swimming is a popular and regular daily feature. The favourite spot is Vouliagmeni beach, about 12 miles from the barracks.

A table tennis league is shortly to be formed in Athens, in which we hope to be strongly represented, chiefly by Corporal Farmer and Signalmen Urquhart and Besser.

*Welfare.* The Andaxi Open Air Cinema, held every Thursday, is now an established success. Films, usually 35 mm., are provided by the A.K.C.

The open air dancing season has also started and Shangri-La opened on Saturday, 14th June, with a good crowd present. This is now a regular Saturday feature and proving popular.

The eagle that bit me.

Himalayan golden-headed eagle.

# EAGLE CATCHING *in the Kumaon Hills*

*by* **L. D. ASHFIELD**

BEFORE beginning this story, I must explain that I am not a professional eagle-catcher—in fact, this was my first experience of this sport, if I may use such a term. I have, however, been persuaded to describe my adventures in the hope that they will be of interest to other "Jimmies" serving in other parts of the world.

Last June I was spending a leave—a well-earned leave, too, in my opinion, though I can't answer for my C.O.!—in the Kumaon Hills, in the United Provinces of India. Probably the name Naini Tal will remind some readers of pleasant leaves spent in boating, riding, and fishing; but to me now it will always be associated with eagle-catching, for it was here that I was first introduced to it.

I was staying with a Captain and Mrs. Angelo, and had every intention of leading a lazy life. This, however, was not to be; Captain Angelo was a keen lover of birds and animals, and had considerable "shikari" (hunting) experience. I was very surprised, even so, when he asked me to go with him one day to catch some eagles for the London and Calcutta zoos. At first I thought he was joking, but he soon convinced me that my leg wasn't being pulled, and so we began to get ready for the fray.

At that time I had no idea of what one did to catch an eagle. I had visions of us climbing sheer precipices in order to approach them, and as for how they were to be caught even then, well, I just couldn't imagine it. It turned out, however, to be very simple.

At this point I had better explain that the trap we used is Captain Angelo's own invention, and since I promised him not to give the secret of its working away, I will not give full details but only sufficient to convince the reader that this is not a tall story. The bait used was a lump of raw meat (probably equal to a week's meat ration in England!), and the trap was made of two lengths of bamboo about eighteen inches long and a piece of strong cord. It looked so simple to me that I began to doubt whether we should catch anything, but that was before I saw it in action.

We left early the following morning and walked to the town slaughter-house, which was about a mile outside the town, on the top of a hill. As soon as we approached I saw that we shouldn't have to go far for our eagles, for perched on every available spot surrounding the place were all kinds of birds of prey, including vultures. It was our intention to capture two golden- and two black-headed eagles, one of each kind for the London and Calcutta zoos, but with all the various eagles and hawks present I wondered how we could select a particular species. We climbed down the hill until we came to a precipice, where we prepared to set the trap. The two pieces of bamboo were joined at the centre to form a cross, and the bait tied where they crossed. A noose was made of the cord, and then passed through slits at the end of each leg of the bamboo cross. The noose was then tightened, so that it formed, as it were, the rim of a cup, with the bait in the bottom. The trap was then placed at the edge of the precipice, the free end of the cord attached to a peg in the ground, and the whole lightly camouflaged with grass. We then went up the hill and waited for a visitor.

We soon had one, and presently we were driving away the unwelcome guests with volleys of stones. The first eagle to land behind the trap was a golden-headed one; he inspected the bait and then in a wild rush he seized it in his beak and dived over the precipice. It was all over in a flash, the bird had dived straight through the noose, and when we arrived he was hanging over the precipice with it round his neck. It was a simple matter to haul the bird up, but I didn't relish the idea of taking the noose off and tying his talons. This was soon completed by Captain Angelo, while I held the eagle by its wings, but during the operation his hands were torn by its talons. The trap was then re-set and we retired up the hill with our eagle. This process was repeated until we had our four birds, and took just under an hour. All the eagles had a wing span of over eight feet six inches, and were very wild. While I was carrying one back to the house I was bitten on the chest, due to my own carelessness, and it is an experience I do *not* recommend.

I shall never forget my adventures catching eagles, and when I come home I hope to visit the London Zoo and see the gold- and black-headed Himalayan eagles that I helped to catch at Naini Tal. But this time I shan't want to handle them!

# Territorial Army

### 43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

R.H.Q. AND H.Q. SQUADRON, TAUNTON, SOMERSET. For the second contribution to the Signals' own publication, THE WIRE, the 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., gives its Squadrons the local editor's chair, R.H.Q. having had its say in our first contribution; but before passing over to the Squadrons there are a few remarks to make regarding the Taunton area.

The Taunton T.A. Club was again reopened after a lapse during the war years. The Somerset T.A. Association having done us very well, the club is expected to be a howling success, providing of course the national crisis does not restrict the flow of the "elixir of life" (liquor including Scrumpy). The opening night necessitated a "full house" notice, and from remarks overheard it seems our club need be second to none.

Recruiting has slowed slightly during the past month, but we expect great results when we put the Royal Signals Olympia Motor Cycle Display Team on show at each Squadron location as a contribution to our recruiting drive.

The Squadrons have dealt fully with the week-end camp at Braunton; all we wish to add from this Headquarters is the fact that it was good to see the whole unit together and that the officers and men need a few more beef steaks (Mr. Strachey please note) before again trying their consolidated weight against the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s in the tug-of-war. Before leaving the subject of camp we feel that it should be put on record that 34 Amphibian Support Regiment, Royal Marines, made us all more than welcome, and the whole unit from the C.R. Signals to the latest recruit wish to thank them.

It is considered that enough bumph has already originated from R.H.Q.; we therefore now pass you "over to the Squadrons."

No. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER, DEVON. By the time this article appears in THE WIRE we shall have had our first real basinful of soldiering (full-time) in this brand new post-war Terrier unit. The form in which this soldiering is experienced is the August Bank Holiday week-end camp at Braunton, Devon.

As these notes are being compiled, the social functions for which the Squadron has been responsible since May, 1947, have drawn to a temporary close. (Breather required.)

The main functions during this period were (1) the inaugural Squadron Whist Drive and Dance. Over four hundred attended in all and spent a most enjoyable evening, much to the relief of members who put the show on.

(2) The procession in Exeter's Lammas Fair Week on Wednesday, 16th July. The Squadron entered in the most original class, representing Wireless Troops, Line Troops, and D.R. Troops, etc.

(3) The Exeter Regatta, which from time immemorial has been held on the last day of the Lammas Fair, was attended by the Squadron, where we supplied communications by wireless R/T, line telephony, public address equipment, and the D.R.s standing by were kept extremely busy on specials to fetch doctors and ambulances for casualties, real faints and numerous cases of gentle swoons provided by the fairer side of the Exeter community.

All this work has proved of great value in the recruiting sense and we feel quite proud that we can man our vehicles and equipment efficiently with trained men, also that we have many trainees desiring to get cracking, in fact straining manfully at the leash.

*Out-Stations.* We are forming Troops at Crediton and Topsham, where excellent accommodation is available in the form of country-style drill halls.

*Salaams.* To Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Tait, Royal Signals, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, Major G. W. Weeks, Royal Signals, and not forgetting chinas at No. 1 Depot Regiment, Pocklington, Yorks; R.S.M. Wilding, A.A. expert in Bristol area; D. Park, now soldiering hard in the Smoke; P.S.I. Jack Gleason, wherever you are; and Sergeant K. Allen, on tour with Royal Signals Display Team—all the very best from S.S.M. ("Nobby") Hall, P.E.A.

*Squadron Officers.* Up to press we have three T.A. officers, Major G. S. Dalton, O.C. Squadron, Captain F. G. Field, Officer-in-Command "O" Troop, and Captain M. E. Tapley. Both the latter are G.P.O. officials here in Exeter, so the Squadron will benefit by keeping in touch with up-to-date G.P.O. systems.

WILCO, NOBBY

No. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET. The Squadron has started life anew in this industrious town. We were off on the mark with a Signals Demonstration in the centre of the town during the latter part of April and the locals were seemingly interested. To enable us to meet some of the ex-Signals types, we held an "at home" party on Friday, 25th June. This was attended by the C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, Royal Signals, who, other than having to find an air-line at 1 a.m. the following morning, thoroughly enjoyed himself. We were very pleased with the number who attended, and a grand time was spent by all, at least until the beer ran out.

We have just returned from a rather luxurious week-end camp at Braunton, in Devon. We all felt the benefit of it if only from meeting the lads from the other Squadrons. The camp started on Saturday, 2nd August, and closed at precisely 1801 hrs., 4th August, when one could perceive No. 2 Squadron roaring out of the camp in their now famous, or should we say infamous, "Battle Wagon."

*No. 2 Squadron Officers.* The Squadron is ably commanded by Major F. Signey, who beyond doubt is our pillar of support, besides being in charge of the Divisional Signals P.R.I.; maybe this is the reason he is such a support. Captain F. W. Turton was previously our Second-in-Command but he has left to take over Officer Commanding H.Q. Squadron; maybe he was such a good wines member at camp that H.Q. feel they cannot do without his cheerful disposition in the Club just opened in Taunton. We have as Officer Commanding "E" Troop Lieutenant M. Galloway, of whom we hope to see more in the future, being our latest member.

*Enquiries.* Sergeant V. Sampson, P.S.I. here at Bridgwater, would like to hear from Corporal H. Galloway, last heard of in the silent wastes of Catterick.

BARDO

No. 3 SQUADRON, TORQUAY, DEVON. We are calling the world from the most beautiful spot in it, namely Torquay. What a station ! I dreamt for years of somebody else getting a job here but never thought for a moment I could.

This Squadron is commanded by Major L. E. O. Evans, who must surely be known by many thousands of the Corps. "Topper" Brown is P.S.I. (wangle). We are both looking forward to seeing both serving and time-ex wallahs—all are welcome at the "Old Town Hall." We'll rope you in even if you are only on holiday.

We are becoming quite a crowd and together with the rest of the unit thoroughly enjoyed our week-end camp at Braunton, North Devon. Thanks to Captain J. Carleton-Stiff, Royal Signals, and Corporal J. Graham, I'm sure we held our own in the Sing-Say-or Show. I don't think Corporal Graham has yet finished his song of Gunboat Jack or Eskimo Nell.

Having travelled about 3.763 miles to borrow stores, a series of demonstrations were laid on for the benefit of those with no previous experience of Signals work. Thanks to Tavistock T.A. Signals and our local G.P.O., we did our side of it.

Ilfracombe beer was rather strong on Sunday, 3rd August, but it is surprising what a heavy shower will do.

Everybody looked happy, anyway, but perhaps this was due to the fact that they had a pay day which the missus knew nothing about.

Yours till next month. "TOPPER"



### 16th AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

No doubt many ex-Signalmen of the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions, and possibly many who are still serving with 6th Airborne Division Signal Regiment, have been waiting for news of the Signal Regiment in the new T.A. Airborne Division.

To officers and men alike of the Royal Signals, the name Middlesex Yeomanry is synonymous with keen and competent signalling.

Since 1922, when this Yeomanry Regiment forsook its cavalry role to become part of the Corps, and during World War II when the Regiment served in every theatre, it has gained distinction wherever its cap badge has been seen.

Now together again as a Regiment for the first time since 1939, the Middlesex Yeomanry has been selected as the Signal Regiment of the 16th Airborne Division, truly as a blending of the old and the new. Although knowing little of the new role, and blissfully unaware of Roman candles and twists, the Regiment is tackling the job in characteristic fashion and the P.S.I.s have their work cut out to cope with the keenness of officers and men alike.

So, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel The Viscount Malden, T.D., with its Regular Adjutant, Captain B. A. Gomm, Royal Signals (late 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment), and with R.S.M. Carr (so well known to all officers and men of the Airborne Signal Regiments), the Yeomanry has come into being once again and has already welcomed Majors Morris and Campbell (ex 1st Airborne) and men of the 1st and 6th who have joined the Regiment so readily.

We are keeping a close liaison with 6th Airborne Signal Regiment and have recently had visits from Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle (Commanding Royal Signals, 6th Airborne Division) and Major Fenton (ex-Commanding Officer, No. 1 Squadron, 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment). Major Geoffrey Proudman will soon be home and will be Officer Commanding No. 2 Paratroop Brigade Signal Troop.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Bradley (ex Commander Royal Signals, 6th Airborne, and now at Staff College) is coming to give us a "gen" lecture on the Rhine crossing, while Major Martin, from A.A.T.D.C., is coming to lecture us on the "Development of Airborne Signal Equipment."

We hope any of you who are ex 1st or 6th or who are still serving will visit us at the Duke of York's, Chelsea. We shall be delighted to see any of you and hope you will become part of us.

Part of us is the ex-Airborne Signals O.C.A., which is using this headquarters as their headquarters. Our inaugural meeting was on 9th August, and we shall give further details of it in the next issue of THE WIRE.

About 100 names have been received, and these are of London members only. Our aim is to have other Airborne Signals O.C.A.s in the Midlands and North later on.

Many ex-Airborne Signals have written expressing their joy at the Association forming. It is hoped that any ex-Airborne Signaller who sees this will make haste and send his name to Captain B. A. Gomm, Royal Signals, Adjutant, 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

### No. 51 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

On the day war broke out, Air Formation Signals was so well known in Signals that a half-colonel of the Corps, finding the Supplementary Reservists of 1st passing through Aldershot, asked what they did. In two seconds the Second-in-Command produced Signal Training, Volume Eleven—"Air Formation Signals will build airline in the clouds and hang the swinging 'bits' on angels."

With the sincerest flattery, the Regular Army now includes units of Air Formation Signals, so does the Territorial Army. That's where we come in. Direct descendant of the original Air Formation Signals, S.R., of Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds (Tel. Leeds 27179), we return to the same address as one of the two T.A. Air Formation Signals. The first drill night was on 12th June, 1947, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Baines, O.B.E.

Round a nucleus of old members we are gathering new hands of all sorts and descriptions—from which you gather that the former 95 per cent. Post Office mixture no longer applies. Captain L. E. Stratford, Adjutant, swears in the new boys. Let's admit it's only a sticky trickle at the moment; we're waiting for you blokes who return to Yorkshire on release. That's why the old Barracks is getting a redecoration it hasn't seen for years.

Our "Q" is Captain (Wally) W. R. Bridge, who said, and didn't bat an eyelid, "I've just given fifty clothing coupons away." This was overheard by Major J. W. Barratt—he's Second-in-Command—but he recovered.

To give the Regiment polish we have as captains, common or garden, K. C. Clifton, R. S. Gander, G. N. Taylor, and T. Waugh. As old hands rejoin the ranks we'll give it THE WIRE so you know where to collect that old debt. Meantime, to chase up R.Q.M.S. H. Allen, he's here on Thursday nights; while Corporal W. Bennett bashes the pen in the Orderly Room daily. To this extract of the nominal roll add the handsome appearance of the two '39 men, Signalmen F. J. Parsons and S. J. Pickles.

Of course, we still share the billiard tables with 49th. But more. Did you ever come up to Headquarters in 1939 on a non-drill night and find the autumnal rustle of petticoats forming threes ? That's become a fixture feature, for the 15th (M) Signals are also quartered with us. This may be a good thing for future amusements. It would be curious to roll up to the Drill Hall as a guest of the A.T.S. on a Gentlemen's Night.

Now here's a note for Air Formation Signal Regiments of whose activities in S.E.A.C. and B.A.O.R. we read in THE WIRE. Don't pass by on the other side. We, your blood brothers, are engaged in whipping up a little local enthusiasm to recruit and build up an Air Formation Signal Regiment, T.A. You know the difficulties of extracting digits. Now if you'd be kind enough to send a few photos and personal "gen," we could use some as advertising material. Grapevinograms report that an Air Formation Signals did a good publicity show in Rangoon an odd year ago at a R.A.F.

exhibition. We've seen THE WIRE'S photos of motor cycle tests in sunny Singapore, and even recognised the distinguished looking officer in one of them. (Yes, he was once a T.A. adjutant.) Lend a helping hand. One day you, too, may rise to our level.

### No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

We were known as "X" Army Signal Regiment until a few weeks ago, in case you do not recognise us. Progress is slow but sure, and for those who eventually make up their minds to join the T.A. we have some very interesting technical equipment. Teleprinters are being installed in the huts adjoining Cateswell House. Our R.E.M.E. friends at Castle Bromwich are giving the batteries an initial charge and will look after them until our own charging engines arrive. Case-opening tools were a long time arriving but at last we have chisels ripping and some ripping nail-pullers. Scissors, penknives, and enthusiasm often proved inadequate against 5 cwt. packing cases.

There is some talk of an A.T.S. Section being formed at this Headquarters, but of this more anon, if that is the word I want.

The despatch riders on whom we had relied for support have not yet come forward. It is no secret that they would prefer to use their own machines and draw petrol for training, as in pre-war days. This arrangement does not operate at present.

R.S.M. Brassfield has built up a flourishing W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess even on the limited supplies obtainable. C.S.M. Bill Langham paid us a short visit during the week-end 26th/28th July. We were very grieved to learn that Mrs. Langham passed away on Saturday, 26th July.

Decoration and plumbing at Cateswell House is now complete and it now remains for winter to prove whether the central heating system is an improvement on the 1938 variety. We are compiling a list of people who are prepared to give us a large carpet for the Recreation Room. A new one would do. The only offer so far came from a man who said we could have four or five if we would fetch them from his house. Negotiations broke down when he added that he could sell us the Town Hall at a very fair price. Two men in blue uniforms apologised on behalf of the Institution and the party left quietly.

Did I tell you before that "Shoey" Garnett came to see us? He is now in Southend. Mrs. Garnett has gone down to join him there is his adventures as assistant manager at an hotel.

Next month we will tell you about the visit of the G.O.C. North Midland District.

BARLEUX

## *51st (HIGHLAND) DIVISIONAL SIGNALS, T.A.*

In the new Territorial Army set-up two famous Scottish Territorial Units of Royal Signals, the 51st (Highland) and the 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals unite to form the 51st/52nd (Scottish) Divisional Signal Regiment. Already the new unit gives promise of being worthy of its proud heritage. This hitherto unpublished photograph was taken at Chesham Bois, Bucks., in 1944 when the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal, visited the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals on the return of the unit from the Middle East to prepare for the invasion of Normandy. It will no doubt be of interest to many past and present members of Royal Signals. It certainly will prompt a proud memory in the minds of all who served with the unit in those momentous days.

Back row: Lieutenant J. M. Lawry, Captain J. C. McCormick, M.C., Lieutenant O. Williams, M.C., Lieutenant P. Llewellyn, Lieutenant D. M. Kinross, Lieutenant R. Patterson, M.C., Lieutenant D. Collins, M.C.
Second row: Captain R. F. Locke, M.C., Lieutenant P. McMahon, Captain G. P. Burt, Captain R. F. Jenkins, Captain C. W. Fountain, M.B.E., Captain F. D. Baker, Lieutenant B. Waller (killed in action, Normandy), Captain R. Gordon (killed in action, Normandy), Lieutenant (T.M.O.) J. H. A. Hughes, Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. M. Ingram, Lieutenant J. G. M'Hutchon.
Front row: Captain H. T. Taylor (Adjutant), Major R. J. Henderson, D.S.O., M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., D.L. (a former C.O.), Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E. (C.S.O. I. Corps), Lieutenant-Colonel James Cochran, O.B.E., T.D. (C.O.), H.R.H. the Princess Royal, Colonel F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., D.L. (Honorary Colonel), Lieutenant-General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., the Lady in Waiting, Major A. Fraser, M.B.E., M.C., Major F. A. Wright, M.C.



### No. 26 A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP T.A.

The P.S.I., Sergeant Jack Lloyd, arrived about three weeks ago. Like the Officer Commanding, Major F. J. Wheeler, he served with L. of C. Signals in S.E.A.C.

Until our own premises are found, we have the use of the Drill Hall, Wilton Road, Salisbury, on Fridays between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m.

Recruiting is progressing.

### No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

In the early part of this year the Corps had a number of additions to its Regimental strength, when the Territorial Army commenced recruiting once more. Several brand new units were formed, one of which was No. 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

This Regiment is composed of Regimental H.Q. at Gibraltar Barracks, Clay Pit Lane, Leeds; No. 36 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. (late No. 7 A.A. Divisional Signals) at Tyne "J" Camp, Gosforth, Newcastle; No. 37 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., at Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds; No. 38 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. (late No. 2 Company, No. 2 A.A. Divisional Signals), at the Drill Hall, Fitzwilliam Road, Rotherham; No. 39 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. (late No. 1 Company, No. 2 A.A. Divisional Signals), at the Drill Hall, Beeston, Notts; and No. 40 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. (late No. 2 Company, No. 4 A.A. Divisional Signals), at 143 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. In addition, there are also two Troops at Norwich, No. 66 (M) A.A. Brigade Signal Troop and No. 66 A.A.O.R. Signal Troop. The whole unit works under No. 5 A.A. Group.

After somewhat prolonged "birthpangs," the unit has now reached its century of personnel. Many more are, however, required, particularly ex-Royal Signals and ex-A.T.S. Signals personnel, in the trades of O.W.L., R. Mech., T. Mech., V. Mech., Op. Tpr., Op. Swbd., Lmn., Draughtsman, and Drivers. Ex-Nos. 2, 4, and 7 A.A. Divisional Signals personnel will be always welcome.

The Regiment has a Regular Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. B. Kealy, a Regular Adjutant, Captain A. D. Inglis, and a Regular R.S.M., W.O.I G. R. Thornton. The Quartermaster is an ex-Regular who has now been granted a T.A. commission, Captain (Q.M.) H. Hall. A Regular A.T.S., Junior Commander C. M. Press, completes the R.H.Q. Regular complement.

The Squadrons are commanded by T.A. officers, Major A. H. Donnelly at Newcastle, Major K. T. Harlow, M.B.E., at Leeds, Captain J. Kilner in temporary command at Rotherham, Major L. Hayes at Nottingham, Captain P. Dingley in temporary command at Birmingham.

Shortage of funds and furnishings has been one of the difficulties encountered in forming, and if any of the ex-members of Nos. 2, 4, or 7 A.A. Divisional Signals can give any clues as to the whereabouts of any "frozen funds" which might be passed to the reconstituted Squadrons, they will be gratefully received.

It is hoped to give regular news of the progress and activities of the Regiment.

The first social activity to report is a projected outing to Scarborough by personnel of R.H.Q. and No. 37 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., in the second week of August.



## *Territorial Army Associations*

The following is a list of the Secretaries of Territorial Army and Air Force Associations, to whom inquiries on any matter relating to service in the Territorial Army may be addressed.

ABERDEEN, BANFF, KINCARDINE.—Colonel A. Brooke, D.L., J.P., 5 East Craibstone Street, Aberdeen.

ANGLESEY, CARNARVON.—Colonel E. E. Gee, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., The Barracks, Carnarvon.

ANGUS, DUNDEE CITY.—Major R. Ratcliffe, D.C.M., J.P., The Drill Hall, Bell Street, Dundee.

ANTRIM.—Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Randall, 5 Bedford Street, Belfast.

ARGYLL.—Major J. Watt, M.C., Drill Hall, Hanover Street, Dunoon.

AYR.—Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. G. Dalziel, 6 Wellington Square, Ayr.

BANFF (see Aberdeen).

BEDFORD.—Lieutenant-Colonel M. F. T. Baines, 95 Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

BERKSHIRE.—Brigadier J. F. Bygott, M.C., Yeomanry House, Castle Hill, Reading.

BERWICK, ROXBURGH, SELKIRK.—Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. A. Hankey, D.S.O., O.B.E., Town Hall, Galashiels.

BRECKNOCK, HEREFORD, RADNOR.—Major-General K. F. D. Gattie, D.S.O., M.C., Drill Hall, Hay, Hereford.

BUCKINGHAM.—Colonel P. A. Hall, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., M.A., D.L., Oxford Road, Aylesbury.

BUTE, RENFREW.—Major G. D. Todd, M.C., Drill Hall, 76 High Street, Paisley.

CAITHNESS, INVERNESS, MORAY, NAIRN, ROSS AND CROMARTY, SUTHERLAND. — Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. McConnell, O.B.E., Gordonville Road, Inverness.

CAMBRIDGE, ISLE OF ELY.—Major A. C. French, East Road Drill Hall, Cambridge.

CARDIGAN, CARMARTHEN, PEMBROKE. — Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. Hassell, M.C., The Barracks, Carmarthen.

CARNARVON (see Anglesey).

CHESTER.—Captain J. E. V. Cotterell, Gilwern Abbots Park, Liverpool Road, Chester.

CLACKMANNAN, KINROSS, STIRLING.—Captain J. Muirhead, 12 Snowdon Place, Stirling.

CORNWALL.—Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Muloch, M.C., The Armoury, Pydar Street, Truro.

CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Walker, M.C., Drill Hall, Penrith.

DENBIGH, FLINT.—Brigadier J. A. R. Colan, C.B.E., Earl Road, Mold, Flintshire.

DERBY.—Brigadier R. J. Wilkins, O.B.E., 1 Uttoxeter Road, Derby.

DEVON.—Colonel M. F. Trew, 23 Longbrook Street, Exeter.

DORSET. — Major H. F. H. Horner, M.C., Poundbury Barracks, Dorchester.

DUMBARTON.—Lieutenant-Colonel A. I. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., T.D., Hartfield, Bonhill Road, Dumbarton.

DUMFRIES, KIRKCUDBRIGHT, WIGTON. — Colonel J. McA. Cunningham, O.B.E., M.C., The Drill Hall, Dumfries.

DUNDEE (see Angus).

DURHAM.—Major G. M. Long, O.B.E., D.L., Old Elvet, Durham.

EAST LOTHIAN, EDINBURGH, PEEBLES, WEST LOTHIAN.—Brigadier F. L. Johnston, O.B.E., 7 Wemyss Place, Edinburgh, 3.

ESSEX.—Colonel R. V. Read, C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Market Road, Chelmsford.

FIFE.—Major H. N. Wilson, Hunter Street, Kirkcaldy.
FLINT (see Denbigh).
GLAMORGAN.—Colonel T. Otto Jones, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., 6 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff.
GLASGOW.—Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. R. Laird, O.B.E., D.L., J.P., 201 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2.
GLOUCESTER.—Lieutenant-Colonel Fairbank, D.S.O., M.C., 2 Beaufort Road, Clifton, Bristol.
HAMPSHIRE, ISLE OF WIGHT.—R. J. Raggett, Esq., 30 Carlton Place, Southampton.
HEREFORD (see Brecknock).
HERTFORD.—Brigadier M. B. Jennings, C.B.E., 28 Castle Street, Hertford.
HUNTINGDON, NORTHAMPTON.—Lieutenant-Colonel O. K. Parker, M.C., Clare Street, Northampton.
INVERNESS (see Caithness).
ISLE OF MAN.—Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Nash, 10 Bucks Road, Douglas, I.O.M.
KENT.—Captain L. M. P. Stopford, Yeomanry House, Boxley Road, Maidstone.
KINCARDINE (see Aberdeen).
KINROSS (see Clackmannan).
KIRKCUDBRIGHT (see Dumfries).
LANARK.—Colonel J. C. E. Hay, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., Townfield, 16 Clydesdale Street, Hamilton, Lanarkshire.
LANCASTER (WEST).—Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, D.S.O., M.C., St. George Building, Lime Street, Liverpool.
LANCASTER (EAST).—H. W. Oclee, Esq., O.B.E., D.L., Blackfriars House, The Parsonage, Manchester, 3.
LEICESTER, RUTLAND.—Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Pitcairn, M.C., The Magazine, Oxford Street, Leicester.
LINCOLN.—Brigadier E. F. O. Richards, M.C., The Old Barracks, Burton Road, Lincoln.
LONDON COUNTY.—Lieutenant-Colonel L. R. Oake, D.L., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.
LONDON CITY.—Lieutenant-Colonel R. D. Jackson, Finsbury Barracks, City Road, London, E.C.1.
MERIONETH, MONTGOMERY. — Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Davies-Jenkins, The Armoury, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.
MIDDLESEX.—Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.
MONMOUTH.—Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Brett, D.S.O., M.C., 15 Stow Hill, Newport, Mon.
MONTGOMERY (see Merioneth).
MORAY (see Caithness).
NAIRN (see Caithness).
NORFOLK.—Lieutenant-Colonel A. Stewart-Cox, 22, Tombland, Norwich.
NORTHAMPTON (see Huntingdon).
NORTHUMBERLAND.—Brigadier L. Bolton, D.S.O., The Drill Hall, Hutton Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
NOTTINGHAM.—Captain M. T. Hildyard, Territorial Headquarters, Derby Road, Nottingham.
ORKNEY.—J. D. Brass, Esq., Junction Road, Kirkwall, Orkney.
OXFORD.—Major E. R. Oxlade, Manor Road, Oxford.
PEEBLES (see East Lothian).
PEMBROKE (see Cardigan).
PERTH.—Major R. Scott-Dempster, 3 Kinnoull Street, Perth.
RADNOR (see Brecknock).
RENFREW (see Bute).
ROSS AND CROMARTY (see Caithness).
ROXBURGH (see Berwick).
RUTLAND (see Leicester).
SELKIRK (see Berwick).
SHROPSHIRE.—Colonel D. A. R. B. Cooke, 2 Claremont Buildings, Shrewsbury.
SOMERSET.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. M. Tennant, Territorial Hall, Taunton.
STAFFORD.—Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Scaife, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., 9 Market Square, Stafford.
STIRLING (see Clackmannan).
SUFFOLK.—Brigadier G. B. Clark, C.B.E., D.S.O., Bowthorpe, Anglesea Road, Ipswich.
SURREY.—Major N. Underhill, Vine House, Park Road, Surbiton, Surrey.
SUSSEX.—Colonel A. J. Cruickshank, D.S.O., 173 Preston Road, Brighton.
SUTHERLAND (see Caithness).
WARWICK.—Major A. J. Masterson, 28 Jury Street, Warwick.
WEST LOTHIAN (see East Lothian).
WESTMORLAND (see Cumberland).
WIGTOWN (see Dumfries).
WILTSHIRE.—Brigadier G. P. Oldfield, Drill Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge.
WORCESTER.—Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Gaskell, D.S.O., T.D., 16 Silver Street, Worcester.
YORKSHIRE (N.R.). — Major A. Parrott, Thirsk Road, Northallerton.
YORKSHIRE (W.R.).—Major the Hon. B. M. O. S. Foljambe, M.C., 9 St. Leonard's, York.
YORKSHIRE (E.R.).—Major A. E. Mieville, Mail Buildings, Jameson Street, Hull.
ZETLAND.—Lieutenant A. W. S. Coutts, 65 Alexandra Wharf, Lerwick, Shetland.

*By courtesy of the Postmaster General*
Terminal Equipment
(How the old place has changed!—Ed.).





# THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1*
*(Tel: Victoria 9194)*

Report of the Annual General Meeting, held at Catterick Camp, Yorks, on 22nd June, 1947.

*Chairman of the Association*
MAJOR-GENERAL G. G. RAWSON, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
*Colonel Commandant*

*Members of the Central Committee*
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR LESLIE G. PHILLIPS, K.B.E., C.B., M.C.
*Representative Colonel Commandant*
MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. B. NAYLOR, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.
BRIGADIER F. S. STRAIGHT, C.B.E., M.C.
*Commandant, H.Q. School of Signals*

Brigadier Straight opened the meeting and extended a welcome to all present. He was glad that the Central Committee had again selected Catterick Camp for the Annual General Meeting of the Association. An Old Comrades' Reunion programme had been arranged to follow the meeting and he hoped all attending it would enjoy the occasion. To ex-members of the Corps he would say, talk to the young generation and find out what they were doing. To those now serving he would say, talk to the old comrades about their experiences while serving in the Corps.

In an address to the meeting the Chairman reported on the activities of the Association throughout the year 1946.

The Chairman presented the balance sheets of the undermentioned accounts which had been audited for the year ending 31st December, 1946, and which had been examined and passed by the Central Committee. These were approved by the meeting.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND NO. 1 ACCOUNT (ON DEPOSIT)
THE WAR BENEVOLENT FUND
THE GENERAL FUND

Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips said he felt sure that all members of the Association would wish him to express their appreciation to its Chairman, Major-General Rawson, for his devotion to the work and welfare of the Association. He knew that General Rawson spent a lot of time at Association Headquarters examining and adjudicating appeals for financial assistance, and in looking after the interests of the Association generally.

He was glad to see present so good a representation from branches of the Association and he extended them all a warm welcome. He supported Brigadier Straight's suggestion that serving and ex-Service members of the Corps should get together at the Old Comrades' Reunion Party which had been arranged and talk to each other about the past and present interests of the Corps.

General Phillips then proposed the following candidates for re-election to the Central Committee:—

*Chairman and Hon. Treasurer*
MAJOR-GENERAL G. G. RAWSON, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.
*Vice-Chairman*
BRIGADIER G. C. WICKINS, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L.
*Non-Regular Officer*
BRIGADIER A. C. C. WILLWAY, C.B.E., T.D.
*Two other ranks*

The two other ranks now serving on the Adjudicating Sub-Committee to be members of the Central Committee.

The proposal was carried by the meeting.

At the request of the meeting, General Phillips made a statement regarding the Corps War Memorial. He said that general opinion seemed to be in favour of establishing one or more Royal Signals Memorial Holiday Clubs. The matter would be carefully considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Royal Signals Corps Committee, when a decision would be made after studying carefully all the further recommendations made. He would bring to the notice of the Committee the views expressed by branch representatives who were present.

Captain Ironmonger, Hon. Secretary for Birmingham Branch of the Association, said that on behalf of his branch, and he felt sure all other branches would support him, he would like to pay tribute to the General Secretary, Brigadier Murphy, and his staff for the work they did on behalf of the Association. He had himself a good deal of correspondence with Headquarters, and he never failed to get all help possible.

Captain Andrews, Hon. Secretary of the Aberdeen Branch, said he would like to support the views expressed by Captain Ironmonger.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting with an expression of thanks to all those who attended.

## ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

This is the second Annual General Meeting of the Association held since the end of the war. The first took place here in Catterick in June of last year and we are glad of the opportunity once again of addressing you on the work of the Association. We offer our thanks to Brigadier Straight and his staff and to all those who have so kindly made arrangements for this meeting.

May we extend a cordial welcome to all of you. It is most desirable that the objects and work of the Association should be well known to both serving and ex-Service members of our Corps. There is still evidence to show that the existence of the Corps Association is not as widely known as we should like it to be. I hope, therefore, that all members of the Corps will do their best to pass on information about the Association wherever they are and wherever they go.

May I now tell you about the objects and the work of the Association.

First there is the Old Comrades' Association, the object of which is to keep contact with each other and renew from time to time the friendships we all made while serving together. It is only when we have left the Service for civil life that we realise the comradeship we enjoyed during our military service, and we miss it. By building up and supporting our Old Comrades' Association we can be sure of getting together at every opportunity and talking about our Service days and exchanging views on our new experiences. Maybe as a result of such reunions we shall get to know about some comrade who has fallen on hard times and we shall be able to give him a helping hand.

Membership is open to all ranks who have served in the Corps and they can join at any time, while still serving or after release. In 1946 we registered at Headquarters in London a total of 2,226 life members. Up to the end of May this year we registered a further 320, bringing the total life membership to 5,672. In 1946 we registered 5,966 annual members, and for this year up to the end of May a further 675. I cannot tell you the exact annual membership as many have joined our branches direct, and many of those who registered at Headquarters have since been transferred to branches, but it is a good healthy total.

Membership has been extended to A.T.S. personnel who served in a trade with the Corps. They served us well and I am sure you will agree that we should do all we can to keep in touch with those who have been released from the Service.

Since our meeting last year we have increased the number of branches of the Old Comrades' Association from twenty to thirty-three. I hope that we shall be able to establish many more and so cover the whole country. The more branches we have, the greater the opportunities of getting together in

area reunion parties. Our strongest branch at present is Birmingham, which has a membership approaching 700. This branch has organised a reunion party which is to take place in Birmingham next month: dancing, tea parties, and a church parade will be the order of the day. The Corps Band will be in attendance and I am sure it will be a successful occasion. Not so long ago at a reunion dinner the Mayor of the town paid the Bournemouth Branch a gracious compliment on the comradeship which existed within the branch and which was of value to the town, and he made a special reference to a party they gave last Christmas to a number of children of poor families.

Nor is welfare work among our old comrades overlooked by branches. Many cases of distress have come to their notice and these have been reported to Headquarters in London with a recommendation as to what assistance was considered necessary.

We have been reasonably successful in London in placing ex-members of the Corps in civil employment. Branches are doing whatever they can to assist this. When we are unable to find vacancies for men we approach the Regular Forces Employment Association both in London and at the branches they have all over the country. This Association co-operates very well and at Headquarters we receive daily reports of ex-Service men of the Corps having been found civil employment.

An average of fifty ex-Service men visit our London Headquarters every month. They come asking for advice on a variety of subjects, sometimes for financial assistance, and very frequently for help in finding employment. All these men are seen by the General Secretary himself and their cases recorded and attended to as best we can.

In addition, letters are received from members of the Corps from all parts of the country asking for advice or help of one kind or another. Letters are also received from as far afield as India, the Far East, and Africa. In the early months of 1946 outgoing postal packets of all kinds reached a peak of over 3,000 a month; at the moment the average monthly total is in the region of 2,500. Much of our correspondence is connected with the work of the Old Comrades' Association.

I will tell you about the accounts of the Association later, and will only mention here that in 1946 we spent £10,000 from our Benevolent Fund on financial assistance to members of the Corps and their families who appealed to the Association for help. A further £600 was spent in donations to organisations which give help to our men. In all throughout that year we dealt with 1,321 cases, an average of 110 a month.

I will go briefly over our machinery at Headquarters for dealing with appeals for financial aid. We have an adjudicating committee which meets weekly to assess cases, and I as Chairman deal with the urgent and more straightforward cases every Tuesday. In this way the work of the office staff is more evenly distributed and it reduces delays to a minimum.

Appeals are received from many sources either direct from the applicant or from one or other of the welfare organisations which exist throughout the country. We arrange for each applicant to be visited at his home so that we can get a complete history of the case. If there appears to be any real crisis, such as no food in the house for the week-end, we may make an immediate grant to tide the applicant over while the investigation goes on.

Assessing appeals is very difficult. Our watchword is "Distress." Terms of reference for the Benevolent Fund have been laid down and the sub-committee in its work of adjudication is guided by these. What evidence of hardship is there? To what extent could the difficulties be cleared by the resources available to the family and to what extent have they themselves brought the circumstances on their own head by their own actions. Recently we were asked to help an ex-C.Q.M.S. with £7 for tools: in his favour he was supporting a widowed mother, but he had spent his gratuity on clothes and a holiday and there was no evidence of any distress. Another applicant wrote and said he had been given all the tree tops he could lop in a wood so could we purchase and hire him a tractor, trailer, and mechanical saw. The total outlay would have involved some £3,000. I am afraid we could not help him. On the other hand, we had a case of a lad who lost both his legs as a result of action in Normandy with the Airborne Forces. His former employer was taking him back but he needed a car to get to work. The sum involved was £250. In co-operation with other organisations we have found the money, and all that is now necessary is to buy the car.

Appeals from widows and those whose troubles arise from war disabilities are always viewed with particular sympathy.

The other problems we have to deal with are kaleidoscopic in their variety and range from clothing coupons, housing, homes for children, pensions, Army pay, and everything you can imagine.

The opinion has been expressed that there should be no need for funds like ours. This would be true if all were well in the best of all possible worlds, and undoubtedly the need becomes less as the State Social Service is extended. But all State Social Services had their origin in Voluntary Services, and Voluntary Social Service has many advantages over the State: it is flexible, can act with speed in an emergency and, above all, has the advantage of a sympathetic personal contact which in time of trouble is worth a lot.

That the Benevolent Branch of the Association has been able to carry on extensive social work is due to the good support received throughout the Corps. I am sure all members would wish it to continue such work and I hope that everyone of them will continue to give it the financial support required, for without this the fund would not be in a position to give all the help we should like to be able to give.

And now Corps Publications. The work of editing and producing Corps Publications is done at Headquarters by the Publications Branch. Publication of the monthly magazine THE WIRE was resumed in November, 1946, and the first post-war edition of the QUARTERLY JOURNAL appeared in the first quarter of this year.

It is not generally realised that the success of these publications depends on the support given by all ranks of the Corps, both serving and ex-Service. Not only by buying the publications but by sending in literary contributions, photographs, sketches and the like. Now is the time, while memories are reasonably fresh, to record experiences of the past few years. We owe it to the historical records of the work of the Corps to do this, and I hope that those who have interesting war experiences will think about this.

Historical pamphlets on the work of the Corps during the war years are now in course of production. Of course, these take time to write, but the work is in hand, and as soon as the pamphlets are available notification will be given in THE WIRE.

In conclusion, I should like to pay tribute to the work of the staff at Association Headquarters in London. They are all deeply interested in the good name of the Association and give loyal service in its interests.

I should also like to record our great appreciation of the help we receive from Branch Committees, especially from those who help us with the investigation of distress cases, and spend much time organising reunion and social parties for the ex-Service men of the Corps in their respective areas. Our special thanks are due to the Hon. Secretaries, who have no easy task in coping with the clerical and other work of their branches, and who have to do this work in their spare time. In April of this year Hon. Secretaries of branches came to a meeting in London, and we were able mutually to discuss the work and needs of the Association as a whole.



Our thanks are also due to the many welfare organisations who co-operate with us in our work, especially to the Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Families Association, the Incorporated Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Help Society, and the British Legion, who give us great assistance with the investigation of cases and who often themselves contribute assistance to men of the Corps and their families.

## Benevolent Fund

During the month of June, 1947, 91 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £513 4s. 6d.

*Summary of grants disbursed*

| Purpose | No. of Cases | Amount £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 37 | 169 11 6 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 2 | 7 7 6 |
| Cots and prams | 15 | 82 0 0 |
| Beds and bedding | 2 | 12 0 0 |
| Furniture | 10 | 61 10 0 |
| Clothing | 2 | 8 16 0 |
| Hospital and doctors' fees | 9 | 49 4 6 |
| Convalescence | 2 | 11 0 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 2 | 22 0 0 |
| Dentures | 1 | 3 0 0 |
| Removals | 1 | 10 0 0 |
| Travelling | 4 | 13 10 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 2 | 28 5 0 |
| Emigration assistance | 1 | 25 0 0 |
| Funeral expenses | 1 | 10 0 0 |
| Totals | 91 | £513 4 6 |

*Analysis*

Discharged or released soldiers, 62; widows of deceased soldiers, 4; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 13; B.A.O.R., 4; C.M.F., 1; M.E.F., 5; P.A.I.C., 1; India, 1.

*Donations received for the Fund*

| | £ s. d. |
|---|---|
| S.O.-in.C. India (Combined Units) | 192 15 10 |
| Royal Signals M.E. Welfare Fund | 250 0 0 |
| No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment | 6 11 6 |
| 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment | 227 15 7 |
| 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment | 9 0 6 |
| 5th A.A. Group (M.) Signal Regiment | 1 10 0 |
| Sierra Leone and Gambia Signal Squadron | 6 12 2 |
| Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Signal Troop | 1 7 6 |
| Kent Coast Signal Troop | 5 6 0 |
| Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, Catterick | 1 18 6 |
| Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Poundon, Bucks | 3 8 6 |
| Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Officers' Mess | 16 5 0 |
| Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Course No. 187 | 5 0 |
| Captain A. M. H. Blair | 4 4 0 |
| Lieutenant F. R. Mackenzie | 5 0 |
| Sergeant A. A. Frindle (proceeds of dance) | 5 0 0 |
| Signalman A. F. Allen | 8 0 |
| Signalman R. Fisher | 7 6 |
| Miss D. Chadwick | 3 0 0 |
| Total | £736 0 7 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these subscriptions and donations.

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:—

THE PIONEER, June, 1947.
R.E.M.E., August, 1947.
THE WASP, July, 1947.
THE THISTLE, July, 1947.
THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, 9th August, 1947.

## *Signals Association Branch Notes*

### Wolverhampton

The first meeting of the Wolverhampton branch was held on 23rd July, 1947, over 50 serving and ex-members of the Corps attending.

A committee was elected for the rest of the year, with Captain R. W. Seabrook (Adjutant, 50th Air Formation Signal Regiment, T.A.) as Chairman, Captain G. Hart (late 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment) as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. R. E. Lymn, 112 New Hampton Road West, Wolverhampton, as Hon. Secretary.

Meetings will be held on the last Wednesday in each month, at 7.30 p.m., at the George Hotel, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.

Captain Ironmonger (Hon. Secretary, Birmingham branch) gave a most interesting address on the aims and purposes of the O.C.A., and a programme was made for meetings and entertainments during the coming winter.

### Birmingham

Amid a buzz of conversation and a pleasant tinkle of pint glasses, the 800th member of this branch arrived. The usual monthly meeting on 31st July included a few mutual congratulations on the termination of our Operation Mercury, about which we wrote last month. Tentative arrangements were discussed for convivial meetings of the branch at Cateswell House, Hall Green, in October and December. This will appeal to members living on the south side of the city. The Armistice Dance on 11th November will also be held at Cateswell House, and it was proposed that the same venue be selected for the annual dinner on 23rd January. In all these proposed ventures we were fortunate in having Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., O.C. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., at Cateswell House. We are assured of his wholehearted support in all Association business.

The monthly meetings on the last Thursday in the month will continue at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, throughout the winter. May we expect *you*?

On Thursday, 31st July, we had Vernon Adcock, his brother Fred, and Tommy O'Hara to entertain us with a number of musical instruments, not forgetting Vernon's xylophone. This was a grand show and was brought about mainly by the personal friendship existing between Vernon Adcock and Captain Ironmonger, the Hon. Secretary. What people will do for their friends!

A few of us attended the second meeting of the newly-formed Wolverhampton branch on 23rd July. Those interested may like to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. E. Lymn, 112 New Hampton Road West, Wolverhampton. He will be very pleased to welcome all ex-Signals and give them information regarding the meeting place of the branch. Unfortunately, they are unable to continue in the Vine Hotel and are now looking for suitable premises. Maybe they are all fixed by the time this appears.

As the weather seems to be holding firm, we think we will go and take a look at Uckfield and Maresfield for a few days. I wonder how many reading this can remember walking home from Brighton to Maresfield Park Camp on a summer's night? Only eighteen miles. They don't make legs like that today, do they?

BARLEUX

***Radio Trunks in Austria*** *(continued from page 287)*

switchboard in the Schoenbrunn Palace to the radio terminal in the middle of Schoenbrunn Park. From here they were transmitted to the relay station at Kahlenberg, on to Stuhleck Relay, and then down to Spital, from whence they went by underground cable to Graz and Klagenfurt.

After a period of "teething troubles," the radio telephone circuits settled down to give a good service. Though not so reliable as conventional trunk circuits in underground cables, the circuits provided by the 10 Sets are a vast improvement on any radio equipment previously used. Owing to the short wavelength, they have absolute immunity from interference, both natural and man-made. A case has been recorded of a 10 Set working without noise, when the static electricity in the area was so strong that sparks could be drawn to the knuckles from the aerial assembly! Owing again to the very short wavelength, the waves can be transmitted in a very narrow beam, like a searchlight, and this enables a very tiny amount of power to be used, and also assists security. Owing to the use of "pulse technique," the circuits have good level stability, that is to say, the volume of received speech does not fluctuate with conditions and, provided the sets are carefully sited, there are no fading effects.

The disadvantages of the equipment spring from the fact that it is a recent development. It is, of course, complicated. (There are 253 valves of various types in each complete 10 Set.) It has been found costly in personnel, for the operation of the equipment requires a team of highly skilled men.

Despite initial difficulties, a great future is undoubtedly assured to the new radio techniques embodied in the 10 Set. Working under the pressure of war-time need, British research engineers have produced something entirely new in radio communication. The result of their work has proved itself on the field of battle, and later, in Austria, under more stable conditions, has filled a need that sprang from the drawing of a frontier. It is certainly assured a place in the communication networks of peace-time.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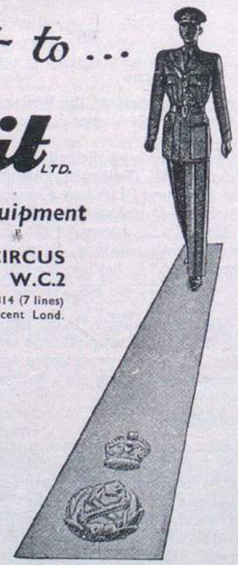

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# THE WIRE

*The Corps Magazine of the*
**ROYAL SIGNALS**

*The Official Organ of the*
**SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

*All correspondence and notes for "The Wire" should be addressed to: The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.*

☆

**OCTOBER • 1947**
**Volume 1** *New Series* **No. 12**

☆

**PRICE: ONE SHILLING**


# *Editorial*

WITH this issue we complete one year of publication of the New Series of THE WIRE. During that time we have done our best to improve the contents and general make-up of the magazine, and from appreciative letters received it is evident that the changes in style of type, layout of material, and quality of paper which have been introduced since the November number of last year have been well worth while.

Progress of this kind is necessarily governed by financial considerations and current restrictions, but as far as these factors allow we intend that it should continue, and with the co-operation of the steadily increasing number of regular readers there is much that can still be achieved.

Your part, reader, is to let us have your suggestions and criticisms, without which it is impossible to develop the magazine along the lines you would like, and above all to send in your own original contributions.

News from units now arrives regularly, but the response to our repeated requests for other literary and pictorial matter has been less than somewhat meagre (or more than somewhat ditto, if you prefer a Runyonism).

So once again we let fly our exhortation. Fill your pen and indulge your literary and artistic instincts, and so help us to make the next twelve months notable for outstanding progress of THE WIRE towards its eventual three-star status.

* * *

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Sammy Blay, of Maresfield days and also Catterick—old 4th Division and 2nd H.Q. Signals—would be pleased to hear from any Old Boys. His address is now "Benington," Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

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CHALKI. JOINTING IN PROGRESS ON ONE OF OUR FINEST DAYS. DECEMBER, 1946

# FOREWORD

by Major-General C. M. F. WHITE
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., C.S.O., M.E.L.F.

*I was sitting on the large and cool verandah of the Casino Palace at Port Said the other day sipping the inevitable Turkish coffee and talking to a Signals officer of the local Squadron, when he told me of a 60ft. motor vessel lying in the harbour, which had a life-sized Jimmy painted in blazing white on the bow of its black, workmanlike hull.*

*He told me how his Major and himself went out to investigate this ship stamped so clearly with our Corps crest and how, finding no one on board, they felt they had the right to ownership but didn't know how to start the large, old-fashioned diesel.*

*"What ship was that?" my companion asked me. "It could only be the 'Aura,'" I replied, and told him a little of her exploits before joining our Corps.*

*Perhaps there are quite a number of all ranks in our Corps who know nothing or little of the "Aura." This must not be so any longer. She has helped to add tradition to our Corps. She and her skipper, like all good seafaring folk, say little but do a lot.*

*So here is a brief and light description by her skipper, Major I. McAnsh, Royal Signals, of the type of work that the "Aura" carried out whilst with the Corps—invaluable work, hard work, successful work, on which she and her skipper and crew must be congratulated by all who know the difficulties overcome and the valued results to the successful control of the Dodecanese by both the Commander and the British Military Administration from the time we went into those islands until we finally handed them over to the Greeks.*

*Now the "Aura," very tired, is to be handed back to her Italian owner. Her able skipper and chief signal engineer, Major McAnsh, goes home to New Zealand on Python; her sea crew and technical crew, a large proportion of whom were capable German prisoners of war, are sadly being dispersed—she has, in naval terms, "completed her commission and the officers and men are being paid off."*

*May her spirit remain with our Corps as an inspiration of endeavour and success in some of those varied duties which befall Signals so often but which have no part, as yet, in any of our training manuals.*

* * *

*Note: When I told Major McAnsh that the "Aura" was temporarily unattended at Port Said and how she might have been abducted, all he said was "She's welcome to anybody who can start her." Apparently she was a one-man schooner!*

TWO MEMBERS OF THE CREW WITH THE SKIPPER. SEPTEMBER, 1946

★

"WIND up aft." The steel cable tightened, and the grapnel began its slow groping for the submarine cable that snuggled into the sand fathoms below. Failure to find the cable this run meant an hour with the hand winches in the near future, and with the grapnel cable vertical over the stern roller, the crew clustered round in varying stages of expectation. The skipper in the dinghy with the "shuftiscope"—an underwater telescope—the optimists in the crew hanging over the stern trying to "outshufti" the "shuftiscope," and the remainder watching the cable for the

# LOCATED FIVE FATHOMS

*by*

**MAJOR I. McANSH**
**Royal Signals**

increase in tension that means the grapnel has connected. " Wind her in "—this from the dinghy in a voice that denotes a large lump of cable on the end, and the cook disappears to brew up before the day's work begins. The grapnel breaks surface, displaying a variety of seaweed, a cubic foot of the seabed, and the submarine cable—the last loose end.

In any war there are loose and tangled ends waiting to be sorted out, classified, and found a home. In the Dodecanese, Signals took over the job of putting to rights the submarine cables, our share of the " loose ends." Twenty-eight of them, scattered over two hundred miles of the Aegean, and as varied a collection as you could wish. Both the German occupying force and our own Raiding Forces had a hand in the task of rendering the cables unfit for further service, and they did the job between them rather more thoroughly than was necessary—from our point of view. German tactics were to blow up the cable head and mine the area sufficiently to discourage any further interest in it, while the Raiding Force would quietly cut the cable head and drag the sea end back with them into deep water, and depart into the night. Some of the cables died a natural death through exposure, but all were hospital cases by the time we arrived.

After the surrender of the Dodecanese on 9th May, 1945, a detachment of Force 281 Signals went up to Leros to take over. And it was there at a later date that I took over the *Aura,* destined to become Signals' first and possibly last cable-craft; used by the Germans as a runabout in the harbour in Leros, she was found in Cos in September, 1945, by myself and Major Sinclair, of C.B.M., with her engine dis, and was towed back to Leros by the Z60.

On 28th October, 1945, with a crew of six P.O.W.s and a British " Sparks," the *Aura* sailed under my command for Rhodes to be slipped and refitted for the cable work that lay ahead of her.

Operation " Acquisition " might be a fitting term for the way the *Aura* found all her odds and ends. Some of the odds were odd, and some were not, but all found an end. When she left Leros she had aboard a Johnsen transceiver, four 12-volt batteries, an engine, and a wheel. By varying stages and degrees—not to mention means that are best left unsaid—she acquired rope, winches, cable, bunks, lockers, flags, masts —in fact all the gear that can be found aboard by those who take the trouble to make a close survey of all that is on her. Those of the crew who may have had some scruples in the matter of " scrounging " have long since lost them, and a keen, that-may-come-in-handy look is one of the distinguishing features of those who sail in her—when they're not under the weather.

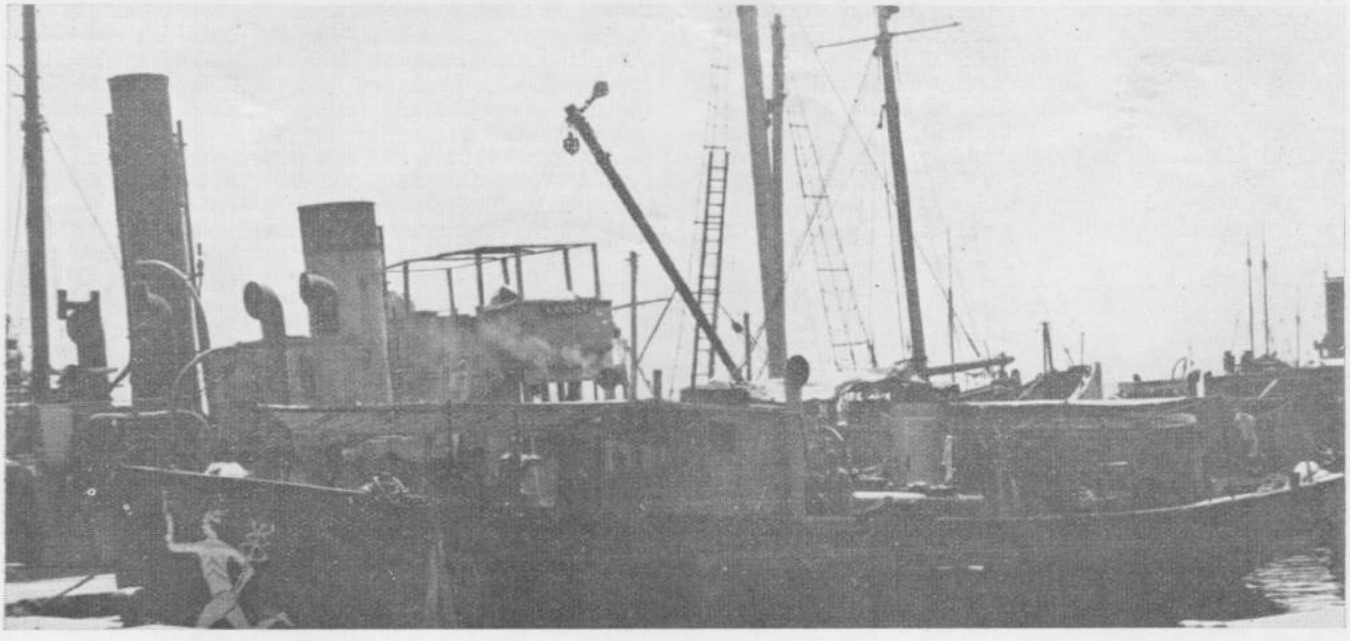
The first trip of the *Aura* was to Panormiti (Symi) to install protection boxes on the cables. This was on 2nd December, 1945, and as a token of the days to come, the log for that day reads: " Wind N.W. 4/5, heavy head seas." The days when cable has been worked in a calm sea with a slight breeze can be counted on the thumbs of the left hand. It was very marked that there was no nonsense the day we took Major-General White to Symi. The sea was like a mill pond, and the wind dropped from nothing to half that. Whether this was deference to authority or merely creating a wrong impression, we have never been able to ascertain.

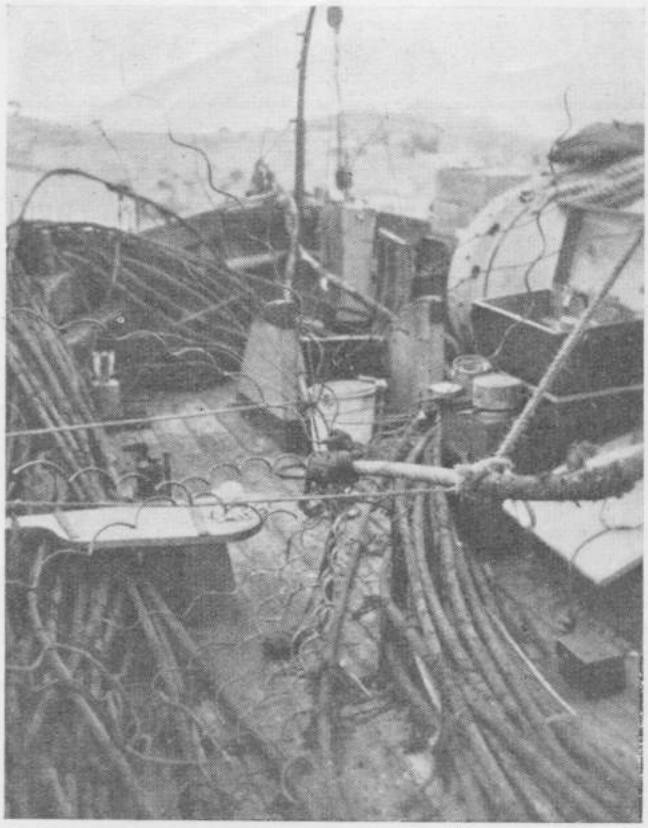
We saw 1945 out in a frantic hustle of " this is dis, repair it." Christmas, 1945, was memorable in more ways than one.

Nineteen-forty-six began with maintenance and overhauls. Even T.M.O.s might have wilted at the thought of thirty-nine days on nothing but maintenance, but the *Aura* took it all and asked for more. On 9th February, 1946, we slipped out on a dumping run and found that " oor boatie " is a hog for maintenance, and nothing would satisfy her but that she should be stripped and fiddled and put together again. As a strip artiste she would have made a fortune in a month.

Scarpanto cable had its first visit from the Signals in March, 1946, when it was found u.s., and the seaward approaches mined. This was in the nature of a reconnais-

AURA RESTING AMONG HER LONGER, THOUGH NO OLDER, SISTERS. OCTOBER, 1946





A JOINT IN PROGESS AT CHALKI. DECEMBER, 1946

sance, and she slipped for Rhodes on 1st April, passing *en route* a " floating object "—a mine.

June found us back in Scarpanto. As we had as yet no submarine cable, a temporary joint was made with heavy rubber cable, and communication established Casos-Scarpanto, Scarpanto-Rhodes. We returned in July with cable, and began to assume the " finished-by-midday " look quite early on. The cable was jointed in the dinghy, the shore party dug the trench to the cable box, and missed an " S " mine with the sharp end of a pick by an inch. The P.W. steward, an ex-pioneer, lifted and disarmed it, and had a look to see if there were any more. Another was found round the other side of the cable box, where we were in the habit of parking the bike. In spite of all this, the cable was laid in, the trench filled, and we were wondering if the mail would be awaiting us in Rhodes when the air round the cable box turned blue and began to vibrate. The insulation resistance of the cable we had just laid was going down fast! The joint was opened and proved O.K. and the resistance still fell. Our spare cable, though testing O.K. stored in fresh water, proved u.s. when in salt. The skipper went stalking round muttering words to the effect that if you wanted a job done properly, you had . . . etc., and he was going home !

September again saw us in Scarpanto with new cable, straight up from M.E. this time. The old trench was dug out, the new cable laid in, and the trench filled in—considerably helped by a wind sweeping along the beach, and moving any sand that was not held in place by lumps of rocks directly over it. This time all was well, and 24th September, 1946, saw the Scarpanto cable well and truly finished. The following day we left for the Rhodes end of the Scarpanto cable—Prassonisi. Here the main job was digging. The old cable was u.s., but it was buried in three to four feet of sand, and it had to be dug up. Surely we ought to qualify for honorary membership of the Bevin boys ! A new cable run ashore and jointed, and the Scarpanto-Rhodes cable then O.K.

With the advent of July, 1946, the *Aura* ceased to have any association with the English Army that we had in the Dodecanese, and with a Kiwi, a Jock, and six of the indispensable P.W.s, we sallied forth to tackle the cable that goes down in history—Piscopi. Piscopi was the island where the Raiding Forces had made their job of the war—two cables severed at the shore, dragged three hundred yards out, and the bight neatly dropped in fifteen fathoms of water.

### A Mixed Ten Days

To pick up the cable at random and attempt to drag it inshore was a task a cable ship might have jibbed at, and as no surplus cable was available at the time, we proposed to float it in. Thirty-four gallon petrol drums were to act as the buoys, and the first day was spent in heaving them over the side and anchoring them for the night. Rig of the day alternated between " shorts K.D." and birthday suits. With a sigh of content we slept the sleep of the weary, feeling the gods were to let us finish the cable in record time. First day and no hitches.

Dawn of the second day found the deck watch murmuring, " Wot ! No barrels ? " During the night they had broken and drifted, and we were left lamenting. Visualising an H.S.L. bumping thirty-four gallon drums at upwards of twenty knots, we wirelessed a warning to shipping and proceeded in search of the errant drums. The drums eluded us, and we returned to pick up the cable and try to work with the few drums that were left. Busily engaged floating the cable in the late afternoon, we were more than a trifle shaken to see all our drums come floating in on their own. We took their repentance for granted and stowed them where they would not manage to wander a second time. In three days of fair weather we buoyed cable, lost drums, chased them in the dinghy, sunk them by rifle fire, discovered the presence of sponges in two fathoms—rapidly converting our Communists to near-Capitalists, when they worked out the profit per sponge—and in the end had the cable near enough to the shore to feel justified in calling it finished. Here also we discovered the pleasure of the skipper's " wee walk into Piscopi," a walk that leaves a mountain warfare school looking like a Sunday school picnic. We had seven days of this, and in the end began to feel a change would do us no end of good. By mid-afternoon the deck had sufficient heat to burn the soles of one's feet, and anyone who stepped on the iron stern rail through lapse of memory went straight in the drink to cool off. We had the sea and a circle of scrubby hills to look at, and then there were the hills and the sea. At night we'd come up on deck and look at the sea or the hills, or if we felt like going to town we'd sit and count the drums still afloat.

PRASSONISI. CABLE REPAIR IN PROGRESS. " SWEATING LABOUR." RHODES. OCTOBER, 1946

(Drawing pay for this, too !) There is a malicious and entirely unfounded rumour that one of the crew, eager for the gay life of Cos, deliberately and with malice aforethought, opened the cock of the fresh water tank in the wee sma' hours of the morning. Be that as it may, we ran out of fresh water on the morning of the seventh day, and shipped out for Cos to refill. We returned the following day, eager for the fray ! We had hardly dropped our picks when an H.S.L. came gliding into the bay with the Area Commander aboard, in search of this mysterious, aloof, and remote commodity—submarine cable. The skipper showed all that was to be seen, and he departed with the air of a man who asks nothing more of life. (Query for Signals officers—Can you pass an " O.P." by Aldis to the white smother of foam that is an H.S.L. hitting twenty-five knots over the horizon ? Try it !) In the small hours of the morning after the Area Commander had left, the fun and games started. The crew were hauled out of bed at the ungodly hour of 0120 to find the anchor watch running in smaller circles over the matter of a dragging anchor. Loath to pile the ship on the rocks and swim back, we spent a hustling half-hour on the winches and anchor chain, and went back to bed with the expectation of getting out again in the near future, for the wind was a nor'wester, gusting 5–7. But we were left in peace for the remainder of the night, and in the morning the sea had a swell that stopped the work on the cable, allowing us to go ashore and tidy the cable box. By the beginning of the afternoon the sea was rising steadily, and the skipper decided to run for Rhodes. This is the part in the *Aura's* history worth a pint pot and a good story any day of the week. As we left the shelter of the bay, she began shipping green seas over the for'ard davit, and everything movable—including three bodies—was playing ring-a-rosies in no time at all. The ship's cat disappeared into the galley for the best part of two hours, and the dog and his playmate (a sprightly porker by the name of Alfonso) retired under the main winch and were seen no more till we tied up in Rhodes.

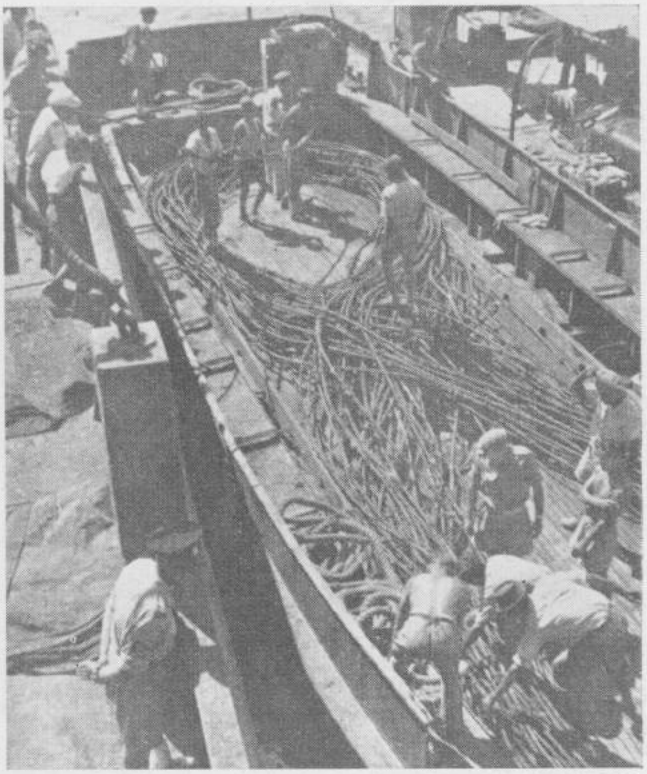
**Trouble Fore and Aft**

Piscopi more than justified its reputation in the New Year when we ran into San Nicola Bay in heavy rain to find our protection box and barrel buoys gone. The cable was jointed and returned to the sea bed with a force five N.W. blowing, and the shore party came aboard in two minds as to whether they ought to claim survivors' leave. With something in the nature of a foot to eighteen inches of water in the dinghy, it took the combined efforts of two men on the oars and two men on a line to the *Aura* to get her back to the ship. With the N.W. intending to make a night of it, we ran for Livadia, and anchored for the night with all the chain we could find on the ship out for'ard. The chain held for the night, but when we slipped for Symi the next morning it fouled the anchor and the anchor cable. We cruised round the bay with a distinct blue and purple tinge in the direction of the bows, where the cox'un and the deckhand were attempting to straighten the tangle out, expending more language and energy than the rest of the crew put together ! With the chain and cable straightened out, we headed for Symi, and entering the Seskli gap in the beginning of the afternoon, the rudder line snapped. The cox'n found this out when he swung the wheel to port to take her through the middle of the gap, and the *Aura* headed gaily for the shore on the starboard bow. A crowbar under the tiller did duty till we had the line repaired, and we berthed in Symi without further incident.

* * *

It would detract from the story to delve into all the ins and outs of all the islands, and the remainder must be content with the outstanding events. Castelrosso, where we evacuated the Signals, holding the Blue Riband for the run (9½ hours) for our type. (H.S.L. skippers can sit down again and carry on drinking.)

Leros is worth mention for the hours spent in the workshops at San Giorgio, and the caique *Natalie*. *Natalie* was borrowed while the *Aura* was on maintenance and also because the *Aura* has a trifle much draught to slide over the mines, to repair the Parteni cable. Her only trouble was the engine. The local engineers (?) had devised a new type—half diesel, half paraffin, and a water cooling system simple and effective. A bucket over the side, and fill the tank up every four minutes. If you leave at eight in the morning and berth at five at night, how often . . . ?



THE AURA ALONGSIDE THE P BOAT ALONGSIDE THE EMPIRE CLUB. LOADING CABLE JUST ARRIVED FROM M.E. RHODES, 1946

As a ship and her crew are one, so for that day the *Natalie* was the *Aura*. The Parteni cable was mended—due to the cox'n's tea. (To one pint fiercely boiling water add a handful of tea and stew for three minutes. Add three spoonfuls sugar and rum to taste !) At 1700 hrs., just as we were slipping for Portolago, we ran aground. But muscle, language, and perseverance got us clear, and we tied up alongside *Aura* at 2000 hrs. without further incident.

Calymnos, where one of our linemen was blown up by a mine early on in the occupation, is remembered for a cable repaired in record time in a downpour. The mine detector refused to function, and thinking we might as well be blown up as drowned, we " got tore in," and the Emborio cable was finished in four hours.

Of Cos I say nothing. If you would hear the story of Cos, and the cables of Cardamena, I refer you to a secretary of the C.B.M. If cable ships mean 2,000 ton ships, and electric winches, he will disillusion you. Shovels, sweated labour, and mermaids will all figure in his story. (If you aspire to the Band of Hope, don't ask him.)

The *Aura* is a ship and cables are only a part of her. She has ranged from the far north of the Dodecs to Port Said, from Antifilo in Turkey she may yet reach Bari, i.e. her port of registry. From practically a hull and an engine she has become, and I quote here a Signals N.C.O. who came aboard her in Port Said, " My, its almost like coming home, to be back aboard the old *Aura*." Which is a lot to be said for any ship.

# Home Stations

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*September*

At the beginning of the athletic season the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Royal Signals, laid down that the unit was going to win the District Team Championship, that there was to be no element of doubt on this at all, and that everybody was to work with this as their ultimate goal.

Captain C. Waugh was selected as unit athletics officer and a plan of campaign was got out. The sports ground was kept permanently marked out, every encouragement was given for volunteers to come along in their spare time, and an Inter-Squadron meeting was planned for the beginning of June as the first milestone on our path to success. This first meeting took place amidst considerable enthusiasm, and although results were mostly very average, it was apparent that there was keenness and latent talent. Another meeting was planned for July.

The July sports were held, and although many results were still mediocre, talent was becoming more apparent. Up to now, Lieutenant A. G. Smith, that very fine sportsman, had been occupied with Army and Services meetings, during which he won the Army 220 yards hurdles, and we had but little opportunity of obtaining his advice. He was now less busily engaged and training started in real earnest. We could see the rough framework of our athletic team and all those likely to be in the team were put on their honour to turn up for practice every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Lieutenant Smith issued all athletes with some cyclostyled notes on training for each particular event.

Emphasis was placed on style, muscling up and getting 100 per cent. fit. No one was allowed to practice his event at more than 75 per cent. full effort. Runners were given set times to do their laps in. Captain Waugh, with his stop watch, became a permanent fixture on Scotton Ground and the C.O. was a regular attendant.

The actual sports day arrived and preliminary heats left us in little doubt that we would pull it off.

The final results are listed below. It will be seen that Lieutenant A. G. Smith and Signalman Milner broke the Army team high jump record by 2½ inches, both clearing 5 ft. 9¾ inches.

The result was a fitting climax to the hard work put in by all, and much credit devolves on Captain Waugh and all members of the team.

Regimental results in Catterick District Team Championships:—

100 yards.—First team: Lance-Corporal D. J. Goddard, Lance-Corporal A. N. Urquhart, Signalman M. E. F. Gray, Signalman M. Rabinovitch.

220 yards.—First team: Lance-Corporal A. M. Cooper, Lance-Corporal A. N. Urquhart, Signalman M. E. F. Gray, Signalman M. Rabinovitch.

440 yards.—First team: Lieutenant A. G. Smith, Corporal K. Newcombe, Corporal K. Forster, Lance-Corporal D. J. Goddard.

880 yards.—Third team: Signalman O. Babbidge, Signalman J. Graham, Signalman R. Davies, Signalman A. E. Davies.

One mile.—Fourth team: Signalman W. R. Craig, Lance-Corporal R. Lewis.

Three-mile.—Fourth team: Signalman D. Lowe, Signalman J. Reynolds.

Medley relay.—Third team: Signalman M. E. F. Gray, Signalman M. Rabinovitch, Lance-Corporal D. J. Goddard, Signalman J. Graham.

High jump.—First: Lieutenant A. G. Smith, Signalman G. R. Milner.

Long jump.—Second: Lieutenant A. G. Smith, Signalman J. N. Miller.

Hop, step and jump.—First: Corporal N. Jefferson, Signalman J. N. Miller.

Discus.—Second: S.Q.M.S. Eeckelaers, Second-Lieutenant G. J. Kitchen.

Shot.—First: Corporal D. Smith, Lance-Corporal D. L. Rawson.

Javelin.—Corporal F. A. Hutchinson, Signalman W. Thompson.

No. 3 SQUADRON. *Exercise Skylark.* A party from the unit were guests of the Home Fleet for the last week in July. The part-time sailors were Second-Lieutenant Duncan (Assistant Adjutant), Sergeants Forty and Craig, Corporal Rice (3 Squadron), and Signalmen Smith and Churchard (2 Squadron).

Sailing from the Clyde, their ship, the 2,300 ton destroyer H.M.S. "Cadiz," took part in Fleet exercises in the Western Approaches of the Atlantic. The weather was kind, and the sick bay was about the only place in the ship unvisited. Arriving at Portsmouth the following Thursday, the unanimous opinion was that Navy rum boosted morale even more than Vimy N.A.A.F.I. tea.

Aboard H.M.S. Cadiz

*Cycling Club.* The Cycling Club has just been granted a new lease of life in the shape of six brand-new B.S.A. roadster cycles, provided by a benevolent P.R.I. Since the initial cost of the bikes was rather heavy, a small fee is charged each time a fellow borrows one, or more strictly speaking, hires one. The original idea of the club was for touring purposes, but as there seemed to be more racing than touring machines available, this did not prove too popular. However, now that we have some reliable bikes which can be obtained at quite short notice for a very modest sum, perhaps we shall be able to explore the beauties of such places as Hardraw Force, Fountains Abbey and the Buttertubs, whilst those who prefer to travel fast and see little can also enjoy themselves on their own runs.

* * *

A party under Lance-Corporal Willingale spent a week-

end exploring both banks of the Swale, from Richmond to within about four miles from Reeth. They set out complete with rations, blankets, sweaters, and an Agatha Christie novel.

* * *

Congratulations to Captain Waugh upon his promotion and ditto to "all those Sergeants" who have recently joined the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

Two very well-known members of the Squadron have taken unto themselves a wife (one each) during the past month; all the best to you and yours, Sergeants Paterson and Hutchinson.

## No. 6 TRAINING REGIMENT

*September*

It is many a long day since this regiment appeared in the Signals Journal. We have now turned over a new leaf and hope to submit regular notes in future.

A few months ago we changed our role and now train R.T.M.s instead of O.W.L.s. The most serious effect of the change is a sharp reduction in transport and a corresponding increase in the length of queues at Kemmel bus stop.

Lieutenant-Colonel Heap has left now for Singapore, taking our best wishes with him, and we have welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel Beeton, late of 1 Depot Regiment. We have suffered the usual flow of personalities in and out but still manage to retain some of the old guard. Major Fraser still runs Admin. and P.R.I. and we can still weep on the shoulders of Captain Q.M. Bawden and Captain T. O. M. Adcock.

Among our hardened sinners we still number R.S.M. Douglas-Beveridge, S.S.M.s Phillips, Williams, Hayes and Satchwell, and last, but not least, a sinister background of R.Q.M.S. Vigurs, F. of S. Marsh, S.Q.M.S.s Fields, Mitchell, Kyte, Mansell, Sayer, Degan, Garrad and Lockey. With that little party to look after us we should survive the winter.

We have had to say goodbye to S.Q.M.S. "Busty" Gillott, snaffled for overseas at last, and S.S.M. "Grannie" Grocott to Civy Street after 28 years' service. If you're directed into essential employment Granny, choose the Army.

The reduction in trainee strength due to our new role has permitted us to spread out a bit and increase our comfort considerably. Old members of the regiment will be pleased to hear that double-tier beds are now a thing of the past.

We receive a very good standard of intake these days who react to their training extremely well. It is unfortunate that we only give them a small part of the R.T.M. course and so only hold them for 10-12 weeks. We should like to keep them longer and know them better, but the laws of supply and demand are inflexible.

*Sports and Entertainments.* In spite of our reduced strength, now nearly 1,000 O.R.s, we have been able to produce athletic meetings of a very good standard, and our Annual Inter-Squadron Meeting on 12th August provided very good entertainment. The organisation was excellent and the programme ran without a single hitch or deviation from the time table. A very creditable performance on the part of our Admin. staff and the team of officials.

The prizes were gracefully presented by Mrs. Beeton, and with the calling of three cheers for her and the C.O. a very successful annual sports concluded.

At the Catterick District Inter Unit Team Championship on 25th-27th August, the Regiment was well represented, and considering the short period for which we hold our men for training, it was a praiseworthy performance to be 4th out of the units represented. We found some consolation in the performance of some of our trainees who competed against us for their new regiment.

An excellent example of what can be pulled out of the bag by good men was given by Lance-Corporal Winter and Signalman Drinkwater in the 4 x 440 yards relay, who made an outstanding effort which deserved better luck.

The good weather in August (strictly non-Catterick variety) encouraged our swimmers so much that we won our August match at Catterick easily and provided two men for the Army Championships at Derby on 12th August. Signalman Neilson was 2nd in the 440 yards free style and Signalman Maunders 3rd in the diving contest at this meet.

The approach of winter has pushed athletics and swimming out of the picture and we are now concentrating on hockey, soccer and rugger with every prospect of being well represented at all three.

The P.R.I.'s monthly dance goes from strength to strength. The August effort was enlivened by a beauty contest which was won by Corporal Gwen McMillan, A.T.S., with Miss June Pyke runner-up. It is quite untrue that O.C. Admin. Squadron, who was a judge, was at one time mistaken for a competitor. (It's those glamorous pips that do it Peter.)

## SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

*September*

The first Officers' Long Telecommunications Course at the School of Signals dispersed at the end of August after eighteen months of advanced technical study. During June the fifteen officers on this course paid a number of visits to firms and establishments engaged in activities of vital interest to the Corps.

A photograph, taken during a highly interesting and well-organised visit to the Mullard Organisation, is shown below.

A Mullards engineer gives a demonstration of test equipment manufactured by the firm

During the recent war the value of close co-operation between Signals and the telecommunications industry was proved time and again. Mr. T. E. Goldup, Director of Mullards, and other members of the organisation, spared no pains to present a highly instructive picture of the industry, its problems, and the activities of the various factories.

## ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*September*

*Pass Off Parade.*—On Tuesday, 18th August, 185 Course, consisting of eighteen officer cadets, passed off. The salute was taken by Colonel C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., A.A.G. (A.G.11).

The senior under-officer commanding the parade was Officer-Cadet J. L. W. Hancock, and the award of the Commandant's Cane was made to Officer-Cadet P. A. John.

*District Inter-Unit Team Athletic Championship.* In the District Inter-Unit Team Athletic Championship, held on 25th, 26th, and 27th August, this unit gained sixth place out of twelve competing units.

The unit won places in the finals of the following events:

Javelin—1st place.
Putting the shot—2nd place.
4 x 440 yards—4th place.
4 x 880 yards—4th place.
Discus—4th place.
Three miles—5th place.
High jump—6th place.

*Catterick District Presentation Parade.* Under a blazing hot sun on 28th August, a presentation parade, consisting of representative detachments of all arms of Catterick District, was held. At this parade a pennant, embroidered with the District Sign, was presented to the Mayor and Burgesses of the Borough of Richmond.

The pennant, which depicts the red and white roses of Lancashire and Yorkshire combined to form the Tudor or Richmond rose, was presented by the General Officer Commanding, Major-General R. T. O. Carey, C.B.E., D.S.O.

The presentation was made on behalf of all ranks of the Catterick District as a token of the cordial relations and close associations which have always existed between the Borough of Richmond and the Garrison. We were represented by a detachment of ninety cadets, under the command of the Senior Under-Officer, Officer-Cadet S. Watson.

*R.E. O.C.T.U. Visit.* On 22nd and 23rd August we were "at home" to a strong contingent from the R.E. O.C.T.U.

A full programme was arranged and included boxing, cricket, tennis, golf, shooting, swimming, and athletics. The social side was not neglected and included a variety concert held in the Unit Theatre. This was followed by a supper, and enabled us to meet our opposite numbers among our Sapper guests.

At the dance held the following evening, the Cadet Dance Committee helped to give us all an evening which was voted by visitors and locals alike to be a most successful party.

All the items on the sports programme were closely contested and fought out in a spirit of keen friendly rivalry. The general interest in the progress of the various events was stimulated by the running broadcast commentaries made by our observers on the spot.

Though we failed to win a single match, the results were not so one-sided as the final outcome indicated. The athletics match, which was held on the Garrison Sports Stadium, was a close thing all the way. The times put up were very good indeed, and it was only on the last two track events that the Sappers pulled away to consolidate a win. Mention must be made of the very fine effort made by Officer-Cadet Pain in the three-mile event. He constantly challenged the Sapper leader, only to be beaten in the final run in by some two yards.

The swimming match was as close an event as one could wish for. The final event, the relay, found both teams level on points. The relay itself also ended in a dead heat.

The tennis match, held on the Officers' Club courts, also ended in a draw. We won in the singles but lost in the doubles.

The shooting and golf we lost, but in both matches we gave our Sapper guests a close run for it. The shooting was remarkable for the good scores put up by both sides. We failed to maintain our lead by falling down badly in the snap shooting event.

And so ended a most interesting fixture and a very enjoyable week-end, with both hosts and guests looking forward to the next meeting.

*Catterick Garrison Miniature Range League.* On Saturday, 16th August, at District Headquarters, the District Commander presented to our miniature rifle team, captained by Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., a cup and medals to mark their success in winning the league shoot.

The District Commander congratulated the team on its success, and particularly on having established a record in winning all the matches fired.

*Motor Cycle Trials.* The School of Signals recently held a series of motor cycle trials, in which there were nine entries. Officer-Cadet E. R. Glew was awarded the best novice prize.

## WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

*September*

HEADQUARTERS. The chief event of importance this month was our annual inspection by Major-General J. C. O. Marriott, C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., the General Officer Commanding London District, on Thursday, 28th August. Everything possible was done by all ranks to try to make these Belgravian Mansions, each with its 80 or more stairs, appear as suitable habitation for its present occupants. It was a hot day, and though all our 2,000 stairs were not climbed, a great many were, but everyone kept well up, eager to be in at the end, for the last two houses to inspect could not be missed—the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

All went well and a complimentary report was received and passed on, with the Commanding Officer's thanks to all ranks.

Movements to and from us during this past month included

Semi-auto transmitter and receiver banks

Transmitter heads with automatic channel numbering

some well-known Regulars and " old hands " of the Regiment. Arrivals: Sergeant A. J. Lennon from 1 Depot Regiment; Sergeant O. W. Fletcher from 1 Depot Regiment; Corporal V. Hammond from H.Q., Southern Command; Corporal J. Poxon from 1 Depot Regiment. Departures: S.Q.M.S. W. E. Welsh to 2 Depot Regiment; Sergeant R. W. Chapman to 97 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signals, T.A. Releases, Regular Engagement: Sergeant A. S. Wickstead, Sergeant D. E. Mack, Sergeant W. P. Owen.

*Cricket.* Cricket has now drawn to a close, but we can look back on a very successful season. The unit played 11 matches and won 9 of them in resounding fashion.

Individually it is difficult to pick out the stars, because beyond all doubt our matches were won in the field rather than at the creases. The intense keenness of all members of the team was an outstandingly pleasant feature of the season's play and resulted in needle-sharp fielding all the time regardless of what was on the scoreboard. Everyone who plays cricket will agree that this sort of side is never easy to beat.

The write-up would be incomplete without mention of one or two highlights—Signalman Burton's 94, for instance, against Command Workshops. His misfortune in missing the century was mitigated by the fact that he was out going for runs when the team needed them quickly. The incredible acrobatics of Signalman Hawkes in the slips had to be seen to be believed. He took catches at all angles, with all parts of his anatomy, and often defied the laws of gravity. Long-handle tactics used by Sergeant Coates and Lance-Corporal Buckley always brightened the brightest match; the latter also kept two very safe hands inches behind the bails to every bowler, regardless of pace. And finally a word of praise for our team captain, Signalman Barrett, whose astute generalship, wide knowledge of the game, and attention to detail proved a continuous source of inspiration to the rest of the side and was probably the greatest single contribution to our successful season.

For the statistician, our leading averages were:—Batting: Signalman Burton 43.3, Signalman Plowman 39.25, Signalman Hawkes 27.2, Signalman Barrett 22.8; while on the bowling side Corporal Bradley took 24 wickets for an average of 6.3 runs apiece, Signalman Mathews 26 for 6.6, and Signalman Barrett 21 for 7.

" D " TROOP, LONDON. The War Office Auto Room has changed considerably since the war days. The auto is fast dying and semi-automatic radio teleprinters have come to take the place of the twelve auto positions that were. We still retain two auto benches (four positions) as a token of the " old days " along with the " tropical atmosphere." It might be mentioned that these " stand by " positions are used more than the name implies.

Two photographs reproduced on this page give a limited idea of the present lay-out with its receive and transmit consoles. At present the room is being re-wired by Corporal Moore, who has quite a way with " lacing twine " and a soldering iron.

" E " TROOP, BAMPTON. Tucked away in the English countryside stands a small group of huts and buildings surrounded by two square miles of fields dotted with aerial masts.

It is the home of " E " Troop, War Office Signal Regiment, now introducing itself to readers with its first individual appearance in THE WIRE.

Upon the Troop, composed of Royal Signals, R.P.C., and A.C.C. personnel, is bestowed the honour of staffing the United Kingdom's major receiving station in the Army Chain Wireless Network.

The Troop has been working strenuously throughout the summer months in servicing the eighty odd masts, aerials, and co-axial feeders of the station, repairing the ravages of the past hard winter. In this connection thanks must be given for the able and whole-hearted assistance of parties of men from other Troops of the Regiment, normally employed on the traffic side of the " set up " in the City, who have been spending short working holidays here.

All concerned have had several months of hard graft involving a liberal amount of overtime, but the oncoming winter can now be approached with a feeling of security and the thought that a little extra recreation will have been well earned.

## SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*September*

The three months' glorious summer weather has been an answer to a Training Officer's prayer, and the emphasis of the unit's activities has been on training. Detachments of officers and men, with A.C.V.s, Gin Palaces, and all manner of Signals equipment, were sent to Barry, Gailes, and Dunbar Cadet Camps, where training, demonstrations, and Signals facilities were given to the A.C.F., J.T.C., S.T.C., and Territorial Army. From the keenness shown by the first three mentioned, and their enthusiastic interest in Signals, recruiting into Regular and T.A. Signals should shortly be very good in these areas.

Other training enterprises have included assistance at T.A. recruiting drives and rallies, loans of equipment to so many people that a complete Nissen hut is used to hold the " Temp. Loan 1033's," and a day at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Ayr, where a demonstration was given to hundreds of scantily-clad holidaymakers. One of the unit's A.T.S. drivers almost walked away with the Holiday Camp Beauty Prize Cup—but she was made to bring it back.

On the operational side, Scottish Command is now completely " back home " in the Castle, any " teething pains " gone and forgotten, and the Signal Office is a model of

efficiency (well, we haven't lost a message *this* week), under Captain Tommy Foard (pronounced Vauxhall).

East and West F.S.S. Troops, under Captain C. H. G. Allen and Captain Jock Emsley, are still having their "ups and downs" on poles, and putting line labels on everything found hanging, including aerials, clothes lines, and G-strings. None the less they still manage to keep the static F.S.S. commitments of Scottish Command in very good order, despite shortages of personnel. On one of his visits to Stobbs Camp, Captain "Ginger" Allen, of East Troop, discovered a 15-year-old WIRE of December, 1932. Wherein on page 485 he located himself as a smart young signalman. *Sic transit gloria mundi*—which means something about when the train is in the station.

Many changes in personnel have taken place in the unit during the last three months. We said good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel Booth in our last notes, and after a two months' *inter-regnum* command by Major T. Stibbs, we welcomed a month ago our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe, who we hope will be very happy here.

Major Stibbs is now Second-in-Command again, Major G. H. R. Flynn still commanding No. 1 Squadron and Captain V. S. Gilliam still Adjutant. New arrivals include Major E. Fox, commanding No. 2 Squadron, from Burma (yes, really), Captain (Tot) Westwood, Lieutenant (Tom) Nicholas, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Williams. Also a praille of 150 products, Second-Lieutenants Sitch, Ross, and Taylor. A big welcome to all of them.

Departures to the "joys" of civil life are Lieutenant Sutherland and Captain Morrison-Low. Best wishes to them.

Not nearly so many changes have taken place amongst our warrant officers and senior N.C.O.s. R.Q.M.S. Evans and S.S.M. Nelson are still with us. S.Q.M.S. Powner has joined us, as also have Sergeant Sheward and Sergeant Francis. S.S.M. Fraser has returned to us after a short spell down south.

As an integrated unit covering all the sexes, some mention must be made of the ladies—bless them ! Senior Commander Murphy is still the "burra memsahib," but Junior Commanders Brown and Dixon have left us, respectively for the joys of the War Office and matrimony. It is hard to know which to congratulate and which to pity. Our other A.T.S. officers are Subalterns Butler, Gemmell, Parke, and Firbank.

Hearty congratulations and very best wishes to Corporal Saxton and Lance-Corporal Girvan, A.T.S., who were married on 17th August last.

On the sporting side of the unit, a most successful cricket season has just ended and the unit team, led by stalwarts Captains Gilliam and Allen, had a very good record.

ORKNEY GARRISON TROOP. After several months we are staging a come-back through the medium of these pages.

Some may overlook us as they hurriedly scan the contents for news of brethren in warmer climes. However, it is hoped that some veteran—who can remember the war's first bomb—will gaze at his frostbitten toes as he recalls with pride his youthful days in O.S.D.E.F.

The major calamity so far this year occurred in mid-spring; both the trees in the city (?) of Kirkwall were in leaf when the camp awoke on a fine May morning to hear of the burning down of the town's only cinema. Definitely the last performance !

An inverted kind of moon-madness led several of the Troop to try their hand at kite-flying by the light of the midnight sun. The formation of a Kite-flying Association was soon abandoned when it was learned that members' subscriptions were to provide the Signal Office staff with the means to retain their addiction to the tobacco weed.

Warm weather has prevailed here for several weeks and bathing at Scapa has proved very popular.

The two members of the Troop who play regularly for the Garrison football team, our O.C., Captain R. H. Barton, and Signalman "Peri Como" Rogers, continue to give good accounts of themselves, and it is hoped that similar talent can be found within the Troop in the athletics field in preparation for the forthcoming Garrison sports.

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## SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*September*

The tempo of work and play in Southern Command Signal Regiment has in no way been slowed down by the unbelievable heat wave through which we have been passing. Those amongst us with "long service in hot climates" completely ignoring the weather (at the same time extracting their K.D. shirts from the moth balls) scorned the younger members of the unit who complained of the heat.

During the past four weeks a Signal demonstration column from this unit has been touring the various A.C.F. and J.T.C. in the South of England. The members of the column were amply rewarded for their efforts by the keen interest shown by the cadets in the equipment being displayed. The two teleprinters and the wire recorder were of especial interest, and the consternation shown by most of the cadets on first hearing their own voices afforded great amusement to those present. Needless to say, however, the operator was kept busy during the whole of each afternoon, whilst cadets yelled into the microphone in unison, in harmony and individually, until they had completed exhausted their own particular repertoires. The various places visited included such distant points as Lulworth, Aldershot, the Isle of Wight and Tregantle.

The annual swimming gala was held at Salisbury Baths on Friday, August 15th. The weather was ideal for the occasion, and there were a large number of entries for the different events. In the men's events Captain D. Keefe was outstanding, especially when he failed to record a plunge of 50 feet by a few inches. For the A.T.S., Lance-Corporal Griffiths put up a good show in many of the events, whilst Private Hanson did well to win the A.T.S. diving. The prizes were presented by Junior Commander Fairlie, and so ended an afternoon enjoyed by all—both swimmers and non-swimmers alike.

On the 1st September the unit was invaded by a contingent of 48 A.C.F. and J.T.C. cadets, who came to us for a week's training. The elder ones amongst them who had already earned their Signals Classification spent part of their time attending lectures from the Method of Instruction team, whilst the remainder worked for their Classification. A very full programme had been arranged for them and they worked hard throughout the very crowded week. If the keenness and interest shown by the cadets is a guide, Signals will never be short of recruits for many years to come.

The weekly dance has drawn ever increasing numbers, and under the general management of Lance-Corporal Reid and a small band of willing helpers, we are now guaranteed at least one evening's first-class entertainment a week. This will no doubt be further appreciated when the long winter evenings are with us once more.

**HAVE YOU JOINED THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ?**

## NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

*September*

During the last two weeks of August we had some Army Cadets here on a Signal Course. Sergeant Fred Beddoes and Corporals Colin Stout and Ted Pinkett acted as mothers to them; after listening to them perhaps we should say mothers-in-law. It is not quite clear who enjoyed themselves most, but the instructors asked with obvious enthusiasm when the next bunch arrived.

Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Conway, with the other officers and some of the lads, have launched an entertainment campaign. We now get dances on Mondays and Wednesdays, which are extremely popular and have nearly 100 per cent. attendance from the boys and girls. A table tennis competition is in full swing, also rambles on Sundays (weather permitting). Second-Lieutenant John is engaged in choosing a play to be produced and performed by those among us who are budding Charles Boyers and Katharine Hepburns. Basketball is another of the entertainments which is played. In the last match the blokes beat the girls 7—4. On this occasion female voices were heard saying " Stop pushing " and " That's not fair."

On 22nd August the P.R.I. exploded with a bang which sent a bus full of fellows and girls off for the day on an outing to Portrush. Thirty-one of us, including the T.O.T., Major George Bayliss, and the Adjutant, Captain Bill Dundee, set off at 0830. We drove along the very picturesque Antrim Coast Road and arrived in Portrush at 1330, stopping twice *en route* to quench our thirsts after singing, also to change buses as the first one was apparently overcome by our songs. After lunch our time was our own to do whatever we liked. Some of us strolled down to the beach for a swim or to take advantage of the smashing weather for a sunbathe. Others took their boy friends or girl friends to see the scenery—or so they said. We all arrived back at the coach on time and left at 2130 hrs. Just as we started off the driver asked whether we wanted the lights on or off. The " couples " said " Off " and the " unattached " shouted " On." After something like a scene from U.N.O., it was agreed that only the lights down the centre would be lit—but only after some members had made use of the veto. Perhaps it was a coincidence that they were wearing red ties ! There was no singing on the return journey, due no doubt either to all being too tired or finding that gazing into someone else's eyes was far more entertaining. Our coach driver then thought of another plan (the dear boy). If we could take a short cut across " an aerodrome " it would save us six miles. He was informed, by those among us eligible to say so, that it would be " no trouble at all." Getting into the 'drome was " no trouble at all," but then something went wrong. After we had driven up and down the flare path a couple of times with headlights blazing, and had done everything a plane could do—except take off—we decided that we had lost our way. The R.A.F. ground crew no doubt thought we were the fuselage of a Tudor II or whether drinking that last Guinness was reasonable. Very soon, however, a D.R. came along and very politely (under the circumstances) offered to show us the way out. Just after midnight we drove into camp. Our day was over and we crawled into bed very happy but very tired. After a day of P.R.I. we needed a day of R.I.P.

On 29th August the rest of the Squadron travelled the same journey, accompanied by the C.O. and Lieutenant John Connaghton. The weather for them was also excellent and another great day was had.

Our arrivals and departures this month have been almost even. We welcome into our midst Second-Lieutenant P. P. A. John and two new A.T.S. officers, Junior Commander F. A. Stevenson and Subaltern J. R. Flitter, who came in place of Junior Commander L. C. Jackman and Subaltern F. M. Kendall-Carpenter. We wish the new arrivals a very happy stay with us, and wish those who have departed the very best of luck in their new appointments.

On 2nd September the female side of the unit went on the Square for a G.O.C.'s inspection. This was the climax of a number of parades, which although they were not very popular with the girls, showed them in great form. The parades were not too popular with the men either, as they sometimes had to wait until 2045 before the " one and only " was ready, and then find she was too tired to " come for a walk." All stripes and badges were nicely whitened—there's been a shortage of white ink ever since—and skirts had creases which made it rather dangerous to sit down !

Here's a piece of late news. Whist drives are now held every Wednesday before the dances. At the last one there were six tables and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and bigger numbers are expected on 17th September. Major Bayliss is the officer in charge of the drives, the winners of last week's being:—1st lady, Sergeant Betty O'Donnel, 122; 2nd lady, Corporal Peggy McNeil, 113; 3rd lady, Private Margaret Overman, all being girls of the Squadron. The male winners were all " outsiders." Pontoon is apparently more in the blokes' line.

*Greetings.* Driver " Ginger " Riley and the lads of Workshops Section and all the old friends of Driver Dennis Brown, now at Harrogate, send him heartiest congratulations and best wishes on his marriage.

" RAY "

## No. 3 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

*August*

This unit came into being on 1st January, when we set up in business with a typewriter, a copy of the War Establishment, and several blank pads of indent forms. We have come a long way since then and it is high time we introduced ourselves to WIRE readers.

Our O.C., Major " Tiny " Low, was founder member of the Squadron. He needs no introduction to Regular members of the Corps and will be remembered by those who served with 25th Army Tank Brigade and 7th Army Brigade in Africa and Italy. Lieutenant (Q.M.) Bill Mitchell is a man of many parts. He combines the functions of Administrative Officer and Quartermaster, and occasionally takes a turn as Duty Signal Officer. A baby boy has just been added to his family and we all unite in offering our congratulations. Junior Commander M. Snowden looks after our A.T.S. element, and Second-Lieutenant C. Hunter, a recent arrival, is Lines Officer.

Releases have been hitting us rather hard of late and a succession of bemedalled lads from overseas has been posted in, only to leave on release after a few weeks. However, some of our more recent arrivals have release numbers that suggest they will spend some time with us.

Our A.T.S. have heard the call for volunteers for overseas service and we have already lost Private Duff to B.A.O.R. Three others who are going through inoculations and medical examinations will be leaving us soon and many more seem to be considering travel abroad at Government expense. We hope they won't all leave at once.

*Sport.* There isn't much to report this month, and one and all seem to be waiting for the commencement of the soccer season. Group H.Q. have done well at cricket, having played four and won four. Four or five men from the Squadron have taken part in all games.

The mousing season has begun in Scotland and traps deployed in the exchange are bringing in a considerable bag for a very small expenditure of cheese. Most of our S.B.O.s are keen supporters but one or two shudderingly tell us that they don't like blood sports.

" BILMIT "

# *Airborne Signals Re-union Party*

THE party started at midday on 9th August in the Airborne Club. Among us were Colonel Peter Bradley, Tony Deane-Drummond, Lucky Fenton, Derek Russell, Jock Campbell, and Bob Whistler. In the evening, at the H.Q. of the 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., over 80 people met, among whom were R.S.M. Carr and ex-R.S.M. Clift, both of whom looked almost human.

Most people were too busy "gripping" to eat, but the draught beer was flowing from the barrels at a most astonishing rate. At least one point was cleared up; it *was* 1st Airborne Divisional Signals who won the war, not the 6th.

The 1st Division flag and Colonel Moberley's trumpet were hanging in honour over the bar, and a souvenir song book had been produced for each member for the occasion. With Harry Fairhurst at the piano, the so familiar Airborne songs went roaring drunkenly into the Chelsea night, and at any rate "Jumping through the Hole" hasn't lost anything since Bulford days.

It was good to see all these faces again, faces we were with under such different conditions. This is only a beginning—our O.C.A. is now on its feet and with the Committee of Jimmy Austin, Ian Campbell, Bob Evelyn, and "Cliftie" to run it, with Captain B. A. Gomm, Adjutant 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. (Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, S.W.3), as Secretary.

We hope to grow rapidly and hold another party near Christmas.

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# O U

Once upon a time an eager Signalman came rushing up to an S.S.M., in no end of a panting flurry,

And the S.S.M. gave him a piercing look and said to him sternly, "And where are you off to in such a hurry,

"And where is your belt, and your cap, general service, and your boots and gaiters ?"

"Heaven defend me," said the S.S.M., "from ever again serving in such a collection of part-worn spivs and broken-down waiters."

"What a shower !" he said, and to the Signalman, "Don't ask me—if you want to report anything it's the Orderly Sergeant you need."

So the Signalman drew a deep breath and rushed away with it at a furious speed,

And he found the Orderly Sergeant walking slowly along, looking very smooth and martial.

And *he* said to the Signalman, "Stap me, what a sight ! I flatter myself I'm both fair-minded and impartial,

"But I ought to have you on a fizzer for looking like that, I don't mind confessing."

So the Signalman said, "Sergeant, I assure you, the matter is pressing !"

But the Sergeant said, "I wish I could say the same of your battledress—don't ask me !"

So the Signalman rushed away like the wind to see if the Orderly Officer was free,

And he found him hiding behind his moustache and worrying about the shortage of gin in the Mess.

And he looked at the panting Signalman and said, "You are, technically, in a state of horrible undress—

"Go away, and dress properly, and report back to me in half an hour."

"I can't," said the Signalman. So the Orderly Officer looked terribly sour.

"You'll report to me," he said, "or else——. And you'll report in proper military attire."

And the Signalman said, "Not in half an hour, sir, with all due respect, because if no one will listen to me my flaming boots, my flaming gaiters, and my belt will all have gone up in smoke in the hut that I keep on trying to report is on fire."

# British Army of the Rhine

## 2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Hilden

*September*

At the Divisional Rifle Meeting, 10th-15th August, the Regimental shooting team, under the leadership of Major R. E. Button, did exceedingly well and finished fifth out of an entry of approximately thirty teams from the Division.

The competition consisted of four matches as follows:—

(1) A team of twelve, eight of whom had to fire the Bren. We were placed seventh in this match.

(2) Teams of two firing the Bren. The Regiment was placed third.

(3) Two officers, two warrant officers, two sergeants. This team came in fourteenth.

(4) Four Stens. We did well in this match and came in a good second.

In the individual shoots, Corporal Simpson, " H " Troop, was placed as the best shot in the unit, followed up by Major R. E. Button and Private Rhodes. Lieutenant F. W. Leatherland, O.C. " G " Troop, Sergeant Eccles, Corporal Brankin, Corporal Simpson, Private Rhodes, and Signalman Talbot had various successes in the daily sweepstakes and pool bulls. No. 2 Squadron won the " Supporting Arms Special Match." This was open to all Squadrons, Batteries, etc., of R.A., R.E., and Royal Signals of the Division—a very good show indeed.

On Sunday, 17th August, the Divisional Motor Cycle Trials were held. We had two team entries from the Regiment, one from Royal Signals and the other from Divisional Signals L.A.D. We offer congratulations to Captain J. Richards as coach and to his team which won the Divisional Shield. The team consisted of Sergeant Warboys, Signalman Wilkins, and Signalman McDermott.

Winning motor cycling team. Left to right: Signalman McDermott, Sergeant Warboys, Captain J. Richards, Signalman Wilkins

Signalman Wilkins was placed runner-up to the best individual rider in the trials. Congratulations to him and also to Lance-Corporal Stott, R.E.M.E., Divisional Signals L.A.D., and to Signalman McDermott on their winning 1st Class award medals. The course was a gruelling test for riders and all were agreed that it was the hardest they had ever competed on. From a spectator's point of view it was thrilling, to put it mildly, and the standard of riding evoked our admiration and respect. We have no doubt that when the B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle Trials come off we shall be placed well up—in fact we mean to win the Championship.

Recently we said " Good-bye " to Captain (Tom) C. Smith. " Smudger " is an old member of the Corps and one of the few officers at present in the Division who served with 2nd Division in the East. He was transferred to R.E.M.E. on a S.S.C. engagement and we wish him every success and happiness in his new sphere.

Sergeant Burden and his station

We have a " Ham " at 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment H.Q. The station is operated by Sergeant Burden, " M " Troop, and works on call sign D2DC on 'phones. Sergeant Burden operates on the 14 m.cs. band with occasional excursions to the 7 m.cs. band. He promises to QSL 100 per cent.

Within Barracks, owing to the great increase in the staff, our telephone exchange operators are working at full pressure but still manage to maintain the speed and courtesy for which they have become renowned in B.A.O.R. The exchange itself was specially designed for these Barracks by our original T.O.M., Captain Barnett; the actual installation was done by Foreman of Signals Rankin. At present it is completely full. It is a four-position auto manual with four operators on duty. These operators in a normal working day handle approximately 2,500 calls, which during working hours amounts to approximately one call per operator per minute.

The Regimental week-end camp at Huckeswagen has proved very popular indeed. Personnel leave Regimental lines on Friday evenings and return on Sunday. We have

our own canoes and a sailing boat on the lake, and our numbers of amateur yachtsmen are increasing, although sailing is more enthusiastic than skilful.

The exercise season is looming up and troops are busily preparing their own internal schemes preparatory to Squadron schemes, and finally for the full Divisional "set up." Individual training goes on apace and by this time next month the recreational and sports months will be only memories. No doubt the fitness derived from months of sports training will stand us in good stead during the winter months.

## 5th INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Brunswick

*September*

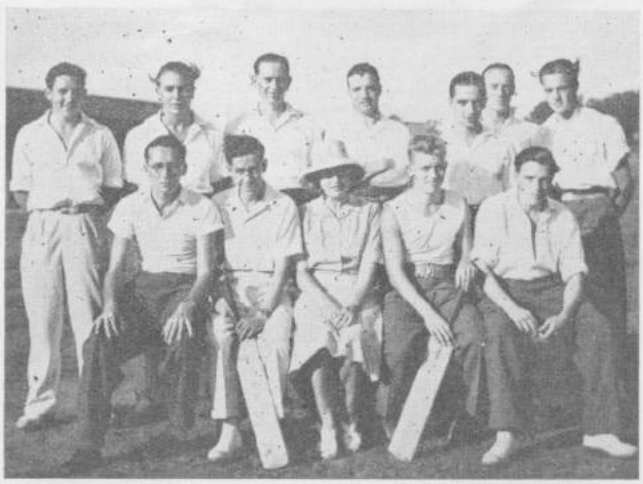
We take this opportunity of wishing Captain R. E. Davey all the very best of luck on his return to civilian life. His cheerful voice and loud laughter are missed by all who knew him during his period of duty at Divisional H.Q.

At the same time we welcome Captain E. J. White, who has assumed command of H.Q. Squadron vice Captain R. E. Davey.

*Motor Cycling.* Our congratulations go to Signalman Johnson, winner of the B.A.O.R. 500 c.c. Norton novices race, held at Belsen on Sunday 17th August, and to Lance-Corporal Edwards, who came third in the 500 c.c. B.S.A. novices race. Well done "Don" Troop!

*Cricket.* The Regimental side has played five matches during the month, winning two, losing one, one match drawn and the other rained off—full details appended. It is regretted that the season is nearly finished, as we have built up one of the finest regimental sides in the Division.

The inter-Troop league tournament finished up with "O" Troop running out winners by three points. This was immediately followed by an inter-Troop knockout competition which "O" Troop eventually won by beating R.H.Q. and H.Q. 1 Squadron Troops in the final rather easily, as the latter team were unfortunate in having to field a weakened side owing to leave and hospital casualties. Mrs. R. C. Yule, wife of the Commanding Officer, presented the winning team with silver medals, and so, apart from



O Troop. Back row: Corporal R. Smith, Signalman F. D. Goddard, Private G. Peck, Sergeant B. Campion, Signalman H. Killilea, Sergeant D. G. Giles, Corporal T. Harwood. Front row: Lieutenant J. Pearce, Lance-Corporal D. Usher (captain), Mrs. R. C. Yule, Signalman J. Cox, Lance-Corporal K. Young

Prize-giving. Left to right: Private G. Peck, Mrs. R. C. Yule, Lance-Coroporal D. Usher, Captain F. Knight, Signalman H. Killilea, R.Q.M.S. J. Roberts, Lance-Corporal K. Young

the odd Regimental fixture yet to be played, we have come to the conclusion of a very successful cricket season which has proved most popular and provided a really good sporting and competitive atmosphere within the Regiment.

*Won.*—5 Division Signal Regiment 210 for 5 declared; 108 Medical Company R.A.M.C. 49 all out.
5 Division Signal Regiment 136 for 5 declared; C.E. Branch 5 Division 66 all out.

*Drawn.*—5 Division Signal Regiment 201 all out; 45 Field Regiment, R.A. 142 for 6.

*Lost.*—5 Division Signal Regiment 93 all out; H.Q. 5 Division 109 all out.

*Hockey.* We hope to field a stronger side than ever this year although our first match, versus 13/18 Hussars, resulted in a reverse by 5—2; our side was in the experimental stage. As soon as allocation of grounds is complete we shall be starting an inter-troop competition on the same lines as the cricket tournaments.

*Football.* In spite of the weather remaining more suitable for cricket, a start has been made to form a good side for the forthcoming season. Lack of grounds is a big handicap at the moment but steps have been taken to remedy this. All our matches up to the present have taken place on our opponents' grounds, and when it comes to playing German village teams, the home team has a distinct advantage.

It is pleasing to see some of our Infantrymen attached doing so well in the game. Privates Jones and Peck, of the Royal West Kent Regiment, are two distinct assets to our team and have blended admirably with our lads, who are captained by Lance-Corporal Usher.

Results to date:—

v. Ukrainians, lost 0—1.
v. Alvesse, drew 5—5.
v. 45 Field Regiment, R.A., drew 4—4.
v. Broitsum, lost 1—2.

*Riding Club.* The Riding Club is functioning very well and although we only have eight horses, the membership is somewhere in the region of 30. As there is a shortage of forage in B.A.O.R. we have to keep the riding down to early morning and two afternoons each week. We hope to enter some of the local horse shows in the near future and will report any progress next month.

*Radio Club.* We have now been issued with our transmitting licence and quite a number of people are interested. The first set to be built will be a 60-watt transmitter to

cover three bands, 20, 40 and 80 metres. It might be some time before we actually come on the air as there are a number of items we need which cannot be obtained in B.A.O.R. and we have to rely on some good samaritan who is returning from U.K. leave to collect them. We hope it will not be too long before Dog Two Howe Peter is heard on the air.

In the meantime, test gear and the transmitter are under construction.

The following private "ham" stations are working from troops:—

Signal Troop 37 Field Regiment: D2HG, 80m. band; D2GV, 80m. band.

Signal Troop 29 Field Regiment: D2GG, 7230 kcs.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*September*

Celle again has had another glorious month as far as the weather is concerned. A month of almost unceasing sunshine has done much to ameliorate the life of the soldier here. There has been plenty of swimming and sport, and the beauty of this old town has been greatly enhanced by the weather. Photographers have had excellent opportunities, and everyone seems to have been making the most of these good conditions. It is with no little trepidation that we begin to contemplate the prospect of a severe Continental winter in a month or two's time.

While everyone has been making the most of their leisure hours, at the same time a considerable amount of good, solid work has been achieved. Most of the Troops have been out on schemes and some are out at present. 102nd Tele. Op. Troop went on a week's training exercise in the field at Boye. They did normal operating work but lived as a self-contained unit for a week. The work was done efficiently, and the fine weather gave ample opportunities for swimming. Altogether the scheme was a great success, and provided great pleasure to those taking part in it.

*Entertainments.* Celle continues to provide a good standard of entertainment. The weekly Regimental Dance is still held at the "Air Formation Arms," and a dancing class has been formed by Signalman Kingan (in spite of the Entertainments Committee) in an endeavour to improve the Regiment's standard of dancing.

We are still fortunate enough in getting some really first class musical concerts at the R.A.F. Union Theatre in Celle. In the past month we have been visited by the North-West German Philharmonic and their programme included a magnificent rendering of Beethoven's "Fifth." We were also lucky to have a ballet evening by a trio of dancers from the Berlin State Opera Company, and a piano recital by Adolf Herschler in the Schloss Theatre. We look forward to a good season of concerts during the winter, both at the R.A.F. Union and the Schloss Theatres. The R.A.F. Union Theatre has also provided troops with a high standard of variety shows. Cinema shows have been much appreciated in spite of the fact that most of the films shown are somewhat old.

A Sunday trip to Bad Harzburg on 31st August proved a great success and was much enjoyed by the fifteen who went.

*Officers' Mess.* A full Regimental Dinner was held at the Mess on Thursday, 28th August. The Mess was pleased to welcome the Commanding Officer and three other officers of the 1st Battalion Green Howards to the dinner.

Captain Bateman has now left the Mess, amidst much gnashing of teeth and rending of garments, to live in married quarters. We wish him the best of happiness in his return to family life.

A hearty welcome is offered to Second-Lieutenant Garner, who has joined the unit after being posted here from 54 R.H.U.

*Cricket.* The last league match of the season has been played and won by the Regiment, who defeated 2777 Regiment, R.A.F., on Wednesday, 3rd September. During the past month the team has played four matches, results as below:

Regiment defeated by 84 Group Unit.

Regiment defeated by Military Government.

Regiment defeated 84 G.C.C.

Regiment defeated 2777 R.A.F. Regiment.

In the final positions in the league we were placed third, having played 14 games, won 10, and lost 4.

In the 5th Division Knock-out Competition we were drawn against 5th Division Ordnance. The match, which was played on the 5th Division ground, Brunswick, produced some very interesting, keenly-contested cricket, which resulted in a win for the 5th Division Ordnance, who have since been successful in winning the 5th Division competition.

*Football.* With the end of the cricket season in sight, the Regiment once again turns eager eyes to football, trial matches have been taking place, and we look forward to another season of success. Two friendly matches have been played, the results being:—

Regiment 0 *v.* Royals 5

Regiment 0 *v.* 54th R.A.F. Hospital 0

At these two matches only six of the regimental team played, but we hope to be able to field a fairly strong team for our first league match, which takes place on 13th September.

The Regiment has entered for the A.F.A. Championship, and is also in the Celle League, which it won last season.

*Tennis.* The unit tennis team has been very much alive during the past month. The team entered for the 84 Group R.A.F. Challenge Cup and were successful in beating 135 Wing Signal Troop at Fassberg. The team is now awaiting the next draw, but it is feared that our success next time will be impaired owing to members of the team being on leave.

*Hockey.* A team is in process of being formed in the unit, and is being trained by S.Q.M.S. Telford. A few practice matches have been played in the unit, and we look forward to a successful season.

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Gutersloh

(R.A.F. Station, Sundern)

*September*

R.H.Q. and No. 2 SQUADRON. Very little of importance has happened in the past month, except that our Adjutant and A.S.M. have returned from leave in Blighty, and from what they have told us about how expensive things are, we have decided that there is not very much wrong with B.A.O.R. after all. The Signals Inn closed on Monday, 25th August, for redecoration, and at the moment carpenters, electricians, and a few more bods are hard at work. We hope to hold a big reopening dance as soon as the redecoration and alterations are finished.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* A dinner and

No. 3 Squadron party, 1st August

social evening was held on 27th August in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club, Gutersloh. After an excellent dinner (for which we promoted the manager to acting local unpaid lance-corporal), we adjourned upstairs. We still don't know why R.Q.M.S. McCulloch sings " Ave Maria " with his eyes shut. A.S.M. Bert Rampling gave us that heart-rending ballad " Barrow Boy," using some of the club furniture as his barrow. R.S.M. Jock Kerr was then called upon, and without more ado broke into the beautiful strains of that well-known Eastern song " Syheda Bint." The dance hall was also well supported, and when the evening came to a close everyone voted it a most enjoyable evening.

*Departures.* It is with regret that we say goodbye to Mrs. McOstrich and family, who left us on Saturday, 16th August, to return to Dear Old Ireland. We wish you all the very best, Mrs. McOstrich, and hope that by this time you have settled down happily.

" VIC "

No. 1 SQUADRON, BUCKEBURG. Paradoxically, with Buckeburg basking in extreme summer temperatures, often hoped for but seldom realised, the footballers in the Squadron during the past month have been preparing for the winter season. Practically all of last season's team, which did so well, have left us, but we have plenty of new talent and hope to repeat last season's success. A number of trial games and inter-Troop games have been played, and we are confident that with players of the calibre of Signalmen Mansell, Retson, Booth, and Private Hughes a strong team can be fielded. At least one of these players is almost certain to find his place in the B.A.F.O. H.Q. Area team.

We also hope to be able to field a rugger and hockey team this season and the table tennis fans in the Squadron are eager to get going.

The non-stop heat wave, coupled with a wave of growing enthusiasm, has brought those who can swim (and those who cannot) to the pool. The German instructor (an Olympic Games performer) has been working overtime teaching the crawl to chaps who have, prior to coming to Buckeburg, only mastered the art of floating.

On 18th August Lieutenant Douglas Sweeney left us for pastures new—the College of the Rhine Army at Gottingen—where he has taken up the post of instructor. We expect the College to produce a first-rate dance band in the near future.

We have also, with great regret, said good-bye to Sergeants Lewis and Hacking, who have returned to civil life and the G.P.O. These two stalwarts of the Equipment Room were typical of the good stuff the Post Office provides.

No. 1 Squadron welcomes Lieutenant N. E. Coates, who has been attached pending posting.

S.Q.M.S. Scott and family have recently joined the Squadron from 1 British Corps District Signals. A very hearty welcome is extended from all ranks, coupled with the hope that the Scott family will soon have four walls of their own. The housing shortage in Buckeburg is so acute that one might well be in England.

No. 3 SQUADRON. This month finds us once more in our highly mobile state. We had just congratulated ourselves on being able to stay put for another short period, but alas we must pack our bags once more. A nearby Army unit, who shall be nameless if not blameless, has had its eyes on our present station for many moons, and at last has managed to serve an eviction order on us. We are off yet again to fresh fields; true, we are not going a thousand miles away, but we shall all be sorry to leave so pleasant a spot. These notes must, we are afraid, be somewhat brief as we are in the throes of the final sort-out which always precedes a move of this nature. Not that we are really disorganised—we have moved before, according to some of the wood-cuts on one or two of the more ancient files—and anyhow we shall get those chandeliers packed somehow. One could, however, describe the situation at present as rather in a state of flux.

After having attended many of the very pleasant parties held by the R.A.F., we decided it was about time we organised something ourselves, and accordingly held a dinner and dance on 1st August, to which we invited the R.A.F. Signal Section. Needless to say, the event was a great success, particularly the music under the able direction of " Lofty " Wilson, who really surprised us with his most varied repertoire. It is a pity he trod on that last record.

Second-Lieutenant Jones has recently joined us and is proceeding to button up things as Officer i/c Sports.

Due to the impending move, however, we have had little time for anything except a few friendly games of cricket and soccer. We have started to select a football team for the Hamburg District League, and have high hopes of repeating last season's success.

"BEHOSH"

## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster in Westphalia

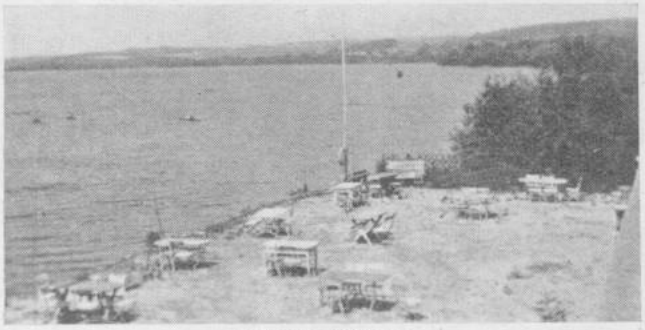
*September*

Now that the summer season is passing and with it the many outings at week-ends, our thoughts are turning once more to indoor entertainment and winter sports, the most interesting of which is football. We formed a football committee and after one or two friendly matches among the chaps, a unit team was formed, captained by Sergeant Barker. The first match, against 246th Provost Company, R.C.M.P., resulted in a draw 0—0, but in two later matches we have done much better by beating 67th Company, R.A.S.C., and trouncing 25th (Munster) British Military Hospital 8—2. In the latter match we had only ten men on the field for most of the match.

On the other hand, the cricket team lost to the 7th Armoured Brigade Signals, which put us third in the league. That was the last match of the season.

Regular readers will recall that during the Easter period the C.O.'s staff car was involved in an accident with a German railway engine on the ungated level crossing. The photos are self-explanatory !

A grand social event on 25th August was the christening of Master Gwyn Fish, younger son of Captain and Mrs. Fish, at the new Church of England Church at 25th (Munster) British Military Hospital. The service was conducted by



Beside the Mohne See

Captain Griffith, R.A.Ch.D. Many photographs were taken and we hope to have the prints very shortly.

There is much activity among the Unit Dance Committee in preparation for the first bumper dance, which is to be held on Saturday, 13th September.

The long-awaited prints of the usual picnic place have now come to hand and will help to enlarge on our previous notes about the Mohne See.

*Arrivals.* We extend a welcome to Mrs. Callan, wife of Corporal Callan, who arrived in Munster on 5th September. Sergeant Lord joined us quite recently from another L. of C. Signal Squadron, but unfortunately slipped the other day and fractured his ankle. He was last seen amid snow-white sheets in the quietude of the orthopaedic ward at 25th (Munster) British Military Hospital.

## No. 31 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Hanover

*September*

We have a change of command to report this month—Major Purdon *vice* Major Hayfield.

Major Purdon joins us from No. 2 L. of C. Signal Squadron. Major Hayfield has a home posting. We were sorry to see him go, as he was always very popular among us. To his successor we say: We hope your stay with us will be long and to your advantage—and ours.

*Departures.* "Demob" is claiming its usual quota each month. Among the last to leave us were Signalman Lee and Corporal Boden, of Hanomag Speedway fame.

All the best, Corporal—going to follow it up in Civvy Street ?

*Sergeants' Mess.* The Mess welcomes one new member this month—Sergeant Boyes has now reached the rank of the exalted. I should like to repeat that the Signals have no Mess of their own; it is incorporated into that of 125 Transit Camp, with whom we live.

*Sport.* Cricket has once again given way to soccer. Our summer cricket, although not league, was very competitive, and we had quite a useful eleven.

We have already played quite a few games of soccer, and the team is running itself in nicely. Our first league match is on Saturday, 6th September, when we shall take the field against No. 12 Heavy Workshops, R.E.M.E.

Evening training is being very seriously undertaken. Last season was very successful and this season we are in the league.

RESULTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *v.* 2nd Wiltshires | Lost | 0—1 |
| *v.* 3rd Medium Workshops, R.E.M.E. | Won | 6—1 |
| *v.* 29th British General Hospital | Lost | 2—4 |
| *v.* 15th Brigade H.Q. | Won | 5—0 |

Our captain is still with us—Lance-Corporal Mudd.

*Entertainments.* Our fortnightly dances are still our social high spot. They are always very well attended, ably and efficiently run, and without doubt *very* much enjoyed by all concerned. They are not run on a profit basis, which accounts, perhaps, for the enthusiasm !

* * *

Once again I bid all "Jimmies" farewell from Lower Saxony. Autumn is already with us and the days are cooler. Skis and skates will soon be having a speculative eye run over them.

"TOSH"

## No. 32 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

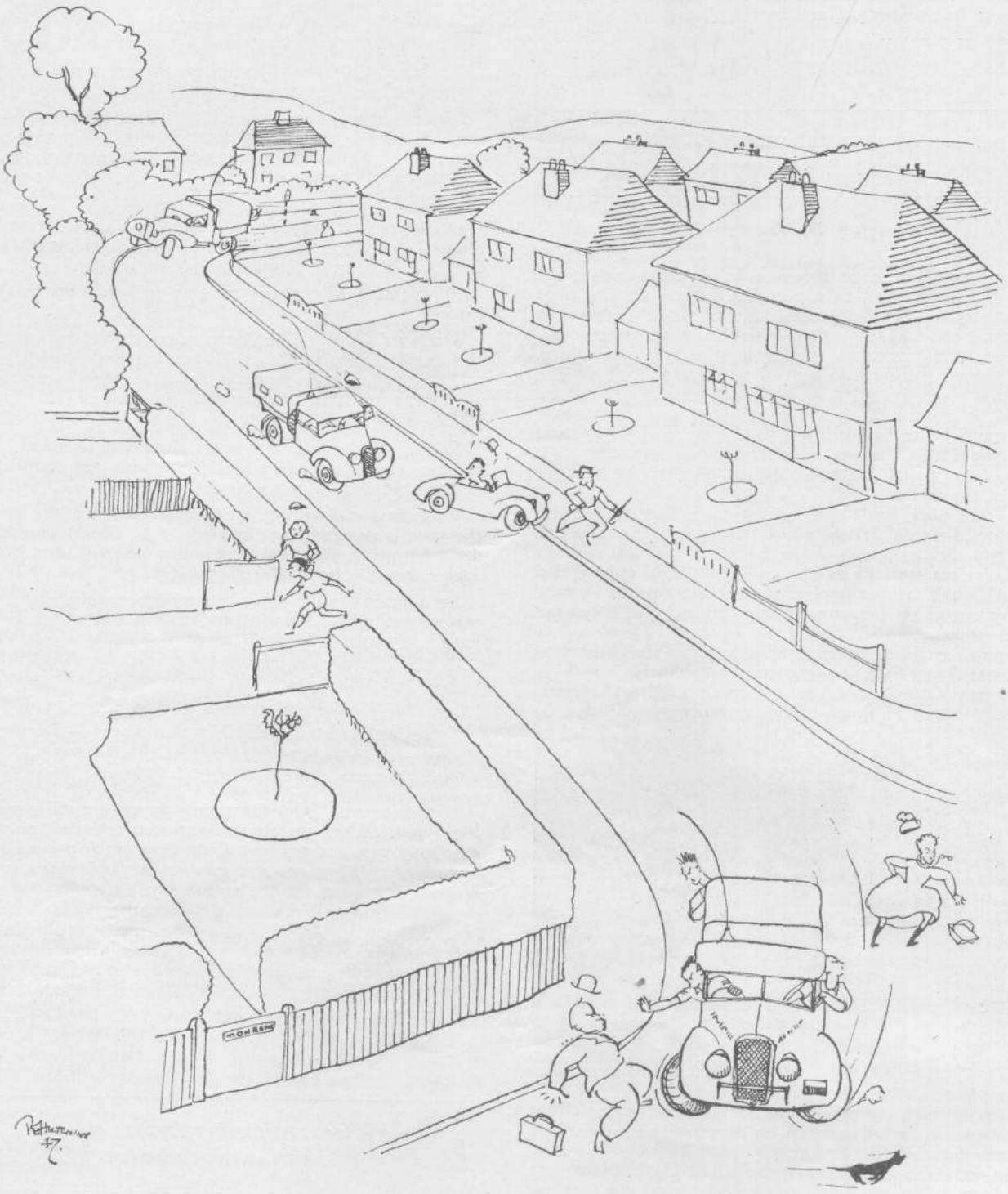
### Plön

*September*

If you ever got round to reading (if the Editor got round to printing) our last contribution you will note we lost our WIRE Scribe, and at the moment it looks suspiciously like the job having descended upon me.

Strange how many people grab a pen with alacrity to

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—VIII*



**High Speed Wireless Troop**

write to M.P.s, daily papers, B.F.N. or B.B.C., or even families and girl friends, but who are seized with alarming paralysis when a pen is required to be grabbed for the sake of THE WIRE. Perhaps now the Squadron Office will be inundated with applicants for the job.

The eyes of the world Press have recently been focused on our part of the Zone and we have been engaged in helping to make " Operation Oasis " the great Signal success it was.

To you Operation Oasis meant the disembarkation of the wandering Jews and their transfer to camps, to us it was a series of Signal problems met and overcome with the minimum of resources both of equipment and man-power. The efficiency with which the over-all plan was made by Signals staff and the energy and hard work of all those who carried out the plan was noted and rewarded by congratulations from the Military Commanders concerned. It may be said without fear of contradiction that there are those among us who never wish to see a railway box wagon or a railway signal room again!

One of the main attractions in Plön is the large lake which meets the eye from almost any direction in which you look, and the main attraction about the lake is the Yacht Club, of which most of us are devoted members. On the 16th and 17th August the season reached its climax with the regatta.

There were many events and some fine prizes, and between sailing items we were in turn thrilled and amused by swimming and comic competitions. Our unit did very well and authority to transfer to the Royal Navy is being considered.

In the novices pirate race, Signalman Coe finished second. In the handy yacht race, designed to test seamanship, Lieutenant Rothery was the winner with Sergeant Denham second. Sergeant Denham went on to further glory by winning the speedboat race. As he's our M.T. Sergeant we wonder if he'd hotted up his engine.

Two most enjoyable days came to a close with a tremendous firework display, and we all felt that Captain Cathmoir, our popular second-in-command, had earned our thanks and congratulations for his organisation, as he's Secretary of the Yacht Club when he's not doing anything else, such as finishing 6th in the Hamburg District Individual Officers' Rifle Championship.

This unit has a further claim to sporting publicity in the achievement of our Signalman Garner, who is shaking many people with his skill at throwing a javelin in any given direction. After winning all the local competitions he was noticed by the " powers that be " and has gone on and on. Chosen to represent B.A.O.R. against Oxford University, he has twice won the event against the students. At present he is in training for the inter-Services competition at Berlin, and we have high hopes of his representing his country in the next Olympics.

We are now busy getting ready for the ordeal of the coming winter and it won't be our faults if we can't turn out good soccer and rugby teams.

## No. 33 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Dusseldorf

*September*

This not very old unit, having successfully shed its diapers, wishes to advertise its existence. The composition of the unit is as follows: 41st Tele. Op. Troop and 53rd D.R. Troop in Dusseldorf, 41st Garrison Signals Troop in Hook of Holland, 42nd Garrison Signals Troop in Brussels, 29th Tele. Op. Troop, 1st Term. Eqpt. Troop and 5th D.R. Troop in Dortmund.

The present O.C., Major E. A. Staerck, succeeded Major A. F. Herbert, M.B.E., on the latter's reversion to H.E. Further S.H.Q. appointments are: Captain A. G. Haystead Administration and Lines Officer; Captain T. G. Simpson acting as Q.M.; W.O.II Dan McGraw (S.S.M.), S.Q.M.S. Reece, and Corporal George Russell (Chief Clerk). Formed on a site then occupied by 41st Tele. Op. Troop, the unit quickly outgrew its office space and had to move into a nearby block of offices.

Situated as it is in the centre of Dusseldorf, the unit is fortunate in having two canteens, two cinemas, and two theatres within a comfortable radius. Most popular attractions, however, are the social evenings and dances held by the unit on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Judging by the amazing quantities of beer consumed on these occasions, it would appear that everyone here imposes a refreshment fast on himself for days beforehand. An entertainments committee ably headed by Corporal " Of Much Goodness " Hopkins is constantly seeking innovations to make these functions yet more enjoyable.

In the realm of sport the unit football team have reason to regard their future in the newly-opened season with optimism. They won their first two friendly games, with 4th Guards Brigade Signals and 2nd Infantry Divisional Signals, by 4—1 and 3—1 respectively. During the summer months the favourite recreation was, of course, swimming, the open-air Lido which forms part of the well-appointed 2nd Infantry Division Sports Stadium being the favourite haunt of many whose resistance to heat was below the high average enjoyed by the few more widely travelled members of the unit. A table tennis team is preparing to answer a challenge received from 19th Field Regiment, and in doing so revive the interest with which this activity was followed last winter.

We hope to acquire the habit of recording our news in THE WIRE regularly month by month and in doing so make contacts which would otherwise be lost to us.

41st TELE. OP. TROOP., DUSSELDORF. Created early in 1944, this Troop was part of H.Q., 21st Army Group Signals, at that time stationed in Hammersmith. No further information is available about those early days as the last original member of the Troop, Sergeant Jack Wilkes, was demobbed last month. For many months with 1st H.Q. Signals Regiment in Bad Oeynhausen, the Troop helped to staff the H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Office there. In November, 1946, leaving so much hard work behind, it moved to H.Q., No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron. After a short period of inactivity in Munster it was detached to its present location in Dusseldorf.

The present O.C., Lieutenant M. A. Barnes, assumed command on the transfer of the Troop from No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron to No. 33 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron. The Troop Sergeant, until recently Sergeant " Nos " Stone, is now Sergeant " Darkie " Rowlands.

As all activities are identified with S.H.Q., their chronicle of events will supply any other griff.

From Dusseldorf Signal Centre, a farewell to 59 Groupers, Sergeant " Nos " Stone, Corporal " Jock " Pollock, Lance-Corporal " Andy " Fearn, and Signalman Bert Brewster.

53rd D.R. TROOP, DUSSELDORF. The Troop entered a team of five men for the 2nd Infantry Division Motor Cycle Trials, held on Sunday, 17th August. It was a brilliantly hot day and the course, which was mostly sand, brought memories to many of days in the desert.

The team was fortunately evenly placed in the 117 com-

petitors taking part. By some fluke, Signalman Chapman drew first place, and luck was still with us when Signalman Blanchard drew twelfth and Corporal Jack Allen thirty-second. Of course, as is usual in most trials, Signals were to the rear with Sergeant Newton seventy-sixth and Lance-Corporal McGregor eighty-sixth.

The first hazard was a double bomb crater, which was safely passed over by Signalman Chapman without loss of points; Corporal Allen unfortunately broke his front brake lever and came to grief. By the time Sergeant Newton and Lance-Corporal McGregor arrived, the hazard was well chewed up, and for some unknown reason mud had accumulated in the first crater, and both riders found themselves axle deep. Later these two riders gained points by negotiating Hazard Two without loss of points, as did Signalman Chapman, Number Two being sandstone steps. Number Three was a steep descent of loose sandy soil, and Signalman Chapman was the only one to make a clean descent.

Number Four was a hill climb, which was so difficult that it had to be cut out after the first twenty riders had failed. Number Five was again a descent, this time running diagonally down the hill. There were numerous tree stumps and a steep drop of about one in one and a half at the bottom. Signalman Chapman came to grief on this hazard, but Corporal Allen, Sergeant Newton, and Lance-Corporal McGregor made the grade. Number Six was a stop and start test, and Lance-Corporal McGregor was the only one to make it clean. Numbers Seven and Eight were both hill climbs, and after about sixty competitors had tried and failed they were both struck out of the competition. Signalman Chapman, who had every chance of winning the competition outright, unfortunately had clutch trouble and was forced to retire after Hazard Number Four.

The course was a very stiff one and we can believe the organisers when they said that no one had been over the course on a motor cycle before.

DORTMUND DETACHMENT. This detachment consists of three Troops, 29th Tele. Op. Troop, 5th D.R. Troop, and 1st Terminal Equipment Troop, approximately ninety men in all.

While we were at Iserlohn we were manning the Signal Office and we had a number of men on detachment getting a little preliminary experience on the Dortmund Military Telephone Exchange, while Sergeant Davies was laying the foundations of Dortmund Signal Centre. The stores had to be moved at the same time, which kept the men working hard, but not without play.

The social evening held on Thursday, 21st August, was one of the best our detachment has known. The evening passed away all too quickly, and so did the beer. Even so, the party was a great success. It was not known that the detachment had so much talent in it until Lance-Corporals Fairclough, Bannon, Donaghue, and Privates McKie and Malloy burst forth into song, aided by a little "Dutch courage."

Now we have settled down in Dortmund we are quickly getting organised and we can now afford to look forward to more good times together.

We should like to express our appreciation to Corporal Menzies and Private Miller, who are putting up a great show in the cookhouse considering that there are ninety men to feed and only the two of them to cook for us.

Owing to the detachment moving from Iserlohn to Dortmund, sport for this month had to be temporarily suspended, but it is hoped in the near future to organise a full programme.

We offer our congratulations to Corporals Balmain and Crellin on their promotion to sergeant, Lance-Corporal McNish to corporal, and Driver Ersser to lance-corporal.

Captain Dale and Lieutenant Whyte are the only officers here. We sincerely hope that they are enjoying one another's company in the "palatial" Officers' Mess.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# "My Goodness!"

WE had a man in our Unit once, called Sergeant Palisade. He was a nice chap but he had a passion for Guinness. Well, I mean, no one minds that, but this man was mad about it. When it was his turn to run the Mess he went off in the 15-cwt. to fetch the drinks from the brewery. Someone had to go once a week, and he came back with cases and cases of Guinness, so we all had to drink it for months—and you can have enough of a good thing.

Well, Palisade was due for leave in the summer. Hot it was, make you thirsty just to look at the heat-haze shimmering and shifting over the square, let alone the air in the huts—stuffy and beastly. He went off to the train and we said "Have a good leave," the way you do, "and have a drink for me, you lucky so-and-so," and thought no more about it.

Palisade went up to London. He got a seat on the train all right, and went along very posh to have lunch, and when the waiter said "What'll you drink, sir?", he said: "Guinness!" like that, with no nonsense. "Sorry, sir,"

..had a passion for Guinness.....

said the waiter, "only gin left now, sir!" So that was the first thing. The train got in about three in the afternoon, and London was just about melting away. The tar in the streets was sticky, the leaves on the trees hung heavy, and everyone was walking about as if half dead.

Well, thinks Palisade, there's only one way about this, and he goes off to find a bar. The first six pubs he passed were shut, and the barmaid in the seventh was just getting ready to close. "Guinness, please, miss," says Palisade, dropping his kitbag like it weighed a ton and leaning cosily on the bar. He says he felt just about all in, what with one thing and another. "No Guinness," she says, not looking at him, "no beer, no spirits, and we're just closing."

Palisade still has hopes, so he just picks up his kit and goes off to the left luggage with it, and then he has a nice "cuppa" in the Y.M. to pass the time, until they open as it were. Then he goes for a walk down Oxford Street. All the gutters are full of cherry stones, and people go pushing past him eating out of paper bags, and either they get in front of him and walk very slowly, talking loud about

... got a seat in the train all right..

their relations, or they go bashing past like a Rifle Regiment and bang into him, and what with it all Palisade gets a bit browned off. However, he doesn't lose hope; he goes to the flicks, and it's one of those films full of close-ups of people drinking long cool drinks. You can hear the ice tinkle, and every time they do this the audience goes "Oo-ah!"—and did I tell you it was very hot? Well, about six he comes out and the sun's a bit lower, and he's got a smashing thirst on him, and he thinks about great big glasses of Guinness like they were the Promised Land. So he tries the Hog in the Pound. It's full of people all shouting and sweating and drinking beer, and it takes Palisade a quarter of an hour to get near the bar, and then they haven't got any Guinness. So he thinks well, maybe it's better somewhere else, and he struggles out and gets on the next bus going down to Piccadilly. Some fat woman stands on his feet all the way, too. So then he goes into the first bar he sees, and it's all full of spivs and their girl friends—you know the sort of girl, platinum hair down to

.... full of spivs and their girl friends ....

the waist and little red coats—a proper dive it was. So he bashes up to the barmaid, and she gives him one look and says "And what can I do for you, *soldier*?" as if he wasn't respectable. So he says "A Guiness, and make it snappy," and she sort of sneers at him and says, "No Guinness, *soldier*, only spirits." So at that he gets mad, and he goes crashing out like he was jet-propelled and into the next four pubs, and they was all the same. And then

... we cleans 'em wiv Guinness!

he sees a couple of red-caps watching him, quiet-like (and he must've looked a dangerous character, red in the face with thirst and bad temper, and sweating like a pig, he says, because it was a close evening), so he gets on another bus.

It was nearly empty, and the conductor was swinging on the platform with one hand on the rail, waving at friends on other buses, and whistling the "Warsaw Concerto." After a bit he says to Palisade, "Thirsty weather, ain't it?" so Palisade says: "Know where I can get a Guiness, mate?" and the man says "You get off at the next stop, chum, and it's the pub across the road. Tell them I sent you," he says, "Charley's the name." So Palisade says "Ta," and gets off the bus, and tries to go quietly into the pub. It's nice and cool, not too many people in, a couple of men drinking pints, and the barman polishing glasses with a clean cloth. Palisade said it looked to him like the Gates of Paradise, and he stopped just a minute to take it all in. There was a man at the bar, a lance-corporal in some Infantry Regiment, and, just as Palisade gets up to say his piece about Charley, this lance-corporal says "I'll have a Guiness," and the barman dives under the counter and brings up a bottle, and Palisade says he could feel a silly smile coming over his face, and he didn't feel hot and tired any more—he felt fine. The barman poured it into the glass, and it creamed up, all brown and frothy, and smelling like heaven. "I'll have one, too," says Palisade, and his voice was so weak he had to say it again before the barman heard. Then he said, "Sorry, sir, that was the last Guinness. Can I get you something else, sir?"

So Palisade went out and stood in the street, so as not to offend with his language. And he nearly got run over, crossing the road, and had to stand on an island. He looked up and saw it was a statue, and there was a man coming down a ladder who'd been cleaning it. He had a bucket in one hand. "Thirsty weather for cleaning," he says to Palisade. "Yes," says Palisade, not wanting to create a nuisance by knocking the man down. A stream of buses went past on both sides of them. "Funny job you got," says Palisade politely. "What d'you clean them with?" The buses stop, and the little man picks up his bucket and darts off between a 134 and 53A. As he goes he says over his shoulder to Palisade:

"You won't believe it, mate, but we cleans 'em wiv Guinness!"

So that's the true story of why Sergeant Palisade's hair went white in a night.

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## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks the following publications:

THE JOURNAL OF THE R.A.S.C., August, 1947.

THE H.L.I. CHRONICLE, July, 1947.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, July, 1947.

R.E.M.E., September, 1947.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 23rd August, 1947.

# Other Overseas Stations

## MALAYA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Kuala Lumpur

*August*

The long-awaited move to our new quarters in Malaya Command Area has at last taken place, and we are now settling down in our new surroundings. At the moment there is plenty to be done, and a great number of improvements are required before things are really satisfactory. Footpaths have to be completed, and the usual builders' rubbish will have to be cleared, before the experts can produce their beds of roses.

The building of the Q.M. stores and workshops is still in progress and some time must elapse before R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron are completely centralised. Living quarters are wooden huts with concrete floors and are built in the form of spiders. Huts are divided into rooms which hold six or seven men, and whilst they are by no means palatial they can be made very comfortable. They are certainly an improvement on our previous tentage accommodation. There are plenty of showers and washing accommodation but, unfortunately, water is not too plentiful and is only turned on at certain periods. However, all these disadvantages and inconveniences will, we hope, be rectified in time. Our Romeos complain that we are too far away from the town, but then the course of true love never runs smoothly, and it will at least prove whether the journeys are really necessary. The unit bus service to town continues to operate smoothly and everyone can go to town and visit cinemas, etc., as before. A great deal will depend on the interest shown and what work is put into making the lines shipshape.

We sincerely hope we shall get some reinforcements before 64 Group depart, otherwise it looks as though the officers will be doing duty D.R. or get caught for flying picquets and so forth. Fortunately, a few people like Malaya, and we get the occasional request to defer or draw up a gentleman's agreement. By this means we shall retain a few of our key personnel until new blood reaches us. We have just said good-bye to Group 58, and with them college Groups 59 and 60. All wish them good luck in their new life and hope those going into Civvy Street will find it to their liking. Maybe after some time they will think of us and pine for the Thursday buffet suppers.

Recent weather has been fair and sunny, and has enabled us to take part in a reasonable amount of sport. The last few days have, however, been very dull, and some heavy rains point to a rainy season in the near future.

*Officers' Mess.* Among the recent departures to U.K. were Captain S. P. Irwin and Lieutenant G. Henton. Captain Irwin was our genial and well-liked Adjutant, whilst Lieutenant Henton was our late Mess Secretary. Captain Irwin goes home to continue in the Service, but Lieutenant Henton proceeds on a college course prior to going into civilian life. We shall miss them both and we wish them every success.

We welcome Captain J. A. Broadley and Second-Lieutenants R. E. Glover and F. Collins, who have recently arrived from U.K. Captain Broadley has taken over the duties of Adjutant, and already wears a worried look. The other two officers are rapidly getting their bearings and settling down to normal routine.

The Mess has not been moved yet, and we shall remain in our present place until the new Command Messes are completed. This does not appear to be for some time to come. Recent departures have helped to relieve the accommodation problem, and it is now possible to breathe in one's own time instead of breathing by numbers. We could be much worse off, and we are at least a Signals Mess run on reasonable lines.

Sport has been mainly a matter of individual effort, although we have provided players for the unit teams. The unusually good facilities of the Selangor Golf Club are taxed to the full, and very much appreciated. Captain Smith, who has recently recovered from his operation, is endeavouring to form a hockey team, and we hope to provide most of the players from the Mess. Indoor games have been mainly confined to the Tuesday Liar Dice Parties, where truth is certainly stranger than fiction. However, the Padre's " candle fund " is mounting up as a result. One Mess member, who shall remain unnamed, seems keen on introducing a sport called " Cutting the Rug," but we feel that the accompanying noises would be unbearable in the Mess, and have so far refused to take the sport up.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Once again in the matter of replacements the Mess has been forgotten, and one begins to wonder if the rank of sergeant is now extinct. This month another seven members, as under, departed to U.K. on release, repatriation, and college courses. Our good wishes go to them all, and it is to be hoped that they will not miss the glorious East too much:—Sergeant K. D. Barton, Sergeant A. Hunt, Sergeant V. G. Masters, Sergeant G. H. North, Sergeant A. Manoilenko, Sergeant D. P. Amor, Local Sergeant G. R. Walsh.

Two games of soccer have been played this month, resulting in a win for the Mess and a draw. In the first game, against a strong 66 Line Troop team, the scoring was high, eleven goals being conceded by the two goalkeepers. The final result was a win for the Mess 6—5. The second game was against a very sound B.O.R. XI which comprised the majority of the Regimental team, and it is to the Mess credit that we were able to hold them to a 0—0 draw. S.Q.M.S. Lindsay was outstanding in goal, saving many difficult shots. The attack was ably led by R.S.M. Miller, although his height (5½ ft.) was a handicap when up against a 6 ft. centre-half. The Mess games do, however, produce a wealth of talent, and a number of us are sweating on being selected for the Regimental team, which unfortunately at present cannot manage to win a game.

" TAFSCOT "

*Football.* The month started off with a series of defeats, but latterly the team combined together better and a great improvement was apparent. The team is settling down now and players are getting used to their own positions and other members of the team. Morale has been low of late, but when the new team begins to win a few matches it will return to its old confidence.

Against the Selangor Chinese Recreation Club, leaders of the State Division I, dogged defence by Wrennall at left back and Clarke in goal helped us keep the score down to 0—4, no mean feat against such a crack team. The Y.M.C.A. expected an easy victory when they played us and were over-confident. Again the unit's defence was superior to the attack. Outstanding were Grimshaw, centre-half, the team captain, Stoddart, at right back, Crabtree at left-half, and Blue at inside-left. Result, a draw.

Telecomns beat us, due to the Unit forwards not making the most of their many chances. The defence was again

excellent with Grimshaw and Wrennall up to their usual standard, and M. Brown playing a much improved game, as also did Fleming at inside-left, who scored our only goal from a melee in front of Telecomns' goal.

Results of other matches in July were as follows:—*v.* T.P.C.A., lost 0—2; *v.* Malaya Command Training Centre, lost 1—4; *v.* H.Q., Malaya Command, lost 1—2.

*Cricket.* Only three matches were played in July and, unfortunately, two were abandoned due to rain. The other was lost. The Unit 2nd XI, peopled by men with more keenness than skill, won all its three matches against some of the weaker Army units in Kuala Lumpur—a good performance. The 1st XI has lost the core of its batting strength, though the bowling has remained good. Everywhere the team plays it is congratulated on its excellent fielding. Against the R.A.F. Station, Kuala Lumpur, we took four of their wickets for 53 runs, then the rain came and further play was impossible. In a return match, played on 19th July, we lost by 50 runs, our batsmen seeming to have no spirit. Giles and Dearden were the most successful bowlers, the former taking 3 for 20 and the latter 3 for 18. Scores: R.A.F. 89; Signals 39.

Against the Victoria Institute on 30th July, the bowling and fielding were the best yet seen, and the V.I. lost 7 wickets for 32, Gledhill obtaining two fine catches and Gething keeping wicket very well. The V.I. rallied and put on a further 54 runs without loss when, once again, rain stopped further play.

## SOUTHERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Poona

*August*

The long-awaited monsoon eventually arrived in this area, giving us a temporary break in the hot season. So cool has it been at times that the temperatures quoted for the English "summer" make us wonder how we shall take it on returning.

To date, however, rubber boots have only been the order of the day for a week. One direct result of this is the complete and apparently overnight covering of the landscape in green. Wherever there is room for grass, weed, or creeper to grow, one may be sure it is there.

At this period of the year our thoughts naturally turn to the Rugby field, the season being so short. We have, however, no available Rugby fields here, our attention being taken up by soccer, hockey, and basketball, all of which are played regularly. The British Section sports a very good soccer team, playing each week. There are also whisperings about cricket in the air, but more about that next time.

As a reminder that the Signal Office still exists, Signalman Betley has made us the cartoon reproduced below.

The great day of 15th August is drawing near, bringing with it great preparations for the celebrations by the I.O.R.s. A station parade is to be held and we are sending a Signals detachment along to show what the Indian Signal Corps can do.

We still have a few I.O.R.s who will be leaving us for their new Dominion of Pakistan in the near future. They are mostly Punjabi Mussalmans, and are at present observing Ramazan, which precludes them from celebrating 15th August with a Bara Khana. They will, however, be able to make up for it at I.D., which is expected to fall on 18th August.

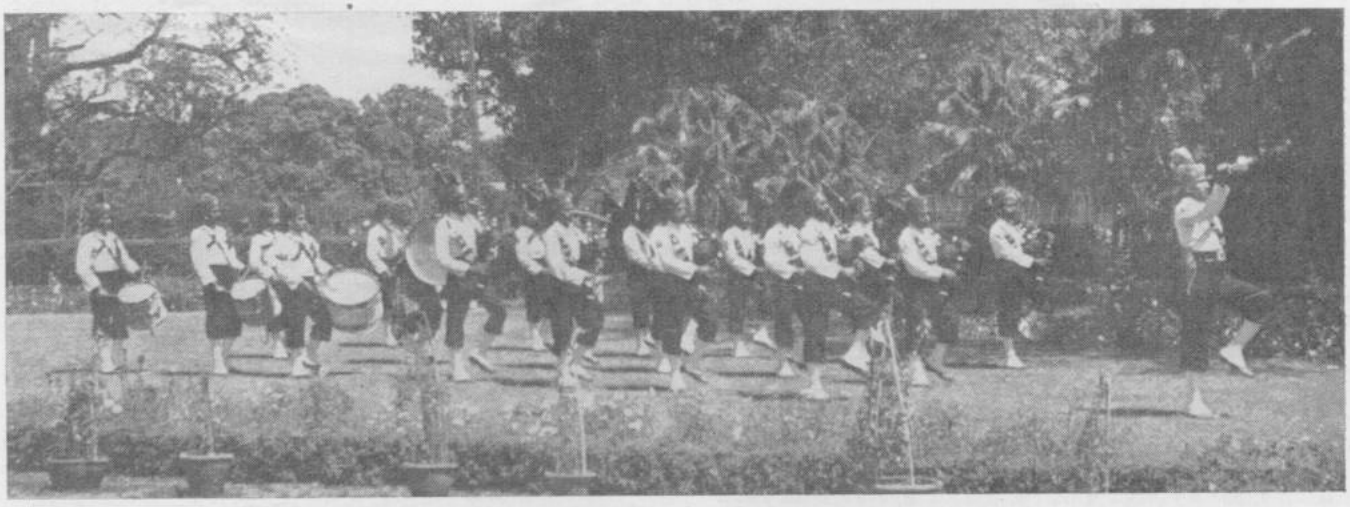
Our B.O.R.s strength is steadily being reduced by releases and repatriations. A few have decided to sign on in India for another year to serve with one of the two new Dominions.

No. 2 COMPANY, BOMBAY. The order of the day here is work and more work. We are busily consolidating our technical commitments and training I.O.R. personnel to take over the heavy maintenance tasks. Training for the Regiment is centralised here under the very able direction of Lieutenant Abdullah Khan, whose keen interest in the job has been largely responsible for the very satisfying results so far achieved.

Now for the news of the year, which we are sure will be of interest to many of the older readers of THE WIRE. On 11th July Miss Audrey Carrol Beadon, daughter of Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C., and Mrs. Beadon, was married to Captain Norman Neil Campbell Lockhart, son of Lieutenant-General Sir Rob Lockhart, acting Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, and Lady Lockhart.

The marriage took place at All Saints' Church, Malabar Hill, Bombay, conducted by the Rev. H. Rigg Stansfield and assisted by the Rev. R. P. Stacy Waddy. The best man was Captain W. G. Stewart, A.D.C. to the Governor of Bombay.

The reception was held in the Durbar Hall of Government House, and among the guests were His Excellency Sir John Colville, Governor of Bombay, and Lady Colville, Lieutenant-General E. N. Goddard, G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, Major-General A. H. Snelling, M.G.A. Southern Command,



Indian Signal Corps Band

Major-General R. Richardson, Area Commander, Bombay, Major-General C. H. Chambers, Major-General O'Mally, Brigadier D. S. E. McNeill, and Brigadier H. W. Dinwiddie.

Lastly, we are all looking forward to the day when we shall receive a visit from the Viceroy, when he will have assumed his new title of Governor-General of the Union of India.

## ARMY SIGNAL SCHOOL, M.E.

### Palestine

*August*

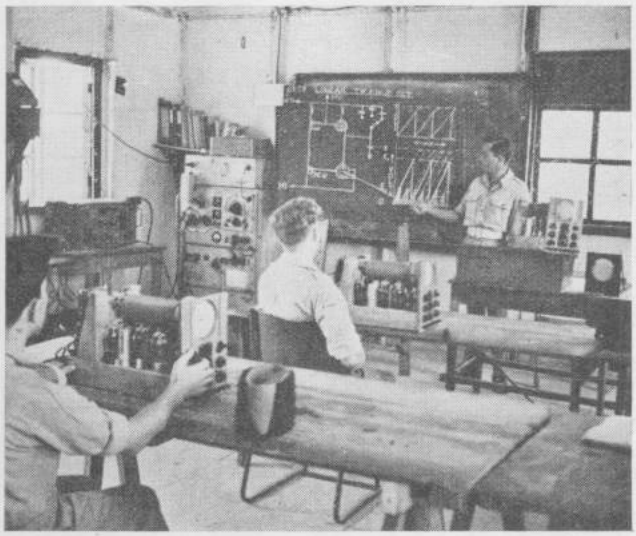
Our former correspondent, " Bruce " Beattie, has left for the gay life of Port Said. His relief, " Daddy " Sutton, came, but departed on L.I.A.P. shortly afterwards, and while McChapman is not showing his powers in the field of sport, he has been left with the " baby." Demob., Python, and postings have taken further toll of the old hands of the unit; however, Colonel Danby still battles on.

Major Duke, our C.I., has left us to attend a Backlog Course in the Mother Country at the Military College of

" Learning to do, as well as to instruct." A Guards Officer and Arab Legion Corporal on tactical training with Inf. R.S.I.

Science, and has taken Ruby Duke, our confidential clerk and typist, with him. We wish them every happiness and success for the future and trust that their present accommodation in U.K. is better than 112 D.I.M.R.A. McDowall, our T.M.O. cricketer and hockey centre, has gone, and George Gibson, who took over from him for a while, returned unexpectedly on Python. At one time we had two and a half brace of Tom's here.

One of the old yet cheerful men of the Corps, George Kingman, now looks after our Maintenance Section. Skelly, of Commando fame, is Adjutant, and Vallé, ex-R.A. R.S.I. Instructor of School of Signals, U.K., is officiating as C.I. Tex Rickard also arrived to fill the vacancy as a special theory instructor in Signal trades, and " Ginger " Addison is soon to take over senior leaders from Dave Willett, who is also to be posted. The O.R.s too have changed considerably; R.S.M. McDonald, however, has outlived most of them. One of the oldest instructors is Sergeant Grey, who leaves shortly. Many underground cable linemen probably remember his



Signal Trades Training Radio Mechanics Course. Lecture on the Oscilloscope. Student nearest camera is a member of the Trans-Jordon Frontier Force

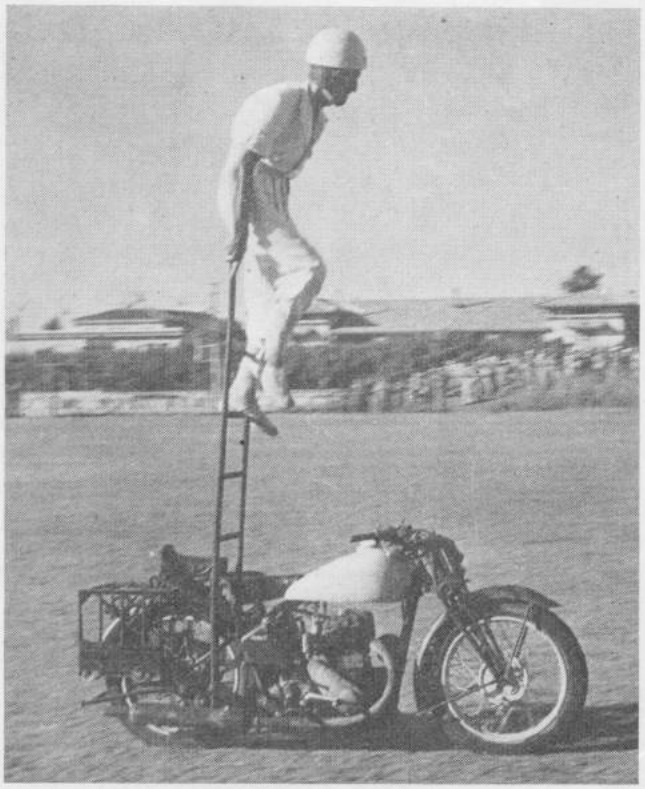
words of wisdom. R.Q.M.S. Bell and S.Q.M.S. Hulme are still surviving the strain of peace accounting. Due to a cut in the establishment, we are shortly to lose S.Q.M.S. Hulme. His cheerful presence both in the store and on the sports field will be missed. The School is still running at full pressure. " A " Trades has now been re-termed " Signal Trades " and comprises the training of Line Test Clerk, and U.G. Linemen and " A " Tradesmen. Two infantry courses are now being run and a preponderance of officers is very noticeable. R.A. and M.B. temporarily closed down, but with the arrival of instructors it seems likely to blossom forth in the near future.

*Sport*. Though a small unit, the amount of sport played is considerable, and although we say it, the standard is high in all games. MacChapman brought us prominently on to the map with his 111 not out for the Army in Palestine against the R.A.F., in 35 minutes. This astonished many people, most of all himself. The soccer team have taken on battalions, and emerged favourably, whilst the hockey and cricket teams showed decided progress. Outside fixtures are extremely hard to arrange, due to security restrictions, but

(*continued on page* 337)

Signal Trades Training Line Mechanics Course. Stripping and assembling teleprinters. Student nearest camera is a member of Trans-Jordon Frontier Force

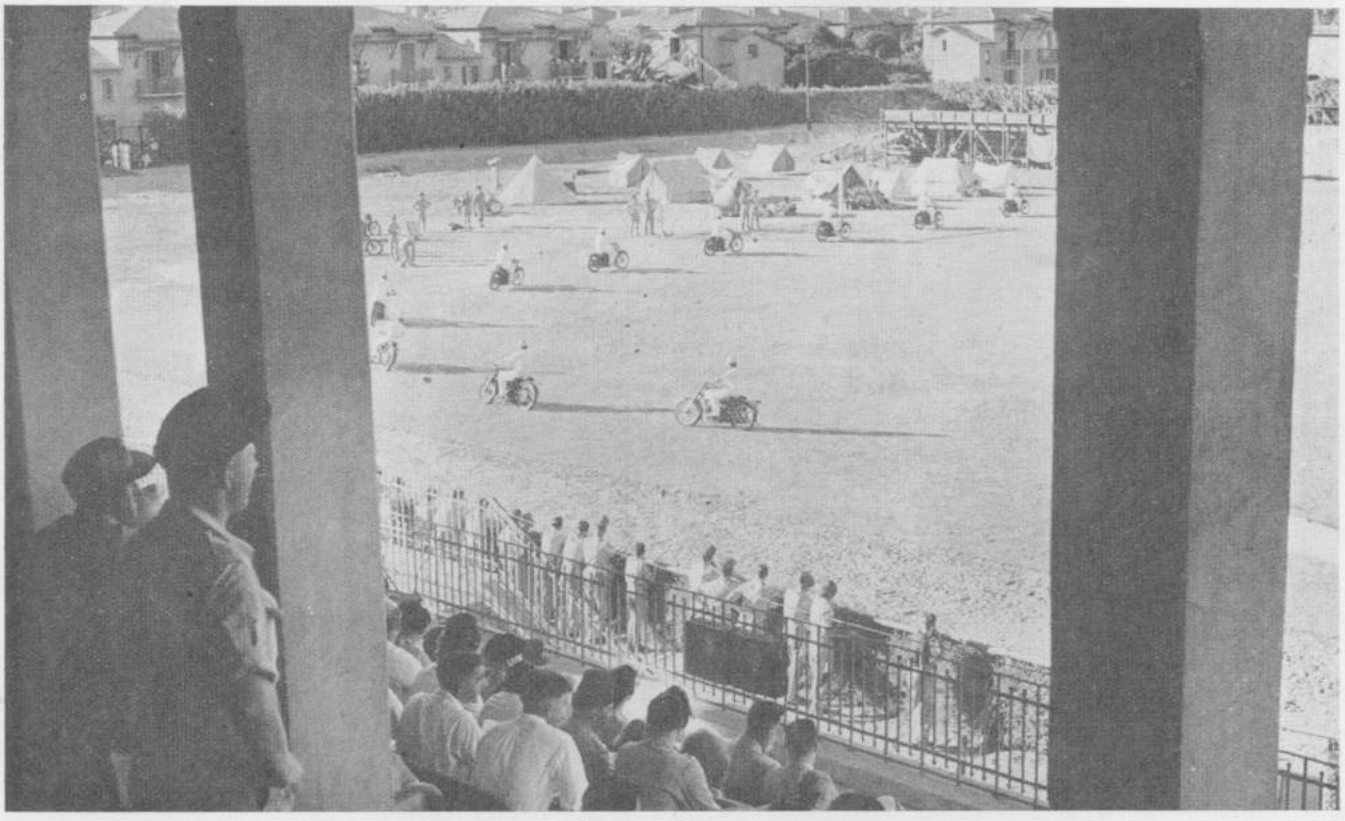
# *Motor Cycle Thrills at Port Fouad*

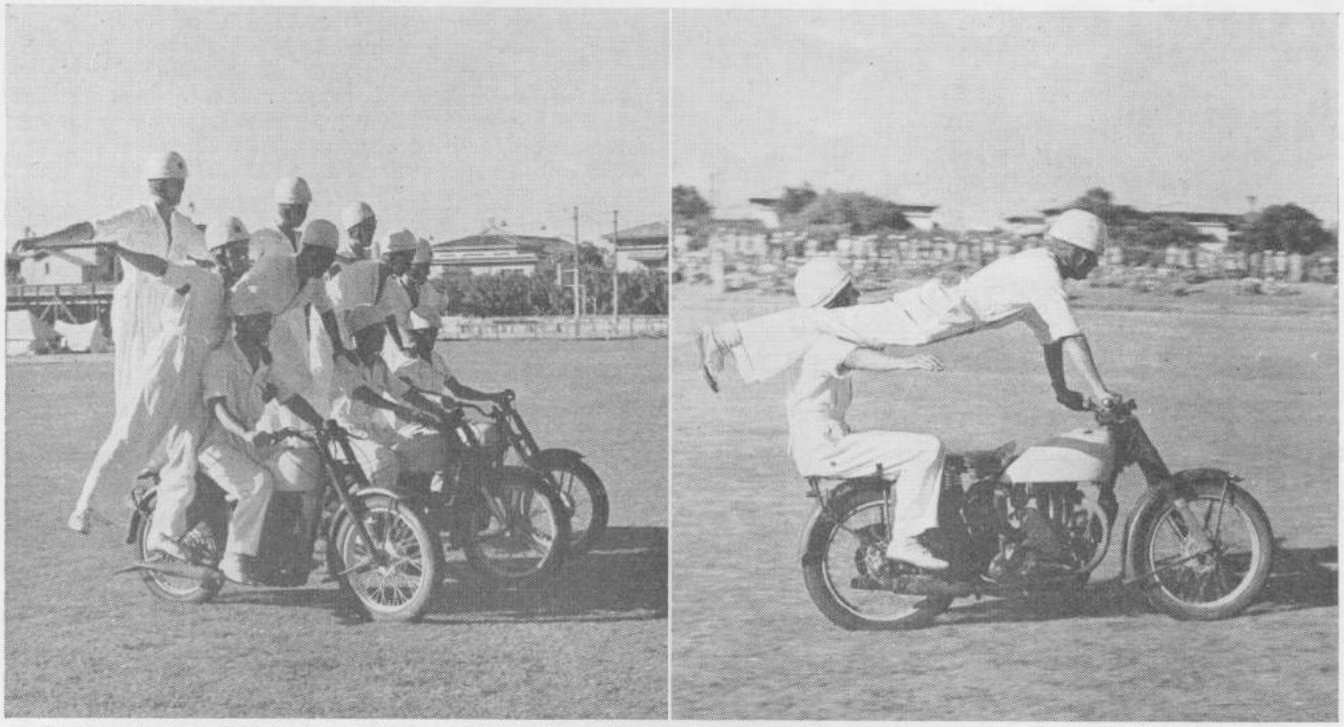


Climbing a ladder can at times be a little tricky, but the Royal Signals display team riders make it even more difficult by doing it single-handed on a moving machine, an incredible display of skill and balance

★

Long shot view of Port Fouad Stadium and the team in action. Some hundreds of spectators attended the display





Ten men on three standard machines form a tableau as they cruise round the arena. The team know many novel ways of riding a motor bike. The picture shows one of the trickier methods for two men—not recommended for learners.

AT a Motor Cycle Display held at Port Fouad Stadium in August, a large crowd thrilled to the daring exploits of a team of Royal Signals riders. In the 25 events, each more daring than the last, they evoked round after round of applause. The events included riding at high speeds off a ramp, figure eights performed by 20 machines, and feats of almost unbelievable balance performed on moving machines.

The team was formed in June under the patronage of Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., with Lieutenant-Colonel C. Thompson, of the Royal Signals, as president. It is trained and led by Captain C. Walton and its one hour display of thrills has contributed to the success of many sports meetings in the Canal Zone. None of the team members had ever before been a trick rider, though Captain Walton had ridden in Army display teams in England. The motor cycles are all Army models, including one midget Wellbyke, the type used by Airborne troops.

## *OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS*

(*continued from page* 335)

Dave Willet, our Sports Officer, arranged an enjoyable week-end here with the 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment. Although we lost at hockey and football, we scored a decisive victory on the cricket field, under the leadership of Derek Birch, one of our two infantry instructors. In the forth-coming Army in Palestine Tennis Championships the School hopes to do well in the doubles, MacChapman partnering our versatile C.O.

Now we've tried, WIRE notes don't seem as difficult to write as Bruce made them out to be, so here's to the next time.

## No. 5 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Bangalore

*August*

In the midst of the celebrations for the birth of the two new Dominions, the unit is endeavouring to " Shake down the stars," as Radio S.E.A.C. might say. The stars we are looking for are those who will volunteer for service in India for a further twelve months but, unfortunately, the response has not been very great. The reason for the lack of response is due partially to the decision that it is thought better that we remain grass widowers for a further twelve months.

In spite of Independence celebrations, we have manfully coped with two Bara Khanas given by the V.C.O.s and I.O.R.s.

R.S.M. Clarke and C.Q.M.S. Blackman have left the unit for G.H.Q., Signal Regiment in Delhi, where they are enjoying the nice temperature provided in the Union of India capital at this time of the year. The grapevine system of intelligence informs us that C.Q.M.S. Blackman still has hopes of emigrating to Singapore.

Major A. J. B. Gilmour was on the point of release when he decided to become one of our stars and remain in service for a further twelve months. Unfortunately he has left the unit and found refuge somewhere in the wilds of Northern Command.

Sergeant J. G. Davies, who has recently been elevated to that exalted rank, is manfully struggling with our remaining thirteen B.O.R.s. His spare time is wholly taken up in bargaining with Indian dealers over what remains of the Sergeants' Mess property.

The Q.M., Captain D. Watson, and Lieutenant I. Ll. Thomas (" Taffy ") are endeavouring to maintain their morale with the odd bottle of beer whilst waiting for the boat which never seems to come. Both are trying, without much success, to cease adoration of the Goddess Nicotine in preparation for the rigours of civilian life.

# Territorial Army

### No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

We consist of a small regular cadre which formed in Wilton on 2nd June.

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, Royal Signals; Adjutant, Captain W. G. Tucker, Royal Signals (T.A.); Quartermaster, Captain P. W. Steele, M.B.E., Royal Signals; R.S.M., R.S.M. G. F. Mitchell; Orderly Room Sergeant, S.S.M. R. M. Drake.

Our task is to supervise the raising and training of the seven independent Squadrons whose notes we publish separately. The birth pangs of a T.A. Unit in the year of grace 1947 are severe and lengthy. However, to offset this we have boundless enthusiasm and keenness. Our Squadrons make a large and happy, though widely scattered, family. We are seldom "off the road" visiting Squadrons incessantly, and trying to smooth the troubles of these growing boys. The recent petrol cuts are responsible for much blasphemy, but if necessary we'll walk.

"SIXTY-THREE"

26 A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP, T.A. 26 A.G.R.E. Signal Troop, T.A., has formed in Salisbury, and our temporary H.Q. is the Drill Hall, Wilton Road, Salisbury.

Officer Commanding is Major F. J. Wheeler, Royal Signals, T.A., ex-43 (Wessex) Divisional Signals, T.A., and "W" L. of C. Signals.

Recruiting so far is satisfactory, and we extend a hearty welcome to the following who have recently joined us:—J. Cropp, R. A. Jolliffe, L. R. Compton, T. H. W. Shillitoe, A. Jones, E. C. Birchley, J. Jeeves.

"AGREES"

10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT, T.A. The one and only T.A. A.S.S.U. is now in being, and the twenty-odd members think the time has come to tell the world about it. Our address is the Leigh Road Drill Hall, Eastleigh, Hants. (Telephone Eastleigh 87535). The building is excellent from the point of view of the P.R.I., 90 per cent. of the space being taken up by the maple-floored ballroom and the canteen. The enthusiasm of the C.O., Major G. U. Finney, is somewhat tempered by the fact that he has to look elsewhere for garage and workshop accommodation. We are not unduly perturbed because the C.O. has already performed one miracle; he has found a furnished house for his family. Our P.S.I., Sergeant J. Wheldon, is also a fast worker; he has found himself a bride here in Eastleigh. "Certa Cito." We offer our best wishes to the happy pair.

We have had a visit from the Southern Command Signals Demonstration Team who, despite the heat and the plague of small boys, put over a very interesting show which has done much to make Eastleigh A.S.S.U.-conscious. Our Mayor, Councillor Coles, very kindly put in an official appearance, and recorded a speech in the afternoon which was re-broadcast during the evening cinema show in the Drill Hall.

100 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron are combining with us in the production of a miniature tattoo to be staged at the Southampton Cricket Ground on 6th October, although this is subject to confirmation. The Corps Motor Cycle Display Team and the Corps Band will be among the main attractions, but will be well supported by parachutists and gymnasts from the Airborne Forces. In order to stress our close connection with the R.A.F., we are also trying to arrange several items featuring aircraft. The evening will end with a dance to the music of the Corps Dance Orchestra.

Although we are eager to start training we can do little until the builders have finished re-flooring the Drill Hall. 100 A.G.R.A. have very kindly offered us temporary garage space until we can find a suitable building. Whatever the state of our training, we are determined to hold a week-end camp on the South Coast in October. Then we can really sort ourselves out, and get to know each other.

Most of our recruits are young and very keen, but there are too few "old sweats." How about it, you Signalmen of Hampshire?

"ASSULIKET"

90 A.G.R.A. (FD) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. The O.C. of this Squadron, Major J. F. Hedges, ably assisted by Sergeants Oliver and Willson (P.S.I.s), have, during the month of August, been endeavouring to attract recruits of the required standard and experience. We have one recruit awaiting attestation.

We are hampered at present by the lack of suitable accommodation and were promised a house a week or so ago, but to date the lawyers, builders and decorators are holding us up.

Under arrangements made by O.C., 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., we had a visit from the Southern Command Signals equipment demonstration team. The public showed keenness in this and we trust a few recruits will result.

"LEGEND"

91 A.G.R.A. (FD) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. This Squadron is being raised at Taunton, Somerset, and consists of the Squadron H.Q. and six Signal Troops. It is commanded by Major D. H. Simpson, an ex-Signals Officer, with Lieutenant D. R. Wolfe as Second-in-Command. Recruiting up to press has been very disappointing, only two officers and one O.R. having yet been enrolled. But, with a visit by the Demonstration Team from 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., and the Royal Signals Olympia Motor Cycle Display Team, we hope our efforts will be rewarded. Accommodation here is very scarce, but by the time this is in print we shall have moved to Cross Keys Camp, where we have been allotted five huts, with a central recruiting office at the Territorial Hall, Taunton.

"AGRAS"

100 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. This Unit has been running for several months now. Although recruiting has been very slow up to press, we are anticipating much better results in the near future.

As O.C., we have in Major R. S. Clifton one of the old 43 (Wessex) Regiment, T.A., officers.

The two P.S.I.s are W.O. II R. H. (Nobby) Hall and Sergeant V. Platt. W.O. II Hall came to us from 2nd L. of C. Signals, which was originally the old 21 Army Group Signals. Sergeant Platt came from Dett. I Depot Regiment, Catterick, previously serving in Fortress Signals, Singapore. If any of our WIRE readers would care to get in touch with any of us, now is their opportunity.

The Southern Command Signals Demonstration Team paid us a visit in August, and a good show was put on at the Civic Centre, Southampton. This, together with the

forthcoming visit of the original Signals Olympic Motor Cycle Display Team, should bring us to the notice of the public. We are particularly interested in any of the old ex-Corps personnel, whom we should welcome back.

" ACKACKS "

1 ARMOURED REPLACEMENT GROUP (R.A.C.) SIGNAL SQUADRON. Greetings from the 1 Armoured Replacement Group Signal Squadron, Bristol.

This Squadron was officially formed on 27th July, a date which roughly coincided with the acceptance by a Selection Board of the nominations for the C.O. and the Second-in-Command; also with the arrival of a P.S.I. It is located at the Drill Hall, Old Market Street, Bristol, which is shared with the 44 Royal Tank Regiment, T.A., the original pre-war occupants. 44 R.T.R. form part of an Armoured Replacement Group and as such form part of the operational commitments of the Signal Squadron. If the relationship between the Regiment and ourselves remains as pleasant and cordial as at present we shall look forward to some happy times. We also have the responsibility of forming and training an Armoured Car Regiment Signal Troop for the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

The Squadron is commanded by Major A. M. Keeling, late of 48 Divisional Signals and 78 Divisional Signals, to whose old comrades he sends salutations and the assurance that he fully intends to accept the oft repeated invitation in Signal Branch notes, to visit the Crown Hotel on the last Thursday of the month. The Second-in-Command and O.C., H.Q. Troop, is Captain G. P. Atkinson, an officer with considerable experience in Armoured Signals in India and Burma. We consider ourselves lucky to have as our P.S.I. one Sergeant R. H. Salmon, late of Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment, and a well-known figure in the Corps for the past 32 years.

By the time this appears in print we in Bristol will have had a visit from the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display, which is appearing at the Knowle Stadium on 26th September, as part of the Royal Signals recruiting campaign. The first ex-Sergeant to join the Squadron is Sergeant Bailey of cipher fame, who, incidentally, in private life has the useful asset of very influential connections with a county newspaper, and is also a journalist, all of which has given the C.O. the brilliant idea that never again will notes for THE WIRE keep him in on a hot stuffy evening struggling with pen and paper and bad spelling.

A.R.G.

15 WIRELESS SQUADRON, T.A. Located at Crownhill Fort, Plymouth, in temporary accommodation until allocated a drill hall in Plymouth. It is hoped that the Unit will eventually be given the old Royal Signals Drill Hall at York Street, Devonport. The Squadron formed on 1st July, 1947, and is commanded by Major R. J. Harvey. Many of the old members of 43 Divisional Signals have re-joined, including " Mac " MacDonald, S. R. Newcombe, Brunyee and Cloke, Dick King and the Mitchells, Herbert and Walter. In the confined space of their one room, many interesting Tuesday evenings have already been spent, mostly in renewing old acquaintanceships. All are looking forward to a very good winter season, and anyone in the Plymouth area who reads this will be welcome if they come along any Tuesday or Thursday to find out what it is all about.

" FIFTEEN "

## SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A.

Despite the slowness of recruiting during the summer months, Phantom has not been inactive. We started in July by learning to drive our armoured cars and to work our 52 sets, and by the end of August were ready for a day's exercise down to Pirbright, where we also did a bit of rifle shooting. To the surprise of the uninitiated, the 52 set provided R5 signals on R/T all the time except for a brief period when one set disappeared beneath some trolleybus wires in Kingston. Everyone had a shoot at Pirbright either in the morning or afternoon, and there were some pretty queer scores, though Lieutenant-Colonel Wasey, Captain Harper, and Lance-Corporal Seely showed a fine degree of marksmanship. We were fed excellently at the London and Middlesex Rifle Association Clubhouse at Bisley and arrived back at H.Q., doing some more R/T on the way, in time to open up the canteen.

On the following week-end we decided to go down on the Saturday, and spent the night at Pirbright Camp. More

*[Reproduced by the courtesy of " The Services and Territorial Magazine."]*

Sergeant Hatton demonstrating the 52 Set to Lance-Corporals Isely and White

R/T, more shooting, and more beer than some of us had reckoned with, because after taking our fill at the London and Middlesex Club we were invited to the R.N.V.R. Mess, which provided more beer and took us on at darts. Shooting on Sunday morning suffered a bit in consequence. In the afternoon we were joined by a large party of Kensington's Old Comrades, who had their own competitions. This ended in an exciting final with Harry Morris (1st Battalion, 1939-1945), beating C. E. Johnson (1914-1918) by one point. Whilst this was going on we did some cross-country driving instruction. After tea we returned home, with more R/T on the way.

Towards the latter end of July Sergeant Hatton was married and now lives happily with his wife round the corner in Chiswick. Corporal Jones has left us to try his hand at parachuting—tough guy, huh ! Corporal Cheadle has come to us in his place from Ministry of Supply Technical Training School.

So much for the permanent staff. Two of our T.A. com-

rades have distinguished themselves by becoming fathers. These are Lance-Corporal Palmer, who had a second son in September, and Signalman Cast, who had a third child, a daughter.

Now that the long winter evenings are coming on we hope to hear more from ex-Signals fellows. We are going to

Shooting at Pirbright

brush up our key-bashing and hope to open a Ham Station next month, with a junk set Major Nanney-Wynn is collecting. So any of you operators who wish to keep it up will be most welcome. We also want some I.M.s, D.R.s, and drivers. If you live near Hammersmith, why not look us up? We have a first-rate modern drill hall at 190 Hammersmith Road, which is just off the Broadway.

## No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

The " S.M." stands for South Midland.

The South Midlanders, I am sorry to say, are not exactly jamming the gateways to get in and enlist. Perhaps now that the 1947 summer is rapidly becoming a pleasant memory, the right type of man will turn his thoughts to battledress once more. The bachelors, I mean. It would seem that the chances of getting the married men into the T.A. are slender. The Government has not yet appreciated the tremendous opposition from the wives. How often have we heard those fatal and final words, " I'll ask the missus what she thinks " ! They never come back, so presumably the " missus " says plenty. I feel that the answer lies in the direction of admitting wives and sweethearts to the Recreation Room on occasions. It could be their club as well, and a very exclusive one at that. However, tradition dies hard, and I have no hope that Mrs. Slopwether and her nine children will ever turn the pages of our " Illustrated " in the men's canteen.

Major-General G. W. Richards, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. North Midland District, visited us at Cateswell House, Hall Green, on Thursday, 11th September. He was very interested in all that we were able to show him—teleprinters, switchboards, test frames, practice Morse key system, etc., and a particularly clean-looking permanent staff. Our excellent caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Boyle, provided a first-class lunch for the General and those of our officers who were able to attend. No mean feat without rations.

The transport position improves daily. We have been allotted a 15 cwt. truck three times, but as this has been cancelled three times one feels that we are a little optimistic.

Among recent chance visitors to our H.Q. we had Captain " Jock " Brandon and a party *en route* from the South to Catterick. I am told that they bedded down here for one night. A good thing it was summer. Those heavy footsteps you heard one day in August would almost certainly belong to Captain H. S. Nokes, up here on a business trip from Crediton, no doubt. Sorry I missed both parties, but a hard-working Q.M. must have a holiday some years. (See Association notes re my inspection of Sussex.)

BARLEUX

## No. 13 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our R.H.Q. Drill Hall at Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh, has come to look like a Signal Park. Our Quartermaster, Captain Crockford, has received load upon load of technical stores and is still busy checking them and issuing to the Squadrons. Any day now we expect to get an urgently needed issue of vehicles and we will then be able to get on with practical outdoor training of linemen and D.R.s.

Recruiting is fairly slow at the moment owing to summer holidays and, perhaps in Edinburgh at any rate, to the approaching International Festival. However, there are signs that there will be a speed-up as autumn approaches, and we are making good use of this breather getting our Drill Halls up to scratch and installing training equipment. Attendance at drills is good and we have had some interesting talks and visits.

We are always pleased to see old friends, uniformed or civilian, who pass our way, so if you are in Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Blairgowrie, do drop in or give us a ring. For easy reference here are the addresses:—

R.H.Q. and No. 31 Squadron: The Drill Hall, Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh (Edinburgh 27374).

No. 29 Squadron: The Huts, Alkenhead Road, Glasgow (Merrylee 1879).

No. 30 Squadron: 261 W. Princes Street, Glasgow (Douglas 2493).

No. 32 Squadron: The Drill Hall, William Street, Blairgowrie (Blairgowrie 223).

## No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

No. 36 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., NEWCASTLE. The appointment of Major A. H. Donnelly —maybe well known as " Pat "—has given the utmost pleasure. His infectious enthusiasm and untiring efforts have done all things necessary to smooth the road ahead.

The winter programme of social events commences this month with a reunion of old comrades. Whilst it is expected that our numbers will increase as a result, the suggestion that the function be described as " Operation Press Gang " is completely—well, we hope so anyway. A mixed programme of dances, socials, etc., is being planned and it is hoped to see any members of the Regiment who happen to be in the locality at the time.

No. 40 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., SUTTON COLDFIELD. During August training has been proceeding with great activity and terminated with a grand

(*continued on next page*)

# The Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1 (Tel.: Victoria 9194)*

## Benevolent Fund

During the month of July, 1947, 105 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £829 8s. 4d.

*Summary of Grants Disbursed*

| Purpose | No. of Cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance ... ... ... | 28 | 159 | 18 | 4 |
| Rents, rates and insurance ... ... | 2 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| Cots and prams ... ... ... ... | 8 | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| Beds and bedding ... ... ... | 4 | 26 | 10 | 0 |
| Furniture ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Clothing ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | 11 | 10 | 0 |
| Hospital and doctors' fees ... ... | 12 | 80 | 18 | 0 |
| Convalescence ... ... ... ... | 6 | 44 | 0 | 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Dentures ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Removals ... ... ... ... ... | 7 | 30 | 6 | 0 |
| Travelling ... ... ... ... ... | 6 | 24 | 5 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation ... ... ... ... | 13 | 246 | 4 | 6 |
| Emigration assistance ... ... ... | 1 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Funeral expenses ... ... ... ... | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Education ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 24 | 5 | 0 |
| Totals ... | 105 | £829 | 8 | 4 |

*Analysis*

Discharged or released soldiers, 67; widows of deceased soldiers, 14; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 18; B.A.O.R., 2; M.E.L.F., 3; India, 1.

"AS"

*Donations received for the Fund*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd Air Formation Signal Regiment ... | 159 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd L. of C. Signal Regiment (H.Q. Officers' Mess) ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 14 | 0 |
| 11th L. of C. Signal Regiment ... ... | 3 | 3 | 10 |
| 3rd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) | 59 | 16 | 6 |
| 5th Divisional Signal Regiment ... ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| 23rd Indian Divisional Signal Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) | 37 | 12 | 6 |
| 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ... ... ... ... ... | | 4 | 0 |
| War Office Signal Regiment ... ... ... | 8 | 6 | 8 |
| Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 1 S.T.C., Catterick Camp (Combined Units) ... ... ... ... ... ... | 252 | 18 | 2 |
| Royal Signals O.C.T.U. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) ... ... | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| Royal Signals Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, India ... ... ... | 191 | 3 | 9 |
| Royal Signals B.O.R.s Fund, India ... | 74 | 12 | 6 |
| Army Benevolent Fund ... ... ... ... | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Walker ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. A. S. Ockleford ... ... ... ... | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Captain W. Challen ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Captain W. F. H. Herdon ... ... ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Captain J. G. Smithers ... ... ... ... | | 9 | 0 |
| P. Haswell ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Ex-Sergeant C. West ... ... ... ... | | 4 | 6 |
| Ex-Signalman H. Lee ... ... ... ... | | 5 | 0 |
| Ex-Signalman F. J. Goodwin ... ... | | 2 | 0 |
| Birmingham Branch, Royal Signals Association ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Total ... | £1,854 | 10 | 2 |

## Old Comrades' Association

During the months of June and July, 1947, the following new members joined the Old Comrades' Association:—

Life members ... ... 114
Annual members ... ... 300

***TERRITORIAL ARMY*** *(continued from previous page)*

week-end camp. Led by Captain P. N. Dingley and Subaltern Hardwicke, the unit proceeded to Elvaston, near Derby, to be attached to No. 5 A.A. Group Signal Regiment for a week-end. Words cannot express our appreciation of all that was done for us, both on our arrival and during our all too short stay at Elvaston, and through THE WIRE all of us would like to express our appreciation of the kindness shown to us by the C.O., Colonel Campbell, and his excellent staff. On Saturday evening we were entertained at the unit canteen to a concert and dance, and here our congratulations go out to Private Warren, A.T.S., for her great work in overcoming the efforts of the P.S.I. to harmonise with her and walking away with the first prize in the talent spotting competition. It was a great start to our stay in the T.A. and we only hope the future will bring many more similar week-ends. Training! Oh yes, we went to Derby G.O.R. and had an excellent lecture there on A.A. procedure, and in the afternoon another on the various complicated instruments we shall be expected to use in the future.

# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

**Aberdeen**

This constitutes our first WIRE notes for some months, the club having been closed for the summer period.

As the winter session is drawing near, a meeting of the Central Committee took place at Fonthill Barracks on Thursday, 4th September, at which our most able Chairman, Colonel E. Birnie Reid, presided. There was a large attendance, and the meeting lasted for approximately two hours, the points under discussion being many and varied.

An interesting feature was that as far as the Club was concerned, it was unanimously agreed to co-operate with the newly-formed 51st/52nd (Scottish) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to the utmost in connection with the use of the Recreation Room and the running of entertainments during the forthcoming season.

The activities, I am sure, will be many and interesting, and in many respects beneficial to those who are desirous of passing a comfortable evening at the Club Room.

In our endeavour to maintain the long-standing Highland traditions, we are set in an atmosphere of great hope that we may enlist on our Club Roll many new members, including ex-A.T.S. personnel who served with Royal Signals.

Within the next week or so the badminton team will be back into operation, but as a few of the members have once more "signed on the dotted line," they will not have the allotted time for practice as before.

Much work during the summer recess has been accomplished by our most diligent Honorary Secretary, Captain C. T. Andrews, M.B.E., and great credit is accorded him on his outstanding achievements.

The work of the Club continues, the Club is expanding, and some time we trust that here in the "Granite City" it will be one of the finest in the country.

News will increase as once more we get into full swing.

A. SMITH, Club Secretary.

**Glasgow**

Lack of news from Glasgow does not indicate lack of activity—especially when the Committee has now two A.T.S. representatives, and A.A. at that.

The former members of A.A. Signals in and around Glasgow ran a dinner and concert in Sloan's Restaurant on Friday, 13th June. Major T. D. Childs, who commands one of the new A.A. Signal Squadrons in Glasgow, was in the chair, and had enthusiastic support from his former A.A. lads and lassies. There were copious reminiscences from the opening of the bar to the closing thereof, and the dinner and concert allowed a welcome breathing space.

We are still without any permanent club room, but, as always, are full of hope, which costs nothing and so far is unrestricted. The Signal units at 21 Jardine Street kindly accommodate us for our Committee meetings.

It is hoped that we shall have one or two reunions during the course of the next few months. The ex-members of 15th (Scottish) Divisional Signals are intending to organise a gathering in the autumn.

**Birmingham**

A welcome visitor at the Committee meeting on 28th August was Colonel M. E. Holdsworth, one of our strongest supporters. The membership figure is away over 800 now, but when some pruning of long-lost members is done that figure may drop a little. We hope, only a little.

Forty-two ex-A.T.S. members are included in the 800 although we never see them all at once. The spell of fine weather may have reduced the numbers at recent meetings, but if the crisis doesn't become too acute we hope to see the figure rise with the autumn. Mr. C. A. Brown has joined the Committee and has dealt very efficiently with several cases of assistance to Association members and their dependants.

Those interested (and who isn't?) are advised to make a note of the following functions due to be held in the Drill Hall, Cateswell House, Hall Green:—

Wednesday, 15th October. A general "get together" with a background of music and, it is hoped, a supply of refreshment.

Tuesday, 11th November. Armistice Dance. Tickets 5s. each. All-night bus service on this route. Never mind your basic. Apply in good time.

Tuesday, 9th December. Another meeting based on experience gained at the October gathering.

Friday, 23rd January. Annual Dinner. Further details later. Total number, of course, will be limited. Speak up.

May I now apologise for describing Captain Frank Davies as "Davis"? How I should hate to be called Barlough!

If your memory goes back far enough you will remember "Sammy" Hughes, one-time sergeant-major in the Corps. He wears very well and is still to be found as mine host at the Station Hotel, Uckfield, in spite of many rumours to the contrary. Mr. "Bill" Foster, ex-boy who elected not to do a pontoon, is looking fit and young in Uckfield Post Office, where he has been for 22 years. Ted Darlow, ex-Maresfield Park butcher, is in the town, but I was never able to catch him on his building site. I also found Captain and Mrs. W. J. A. Nicks looking very little changed for all their grown-up son. Ex-Sergeant George Norton, well remembered as a fine trumpet player in the original Royal Signals Band, found me at Ringles Cross on my last evening there. He is a London Fire Brigade officer. Mrs. Norton (Joan to me) lives at Coopers Green.

I am afraid that not much of that will interest you boys. I would tell you a bedside story but mine can only be published in the "Maintenance Mercury," a dreadful magazine produced for the 78th Divisional Signals by yours truly,

BARLEUX.

**Coventry**

The Coventry branch has resumed its activities once more, no meeting being held in August, due to most members being away on holiday. A meeting took place on 2nd September, and despite the sad absence of a supply of beer, a pleasant hour was spent discussing future activities. It was decided to organise an informal dance in place of the usual monthly meeting in October, and we hope to make this the forerunner of many similar events at our headquarters, the Charterhouse Hotel, Terry Road, in the future, but full support is essential from all members.

The membership of the branch is now over 60, and with the resumption of activities it is hoped that this will rapidly increase. For the information of readers of THE WIRE who live in the Coventry area, the branch meets on the first Tuesday in each month at the Charterhouse Hotel, which is close to the Humber works. The Hon. Secretary of the branch is Ivor G. Davies, 29 Kingsbury Road, Coundon, Coventry.


**Crasters . . .**

MILITARY TAILORS
AND OUTFITTERS

*Supply all requisites for officers and other ranks of the Royal Signals*

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**THE CORNER, SHUTE ROAD, RICHMOND ROAD, CATTERICK CAMP**

# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 13 NOVEMBER 1947

# Editorial

**THE WIRE**

*The Corps Magazine of the*
**ROYAL SIGNALS**

*The Official Organ of the*
**SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

*All correspondence and notes for "The Wire" should be addressed to: The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

*Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 10s.; single month, 1s.*

☆

**NOVEMBER • 1947**

**Volume I** *New Series* **No. 13**

☆

**PRICE: ONE SHILLING**

IT was arranged between the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the Royal Corps of Signals that on each anniversary of VJ-Day (15th August) each Corps would hold a simple ceremony of commemoration and drink the health of each other in the respective Messes at Fort Monmouth and Catterick.

On the second anniversary the following messages were exchanged:—

*From:* MAJOR-GENERAL S. B. AKIN, *Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army.*

*To:* MAJOR-GENERAL C. H. H. VULLIAMY, *Director of Signals, War Office.*

On this second anniversary of victory over our common enemies, I wish on behalf of the U.S. Army Signal Corps to salute all ranks of the British Royal Corps of Signals. May the spirit of friendship and working together which were climaxed in the victory we celebrate this 15th of August, 1947, and which are enshrined in the memorials at our schools, be not alone a reminder of past comradeship in the trials and sacrifices of battles, but a continuing inspiration for the building of that understanding and good will which leads to lasting peace.

*From:* MAJOR-GENERAL C. H. H. VULLIAMY. *Director of Signals, War Office.*

*To:* MAJOR-GENERAL S. B. AKIN, *Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army.*

On this the 15th day of August, 1947, the second anniversary of the day on which the last of our late enemies finally capitulated, which date has now assumed a special and lasting significance for our two Corps, I wish to send to the U.S. Signal Corps the salutations and greetings of the Royal Corps of Signals. The spirit of mutual co-operation and friendship which sprang from our combined achievements in war is enshrined in the cherished momentoes which now provide a constant reminder to those at our respective Signal Schools, and it is our earnest and confident hope that this spirit will endure in the years which lie ahead. We of the Royal Corps of Signals are convinced that the bonds of fellowship so well forged between us on the field of battle will continue to provide a basis for that mutual understanding between nations which is more than ever necessary for the maintenance of peace. I therefore extend to you, General Akin, and to all ranks of the U.S. Signal Corps, on behalf of all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals, our most sincere and heartfelt wishes for your continued success, prosperity and wellbeing.

* * *

We felt very much in agreement with Mr. Churchill when, in his address on the Royal Wedding, he said that this was a touch of colour which would help to lighten the drabness of our lives: we look forward eagerly to the day, which will be very close by the time this issue is published, and expect that with any luck the crowds will prevent us from getting anywhere near the office on 20th

November, so that the Editorial view may be unrestricted and first hand.

It seems a great pity that we have to write the Editorial this month before we have had time to receive any replies to last month's request for suggestions. We are, however, husbanding our resources against the Christmas number, in which we hope to incorporate your suggested improvements, as well as your contributions. We wish we could provide you with large, glossy, coloured supplements on art paper, such as we remember, dimly, in our youth—those glowing pictures of huge toothsome meals, and pink-faced people hunting, and drinking beer, and skating, all looking happy and clearly enjoying the rudest of health, which came in about Christmas time. Those, we feel, wiping tears of sentiment from our eye, were the days: but since no one else will be printing supplements this year we might just as well forget the whole thing, save up our sweet ration, and perhaps as a treat open our tin of corned beef (ah! luxury). Sustained by thoughts of this self-indulgence, we press on in our dogged way towards the festive season—who knows, someone might fill our stocking if we hung it up!

## PERSONAL

Would 2325530 Driver G. Marcall, R. Signals (Palestine, 1938), please get in touch with his cousin, D. Evans, of 8 Melton Hill, High Melton, Doncaster?

* * *

Calling VVW ('38-'39), Mack, Busty, Jock, Blanco. Where are you all? Would also like to hear from A. E. Lovering.—Paddy Palfrey, 50 Victoria Road, Worthing, Sussex.

* * *

K. Wright, now of M.A. 1 Ward at the Hill End Hospital, St. Albans, Herts, would like to get in touch with Ashley John Herbert Ball, an old friend who was a driver in 2nd Army Signals at Canterbury Barracks, between October, 1939, and April, 1940. His home town used to be Southend.

* * *

Mr. D. A. Greenwood, of 14 Pearson Avenue, Hertford, Herts., would like to get in touch with any of the old boys of No. 1 Company, 54 Divisional Signals, 1939-43, or of 1 Parachute Brigade, 1st Airborne Division, or No. 1 Company cadre, 1 O.T. Battalion, Catterick Camp, or "A" Company cadre, 4 O.T. Battalion, Scarborough.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:—

CA IRA, for September, 1947.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, for August, 1947, and September, 1947.

JOURNAL OF THE R.A.S.C., for September, 1947.

R.E.M.E., for October, 1947.

THE BORDERER'S CHRONICLE, for September, 1947.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, for 4th October and 6th September, 1947.

## Correction

THE WIRE, Volume I, No. 12, page 341: For "Birmingham Branch, £10 0 0," read "Birmingham Branch, £10 10 0."


# Royal Signals Diaries, 1948

These will be available as under:—

(a) Refillable case with pockets in high-grade silk grain Persian leather (complete with diary as refill). Size $4\frac{3}{4}$" x $3\frac{1}{2}$". 16s. 6d.*

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U.K.: 1 copy 3d.; 2 copies 4d.; 3-6 copies 5d.; 7-11 copies 6d.

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Orders, accompanied by remittance, should be sent to:—

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1

The supply is limited and therefore early application is recommended. In the event of Corps Diaries being insufficient to meet the demand, Service Diaries will be available in lieu. Orders should state if Service Diaries are acceptable as an alternative. Prices are identical.


## SIGNALS WEDDING

The wedding of Captain George Holmes Hoerder, Royal Signals, to Miss Hazel Mary Stuart Robertson took place at the Parish Church, Ashstead, Surrey, on 23rd August, 1947.

Captain Hoerder was commissioned into the Corps in June, 1940, and served as Signal Officer with 135 Field Regiment, R.A. (18 Division), until he was captured by the Japanese at Singapore in 1942. He remained in Japanese hands, spending part of his time at work on the infamous railway, until his release in 1945. On his return home, he took up his present appointment as G.S.O. III (Sigs. 5) in the War Office. The Guard of Honour at his wedding, pictured above, was provided by officers now serving in the Directorate of Signals, War Office.

# Home Stations

## ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*October*

*Pass Off Parade.* 187 courses, consisting of 18 Officer-Cadets, passed out on Tuesday, 16th September, 1947. The salute was taken by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. The Senior Under Officer Commanding the parade was Officer-Cadet K. Langley. The Commandant's cane went to Officer-Cadet J. E. Green.

*Entertainments.* During the month our Entertainments Committees have been very busy, and have put on three dances, one Cadets' dance and two Cadre dances. All of which, to judge by the attendances, were very popular events. Another successful feature was the Variety Concert Party, produced under the watchful eye of our Entertainments Officer, Captain A. McKay.

*Motor Cycle Trials.* Officer-Cadet E. R. Glew was selected to represent the Corps in the "Alan Jefferies" Trophy Competition at Carlisle on 13th September. Riding a standard W.D. machine fitted with 3.25 tyres, he completed the course of 72 miles, but was unplaced. He was complimented by some of the best riders in the country competing in the event, on putting up what they considered to have been a very creditable performance.

*Rugby Football.* At present we are in the process of building up a team for the A.R.U. Cup, for which competition we have combined with the School of Signals. The team has a strong nucleus in Captains J. Westwood and N. Porter, and in Officer-Cadets Glyn Davies, Williams, Huntley and Spinall, all of whom have played in Corps representative matches.

*Soccer.* Our 1st XI started off its season with a good win against the R.A.C. Depot, whom we beat 6—2. The scorers were Driver Lynch (4), Driver Homer (2). This success was not maintained in the two following games, when we lost to 6 Training Regiment 2—6 and to 5 Training Regiment 1—5. Officer-Cadet Thomson and Corporal Travis were selected as reserves for the Royal Signals team in the first game in the F.A. Amateur Cup.

*Hockey.* We have so far played four matches, with the following results:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 59 Training Regiment R.A.C. | Won | 5—0 |
| 57 Training Regiment R.A.C. | Lost | 3—1 |
| R.A.C. Depot | Lost | 2—1 |
| 62 Training Regiment R.A.C. | Won | 2—0 |

Captain N. C. Cleveley has played for Catterick District, whilst the following have caught the selectors' eyes for District trials: Captains McDowall and Dobson and Signalman Bradbury.

*Weapon Training.* The annual Weapon Training season was concluded during the month, when the Cadre was exercised in the rifle, Sten and pistol. We were fortunate in the choice of dates, as the excellent weather made our visits to Bellerby Range all the more enjoyable. The shooting results revealed much latent talent, which it is hoped to develop in readiness for the winter season Small Bore Shooting.

## No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

*October*

Many changes have taken place among the members of this Regiment since last these notes appeared. We have lost Captain Roake to No. 2 T.R. and have been joined by Captain Field from O.C.T.U. We welcome another member to the Mess, Junior Commander Aylen, A.T.S., who came to take over the A.T.S. Signal Wing.

From the Sergeants' Mess, S.S.I. White has left us to return to football at the Crystal Palace. Sergeants Isaacs, Thigston and Davidson have also returned to civilian life, while S.Q.M.S. Wilderspin and Sergeant Hodgkins have been posted. On the credit side we welcome S.S.M.s McLeod and Faren and Sergeants Eves, Mosely, Cotter and Swenson, and hope that they will enjoy their stay with us. Welcome, too, to S.S.I. Smith and Sergeant Ford, the latter our junior member.

We heartily congratulate both Sergeant Hillier, A.T.S., and Sergeant Brown on their respective marriages. Sergeant Brown should find from here to Hudswell a good training run. We also congratulate S.Q.M.S. Ottley on the birth of a son.

The Sergeants' Mess having been defeated by the Officers at Hockey, revenged themselves in no uncertain manner at a most enjoyable games night held in the Sergeants' Mess the same evening. The fortnightly socials continue with unabated success.

The Unit Band continues its upward trend. A highlight of last month's programme was a session at the Music Club, which was a great success. Our Corporals' Club has been converted into a Unit "Social Club" with good results. In general, entertainments continue to thrive under the leadership of Lieutenant Anderson.

On the field of sport, the Hockey Team continues to be most successful, having won all three of their matches in the Garrison Inter-Unit League.

The Football Team are to be congratulated on a very fine recovery in the preliminary round of the Army Cup. Their opponents were No. 57 Training Regiment R.A.C., who were beaten 4—2 in spite of a previous 4—1 defeat at their hands.

In the S.T.C. Cross-Country League, the Regiment was fourth, four of our team being among the first ten. Second-Lieutenant Hayward and Signalman Ramsden were third and fourth respectively.

To end on a more sombre note, we should like to offer our our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Signalman McLeod, seriously injured in a lorry accident, and to Sergeant Broster and Lance-Corporal Stevens, hurt in a motor cycle crash.

## No. 6 TRAINING REGIMENT

*October*

*General.* We have had a quiet and uneventful month. The old belt keeps turning away and feeding "A" tradesmen to No. 1 Training Regiment for their specialised training and polishing. The standard of new intake remains high, but the numbers are a little erratic.

Major Benton has left us for the exalted heights of the long "Tele" course, and the A.R. 88 in the C.I.'s office now no longer produces tinkle-plonk music to the accompaniment of the gurgling of N.A.A.F.I. tea. What are the

ingredients of N.A.A.F.I. tea? Does it have that faint breath of ebonite shavings in other Corps, or only in ours?

*Entertainment.* The P.R.I.'s Friday night dances in the Regimental Gymnasium are being promoted to gala days in Newbiggin Hall, "Q" Lines, on Thursdays. Any old member of the Regiment in the vicinity of Catterick will be cordially welcome if he cares to turn up.

*Soccer.* The season has commenced in good style. The Regiment has a team in both Garrison Leagues, and both are unbeaten up to date! The general keenness to play for the Regiment has been most refreshing from the organising point of view; we are also fortunate in having "Colour" Wareham, of the Royal Marines, as our managing director—he, together with Sergeant Sanford and S.S.M. Hayes, constitute our committee.

Army Cup. In the first round we drew 2—2 with S.M.E. at Ripon, after a fast, hard-fought match.

The replay was on our home pitch, where once again a very keen and very clean cuptie resulted in the S.M.E. winning 2—1. All the "experts" say we should have won; however, lady luck had a share in the game and she chose to play against us.

Congratulations are due to Corporal Owen for his extremely efficient refereeing. We wish our opponents all the very best in their next game.

In conclusion we should like to wish all ex-No.1 O.T. Regiment/No. 6 Training Regiment Soccer players the best of luck for this season, and assure them that we are keeping up the Regimental tradition of being a good, clean Soccer team.

*Rugby.* A very promising team has been formed and has played, so far, one drawn match. Some of our players are so good, however, that they can seldom represent the Regiment, being fully engaged for the Corps and the Command. We can't have it both ways, and in their higher circles they keep the Regimental end up in no mean order.

*Cycle Club.* An innovation in Regimental entertainment is our new Cycle Club. Twelve machines, brand new roadsters, are owned by the Regiment and are loaned out to all comers for the afternoon or week-end, for a very modest fee. Keen wheelers can go where they like, alone or in parties, and are allowed to wear cycling order (or disorder). The club is popular and the mileage per machine is totting up. Maintenance is carried out by a full-time mechanic, and enthusiasts have nothing to do but pedal and steer.

No. 1 SQUADRON. Captain W. J. Baldwin has taken over command of the Squadron vice Major T. W. (Tommy) Moon, who is now Second-in-Command of the Regiment, and C.I.

Captain H. D. Wilmot, a newcomer to the Regiment, has charge of the N.C.O.s' Instructors Course. Lieutenant R. (Jock) Cant is back in the training office after a spell in hospital.

Last month we bade farewell to two of the senior members of the Cadre. Sergeant Knight has left us for the T.A., London, and Sergeant Otterson quitted the peaceful serenity of the training office and is now serving with the T.A. in Liverpool. The rumour that they were seen to cry whilst boarding the train at Richmond is entirely false. In Sergeant Otterson's chair we now find Colour-Sergeant Petley, Royal Marines. Window breakages in buildings surrounding the square have gone down since he assumed his chairborne job.

There has been a busy plying of needles of late by members of the Cadre. Four Corporals and six Lance-Corporals have assumed the responsibility of another chevron. Report has it that N.C.O.s are hard put to find sufficient Signalmen to march on the square at first Works Parade.

*Sport.* Once again the O.R. No. 1 Squadron has led the Regiment by being the first Squadron to work a six-day week. Saturday afternoons find the O.R.s 1 in P.T. kit, lined up for the start of a cross-country run. The Cadre, in collar and tie and civvy shoes, are there to give them a good send-off.

No. 2 SQUADRON. We have welcomed 136 budding R.T.M.s to the Squadron from the intake during the month, and we extend to them a hearty welcome.

It has been heard through the Squadron "grape vine" channels that a movement is afoot to include a few tricky questions on Barrack Room distempering in the Barrier Test. This rumour, however, is quite unfounded, but a little evening study in this noble art is deemed to broaden one's outlook.

The Squadron interior decorators are going on apace, one Barrack Room being completed in seven days. This is thought to be a record, and it is feared that if the R.E. get to hear of it there is bound to be trouble, as we shall be accused of "cutting up" the job. However, a bit of paint makes all the difference, and the sooner we get the job done the better.

About 50 trainees have had a try at the novices' boxing, and, although only a few have been selected to train for the forthcoming boxing competition, it shows that we do not lack keenness in the Squadron.

Five of our men, headed by Corporal Taylor, of the Cadre, have been selected to represent the Regiment in Cross-Country Running, and, as regards Football, although I haven't actually seen any talent spotters from the Arsenal at our Thursday afternoon matches, we have some very keen players, and so we look forward to some good sport during the forthcoming winter.

No. 3 SQUADRON. The month has been distinguished by a wave of very welcome N.C.O. promotions. Stripe-wetting has amounted to an orgy. Dare we hope for some pip-wetting? Anyway, congratulations to Corporals Thackery, Stephens and Savage on their "third"; and to numerous oners and twoers.

On the principle that the Sappers help those that help thmselves, we are doing our own interior decorating at the rate of two Barrack Rooms and a sitting-room a week. Nice work, and a very good job the lads make of it, too.

We hear that No. 1 Squadron are shooting their mouths off about working a six-day week. How did you get that other day knocked off, friends?

## SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*October*

Life seems to have settled down as the Camp prepares to hibernate for the winter. Few changes have taken place during the past month, apart from the occasional appearance of a new face or the absence of an old. We are very sorry to have bade farewell to Subaltern Butler, who left us early this month, and is now taking up instructional duties at Catterick. We wish her all the best in her new sphere, and trust we shall see something of her during her visits to Scotland.

A keen interest is being shown in the sports world. Football, Rugby, Hockey and Basketball teams have been formed and several matches played, and we are looking forward to many more good games during the season.

Entertainments also seem to be getting on a good footing. Whist drives and Unit dances break the monotony of the grim Scottish Sunday evenings, and we look forward to them being a regular feature on our entertainment programme during the winter months.

(*continued on page* 348)

## *Major-General*

# D. A. L. WADE

**C.B., O.B.E., B.A. (Cantab),**

**A.M.I.E.E.**

MAJOR-GENERAL D. A. L. WADE, C.B., O.B.E., B.A. (Cantab), A.M.I.E.E., is one of the most versatile of that most versatile class, the professional soldier. He has filled all the normal regimental appointments, several general staff and technical staff appointments with equal facility, and has shown himself to be outstandingly successful as a higher commander.

His interests extend from athletics to amateur theatricals. He is a first-class hockey player, and as a sprinter was a member of the Training Authorities' Athletic Team which won the Army Team Championships in 1923-5. In amateur theatricals he has acted in and produced many successful plays at several stations all over the world.

With a robust philosophy, a pretty sense of humour, and a flair for argument and debate, he is an excellent companion either as host or guest.

Douglas Ashton Lofft Wade was born in 1898. He was commissioned as a second-lieutenant in the Royal Artillery from the Royal Military Academy in 1916. During the remainder of the 1914-18 war he served in France and Italy, was wounded twice, and won the Military Cross. Having become Signal Officer to his Brigade he was seconded to R.E. Signals in 1918, and transferred to Royal Signals in 1921.

He was accepted for the University Course at Cambridge and went up in 1922, becoming a member of Clare College. He took a first-class degree and returned to duty in 1924, being appointed as instructor at the School of Signals, where several batches of regular officers passed through his hands.

From 1928-1932 he was a member of the R.E. and Signals Board, which was the forerunner of the Signals Research and Development Branch of the Ministry of Supply.

In 1932 Captain Wade gained a vacancy at the Staff College, Camberley, where his ability and personality ensured his appointment to higher rank.

In 1936, after a tour of regimental duty, he became a GIII in India; in 1938 he was appointed D.A.Q.M.G., India, where he remained until 1939. On returning home he was appointed GI on the staff of Brigadier Chevenix Trench, Signal Officer in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force. After the evacuation from France, Colonel Wade became GI of Home Forces, and in 1941 was appointed A.A. and Q.M.G. of the 2nd Division, with which formation he went overseas, remaining with it until 1942, when he was promoted Major-General and appointed Deputy Adjutant-General, India.

In 1944 Major-General Wade was appointed G.O.C. Madras District, where he remained until recently, when he left to take up command in Malaya.

## EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*October*

R.H.Q. AND H.Q. No. 2 SQUADRON. Since we last appeared in THE WIRE many more changes of personnel have taken place. During the last few weeks releases and drafts have taken Sergeant Hughes, Sergeant Brown (A.T.S.) and Corporals Sutton and Swann. The departure of Corporal Lockwood (A.T.S.) on overseas draft has further depleted the Orderly Room staff. Other departures include Corporals Staniforth, Street, Brady (A.T.S.), Lance Corporals Burrington and Hall, Signalmen Perry, Atherton and many others. In saying goodbye to them, we wish them all the best wherever they may go.

We also wish a hearty welcome to Sergeant Sanger, Sergeant Sisson (A.T.S.), Corporal Morgan, Lance-Corporal Berry and to S.S.M. (Spike) Collar, ex-Air Formation (Middle East), who is helping us out in many ways (and, incidentally, assisting to swell the Mess profits) while waiting for his T.A. Unit to get started.

A surprising piece of news reached us recently. S.S.M. (Miss) Rossiter, who quietly departed on leave last month, must have thought that too many people were getting to know her by that name, so she has decided to return to us as Mrs. Clarke. "Just couldn't take it" was the Mess verdict.

The cricket pitch has been sadly encroached on now that "King Football" again holds popular sway and the parade ground is now often to be seen as the centre of a mass of frenzied men and girls swinging hockey sticks with a complete disregard for life and limb. From the viewpoint of the spectator, the only reason for it not developing into a life and death struggle appears to be a man with a whistle who chases up and down the side of the pitch and, whilst he never ventures on to the said pitch, he seems to know what is going on even when the ball has disappeared through another hole in the Gym windows.

Recreational afternoons are still being enjoyed by all ranks, both male and A.T.S. Lance-Corporal Lamprell has started the boxing season in good style; out of five matches he has won four (three K.O.s and one on points), and the other one was lost on a casting vote to Corporal Tucher, of the Royal Sussex Regiment. He is feeling very fit and has four matches booked for October at Hastings, Shorncliffe and against the Royal Marines, so we all expect more successes in the near future.

THAMES ESTUARY AND EAST ANGLIAN COAST TROOP. Since our last notes Sergeant Mellish, our Troop Sergeant, has left us to face the trials of Civvy Street, to be relieved by Sergeant Knight (late of Sierra Leone Area Signals). Signalman Jay "clicked" for Class "B" Release, and Signalman Bright left us on Class "A," so to them and Sergeant Mellish we extend our best wishes for the future. We have also in the past month welcomed some new faces into our midst. These include Signalman Roots (of all evil), Signalman "Jack" Buchanan, Driver Strong and Signalman Harrison. The arrival of Signalman Rootes brought a co-star for our one and only Signalman (Monsieur) Dubois. Sport has been limited owing to pressure of commitments, and shortage of people, but we hope to muster a football team in the very near future. We are pleased to have Lance-Corporal Pickering with us again, after his instruction course at Catterick. He returned with dazzling stripes, looking very fit.

T.E.K.

## NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

*October*

Herewith we add another chapter in the life of N.I.D. The entertainment programme is still in full swing, although the weather has not been quite up to the standard required for the rambles. The Whist Drives are now held on Thursdays so they do not overlap the Wednesday Dances, which are still as popular as ever. Our M.C. for the dances is now Corporal Des Norton—complete with moustache, which we think was grown for the occasion.

On 24th September the male side of the Unit attempted to show up the girls by going on a G.O.C.'s parade. This was preceded by some dress rehearsals—the Irish weather came up to standard on these nights and caused equipment to be re-blancoed—which were watched by those among us "unfortunate" enough to be excused. On the day of days, however, the weather—for better or for worse—was fine and the parade marched past to the Band of the Irish Guards, and the Inspecting Officer was very satisfied. 'Nuff said!

The A.T.S. side were visited by the D.A.T.S. on 7th October, who inspected the Barrack Rooms and said she was very pleased with the high standard of it all. On Unit Orders for this inspection was an Order that A.T.S. would "paint soldiers and hang curtains." As none of us were willing to be treated as canvas the girls painted "Boxes soldiers," which apparently was what was meant, as no one has been charged for failing to comply.

The practice of bidding farewell to the "one and only" outside the Cookhouse each evening was discouraged a little while ago when one of our A.T.S. Corporals who was fraternising with a member of the R.A.S.C., received—as if from heaven—a cup of cold water. We rather imagine it came from one of the billet windows, but as for who threw it only a few are "in the know." We think it better not to mention names in this case, as it may mean "some names—no breakfast."

The football team of the Unit played its first match and beat the R.A.S.C. 7—0, which was a good enough start for any season, and then went on to beat the Pioneer Corps by 5—2. Five of our team play for the Headquarters—Corporal Colin Stout, Lance-Corporal Harry Jarvis, Signalman Tony Pointer and Signalman Ken Maynard. The "star" of the side is Corporal Bob Reynolds, who has been the backbone of the team in these matches, and Southern Command Signals, India, will be pleased to hear that "Queenie" is still very well, although she got slightly bruised in one of the last matches. He is still very proud of her, however, no matter what her colour.

The Corporals' Club is functioning once again, and Lance-Corporal Frank Stanbury—who surely by this time must be on the Barrack Inventory—is a star entertainer with his action song "Alowa." This is performed by Frank whenever he is on the bar, where he manages to get rid of any too plentiful stock by wishing members "Top 'o the evening"—and then stinging them to buy the stock.

During the past month (September), we had the Signals Display Team over here, where they performed at Military Tattoes throughout the district. Our blokes and blokesses looked after the communications side once again on the switchboards and telephones. We even had Sergeant "Jock" Thompson using a searchlight as a spotlight. Nearly every night different members of the Unit attended in "official capacities," which was, of course, a good way of seeing the show for nothing. "Guess vot ve are!"

Our departures during the month have been rather

numerous. From the male side we lost Signalman "Taffy" Bayliss, who left us after 18 months' residence—14 of which were in the Orderly Room as one of the Corps utility "OWLs turned Clerk." Signalman "Jock" Brooksbank, who had played for two seasons in the Unit football team, left Erin's Isle to help dig the coal. From riding S.D.S. Services to going down a mine may be a bit of a change. Driver "Ginger" Riley also departed during the month, so he has got his long talked-of posting at last. Sergeant "Jock" Thompson, after one deferment, took the bull by the horns and departed, leaving the Cipher Office for a Civvy office. As for the girls who left to take up jobs as housewives or shorthand typists, perhaps the luckiest one is Private Irene Horcroft, who left on getting married, and is off to Australia. Private Pat Byrne, who left during the month, is getting married shortly. We wish you all the best of luck, Pat. Lance-Corporals Lilian Lamond and Eleanor Hilliard, Private Gladys Walker (one of the "old faithfuls" of Signal Office), Private Audrey Harkett and Private Gladys Hesp each bade us farewell and left us holding the fort at N.I.D. "And in the N.A.A.F.I. we shall remember them."

That seems all for now, so we will say *Au Revoir* and all the very best till next month.

"RAY"

# British Army of the Rhine

## 2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Hilden

*October*

Many changes have taken place recently within the Regiment, and we have said good-bye to Captain J. Richards on reversion to the U.K. to become a P.S.O. The Regiment has lost an officer who has been prominent in work and play. The Hockey and Motor Cycle teams have lost a good player and organiser. We welcome Captain Pascoe, Australian Corps of Signals, and Lieutenant Jewell, of Trinidad, both on attachments to the Regiment, and hope that they will enjoy their stay with us.

Posted to us recently are Captain H. S. P. Miles, from No. 41 Garrison Signal Troop (Brussels), Captain (T.O.M.) G. Manning, from No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and Second-Lieutenants Medhurst, Evans and Hutchins, from Catterick —we welcome them to the Regiment.

"Familiarity breeds contempt," and the work of the Royal Signals is often taken for granted. This Regiment, ably assisted by No. 33 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, is now providing all the Army communication in an area containing 25,000 troops, and our Divisional Headquarters has grown almost to the size of a Corps Headquarters. Our latest installation is a 300-line automatic exchange for No. 5 Brigade Headquarters—this gives a good indication of the scale of the communications.

Royal Signals are now one of the few Corps who work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and great credit is due to the men of the "Signal Office shifts" who carry out their duties with unfailing cheerfulness. A special word is due to the exchange operators, who, in spite of a calling rate at least twice that normal in civil practice, compete successfully with all demands on the switchboards.

The excessive heat spell of this summer caused us to terminate our week-end camps at Huckeswagen before we had finished our plans. The reason for this was the evaporation of the lake—the level was estimated to have fallen 65 ft. in five weeks—thereby effectively putting sailing and canoeing out of the question. At present we are having a comparatively cold spell with little rain. Inter-Troop sports are in full swing. We have a very keen football league with a team from each Troop, including "out" Troops. Basket Ball is extremely popular, and the Regiment Knock-Out Competition is in the throes of its second round — it is as difficult to estimate now which team is favourite as to estimate which is keenest. Starting in the near future is a "Grand Inter-Troop .22 Rifle Competition"—our miniature range is well patronised in the evening by budding marksmen.

On the training side, Troop and Squadron Exercises are now part of the weekly order, and the first full-scale Signal Regiment Exercise takes place later in October. Unit Education Courses of three weeks' duration continue, and attached R.A.E.C. N.C.O.s, ably assisted by our own Unit instructors, have succeeded in drawing up an attractive and comprehensive programme of instruction. More and more of our soldiers are taking advantage of pre-release Courses at the "College of the Rhine Army." These courses are designed to help the soldier to "brush-up" on subjects which he hopes to take up on release, and are usually of four or six weeks' duration.

Within the Division there have been many Horse Meetings and Gymkhanas, and at the No. 6 (H) Brigade Meeting on 1st October Lance-Corporal Dodwell, our Stables N.C.O., had a successful day—he won a first and third prize in the 4 ft. open jumping. We offer congratulations to him on his fine riding.

A Discussion Group has been developed at Divisional Signals H.Q. The discussions are run fortnightly, and include subjects both of technical and general interest. The first of these talks was given on 7th October by Corporal Barham, the subject being a "General Outline of Carrier Telephony." Attendance and interest was good, but we hope to have bigger attendances in future and to include talks by specialists from outside the Unit, and to organise visits to local industrial plants.

We now have two recreational motor buses, which are used to take personnel to and from Dusseldorf in the evenings—these are a great improvement on the old 3-ton G.S., and will be appreciated in the coming cold winter evenings.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*October*

Celle has changed its summer blouse for a winter coat during the past week, and the glorious summer which we have experienced on the Continent has come to an end. With the sudden change comes the need for personal warmth and barrack room heating. One can see the personal touch by the wearing of overcoats and gloves at night. A stock of coal and coke has entered the barracks during the month, so before long the pipes will be hot, and the barrack rooms "cosy."

The cutting of the electricity supply is now a regular

nightly occurrence here in Celle and reminds one of the cuts that were made last year in England during the fuel crisis. Hurricane lamps can be seen dancing about like Chinese lanterns as the Orderly Sergeant and Corporal perform their manifold duties. Perhaps we shall get an issue of candles before long.

Even though the lights are extinguished for a few hours every evening, the desire for reading reached a peak height of 200 books during the first week in September. One of the reasons for this voluminous reading was the addition of fifty new books to our Regimental Library. Of course, one cannot rule out the possibility of a thoughtful reader issuing out carrots, having studied the laws of dietetics.

No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment was well represented on the Church Parade that celebrated the 7th anniversary of the "Battle of Britain." It was with deep reverence that we knelt and remembered before God those few to whom we owe so much.

A notable marriage has taken place during the last week. Driver Gluck, attached to M/T Pool, was married at the Garrison Church, Celle, to Angela Popeskul, an employee on the German staff. Sergeant Brown acted as best man. We should like to wish them both every happiness in their future life together.

*Entertainments.* The weekly poster for the R.A.F. Union Theatre is always closely inspected by personnel. The entertainment provided by this theatre remains of high standard and variety. We were privileged to see the premier of the comedy, "Charley's Aunt," produced by Mac Picton, that able actor who gave such a remarkable performance in his production of "The Hasty Heart." The winter season of Sunday Classical Concerts has re-commenced, and the announcement of each programme is eagerly waited for. The first concert given by the Niedersachsen Symphony Orchestra was a Beethoven concert and included Beethoven's First and Second Symphonies. The Regimental Dance, held fortnightly at the "Air Formation Arms," still attracts the dancers within the Regiment. Signalman Kingan has experimented with his dancing class, but we are still waiting to see the results. An All-Services dance is to be held shortly, and we hope the W.A.A.F. will come in full force.

The Entertainments Committee, being a little more active of late, have for the past few weeks run excursions to places of interest within 60 kilometres of Celle. Bad Harsburg, Hamelin and Bückeburg have all been visited in turn, and a good time was had by all who went on these trips. Also, now that the winter season of opera has begun in Hanover, an occasional trip to "Hanover Opera House" enlarges the field of entertainment for personnel within the Regiment.

*Sports.* With the coming of September once again came the Football season, and the Regiment has entered the Celle League. In addition, we are entered for the Army Challenge Football Competition, and the B.A.O.R. Challenge Shield which we had the honour of winning last season. Up to date the Regiment has played six League matches and has won all, scoring a total of 38 goals and having only one goal scored against us. Matches are as shown below:—

Regiment 4, No. 13 Infantry Brigade 0.
Regiment 10, No. 123 Wing R.A.F. 0.
Regiment 11, No. 4 M.R.E.U. R.A.F. 0.
Regiment 3, No. 123 Wing R.A.F. 1.
Regiment 5, No. 35 Wing R.A.F. 0.
Regiment 5, No. 74 M.T.L.R.U. 0.

Friendly matches played during the month were two, when the Regiment defeated No. 74 M.T.L.R.U. on 10th September by 3 goals to 2, but on 2nd October the Regiment were beaten by the 1st Dorsets by 5 goals to 2.

In a very exciting match which was full of thrills from start to finish, the Dorsets scored in the first minute, the ball never being touched by one of the Regiment side; after that, during the first half, the Dorsets scored four more to the Regiment's one. In the second half the Regiment settled down and had most of the play, the Dorsets being in the opposing half only three times. The magnificent goalkeeping of their goalie saved them several times, also the bad finishing of the Regiment's forward line.

Other sporting activities of the Regiment are the Inter-Troop matches which start on 7th October. Friendly Inter-Troop matches have taken place, and if the enthusiasm shown in these continues the Regiment should have a very thrilling season.

A Hockey Knock-Out Competition has been started, as also has an Indoor Games League. This commences on 16th October and consists of billiards, snooker, table tennis, darts and dominoes. It is hoped to be able to present to the winners of these competitions statuettes and medals for the members of the winning teams.

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Gutersloh

*October*

R.H.Q. AND No. 2 SQUADRON. During the month of September, the weather started to break from tropical heat to rain and thunderstorms, and at the end of the month it was so cold that M.T. frost precautions started. We had an extra hour in bed (well, anyway we had an extra hour), when we put the clocks back one hour at 0300 hours on 5th October, so now our clocks and watches show the same time as yours in England.

On 18th September we were honoured by a visit from Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., who, after inspecting the Unit lines, lunched in the Officers' Mess and left for 7th Armoured Division Signals at 1400 hours. At present No. 2 Squadron is covered in whitewash and distemper, the reason being that they have decided to have a go at re-decorating their own rooms. Although the work is progressing slowly, it is certainly making a big difference to the rooms. The re-decoration of the Signals Inn is almost completed, and as soon as T.M. Troop carpenters have finished their work we shall be able to open up once more. It is hoped to do this by 13th October.

*Arrivals.* We extend the usual hearty welcome to:— Captain N. F. H. Small, who joined us on 2nd October from No. 1 Indian Squadron (A.F.S.), Austria; Second-Lieutenant D. U. McKenzie, who joined us from O.C.T.U. on 6th October; and Sergeant French, who joined No. 2 Squadron, 129 T.O. Troop, from No. 3 Squadron, Hamburg. We hope you will all soon settle down and be happy with us.

*W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.* Owing to our small numbers and the cutting down of the spirit allocation, it has been impossible to run any entertainment of note, but, having surmounted the spirit difficulty, we hope to run a few "Do's" during October.

*Sport.* R.H.Q. and No. 2 Squadron have been doing well in the football world of late. Here are the results of our recent matches. In the second round of the 7th

Armoured Division Cup we beat the 5th Royal Tank Regiment by 3 goals to 2. This match was played at Hamm. In the 7th Armoured Division League we beat 7th H.Q. by 5 goals to 4. This match was played at Bad Rothenfelde. But in a friendly game with our old rivals—No. 3 Armoured Car Company, R.A.F. Regiment, we lost by 4 goals to 3.

No. 1 SQUADRON. It seems a far cry from the farmhouse at Le Tronquay in Normandy, where No. 12 Air Formation Signals first established land-line communications for No. 2 T.A.F., to the huge hotel at Bad Eilsen, which houses Air Headquarters, B.A.F.O. When No. 12 Air Formation Signals were disbanded in 1946, No. 1 Squadron, No. 15 Air Formation Signals, took over the task of providing and maintaining land-line communications for Air Headquarters. Included in these responsibilities are a 12-position manual trunk board, an automatic exchange which caters for 500 subscribers, a teleprinter room, which deals with some 800 messages daily, and an equipment room, in which are installed 12 channel V.H.F., 6 channel, and 1+4 apparatus. A fault control deals with 50 trunk telephone and 50 main telegraph lines. Nos. 4 and 5 Tele. Op. Troop and No. 87 Signal Troop provide the teleprinter and exchange operators, while No. 112 Terminal Equipment Troop busy themselves with the maintenance of equipment and the manning of Fault Control.

The S.D.S. branch of the business is looked after by No. 118 D.R. Troop, and about 2,500 packets are dealt with daily, and the runs take in offices as far distant as Hamburg.

At the moment there are a number of underground cable projects in hand, and No. 129 Line Troop are working against time to complete these before the winter sets in.

In addition to the above, the Airport at Bückeburg is often the scene of trials and tribulations, for no sooner do we carefully lay our 28 or 54 pair cables than an inquisitive bulldozer or a delving mechanical excavator ploughs them up or heaves them aloft. But despite these transient troubles we enjoy working with the R.A.F. and appreciate their co-operation and breezy sense of humour.

*Sport.* The Squadron has managed to produce two football teams this season, and so far have made good progress in the B.A.F.O. Inter-Unit League. The 1st team have drawn only one of their first four games, and the second team have won all their first three games. Signalmen Booth and Mansell have both been selected to play for A.H.Q., B.A.F.O., and are likely to remain leading lights in that team for some time to come.

A considerable amount of interest has been taken by many members of the Squadron who have been introduced to Hockey, and, with a little coaching, we should be able to field quite a good team in a month or so. Captain G. Bailey, our Second-in-Command, displayed such enthusiasm during the first game of the season that unfortunately he sprained a muscle and had to be removed to hospital. We wish him a speedy return to the Squadron and the hockey field.

Swimming enthusiasts, strange as it may seem, have had reason to deplore the wonderful weather during August, which has caused such a water shortage in our neighbourhood that our lido has had to be drained and "put on the shelf" until next year.

*Arrivals.* A hearty welcome is extended to S.S.M. A. E. Lee, who has made a much-appreciated addition to Squadron Headquarters.

## 4th INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Luneburg

*October*

On Friday, 19th September, the out-troops and regimental signallers of Regiments and Battalions stationed in the area were entertained to Dinner and a Smoking Concert, at which a very enjoyable time was had by all. Second-Lieutenant Reid was inveigled into a game now known to him as "Cardinal Puff," and from which he emerged a much wiser person.

Mention must be made of three backroom boys of this

Smoking concert

Unit, who do much for our physical well-being—namely, our cooks, Sergeant Newall ("Nothing shakes me"), Wiggin and Crafty Clift.

"W" TROOP. Activities during the past month included slight deviations from "Daily Maintenance," which have been directly instrumental for certain members of the Troop walking around with assumed airs and the head held rather higher than usual.

The Troop was fully committed in Operation "Oasis"—the disembarkation of the three exodus ships from sunnier climes—and all ranks were congratulated by G.O.C. Hamburg District for a job well done.

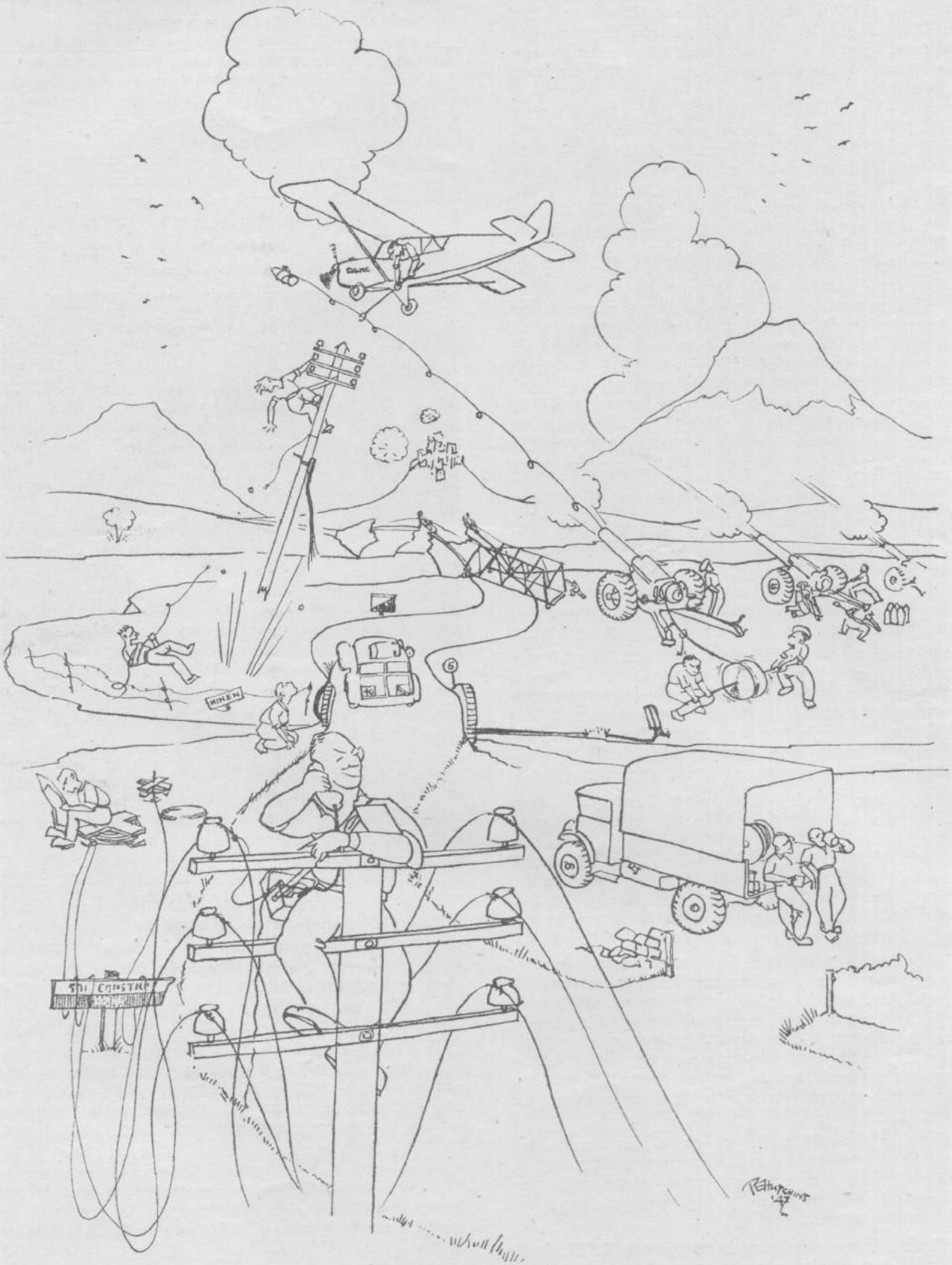
A few more gallants from the celebrated "W" took part in an exercise with the Worcesters and the Oxford and Buckinghamshires, which exercise was aptly named "Hotfoot." Footweary and bedraggled, the crews returned with yet more congratulations and halos. One more job well done.

It appears that the glorious summer weather we have enjoyed is now a thing of the past. Many "Bods" are now drooping around, held together with moth-eaten scarves, and drivers are digging their sleighs out of heavy preservation.

Congratulations to Signalman Watson on obtaining his "C" licence for gliding, despite the rough weather conditions prevailing; also to Signalman Gibson, who has joined the B.F.N. staff. We hope to be hearing from you in the future, "Gibbo."

"X" TROOP, att. ROYAL SCOTS GREYS. The highlight of this month's activities was the visit to the

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—IX*




**Construction Troop**

Greys of their Colonel, Brigadier G. N. Todd, M.C. For the inspection, a very high standard was demanded, and "X" Troop, who are always deeply involved in the Greys' activities, pleasant and otherwise, did their share towards the very smart turn-out. Of course, the preliminaries, which entailed early morning parades, etc., were not quite so popular with the Signalmen as their importance demanded, but, taken by and large, the very necessary rehearsals and the main occasion itself, were borne quite philosophically by the "attached."

Otherwise, the month has run the same pattern as its predecessors. One thing, however — September saw the opening of the N.A.A.F.I. in Cavalry Barracks, an innovation which was greatly needed, and is greatly appreciated.

In the sports field, "X" Troop, together with the Regimental Signals, were formed into a football team for Inter-Troop games within the Regiment.

The first game, however, proved the team's shortcomings, and I am very much afraid that unless a great improvement is forthcoming, or more talent is discovered, our career in that arena will be anything but distinctive. In the Luneburg League, Brigade Signals played H.Q. Squadron of the Greys. I was foolish enough to referee the game, as I do most of the Greys' games, and it is the first time that my loyalty to my Regiment has been questioned. And in no uncertain terms, either! However, everything finished amicably, although I think my capabilities, as a referee, will be questioned by Brigade Signals for a long time to come. It was, however, a good game, and Brigade put up a good show against a team that has yet to be beaten. But I am wandering away from the main theme, which is the activities of "X" Troop," and not its Troop Sergeant. With a couple of good cricketers, three footballers, and—I hope—a fairly respectable referee, our services are always in demand by the Regiment to which we are attached, and that, somehow, seems to be something worthwhile.

I am afraid that work within the Regiment has not been mentioned in this month's summary. But then, who wants to read about work, anyway! You can be sure, however, that we do our share, and, in the vernacular, I'm not kidding. Which means that "X" Troop does its job, the same as scores of other Signal Troops are doing theirs. And that's the main thing. We are a happy family here in Cavalry Barracks, and, I hope, will continue so for a long time to come.

THE TROOP SERGEANT

"Y" TROOP, att. No. 3 R.T.R. During the last month our Troop has lost a very popular figure in Corporal White, who has gone on Class "A" Release. We wish him every success in his civilian life.

Also we would like to congratulate Sergeant Britton and Lance-Corporal Scholes on their promotion. Long may they reign.

The Troop is still well represented in H.Q. Squadron Football team by Drivers Young and Irwin, Signalman Goodyear and Sergeant Britton.

We welcome back to the fold Lance-Corporal Hughes, who has been away on convalescence, after an argument with a charging engine. Better luck next time, Maurice.

A.B.

"Z" TROOP, att. 7th (QO) HUSSARS. During the month we have been fortunate in that we have not lost anyone through demob., and we welcome Signalman Morris as a newcomer to the Troop.

Sergeant Pyott who, with his wife, spent his leave in the Rhineland, has returned and taken over the reins again, whilst Corporal Williams is at present showing England how he looks with two stripes instead of one.

Lance-Corporal Powell, who is something of a poet in the making, has promised to contribute to our next month's notes, and pleads lack of time as an excuse for not producing anything this month. With which promise—or threat—we say now *Auf Wiedersehen.*

H.P.

## No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Munster in Westphalia

*October*

Well-wishers and good Samaritans at higher levels took pity on us and issued us with a new fleet of jeeps and a Staff car recently to replace our original worn out transport. Some paint, and the services of a skilful signwriter, have put the finishing touches to the vehicles. (All "oxometers" have been shunted with fairly high resistors to avoid burning them out.)

The installation of Hamm Military switchboard was completed last month, and a very smooth change-over effected. Well done, No. 149 T.E.

Our own "town planning" scheme within the Unit Lines keeps us busy, and many improvements have been made. There are flourishing grass patches where there used to be masses of tangled undergrowth, and next year's kitchen garden has been surveyed and preliminary diggings commenced. We hope to have a good road into the Camp centre, too, in the near future. At present the "way in" is a series of pot holes.

At long last we have a new Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and occupation will take place very shortly. The building that is being vacated is to be used as a lecture hall.

*Entertainment.* The first Unit Dance was a grand success, and it was closely followed by another equally as good. The Unit Welfare Committee is busily planning its winter programmes, and your scribe has also heard whispers of the formation of a Unit Amateur Dramatic Club.

*Football.* Analysis of games played up to date:—

No. 67 Company R.A.S.C. Won 3—1
Private Higgins, Lance-Corporal Stonier, Private Mitchell, A.C.C.

No. 177 Battery R.A. Won 5—0
Lance-Corporal Stonier (2), Private Mitchell (2), Signalman Reid.

R.H.Q. No. 55 L.A.A. Won 7—0
Private Mitchell (3), Signalman Bradley (2), Signalman Reid, Lance-Corporal Stonier.

Thereafter we have not been so successful, having lost the last three matches.

*Departures.* Captain Hudson left us on demob. early this month. Cheerio, and all the best.

*Tailpiece.* D2HR has so many technical hitches at present that he is thinking of resorting to L/T, using DIIIs in push-pull!

"OCTET"

## No. 32 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Plön

*October*

With alarming rapidity we have passed from what has been a magnificent summer into the grim approaches of winter. The final adjustment in the clocks has certainly " set us back " in more than one sense, and it seems we must now say " Farewell " to the gloriously long summer evenings.

Memories of the fading summer are always pleasant when reveiwed in the sere of autumn, and this year proves no exception. Sailing on the lake—Cricket in the Schloss—Swimming and Sunbathing—Tennis—Horse Riding—Leave at home in glorious weather—all those things are now just extra folios in the filing cabinet of memories.

And so we turn to winter in all its white severity. The " nip in the air " reminding us we live in probably the coldest station in the zone is extra searching in view of the expected fuel cuts. If these cuts become effective we shall be expert at facing an English austere winter! There is, however, a bright side to this picture. This station can provide, no less in winter than in summer, magnificent sporting amenities. Already there have been expeditions with gun and dogs, and deer, hare, rabbit and duck have all fallen victims to the prowess of the Squadron guns. Ski-ing, skating and ice yachting will all ascend in popularity as the thermometer descends in degrees. Speedway racing and Trials riding are being re-commenced, and, of course, there's always football, of which more later.

When we look back on the month just closed we find it difficult to produce news items worthy of inclusion in the Corps Journal. Items of interest to us at Plön fade into insignificance when compared with, say, " Radio Trunks in Austria " (*see* Vol. 1, No. 11 to appreciate that crack at the sub-editor!) but we hope our efforts may revive memories for those who, having served in this area, have " gone on."

During his visit to B.A.O.R., the Representative Colonel-Commandant, Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips, was in the district, but was unable to visit the Squadron owing to the brevity of his stay. We were represented, however, at Hamburg by the Commanding Officer, Major L. J. Parker, who had the honour of meeting him. We trust the General will retain pleasant memories of the Corps on the Rhine.

On 26th September we were visited at normal work by the Deputy Chief Signal Officer of Hamburg District, Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., who spent most of the day with us. During that time he visited the Administrative and Signal Office Block, Accommodation and Stores Block and the Transmitter Site. Before leaving he expressed his satisfaction of the Squadron's efforts in general and with what he had seen in particular.

The Squadron opened the Cross-Country Running season in grand style on 8th October with a 7-mile run. The course was chosen and all arrangements were made by our Sports Officer, Lieutenant G. Charlton. Fine weather, good attendance and entries, and keen competition made the run a great success. The course lay across some very picturesque country, although the runners had little chance to admire it, as previous rains had made the going exremely " sticky." First man home was Signalman Capewell, who did extremely well. Corporal Hamling was second, whilst Signalmen Green, Dowdell and Francis tied for third place. What a finish! We hope to form a Squadron team to compete against other Units in the area, and to train the chaps for keeping warm in Civvy Street.

*Football.* Our team is just beginning to get into its stride after a somewhat shaky opening of the season, when we were beaten by the Regimental Team of the 10th Royal Hussars by 7 goals to nil.

Since then, however, our chaps have been the victors in two matches with the No. 854 Ordnance Ammunition Depot. Our best match of the season, however, was played on 5th October, when we met No. 103 Provost Company on our mutual ground. It was certainly the local Derby, and the game was closely followed by a howling, yelling mob of spectators, who roared for their favourites at every chance. It is a historic fact that some of the Police Senior N.C.O.s were even seen to be using a large wooden rattle in efforts to push their team ahead.

It is fair to say Signals had slightly the most of the play, but seemed unable to find goal after much good and hard work in midfield. Signalmen Shuttleworth and Commerford eventually netted, but as the Police also scored two goals the result was a fairly accurate summing up of play. Signalman Wright, playing in goal for us, played the game of his life, and was the hero of the day. Besides saving many " certain goal " shots, he also saved a penalty. After the match both teams were entertained to tea in the N.A.A.F.I. by the P.R.I., who seemed to have " dug deep " to provide a good spread. We look forward to the return match!

We even manage a second eleven for the benefit of those making the grade into " big football." When they turned out against the team from Neumunster Signal Centre (also our chaps!) they were beaten 5 goals to 1. It has now been suggested the Centre's personnel be " RTU-ed " immediately.

*Rugby.* We supply most of the talent for our local Headquarters Rugby Team, and some of the players are doing very well. Three managed to be given trials for Hamburg District, and we hope to give a full report of these games next month.

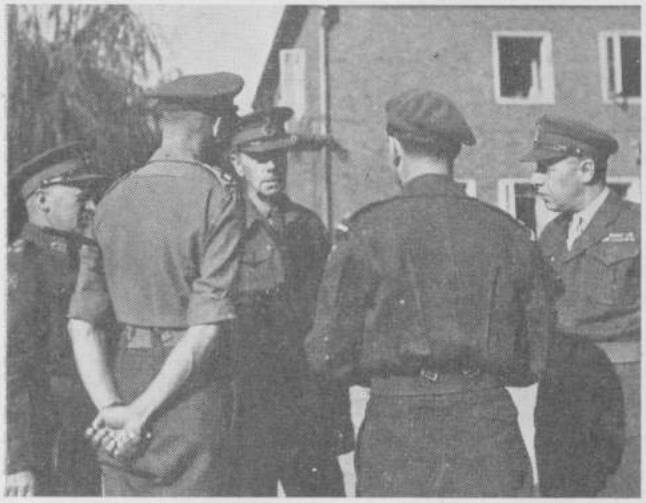
## HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

*October*

Migration has commenced in Hamburg. Not the birds this time, but the A.T.S. They are leaving the Squadron on the 15th October for Headquarters, Rhine Army. We are all extremely sorry to see them depart for both social and occupational reasons. They have provided us with very efficient switchboard operators, and how efficient they really were has only been fully appreciated now that their German relief have taken over. If anyone wants a really " juicy click " in their ear, we can provide Deutsch experts, who can't help but demonstrate. So we wish the A.T.S. good-bye, good luck and thanks.

The highlight of the month's contribution is the Squadron Dance, which was held in the Gym at Phillips Barracks on Saturday, 11th October. Those who knew the Gym will comment on its suitability for dances, but a remarkable transformation took place. Hard work on the floor and artistic decorating turned it into a first-class " Palais de Danse." The festivations were initiated as a farewell " do " for the A.T.S., but as the dance proved so popular, it is now going to be a monthly affair.

Wagg Webb was M.C., an appointment which he fulfilled with distinction. Colin Martin did a very good job with the illuminations, he spent most of the night up in the rafters manning the control panel. Others who are to be commended for the hard work they put in were, to name a few, Lance-Corporal Whip, Jock Watt, Pete Farrell, Jacky



Left to right: Brigadier Rogers, Lieutenant-Colonel Milner, Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, Captain McMullen and Major Caldicott

Moran, Danny Storer, Sergeant Parker (guardian of the beer), Anny Bryant, Rose Hart and the P.R.I.

Three league football fixtures have been nominated so far this season. The match against 980 Car Company, R.A.S.C., materialised, and was drawn 1—1. No. 17 Vehicle Company, R.A.O.C., turned up too late and the away match against them was postponed. So on paper we can quite legitimately say, "Haven't lost a match this season." Without being unduly optimistic, our team has the potentiality to make that last sentence still hold at the end of the season. Division III, North Hamburg Sub-Area Football League, had better watch out.

"Butch" Bowyer has definitely been pulling his weight lately. He was stroke of the winning crew of the Senior Fours B.A.O.R. Championship. To crown his success of the month, he got married. The reception was held at the Yacht Club on the bonny, bonny banks of the Alster. Corporal Crisp also took the plunge into the sea of matrimony. Here's wishing them both *bon voyage*. Corporal Crisp's reception was held at the Corporals' Mess and everybody, including the lucky couple, were amazed at the display of food which Taffy Evans had concocted. He's not only an excellent cook, but an artist as well, and I don't mean Picasso.

S.S.M. Davis and R.Q.M.S. Peck have left the Squadron, but are in Hamburg, so we still see quite a lot of them. Best of luck to them in their new Unit.

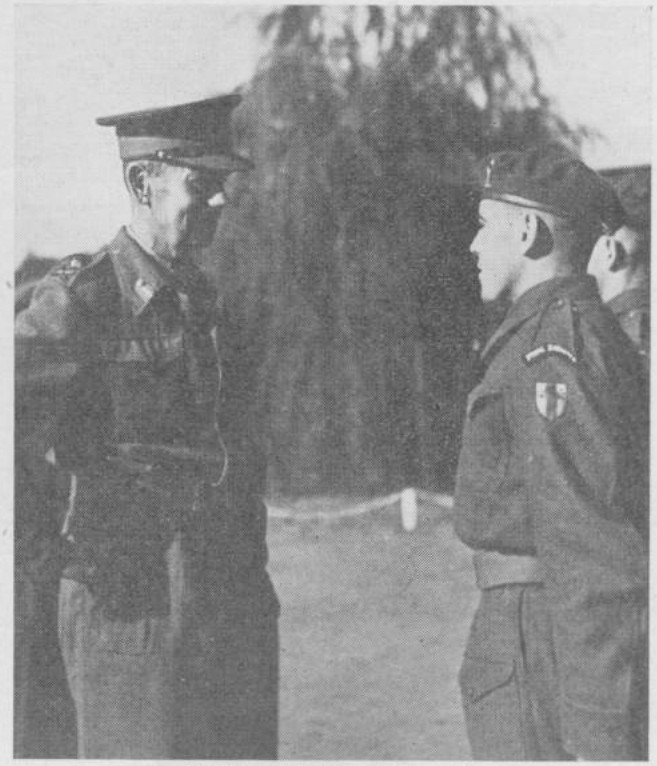
*Visit of Colonel Commandant.* On Wednesday, 17th September, 1947, we were visited by Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, K.B.E., O.B.E., M.C., Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals. He was accompanied by Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer of the Rhine Army, and Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., who is the Deputy Chief Signal Officer of Hamburg District. He was received at the entrance to Phillips Barracks by our Officer Commanding, Major L. H. Caldicott, M.B.E.

The General visited the Men's Dining Rooms and Canteens, Barrack Block and the Men's Recreation Rooms, and talked with the three youngest soldiers in the unit.

He expressed appreciation of everything he saw.

It is interesting to know that these Barracks were named after this General, and this was the first time that he has visited them. In commemoration of this occasion, Major Caldicott presented him with a plaque and photograph of the Barracks.

He met the Officers of the Squadron and also Major Glass, of No. 1 Wireless Regiment, Major Parker, of the 32nd Independent L. of C. Signals Squadron, Major Walker, of No. 4 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, and Junior-Commander C. Valentine, Officer Commanding the A.T.S. Signals, Hamburg Detachment.



The General with Signalman J. Hill


*Do* **YOU** *belong to the*

**Signals Association?**

*If not . . .*

**JOIN NOW!**

*Your military service will come to an end one day and you may then need help*

*You can see on page 366 what good work the Association is doing*

*Ask your unit representative for further details*

# *A fairy story*

" Join the Army! " the poster said. So Cyril's Mum said " Do! "
But Cyril fingered his bright new tie, and all he could say was
" Coo! "
" They'll make a man of you, love," she cried, "if ever anything could."
" You'd look fine in a tank," she said. " Oh boy! " said Cyril, " I
should."
So he brushed the dust off his swish new coat, with the shoulders
four feet wide,
He knocked on the door of Joe's and asked, " Are all the boys inside? "
' I'm going to join the Army, see, and I've come to say so long;
" Give my barrow to Louis, boys, I'm going where I belong."
They gave him a fine send-off, they did, with baskets of lovely fruit,
(Part of the stock it was), and he ate it all *en route*.
Six months later he came on leave, and Cyril was looking fine,
With a lovely stripe on each of his arms, and his cap-badge all a-shine.
His Mum said " Coo, you do look well! " So Cyril said, " I am."
" I'll be back for tea," he said, as he went to catch a tram.
He tramped in his great big boots to the door of Joe's and said,
" Here I am," and they all said " Jeeze, we sure thought you was dead."
" Business is bad," said Louis, " I flogged the barrer today.
" Sometimes I wish I'd got a job, a job with regular pay."
" So do I," said the rest of the boys, and Bert began to cry,
" I can't get enough to eat," he sobbed, " 'owever 'ard I try."
Cyril was ever so shocked to hear, and to show he meant to be kind,
He told them all about Army food and what he'd left behind.
" Lovely sheets on the bed," he said, " and smashing grub they give—
" Seems to me I'm better off than being a full-time spiv."
" So long," he says, and back to his Mum. " Well, what about it? " says Joe.
And in the eyes of all those boys a light begins to glow.
So three months later a N.A.A.F.I. girl was serving them all with tea—
Joe, and Louis, and little Bert, as happy as they could be—
When Cyril comes out of the Corporals' bar and says, " Cor strike a light!
" NOW aren't you glad you followed me, and chose to do the right? "
" That's true," says Joe, " we might be worse—in fact, as a favour to *you*,
" We'll let you in on a corner in fags at twenty for two and two,
" Louis is working the Sergeants' Mess, he says it's a sure-fire win—
" He sells them beer from the Officers' Mess, and the officers—sergeants' gin,
" And Bert's half-inched some tins of spam, to you they're three and nine—
" Because we're grateful, Cyril, dear—the Army suits us fine! "

Cyril was looking fine

I says he was thought you was dead

the army suits us fine

# Other Overseas Stations

## No. 2 EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*October*

We take this opportunity of offering our heartiest congratulations to Major Ditchfield, who, after a few months as Second-in-Command, has succeeded Major Masser as Officer Commanding No. 1 Squadron.

We also wish to welcome to Moascar Mrs. Ditchfield and Mrs. Hall, the wives of Major Ditchfield and Captain Hall, who arrived at the Garrison during the month. May Moascar prove a happy home for them.

The commitments of the Regiment remain as ever, and there is plenty of work for everyone. Slight speed-ups in release are causing even more frequent departures to England than previously anticipated, and old faces are disappearing almost daily. Fortunately, new faces are appearing at the same time and we manage to keep fairly well up to strength.

Our combined Cricket and Hockey teams are going on from strength to strength and carrying all before them; reports of matches are again included in No. 1 Squadron notes for this month.

One farewell, to R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, who has recently left us at the end of his Python tour. "Shoey" was one of the mainstays of the Regiment in many ways and will be particularly remembered for his sporting activities, including his very capable handling of the Sailing Club in the capacity of Commodore.

No. 1 SQUADRON (Moascar). Release is rapidly claiming many of the Squadron, including several of our officers, of whom we shall be losing three in the near future. Lieutenant "Bert" Carolin, our far too efficient pay officer ("you can't fool me, boy") and Captain Roughton, our "jack of all trades," having at one time or another been Wireless Officer, M.T. Officer and Duty Signal Officer, are due to go very shortly, to be followed not long after by our New Zealander, Captain Barker, who has been Squadron Administrative Officer for the past few months, and is now due for Python. They will soon be heading back the way they came many months ago with, we hope, only happy memories, with the possible exception of a hangover from the farewell party.

All troops of the Squadron continue to work hard, but it must be admitted that we are awaiting with a certain amount of relish the arrival of those who are about to take our places when the "old stagers" groups come up. The "grippers" of the Squadron are rehearsing their pieces, with Sergeant Willis preparing his only genuine "grip," which begins: "Now when I was on detachment in the Sinai . . ."

During the month several very entertaining evenings, organised by our new M.T.O., Captain Ball, have been spent in the "Jimmy Club." Perhaps the most popular was that devoted to the much discussed and controversial topic of Swing *versus* Classics. With the aid of records, both sides of the argument were presented, talk being reduced to the minimum, and the music allowed to speak for itself. I think it is safe to say that, as far as the audience was concerned, the issue was still undecided at the close of the evening.

More recently we held our first "Jimmy Club" Dance, which proved to be quite a success. We hope to hold a number of dances in the future, interspersed with musical evenings, Tombola, and possibly an occasional discussion.

*Cricket.* Our renowned Cricket Eleven has now not lost a game since 24th June, and have been defeated on only four occasions out of the thirty-odd matches played this season, a record of which we are justly proud.

We had an easy passage in the first round of the Garrison Cricket League Knock-Out Competition, winning our first game by the handsome margin of 22 runs. It was in this match that we created a new record for the highest total made in the Garrison League this year, 222 for 3 wickets declared. C.Q.M.S. Dean, our hard hitter, excelled himself and knocked up 160 runs in 73 minutes, his brilliant innings including 13 sixes and 15 boundaries. The day following "Dixie" was at it again, making 59 runs in 12 minutes—possibly the fastest half century on record.

In the bowling department, Captain Hall, the Adjutant, has taken 77 wickets this season and hopes to capture at least 100 before cricket gives way to football at the beginning of October.

The team suffered a loss during the month when our opening bat, Signalman "Ray" Vipond, left the Unit on release. He did very well during the time he was with us and managed to top the 500 runs mark before saying farewell.

*Hockey.* At the beginning of October the official Hockey season commences, and we have been fortunate in retaining most of our old players, who will last out for part of the season at least. We shall miss the flashing goals from the stick of Lieutenant Carolin, our old centre-forward, but should experience little difficulty in forming an eleven of high standard.

We are still playing a number of friendly matches to keep hands and eyes in, and have had a long run of successes. During one of these games Captain Angell, the T.O.M., became the first casualty of the hockey field when he broke his thumb in the course of the game. The fracture is mending nicely, we are told, and we hope to have him back in the team before the season is very old.

*Basketball.* The Inter-Troop Basketball Tournament has commenced, but it is difficult to select any outstanding teams, for all seem to be having their ups and downs. Our officers' team is proud of the fact that it managed to force a draw with T.M. Troop, who, on the whole, have triumphed so far.

*Football.* Despite the fact the cricket season still officially holds sway, our incorrigible Football enthusiasts are making full preparation for the football season regardless of the heat. Inter-Troop matches are being played to form a basis for the selection of a Unit team, and there appears to be plenty of good material available, and certainly no lack of enthusiasm.

No. 2 SQUADRON, QASSASIN. We have recently lost two of our Squadron Officers and welcomed a new arrival. Lieutenant Whiffen left in a hurry on Class "B" Release to enable him to commence the first term at Cambridge. We wish him all possible success in his studies and hope he will be able to continue his active interest in cricket at home. Lieutenant Graham proceeded to U.K. on L.I.A.P. during the month and Second-Lieutenant Marston arrived from England.

This month has been quite eventful in the field of sport. The Squadron was represented in Canal Central District Swimming Gala by Sergeant Wilden, Lance-Corporal Preston and Signalman Perry. Signalman Perry was

successful in winning the diving event and the others managed to pull off second places in their respective events.

Cricket is now coming to an end and we have already played our first football match against our old opponents, British Military Hospital, Qassasin, when the score was 2—1 in our favour. Most of last season's players have left us but new talent is readily available and making its appearance in the field.

## PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*October*

This Unit, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., is divided into three independent Squadrons: R.H.Q. and No. 3 Squadron, at Jerusalem; No. 1 Squadron, at Sarafand, and No. 2 Squadron, at Haifa. Squadrons are commanded by Major Locke, M.C., Major Funnell and Major Honor respectively.

Release has been taking toll among all ranks, and will no doubt continue to do so for some time to come. From those who are left, complaints about life out here are very few.

*R.H.Q. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* The Sergeants' Mess is beginning to get on its feet again after rather a quiet spell, Sergeants Grinham, Fisher, Johnson and Medcalf, as usual, causing all the disturbances. The Dance, which has been run every week for over a year now, is picking up again after having had a quiet spell, the main "tick" is lack of the fair sex, and too many wolves. The President of the Mess is now R.S.M. Froud, who came to us from No. 3 G.H.Q. to replace R.S.M. Cairns, who left on Python last month.

Sergeant Grinham, our A.C.C. Sergeant, pledged to go on the "tack" altogether, but owing to "Alf's" permanent thirst he broke it after the third day. Cheers, Alf. Sergeant Medcalf—our littler drummer boy—will soon be leaving us (Group 61) to go and endure all the hardships of Civvy Street, together with Sergeants Nichol and Jamieson. S.S.M. Orgill left the Squadron on 17th September, 1947, on compassionate posting to U.K. after having served for over four years with the Regiment. The Squadron, particulrly the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, are very sorry to have lost him, and all send their best wishes for his future. His place is to be filled by S.S.M. Holt, to whom we extend a hearty welcome. Cipher for the Regiment is under the control of Lieutenant Smith and S.S.M. Brady, who has also just arrived here from B.T.D.

No. 1 SQUADRON. *Cricket.* Since our last contribution to THE WIRE our cricket team has been very deservedly resting on its laurels, not having played a game for three weeks. Our last game was with H.Q. R.A.S.C. Score: No. 1 Squadron, Palestine Command Signal Regiment, 123 for 5 declared; H.Q. R.A.S.C., 34 all out. Despite the disparity between scores it was an enjoyable game, played on what is probably the best pitch in Sarafand, very kindly lent by O.C., No. 414 Horse Transport Company. We are still waiting to play No. 12 B.G.H. in the semi-finals, when we hope to avenge the defeat meted out to us on the last occasion of our meeting.

*Soccer.* Soccer is now in full swing, and great interest is being shown by the Squadron in our new team. Unfortunately we have already lost two of our best players, "Syd" Brayshaw and "Taffy" Edwards. Chown, our formidable centre-half, is also temporarily absent. We have to date won eight games, lost two, drawn nil, and we feel confident of a successful season.

*Motor Cycling.* "A Grand Motor Cycle Scramble" was held recently at Rishon Arena, in which the Squadron participated largely, being responsible for the P.A. and broadcasting systems, in addition to having several entrants for the events. Corporal Jaggard rode a grand race and was placed third in the Junior Scrambles, for which he was awarded a Ronson lighter. Lance-Corporal Hollis was unfortunately beaten in the semi-finals due to a spill in deep sand on one of the bends. Notwithstanding this misfortune, he finished to win second place which was, however, poor solace to the writer, who lost a couple of bob on the Tote in consequence. The writer is, however, in no position to "tick" as he himself came to an ignominious end in the first lap, when he came a "gander" on "Gooseneck Rise." He is, happily, under the impression that no one was foolish enough to lay money on him.

*Births.* To S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Tyler, a son, Jack Christopher, born at St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, Yorkshire, on 8th September, 1947.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Demob. steadily proceeds, much to the satisfaction of those interested, although many long faces are seen around here, muttering "5 Flights to 61 Group." Replacing of "key men" is causing quite a headache in various jobs. Practically the whole Squadron have undergone a Course of the "Bren Gun" during the past month, and there are one or two modern Robin Hoods amongst the Squadron. Captain Slater has taken over the duties of Lines Officer and Second-in-Command, and Lieutenant Shannon assumes the duties of Administration Officer.

*Arrivals.* New faces seen around the Squadron during the last few weeks include those of Lieutenant (Q.M.) Thorp, R.Q.M.S. Woods (Chippy), C.Q.M.S. Howard, and F. of S. Pedley.

*Departures.* The following members of the "Happy Band" have gone to better known climes: Captain Hennessy to U.K. (Python and Sewlrom), Lieutenant Whiteley and Lieutenant Eccleston left here with smiling faces on 12th and 15th respectively for Class "A" Release. Sergeant Tapper and F. of S. (Dutchy) Holland are also bound for "Home Sweet Home."

*Entertainment.* Film shows are held on an average five nights per week in the Signals' famous "Dive Cinema," showing a programme of films with a good selection, but now and again an "old stager" creeps in, such as "My Heart is Calling You," dated 1926. Tombola is still a firm favourite out here, especially on "Ackers Night," with everybody "eyes down and look in." We have had quite a few C.S.E. Shows during the past month, amongst them "Love in a Mist," and "While the Sun Shines," both well played. Then the one the people have been queueing up for hours to see, "Top-Liners of Variety," consisting of such stars as Kim Kendall (and I wanna get married) Erikson (that polished comedian and deceiver), Bunny Doyle (the well-bred Yorkshire comedian) and that ever lovable Judy Shirley (the veteran of the Eighth Army).

*Football.* Our football team season once again in full swing; teams consisting of seven men are used in both Troop and Inter-Unit games. The Squadron team has so far played two very hard games, one against a very good Jewish side (the best in North Palestine), losing after a very hard struggle, the score at the final whistle being 5—1, and the second against a very strong Haifa Base XI, resulting in a loss 3—2. Nevertheless, as the season progresses we hope to bring in the services of many good players who have recently arrived here, and so counteract our previous defeats.

*Cricket.* Our Squadron Cricket Team had a fairly good season. Lieutenant C. T. P. Johns was included in the North Palestine XI, proving his ability with both bat and ball. We trounced No. 3 Squadron twice, but unfortunately

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# THE *illegal* JEWISH ORGANISATIONS

*by* **Captain D. B. Emley,** *Royal Signals*

"A GOOD land and large, flowing with milk and honey." These are the words which Our Lord used to describe Palestine before the exodus of the Children of Israel out of Egypt. Judged by our own standards, this is rather an optimistic description, but to the Israelites, enslaved as they were and in the power of the Pharaohs, it was by no means an exaggeration. That was some thousands of years ago, and since then the progress of civilisation has been such that to-day Palestine has been aptly described as the "much-promised land" and the "unholy land."

It is not the intention here to indulge in political argument nor to touch more than lightly on the recent history of this country. However, a brief account of certain past events is necessary in order to appreciate the circumstances which gave birth to the illegal Jewish organisations. In October, 1915, the British Government, in the person of the High Commissioner for Egypt, wrote a letter, the exact meaning of which is disputed, but which the Arabs interpret as being a promise of Palestine for the Arabs. Equally as famous as the McMahon letter (Sir Henry McMahon was the High Commissioner) is the Balfour declaration, made in November, 1917, by Mr. Balfour, then the Foreign Secretary, saying that the British Government favoured the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. The exact meaning of this is also disputed, and the Jewish view is that it promises Palestine for the Jews. These doubts and differences existed when, in July, 1922, the League of Nations gave Great Britain the mandate to look after Palestine. Then, as to-day, the Arabs easily outnumbered the Jews, although the difference in numbers has been steadily decreasing. On the other hand the Arabs, by and large, are backward—their farming methods are still the same as they were in biblical times—whereas the Jews, again by and large, bring culture and modern ways of living. Last but not least, both the Arabs and the Jews have a deep religious conviction of their right to the country.

In the middle thirties, as a result of their persecution in Europe, more and more Jews came to settle in Palestine; they were able to obtain large sums of money and began buying land from the Arabs and forming their own settlements. The Arabs became very apprehensive at the increase in numbers of the Jews and the formation of more and more settlements, and foresaw that, at that rate, the time would come when they themselves would be in the minority. Consequently they voiced their resentment to the Government and a commission was sent out to investigate, but it did not advise any decisive action either way. The Arabs were not satisfied, and the trouble came to a head in 1936, when they began their revolt. They revolted primarily against us as the mandatory power, but attacked the Jews as a side-line. The Jews naturally defended themselves, and their defence organisation was known as the Haganah.

The Haganah proved very useful to us in the Arab revolt and we encouraged them and helped them in many ways. They are non-political, embodying all parties, and are ardent Zionists. At the end of the Arab Revolt, the Government decided upon a definite policy, and in a White Paper published in May, 1939, they laid down that the immigration of Jews should be restricted to a certain number, actually 75,000 in five years, and also restricted the sale of land by Arabs to Jews. (The figure of 75,000 was later altered because the war interfered with the programme.) This, of course, was a bad blow for the Jews, and the Haganah retaliated by organising the now all-too-familiar illegal immigration movement. Although it is illegal to hold firearms in Palestine to-day, the Haganah contrived to withhold and hide considerable quantities of arms and ammunition, and on this score as well as for their immigration activities they must be classed as an illegal organisation. To-day they number in the neighbourhood of 100,000 men and women, with a first-class organisation. All are reasonably skilled at arms, but in spite of this they are moderate and believe that the best policy for Zionism is propaganda and not violence.

At the time when Haganah turned to illegal immigration, a certain group decided that violent action rather than propaganda was the better way to take, and broke away, forming their own organisation, the Irgun Zva'i Leumi. The I.Z.L. is organised to the highest degree in "cells," which makes their identification difficult since the members of one cell are said not to know the members of another, while the leaders only know members of cells in the same group. The members are recruited mainly from poor types of Jew from the Balkans and Poland, but they have a sprinkling of educated right-wing followers which makes them the more dangerous. They obtain their arms by theft from troops, by smuggling and by manufacture in secret factories; their funds they raise by bank-robbery, contributions and, possibly, by extortion from other Jews. Up to the time of the dastardly murder of the two British Sergeants who were hanged near Nathanya, they had concentrated more on demolishing buildings and plants rather than direct attacks on persons. Their raids are organised to the smallest detail and executed with precision and daring. Their fanatical bravery cannot be disputed.

When the last war broke out, the I.Z.L. called a truce and discontinued their activities, and once again there was

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### *OTHER OVERSEAS STATIONS*

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never had the chance to prove the same against No. 1 Squadron.

*Shooting.* Three members of the Squadron took part in a revolver shooting match against "A" Squadron, No. 3 King's Own Hussars. The team consisted of Captain Hennessy, Lieutenant Shannon and Corporal Jobbins, but we were, unfortunately, knocked out in the semi-finals.

No. 3 SQUADRON. No. 3 Squadron continues to look after the communications of H.Q. Palestine and East Palestine Sub-District. Our task is not made easier by the constant trickle (or would "rush" be a better word) of our best trained men and most valued N.C.O.s back to Civvy Street. However, this is a general "trick"—that commitments remain the same while manpower declines.

Major R. F. Locke, M.C., assumes command of the Squadron in July in place of Major J. B. Thornton, who returned to the U.K. after having been with the Regiment since the days when it was the "Cheshire Yeomanry." Captain M. R. Ridler, our Second-in-Command, has undergone a successful operation and latest reports from the Con Depot at Nathanya say that he is looking sunburnt and well.

Life in Jerusalem tends to become a little monotonous, as we are not allowed in the city except in parties of four. This restricts our "off duty" activities mainly to the Cantonment Areas. However, we take advantage of what diversions are offered—the Sunday bathing trips to Bat Yam beach, near Jaffa, were greatly appreciated, and sporting activities claim a good deal of our attention. We are preparing at the moment for East Palestine Sports Meeting at Allenby Ground. The Cricket season is over and, though we did not start so well, we had every reason to be proud of our team at the end. In particular, the partnership between Major Locke and Lieutenant Watts, of No. 5 Wireless Carrier Troop, will be remembered. Lieutenant Watts scored a century and Major Locke 57 not out. We are looking forward to Hockey and Football in the winter, and hope to maintain our Hockey record of last season—only one match lost.

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### *THE ILLEGAL JEWISH ORGANISATIONS*

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a split—a small group wished to carry on their acts of violence and broke away under Abraham Stern, calling themselves the Stern Gang. The Stern Gang, like the I.Z.L., is highly organised and get their arms and funds in the same way. In some operations the I.Z.L. and the Stern Gang co-operate; in fact, one of the few differences between the two is the extremity of the violence of the Stern Gang, who specialise in criminal attacks upon persons by shooting and kidnapping. In pursuing their goal they seem to be absolutely regardless of human life, whether British, Arab or Jewish. Stern himself was killed in a gun battle some years ago, but this did not affect the activities of the gang.

There is now in existence a feud between the Haganah on the one hand and the I.Z.L. and Stern Gang on the other. The Haganah has of late taken very definite action to stop the activities of the extremists, and have stated that they can end terrorism without outside help. They do this, not out of sympathy for the British Administration, but because they realise that terrorism, far from aiding, actually hinders, the cause of Zionism. This task of wiping out terrorism lies before them also for reasons independent of Zionism, for, assuming for a moment that the Palestine problem is eventually solved to a reasonable degree of satisfaction to both sides (admittedly a very optimistic assumption), what would be the future of the Stern Gang and I.Z.L. members? After years of gangsterdom, it is doubtful whether they could, in a day, return to normal life. The Jews would have in their midst thugs, some of whom make Al Capone sound like a common spiv. That is a problem which only the Jews themselves can solve.

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### SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

*October*

Since we last wrote, a number of changes have occurred in this Regiment.

There has been an 80 per cent. turnover of all British personnel, due to Release and Repatriation, and unless reinforcements are received in substantial numbers our O.R. strength will be about 30 by Christmas (over 80 per cent. deficient). Work, we hope, will decrease in proportion.

We have now received some of our L.E.P. (Locally Enlisted Personnel), who will eventually form over 60 per cent. of the Regiment's strength. They are British subjects, and may be Eurasian, Chinese, Malay or Indian. They all enlist for Service in Malaya on a three-year engagement. When they come to us they have completed three months' basic Infantry training, and we have to train them in their Signal Trades. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of qualified instructors at the moment, but once the L.E.P. are trained they will be a great asset to the Regiment.

The Regiment now possesses a small and enthusiastic Dance Band which, apart from fulfilling numerous outside engagements, to the advantage of the P.R.I., has provided music at various social engagements.

Our Boat Club now possesses a formidable array of power driven craft, with and without engines, and in various stages of repair. Two of the boats are now "on the water" and provide much amusement for members at week-ends. Club members are working hard to make other craft seaworthy. The Club premises, which are situated in a disused Coast Defence Battery at Changi, are shared with G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, and will eventually make an excellent Recreational Club site.

Cricket has been going with a swing of late—the chief drawback being a shortage of grounds. Matches played between an Officers' Team and the Rest have provided much entertainment. So far the Rest have won two games.

We have recently moved from our tented camp in Duncarn Road to another in Yio Chu Kang Village, which is in the north-east of the island and some 10 miles from Singapore itself.

When we have settled in, the new camp should prove an improvement on the old. Accommodation is still in tents, but the camp is in the midst of a rubber plantation. This keeps the tents reasonably cool by day and the force of the persistent rain is broken by the trees.

Some permanent buildings exist for offices and stores, and there is an excellent N.A.A.F.I., complete with stage. We also have a football pitch of our own, which, although a little on the small side, provides an outlet for football enthusiasts. It is hoped to play seven a-side hockey on it as well.

We hope to see more members of the Corps coming out from Europe to join us. They are assured of a cordial welcome.

Life may be rather "close to nature," but such niceties as fuel shortages and queues don't trouble us very much.

# Territorial Army

## No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

Between 25th September and 9th October we have carried out a very intensive recruiting drive in all areas where our Squadrons are located.

We were fortunate in having the services of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team at our disposal.

The culminating point in our drive was a miniature tattoo given at the County Cricket Ground in Southampaon. There our programme included a helicopter doing stunts by searchlight, a mock battle by Airborne forces, and a P.T. display by members of the Airborne Establishment from Aldershot. The Royal Signals Band played throughout the tattoo. The highlight of the evening was the excellence of the performance given by the motor cyclists of the Display Team. The skill of their show left the audience in amazement, wondering how such tricks as were demonstrated could be possible on an "ordinary" motor cycle. The administrative arrangements were under the supervision of Major G. U. Finney, Royal Signals, who commands No. 10 A.S.S.U., and great credit is due to him and his staff for the hard work done in preparation for the show.

The C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith) takes this opportunity of thanking the officers and other ranks of all Squadrons who helped with arrangements at the various places where the show was produced.

"SIXTY-THREE"

No. 26 A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP T.A. Lieutenant R. H. Stock, late 49th Divisional Signals, has recently joined us as Second-in-Command of the Troop, and we trust his stay will be a long and happy one.

Training equipment to enable the Troop to begin training in earnest is not yet forthcoming, but this is expected in the very near future.

All ex-members of the Corps are welcome to our Friday evening confabs at the Drill Hall, Skew Bridge, Wilton Road—so come along.

"AGREES"

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNALS UNIT T.A. There is little time for writing this month, as we are all fully occupied in preparing for the Searchlight Tattoo on Monday, 6th October. Next month we shall sit back and tell you all about it.

As the Southampton Stadium proved unsuitable for the Motor Cycle Display Team, the show has had to search for different accommodation. Luckily, we found it next door in the grounds of the Hants County Cricket Club, whose directors very generously came to the rescue.

Our early ideas were too ambitious, as we found the show would probably go on for most of the night. It has now been cut down to a three-hour programme, consisting of the Corps Band, the Motor Cycle Display Team, a helicopter, gymnastics by the A.P.T.C., a Parachutist mock battle, and a display of Brock's Fireworks.

The recruits are getting an early introduction to the Army methods of improvisation, and are playing their parts like veterans, especially the two youngsters whose job in the helicopter sketch is to sit on a park bench each with a carefully selected A.T.S. volunteer on his lap. Another lucky man is S.S.M. "Nobby" Hall, who has to play the part of a drunk. He tells me that rehearsals are proving somewhat expensive.

Arrangements are now almost complete, and the final result will depend largely on the Clerk of the Weather.

We hope to do our first week-end camp in mid-October, but more of this anon.

"ASSULIKET"

No. 91 A.G.R.A. (Fd.) SIGNAL SQUADRON T.A. Since our last contribution we have had a visit by the Demonstration Team from No. 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment T.A., and also the Royal Signals Olympia Motor Cycle Display Team. At the Demonstration of Signal Equipment, the Magnetic Recorder and Teleprinters proved to be a great attraction, while the younger generation amused themselves talking to one another over the telephones.

The Motor Cycle Display Team was undoubtedly the biggest attraction of all and gave a grand display, which was run in conjunction with a Grass-Track Speedway Meeting organised by the Taunton Motor Cycle Club. A crowd of approximately 10,000 enjoyed an excellent afternoon's sport, which was definitely "made" by the display given by the Royal Signals Team. However, after having been visited by the above-mentioned teams, recruiting is still very slow, there being no additions since our last contribution to THE WIRE, but we have had one or two enquiries during the past week. Now that the T.A. Club here is in full swing, and with the winter coming on, we are hoping that recruits will be forthcoming.

"AGRAS"

## No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

You will know from our previous notes that this Unit is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., an old member of No. 48 Divisional Signals. Other officers who have rallied round are Second-in-Command, Major S. E. A. Anthony, O.B.E., Major E. R. Price, Major J. F. Timings, M.B.E., Captains B. H. Berresford, P. R. Hoskins, M. W. Taylor, J. W. Swinnerton, Lieuenants A. Rogers and E. V. R. Svensson, and, of course, the Adjutant, Captain T. W. Baynes, and the Q.M., Captain R. F. Barlow. Yes, Ukann Larfe himself. Next month we shall record the names of the Sergeants and O.R.s who have come forward. You will know most of them.

A small party from the permanent staff arranged the telephonic communications for the gathering at Shelsley Walsh on 27th September, and did a very good job of work. S.S.M. L. Jackson, who has now left us for Chester, claims that he beat Raymond May's time for the hill climb in our Austin Utility. Judging by this vehicle's performance right now we are inclined to believe that he tried hard, at any rate.

All goes well, if not furiously. We are content to have our present hand-picked members who will undoubtedly help to form a good foundation for the Unit which will emerge in the future. We should, of course, be very glad to see a few more of our old friends of 48th, 61st and 78th Divisional Signals drop in and sign in the space provided. "Now is the hour" in fact. If they leave it too long it will mean taking a chance with the crowd later on.

"BARLEUX"

## No. 22 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

These short notes are firstly to announce our existence—particularly to those readers of THE WIRE who have left their Service days behind them, and, secondly, to contact those still serving who have friends amongst our permanent staff. The Unit is located at Signal House, Score Lane, Liverpool (formerly the Headquarters of the 55th (West Lancs) Divisional Signal Regiment and also its Second Line Unit, 59th Divisional Signal Regiment, which later was re-formed as No. 4 L. of C. Signals) and is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Ellison, M.B.E., T.D. Among the officers already appointed, and those in the course of commissioning into the Territorial Army, are Captains C. Acton, A. L. Thomas, K. D. Patterson, C. I. Mathieson, Herbert, Griss and Haworth. Captain L. J. Brunnen is our Adjutant, who, prior to joining the Unit, was serving in Malaya.

Recruiting has, so far, been slow; however, we hope that with the arrival of stores for training—thanks to a lot of hard work on the part of our Q.M., Captain F. W. C. Bennett—we shall be able to run a series of interest and refresher lectures which, we trust, will provide the necessary stimulus to cause those who have already volunteered to produce more recruits to swell our ranks.

So far as the social side of our activities is concerned, we have already held a most successful Unit Dance, when we were fortunate in having the Corps Band to play for us, and an extensive programme of entertainment to cover the winter months has just been published.

No notes would be complete without an introduction to the Sergeants' Mess, whose President is R.S.M. T. (Jock) Roberts, ex-No. 30 Corps Signals. The Orderly Room Sergeant is Sergeant G. K. Brown, ex-Hong Kong Signals (also long time with Jap friends!) and the Q.M. has an able assistant in Sergeant B. Kirkup, M.B.E., ex-No. 13 Corps Signals. Sergeant G. Summers (it's being so cheerful that keeps me going) formerly served in Pekin, and our peace-time N.W.F. wallah is Sergeant C. Turvey. The M.T. organisation is being handled by Sergeant Hiscott, ex-No. 14 Air Formation Signals, and Sergeant Kendrick Phillips, who is ex-Civvy Street. Lastly we have Corporal (Acting Sergeant) A. J. Mead, ex-No. 8 Corps Signals.

Next month we hope to be in a position to report our progress and activities in more detail. Finally may we extend an invitation to any Signals visiting Liverpool to come along and make themselves known to us.

PAT.

## No. 23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

London Corps Signals, under its new title of No. 23 (Southern) Corps Signals Regiment, has been re-formed at its old home, Fulham House. Several of the old members of the Unit have returned, notable among them being the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. G. Knight, T.D., Major R. F. Knight, T.D., Captain J. W. G. Cooke, and the Q.M., Major Dolbear, M.M.

The permanent staff of eleven, who have been in operation since March, still manage to keep cheerful despite the shortages of recruits and married quarters. As to the former, the little material apparent so far is good, and, in spite of the latter, one P.S.I., Sergeant Banham, has recently been sufficiently undaunted as to join the ranks of the married men. This opportunity is being taken to wish him and his wife the very best of luck and happiness for the future, and to trust that he may retain the courage of his convictions in his search for a home!

Congratulations are due to R.S.M. and Mrs. Parks on the birth of a daughter on 12th September; also to S.S.M and Mrs. Armstrong on the birth of a son on the same day. Mrs. Parks won by a short head. Also to Sergeant and Mrs. Anderton on the birth of a son on 15th June, and Sergeant and Mrs. Noble a daughter on 17th September. As one officer aptly remarked: "If we can't get recruits, we must make 'em!"

Stores and equipment have been arriving steadily and are being distributed among the Squadrons in order that they may have material with which to start up.

Re-decorating has been proceeding on a limited scale with offices, canteens and messes and the exterior as priorities. The H.Q. is slowly but surely being redeemed from its shabby war-time pallor.

The Sergeant's Mess is now well established with a regular Thursday Social evening, accompanied by darts and snooker matches against local clubs — not to mention a variety of elbow raising exercises!

So far, the local Home Guard Old Comrades have continued to meet in the Men's Canteen, and they kindly made all T.A. personnel honorary members. At last, however, they have been able to find alternative accommodation for themselves, and it is hoped that the canteen will be opened officially at the end of September, thus offering more facilities to the Old Comrades of the London Corps Signals.

Should any old friends be interested in the progress of the newly-named Unit the address is Fulham House, Fulham High Street, S.W.6, the telephone number is PUTney 2307/8, and the Adjutant (Captain Pidsley) and the R.S.M. (W.O.I Parks) are always there during the week, to supply the answers.

It may be of interest to "Hams" that an amateur radio station will be opening shortly at the H.Q.

## No. 60 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

This Unit came into being on 28th March, 1947, and apologies are tendered for our belated appearance in these notes.

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Crawford, M.B.E., who recently took over the appointment, relieving Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe, who has left us to command Scottish Command Signal Regiment.

The Unit H.Q. Staff is as follows: Captain D. D. Driscoll (Adjutant), Captain (Q.M.) L. T. (Tich) Kilford (Quartermaster), W.O.I A. Kerr (R.S.M.), W.O.II J. B. Matthews (O.R.S.), and we are fortunate in being established in the Castle at Edinburgh.

The Regiment consists of the following Squadrons: No. 30 (L) Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, commanded by Major R. Graham, Royal Signals T.A., at Glasgow; No. 84 (H) A.G.R.A. (F.D.) Signal Squadron, commanded by Major R. B. D. Steele, Royal Signals T.A., at Kirkcaldy; No. 85 (L) A.G.R.A. (F.D.) Signal Squadron, commanded by Major D. C. Lindsay, Royal Signals T.A., at Glasgow; No. 26 (S) Independent Infantry Brigade

Signal Squadron, commanded by Major D. Love, Royal Signals T.A., at Dundee.

Recruiting is progressing steadily, as the majority of recruits are ex-members of the Corps. They are being taken care of by: S.S.M. S. B. Harvey, Sergeant J. W. Wilde and Sergeant J. Millar, M.M., at Glasgow, S.S.M. T. Denholme and Sergeant D. Cunningham at Kirkcaldy, and S.S.M. W. H. Brooks and S.S.M. A. H. Grace at Dundee.

*Congratulations* are due to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. T. A. K. Howe on the birth of a son, David Alexander, at Barton-on-Sea, on 7th August, 1947. Young David Howe took to the air very early in life—flying from London to Scotland with Mrs. Howe on 17th September. We sincerely hope they will enjoy their stay in Scotland.

Congratulations are also due to S.S.M. A. H. Grace, of No. 26 (S) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, on being awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

D.D.D.

## No. 13 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

We have been recruiting and flourishing like our fellow T.A. Regiments since 1st May, and must apologise that we have been unable to let readers know about us through THE WIRE before now.

However, let us introduce ourselves by saying that we live in Edinburgh with No. 31 A.A. (M.) Signal Squadron, and that we have Nos. 29 and 30 Squadrons in Glasgow, and No. 32 Squadron in Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Sutcliffe, O.B.E., commanded No. 3 Air Formation Signals while they operated in the Middle East from 1941 to 1943, when he was appointed as a C.S.O. in the same theatre, later transferring to C.M.F. and finally to B.A.O.R. The Second-in-Command is Major J. C. Brady, M.B.E., who is well known for his work in organising the L. of C. network in North Africa and Italy.

We have been honoured with the appointment by H.M. The King of Colonel Sir Harold Mitchell, Bart., of Tulliallan and Luscar, J.P., D.L., as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. Amongst numerous other public activities, he was the founder and is the chairman of the Anti-Aircraft Welfare Fund, and is a member of the King's Bodyguard for Scotland (The Royal Company of Archers).

The Squadron Commanders are Major T. D. Childs (No. 29 Squadron), Major J. Orr (No. 30 Squadron), Major A. Gould (No. 31 Squadron) and Major J. W. Samson, M.C. (No. 32 Squadron), who is ex-Fife and Forfar Yeomanry.

The Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) A. S. Crockford, was Quartermaster of No. 3 Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals at their formation in 1939. As No. 3 Anti-Aircraft Divisional Signals were our direct ancestors, this is no mean asset to the present Adjutant (Captain J. C. S. McDouall), who was so surrounded by Cloaks and Daggers during the war that he hardly dares disclose his name. Junior-Commander I. D. Caris Carter, A.T.S., is our permanent staff A.T.S. Officer; she arrived in the middle of July, when we had a sudden rush of A.T.S. recruits in Glasgow, and was just in time to save the Adjutant's hair from turning grey.

Other officers include Captain D. V. Seddon, Captain D. G. Heilbron, Lieutenants A. E. Farnol, G. Hay, J. E. Mackay, and Subalterns M. J. C. Giles, H. Campbell and M. W. L. Murdoch. And we are lucky to have W.O.I J. Keating as our R.S.M.

At present, as with the majority of units, recruiting is going rather slowly, but it is looking up now that the holiday season is over and the hoped-for snowball effect of recruits drawing recruits has begun. At Blairgowrie the response has been particularly good, due largely to the resources of the two P.S.I.s, Sergeants H. F. Birrell and F. F. Kidd, who also did a noble piece of work in converting a 6ft. target into a 3ft. bar, and then got a large stock of drinks (on credit) to put behind it. Consequently, the death of Sergeant Kidd on 15th September, 1947, was a sad blow to the Regiment, and will be lamented by all ranks of the Corps who knew him.

In Edinburgh we have formed a close and mutually profitable alliance with the O.C.A. and Signals Club, who share the Drill Hall with us. They thus get free accommodation and, in turn, they stock and manage an excellent bar which is at our disposal. Colonel Telfer Dunbar provided the means to obtain a fine full-sized billiards table, which is very popular.

Training on regular drill nights is in full swing at all Squadrons, and thanks to the untiring efforts of the Quartermaster, all our technical equipment is complete and working. Like everybody else, we are very short of space, and the Drill Hall in Edinburgh presents a vista of packing cases, teleprinters, switchboards, wireless sets, airline poles, cable drums and transport, amongst which room has to be made for the ladies on drill nights. It is like doing foot drill in Hampton Court maze.

We shall be glad to receive calls from any old friends who find themselves in Edinburgh. The Drill Hall is Brandon Terrace (Telephone: Edinburgh 27374), and Drill Nights are Thursday. Any Englishmen who give us notice of their coming will be met by the Unit's Interpreter at Waverley Station.

P.S. The Adjutant has just announced the birth of his second daughter, on 9th October, 1947.

## 43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q. AND H.Q. SQUADRON. The 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A. again forwards its contribution to THE WIRE, and we are able to report a slow but steady headway in recruiting. Since the commencement of our recruiting in April, the Unit strength has risen to the hundred mark or thereabouts, which we modestly consider compares favourably with the rest of the country.

The Southern Command Demonstration Team, under the direction of Captain R. W. Steele, M.B.E., were with us from 7th-15th September, and visited each of our Squadrons in turn, and at each location a fine exhibition of Signal Equipment was given and a lively interest was shown by the general public.

We have also received a visit from the Royal Signals Olympia Display Team, who put on a grand show at Bridgwater, Taunton and Exeter. Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons have covered the visit of the team to their Squadrons in their contribution below, and it therefore only leaves the writer to deal with Taunton. Here in the County Town of the Cider County the display was put on in conjunction with a Motor Cycle Grass Track Race meeting held under the auspices of the Taunton Motor Club, to whom we tender our thanks for their most invaluable help. We also wish to thank the Clerk of the Weather (nothing to do with the Government) for keeping the rain off until after the show.

The Taunton Motor Club put on some grand races, but from conversations overheard from part of the 10,000 spec-

tators, which included Brigadier Raph Rayner, M.P., our Honorary Colonel, the highlight of the show was the Display Team; they were, in fact, so good that even the "Economic Crisis" was ousted from the conversation in the pubs and meeting places of Taunton for some time.

The T.A. Club is still in the news, and actually showing a profit, and it looks as if we are getting some old hands to join us in our happy affairs.

Members of the Corps will be interested to hear that "Charlie" Dodman, who will be remembered with No. 2 Wireless Company in Palestine and Egypt from 1933-38, is now with the Somerset T. and A.F. Association.

In conclusion, our very best wishes to R.S.M. L. Bainbridge and to Sergeant R. Greenslade on their marriages. The bells have been working overtime and are claiming double pay.

NO. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER. Now the week-end camp at Braunton, in Devon, with the Royal Marines has been forgotten, everyone is looking forward to the first full-scale annual one next year; nevertheless, training is in full swing in the meantime and with most keen interest being shown by all. Stores are now coming in, so we ought to be able to have a few week-end schemes to keep us going.

On Monday, the 29th September, the Royal Signals Olympia Display Team gave a magnificent show here in Exeter on the local speedway ground; everyone I met for days afterwards spoke so highly of them, their daring riding and skill. The local lads were really taken up with them, so who knows, we may have a rush on recruits all wanting to be D.R.s. Apparently, Exeter Speedway Team are anxiously waiting for one chappy of the Display Team to hasten his Demob. so they can sign him on to ride the "cinders" with them next season; this fellow rode in one of the races and put up a grand show which did the trick.

No. 1 Squadron building is looking quite smart after everyone clad in denims made up their minds to see what could be done with white-wash and distemper.

Lastly, three of the lads, Sergeant G. F. Pauley, Corporal W. A. Kettell and Corporal A. F. Pearce, had a spot of old times once again. They attended No. 1 W.O.s and N.C.O.s Royal Signals T.A. Course at the School of Signals from 24th August, 1947, to 31st August, 1947, on which I am glad to hear they did extremely well and enjoyed every minute of it.

*Salaams.* To all of 190 W/T Section, 8th Army Signals, in C.M.F. or wherever you are, especially to the lads now on the "Frontier Control" net.

*Marriages and Births.* Hearty congratulations to S.S.M. P. E. A. Hall and his wife on the arrival of their third, a daughter. It seems he believes in keeping up the "Production Drive."

May we also congratulate Signalman A. Fear and his wife on their first arrival.

NO. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER. Signals have really put their face on the map here in Bridgwater by staging on the 27th September a display by the Motor Cycle Display Team. It went down very well under the eyes of 3,000 people, who took time off from the local "Awakener" of the year, the fair, to come and see our boys in action. We were pestered in the first place by some local boys who would insist on tearing down our publicity posters all over the town. Needless to say, the P.S.I. here and his merry men boosted the team up by loudspeakers a week before they gave the display, and we were pleased to see the results obtained were quite good. The Display was attended by Commander Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, our Officer Commanding, Major F. Signey, and their respective wives, who, I understand, enjoyed it immensely.

We are indebted to the Bridgwater Sports Ground, Ltd., for their kind help in letting us use their Cricket Ground to stage the display.

We are hoping to stage a dance at the end of this month or the first week of November. We have been hindere up to now by painters and decorators smartening up the Drill Hall for us, and before long we shall look more like the Hammersmith Palais than a T.A. Drill Hall.

One day last month a potential recruit walked into the Squadron Office quite eager to join the T.A. One could see immediately by the way he was dressed that he was of the hard working casual variety. On asking him what he would like to do in Signals, he replied, "Oi want to be a Bugler." On informing him that as yet we had started no band and had not thought of one, he added, "No Regiment 'is complete without a band, Sarge." Thereafter an argument ensued between the potential recruit and the P.S.I. It eventually ended with the P.S.I. giving the man a 501A and telling him to go and join the Cadets. Needless to say, we have not see anything of him since, although the Adjutant of the A.C.F. informs me that if he sees anything of him he will tell him to go along and join the Girl Guides.

We are now starting in earnest to form a Darts and Skittles Team, but up to present our only drawback is the smallness in numbers of our recruits; nevertheless, we have our eyes on the trophies held by S.S.M. Hall at No. 1 Squadron, Exeter, and we shall represent ourselves well in competing for them.

We welcome to the fold one Signalman R. W. A. Usher.

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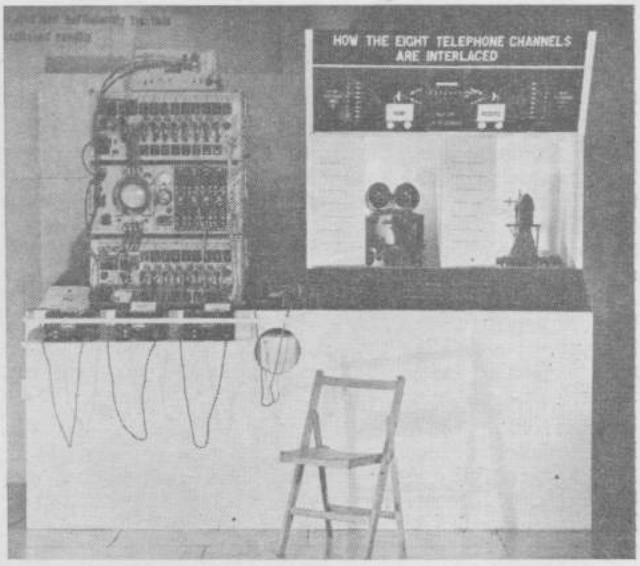
## *Radiolympia*

Army Radio Equipment featured prominently amongst the exhibits of the Ministry of Supply at this year's record exhibition at Olympia of wireless equipment for all purposes. Nearly a quarter of a million people visited the show, which closed on 11th October.

The picture below shows the ingenious working model used to explain to the public the principles of working of the No. 10 Wireless Set. Major Stanton and Major Sutherland and twenty Royal Signals other ranks, as well as experts from the Signals Research and Development Establishment were kept busy throughout the ten opening days answering questions from interested members of the public.



# Unfinished Infamy

THE Lady Angela Blessington-Gorbals crossed one shapely leg over the other, arched her neatly plucked eyebrows and tapped her toe irritably on the thick pile carpet.

"She couldn't have."

"What do you mean, she couldn't have?"

"She couldn't tap her toe with her legs crossed; it's a physical impossibility, and anyway it wouldn't have tapped on a thick pile carpet."

"Look here, Diana, who's writing this story—you or me?"

"You mean 'You or I.' There's no need to lose your temper over a little helpful criticism—it indicates a small mind. All I am saying is that you shouldn't make your heroine a contortionist—it's unnatural."

"Frankly," said Peter, who had been writing a minute to the Director of Finance on the subject of medical orderlies for mixed Signal Units, "frankly, I don't see why you want to write a story for THE WIRE about the Lady Angela Blessington-Gorbals. People who read THE WIRE are much more interested in Lance-Corporal Smallpiece than any Lady Angela."

"Then it's high time they were educated. Besides, I'd like an oil painting of Lance-Corporal Smallpiece crossing his shapely legs."

"So would I," said Diana. "It would give me far more kick than the Lady Angela. I expect Lance-Corporal

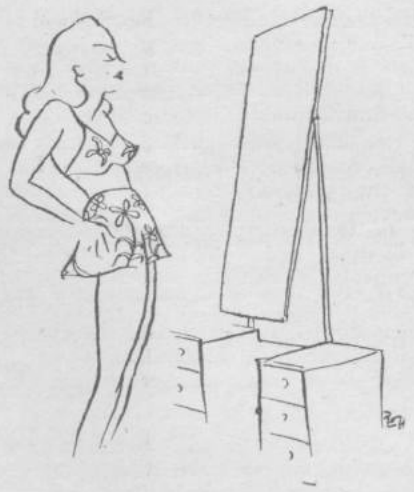
An painting of Hard Smallpiece's shapely legs.

Smallpiece has very nice legs and all sorts of attractive etceteras."

"Really, Diana, you have the most astonishingly prurient mind. I can't even read you my perfectly chaste story without you getting revolting ideas about Lance-Corporal Smallpiece's legs."

"I suggest we now drop the subject of legs and hear the rest of Desmond's story," said Sheila, putting down the camiknickers she was embroidering, "for my part I want nothing to do with Lance-Corporal Smallpiece's legs. They are probably hairy legs with knobbly knees."

"The trouble with you, Sheila," retorted Diana, "is that you suffer from repressions. I am at least honest enough to admit that I have normal, healthy animal instincts, but you just creep about wishing you had the courage to do



Flowers - for your own enjoyment.

the things you only dare dream about. You obviously aren't putting flowers on those things for your own enjoyment."

"Do you mind if I continue my story?" asked Desmond, with resignation.

"But do!" replied Diana, "I can hardly wait to hear the next instalment of The Adventures of The Lady Angela and Lance-Corporal Smallpiece."

"Where had I got to?" asked Desmond.

"The Lady Angela had just arched her legs and crossed her well-shaped eyebrows," prompted Diana.

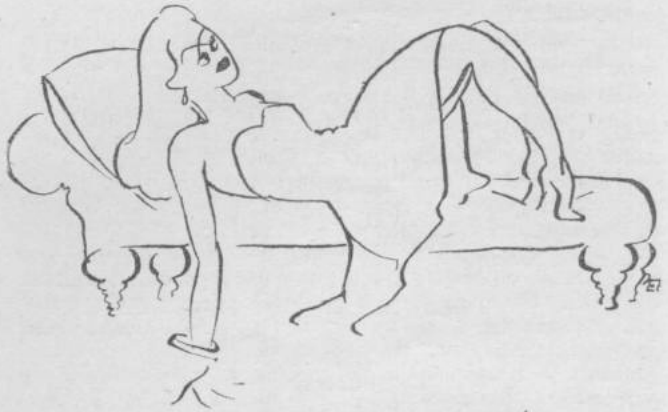
"I shall ignore Diana and continue: 'What are you doing in my bedroom at this time of night with that ridiculous thing over your face?' she demanded of the intruder in a cultured voice.

"What are you sniggering at, Diana?"

"How exquisitely naïve! Surely, Desmond, even Roedean would have taught The Lady Angela some of the more obvious characteristics of the human male."

"I shall continue as though nothing had happened," said Desmond. "'Forgive me, Angela,' the intruder stammered, 'I had to see you alone and the only way I could think of was to climb up your drain pipe.'"

"That's original, anyway," Diana broke in, "a man once

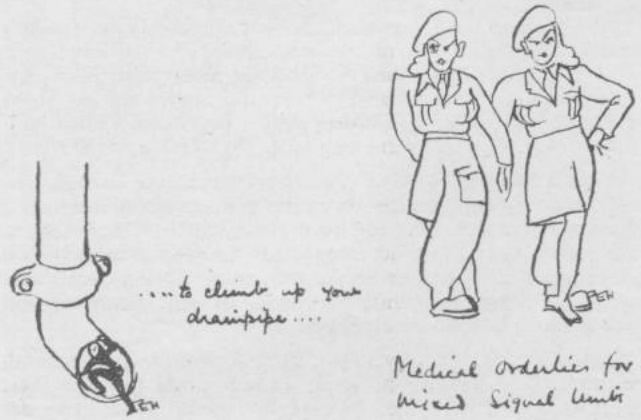


..... arched her legs and crossed her well-shaped eyebrows.

offered to show me his etchings, but he didn't attempt to climb up my drain pipe."

"Don't sound so disappointed," said Sheila acidly, "knowing you, I should think you probably climbed up his before he thought of it."

"If you two have quite finished bickering about drain pipes, I shall continue: 'Oh, Algernon,' cried The Lady Angela, with deep emotion surging up within her, 'I didn't recognise you with that thing over your face. What a hero you are to take such a risk just for me.' The rest of her



remark was stifled as the Honourable Algernon Blakeny crushed her lips against his."

"I hope he remembered to take the thing off his face," said Diana.

"That's finished it," said Desmond. "I shan't read any more and I won't write a story for THE WIRE."

"Now you've made him take umbrage," said Peter, "and another gem has been lost to posterity."

"I think it's a lovely story, Desmond," said Diana soothingly, "but I'm not quite sure that it would tone with the rest of the contributions. Why don't you try something like 'With man pack and cable plough in Darkest Africa?'"

"I shan't try anything," said Desmond peevishly, "and you can just continue to read Part 2 Orders in THE WIRE."

# The Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals

*Headquarters: 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1 (Tel.: Victoria 9194)*

## Benevolent Fund

During the months of August and September, 1947, 136 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £731 1s. 6d.

*Summary of Grants disbursed*

| Purpose | No. of cases | Amount £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General assistance | 44 | 219 | 3 | 6 |
| Rent, rates and insurance | 10 | 50 | 10 | 0 |
| Cots and prams | 20 | 84 | 2 | 6 |
| Beds and bedding | 5 | 18 | 10 | 0 |
| Furniture deposits | 10 | 56 | 10 | 0 |
| Clothing | 6 | 42 | 10 | 0 |
| Hospital and doctors' bills | 12 | 53 | 15 | 4 |
| Convalescence | 5 | 15 | 16 | 0 |
| Spectacles and surgical appliances | 2 | 16 | 11 | 6 |
| Dentures | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Removals | 5 | 46 | 2 | 6 |
| Travelling expenses | 6 | 15 | 14 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation | 5 | 74 | 0 | 8 |
| Funeral expenses | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tools | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Legal expenses | 1 | 8 | 15 | 6 |
| Totals | 136 | 731 | 1 | 6 |

*Analysis*

Discharged or released soldiers, 97; widows of deceased soldiers, 12; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 19; B.A.O.R., 1; M.E.F., 6; S.E.A.C., 1.

*Donations received for the Fund*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2nd G.H.Q. Signal Regiment | 28 | 8 | 6 |
| 2nd Air Formation Signal Regiment | 600 | 14 | 11 |
| 8th Air Formation Signal Regiment | 329 | 14 | 0 |
| 11th L. of C. Signal Regiment | 112 | 15 | 0 |
| 5th Divisional Signal Regiment | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 78th Divisional Signal Regiment | 1293 | 1 | 8 |
| 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron | 142 | 16 | 8 |
| Royal Signals O.C.T.U. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) | | 13 | 0 |
| Western Command Signal Regiment | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hamburg District Signal Squadron | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Kent Coast Signal Troop | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Shoeburyness Signal Troop | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Thames Estuary, East Anglian Coast Signal Troop | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 133 Special Wireless Section | 33 | 13 | 1 |
| Headquarters Mess Royal Signals | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| Royal Signals M.E. Welfare Fund | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Brompton Dug Out Council | 161 | 11 | 8 |
| Major H. V. May | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Captain C. G. V. Wheeler | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Captain W. J. V. Holloway | | 5 | 0 |
| R.S.M. P. Johnstone | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| Mr. L. Baker | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. P. J. Hodges | | 15 | 0 |
| Mr. G. Harvard | | 10 | 0 |
| Headquarters Collection Box | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Total | 2,779 | 10 | 4 |

The Association acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of these subscriptions and donations.

## Information

*Clothes Rationing—Next Ration Period*

The Board of Trade has announced that the ration for the five months' period which began on 1st October will be 20 coupons. These are the yellow coupons on Page 111 of the Clothing Books, as follows:—

16 coupons marked E — value 1 each: 16
One set of ¼ coupons — value 1 each: 1
Two tokens marked F — value 1½ each: 3

All the coupons in the 1947-48 Clothing Books which are at present invalid should be very carefully kept, as this book will probably be made to last *two* years and these coupons will therefore be needed later.

All coupons from the 1945-46 and earlier books will be invalid after 31st October.

*Employment—Control of Engagement (Extracts)*

(i) The Control of Engagement Order, 1947, was made on 18th September, 1947, under Regulation 58A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, and came into force on Monday, 6th October, 1947. It will expire at the end of 1948.

(ii) With certain exceptions, all men aged 18 to 50 inclusive, and women aged 18 to 40 inclusive, are covered by the Order.

(iii) An employer may not engage or even seek to engage (e.g., by advertisement, poster or circular letter) any worker to whom the restrictions apply, otherwise than through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or an Employment Agency approved for the purpose.

Similarly, workers must obtain their employment through a Local Office of the Ministry or Employment Agency approved by the Ministry.

(iv) Certain persons are free to be engaged for employment without reference to a Local Office of the Ministry or approved Employment Agency; in particular:—

(a) Persons outside the age limits.

(b) Women with children of their own under 15 living with them.

(c) Members of H.M. Forces and Women's Services during the period of their paid resettlement leave.

(d) Men and women discharged from H.M. Forces who have reinstatement rights which they propose to exercise at once, or within a short period.

(e) Registered disabled persons.

Certain employments can also be taken without reference to a Local Office of the Ministry or approved Employment Agency; in particular:—

(f) Part-time employment for not more than 30 hours weekly, whether with one or more employers.

(g) Employment in a managerial, professional, administrative or executive capacity.

(h) Voluntary work.

Engagements in the Merchant Navy and in dock work are not subject to the Order, as recruitment in them is governed by special arrangements.

(v) Those normally employed in Agriculture and Coal Mining can move freely between these jobs, but cannot be engaged for any employment outside these industries except through a Local Office of the Ministry or approved Employment Agency. Agriculture for this purpose includes forestry and horticulture, but not employment in a sports ground, park or private garden, which must be arranged through a Local Office of the Ministry.

All persons outside these two industries may be freely engaged in either Agriculture or Coal Mining.

(vi) The restrictions apply, subject to the exceptions set out in the Order, to engagements in this country for employment abroad, and, if the engagement is made in this country, to the engagement of persons living abroad for employment in this country.

*Employment—Limited Direction of Labour*

General Rules governing the use of power of direction to employment, which is contained in Defence Regulation 58A(1):—

(a) Workers will be given as wide a choice as possible amongst available jobs on essential work. In the last resort, a direction may be issued to take the most important suitable employment available. Permits may be issued to workers covered by the Order where the Local Office considers that they can better get work by their own efforts.

(b) Where essential work is not available within the daily travelling distance of their homes, single men and women without family responsibilities will be offered essential work in other districts provided suitable accommodation is available. In the last resort, directions to such work may be issued. Women under 20 years of age, however, will not be directed away from home.

(c) Men with family responsibilities will not, in general, be directed to take employment which would require their living away from home. Where, in special cases, they are so directed, they would be entitled to living-away-from-home allowances under the conditions of the existing schemes. Women with family responsibilities will not be directed away from home.

(d) Every effort will be made to place the worker on essential work in his normal occupation. After a period of fourteen days, however, if the worker still remains unemployed, he will be offered suitable employment in some other occupation on essential work. If necessary, a direction may be issued.

(e) A direction will remain in force for a limited period; normally six months, after which the worker will be free to leave the employment, unless a further direction is issued.

(f) Any worker to whom a direction to employment is issued will be given an opportunity of appealing against the direction to the Local Appeal Board.

(g) Before issuing a direction to employment, a person may in some cases receive a direction, under Defence Regulation 80B, requiring him to submit himself for medical examination, or for an interview.

*Control of Employment Order, 1943*

This Order provides that:—

(a) The employer may not dismiss a directed person (except for serious misconduct) while the direction is in force;

(b) the directed person or his employer may apply to a National Service Officer for the direction to be withdrawn so that the employment may be terminated;

(c) where a directed person applies for the withdrawal of a direction on the ground that he is stood off by his employer from his work without wages, the National Service Officer, if he is satisfied that this is the case, must withdraw the direction, provided that the application is made within seven days;

(d) the directed person may appeal to the Local Appeal Board against dismissal for serious misconduct, and after the appeal has been heard a National Service Officer may direct his reinstatement if the Board is of the opinion that the dismissal was not justified on that ground;

(e) the directed person or his employer may appeal to the Local Appeal Board against the decision of a National

Service Officer to withdraw or to refuse to withdraw the direction;

(f) the wages payable for the work to which a person is directed must not be less than "the rate for the job," and the conditions of service must be the "standard conditions." Regard must be had, before a person is directed to a job, to any joint industrial agreement or any decision of a Conciliation Body or similar body, or in the absence of these, to the wages and conditions prevailing among good employers in the district.

# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

### Birmingham

Winter approaches somewhat reluctantly this year, but our thoughts are beginning to turn to roaring log fires, hot bottles, music and whisky, roast pork, firkins of beer and good company. Let us pause on the edge of the pavement and check up. Hot music? Well, if that's what they call it. Good company? Yes, I think we can safely count that in. The Crown Hotel, Broad Street, at about 8 p.m. on the last Thursday in the month, except, of course, in December, when we shall all have previous engagements. Talking about food, if we were, reminds me to tell you that the annual dinner scheduled for 23rd January, 1948, has now been labelled "just a good idea." Regulations have effectively ruled this proposition right out. As you read this, I shall probably be shaking my head and trying to sort out my impressions of our Annual Armistice Dance due to take place on 11th November at the Cateswell House Drill Hall, Hall Green. The floor is not what it was in 1939, due partly to an old R.E. habit of driving a bulldozer over it, but this grand gathering promises much fun. The loss of the basic petrol ration may prevent a number of people attending. Since starting to write this, I find that the Birmingham all-night bus service is to be suspended. Well, it's a hard life. There isn't much left, is there? Log fires? Well, if you live in the country, yes, but certainly not roaring if you are tucked away in the city. We can perhaps dream about the other items. A few more of the 800 members of this branch might also dream about attending our monthly meetings, and then do something about making the dream come true. Your friends are asking for you. All our members would like it to be known that they appreciate very much the interesting news contained in Unit Notes. They are always glad to hear about the activities of their old friends. Tell us more.

BARLEUX

### Coventry

The dance held in October was a great success. We expected that due to the Coventry bus strikes, attendances would be very poor, but such is the enthusiasm locally that the lads turned up in good numbers. Most walked, but push bikes were a popular means of transport. All expenses were covered and a small profit made, which will be a help to the Branch funds.

The November meeting will be held at the Charterhouse on 4th, and will be the usual monthly gathering. For December, we plan to hold a Grand Christmas Party and Dance at the Charterhouse. This will be on the 2nd, and a lot of fun has been planned—it should be a record night. Members will be notified individually—full details later on.

### Scarborough

The Scarborough Branch of the Old Comrades' Association is now firmly established, and many happy memories have been revived. Royal Signals and Scarborough have long been connected, so a strong and virile branch of the Old Comrades' Association is a natural consequence. Attendances at Branch meetings are good, and many Service friendships have been renewed. The Branch officers and committee are: President, Major P. Harding, Royal Signals; Vice-President, Mr. J. Hart; Secretary, Mr. F. J. Kelly; Assistant Secretary, Major Hunt, Royal Signals; Treasurer, Mr. C. Ginders; Auditors, Messrs. J. Newman and P. Cahill; Committee, Messrs. Maylin, Carter, Stowe and Robinson.

As a means of keeping the Corps spirit alive in Scarborough, an ambitious social programme has been arranged for the entertainment of Branch members and friends. A series of weekly whist drives is already under way, and dances are also contemplated. More news in this respect will be given later. Arrangements for a "get together" dinner, dance and social evening are in hand. This will be open to members of the Branch, their wives, and families. It has also been suggested that Christmas parties for wives and dependants of deceased Royal Signals personnel be held. Negotiations in this respect are proceeding. Certainly this Branch will do something to make them realise that they are not forgotten by the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association.

Scarborough Branch are pleased to report that suitable accommodation for a Royal Signals Memorial Holiday Home exists in Scarborough, and that H.Q. are proceeding with negotiations for the purchase of this.

C. Ginders ("Polly") would like to hear from Ted Paul, believed to be living in the Norwich area. Write to him at 65, Nelson Street, Scarborough.

### Aberdeen

A Children's Picnic was held on Saturday, 9th August, at Hazelhead, Aberdeen, and this proved an outstanding success, not only for the young ones but for their elders, too. A great many thanks are extended to those who put in some hard work to ensure that this venture would be a magnificent achievement.

Now that the Club is getting back to its old status and working in conjunction with the newly-formed T.A., a rather interesting programme has been drawn up for the winter season.

Badminton began on the 1st of the month, and continues to 28th April, 1948. The spacious accommodation (three courts), which stood the test of these swift-moving enthusiasts last year, has again been allotted to them, and we wish them every success against their opponents.

A Dance has been arranged for each month, beginning on 10th October, until 26th March, 1948, when it is hoped that large attendances will be forthcoming on each occasion.

As is our usual practice, we are to hold a Children's Party on Saturday, 27th December, but fuller details will be given later.

Our efforts at the Club are being combined with those of the T.A., and the latter are giving most valuable assistance.

A. SMITH,
Club Secretary.

### Central Scotland Branch (Stirling)

Membership of the Branch now numbers 140, a figure which is considered to be quite good for an area such as this. There are, however, a number of ex-members of the Royal Signals in the district who have not yet joined the Association. It is up to all existing members to do their utmost to get others to join. Remember—it is your Association! The stronger we are, the more good we can do.

We are informed that recruiting for the local Territorial Squadron of the Corps is progressing favourably. A number of Association members have joined. Recruiting takes place at the Goosecroft Drill Hall, Stirling, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30 p.m. till 9.30 p.m., and the Permanent Staff Instructor—Sergeant Panther—is in attendance during office hours all the week.

Future activities of the Association are as follows:—

14th November. A Dance is to be held on Friday, 14th November, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. A good band and a good floor (Goosecroft Drill Hall). Full particulars at Smoker and in local Press.

20th December. Children's Christmas Party. The idea is to get the families together and broaden the scope of our activities.

### Liverpool

This is our first effort, but will not be the last, we are hoping, through the medium of THE WIRE, to be able to contact all who have served or are serving in Signals to become members of our local branch and thus continue the friendship fostered during their period of service. Any men who have served in Signals, either Regular, Supplementary Reserve, R.E. Signals or Territorial Army, can become a member by joining any Friday evening at Signal House, Score Lane, Queens Drive. Subscriptions:—Annual: Officers, 5/-; other ranks, 2/-. Life member: Officers, £5; other ranks, 30/-.

We have a membership of approximately 250, and that, for a large city like Liverpool, is a small contribution. Functions are held, one being a dance held on the 30th August, which was well patronised. The next was a Re-Union Dinner and Concert held on the 13th September. Eighty-three members actually sat down to dinner, and I am sure that I can record the fact that a good evening was spent by all who attended, and judging by the "empties" left around there was no doubt of the success. Many who attended are asking "When is the next?" We had many guests, our chief being the General Secretary, Brigadier E. J. Murphy, who gave those present an insight into the activities of what the Association does and can do to all deserving cases when the necessity arises. Our other guests were as follows:—Colonel R. Baron, Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley, Colonel Ashley, Major Sawers (Staff Officer), Western Command, Majors Rutherford and Reid, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Ellison, Officer Commanding 22 Corps Signals (T.A.), Captain and Adjutant L. J. Brunnen, Lieutenant-Colonel I. S. G. Mackenzie, Major T. H. Kinder and many others too numerous to name. The photograph taken on the occasion will serve the same purpose. We are in a fortunate position, having as a chairman a well and truly tried soldier and, for the benefit of ex-Maresfield clients, his name is Captain and Quartermaster F. C. W. Bennett, who is now settled in Liverpool and carrying on the good work of Quartermaster to the 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A. Then we have our Honorary Secretary, who will be remembered by all those, chiefly "D" Company, who served in the Depot at Maresfield Park, Sussex, his name is F. J. Johnsey, settled in civvy life but still doing a good job by looking after the welfare of any who have served in Signals. We also had the pleasure of another old soldier who retired on pension and joined the "Commissionaires," his name is Jim Tracey.

May I, as your Secretary, take this opportunity of asking all of you who are members for your full support in carrying out my duties? You can assist in many ways, you can also bring back some of our lost members and persuade those whom you know to join, and to those of you who read THE WIRE and have been demobilised, or are about to be, don't forget to join your "Local Branch." Come up any Friday evening and join in the party, you will be welcome.

Our Entertainments Committee will be meeting shortly to plot the winter entertainments.

Look out for our regular monthly notes.

Reunion dinner of the Liverpool Branch, 13th September, 1947

# Sports Notes

### Rugby

The following are the fixtures for the Royal Signals (Catterick) R.F.C. for the current season, with results up to time of going to press:—

| Date | Opponents | Ground | Result |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 6 | Percy Park | North Shields | Scratched |
| ,, 13 | Huddersfield | Huddersfield | Won 16—3 |
| ,, 17 | Melrose | Melrose | Lost 9—12 |
| ,, 20 | Durham City | Catterick | Won 35—3 |
| Oct. 4 | Constantine Tech. College | Middlesbrough | Won 48—0 |
| † ,, 8 | St. Mary's Hospital | London | Won 17—3 |
| ,, 11 | Huddersfield | Catterick | Won 14—3 |
| † ,, 22 | R.A.M.C. | Catterick | Scratched by R.A.M.C. |
| † ,, 29 | Royal Artillery | Woolwich | |
| Nov. 15 | Hillhead High School F.P. | Glasgow | |
| † ,, 26 | R.A.O.C. | Catterick | |
| †Dec. 3 | Royal Engineers | Catterick | |
| ,, 10 | St. Bartholomew's Hospital | London | |
| ,, 13 | Headingley | Catterick | |
| † ,, 17 | R.E.M.E. | Arborfield | |
| ,, 20 | Glasgow University | Glasgow | |
| †Jan. 14 | R.A.M.C. | Crookham | |
| ,, 24 | Roundhay | Roundhay | |
| † ,, 31 | Heriot's F.P. | Edinburgh | |
| †Feb. 14 | Oxford Univ. Greyhounds | Oxford | |
| ,, 21 | Sunderland | Sunderland | |
| † ,, 28 | R.M.A. | Sandhurst | |
| Mar. 6 | Percy Park | Catterick | |
| † ,, 10 | R.A.O.C. | Chilwell | |
| ,, 27 | Billingham | Catterick | |
| † ,, 28 | Metropolitan Police | Hendon | Easter |
| ,, 29 | Pontypridd | Pontypridd | Tour |
| ,, 30 | Maesteg | Maesteg | |
| Apr. 10 | Constantine Tech. College | Catterick | |
| ,, 17 | Roundhay | Catterick | |
| | —Invitation Seven-a-Side Tournament | Catterick | Date to be notified later |

† *Corps Representative Matches*

### Association Football

SIGNALS WIN F.A. AMATEUR CUP PRELIMINARY AND 1st ROUNDS

Eight members of No. 3 Training Regiment were among the Royal Signals (Catterick) eleven which beat Washington Welfare eleven by two goals to one in the preliminary round of the F.A. Amateur Cup on the Command Central Ground, Catterick, on Saturday, 27th September, 1947.

Both of the Signals goals were scored by centre-forward Jones, who played fine football throughout the whole game. Perhaps the best performance on the field was that of right-half Sergeant Morgan, who gave an outstanding exhibition of high-speed footwork and ball control. A member also of the Corps Cricket eleven, he is one of the Camp's best all-round sportsmen.

* * *

In the first round of the Cup, Royal Signals, playing at home, beat Wearmouth Colliery Welfare by five goals to two, after extra time.

### Golf

The second post-war meeting of the Royal Signals Golf Society was held on the 28th and 29th of August on the Berkshire Course, near Ascot.

The first day's play over 36 holes was for the Championship and Handicap Challenge Cups, both of which were won by Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, who was in excellent form all day. Several of the twenty-seven entrants started off well, only to be punished later in the heather and various other hazards which awaited those who went off the fairway.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Lewis-Barclay won the Bogey Singles the following morning with a score of five up Captain H. B. de M. Hunter looked like being unbeatable with five up and four to play, but the situation deteriorated from the 15th tee onwards, and he finished only one up to gain second place.

In the afternoon Bogey Foursomes, Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis-Barclay and Major J. B. Melhuish repeated their last year's success with a modest all square, their nearest challengers being Major C. Rhys-Few and Captain J. Osborn, who finished two down.

It was suggested at the meeting that more players would attend each year if it were better advertised and also if the date was fixed well in advance. To this end, it has been decided to compile a register of golfers in the Corps, including Territorial Army, retired and released officers. Will those concerned please drop a postcard to the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Golf Society, Headquarters School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, stating their permanent address, handicap (if any) and present unit and station. They will then be sure of being kept in the picture about golfing activities.

Next year's annual meeting will be held at Fleet on 26th and 27th of August. Please make a note of the date and tell your golfing friends.

### Hockey

The following is the list of fixtures for Royal Signals (Catterick) Hockey Club for 1947-48:—

| Date | Opponents | Ground | Result |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. 11 | Bradford H.C. | Bradford | Won 9—1 |
| ,, 22 | Manchester University | Manchester | |
| ,, 25 | School of Mil. Eng. | Catterick | |
| †Nov. 5 | R.A.S.C. | Feltham | |
| † ,, 8 | R.A.O.C. | Aldershot | |
| † ,, 12 | R.A.M.C. | Crookham | |
| † ,, 15 | Royal Artillery | Woolwich | |
| Dec. 3 | Leeds University | Leeds | |
| † ,, 10 | R.M.A.S. | Camberley | |
| Jan. 10 | Watsonians | Edinburgh | |
| ,, 27 | Darlington Nomads | Catterick | |
| Feb. 4 | St. Andrew's University | St. Andrew's | |
| † ,, 7 | R.A.S.C. | Catterick | |
| † ,, 11 | R.A.M.C. | Catterick | |
| ,, 18 | Leeds University | Catterick | |
| † ,, 21 | Royal Engineers | Ripon | |
| Mar. 3 | Manchester University | Catterick | |
| ,, 27 | Norton-on-Tees H.C. | Catterick | |
| Apr. 10 | Bradford H.C. | Catterick | |

† *Corps representative matches*

### Athletics

The No. 1 Training Regiment Athletic Team, which, as reported last month in that Unit's notes, was outstandingly successful in the Catterick District Team Championships. Names from left to right:—

Back row: Lance-Corporal O. I. Goddard, Signalman R. Davies, Signalman J. Graham, Lance-Corporal A. N. Urquhart, Signalman H. Rabinovitch, Signalman M. E. F. Gray, Signalman D. Lowe. Centre row: Corporal K. Newcombe, Corporal H. J. Arnott, Signalman J. M. Miller, Corporal N. Jefferson, Signalman G. R. Milner, Signalman O. Babidge, Lance-Corporal A. N. Cooper, Signalman R. Wooster. Front row: Corporal K. Forster, Second-Lieutenant G. Kitchen, Lieut.-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Lieutenant A. G. Smith (team captain), Captain C. Waugh, Sergeant W. R. Craig, Corporal F. A. Hutchinson

# THE WIRE

VOL. I (New Series) No. 14

DECEMBER 1947

# THE WIRE

*The Corps Magazine of the*
**ROYAL SIGNALS**

*The Official Organ of the*
**SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

*All correspondence and notes for "The Wire" should be addressed to: The Editor, "The Wire," 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

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**PRICE: ONE SHILLING**


# Editorial

ON behalf of all our readers, we beg to convey our loyal duty and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief. We also wish to express our sympathy with her in the disappointment she must have suffered through being unable, owing to indisposition, to attend the wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth on the 20th of November last.

*The Editor and Staff send the best of wishes for Christmas to all readers*

## ROYAL SIGNALS WAR MEMORIAL

The form that the Royal Signals War Memorial should take has been under consideration for some time by the Royal Signals Corps Committee, after the opinion of members of the Corps had been sought on several alternative suggestions.

The original and most popular scheme was the establishment of a Royal Signals Club as near as possible to the heart of London. On investigation by a sub-committee it was found that the prices of suitable properties were prohibitive, and would absorb all the available funds, leaving nothing over for furnishing and equipping.

The second choice in order of voting by members of the Corps was the financing of a number of small Royal Signals Clubs, dispersed as evenly as possible throughout the U.K. The proposal was considered by the Committee, who decided that the best method of implementing it would be to select eight suitable branches of the Royal Signals Association in widely separated cities and towns and offer about £3,000 to each towards the establishing of the clubs. The idea was developed and published in a letter to the Chairmen of Branches of the Royal Signals Association in February, 1947 (copies throughout the Corps under CC 284, 12th March, 1947).

This scheme also had to be abandoned, as the proposed grants would not even cover the purchase of suitable premises without the necessary furnishings.

The Committee then considered other alternatives, and after discussion agreed that the following plan, which had been favourably received by the Corps, would be adopted.

The Royal Signals War Memorial is to take the form of two "Royal Signals Memorial Holiday Clubs."

One club is to be located in the Bournemouth area and one in the Scarborough area. They need not be in the towns, but may be; they must, however, be easily accessible and in pleasant localities.

Each club to have about ten bedrooms and adequate cooking and dining

facilities. The cost of each to be not more than £12,500 freehold, and furnished, or £10,000 freehold and unfurnished. The property *must* be freehold.

Chief Signal Officers of Southern and Northern Commands to be asked to assist, in association with representatives of the local branches of the Royal Signals Association, in the finding of suitable premises in the Bournemouth and Scarborough areas respectively, and to submit recommendations to the Committee. (The Chairman wrote to the C.S.O.s on 17th August, 1947, asking them to do this.)

Three Rolls of Honour, each to include the names of all officers and other ranks, Royal Signals, who lost their lives in the 1939/1945 War, would be prepared, one for each of the Holiday Clubs and one for Catterick Camp.

Details of staffing of the Holiday Clubs, tariffs, methods of dealing with applications for accommodation, rules, etc., etc., will be worked out at a later date, when suitable properties have been obtained.

The Committee is encouraged to think that the third scheme will succeed, because the locations chosen are in good holiday resorts which have long seasons and also from a list of available houses in Bournemouth produced by the Bournemouth Branch, Royal Signals Association, a few months ago it was apparent that premises could be bought there within the limits set out above.

Progress will be reported by means of circular letters throughout the Corps and branches of the Royal Signals Association from time to time, and if possible the opening of the clubs will be notified in the Press in due course.

* * *

**PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED**

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:—

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 18th October and 8th November.

R.E.M.E., November.

THE WASP, October.

THE THISTLE, October.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, 31st October.

## Royal Signals Diaries, 1948

Owing to the increase in purchase tax the prices of diaries are now as follows:

Wallets **18/2**

Leather diaries **4/4**

Cloth diaries **3/-**

Refills **2/-**

We regret that there are now no more Cloth diaries in stock, but we can supply Service diaries instead.

## Signals Come Back to Kirkburton

Reprinted from the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner*

FROM Cornwall and Cumberland, and even from the Hebrides, came former officers and men of No. 3 Holding Battalion and Mobilisation Centre of the Royal Signals to Huddersfield during the last week-end in October, to swap post-war experiences and to revisit their war-time home, Kirkburton.

They were the signalmen, together with ex-A.T.S. girls, who formed the permanent cadre for six months or more at Kirkburton, and also at the unit's reception centre in Station Street, Huddersfield. Many of the ex-soldiers brought their wives.

One, Mr. A. Carmichael, made the long trip from his island home of Jura in the Hebrides—as he did at the first gathering of the Reunion Club last year—and in order to reach Huddersfield in time had to catch the steamer from Jura on the Monday previous to the reunion. Two others flew from Germany. Altogether about 100 were present.

Most of them made a week-end of the reunion, which was really a "double event." Not only did they meet their old comrades again, but they took the opportunity of revisiting the numerous friends they made at Kirkburton. Many, indeed, were the week-end guests of the Kirkburton families they knew during the war.

While the Battalion were in this district, from 1940-6, hundreds of thousands of signalmen, on their way from training centres to places overseas, were passed through the unit. "Wherever the Royal Signals were, in Burma or the Middle East, you were sure to meet a signalman who had been to Kirkburton," Major F. R. Hibberd (the former Adjutant) told an *Examiner* reporter.

"Many of us in the permanent cadre were taken into homes here and treated like sons," he went on. "Because of that it was decided to hold the annual reunion in Huddersfield every time, rather than go to various towns in turn."

Hand-shaking and preliminary chats preceded the second reunion dinner, held at the Greenhead Masonic Hall on the Saturday. There followed dancing to Paul Dickinson and his Music-Makers.

**Plaque Unveiled**

A special Service of Remembrance in connection with the reunion was held in Kirkburton Church on the Sunday. A large attendance included the Chairman, Clerk, and members of the Kirkburton Council, besides many of the past officers and members of the unit.

The service was conducted by Canon M. A. Maddocks (Vicar of Kirkburton) and the address was given by the Rev. E. L. Facey, the last chaplain to the unit, who is now Vicar of Paddock, Huddersfield. The lesson was read by Major H. Hall, Royal Signals, an officer of the unit.

During the service a bronze memorial plaque recording the appreciation of the Royal Corps of Signals of the hospitality extended to its members by the church and inhabitants of Kirkburton during the war years was unveiled by Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips (representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals), supported by Brigadier F. S. Straight (Commandant, School of Signals). Above the plaque hangs a Royal Signals flag, which was presented to the church last year.

At the end of the service the clergy, choir, and congregation moved in procession to the Kirkburton War Memorial, where a wreath from the Royal Signals Reunion Club was laid by General Phillips.

# Home Stations

## ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

*November*

*Pass Off Parade.* The salute at the Pass Off Parade on Tuesday, 14th October, 1947, of Course 188 was taken by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian G. Horrocks, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C.-in-Chief Western Command. The Senior Under-Officer was Officer-Cadet R. P. Spalding, and the award of the Commandant's cane was made to Officer-Cadet J. R. Mackie.

*R.E. O.C.T.U. Visit.* An Inter-O.C.T.U. Sports Meeting was arranged with the Royal Engineers on Saturday, 18th October, 1947. Some nine officers and 80 officer-cadets from the Sappers made the journey. The programme included the following items:—Rugby, hockey, soccer, cross-country, golf, shooting, boxing, basketball, and squash. A variety concert party put on during the preceding evening enabled us to meet our opposite numbers, the visit being wound up by a dance, which was, to judge from the crowded floor, a great success.

Our Sapper visitors, by beating us at hockey, cross-country, basketball, squash, and golf, won by five events to four. We won the rugger, soccer, shooting, and boxing events. The rugger match was a close and exciting event with us winning the match on a free kick by 14 points to 13. In the shooting match, which we won by 378 to 364, Officer-Cadet R. Walker scored 98 points out of a possible of 100 points. Walker seems to be well on the way to leaving this O.C.T.U. with a complete set of silver spoons. He has scored two possibles during the month, thereby winning his fourth spoon.

The boxing events were well contested and we ran out victors by 11 points to 10.

*Music Club.* Perhaps the most outstanding event to record of the Club's activities for October was the Club's visit to Darlington. This was made on the occasion of Mierowski's Chopin recital. All members of the party were highly appreciative of the Club President's enterprise, which provided a very delightful musical treat.

*Mountaineering Club.* There are many ways of spending a week-end; for the newly-formed Mountaineering Club there can be only one way, and that is by climbing. During the week ending 26th October the Club met at Glenridding Camp. The programme meant that the party had to split into three parts. Four members for the rock climbing were taken on to Coniston; from there they walked to Dowcrag. Climbing on two ropes, the following climbs were negotiated: Southern Slabs, Giant's Corner, Murray's Route, Hyacinth Route (including the second ascent of a direct variation on a pitch), Brodrick's Crack, Woodhouse's Route, and C. Ordinary.

Five of these routes are classed as severe and two difficult.

From Dow Crag summit one climber traversed on to the summit of Coniston Old Man, and descended to Coniston, whilst the others returned via the Walna Scar Track.

The second party tackled the gentle High Street and rejoined the main party at Glenridding.

*Congratulations.* Our congratulations go to the M.T.O. and the M.T. Troop, not forgetting the M.T.O. and his vehicle mechanics, on the result of "The Order of Merit in Vehicle Maintenance" for the last quarterly inspection. As a result of their hard work and close co-operation, the unit heads the list for the district.

## No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

*November*

REGIMENTAL H.Q. The long Indian summer is over and the Vimy prospect is quickly reverting to its cold, bleak, and usual damp self. Coal issues remain a subject of constant interest! The rapid turn round of officers continues, and we have said "Au revoir" to familiar faces and welcomed new arrivals. The overseas roster claimed our Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) F. C. V. Harris, and Captain (T.O.M.) H. A. Fuller, M.B.E., who are on to the boat to M.E.L.F., while Captain (T.O.M.) I. M. A. Jones, in the hope of exploring fresh fields and pastures new, has left for F.A.R.E.L.F. Captain L. R. D. Willmott, M.M., B.E.M., has been posted after a sojourn with the Regiment of about one week. Two other losses were Captain W. McCready and Lieutenant J. Handy, who have been chosen as Personnel Selection Officers at P.T.C.s. Major R. Jarvis, late chief instructor, has been "acquired" by R.E.M.E. on short service commission.

Those who have joined us include Major G. D. K. Woolrych as chief instructor, Captain (Q.M.) G. P. Murray (ex No. 2 Egypt Command Signal Regiment) as quartermaster, and Captain L. R. Griffiths from 1st Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. Captains Brunton-Douglas and James have arrived from 8th Army Signal Regiment, Lieutenant (T.M.O.) H. Foskett from 6th Airborne, and Lieutenant Grayson, late of Iraq Signal Squadron. We also welcome Second-Lieutenants Lubbock, Watson, and Nott-Bower.

The training of "A" tradesmen continues with the omnipresent problems of supply of instructors and shortages caused by release. To increase production off "the belt," time spent on training has been considerably reduced. Staggering training officers will soon seriously consider the merits of 24-hour staggered shift working!

The WS10 experts of the unit have recently been in great demand—one team toured the country in a recruiting drive while the other team contributed to a demonstration at Radiolympia. Some of the cadre paid a week-end visit to the latter exhibition and came away duly impressed by all they saw.

The twice-weekly dances in the N.A.A.F.I. are steadily increasing in popularity, as witness the fact that a number of the fair sex come from as far afield as West Hartlepool. There must be some fatal attraction about us!

Congratulations to Corporal Miller and Lance-Corporal Seddon upon their recent marriages. Our very best wishes go to both for the future.

A most successful new venture is the Royal Signals (Catterick) Rugby Clubhouse, inaugurated by the C.O. The clubhouse is the former Sergeants' Mess behind Vimy N.A.A.F.I. With voluntary labour, the block was transformed into a brightly decorated and well-equipped club. Billiards, a bar, and buffet are among the attractions offered, while lectures and films on rugger are popular features. Membership of the club is open to any playing or non-playing members of the Corps by payment of a modest monthly subscription.

*Soccer.* After a disappointing start, both 1st XI and 2nd XI are settling down for the season. We were successful in the first round of the Garrison Knock-out Competition

and hope to repeat the performance in the second round.

Results to date:—

1st XI—Won 3, lost 3, drawn 1, goals for 20 against 23.

2nd XI—Won 6, lost 4, drawn 1, goals for 31, against 21.

*Hockey.* The Regimental hockey team were winners of Catterick Garrison Hockey League for the season 1946-47, and are shaping well so far this year. Having won all six matches played to date, they head the league with 12 points. The following were awarded winner medals for last season: Major Dickson, Captain Waugh, Lieutenant A. G. Smith, R.S.M. Gully, R.Q.M.S. Charlton, S.S.M. Trott, S.Q.M.S.s Clarke, Cutter, and Langley, Sergeants Davis and Stanier, and Lance-Corporal Urquart. The team this year is changed somewhat and further losses are expected, due to overseas postings.

*Cross-Country Running.* This year an S.T.C. League has been started, in which all the Regiments participate with teams of fifteen runners, of which twelve count. At the time of writing, the third run of a series of seven has been completed, and the regiment stands third on the league table, which is a drop of one place. The league is run on a handicap basis whereby the first ten runners of each run are relegated to a fast pack. Signalmen Rodgers, Davies, and Garney represent the Regiment in the Royal Signals (Catterick) team competing in the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League, which Signals head by a margin of 16 points from Darlington Harriers.

*Basketball.* The Regimental team played one game in the Catterick District League *v.* No. 6 Training Regiment, and were unfortunate in losing a very close game.

The results of the Inter-Squadron semi-finals were:

No. 2 Squadron 24 pts. *v.* No. 3 Squadron 7 pts.

Boys' Squadron 24 pts. *v.* Administration Squadron 17 pts.

Both games were of a very high standard, and a second Regimental team will be selected in the near future.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* We are a very large family at the moment—approximately 120 strong, including the R.A.E.C. personnel attached to Boys' Squadron and Kemmel Education Centre. Amongst the older members we have a few notable characters whose fame has gone before them, or has it?—Tommy Blades, who, so they say, once tended the tender "blades" of Scotton Field; Bill Trott, who is rumoured to be the paternal parent of one "Kipper" Boynton, and is, despite the march of time, a tower of strength in the hockey team; "Jumbo" Charlton, also a star of hockey, is leaving us shortly for another overseas tour; "Sheriff" Hargreaves is still father confessor in the Boys' Squadron. Amongst recent arrivals we have R.S.M. Robinson, S.S.M. Johnny Judge, S.S.M. Phillips, and S.Q.M.S. Powner from Scottish Command. Sergeants Allistone, Coomber, Foan, Langley, and Sugden are now all "Mr." and are back in civvies. Sergeant Danks now occupies a place in the Training Office but is off to B.A.O.R. soon. S.Q.M.S. King, last seen stripping Valentine tanks on his Vehicle Mechanic's Course, has left for overseas. Our R.S.M., Frankie Barry, is well known from Boys' Squadron days and has been at the helm since early this year. There is plenty of social activity in the Garrison these days, and in fact it is quite a problem fitting in the monthly dance with all the other activities.

BOYS' SQUADRON. Several reforms in the training programme of the Squadron were introduced some months ago. These included greater emphasis on education and the curriculum was amended accordingly. The first fruits of the venture are now visible and the following are to be congratulated on passing the School Certificate Examination:—Sergeant Boy J. Blake, Sergeant Boy G. Dunn, Sergeant Boy J. A. Webb, Lance-Corporal Boy A. Pollard, Boy G. A. Fletcher, Boy A. R. Jarratt, Boy P. McAllister. As this is the first time Army boys have been trained for this examination, the 70 per cent. pass list is a fine achievement for boys and instructors alike.

## No. 5 TRAINING REGIMENT

*November*

From the mellow climes of Catterick, No. 5 Training Regiment has moved to the tiny village of Tholthorpe, half an hour's bus ride from York. Yet despite its isolation, made bearable by the ministrations of such personalities as Lieutenant-Colonel Good, Major Waldron, Major Oliver, Lieutenant Walsh, Captain Webber, Captain Greaves and Captain Tucker, it has maintained a close liaison in sports with its fellow training constellations of Royal Signals.

In the world of boxing, a notable sphere of this Regiment's sporting activities, Corporal Murphy is no newcomer. The team's successes at Catterick, supported by over 200 of its enthusiastic "fans," achieved further laurels. In football it has not been so fortunate, but the Regimental team, which, in addition to its normal commitments, battles ferociously against surrounding village teams, is no mean loser, and gives as much as it receives. However, it is to the honour of the Regiment that Corporal Bower has played for the Army against such renowned teams as Aston Villa and Everton.

One of the brightest stars in the Signals' solar system is Lance-Corporal Nicholson, the Army high jump champion, whose jump of 6 feet 1 inch gives an added glow to the sports record of No. 5 Training Regiment.

The D.R. Display Team, after its spectacular tour, has returned home to roost, and it is perhaps poetic justice that R.S.M. Thompson, one of its earlier members, should have been posted here recently. Mr. Cunningham still carries the baton of R.S.M., but the fluctuation of S.Q.M.S.s and S.S.M.s has kept the Unit in a state of flux. S.S.M. Smith still holds sway over D.R. Squadron, and a recent arrival has been S.S.M. Ormond.

As a token of the immense price paid for the victories of two wars, a wreath of poppies was laid on behalf of the Regiment on Helperby War Memorial, a gesture much appreciated by the local populace.

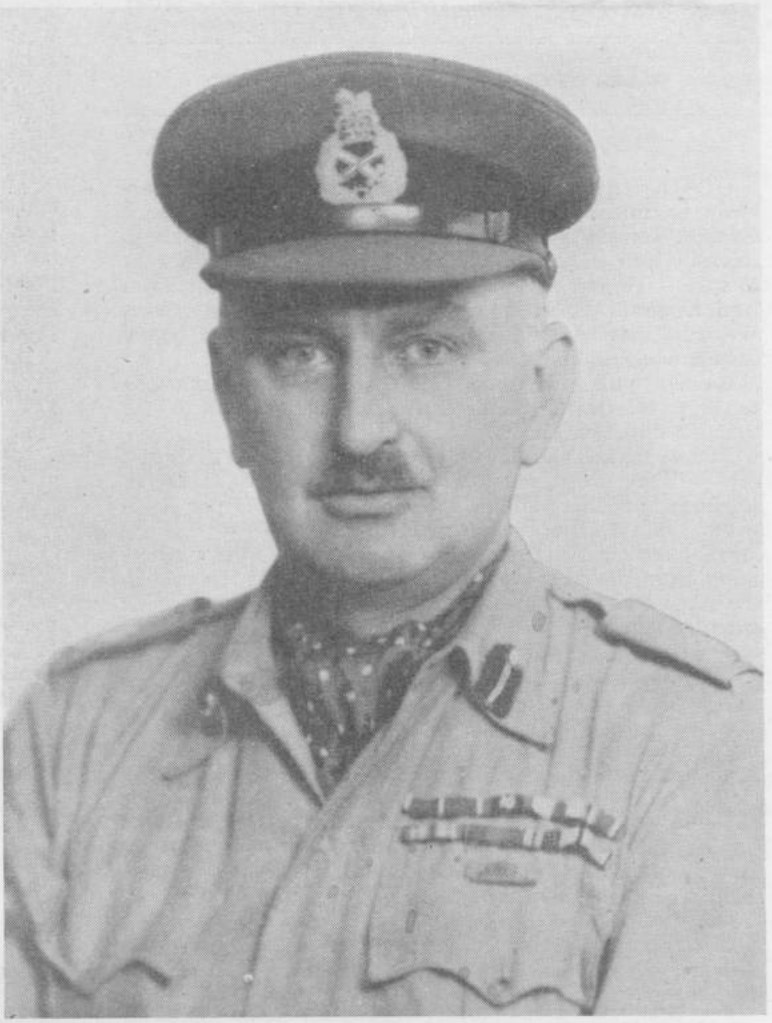
The severing from its parent body has not left the Regiment gasping for breath. It has its own well-attended dances in the much-maligned but gratefully-utilised Unit Cinema, and a promising aero-modelling club, while Major Waldron, as P.R.I., deserves the thanks of all home-going personnel for providing motor coaches to the leading centres of civilisation.

It is hoped that the Royal Signals Band, which paid us a welcome summer visit, will call again. Illustrating that we are not completely forgotten, it was warmly received on its own merits.

The Regiment has begun to settle into its new role with praiseworthy versatility, and one waits in confidence for the monsoon season or winter, which ever comes first.

"SINICUS"

(*continued on page* 376)



# *Brigadier*

# *R. H. R. Steward*

***C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.***

THE outstanding feature of the career of Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., is the variety of active service which it has covered. He saw service in two major wars and in nearly every "incident" between them. With one short exception his whole service has been with the Corps, but that this can be done without detriment to an officer's career is shown by the honours and awards which he has won and the esteem in which he is held by the higher commanders of the Army.

This wide range of service is Signals, and a priceless sense of humour which is keenest when he is relating stories against himself, have made Brigadier Steward one of the wisest and most likeable officers we have.

As a young man he had probably more narrow escapes than the average. He can tell any number of stories on the subject, ranging from an escape from death when a horse he was riding bolted and, on colliding head-on with a lorry, considerately broke its own neck rather than its riders, to the comparatively harmless incidents which befell the owners of motorcycles and light cars of the 1920 age.

Apart from ordinary tours of foreign service, Brigadier Steward took part in the incidents in Chanak, Shanghai, Cyprus, and Palestine, virtually all the sort of service which keeps the British Army busy in peace-time.

Without excelling in any particular game, Brigadier Steward was always a useful member of any side, playing cricket and hockey for the Corps when he happened to be at home, and enjoying what hunting and shooting he could get.

Reginald Herbert Ryrie Steward was born in 1898, and commissioned Second Lieutenant, Royal Engineers, in 1916. He was posted to R.E. Signals and went to France, winning the Military Cross as a subaltern.

In 1919 he was one of a number of young regular officers who came home to form the nucleus of the Signal Training Centre, becoming Adjutant of the Training Battalion at Maresfield in 1920, when he began his first tour abroad at the Dardenelles during the Chanak incident.

On the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Turkey in late 1923, Lieutenant Steward spent a tour at home, and went to Shanghai at the beginning of 1926. After two years as a signal officer with the Shanghai defence force, Captain Steward became Staff Captain at Shanghai Area H.Q., remaining there until 1932.

Then followed a tour at home, service in Cyprus during its riots there, and Palestine in 1937, when a comparatively large force was put into that country.

Major Steward was in Palestine at the outbreak of war in 1939, and he was moved across to Egypt to take part in all the operations in the Western Desert from then until late 1943, when the Corps of which he was C.S.O. came home for re-fitting for the European Campaign.

Brigadier Steward became C.S.O. Second Army, and remained so until late 1944, when he was selected to be C.S.O. Alfsea, with the rank of Major-General.

Brigadier Steward was mentioned in despatches for his service in Palestine, 1937-1939, won the D.S.O. in October, 1943, and a bar to it in November, 1943. He was made C.B.E. in 1945 and C.B. in 1946, and appointed A.D.C. to the King in 1947. Surely a very fine and inspiring record.

## WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

*November*

HEADQUARTERS. Burma Army Signals will doubtlessly be interested to know that their old C.O., Major Carlyon, arrived on 13th October after a period of overseas service which amply covers a few Python periods with a bit to spare. He has taken over command of No. 3 Squadron from Major D. L. Searle, who was released on 28th October. We trust that Major Carlyon will have a long and happy sojourn with us which will be of mutual benefit.

We also wish to welcome Lieutenant (T.O.M.) Connaghton from Northern Ireland District Signal Squadron to take over the duties of T.O.M.

Among the ebb and flow of other ranks who arrived during the past few weeks are S.S.M. Hutty from No. 1 Depot Regiment, and Sergeant Redstone from No. 2 Depot Regiment. In turn, we have parted with four ex-boys. They are Lance-Corporal Beale, who is a London District swimming champion and has swum for the Army, as reported in the August issue of this magazine. We wish him continued success. Accompanying him to the Combined Signal School were Signalmen Heard, King, and Watson.

Corporal Bellis-Walker left us for Civvy Street on 3rd October, and so goes another old Regular.

A party of twelve men from this Regiment were invited by Mr. Gordon Crier, of the B.B.C., to attend the Radio Industries Ball held at the Royal Albert Hall on Friday, 3rd October. Their job was to prevent the dancers from getting in the way of the television cameras and to keep a space clear for the floor show. Ropes were provided for this purpose and quite a few tug-o'-wars ensued between indignant dancers and perspiring signalmen.

Many notable personalities were in attendance, including such artistes as Geraldo, Harry Davidson and his orchestra, Sherkot, the renowned French clown, and the Dagenham Girl Pipers.

The highlight of the evening was when those young up and coming film stars Jean Simmons, Hazel Court, and Dermot Walsh put in a personal appearance, and trust our men to be at the head of the queue for autographs.

For those of you who are expecting being in town early in the New Year, I would mention the fact that the Nuffield Centre, Wardour Street, is closing on 10th January and reopening on 1st March, 1948, at Nos. 7 and 8 Adelaide Street, W.C.2 (near Trafalgar Square).

Quartering Commandants are not renowned for taking into account the suitability of existing mural decorations in the billets they allot to units, but the discovery of a bas-relief

plaque bearing the design shown herewith in one of our Eaton Square houses suggests that they are perhaps not all so indifferent.

We admit that the precise nature of the Signals activity depicted is a matter for conjecture, and perhaps the plaque would be more apt in the quarters of a mixed unit, as Jimmy was a versatile young man with many items (some not widely known) on his Q Sheet.

We think, however, that its present location can be justified if we assume that it represents a despatch of the "Personal, for . . ." category, being carried by our predecessors, the Mount Olympus Signal Regiment.

The winter sports season started for us some two months ago in the middle of September. So far the emphasis has been on football, with hockey and indoor games taking up the rest of our time. Although our enthusiasm is apparently unbounded, the results which follow show that our ability is not entirely in step.

*Football*

Friendly. *v.* H.Q. London District, home, won 6—2.

1st Round, London Cup. *v.* 2nd Coldstreams, home, lost 1—6.

League matches. *v.* Household Cavalry Training Regiment, home, lost 0—5; *v.* Coast Artillery, away, won 3—2; *v.* 1st Coldstreams, home, won 3—2; *v.* Guards' Training Battalion, away, lost 1—4; *v.* 2nd Scots Guards, home, drawn 3—3.

These results are somewhat disappointing for although our craft has been obvious and we invariably play "prettier" football than our opponents, something goes wrong in front of goal. What we need is a Tommy Lawton, but rumour to the contrary, no approach has yet been made to Notts County.

In addition, no fewer than 21 inter-Troop, inter-Squadron, and other scratch matches have been played to the complete satisfaction of everybody taking part.

*Hockey*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *v.* Tulse Hill, home | ... | ... | ... | Lost 1—8 |
| *v.* C.O.D., Feltham, away | ... | ... | ... | Lost 2—8 |
| *v.* Lloyds Bank, away | ... | ... | ... | Won 12—0 |
| *v.* R.A. Depot, away | ... | ... | ... | Lost 1—4 |

This is a new departure for the Regiment, and our team is suffering from teething troubles, but the play is improving with each match and we are looking forward to the day when we shall win consistently.

Several practice matches have also been played, largely with the object of introducing beginners to the game.

Lieutenant Line, our Sports Officer, is playing for the Corps this season, while S.S.M. Johns has travelled as reserve.

*Indoor Games.* Snooker and billiard competitions are being fiercely contested on the ladder system for monthly prizes. These have caught on so well that the idea is being extended to other games.

"B" TROOP, PIRBRIGHT AND OAKHANGER. The past month has, on the whole, proved uneventful to "B" Troop, inasmuch as our social activities have been curtailed, due mainly to important constructional work. This consisted of an aerial programme on which all the Troop personnel took a hand, and on certain nights parties would be seen digging, erecting, etc., in the gathering gloom, causing caustic comments from the local "wags," who, however, were the mainstay of the team.

The old phrase "Who called the cook a ———" did not apply in this case, as the cookhouse staff had the arduous task of feeding the hungry mass, and also working alongside them. A party from London came down to help us and rendered valuable aid in forest clearing, a somewhat different occupation from "punching a perf" or a sedentary clerk's job. Technical hitches were few, and the programme was completed in a record time. Our technical N.C.O., Corporal Silver, has recently been demobbed, and his passing was the occasion for a "stag" party, which continued till early morning.

Our local aero-model enthusiasts have been hard at work

building and flying, and some interesting hours have been spent watching models fly and others, not so fortunate, end up in a tangled mass of balsa and rubber, much to the consternation of the owner. The present duration holder is Corporal Salter, whose " Highflyer " has turned in some good timings. The " giant " of the club is a diesel job built by Signalman Homa and Sergeant Wills, whilst various smaller sizes are or have been flying.

As the festive season draws near, we are restarting our local dances, the billposters awaiting the word " Go," whereupon they will flood the surrounding villages with gaily coloured posters.

" C " TROOP, DROITWICH. Well, here we are, taking us how you will always find us, sampling the waters with the " retired gentry " of Droitwich Spa !

We have had quite a number of changes in the Troop, both in " demobs " and " banana-boat postings," and have now been blessed with four G.D. " wallahs," who have the privilege of being demobbed with Group 115 !

We shall be sorry to see Sergeant Grey, Signalman Marshall, and " Brummy " Halford leaving us with Group 61 in the near future, but the main centre of attraction in the Troop at present is that Stan Whines has at last taken the plunge of deferring for six months. Knowing how " demob-happy " Stan has been in the last few weeks, it came as a " block-buster " to us all.

The O.G., Captain J. P. Edwards, is keeping Droitwich on the map with his amateur radio station, G3WH/A, and is active on 28 megacycles with a three-element wide-spaced rotary beam. It is hoped to form a club station in the Troop very shortly as quite a number of the Troop seem to be smitten by the " bug," or is it interference on their broadcast receivers ?

## WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*November*

We were honoured by a recent visit from Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., who declared that he had never seen Blacon Camp look better. A fresh coat of paint on the huts has certainly done the place a world of good. During the past few months the Demonstration Team has been giving displays up and down the Command, and has rendered valuable assistance to the Regular Army and T.A. recruiting drives. On the social side, the weekly dances continue to be a popular feature of camp life, but we shall miss the irrepressible Eric Williams, our M.C.-in-C., whose engaging personality was largely responsible for putting the dances on the map. He has left us for the joys of Civvy Street and takes with him our sincerest wishes for the future. Other activities which are well supported are the weekly musical appreciation circle and the swing sessions on records. In the near future we hope to include film shows in our entertainments programme.

Thanks to the co-operation and generous support of the P.R.I., we are now the proud possessors of some very fine sports kit, and our well-turned-out teams are a credit to Signals.

*Football.* As a result of the enthusiasm for soccer at R.H.Q., we have been able to field two teams, and are looking forward to a successful season.

*Hockey.* Although we have not yet entered the competition field, we have arranged some future fixtures, and are busily engaged in team-building. There are a number of seasoned players in our midst and we hope to turn out a formidable eleven.

*Departures.* Major A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., Major R. C. Wilson, M.B.E., and Senior Commander M. W. Carlton, A.T.S., have all departed for pastures new, and we wish them every success in their new ventures.

*Arrivals.* We extend a hearty welcome to Major R. C. Dixon and Major R. A. Hatcher, our new Squadron Commanders, and trust their association with the unit will be a long and happy one.

## SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*November*

During recent weeks the unit has said " Good-bye " to several well-known figures in the camp. Amongst the officers there has been a " major " decrease, namely Major Tidey, who has gone to the Far East, and Major Spindler, who is expecting to go to a very hot place (no, he is not dying). Other officers who have been released are Captain Gunningham, Second-Lieutenant Browning, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. J. Walke, and Subaltern Brown. To balance the scales, there has been an influx of officers, to all of whom we extend a warm welcome. These are Major Hewlett, new O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Major Drudge-Coates, O.C. No. 1 Squadron, and Major Collins, P.R.I., recently returned from Palestine.

On Thursday, 6th October, the whole of Figsbury Barracks paraded on the square to witness the award of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to five stalwarts of the unit. It seldom occurs that five men belonging to the same unit are presented with medals on the same parade; we may therefore feel proud of our small Regiment H.Q. Those awarded were: R.S.M. Gee, S.S.M. Holt, S.Q.M.S. " Smiler " Marsh, Sergeants Hudson and Fitzpatrick. On presenting the medals, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., said that it was such men as these who were the backbone of the Army. About 80 per cent. of those on parade had not yet been born when these men joined the Army. When our roving reporter questioned these ancient warriors about their past experience, they were too reticent to reply, but this does not stop us from administering to them a metaphorical slap on the back.

If the coming winter months have in store for us as much foul weather as did those of last winter, then we shall be in need of an extensive programme of organised entertainment. This fact has already been appreciated by the Unit Entertainments Officer, Second-Lieutenant Brown, who, apart from other activities, is building up a dramatic society which is about to begin rehearsals for a play to be produced at Christmas. But before the winter has a chance to freeze our outdoor activities in its icy breath, which sweeps unchecked across the Salisbury Plain, we are making use of the remaining mild weather to have as much outdoor sport as possible. Football seems to have given way to hockey, which has suddenly jumped to the fore as the most popular of outdoor activities. Several friendly games have been played between camp teams, the cream of which were combined to form a solid and enthusiastic body of men whose co-operation helped them to inflict a stunning defeat on the team of our neighbours, the Army Gas School.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature in the day-to-day life of the camp has been the sudden outburst of wit from that seething mass of scurrying, tormented souls whose job seems to be to fly from room to room with papers flying fearfully from frosted fingertips. I mean, of course, that curious mélange which is sometimes referred to as the Adjutant's ache, but more commonly known as the Orderly Room Staff. This outburst is no doubt the result of an infectious disease spread by a certain Signalman Raitt, whose sketches are quite infamous. At any Raitt, it can be said that his humour, if nothing else, is quite original; recently the writer entered the Orderly Room and found himself staring face to face with a rabbit's head pinned up by its ears. Underneath

was an artist's apology for a wall, with the caption, "Wot, no doe!" We suggest, however, that should this rabbit be so short of money, he could always burrow in the bank, and we would add that should the perpetrator of this ghastly attempt at humour be found alone, he will surely find himself whipped within a hare's breadth of his life.

Major Drudge-Coates has opened an amateur transmitting station, call sign G2DC, and is working mainly on 14 and 28 mc. bands. He is eager to make contacts with other stations run by Royal Signals personnel. (G2DC is GX J4AAC 1946/47 and VU2FO pre-war.)

## SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*November*

Our Training Cadre have closed their books on Cadet Camps until next spring and have even managed to get an odd thing or two of the stores sent out back again. We now run week-end courses for J.T.C., A.C.F., and S.T.C. Cadets at H.Q., Fairmilehead Camp, with an increment of cadet officers to assist; and despite the fact that the weather has *not* been kind to us so far, they have been well attended, enjoyable, and very successful. Our demonstration room of signal equipment, in which everything works except the corporal in charge, is very popular with the cadets. The only other Training Cadre commitment at present is the H.Q. Scottish Command Pre-Staff College Course, in which we are going to impart much griff to potential brass-hats about R.T., and the Signal layouts of Armoured, Infantry, and Airborne Divisions.

We regret to record that our O.C. No. 1 Squadron, Major G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E., has been in hospital for almost a month; he is, however, making good progress, and should be back again before long. New arrivals include Major (T.O.M.) Webster to replace Lieutenant (T.O.M.) M. Nicholas, shortly leaving us for the joys or otherwise of E.R.E., and R.S.M. J. Buchanan to replace S.S.M. H. Nelson, who expects to be "following the sun" before long.

Our indefatigable Second-in-Command, Major Stibbs, has spent a happy month writing a thesis on Star Classification which will probably outsell "Forever Amber" if put on the market. Readers could assist him by confirming that a Loftman D III, with forty-one years' service (seven months to count), who got a "D" on a Bow and Arrow Maintenance Course, was a jockey before enlistment and a boy spy in World War I, is eligible for one star—please quote authority. It must be getting him down, for he was heard saying the other night to someone or other, "Get up them stars."

Sporting activity within the unit is still quite considerable, and there is bags of enthusiasm. We have a strong football side that has only been beaten once in nine games, and in the next issue of THE WIRE we hope to be able to record successes in the first rounds of the "A" and "B" Lowland District Cup competitions, against whom we play, respectively, Military Hospital, Carstairs, and 641st Company (M), R.A.S.C., Leith. We are also playing the first round cup match in the Lowland District Hockey Cup this month against a P.T.C. from Berwick-on-Tweed. Basketball and Rugby are also played, but we cannot claim any successes in the last-mentioned—we need a big full-back and a good hooker. Signals Records please note.

Entertainments up here within the Arctic Circle are still in good hands, and a most successful Fancy Dress Halloween Party was held on 2nd November. Some of the costumes were really first class, and amazing ingenuity demonstrated by personnel of the unit. I should still like to know the identity of the wog in a blanket who sold me a watch without works.

## No. 2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

*November*

We must apologise to all members of our unit, past and present, for the omission of our notes in the last few issues of THE WIRE. We will not make excuses, because these just magnify our faults, so we promise to be better behaved in the future and keep up to date.

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge lately, and new faces are all the vogue. In fact, very few of the "old timers" are left. We still have Major Dumville, S.Q.M.S. Stoner, and Signalman McCleave of the old brigade at Cowley, though Dame Rumour talks of overseas for "Q" Stoner.

The M.T. Section is now in the capable hands of Captain (T.O.M.) Inglis, and the sudden demand for "Drivers' Tasks and Maintenance Books" has caused the raising of eyebrows in a lot of circles. In fact, the interest taken in "Daily Tasks" has reached amazing heights, and the vehicle mechanics are kept busy explaining what part is what to various drivers.

We also welcome to our unit Lieutenant (Q.M.) Potesta, late of West Africa Signals. The increase in the queue for clothing exchanges is very noticeable—you never know, you *might* get an easy "Q" bloke!

We regret the loss of Captain (Q.M.) Stanley. Captain Stanley will always be remembered by the unit for his interest in the unit sports, cricket and football being his favourites.

Our Line Section had a nice holiday down at Southsea during the 2nd A.A. Group Tattoo there last August. There were a lot of rumours of hard work, etc., but judging by the amount of sun-tan acquired, we doubt that statement. For all the sun-tan, however, the communications were kept in excellent order.

We also sent a detachment away on a T.A. recruiting scheme for two months. The burning question is, will the recruits signed up speed the demob. up? Who knows! The reports of the efforts of the Signals are very good, and the M.T. got a pat on the back for having the most reliable truck in the convoy. They nearly wore out their tow ropes!

Since the petrol cut the number of bicycles in the camp has increased by leaps and bounds. Some very smart models are on show, and on the other hand some "gap-stoppers" creak their way around. All bikes are treated with scorn by the unit fitters—I wonder why? Wot! no repairs, sir?

It has come to the notice of the "powers that be" that "jiving" is very popular with some of the unit, male and female. Ask the same people to turn out for P.T. and see what dirty looks you get! The solution seems to be P.T. to music.

*Rugby.* Yes, indeed, we had a game, and what a game—all told, four people had played before! But, under the management of Captain Inglis, a very enjoyable game was had by all. The hurts sustained were not as numerous as expected by most people. So here's to some more games, and let the "Aussies" take note!

*Football.* A league has been started in camp, and the first match resulted in a victory for us to the tune of 6 goals to 2. Things look well, and some budding "Stans" are on view. Go to it, lads, we want that Cup!

*Basketball.* Both the Military and A.T.S. have had great aspirations in this direction, but, alas, they have fallen to the ground. Both our teams have been beaten more than once; but for our size we certainly get places.

*Table Tennis.* We played one game against the Wiltshires and lost 2—4, but each bout was very hotly contested. Better luck next time.

# British Army of the Rhine

## 7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Bad Rothenfelde

*November*

With the winter evenings closing in upon us, the Unit is preparing to do its best to keep everyone occupied with sports and hobbies in their leisure hours. Of the latter, it is hoped to start early next month, carpentry, drawing and painting, and leatherwork. There is promise of support to these schemes which Captain J. C. Alcock inaugurated. One of the teething troubles that will have to be overcome is that of instructors. At present we are looking round for enthusiastic chaps who will offer their services to instruct two or three evenings a week.

Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., representative Colonel Commandant, inspected the unit at work

at the end of last month. The photograph above shows Brigadier W. H. C. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O. Rhine Army, General Phillips, and Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison, M.C., the C.O., during their tour of the billet area.

*Football.* Great keenness on football prevails. From all ranks available at Divisional Headquarters, total about 350, we have two teams permanently in the field. First eleven results to date are:

Divisional Southern League (11 teams)—Played 4, won 2, lost 2.

Osnabruck Senior League—Played 5, won 3, drawn 1, lost 1.

Divisional Knock-out Competition (Second Round)—Won 4—0 against No. 1 C.V.D. Workshops.

It is not possible at the moment to state how the team stands in the leagues as the last table issued is now a fortnight out of date, but at that time we stood fourth in the Southern League.

The Second Eleven's record in the Osnabruck Junior League is played 8, won 2, drawn 2, lost 4, but their enthusiasm remains undimmed.

In addition, we have recently completed a so-called Inter-Troop Knock-out Competition, in which teams were produced from blocks of 20 to 30 men covering the whole of personnel at Regimental Headquarters. The winners, "C" Signal Office Relief, defeated Nos. 1 and 2 Static Wireless Squads in a spirited final by 3—2, and carted off a handsome shield prepared by the T.O.M.s department.

*Hockey.* Hockey has a smaller following but the hockey team has nevertheless been playing keenly in the Divisional Western Hockey League. Their record to date is played 6, won 3, drawn 1, lost 2.

In the Army Cup hockey competition we have entered a full Regimental side embracing three players from 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron and one from 31st Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.

In a good second round match against 55th L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., we came out winners by 3—2 and are thus in the semi-finals of the Divisional Section.

The team hopes to get a free ride to England yet.

*Motor Cycling.* The Regimental Motor Cycle Club were represented in recent road racing at Belsen, but again we are unable to report any substantial success. Pressure of routine work prevents full concentration on the preparation of machines, but we hope to receive some new ones soon.

*Social.* Divisional Headquarters were kind enough to let us have twenty double tickets for a dance they held a short while back. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we are organising a return engagement.

We all offer our sympathies to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. J. M. Philpott. While returning from a visit to his wife in hospital, S.Q.M.S. Philpott was unfortunate enough to have an accident with a German vehicle and suffered severe injuries. We hope that he will have a speedy recovery to rejoin his wife, who is already out of hospital.

The N.A.A.F.I. has now settled down and we realise what we were missing in the past. Miss Baird, the manageress, has done everything she can to make the place brighter, and has allowed competitions to be held in the limited space that is available.

We all appreciate what she has done and hope that she will remain with us in the future.

## No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Celle

*November*

We have seen the early morning frost on the ground, but now snow has come our way here in Celle. The winter ahead will be a hard one and a shortage is becoming evident in those two critical essentials, food and tobacco, which make even a dismal soldier a merry one. There seems no shortage of beer, however, so the beer barrel songs can be heard reverberating from "Ye Old Log Cabin"

which now constitutes our new O.R.'s Canteen. Much work and energy was expended by willing hands to convert this wooden log barn into a cosy, clean canteen. It is now with a sense of pride one sees the words "Ye Old Log Cabin" cut from original pinewood over the entrance. We thank Signalman Bowman for this noble effort and his originality. The opening night of the canteen was on Friday, 10th October, 1947, when the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Sladen declared the canteen open by sinking the first pint, after which the free beer circulated round in all kinds of containers. One bright spark suggested the large can which is generally the vehicle for the Orderly Room and office staff morning tea. Undoubtedly the taste was still predominent the following morning. Once the beer had flowed sweetly down, Army community singing was the immediate outcome, and at times four songs were being sung simultaneously. Later the talented members of the Regiment came forward and gave of their best. We should have had a Rank spotter with us, for I am sure he would have signed on Taffy Morris, who gained first prize and delighted us all with his ditty "Old King Cole was a Merry Old Soul." Since the opening night the canteen committee have been active under the command of Captain Bateman. A successful whist drive was held, and the Tombola evenings have proved an even greater success.

Another aspect of the Regiment's policy to keep personnel fully occupied during the winter months is the facilities for personal hobbies. On the ground floor of Phillips Block one can see many people adding finishing touches to their carpentry job in hand. When materials are more plentiful it is hoped that the hobbies section will increase its productiveness. So far, hobbies department cater for carpentry, model making, soft toy making, and photography. Added to this nightly programme is the set up of a Regimental School within the Regiment under the leadership of Sergeant Gellayly, attached to us from the Army Education Corps. The educational classes are a problem at the moment, but in due course it is hoped that the weekly four hours spent during the week in the Regimental School will benefit all personnel on their return to civilian life.

Even with all these added activities within the Regiment, Celle still provides entertainments of high standard. The R.A.F. Union Theatre have given us during the past month a selection of dramatics, variety and operas.

The Sunday fortnightly symphony concerts are eagerly looked forward to by the music lovers within the Regiment, and we are waiting patiently for the visitation of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Finally, a visit by Ivy Benson and her All Girls' Band reminds us of home again, and many of the boys enjoyed her evening performances in Celle.

*Sport.* It will be recalled that the Regiment had entered for the Army Challenge Cup, the first round of which was played off on Saturday, 25th October, when the Regiment met and were defeated by 37th Field Regiment R.A. by two goals to nil. 37th Field thus avenged a decisive defeat in the 5th Divisional Knock-Out Competition on 5th April last.

The Regimental team has now played 10 matches in the Celle District League and have won nine games and lost one, but still retain the lead in the League on goal average, the analysis being as under:—

| P. | W. | L. | D. | For | Against | Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 52 | 5 | 18 |

In the 13th Brigade Knock-Out Competition the Regimental team has done much better than in the Army Challenge Cup. It has reached the final of this competition and is due to play the Oxford and Bucks on Saturday 15th November, at either Luneburg or Celle. The winner of this goes forward to the 5th Divisional Final. The Regiment qualified for the final by their defeat of the "Royals" at Wolfenbuttel on the 29th October, 1947, when we defeated them by two goals to nil.

Hockey within the Regiment is going along with a swing and we are entered for the Army Hockey Challenge Competition. In the first round we should have played the 1st Dorsets, but at the last minute they had to scratch owing to their being unable to raise a team. We thus qualify for the second round, which is to be played off by the 15th November.

The hockey team is now getting plenty of practice, and on Wednesday, 29th October, played and defeated the R.A.C. Training Centre, Belsen, by four goals to three, and on Wednesday, 5th November, defeated after a thrilling game 84th Group Unit by two goals to one.

## No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

### R.A.F. Station Sundern

*November*

R.H.Q. AND 2nd SQUADRON. By the time these notes are in print, the Signals Inn will once more be in full swing; a small unit concert party has been formed complete with mouth organs, W.A.A.F.s, and bagpipes. Private Hendry, the R.S.M.'s batman, is responsible for the latter. During the winter months, unit functions will be held weekly in the Signals Inn, and if last year is anything to go by they will be very popular. During the month of October, great excitement and much flowing of "wallop" was recorded in the unit; this was due to the arrival of two gifts from heaven (See Births.) There was such a spate of Births and Birthdays during the month of October that we began to feel that everyone of any importance in the unit was born during October. Did I hear someone say "Roll on Christmas"?

*Warrant Officers and Sergeants.* On the 16th October, a social evening and dance was held in the Mess, to which the Commanding Officer, Officers of the unit and their wives were invited. After partaking of an excellent buffet, arranged by our A.C.C. Sergeant Jock Cochrane, we really got down to it, and dancing and barrel walking were the main events. There seemed to be a definite understanding between the barrel and our C.O., who ran out an easy winner in this event. One lady guest who "had a go" and tried it the hard way, finished up by walking backwards on the barrel, which did not last very long.

*Births.* To Major and Mrs. Leney, on the 23rd October, a daughter. To Captain and Mrs. Milligan, on the 24th October, a daughter. Both born at the R.A.F. 8th General Hospital, Buckeburg. To the proud mammies and daddies we say, heartiest congratulations. In both cases, mother and daughter are out of hospital and are doing well.

*Departures.* It is with a sad feeling that we say good-bye to Lieut.-Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich, our Commanding Officer, who leaves us on the 11th November, 1947, to take up the appointment of C.S.O. West Africa. We are glad of your promotion, but we are very sorry indeed to lose you, so on behalf of all ranks of 15th Air Formation Signal Regiment, I say good-bye, sir, and all the very best of luck in your new job.

On the same day as Lieutenant-Colonel McOstrich leaves us, we hope to welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. A. Hepper, who is due to join us from the U.K.

*Sport. Football.* Our unit team is still going strong under the able leadership of Signalman Adey. Here are the results of our last three fixtures in the 7th Armoured Division Southern League:—

15th A.F.S. Regiment 13 v. 6th Vet and Remount Depot 0.

15th A.F.S. Regiment 2 v. 7th Armoured Division Signal Regiment 1.

15th A.F.S. Regiment 2 v. 7th Armoured Division Brigade Workshops 3.

We have also reached the quarter finals of the 7th Armoured Division Knock-Out Cup, the winners of which go forward to the BAOR Knock-Out Cup.

In the past couple of months there have been a number of changes, particularly amongst the officers. Therefore, I take this opportunity to list them afresh.

Major C. W. Wheeler, M.B.E., is still at the helm, whilst our Second-in-Command, Captain George Bailey, is being snowed under with bumph. Captain (T.O.M.) Berry is due for posting and Captain (T.O.M.) Everard, late Signals O.C.T.U., is here to replace him. Best wishes to you both. Lieutenants "Burma" Ellis and "Sarento" Wolfendale are beginning to carry umbrellas in preference to canes. Our two old hands amongst our Second Lieutenants are I. J. (Jock) Mitchell and J. R. (Rusty) Finn. For some unknown reason they consider that they keep the Squadron together. Second-Lieutenant D. G. (Dave) Jones and D. (Mac) McKenzie are two new arrivals. Lieutenant N. E. (Chindit) Coates is shortly leaving us.

No. 1 SQUADRON, BUCKEBURG. *Association Football.* With the season now well under way, both the Squadron teams have done well. "A" team has played seven matches, won three, drawn three, and lost one. "B" team, in the Section League, has played six, won five, and lost one. On the 9th October we challenged our old rivals, 64th Rifle Squadron R.A.F. Regiment, who have now left the area, to a farewell match. In a hard fought game they beat us by 4-2. The teams had met twice this season already, and the result was a draw on both occasions.

It was with regret that we said farewell to Private Hughes, our professional goalkeeper, on his demob. last month. With the arrival of 31st Con Troop the Squadron "A" team has been strengthened by the inclusion of two of their players.

*Hockey.* Although no hockey league has been started yet, the Squadron hockey team, under the able captaincy of Corporal (Ginger) Smith (friend of the Sikhs), has played a number of friendly games with a marked degree of success. Big things are expected from this team when league business commences.

No. 3 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, UETERSEN. We are now fairly settled in our new abode, and are finding that life is not really so bad after all.

Our O.C., Major F. G. Morrison, has finally left us for Civvy Street. He had commanded the Squadron for nearly two years, a record in these days when nominal rolls are about as static as the adventures of Dick Barton. We are all very sorry to see him go, and wish him the very best luck and every success in his new career.

We welcome his successor, Major W. J. Davies, and hope his stay with us will be an enjoyable one. We have also said good-bye to Captains Teal and Atkinson, and Lieutenants Carter and Jones, who all leave us on posting to other units of Air Formation Signals in Germany. Captain N. F. H. Small has recently joined us from Austria and has taken over as Second-in-Command, Sports Officer, Welfare Officer, and various other headaches.

*Soccer.* The soccer season is now with us. We started the season with two teams, but postings reduced our numbers and we now have only one team playing in Division IV (N). Friendly matches for the less expert chaps in the Squadron are organised, and there are one or two promising members under observation.

Results to date are:—

v. Royal Navy, Hamburg, won 3-0 1st team; v. 38th Field Bakery, lost 0-8 2nd team; v. 41st Movement Control "A," lost 1-3 1st team; v. 41st Movement Control "B," won 3-1 2nd team; v. Provost Company, lost 2-6 1st team; v. No. 1 Wireless Regiment, lost 2-4 2nd team; v. "J" Mess C.C.G., draw 2-2 1st team; v. C.C.G. Car Unit, won 2-0 1st team; v. D.C.S., won 2-0 1st team; v. 95th B. M. Hospital, lost 2-4 1st team.

*Entertainments.* The cinema has at last been opened on the station. It is suffering from the usual teething troubles, but spares are being obtained and very soon we hope to have first-class entertainments there. Films shown are of recent issue and well patronised. A welfare committee has been formed, and meets weekly in the Second-in-Command's Office. Problems and difficulties are discussed and sorted out in a friendly atmosphere.

## No. 33 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

### Dusseldorf

*November*

The long dark evenings having arrived, we looked forward to the efforts of the recently-formed entertainments committee of Messrs. Russell, Brandham and Hagen to get things going.

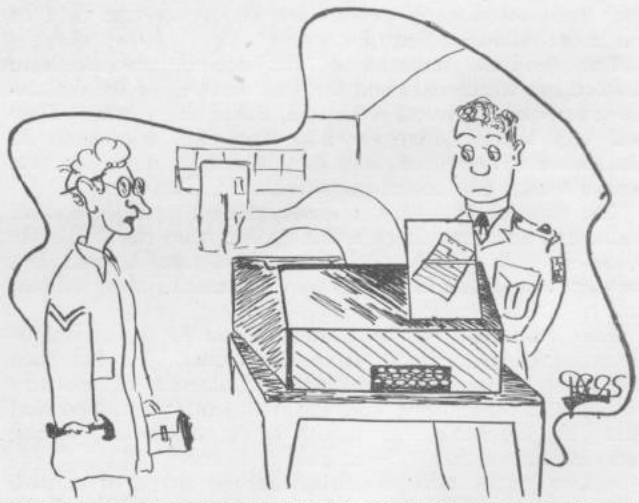
They have certainly come up to expectations, for as well as the usual Saturday night dances, a very varied and acceptable Wednesday evening programme has been laid on.

These have been very successful to date, with a good attractive variety of indoor games—table tennis, darts and housey-housey are well to the fore, and, of course, beer is in plentiful supply to quench the thirst of the many after their "hectic" contests. It's really marvellous how these characters can conjure up such a thirst.

A further attraction on Wednesday evenings is provided by a programme of recorded music, presented by our Lines Officer, Captain Haystead—though not in the swing idiom, this innovation adds an even brighter atmosphere to the "goings on" in the canteen.

Other activities are promised in the near future in the form of a quiz team and discussion group, with perhaps a unit band later on.

*Sport.* Our unit football eleven has continued success in a series of friendly fixtures with various teams in the Dusseldorf area.



" CORPORAL,- CHANGE THE RIBBON ON THIS PRINTER -THE CARBON COPIES ARE BAD "

Results to date: Played 14, won 11, drawn 1, and losing twice to our own detachment at Dortmund, who seem to oe our bogey.

Our return match with Dortmund on Saturday, 25th October, was a real "battle," but despite the determined efforts of Dusseldorf to avenge our first defeat, Dortmund withstood the onslaught and ran off worthy winners by two goals to one.

Nevertheless, we are looking forward to another match with them, and maybe our third attempt may prove more fruitful. On 1st November the first of our league games will be played off, and we take an optimistic view of our chances in the district league throughout the coming season.

Also on the agenda is the forthcoming 4th Guards Brigade "knockout" competition, which should prove a real test for our stalwart eleven, as there is some stiff opposition to be overcome if we expect to reach the final, so here's hoping.

Our sporting activities show a definite increase, and our recently-formed second team have played two matches and won both quite easily. A keen interest has also been shown in establishing ourselves in the hockey field. A practice match was held last week, under the watchful eye of Captain Simpson, and there are signs of quite a formidable eleven being evolved to represent the Squadron if actual matches with other units can be arranged.

This month has, of course, depleted our ranks with more releases. On that point we wish Corporal "Jimmy" Payne and Signalman "Jock" Reid, of 60 Group, all the best on their return to the rigours of civilian life.

Before going to press the Unit was honoured by a visit from C.S.O. Rhine Army, who inspected our establishment and watched members of the Squadron in the midst of their daily chores.

So for the present we sign off till we come your way again next month, wishing all members of the Corps (you lucky people) all the best—from this Signal Centre in the heart of the Ruhr.

"TOMMEE."

DORTMUND DETACHMENT. Unit activities have continued this month with the usual zeal and enthusiasm. Full marks are due to the football team, which has continued to ply the leather with considerable skill. We found ourselves suffering only three defeats—two against the R.H.G. and one against 23rd Heavy Workshops. Far, however, from sulking in their tents, the Merry Men of Dortmund Signals emerged with renewed vigour and soundly trounced a slightly weakened R.H.G. team. The enthusiasm for the success of the football team is quite phenomenal. It has even been suggested that hardened members of the detachment have been observed kneeling by their beds offering up prayers for victory on the field of battle the following Saturday.

The insidious tentacles of the demob. octopus have reached out searchingly and fastened on three of the detachment stalwarts, Privates Arkinstall, Baker and Locke. They will very shortly disappear into that dim, mysterious El Dorado of Civvy Street, and they take with them our best wishes for an uneventful transition to civilian life.

The occasion was very properly marked by a memorable dance and an equally memorable speech from the O.C. He said—er—well, nobody really remembers *what* he said, but we can be sure that his words were crammed full of wisdom and helpful suggestions.

The detachment has been strengthened by the arrival of Second-Lieutenant Scott, from Dusseldorf. He has been completely amazed by the fantastic amount of industry within the detachment and has frequently been observed surveying the scene with mouth agape, continually asking himself the question, "What *does* it all mean?"

Indoor games have flourished in the shape of a table tennis tournament. The former was won by Signalman Thomas, who is to be congratulated on his skill with the pill. He is, we understand, to be presented with a medal, on which will be inscribed that memorable Latin phrase, "Sic Transit Gloria Mundi." This, of course, as we all know, means "Last Monday evening I was carried to bed feeling gloriously sick."

The darts tournament is still in progress, but the number of contestants has been reduced to eight. Rivalry between these enthusiasts is intense, and they pass each other in the street with looks of ill-concealed hatred or withering contempt. They can be seen in their leisure hours wandering around with a vast number of darts, hurling them at any small object that presents itself. This would, of course, account for the large number of legless beetles which can be seen rolling around the camp.

The fame of our relatively small (numerically) community has been further spread by one Staff-Sergeant Clayton, who, attending a grass track race meeting with the Dortmund Signals' team at 155 Vehicle Park, thrust the existing record into oblivion by lapping in the incredible time of 1 min. 41.2 secs. We all shudder with admiration on hearing of this highly dangerous feat. The majority of us prefer the more conventional rope noose, third storey window or simple revolver method of committing suicide.

It would appear, therefore, that this little unit of ours is bristling with activity and enthusiasm. This is, in fact, quite true, and there is no doubt that it will continue to be so "even until the third and fourth (or is it fourth and fifth?) generation."

## No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

### Hamburg

*November*

Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. P. Wolfeston joined the unit this month and took over command from Major J. M. Glass, who still remains here as Second-in-Command.

Second-Lieutenant R. Webster, Sergeant Ringrose, and 18 other ranks also joined us from No. 11 Wireless Squadron and have now settled down to their new surroundings.

A certain amount of rough shooting has been carried out since the beginning of the season. A fair number of hares have been bagged, also some pheasants, which have all helped towards that little bit extra in the larder. Sergeants Holford and Flooks head the list for the best "bags" to date.

Arrangements have been made to use the skittle alley in town every week, and the first match—Officers *versus* Warrant Officers and Sergeants—was played on Friday, 7th November, resulting in victory for the Officers. It is hoped to arrange for further teams from the Junior N.C.O.s and men and run a competition.

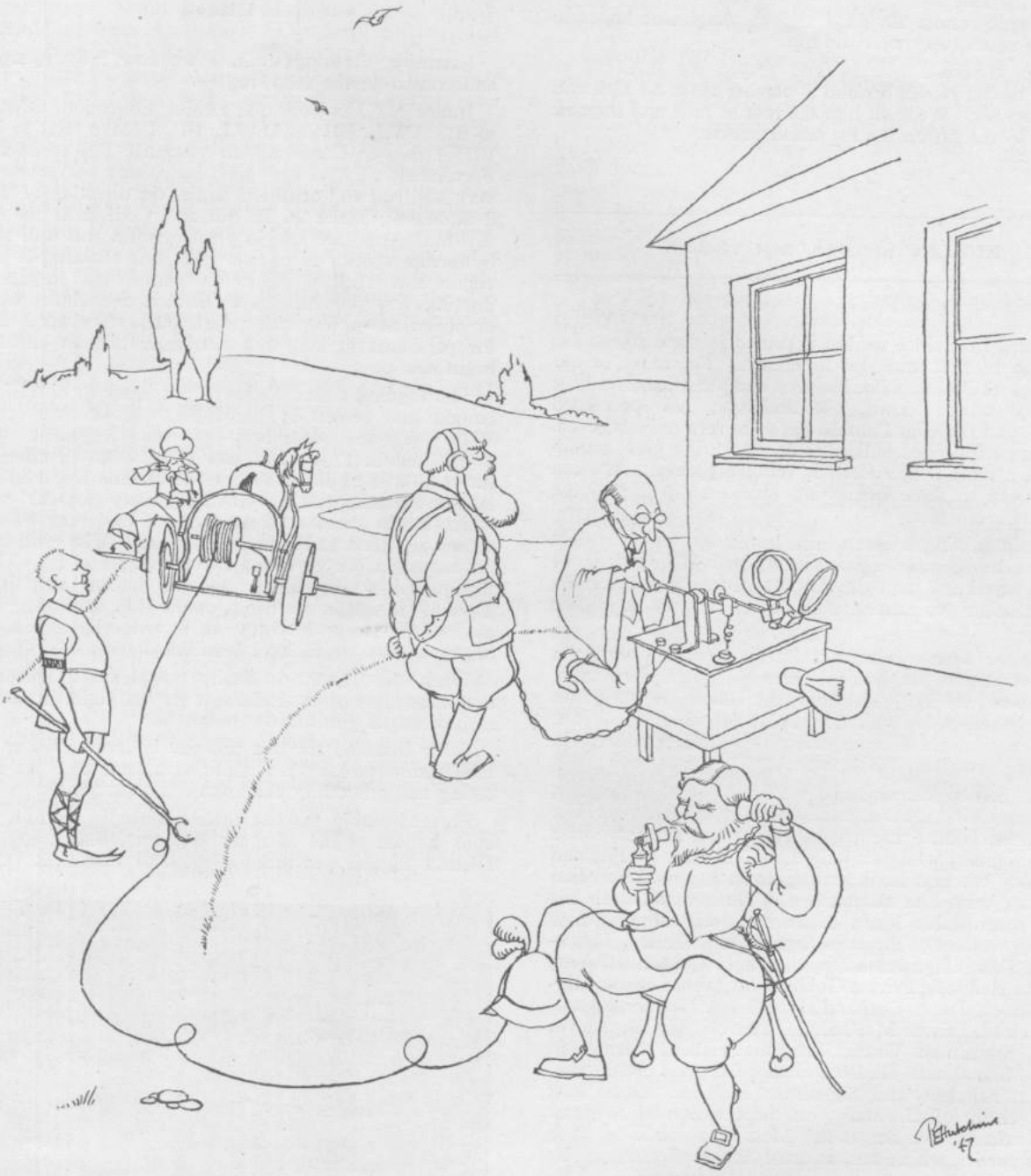
The Regiment continues to hold a prominent position in the Hamburg Sub-Area Football and Hockey Leagues, and though the results do not appear to be so spectacular as last season, the general standard of play is quite high.

*Football.* Signalmen Gomm, Hendry, and Millson have all taken part in football trial matches for the Hamburg District Football XI, and we hope that one or more of them will eventually find a place in that eleven. The league record continues to be satisfactory; the team is beginning to play together quite well. On Saturday, 8th November, they beat 15th B.O.D. 9—2.

*Hockey.* We were unfortunate in being knocked out in the second round of the Army Hockey Competition by 2nd R.T.R., the score being 5—4. At half-time the Regiment was leading 4—1, Lance-Corporal Vickers scoring three of these in excellent style. During the second half 2nd R.T.R.

(*continued on page* 384)

# *SIGNALS IN ACTION—X*



Signals] Experimental Establishment

(*continued from page* 382)

scored three goals in six minutes and then one more, putting them in the lead.

The league results are good and the Regiment hopes to finish the season very near the top.

*Rugger.* Lance-Corporal Vater played for B.A.O.R. *v.* B.A.F.O. on 1st November and is playing again on 12th and 15th December. We wish him the best of luck and hope he will stay in the fifteen for the whole season.

## BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

*November*

It is some time since we last appeared in these pages, due to changes of staff and also to release. The move to our premises at 42 Preussenallee has been completed, and we have completely settled down. Redecoration has proceeded smoothly, and the Unit Canteen has to be seen to be believed. It now has a full-sized billiard table, which is a great attraction, and a table tennis room is being organised. We can look forward to some interesting tournaments during the coming winter nights.

A very interesting cricket season has now closed, the final unit team being quite a competent one. We played 14 matches, winning 7 and drawing 1. One game deserving special mention was that of the Officers and W.O.s *v.* The Rest.

The soccer season is now well under way. Due to a shortage of players, we have only been able to raise one team, which has entered the Junior League. Up to date they have played 5 matches, of which 3 have been won and 2 lost. It is to be hoped that the composition of the team will remain unchanged throughout the season.

Captain Senton has arrived from No. 2 L. of C. Signals, and also Second-Lieutenants Seymour and Davies on first posting from home. Lieutenant Horne has left for No. 2 L. of C. Signals, while Captain Lowes is back in England once more. We hear he is settling down happily to civilian life and we wish him all the best. The unit strength has suffered considerable losses as all the following are now "enjoying" Civvy Street:—Signalman White, Lance-Corporal Short, Signalman Rowell, Lance-Corporal Davies, Signalman Haddock, Private Gubbins, Signalman Rogac, Signalman Killett, Lance-Corporal Hull, Driver Deamer, Signalman Goddard, Private McKenna, Driver Shipley, Signalman Vickery, Signalman Oram, Sergeant Hallah, Signalman Gorman, Signalman Hudson, Lance-Corporal Billington, Signalman Mitchell, and Signalman Sullivan. Good luck to all of them. Incidentally, on the occasion of Sergeant Hallah's release, the Sergeants' Mess threw one of their infamous parties, which was, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Since our last contribution, the Squadron has witnessed a number of marriages.

On 4th June, Signalman A. E. W. Killett to Elisabeth Maria Jacobs; 18th June, Lance-Corporal A. Hull to Charlotte Bertha Hecht; 26th July, Signalman E. J. Mitchell to Waltraud Sturm; 28th July, Lance-Corporal D. P. Parkinson to Ruth Anna Held.

To them we offer our congratulations and best wishes for the future.

In conclusion, we send greetings to all ex-members of the Squadron and hope in future to send in our contributions more regularly.

## 2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Hilden

*November*

Extensive Training Courses are now fully in operation and consist of the following:—

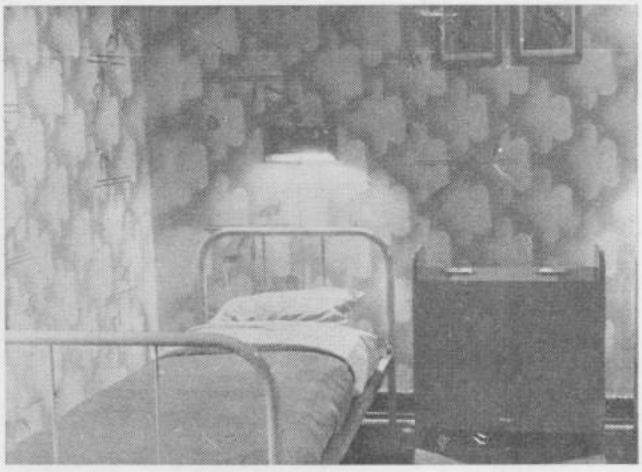
Junior N.C.O.s Drill and Duties, Education, O.W.L. BII to B1, O.W.L. BIII to O.W.L. BII, L/Man BIII to L/Man BII, Driver-in-Command to potential Driver Mechanics. Fortunately we have very good instructors, the courses being very well run and organised under the direction of the O.C. 2 Squadron, Major R. E. Button. Courses at the College of Rhine Army are also in great demand and well attended by members prior to release. .22 Rifle shooting is in great vogue and challenge matches within the Regiment are proving very popular. A small Arts and Crafts Centre is in operation in barracks, which offers very good facilities for personnel to keep on with their hobbies and also to begin new ones.

The Regiment now has two unit buses in operation, one bought and owned by the P.R.I., the other a converted W.D. vehicle. Members of the Regiment wishing to proceed to Dusseldorf can now do so in comfort for the modest sum of 3d. return. A cinema has been opened in the barracks and is proving a very popular place in which many spend a pleasant couple of hours. The films shown are good and well worth seeing. The cinema opens on one night per week and two shows are given. The new Regimental Club, which will be shown as "Jimmy's Tavern," is still in the hands of the R.E. workmen, who are gradually making headway as regards the alteration and improvements which have been asked for.

When the Tavern is finally completed it will make a first-class place of entertainment for the junior N.C.O.'s and men of the Regiment.

Being installed are two full-size billiard tables and three table tennis tables. No doubt at a later date we shall be seeing many budding champions at both games.

Formed within the last three months is the unit cycling club, known as the Mercury Wheelers, thanks to 1 Corps District Signals providing a batch of machines. Over 40



strong, the club is now running extremely well after surmounting the usual difficulties. A club meet is held every Sunday and new members are given a warm welcome.

The photograph herewithin reproduced shows the view of one of the "Monty Rooms," of which seven have been completed. Unfortunately, owing to the serious shortage

of building materials, further accommodation on these lines is now at a standstill.

On the 19th October Motor Cycle Trials were held at Belson, this Regiment being represented by:—

Lance-Corporal Standing, Lance-Corporal Jarvis, Signalman Day, Signalman McDermott, Divisional Signals; and Lance-Corporal Stott, Craftsman Williams, of L.A.D.

Unfortunately, Lance-Corporal Stott broke his leg before leaving for the Trials, and Signalman McDermott was injured on the first day of the Trials. All put up very good performances and an extra pat on the back for Signalman Day who gave an excellent performance and the spectators a thrill by his spectacular skill in the 350 c.c. race in which he finished fourth riding a Matchless machine.

On the 29th October, the newly formed H.Q. Divisional Signal Regiment Rugby Football XV played their first game of the season against a XV from the 19th Field Regiment R.A., and great promise is shown for the future of the XV. Two excellent tries were scored, the first by Signalman Devitt and the second by Corporal Bamford which was converted.

Score: 19th Field Regiment R.A. "B" 4 points, H.Q. 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment 8 points.

Great progress is being made with the Inter-Troop football, hockey and basket ball leagues. All Out Troops of Brigades take part in these games and great enthusiasm is shown by all taking part. The Regiment has entered for the BAOR Football Cup and has been drawn against 101st Medical Company R.A.M.C. in the first round.

*Sergeants' Mess.* On the 22nd October the W.O.s and Sergeants took a "day off" for "Operation Sharpshooter," which was held on the Hubbelrath Rifle Range. The shoot was very ably controlled by O.C. 2 Squadron, Major R. E. Button, who, thanks to his knowledge of the "Do's and Don'ts," set a series of practices devised to suit all, young and old. The butt markers had a very hectic time and a rousing cheer was heard when the "Father of the Cow" was hit for the first time. Fortunately the day was fine and proved a very interesting and entertaining one indeed. After a day of varying fortunes the following were the final results:—

1, Sergeant Simpson; 2, Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant Beale; 3, Regimental Sergeant Major Griffin; 4, Sergeant Young; 5, Sergeant Atkinson (R.A.E.C.); 6, Sergeant Batram.

The unsolved mystery which remains to be solved is "Who was the Squadron Sergeant Major who found a third aperture?"

On the 24th October the W.O.s and Sergeants entertained the Officers to a games tournament, followed by a social evening, in which the Officers ran out worthy winners. The Regimental Sergeant Major has been using the "Wailing Wall" ever since, the excuse for the defeat being passed to the scorer, who apparently was out of practice!! "Hard luck, Ken, you did your best."

After a very nice supper, for which much credit is due to the caterer and staff, a horse race meeting was held. Well, what a "do," indeed by goodness! The Commanding Officer just could not buy a horse at the auction at all. A certain Officer who hails from the "Land of the Leek" bid the enormous sum of 3d. for a colt by Call Boy out of Fancy Fair; exit the auctioneer. However, by gentle persuasion the said Officer finally paid a much larger sum for the horse. And did he take the "Jack Pot," he certainly did. The "Wooden Spoonist," Sergeant Ledger, carried off the "honour" and is to be congratulated on the valiant manner in which he partook of one English pattern Mark II pint of beer with a shallow spoon. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., presented the prizes and we thank you, sir, for your kind support to "Operation Sharpshooter."

## 5th INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Wolfenbüttel

*October*

*General.* The Regiment has now moved into its winter training quarters at Lancaster Barracks, Wolfenbüttel, about ten miles from our old location at Brunswick.

We have said goodbye to Major R. Hawkins and Captain R. J. Barry, both of whom have been posted, and to Major E. S. Jones, who has departed on Class "A" release. We cordially wish them all the very best of luck.

We have welcomed Major M. S. C. Shardlow, who has taken over as Second-in-Command and who is in charge of training, and Major F. A. Wainwright, who has assumed command of 3 Squadron.

The P.R.I. has purchased a converted 3-ton Dodge lorry. It has a bus body and comfortable seats, and has proved

Signalman Simons throwing the discus

very popular with personnel of the Regiment, particularly for week-end trips to Bad Harzburg and other well-known resorts in the Hartz mountains.

Ex-members of the Regiment will be interested to learn that the bus is in the capable hands of Driver (Jack) Penington.

*"O" Troop Sports.*—After being postponed for weeks because of difficulties in obtaining the ground, "O" Troop

Private Roberts winning his heat in the 220 yards

(*continued on page* 387)

# *War Record*

# *of*

# *1st Divisional Signals*

*(with acknowledgments to the "Mid-East Mail")*

FROM the Barracks of Aldershot, through the mud of France and the sun of North Africa, over the beaches of Anzio and the snow of the Appennines, to the orange groves of Palestine. Such in outline is the war-time trek of the First Divisional Signals.

Mobilised in August, 1939, they embarked for France in mid-September, and in October on the Franco-Belgian border linked up the entire Division with some 60 miles of deeply buried cable.

The 8 o'clock news on Friday, 12th May, brought the men their first intimation that the Germans had invaded Belgium. There followed a rapid move to the River Dyle and then the withdrawal to Dunkirk, where Signals, not for the first time, found themselves acting as infantry and assisting in the rearguard actions.

At Dunkirk all vehicles and equipment were destroyed, and Field Marshal Alexander (then General Alexander, commanding 1st Division) was seen pedalling along on an orderly's bicycle.

Lines were laid inside the perimeter defences, and one man had the unenviable job of manning a telephone at the exposed end of an improvised jetty made of vehicles.

A signal office and report centre were also set up on the beach, and here the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-

Warrant Officers and Sergeants, H.Q. and No. 1 Company, 1st Infantry Divisional Signals, Rome, June, 1944

Back row : Sergeants Elphick, Stewart, Thornton, Phillips, Russel, Heighton, Woods, Brignall, Costin, Winter, Mobberly, Clarke, Barney. Seated : Sergeant Noble, C.Q.M.S. Brown, C.S.M. Pfeiffer, R.S.M. Henwood, Lieut.-Colonel Shawcross, Captain Yeatman, C.S.M. Tucker, C.Q.M.S. Barry, C.Q.M.S. Morrison, Front row : Sergeants Miller, Costello, Ford, Ursell

Colonel (now Major-General) Nalder, and the Adjutant, Captain Hayles, remained until the last troops left on 3rd June.

Leeds, where the Unit re-formed, gave the men a magnificent reception, and then followed two years of intensive training and exercises. About 50 men left the Unit to provide a trained nucleus for 54th Divisional Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. Boyd soon took over command of the Unit, and was followed in 1942 by Lieutenant-Colonel L. T. Shawcross.

North Africa was reached on 10th February, 1943, with an air raid in progress. The 3rd Infantry Brigade, with its Signal Section, went *via* Bone straight into the line at Bou Arada, under the command of the French XIX Corps, with whom very happy relations were established.

The rest of the Division was in the Medjez-el-Bab sector, and Signals did a fine job in the final attack on Tunis, though the Signals personnel not actually occupied on their own work had to become infantry once again at one bad moment in the battle of Banana Ridge.

The bloodless capture of Pantellaria meant a big job for Signals. Wireless sets took news from there and Lampedusa back to Sousse, and then over hundreds of miles of battle-worn civilian lines back to Allied Forces H.Q. at Algiers. Large quantities of Press material here added to the task.

The move to Italy came in December, with Signals operating at first from a school at Cerignola, just south of Foggia. Anzio, on 22nd January, saw Signals detachments accompanying the first battalions which went ashore at 0200 hours, and the successful landing was signalled at 0225. With the assault Brigade went two "ducks" carrying high-powered wireless sets, driven ashore by drivers of the Unit who had volunteered to drive these amphibious vehicles with their precious cargo on to an unknown beach in pitch darkness, and after only one short practice run.

The beach-head, a serious affair of five months, produced at least one touch of humour. One lineman, left snugly in a slit-trench in a farmyard near the forward line, was found lying shortly afterwards in the middle of an open field nearby with mortar shells bursting round him. Questioned afterwards on this strange preference, he pointed to some inoffensive oxen in the farmyard, and said. "What? Go near them ruddy horns? Not —— likely!"

Signals, like everyone else, did a fine job at Anzio, and by March the beach-head was so enmeshed in a network of cable that, though lines were still being broken, alternative routes were always available.

Rome followed, and then Florence, with Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley now in command, and Signals taking over the large hotel telephone exchange at the Hotel Savoia.

On towards the Gothic Line, communications became more and more difficult to maintain. Wireless relay sets had to be established near the tops of hills. D.R.s often had to finish their "runs" walking, and linemen had to abandon even the faithful jeep and use mules instead.

On the last lap of the Division's marathon service in World War II, in the Monte Grande Sector taken over from the Americans, it was always a race to see whether the linemen could build and repair lines faster than German shelling and mortaring could cut them—and Signals usually won!

Few opportunities occur in a Royal Signals unit for displaying the heroism which wins decorations in action, but the First Divisional Signals certainly earned its share in this war, having two O.B.E.s, two M.B.E.s, one M.C., three B.E.M.s, 10 M.M.s, seven Mentions in Despatches, and three American Bronze Stars to its credit.

## *British Army of the Rhine*

(*continued from page* 385)

finally held their sports during the first week in September.

The weather was kind and the finals were held in glorious sunshine.

The industrious Sergeant Giles had collected an astonishing number of entries for all events, and heats in most of the popular sports were held on Monday evenings, 1st and 2nd September.

The number of men who turned out was very pleasing to the organisers, as in addition to the competitors there were quite a few spectators urging on their favourites.

No records were broken at the finals, but competition was very keen—so keen that in the 220 yards final Corporal Watts and Private Roberts dead heated. (Private Roberts had previously won the 100 yards, so he did very well in the sprints.)

Signalman Trill ran strongly in the 880 yards to beat a really good runner in Lieutenant Pearce.

In the 440 yards the positions were reversed and Lieutenant Pearce, profiting from experience, successfully held off the challenge of Signalman Trill over the last 20 yards.

Throwing the discus was very popular, and Captain Knight raised a laugh when, after challenging the pencil wielding Sergeant Giles, just managed to throw outside the circle. It was amusing to see the crowd withdraw to positions of safety whenever he laid hold of the discus.

Corporal Harwood put up a fine performance in throwing the cricket ball 70 feet farther than that of his nearest rival.

Signalman Symons must have been a very bruised man after his attempts at the high jump, but his antics and falls created some amusement among the spectators.

Prizes, supplied from P.R.I., were presented by Mrs. Wollaston.

In conclusion, two comic races were held, after which thirsts were quenched from a barrel of beer.

Corporal Smith thanked all the "O" Troop personnel, Captain Knight, Lieutenant Pearce, Lieutenant Coomber, Second-Lieutenant Banks, Second-Lieutenant Langton and Sergeant Giles, for their efforts in arranging the sports.

*Football.* The system of team planning that was used perhaps unsuccessfully at the end of last season is now beginning to reap full benefits, for the Regiment is, at present, fielding one of the strongest teams in the area, and has also built up quite a useful reserve side.

The method of selection was a fair one, and the representatives of the first XI were chosen from various trials and Troop games held in September. A notable Troop performance was that of "A," who thrashed "J" Troop 12—1, and as a result Corporals Fisher, Turner, Edwards and Wells (not forgetting, of course, Signalman Johnny Hall) played themselves into the Regimental side.

So far two matches have been played in the Brunswick League, the first against 12th Maintenance Section, R.A.S.C., which was won by the Regiment 3-0, and the second against 120th Military Government, two points again going to the Signals for a 2-0 victory.

Another notable feat of the side was their fixture against nearby rivals 13/18th Hussars, which they won by four goals to one. This was the most impressive side that the Regiment has come up against to date.

It is hoped that our side will pass all obstacles during the season with flying colours and win some honours to the satisfaction of those who have organised and helped, namely, Lieutenant Shipton and R.Q.M.S. Robertson. The side which is to take part in the forthcoming cup-ties is as follows: Corporal Levell; Private Peck, Signalman Hoskins; Corporal Turner, Signalman Hall, Lance-Corporal Edwards; Corporal Fisher, Lance-Corporal Hill, Private Jones, Lance-Corporal Wells, Lieutenant Pearce.

# Other Overseas Stations

## 1st ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Palestine

*October*

The R.Q.M.S. sat on an upturned jerrican contentedly puffing away at the foulest pipe in Julis. For him the scene presented the outcome of four days of hard work, vouchering, chasing, and checking. He had cause for contentment, for the mystic ? Troop was formed up ready to move out of 1st Armoured to a new task, and with a new identity.

This was the first visible move in the operation of that unhappy thing labelled D.O.A.D. (Dispersal of Armoured Division). The realisation that the Regiment was to disappear was, for most of us, delayed until that moment.

In the few moments which remained, formality gave way to informality. The Troop broke ranks, there were hurried handshakes, the last parting jest, and they were away. With them went the best of our lads and equipment coupled with the good wishes of those left behind to wait their turn in D.O.A.D.'s next move. Sentiments were well summed up in the words of one old-timer, who was heard to mutter, " Damned miserable—think I'll have a drink."

Thus today finds us here in Julis Camp, working steadily away until the end of the month, when the " break-up " will be completed. This is the last opportunity we may have of meeting old friends through the medium of THE WIRE, so maybe a brief review of the past few months will not be out of place.

The move of the Regiment from Italy to Palestine was completed in June. R.H.Q., No. 1 Squadron, H.Q. Squadron, and " H " Troop are here in Julis Camp, whilst No. 3 Squadron are settled in Khassa Camp, which is only a couple of miles away.

No. 4 Squadron are at Qassassin, in the Canal zone. They never got past that point on the way in from Italy.

Here in Julis the greater part of June and July was spent settling in and getting organised. We took over from 3rd Indian Divisional Signal Regiment, and their whole-hearted co-operation was much appreciated.

Problems both technical and administrative were many, and the degree of security necessary was quite a headache. A nocturnal visit by some " loose wallahs " in our first fortnight here tended to boost morale, and in spite of regulations, the dawn of the next day found a " posse " of " Tyler's Own " on jeep patrol outside the wire. They effectively scared a number of innocent locals, and succeeded in recovering two empty kit boxes. The area is predominantly Arab, and Julis Camp is located about 18 miles north of Gaza, set in an undulating plain, one stage removed from desert bleakness.

To the west one gets a small glimpse of the sea—a mocking blue, for bathing is often dangerous in its treacherous undertow. Julis Camp itself is a sprawled-out medley of tents and wire, covering an area roughly one mile square. Cookhouses, N.A.A.F.I.s, and messes are of permanent construction, whilst offices and stores are of a semi-permanent type, well equipped and of good design. A very real attempt has been made to provide social amenities. The library of the Divisional Welfare Centre is first class and appreciated by all ranks. N.A.A.F.I. prices seem high at first sight, but when compared with outside rates, they assume more reasonable proportions.

Having a Squadron far away down in Egypt involved long lines of communication, with attendant problems. However, the end of July saw us into phase two of existence. Divisional training commenced in earnest. Exercises Cobra, Scorpion, and Rattlesnake are now things of the past.

Some of the past members of the Regiment may like to know that Main and Rear were out in strength again. The veterans of the Division, the 4 x 4 A.C.V.s, were there, too, and in company with their more modern brothers, the " Mammoths," they came in convoy up the Gaza road and back to harbour once again. There they remain, like the rest of us, " in harbour," waiting for the thing we hate—dispersal.

* * *

The last lines have been spoken. The curtain falls for the last time. A great drama of an Armoured Division mixed up queerly with comedy, pathos, humour, and grim resolve has played itself out. . . . The spotlight lights up the stage as one by one the leading characters take their final curtain.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stodart, Commandant, Royal Signals. Known throughout the Corps as a sporting personality—hockey, cricket, climbing. A worthy winner of the veterans' race in the recent Squadron Sports, who, having played a fine innings, now has the misfortune to see the Regimental stumps drawn at " close of play." Captain Donald MacLeod, our worthy Adjutant, another mainstay of the R.H.Q. cricket team, complete, we hope, with that sartorial monstrosity which passes as his sporting headgear.

That " benevolent despot " R.S.M. Gay, who, having at Catterick breathed fire and brimstone over junior officers, came overseas to see how they were shaping and who, between putting this Regiment's house in order, has found time to play a pretty bat in many a good cricket match.

Major Jim Boyland cheerfully carries the major burden of communications as O.C. No. 1 Squadron and is presiding financial genius of the Regiment's quarterly audit headache. O.C. No. 2 Squadron, Major Charles Jenkins, is soon to be divorced from his beloved gunners and is now thinking hard about a bowler hat. Best of luck in Civvy Street, sir. Captain Les Dutton, O.C. " J " Troop, now getting ready to assume the dignity of a Squadron again, is shortly going to U.K. on a course and, we hear also, a spot of leave. Major Leslie Lander, now winding up No. 4 Squadron in Egypt, is shortly due to become O.C. No. 3 Squadron; No. 3 Squadron are sure of a place in the cricketing world now. Lieutenant (Q.M.) Bill Leach, famous in the world of hockey and in addition knower of all the answers in the " Q " world. His very able assistant, R.Q.M.S. " Pop " Hastings, another sporting wallah—ex India—and proud owner of the foul-smelling pipe aforementioned; between them they have carried " Q " Troop to many a sporting victory. Captain Bill Beard, the T.O.M., who frequently exchanges the now famous walking stick for the " willow " and does himself no little credit; knows about wireless sets, especially 53 Sets, as certain gentlemen have had sober cause to reflect—and were their faces red ?

Soft lights and music. . . . Good lord, what's this ? . . . Yes, it must be . . . it is. . . . Our oldest inhabitant—Sergeant Tyler, " Pluto," 6th Armoured Divisional Signals, 1941 vintage, and still going strong both in work and sport. And still they come. . . . Ted Jones, S.S.M., No. 1 Squadron; S.Q.M.S. Jack Fears; Sergeants Hamblett, Hardwicke, Pugh, S.S.M. Tommy Angel (Cipher) and a whole host of others, sergeants, signalmen, corporals, drivers, linemen,

operators, driver-mechanics, cooks, and clerks—a great band of fellows, who, working as a team, have made this in every sense "the premier Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment." . . . They pass slowly away behind the curtain, while in the wings, the ghosts of all the grim old warriors—the former members of the two great Armoured Divisions from which this one was formed—nod their silent approval.

## MALAYA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*October*

Since our last notes we have seen the departure of groups 60 and 61 for U.K., and as a result considerable reorganisation and redistribution of the remaining personnel has taken place. Conferences and discussions on how to utilise remaining manpower to the best advantage are the order of the day.

A certain Royal personage once said, "When I die you will read 'Calais' written on my heart," or words to that effect. We feel that we shall have "manpower" written on ours.

Very little progress has been made in the T.M. and Q.M. construction side of our new site. Apparently the R.E. have their manpower problems, and it looks as though it will be some time before R.H.Q. is centralised and completed.

Our B.O.R. lines appear to be very popular these days, and we have quite a number of attachments for rations and accommodations to fill the barrack rooms vacated by departing groups. Can it be because of our super powdered potato cakes and excellent messing?

*Officers' Mess.* We still remain in the old mess building although we learn that we shall shortly move to the new mess on the Malaya Command site. It was good to hear that we should remain a Signals Mess even though the new mess is rather too large for us and necessitates the admittance of other officers from R.E. units. From all appearances and reports we shall all enjoy ourselves, and we see no reason why we shouldn't be one happy family in our new luxurious quarters.

The target date for the move is fixed for the 15th October, but unless things are completed sooner than anticipated, our move is more likely to take place at the end of the month.

Our departures of the month are Lieutenant W. Wrennall, Hampshires, who has been Cipher Officer in the Unit for some time. He goes on a college course, and we wish him every success. He has been a prominent member of the Unit football team, and we shall miss him in that sphere as well as in his work. Second-Lieutenant Wood also departed with 61 group and proceeds on release. Second-Lieutenant Wood was with No. 2 Squadron in Taiping, where he rendered good service, and we wish him every success in civil life.

We were very glad to see Major-General Wade, our new G.O.C. Malaya Command, in our Mess after his recent inspection of the lines. Major-General Wade will be remembered by the old hands of Maresfield days, and his arrival in Kuala Lumpur as G.O.C. will give us added prestige and pride of corps.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* Promotions within the Squadron have given the Mess the undermentioned new members. We congratulate and welcome them amongst us: Sergeant D. Webb, Sergeant H. Brook, Sergeant K. Anderson, Sergeant H. Merry.

This month we said "Bon Voyage" to the undermentioned members on their departure to the land of "No smokes" and "Sympathetic" beer. Our best wishes go with them in their struggle ahead. "Roll on that boat," however, is still the cry, so Blighty cannot be too bad even these days: Sergeant F. A. Beardsmore (our 4ft. nothing O.R.S), Sergeant D. E. Eacott, Sergeant J. H. Clapp, Sergeant R. K. Rice.

With the departure to U.K. of most of our "star" players, no football has been played this month. Several members of the Mess, R.S.M. Miller, W.O.I Brown, A.S.M. Munslow, S.Q.M.S. Finch, are giving a hand to get hockey started in No. 1 Squadron.

No major entertainments have been held this month, although two very good impromptu parties were organised on the 1st and 19th September for members going home. Beer flowed freely and it was more by luck than judgment that both parties left the Regimental Lines to catch the train on the first step to home and no beer.

*Cricket.* The two matches played in September finished off a season which has been satisfactory in every respect. The standard of cricket has been high; keenness has been such that it has been possible to raise a first and second team, and throughout the season games with both Services' and civilian teams have been played in a spirit of perfect good will and friendliness. Of over twenty first team matches only four have been lost and three drawn. Five of the team played for the Army and three for Combined Services, Selangor State.

*Football.* August and September have seen a great return to form of the Unit team. Of 13 matches played, 10 have been won, two drawn and one lost. The lost match was to the champion team of Selangor State, the Selangor Malays.

One member of the team, Lance-Corporal Bowd, has been outstanding at right wing, and has had the honour to be selected to play for the State—the only Service representative.

In the second round of the Inter-Company Knock-Out Competition, No. 1 Squadron beat "C" Company, 4th/8th Gurkha Rifles, by 3—0.

In the third round we played Malaya Command Training Centre. Calcott, at left wing, obtained the first goal in ten minutes, and five minutes later Bowd netted a second. There was no further scoring and Brown and Stoddart, at right-half and right-back respectively, played very well, breaking up movement after movement.

On 28th September, No. 1 Squadron went up to Taiping for a friendly match with No. 2 Squadron. One of the best matches of the season ended in a draw.

In the semi-finals of the Knock-Out Competition we thoroughly trounced H.Q. Malaya Command 5—1. Bowd, Blue and Fleming were combining excellently in the forward line and Brown and Scott were best in the defence. Goals were scored by Fleming, Calcott, Thompson and Bowd (2).

On 3rd October the No. 1 Squadron team played Stores and Workshops R.E. in the final of the Knock-Out Competition. Five minutes after starting we were awarded a penalty and missed. Thereafter we ceaselessly bombarded the Sappers' goal without avail till Thompson scored off a pass by Crawford. The R.E.s equalised almost immediately off a penalty, which left Clarke, in goal, no chance. At half-time the score was one-all. The first ten minutes of the second half were even. Then Bowd took a hand. He took a pass from Calcott, beat five men on his own and broke the back of the net! Five minutes later he headed another off a centre by Thompson. Bowd obtained two more goals, beating his opponents by sheer speed and forceful shooting. The R.E.s scored once more but were a beaten side, and full time was blown giving Signals a 5—2 victory, making them champions of Selangor Area. Next month we play the best teams from North and South Malaya for the All-Malaya Cup.

## No. 2 EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

*November*

R.H.Q. MOASCAR. Recent arrivals to the Regiment have included Major J. R. Piddington, M.C., Major G. H. Smith, M.B.E., Captain D. Hamer, Lieutenant P. Cansfield and Second-Lieutenant A. Newick. Also during the month "X" Troop, late of 1 Armoured Division, under the command of Captain Callender, have joined us and are now attached to 1 Squadron of the Regiment.

A display team, composed of members of various Signal Regiments in the Command, and ably led by Major Piddington, recently gave a demonstration of Signals work at Fayid which proved eminently successful. The team was congratulated on its efforts in a letter received from the C.S.O., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., who expressed his approval for the all-round excellence of the show.

The Regiment is carrying on work in spite of the rather annoying practices of the local inhabitants, who are expert at removing overhead or underground cable almost as soon as they have been laid. Although this has been going on for some time, the local market for copper and lead does not appear to have been flooded as yet, and in spite of very thorough precautions losses occur almost daily.

The "winter" games season officially commenced this month and our cricket team have now oiled their bats after a most successful season. Rugby, soccer and hockey teams are now all playing in the first of the League matches of the new season and are rapidly finding their feet as new players settle down in the teams.

*Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* To open this month's notes we wish to offer our heartiest congratulations to W.O.II Jack Lovelock on his recent promotion. We know that many of our old members will be as pleased to hear of this as we are. At the same time, we welcome Sergeants Digweed and Brown to the Mess. Sergeants Redman, Tatton, Simpson and Sansom have now left us to establish themselves in "civvy street" again, but we feel sure that they will not easily forget the Mess. Sergeant Sansom, better known as plain "Sammy," will be particularly missed for his celebrated rendering of "When Winter Comes," practically the Mess signature tune, but never the same without him. As most of the senior, non-regular, members of the Mess will be leaving soon, a dinner and smoker was recently held which provided an excellent evening's entertainment.

We welcome into our circle the Sergeants of "X" Troop, recently arrived from 1st Armoured Division in Palestine, and also Sergeant Edwards, attached from No. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

The Mess is well represented on the sports field, no fewer than four Mess members playing in each team, rugby, soccer and hockey. At the start of the football season we were quick to issue a challenge to T.M. Troop, and in the resulting game were victors by 3 goals to nil.

Another successful dance was held during the month, and although the numbers were not as great as before, the lack of lady partners being rather obvious, a good time was still had by all, a great attraction being the "Chelsea pensioners" and a general "round the piano" gathering after the guests had left. With the coming of colder weather, preparations are being made to hold future dances inside the Mess, the outside dance floor now proving rather chilly at late evening.

No. 1 SQUADRON, MOASCAR. The Squadron continues to work at high pressure in all spheres.

This month we welcomed Major Piddington, M.C., as our new O.C., but his stay with us proved short and he has now left us to take the appointment of G.S.O. II in C.S.O.s Branch B.T.E. Major Ditchfield is now back again in the chair of O.C. as before. Captain Hamer, who joined us from U.K., has taken over duties as Squadron Second-in-Command. Lieutenant Cansfield is Squadron and Regimental Wireless Officer, and Second-Lieutenant Newick is wrestling with piastres and milliemes in the Pay Office. We welcome them all and wish them happy hunting in Moascar.

We shall soon be saying goodbye to Lieutenant Azulay, of Line Troop, who is shortly due for Class "A" release and is returning to his studies at the University. We take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck.

Amongst others the notorious "Brown Boys" have already said their farewells, their prowess on the tennis courts will often be talked about. Good luck, boys. Another popular figure who will soon be leaving is Lance-Corporal "Copper" Beardshaw. We shall miss his good-natured reprimands and his many stories of resistance against "uninvited guests" of our Jimmy Club. We hope he finds a more peaceful occupation in Civvy Street.

We have two new "three stripers" in the Squadron in Sergeant "Topper" Brown, the ever cheery Chief Clerk of Squadron Office, and Sergeant Digweed of Cipher Troop who has already distinguished himself in Squadron sports activities.

*Hockey.* We have discovered a new centre-forward in Corporal Gates, who previously did well at outside-left, and new talent in Major Piddington and Sergeant Digweed. With the blending together of these newcomers and such "old stagers" as Lieutenant-Colonel Hardy our C.O. and terrier-like right wing, Lieutenant Ainslie equally enterprising on the other flank, Captain Brewin still deceiving the opponents with wily stick work, S.Q.M.S. Delicate our diminutive but hawk-eyed goalkeeper, and G.S.M. Lyons and R.S.M. Irvin, our stoutest defenders (no offence meant), we have the makings of a sound team. In the first few games of the season we beat the R.A.F., 1st L. of C. Signals Regiment, and Field Security Section, in League matches, and lost to 2nd Base Workshops in a friendly game. We followed these successes by beating a strong East Yorks team by 5-1, but since then have suffered a change of fortune and have been defeated in our last two League games of the month by School of Mechanical Engineering and H.Q. B.T.E.

*Football.* Again in Soccer we have started off well this season. In our first four games we beat Army Post Office, School of Mechanical Engineering, East Yorks, and were defeated by 2004 Royal Pioneer Company, finishing the month at the head of the Garrison Senior League.

*Rugby.* We were narrowly beaten in our first two games by better balanced and more experienced sides representing School of Mechanical Engineering and H.Q. B.T.E. Despite these initial reverses the team is shaping well and we anticipate better results in the future.

We have a sound full back and captain in Captain Brewin, and have made a definite discovery in right-centre Signalman Armstrong, who is a newcomer from 2nd Tank Regiment Signals. Trooper Armstrong has very safe hands, a powerful and accurate kick and is equally useful in attack or defence; when he learns to tackle cleanly he should easily find a place in representative games.

*Boxing.* At a recent Inter-Service boxing tournament

held at Pioneer Corps Depot Qassasin, Signalman R. Davies, a member of Line Troop, put up a very creditable performance when he gained a narrow points victory over Private Welch of the Norfolk Regiment in a welter weight contest. In a fight that provided many thrills, Davies was clearly the more accurate hitter and deservedly won the judges' favour.

*Entertainment.* During the month another dance was held in the Jimmy Club and again an enjoyable time was had by all present. Tombola has become a popular institution on Thursday nights. It's one way of getting rid of so much surplus money, anyway!

Members of the Regiment have played their part in providing talent for the successful production of R. C. Sheriff's "Journey's End," which was played by a mixed Services company in various camps in the district.

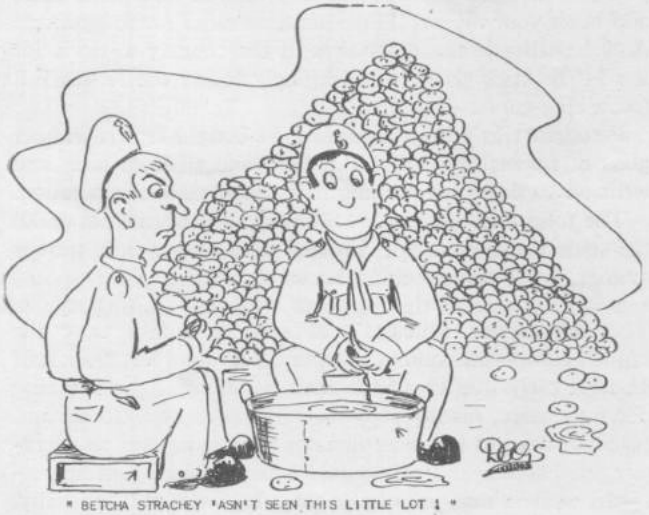
The producer of the play was Signalman Michael Jackson, who deserves full praise for the manner in which he carried out a difficult task. Others deserving commendation for their performances include Lance-Corporal Gibbs and Signalmen Carter and Whittaker.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Everything is running very smoothly and fairly quietly at the moment. We welcome to the Squadron Major G. H. Smith, M.B.E., who will be replacing Major D. L. Hyde, our present O.C., who is leaving for "Blighty" at the beginning of November on "Python." We have already bade farewell to Captain J. G. McDonald, who left for demobilisation with 59 Group.

There is a high competitive spirit in the Squadron as Inter-Troop matches in cricket, football, basketball, and various indoor games have shown. We take this opportunity to thank 2nd Armoured Brigade Signals for their invitation to an indoor games evening, which was enjoyed by all.

Football is in full swing, and although the Squadron has no team of its own the enthusiasm shown in the combined Signals and H.Q. Canal Central District team is terrific. This team is going great guns at the moment as it is fighting for first place in the Garrison League and recently managed to beat the League leaders.

A small club has recently been opened for members of the Squadron and is proving a great success. We thank Second-Lieutenant Wilson for his great help in starting the club.



"BETCHA STRACHEY 'ASN'T SEEN THIS LITTLE LOT!"

## 6th AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

### Palestine

*November*

The Regiment has now completed two years in Palestine with hardly a dull moment. In January, 6th Airborne Division moved up from South Palestine to the North, and the 2nd Parachute Brigade went home. The change was welcome; and during the year the Parachute Brigades and Artillery Regiment Signal Troops have made a further change within North Palestine.

159th Parachute Field Regiment Signal Troop, with Lieutenant J. L. Birch as O.C., joined in March from the Indian Airborne Division. The troop is now F Troop of this Regiment. The L.A.D. was formed in August as a permanent addition.

Divisional Headquarters is on Mount Carmel point overlooking Haifa. The Stella Maris Monastery area will be remembered by our predecessors of the 1st and 3rd Infantry Divisions. The 1st Parachute Brigade and J Troop are also based on Haifa. The 3rd Parachute Brigade and L Troop are at Nazareth. E (33rd Airborne Light Regiment) and F (now renamed 87th Airborne Field Regiment) Signal Troops are encamped with the corresponding artillery regiments, not far from Cæsarea.

The task of Internal Security is both arduous and responsible; and perhaps not one which the majority would choose from natural inclination. Tolerance, self-help and a sense of humour have been the stand by in day to day life in a year of complicated administration and stretched communications.

Static communications on a large scale have to be manned continuously, all locations being wired in, and defended as a precautionary measure. Periodic curfews, searches, and the transhipment of illegal immigrants in Haifa port maintain variety. Interspersed amid the live task, training and recreation continues. Formation and Regimental headquarters and communications go mobile on exercises. Airborne and parachute training has continued throughout the year in the form of refresher courses at the Airborne Training School and R.A.F. Parachute School at Aqir.

Two vehicles have been blown up in the course of their duty by road mines laid by the opposition. The men who were injured made a satisfactory recovery. One night in August there was an ill-advised attack on Stella Maris Camp which was settled very quickly in our favour.

The 2nd Parachute Brigade reached England, and Salisbury Plain, in February. The Brigade went home with the primary task of keeping alive and developing airborne technique while the rest of the Division is committed in Palestine. K Signal Troop accompanied the Brigade and is with Headquarters at Perham Down. K Troop has been temporarily renamed 2nd Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. The O.C. is Major G. Proudman, with Sergeant G. Creed and Sergeant J. Woolgar in support. The Squadron soon settled in and trained hard with very satisfactory results as seen on Exercise Longstop, the big Army/R.A.F. Airborne exercise, held in September. Major Proudman was unlucky to break his shoulder on the drop, but managed to argue his way out of hospital and back to duty in a very short time.

*Who's who; comings and goings.* To do justice to a paragraph of this nature is a major operation. Many old friends have gone, fortunately almost as many new ones have come, and more fortunately still many still remain to give continuity. Amongst those who will have seen the year through with the Regiment are Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle, Major R. C. Pringle, Major G. Proudman,

(*continued on page* 394)

# Bob's Your Uncle!

ONCE upon a time there was a wicked unprincipled Signalman called Pettigrew, and he was a sinister character given to borrowing other people's cap badges for kit inspections, and he never had any boot polish, and if there was anything good to eat in the mess he would gobble his first helping in a beastly way and rush round for a second before it was all gone. He lost the books he borrowed from the unit library, and he stole a half-pint from the Plasterers' Arms to use for shaving, and he never had the same knife, fork, spoon, and mug three days running, and even in summer he had five blankets on his bed, and when he came into stores the "Q" used to say to his hirelings, "Look out, chaps, here comes Pettigrew," and then the hirelings would hide the W.D. bootlaces and get ready to say, "NO, NOT TODAY," even louder than usual. This man Pettigrew never got put on a charge, but he was a hardened criminal just the same.

Well, one day it came to be time for his privilege leave, and the man Pettigrew borrowed some Blanco and did his webbing equipment, and then he borrowed some Soldier's Friend, and some Bluebell, and some matches, and did his buttons, and then he packed the Blanco, the Bluebell, the Soldier's Friend, and a pair of socks he found in the ablutions into a haversack he found in the M.T. yard, and he put the matches in his pocket and went to collect his rations from the N.A.A.F.I. After he'd had the usual argument with the girl about whether you have a fortnight's rations to go on leave with or collect them when you come back (and I need hardly tell you that Signalman Pettigrew and the R.S.M. were the only people in the Regiment who ever got their rations *before* their leave), he sat back exhausted in a hard chair and had a cup of coffee and a wizened little scone. And his friend, Signalman Harris, a prudent and well-informed character, came up to him carrying a brimming glass of N.A.A.F.I. beer and two part-worn lemon curd tarts on a plate.

"Got your warrant?" he said.

"No," said Pettigrew.

"Take my advice and keep it for going to see your young lady in Inverness," said Harris, who was an old friend. "When you get to the station, get a platform ticket——"

— the usual argument with the girl....

"That's no good!" said Pettigrew with expert scorn.

"It is if you know the ropes," said Harris. He drank a lot of beer and chewed madly at his lemon curd tart. "Get the local," he said, "and get the express from the main junction—it is near Ossett you go, isn't it?"

"A few stations beyond, but never mind, it's a long way if you get caught and have to pay."

"Old man," said Harris, finishing the beer and pushing away the second lemon curd tart as though it disgusted him, "*you* won't be caught! You get the express *after* they've taken the tickets on it, and they don't do it again because

— Stein... inadequately disguised....

it's too crowded and there aren't enough inspectors. It's a piece of cake, really." (Pettigrew sank his teeth into the wrinkled little scone, never taking his eyes off Harris.) "You change at Wakefield, and when you get out at wherever-it-is you say, 'I've come from Ossett,' because you can get through the barrier there without a ticket and they all know it, and you give the man sixpence and he gives you threepence back, and bob's your uncle. Three hundred miles for fourpence! And I challenge any other firm in the country to do it for less!" he said, glaring challengingly round the N.A.A.F.I. like a king-cobra.

Pettigrew was deeply impressed; he bought Harris another glass of fascinating N.A.A.F.I. beer, and thanked him, and went off to finish his packing in a happy state of exaltation.

The following day about 1535 (day shift finished at 1600) the station was, as usual, cluttered with untidy little groups of Signalmen hiding behind bookstalls, crates, pillars, posts, and—in the case of those new to the unit—waiting rooms. They all carried suitcases and haversacks and wore the hunted expression common to those who have left work half an hour early. After a little while an officer came sneaking down the steps, inadequately disguised in civilian clothes and patently wearing the same deserter's hang-dog air, so everyone felt happier and a few bold spirits saluted him aggressively, while a man who knew the officer was still, officially,

on duty said to him heartily, " Well, bon voyage, sir ! " at which everyone flinched.

Pettigrew got on the train inconspicuously from the shadow of a pile of aircraft parts in boxes. He got a seat on the train (most of the others stood in the corridor or the guard's van, where the guard grumbled at them all the way and sucked his railway moustache vengefully). He got out at the junction. He changed into the express, and stared at six people in a compartment so piteously that they all squashed together in a corner and gave him a seat. At Wakefield he got out, and changed into the local. It was growing dark: around in the dimness huge shapes of mills, wastes of sooty grass, streets of stone cottages climbing the cliffs of millstone grit, loomed, passed, were gone. Pettigrew began to assume the air of one who, in spite of the haversack hung bulging on a shoulder, has spent a convivial evening in Ossett. At his home station the train stopped, and a number of people descended noisily and swept towards the barrier, carrying him with them. A morose little man with a sombre tarpaulin cape shielding him from the rigours of the climate stood by a gap.

To him Pettigrew said, " I've come from Ossett," and tendered a shilling. The man took the shilling. A great wave of relief washed over Pettigrew. He passed through

"I've come from Ossett"

the barrier—to home, peace, freedom, leave—all that the heart could desire. And constantly he praised the virtue and perspicacity of Signalman Harris.

* * *

Two days after his return from leave he went to the N.A.A.F.I. to get some razor blades. When he had been sold a writing pad, a bottle of Brylcreem, a flattened piece of a dreary confection known as a Nelson Slice, and some tea, he sat down in a chair and looked about him. Harris appeared, carrying a glass of beer and a ham sandwich.

— only had one helping.....

" How'd it go ? " he asked, sitting down.

" Smashing ! " said Pettigrew gratefully, and told him everything, from the platform ticket to the shilling at the end. Harris's face wore at first a broad smug smile, but at the end of the recital he was looking blacker than thunder.

" These railways ! " he said through his teeth. He drank some beer, took a deep breath, and started again. Terrible words came from his lips—horrible expressions that he had picked up from a low friend in another regiment. Finally:

" What is it ? " asked Pettigrew.

" Old man "—Harris's voice was broken—" old man, you've been done—twisted—cheated. I don't know how to tell you ! That low-down son of a never-mind-what took your shilling from you, and he kept it, didn't he ? He never gave you any change, did he ? He stole it, that's what he did ! Old man—Bill—it's threepence, single, from Ossett to where you live. Oh, if I could only get my hands on that lousy what-have-you for just one minute ! " He took up his ham sandwich as if it might have been a Luger, stared at it fiercely, and ate it in two bites so that tears came to his eyes. " Done you out of ninepence—my best friend."

Pettigrew finished his coffee rather quickly. He was wondering. He was still wondering when he went to bed, with Harris's threats and lamentations still reverberating in his ears. So he'd been cheated, had he ? *He'd* been cheated ! Signalman Pettigrew thought it over for some days, and at the end of them he decided it was no good bothering about it any more—but the next time they had treacle sponge in the mess he only had one helping. Which all goes to show.

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**Other Overseas Stations** (*continued from page* 392)

Captains W. P. W. Robertson and D. S. Clarke, Lieutenants B. J. Carter, D. D. Ranft, N. R. F. McKinnon and P. H. C. Walker, R.Q.M.S. Hewitt, S.S.M. Marjoram, B.E.M., S.S.M. Bridle, Sergeants Laing, Reynolds, Offord, Barker, Barthorpe, Higley, Bainbridge and Buckley.

Those who have joined us include Major V. H. Martin, M.C., from the Army Air Transport Development Centre, Lieutenant-Quartermaster W. J. Robertson lately of the Indian Airborne Division, R.S.M. J. Leonard, M.B.E., lately of the Guards Armoured Division, also Major E. W. Barrett, Captains S. W. Brackenbury, R. J. Foxcroft, J. A. Tonnison, J. P. Tyrie, Captain (Tom) F. Homan, M.B.E., S.S.M. Sweeny, S.Q.M.S. Woolgar, S.Q.M.S. Holton, Sergeants Warren, Moir, Kelly, Burgess, Thompson, Weatherly, Lyons, Roberts, Gordon, Dawson, Dobson, Fairweather. The foregoing include grippers on operational service not only in Europe, but from Australia to Algiers in addition.

Farewells included Major G. S. Fenton, who has just survived a course at Catterick, and is now at the Army Air Transport Development Centre. Major J. R. Hamer, Captain J. C. R. Gilbert, R.S.M. F. Clift and others who fought through Normandy and the Ardennes and crossed the Rhine. Captains K. W. R. Jones and A. G. Lindsay, who were originally with 1st Airborne Division. Captain P. J. W. McVey and Sergeant Fuge, who were with 5th Parachute Brigade in Java.

Also, in particular, Lieutenant-Quartermaster M. Reat, Lieutenants (T.O.M.) H. Foskett, A. R. Wigram, S.S.M. Mayhew, S.S.M. Tucker, M.C., S.S.M. Smart, S.Q.M.S. Golver, S.Q.M.S. Driver, Sergeants Thompson, Phillips, D.C.M., Bate, Studden, Turner, Coxen, Jardine, Elliott, Evans, B.E.M., Harris, Millward, Grant, Dickson and Holland. Corporal Purnell, Corporal Brown, B.E.M., and the two Winstanley brothers. Captain B. A. Gomm left early in the year to be Adjutant of the 16th Airborne Division Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry), and was later joined by S.S.M. Glover. In addition to their normal duties in the Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, there is the Airborne Signals Old Comrades' Association. The first social evening, in August, was a great success with over a hundred members present from all over the U.K. The next re-union will be early in 1948. All interested should contact Captain Gomm.

*Airborne Reinforcements.* The Royal Signals Airborne Troop of 1st Depot Regiment, at Pocklington, now has Lieutenant J. E. Trotter as O.C. This Troop has done great work. In the eighteen months since its formation, about 400 volunteers have passed through for parachute training and onward transmission to this Regiment. It is also a rallying point for Signals Parachutists who have been away from Airborne Forces and are coming back.

*Football.* The end of last season saw the Regiment reach the Rugby semi-final, where we lost to 8th Parachute Battalion, the eventual winners. S.S.M. Marjoram, one of the few of the team left, is a principal coach in re-forming this season's team. Similarly, in soccer we also reached the semi-final last season, and a new team is forming now.

*Cricket.* This has been largely conducted by away matches. It formed a major win in a week-end sporting festival which we held in competition with the Army Signal School.

*Athletics.* The Regiment won the invitation Medley Relay at the Palestine Police Sports, and came second in the one-mile relay in the Divisional Sports. Hockey and swimming have formed the basic recreation for all throughout the summer. The sea bathing has been a principal attraction.

*Boxing.* A Regimental novices' boxing competition was held at the end of October. An excellent series of fights resulted in a win for L (3rd Parachute Brigade) Signal Troop team.

# Territorial Army

## No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

A Merry Christmas to you all from Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham. Make no mistake, you will have one. Old stocks will be used up, as A.D.O.S. always says. A free issue of good wishes for the New Year will follow, when the supply position improves. We are still very much on the local map, and if the wheels are only turning slowly we are, nevertheless, going forward, which, in these days, is something. It is rather a pity that all this valuable technical equipment should not be delighting the eyes and brains of many more citizen soldiers. However, we hope to stage an exhibition in the Drill Hall for the benefit of the many people who appear to be a little vague regarding the activities of Signals today. You may believe it or not, but as true as I am bending this steel girder, there are even yet some dear old gentlemen who wonder if our Flags Signalling are made of silk or cotton. One modern-minded youngster of 76 has heard of a Wireless Set No. 1 and is anxious to know if Nos. 2 and 3 have come out.

Major Hencher and his party from Catterick (wherever that might be) paid us a very welcome visit from 3rd to 5th November, and staged a most interesting series of lectures on the art of instructing. Sorry we were unable to accommodate them at our Drill Hall, but I understand that they were well looked after at Hurst Lane, Castle Bromwich. Their demonstration was an eye-opener in many ways. It set in motion the nagging memory of my own lectures in the Electrical School at Jubbulpore, lectures that were usually, at one stage or another, interrupted by bursts of laughter from the class. Perhaps I had the right idea too soon by 17 years. They weren't dull, anyway, and when I got the sack we all laughed even more.

Captain P. R. Hoskins, with a party of P.S.I.s and T.A. men, did a very useful job of work when they went down to the Artillery Ranges at Sennybridge, near Brecon, on 8/9th November. They were responsible for communications from O.P. to Gun position so that 639th Heavy Battery, R.A., could fire a lot of cannon balls or something from a new, large and particularly noisy gun. More than 7 inches across the spout, they tell me. This little band of Signals provided excellent communication with D.3 single earth return and much walking and are, with every justification, feeling highly satisfied with themselves. Perhaps I should say with the exception of Driver Hook, who took a violent dislike to the shape of a civilian car on the outward journey. He redesigned the front of the car with the bumper of our 15cwt. truck, a proceeding which did not appear to meet with the whole-hearted approval of the owner, who actually wanted to know who Hook thought he was and where he came from.

For those who like names, here follows a list of some of the early arrivals to this Unit. Ranks are deliberately omitted. Some are sergeants, some were, and some will be. They are all good chaps: L. Abbotts, R. J. Cannadine, R. Docker, J. Hook, A. W. Hone, L. H. Lovering, A. McConnell, J. McGuire, L. S. Peach, A. Preston, P. M. Vane, E. C. Warrilow, H. King. If you don't recognise some of them I shall be surprised.

Sergeant P. Hands (P.S.I.), almost our last remaining

bachelor, became engaged to be married during October. Reports that other P.S.I.s have tried to talk him out of it are strenuously denied. We wish Sergeant Hands and his charming partner the best of good luck in the great adventure.

" BARLEUX."

## No. 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The " Y " Army Signal Regiment came into being on 1st May, with H.Q. at Wanstead, and although our name has now been changed to No. 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, our H.Q. remains as before and we still enjoy the advantages of what we feel is the most modern drill hall in the country. Its very modern design was the subject of many battles fought by Lieutenant-Colonel Manley (late C.O. 54th East Anglian Divisional Signals) and embodies splendid facilities for all military purposes and for canteen and recreational amenities.

Prior to the last war the unit was known as the 54th East Anglian Divisional Signals and we are fortunate in having a nucleus of officers and men from that unit with us now, including our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D.

Recruiting has not been as brisk as we had hoped, but those who have joined make up in keenness for their shortage in numbers. We have 13 officers and 27 other ranks, ably backed up by a permanent staff headed by the Adjutant, Captain D. L. Pounds (ex School of Signals and 104th R.H.A.), Captain (Q.M.) G. Perry, M.B.E. (M.M.I.A., Italy), and R.S.M. S. C Payne, M.B.E. (ex 15th Army Group Signals), with S.S.M. MacIntyre (G.H.Q., India), S.S.M. Stickells (13th Corps Signals), S.S.M. Evans (Eastern Command Signals), Sergeant Buesnel (No. 18 L. of C., Greece), Sergeant Lancaster (10th Divisional Indian Signals), Sergeant Heal (61 Division), Sergeant Clarke (N.I.D. Signals), Sergeant Stenson (No. 12 L. of C., B.A.O.R.), Sergeant Durrant (1st British Corps, B.A.O.R.), Corporal McEvoy (School of Signals). Of the old unit, besides the C.O., we have Major L. H. Gentry, T.D., and Captain E. T. Bilham, and the newcomers are Major L. R. James (ex 15th Indian Corps Signals), Captain W. H. Lamb (ex 8th Army Signals), Captain L. D. Hammerson (ex No. 4 Wireless Group), Lieutenant J. H. Mansfield (ex No. 4 Independent Air Formation), Lieutenant A. C. G. Tucker (ex No. 2 O.T.B.), Lieutenant R. A. Chell (ex Sudan Defence Force), Lieutenant A. A. J. Bacon (ex No. 2 Air Formation Signals), and Lieutenant H. E. Collins (ex 6th Armoured Divisional Signals).

Our equipment is arriving very steadily and is giving the Quartermaster plenty to think about. Fortunately, the layout of our H.Q. gives him good scope to get it stowed away and allocated to the troops at the same time. We have a 30 yards rifle range, and this, together with our other plans, will brighten up our training and make it more interesting. Up to now it has been of necessity more in the nature of putting our house in order. Once things are straightened out and the demonstration signal office and lecture rooms completed, we shall be able to get on with some serious training.

We managed to get in one or two dances in the late spring and they were successful enough to encourage us to get organised as quickly as we can with this winter's plans. We have had many enquiries from ladies, mainly from the local telephone exchange—almost enough, in fact, to equip a T.S.B.O. Section. We have had to pass them, however—we hope they arrive !

We should be very happy to see any ex-Signals types at any time, particularly as we are anxious to get a strong body of experienced N.C.O.s and men together as a bulwark against our future commitments. In any case, call in and see us if you are passing. Our H.Q. is near the Green Man, Leytonstone, and the address is Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11. You will be very welcome.

## No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

The individual training season is now upon us and visions of intensive indoor instruction loom ahead. It is hoped that facilities will exist for every Squadron attached to this Regiment to be able to organise an interesting and intensive winter programme. We hope to open our season with a S.E.W.T., to be directed by the C.S.O., Southern Command, on 30th November, 1947.

*Births.* We are pleased to record the birth of a son, Robert Brady, to R.S.M. and Mrs. Mitchell, at Wandsworth Maternity Home on 9th October, 1947. This now brings the total on the R.S.M.'s strength return to three.

" SIXTY-THREE."

26th A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP, T.A. After two blank recruiting weeks, we are pleased to welcome L. A. O'Rourke, late C.S.M., London District Signals. Training has begun in earnest, but lack of equipment is being felt. The following promotions have been made:—Signalman A. Jones and Signalman R. A. Jolliffe to Sergeant; Signalman J. Cropp, Signalman L. R. Compton and Signalman E. C. Birchley to Corporal.

We are looking forward to the T.A. Club dinner on 7th November and hope to rope in a few more ex-Royal Signals.

*Personal.* Corporal J. Cropp would be glad to hear from Corporal B. Harvey, late 80th Med. Regiment (S.H.). Last heard of in Southend.

Corporal Lou Compton wishes to contact Corporal I. Herd, late 49th Division Signals, last known home address—Esher.

" AGREES."

10th AIR SUPPORT SIGNALS UNIT. October has been an important month in the young life of 10th A.S.S.U. In the first place, the Searchlight Tattoo put us well on the map in the eyes of the Hampshire public, and, secondly, our first week-end camp has produced a Unit spirit worthy of any pre-war Regular Unit.

The Tattoo in Southampton was enthusiastically received by a packed crowd. Its obvious success was a fitting reward for all the hard work entailed in its production. The Unit was present to a man, and everyone worked with a will at jobs ranging from director to ticket collector. The highlight of the evening was the performance of the Catterick Motor Cycle Display Team, but all the supporting items were cheered to the echo. Perhaps the person most responsible for the success of the show was the Clerk of the Weather, who never put a foot wrong.

We now know that hard work can be really enjoyable when the object is attained, and the spirit produced in the Tattoo has continued and grown at our week-end camp, held near Bransgore on 18/19th October. In this we combined with 100th A.G.R.A. Signals Squadron.

Our camp was on a disused R.A.F. airfield, now occupied (obviously) by cattle. At first sight it was not prepossessing, but willing hands soon made it spick and span. Our programme included an illustrated lecture on India by Sir Henry Twynam, which brought appreciative murmurs from the youngsters and reminiscent chuckles from the old " Koi Hai's." A lecture on the Japanese by Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith lasted ninety minutes, yet was all too short. Besides these, we had P.T., drill, wireless demonstrations, driving instruction and hockey on the deserted runways, a map-reading race through the New Forest, and the inevitable " Housey-Housey." By the Sunday night everyone was dog tired and thoroughly happy. The only worried man was C.S.M. " Nobby " Hall, of 100th A.G.R.A., who was fearful that someone might tell his wife how well he can cook.

The next big event after the camp was the opening of

our canteen. The intention at first was that it should open on drill nights only, but it has proved so popular that it now functions nightly. The P.R.I. has done us proud in the matter of indoor games, but we shall have to run many dances before we can afford to buy a billiards table. Our dances are now an established feature in the night life of Eastleigh, and do much to keep the Unit in the public eye.

We still await much of our training equipment, but our O.C. is determined to start organised training in November even if he has to tap out morse on his car horn.

"ASSULIKET."

## 42nd (LANCASHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Having successfully survived the Manchester water crisis, we arrived at the Drill Hall one morning in November, after a particularly rainy night, to find a sorry sight. The Adjutant's "in" and "pending" trays, despite their usual ballast, were almost awash, and the Drill Hall floor, recently smoothed by electrical planing and polishing, was covered with large puddles of the grimy rain-water one associates with the industrial North. However, it provided us with a useful means of expediting sorely-needed and long-overdue repairs to our roof, and your scribe, recovering from an overdose of pre-Budget beer, was able to relax in the security of the Mess to do some quill pushing.

About fifty officers and men of the Unit, reinforced by a small party from 94th A.G.R.A. (A.A.) Signal Squadron from Atherton, near Wigan, thoroughly enjoyed a week-end camp at the Divisional School, Altcar, near Southport, on the 4th and 5th October. A snap taken during the camp is reproduced in these pages. The weather was perfect; an early morning mist soon cleared and the sun blazed for the rest of the day, enabling us to enjoy the combined wireless and line scheme to the full. We are having another week-end camp at Altcar towards the end of this month (November), although we can hardly hope to be so lucky with the weather. However, that won't matter; we shall have a good time, anyway.

Our Q.M., Lieutenant H. Russell, very obligingly arranged

Captain J. Horsfall lends a helping hand in the Signal Office

for us to draw ten more motor cycles from an Ordnance Depot in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, in October, so, led by our Commander, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D., eight officers and three N.C.O.s took the opportunity to enjoy a week-end in Tewkesbury. (The Pickwickian Royal Hop Pole Hotel is highly recommended.) We rode back to Manchester in perfect weather without mishap, stopping, naturally, to refill at suitable establishments, which had been reconnoitred by Colonel Woods on the way down. Altogether, a very enjoyable trip, except, of course, for the Adjutant, who was afterwards bombarded with copies of that ubiquitous Army Form, the O.1771 !

We now have some seventy officers and men in the Unit, and our figures creep steadily upward. This list of the members of our Officers' and Sergeants' Messes might be of interest:—

Officers' Mess: Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D., Majors J. R. Craigen, M.B.E., R. W. Rogers and G. Marsden, Captains D. A. Bond (Adjutant), R. G. Sankey, J. S. Ingham, G. Horsfall and W. H. James, Lieutenants H. Russell (Q.M.), K. J. Hart, A. A. Edwards, J. B. Franks and W. M. Harrison.

Sergeants' Mess: R.S.M. F. Lilley (R.S.M.), R.Q.M.S. C. J. Glover, S.S.M. T. Burke, D.C.M., S.S.M. R. J. Buscall (P.S.I.), S.Q.M.S. J. Bell, S.Q.M.S. D. Pemberton, Sergeants W. G. Pemberton (P.S.I.), C. W. Pask (P.S.I.), E. Beilby, A. Craven, L. D. Hardman, R. Hargrove, F. Langley, R. W. Leech, T. McDonald and S. Woodworth.

## SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT (KENSINGTONS)

We are glad to be able to record an increasing number of inquiries from ex-members of Royal Signals, and a small but steady stream of enlistments. The Unit has been active and training has continued, though dark evenings have driven us indoors. Sufficient equipment is available to make work interesting, and we are now working wireless with other T.A. Units about the countryside.

We are, we believe, the only Signal Regiment possessing Colours (these were laid up for the duration in St. Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, and very nearly perished in the blitz there; they were saved by a fireman, who, it later transpired, was a former member of the Regiment, and whose son, Signalman Sparrow, is now with us). On Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, the Colours were again taken over by the Regiment. After a short service at the Regimental War Memorial, conducted by the Reverend Stephen Chase, M.C., in the Drill Hall, the Regiment, accompanied by two companies of the Old Comrades of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, a detachment of 1st County of London Cadet Battalion, the Cadets' Band, and headed by the Life Guards' Band, marched to St. Mary Abbots Church, Kensington. The parade was commanded by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wasey, M.B.E.; also present on parade were Brigadier-General F. G. Lewis, C.B., C.M.G., T.D., D.L., formerly of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. A. Graves, commanding 1st County of London Cadet Battalion. We marched past the Town Hall of the Royal Borough of Kensington, and the salute was taken by the Mayor, Councillor F. R. E. Davis, C.B.E.; also present on the saluting base were Colonel R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., (C.S.O., London District) and Colonel Hugh Campbell, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D. (Honorary Colonel of the Regiment). After wreaths had been laid on the Borough War Memorial by Lieutenant-Colonel Wasey (for the Regiment) and by Brigadier-General Lewis (for the Old Comrades), the ceremony of taking over the Regimental Colours took place. The Colour Party consisted of Captains B. R. Wood and P. M. Luttman-Johnson, with Sergeant Evans, Lance-Corporal Isely and Signalman Townsend. The Colours were handed over by the Reverend R. M. Curwen.

The march back down Kensington High Street, past Olympia, with the bands playing and Colours flying, provided a stirring spectacle for many eager spectators.

Tea was served in the Drill Hall and was the occasion of

a large gathering of past and present members of the Regiment. Wireless equipment, ably set up by Sergeants Hatton and Evans, assisted by Lance-Corporal Isely, was on view, and was demonstrated and explained by them to enthusiastic onlookers.

On the entertainment side must be mentioned the excellent "Trench Show" put on on 7th November by the Old Comrades. It was an occasion for a gathering of five hundred or more, and the show, a representation of life in the trenches in the 1914-18 War, complete with realistic battle-noises, could not have been bettered (realism was completely achieved at one moment when the stage caught fire!).

This month we bid goodbye to S.S.M. G. E. Fox, who leaves the Unit on posting back to the Regular Army. His experience and smartness will be much missed here.

Badminton is now in full swing; it provides a most welcome relaxation for the business man, not to mention the professional soldier (chairborne). For less energetic members, if any, billiards and darts are available, and on Friday nights here at the Drill Hall at 190 Hammersmith Road, these pastimes are in full swing and Old Comrades of the Corps are welcome.

## 43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

R.H.Q. and H.Q. SQUADRON. Our contribution this month begins on a note of mourning for Signalman K. R. G. Westcott, whose death through misadventure on 17th October, at a dance organised by No. 3 Squadron at Torquay, came as a shock to us all. Signalman Westcott joined No. 1 Squadron on 22nd July, and though with the Squadron for less than three months, showed a keen interest in the Unit and was liked by all. All Officers, N.C.O.s and men tender their deepest sympathy to his parents.

We have lost, through transfer, two of our men; Signalman D. H. G. Collins, having heard the song, "Sussex by the Sea," straightway contracted the homing instinct and has moved to 313th H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). Signalman A. Fletcher (Jock) has not left the Corps, but has moved his abode from Bridgwater to Glasgow, where, of course, he will be much more at home. He has joined up with 50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A. We feel sure that our loss will be their gain and that both Signalmen Collins and Fletcher will be an asset to their new Units.

Our congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. D. J. Nicholls on the birth of a daughter; we understand this first born is to be named Josephine Elizabeth, and as rumour states we are to have a couple of A.T.S. Platoons attached to us we look forward to enlisting Josephine in the distant future.

NO. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER. A detachment attended the British Legion Remembrance Festival at the Civic Hall in Exeter on 11th November, 1947. I am sure that the singing brought back memories of past times, and pals who gave their lives, in order that we might live in a better and more peaceful world.

Christmas is now not many weeks off, and I'm pleased to learn the Sergeant-Major is arranging a grand party for the children of the men of the Squadron. Every young one will receive a present, and benefits towards this are being obtained through dances, etc. Anyway, the lads will have something to look forward to in a couple of weeks' time, as a dance is being held at the Drill Hall on the 21st November and a Royal Signals' Association annual dinner on the 22nd. Thanks to S.S.M. (Nobby) Hall, "spuds" were bought before the 3lb. ration came into force!

Practice football games have been arranged and, if enthusiasm is any criterion, the Squadron is in for a most successful season; we also hope to be able to arrange matches with our other Squadrons.


*Do* **YOU** *belong to the*
**Signals Association?**

*If not . . .*
**JOIN NOW!**

*Your military service will come to an end one day*
*and you may then need help*
*Ask your unit representative for further details*

# *Signals Association Branch Notes*

**Birmingham**

In the absence on business of Brigadier E. A. James, the chair was taken at the October meeting by Major G. S. Davison. We are happy to note that the membership continues on the up and up, the number to date being 840. An increase in the number of members who attended on Thursday, 30th October, was a good sign. We are hoping that more and more will decide to look in for a chat and the odd noggin at the "Crown," Broad Street, on, as I keep telling you, the last Thursday in the month, though not in December, silly. Look at your calendar.

One of our committee members, Mr. Vic King, has left us to seek fortune and perhaps fame in Canada. He sailed on 28th October, and takes with him our very good wishes for the future and our grateful thanks for good work done for this Branch. Major Peter Bowen put in a welcome appearance after a long absence, as also did Lieutenant Gattrell, another old 48th Division member. Shades of Dourges! Mr. L. G. Robson, M.B.E., late 48th and 78th Division, is still doing good work as manager of the Bureau for Employment of ex-Regular Service men. He has placed a very large number of our members in good jobs, and will undoubtedly place a lot more yet.

The party at Cateswell House on 15th October was very enjoyable, though not so well attended as was hoped. The rooms on the ground floor were bright and warm. The beer was there and Fred Bromhall presided behind the bar. What kept YOU away? We shall have another in the same place on 9th December, and if that is not well attended the idea will be dropped. Then, of course, some bright spark will ask: "Why don't you have a meeting on the South side of the city?" Picking the Secretary's body up gently, we shall start all over again. Captain Ralph Ironmonger puts in some very hard work as Secretary of this Branch. All his spare time is devoted to it. What do YOU care? But perhaps you don't really want to see this big Branch dwindle away? O.K. Then give us a look in sometimes, and please answer letters.

The Annual Armistice Dance held in the Drill Hall at Cateswell House on 11th November was a huge success. The weather was kind, the arrangements for bar and buffet beyond reproach, and Jimmy Castle's band was untiring with rhythm and melody. Friends came from near and far, and when I say far, I mean a long way. The Postmaster and his wife from Crediton, Captain H. S. Nokes from the same town and Mrs. Bernard Rowe from Aldershot. Three hard-working members in charge of the "swindle" tickets came from South Wales. There may have been people from Melbourne and British Columbia, but the bar was so crowded I couldn't get out to check up. I won't tell you the names of the people who worked so hard to make this the grand party that it certainly was, because when I arrived at the Drill Hall on Wednesday morning I cried like anything to see such—well, you can imagine. You've had some. However, we are all straight again and ready for anything. Even the latest Budget doesn't get us down. Yet.

A Merry Christmas to you all from Birmingham.

"BARLEUX"

**Leeds**

Members were in high spirits at the annual dinner held on Friday, 7th November, at the Victoria Hotel. The Branch were highly pleased to have Brigadier Murphy amongst them, and I am sure everyone went away feeling that out of all this trouble, none existed there that night. Owing to Mr. Strachey (rules, para. 108) we were limited to 100, and a full house was accorded.

We were pleased to welcome as guest Colonel W. Boyle, Leeds Rifles, Royal Artillery, British Legion, and P.S. from Gibraltar Barracks. A fine speech pointing out the work of the Branch was given by our Honorary Secretary, to which Brigadier Murphy made the reply. Many members, having heard the General Secretary for the first time, were impressed by his interest on their behalf, and felt that, as far as he was concerned, the Association would go forward to greater things for its members.

We look forward now to being regular contributors to THE WIRE, because events have moved whereby we can return to our old home at Gibraltar Barracks.

Sunday called for a Church Parade, and a nice muster turned up to lay a wreath on the Cenotaph. Afterwards we proceeded to Gibraltar Barracks to have a refresher and tell once again the stories that kept such comradeship together. It was nice to see the A.T.S. Signals in such numbers, and I can vouch for many recruits amongst our lads now they have seen them.

We wish Colonel McLaren every success in his endeavour to rebuild the 49th Division, and can assure him that we have many scouts out to help him. Many events are down for the future entertainment of the Branch, and we now hope to hold many interesting functions. Let us hope that this may be the turning point, and that our membership will jump up by leaps and bounds.

"LEODIS"

**Bournemouth**

The length of time since our notes last appeared under this heading does not indicate any lack of activity at Bournemouth. Throughout the summer our fortnightly meetings at the Richmond Hotel have continued and we hope that the prospect of certain warmth, refreshment and companionship will increase the regular attendance this winter. The social evening each month has been a great success, especially on the occasions of the visits of the N.C.O.s from the D. and M. Wing, and then the Gunnery Wing of the R.A.C. School. Return visits by coach to the R.A.C. School at Bovington ensured more convivial evenings, although it proved that the darts practice obtainable in a Sergeants' Mess is too much for most of us.

It is with very great pleasure that we find that the first Signals Memorial Home is to be opened in Bournemouth. The location is perfect—the map reference shows it to be half way between Boscombe Pier and the Boscombe Hippodrome. With the weather we have to offer (we hope), the perfect holiday resort and an enthusiastic Association to augment the natural attractions, it will be a great asset to all members—wherever they come from.

The most important date now is 3rd January, 1948, when we hold our annual Children's Party. This year we have taken the Town Hall, and the party is open to children of all members. In addition, we have followed our usual practice of inviting a party of crippled children from the Shaftesbury Homes — the charge for admission to any member is just "one bag of sweets." The date for the annual dinner is 19th March—but more of this. Our notes will be more frequent in future.

J.A.H.

**Liverpool**

In spite of the fact that we have been allocated the use of the Men's Mess for our Friday evening's "get-together," we still see the few old faces, either enjoying a game of snooker, or propping up the bar. I am fully aware that conditions are not as good as we should like to see them, but what are YOU doing to improve them? If it was not for the ever-faithful hard workers there would be no Liverpool Branch. May I appeal to those of you who are members to come along on Fridays? Are you aware that there are entertainments going on every Saturday evening, and our Branch participate in their turn with the others? We held a very successful dance a month ago, and our next dance will be on 13th December, to be followed by another re-union and "get-together" function on 13th January, 1948. This you must not miss. May I draw attention to those of you who have fallen behind in your subscriptions, to bring these up to date as soon as possible? We have a lot to be thankful for, and we ought to show our appreciation to Lieutenant-Colonel Ellison, M.B.E., T.D., Commanding No. 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., for kindly consenting to allow the full use of the Men's Mess on Fridays and the use of the Drill Hall once a month on Saturdays for our functions, to enable us to build up our funds. I wonder how many other branches have the same facilities? Not many, I'll bet—so I make this appeal to you—come along, and make the place what you would like it to be.

F. J. JOHNSEY,
Honorary Secretary.

**Newcastle and District**

A committee meeting was held in Newcastle on Monday, 13th October. Future entertainment was the main topic of discussion, and also the formation of a club in the Drill Hall, Elmgrove Terrace, Gateshead, for use by members of the O.C.A. I'll say no more about the proposals for the future, because all members will be circularised in due course, and at least one event will have been held before these notes are published. It is hoped that members will do their utmost to attend these functions.

Do you know any ex-Signals wallahs living locally who are NOT members of the O.C.A.? If so, we would like very much to meet them.

Their is very little to record on this occasion, but it is hoped that forthcoming events, etc., will provide material for publication which will be of interest to all.

Cheerio, everybody, and good luck. N.J.W.

# Sports Notes

## RUGBY

The above is a photograph of the Royal Signals (Catterick) Rugby team taken just before the match at Huddersfield on 13th September, which they won 16-3.

Names are as follows—left to right:—

Standing: Sergeant Newcombe, Signalman Seabrook, Corporal Froom, Sergeant Lees, Sergeant Parfitt, Signalman Hall, Corporal Rawson, Cadet Williams, Sergeant Morris.

Sitting: Lance-Corporal Goddard, Signalman Froggett, Signalman Evans, Captain Parker (captain), Major Rowntree, Signalman Hall, Cadet Davies.

Further results are as follows:—

11th October, 1947.—Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Huddersfield, home match, won 14-3.

29th October, 1947.—Royal Signals v. R.A., away match, won 39-3.

1st November, 1947.—Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Hartlepool Athletic, away match, won 17-11.

## Hockey

Results of matches up to going to press are: —

18th October 1947.—Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Norton, away match, won 7-0.

22nd October, 1947.—Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Manchester University, away match, won 3-1.

28th October, 1947.—Royal Signals (Catterick) v. S.M.E., home match, drew 2-2.

## Cricket

We give below reports on the last five Corps representative matches of the very successful 1947 season. The remaining two matches—versus the Royal Engineers and the Yorkshire Gentlemen—were reported in our June issue.

*Played at Chilwell on 30th and 31st July, 1947*
*Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.*

R.A.O.C. won the toss and chose to bat on a fast tone wicket. At the beginning of the innings no batsman could deal with the bowling of Ellison, and 8 wickets fell for 67 runs. Ellison's off breaks were turning to a degree which was not to be expected on so good a wicket, and the accuracy and fire with which he bowled was outstanding. When it seemed that the innings would be brought to an end for a small score, Morley joined Andrews. These two batsmen began to attack the bowling and by enterprising cricket raised the score to 153 before they were parted. The last wicket fell at 161, Ellison having taken 8 wickets for 58 runs.

When Signals batted they fared even worse, and, at one point 9 wickets had fallen for 69 runs. An enterprising last-wicket stand by Ellison and Seabrooke, who added 41 runs, brought the final score to 110. Milton bowled his slow off break very well for R.A.O.C., taking 5 wickets for 48 runs.

In the second innings, R.A.O.C. completely collapsed, and their score reached only 44 runs. In this innings Ellison took 5 wickets for 25 runs, and Squires, bowling slow left hand, took 4 wickets for 9 runs. Signals, who needed 104 runs to win, batted much more confidently than in the first innings, and despite good bowling by Milton, they had no real difficulty in knocking off the runs for the loss of 4 wickets. The best partnership was that between Hall and Porter, which put on 46 runs.

An outstanding feature of this enjoyable game was the brilliant fielding of the whole Signals' team. Every possible catch was taken and the ground fielding was above reproach.

Royal Signals won by 6 wickets.

R.A.O.C.—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lance-Corporal Speight b Ellison | 1 |
| Captain Bruhl c Turner b Ellison | 10 |
| General Palmer b Ellison | 5 |
| Private Milton lbw b Ellison | 13 |
| Captain Coleman b Ellison | 2 |
| S.Q.M.S. Halton c Hall b Ellison | 2 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell b Ellison | 15 |
| Corporal Andrews c Turner b Ellison | 52 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Jobson-Scott c Seabrooke b Squires | 6 |
| Lance-Corporal Morley c Evans b Squires | 51 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Coates not out | 0 |
| Extras | 4 |
| Total | 161 |

ROYAL SIGNALS—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer-Cadet Squires c Mitchell b Milton | 21 |
| Lieutenant Gale c Speight b Halton | 5 |
| Signalman Froggett lbw b Morley | 5 |
| Signalman Stanley lbw b Milton | 10 |
| Signalman Hall c Lieutenant-Colonel Jobson-Scott b Speight | 17 |
| Captain Porter c Lieutenant-Colonel Coates b Speight | 3 |
| Major Evans c Captain Bruhl b Milton | 3 |
| Signalman Blakey run out | 0 |
| Second-Lieutenant Turner b Milton | 4 |
| Signalman Seabrooke lbw b Milton | 17 |
| Lance-Corporal Ellison not out | 24 |
| Extras | 1 |
| Total | 110 |

R.A.O.C.—2nd INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lance-Corporal Speight b Ellison | 0 |
| Captain Bruhl b Ellison | 13 |
| General Palmer b Squires | 5 |
| Private Milton c Evans b Squires | 0 |
| Captain Coleman b Ellison | 9 |
| S.Q.M.S. Halton c Evans b Ellison | 2 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell c Seabrooke b Squires | 3 |
| Corporal Andrews c Seabrooke b Squires | 1 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Jobson-Scott b Porter | 3 |
| Lance-Corporal Morley c and b Ellison | 4 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Coates not out | 2 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 44 |

ROYAL SIGNALS—2nd INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer-Cadet Squires c Andrews b Halton | 9 |
| Lieutenant Gale c and b Milton | 23 |
| Signalman Froggett c Lieutenant-Colonel Coates b Milton | 4 |
| Signalman Stanley b Milton | 14 |
| Signalman Hall not out | 19 |
| Captain Porter not out | 29 |
| Extras | 6 |
| Total | 104 |

Major Evans, Signalman Blakey, Second-Lieutenant Turner, Signalman Seabrooke and Lance-Corporal Ellison did not bat.

*Played at Catterick on 12th and 13th August, 1947*
*Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.*

Signals won the toss and went in to bat on an easy-paced wicket. They made rather a poor start to the accurate bowling of Morrison and Sadler, losing 3 wickets for 43 runs. Froggett and Hall, however, played themselves in, and then, batting very well, began to attack the bowling. When Froggett was out, the partnership had added 84 runs. Froggett had batted very well for his 57 runs. Hall found another useful partner in Evans, and when Hall was at last out for 79 the score had reached 162 for 5 wickets. Porter (who batted well for 36 runs) and Seabrooke put on 49 for the last wicket, and the innings closed for 226 runs. Sadler, who bowled 38 overs, took 5 wickets for 109 runs, and Ufton took 4 wickets for 44 runs.

Sadler and Bateson opened the R.A.S.C. innings to the bowling of Porter and Seabrooke, and at once began to score freely. When Squires took over the bowling from Porter, he soon had Bateson caught at slip for 25, the score being 52 for 1 wicket. Apart from Ufton and Ball, the later batsmen could do little with the slow left-hand bowling of Squires, who took 7 wickets for 50 runs. Sadler, however, was never in difficulties, and when he was at last bowled by Seabrooke after a magnificent innings of 76, he had scored more than half the runs of his side. The R.A.S.C. innings closed for 150 runs, giving Signals a lead of 76 runs.

Signals made a very bad start to their second innings, losing 6 wickets for 56 runs to the accurate bowling of Sadler and Bateson. When it looked as if Signals would be out for a very small score, Blakey joined Porter in a partnership which completely changed the aspect of the game. These two batsmen, playing very doggedly, but rarely missing a chance to score, added 106 runs and enabled Evans to declare at a total of 162 for 8 wickets, leaving R.A.S.C. to get 239 runs to win.

In R.A.S.C. second innings, it never appeared likely that Signals would get them out in the time available. Sadler, Brown and Ball all batted very soundly, and the Signals' bowling seemed to have lost much of its fire. When stumps were drawn, R.A.S.C. had scored 150 runs for 4 wickets, the match thus ending in a draw.

ROYAL SIGNALS—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer-Cadet Squires b Sadler | 3 |
| Lieutenant Gale b Sadler | 7 |
| Signalman Froggett c Morrison b Sadler | 57 |
| Signalman Stanley lbw b Sadler | 7 |
| Signalman Hall lbw b Bateson | 79 |
| Major Evans b Bateson | 16 |
| Captain Porter c Ufton b Morrison | 36 |
| Signalman Blakey b Sadler | 1 |
| Sergeant Magan b Bateson | 1 |
| Second-Lieutenant Turner b Bateson | 0 |
| Signalman Seabrooke not out | 17 |
| Extras | 2 |
| Total | 226 |

R.A.S.C.—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Sadler b Seabrooke | 76 |
| Private Bateson c Seabrooke b Squires | 25 |
| Cadet Brown lbw b Seabrooke | 4 |
| Private Ufton b Seabrooke | 16 |
| Major Ball lbw b Squires | 17 |
| Captain Stewart lbw b Squires | 3 |
| Captain Gilmour b Squires | 0 |
| Second-Lieutenant Dexter b Squires | 2 |
| Colonel Bavin lbw b Squires | 0 |
| Major Morrison not out | 3 |
| Second-Lieutenant Gaskell lbw b Squires | 3 |
| Extras | 1 |
| Total | 150 |

ROYAL SIGNALS—2nd INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer Cadet Squires lbw b Sadler | 11 |
| Lieutenant Gale c Bateson b Sadler | 13 |
| Signalman Froggett c Stewart b Bateson | 16 |
| Signalman Stanley c Gilmour b Sadler | 0 |
| Signalman Hall c Ufton b Sadler | 1 |
| Major Evans c Sadler b Bateson | 4 |
| Captain Porter not out | 69 |
| Signalman Blakey not out | 45 |
| Extras | 3 |
| Total | 162 |

Sergeant Magan, Second-Lieutenant Turner and Signalman Seabrooke did not bat.

R.A.S.C.—2nd INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Major Sadler b Hall | 32 |
| Private Bateson c Evans b Porter | 14 |
| Cadet Brown b Porter | 63 |
| Private Ufton run out | 2 |
| Major Ball not out | 34 |
| Extras | 5 |
| Total | 150 |

Captain Stewart, Captain Gilmour, Second-Lieutenant Dexter, Colonel Bavin, Major Morrison and Second-Lieutenant Gaskell did not bat.

*Played at Catterick on 15th and 16th August, 1947*
*Royal Signals v. R.A.C. (Ironsides C.C.)*

Signals won the toss and went in to bat on a wicket that had been made lively by a heavy morning dew. Signals made a poor start, Squires being out in the first over, but Gale and Froggett batted well to put on 41 runs for the second wicket. With the exception of Blakey, who made 15, none of the other batsmen could do much against the R.A.C. bowling, and the innings closed for 98 runs. Green, bowling right-hand swingers, was the most successful bowler. He took 4 wickets for 11 runs.

In R.A.C.'s first innings the outstanding feature was the bowling of Squires. Turning the ball well from the leg and flighting it accurately, he had all the batsmen in difficulties, and at the end of the innings he had the excellent analysis of 8 wickets for 31 runs. The best batting came from Lines, who clearly showed that he was a most promising cricketer. The innings closed at 138 runs. Signals were thus 40 runs behind in the first innings.

In their second innings, the Signals' batsmen played their best cricket of the year. Gale, going in first, soon showed that the bowling could be hit, and his 61 was an excellent innings. Stanley and Hall soon followed his example, and both played good aggressive cricket. The tail also batted well, and when the innings closed, Signals had scored 301, leaving R.A.C. to get 262 runs to win.

When R.A.C. began their second innings, Seabrooke bowled Kingsford in his second over, but a stand then took place between Lines and Campbell. Squires was then put on to bowl. He took a wicket in his first over, and then he and Seabrooke ran through the side. The innings reached the total of 58 runs, Signals thus winning by 203 runs. Squires took 6 wickets for 22 runs (14 wickets in the match) and Seabrooke took 4 wickets for 7 runs.

ROYAL SIGNALS—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer-Cadet Squires c at w Campbell b Leveson-Gower ... | 1 |
| Lieutenant Gale b Green | 22 |
| Signalman Froggett c Lines b Green | 20 |
| Signalman Stanley c Kingsford b Lines | 1 |
| Signalman Hall c Lines b Green | 0 |
| Major Evans c Hall b Green | 7 |
| Captain Porter b Lines | 6 |
| Signalman Blakey c Campbell b Meikle | 15 |
| Sergeant Morgan b Hall | 9 |
| Lieutenant Turner b Hall | 9 |
| Seabrooke not out | 1 |
| Extras | 7 |
| Total | 98 |

R.A.C.—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lines b Squires | 40 |
| Kingsford lbw b Seabrooke | 7 |
| Campbell b Porter | 0 |
| Whitehouse b Squires | 25 |
| Rash b Squires | 9 |
| Bramfitt st Turner b Squires | 5 |
| Brayne-Nicholls lbw b Squires | 0 |
| Meikle not out | 32 |
| Leveson-Gower c Blakey b Squires | 5 |
| Hall c Morgan b Squires | 2 |
| Green b Squires | 6 |
| Extras | 7 |
| Total | 138 |

ROYAL SIGNALS—2nd INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant Gale c Whitehouse b Lines | 61 |
| Signalman Blakey run out | 12 |
| Signalman Froggett c Brayne-Nicholls | 23 |
| Signalman Stanley c and b Whitehouse | 50 |
| Signalman Hall c Brayne-Nicholls b Green | 68 |
| Major Evans lbw b Lines | 8 |
| Officer-Cadet Squires c and b Lines | 19 |
| Captain Porter b Lines | 1 |
| Sergeant Morgan not out | 16 |
| Lieutenant Turner lbw b Green | 25 |
| Signalman Seabrooke b Green | 1 |
| Extras | 17 |
| Total | 301 |

R.A.C.—2nd INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Lines c Seabrooke b Squires | 17 |
| Kingsford b Seabrooke | 1 |
| Campbell c Gale b Squires | 11 |
| Whitehouse b Squires | 11 |
| Rash c Turner b Seabrooke | 2 |
| Bramfitt c Stanley b Squires | 2 |
| Brayne-Nicholls lbw b Squires | 0 |
| Meikle not out | 9 |
| Leveson-Gower c Blakey b Squires | 0 |
| Hall b Seabrooke | 1 |
| Green b Seabrooke | 0 |
| Extras | 4 |
| Total | 58 |

*Played at Sandhurst on 23rd August, 1947*
*Royal Signals v. R.M.A., Sandhurst*

Signals won the toss and chose to bat on a hard, fast wicket. The innings opened badly, both Gale and Walford being out to the bowling of Lawton, who was swinging the new ball considerably. Hall then joined Squires and both began to bat well. The partnership put on 53 runs, Hall in particular hitting the ball very hard. When these two batsmen had been parted, wickets began to fall fairly rapidly until the score was 105 for 7 wickets. At this point Blakey was joined by Parker, who hit out at everything and made a very useful 29, including 6 fours. When he was out, Blakey, who had been content to defend while Parker did the scoring, began to hit out, and playing extremely well, brought his score to 54. The innings closed for 193. Lawton was the most successful bowler, taking 4 wickets for 61 runs.

When R.M.A. began their innings to the bowling of Porter and Seabrooke, they were soon in difficulties. Seabrooke was swinging the ball both ways and was very had George brilliantly stumped on the legside by Hayles. Wickets continued to fall quickly to Seabrooke and Squires until Hildreth and Clarke came together for the eighth accurate. He bowled Maynard in the second over and then wicket. This partnership added 36 by confident batting. Lawton, who was R.M.A.'s No. 10, then came in and made the best score of the innings. His 30 not out included 6 fours. The innings closed for 115 runs, Royal Signals thus winning the match by 78 runs. Squires again bowled

very well, taking 5 wickets for 26 runs. Seabrooke, who had dismissed all the first four batsmen, took 5 wickets for 49 runs. The fielding of the Royal Signals' team was again good, the wicket-keeping of Hayles being outstanding.

Royal Signals won by 78 runs.

ROYAL SIGNALS—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer-Cadet Squires c and b Hildreth | 36 |
| Lieutenant Gale b Lawton | 6 |
| Major Walford lbw b Lawton | 0 |
| Signalman Hall c and b Barton | 39 |
| Major Hayles c and b Barton | 1 |
| Major Evans lbw b Lawton | 4 |
| Captain Porter c and b Barton | 13 |
| Signalman Blakey b Lawton | 54 |
| Captain Parker c and b Gore | 29 |
| Captain Halliday lbw b Gore | 1 |
| Signalman Seabrooke not out | 3 |
| Extras | 7 |
| Total | 193 |

R.M.A. SANDHURST—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| D. F. M. Archibald c and b Seabrooke | 10 |
| M. Maynard b Seabrooke | 4 |
| S. Y. Gouge st b Seabrooke | 2 |
| G. M. P. Hardy b Seabrooke | 5 |
| D. P. Vickers b Squires | 1 |
| I. N. C. Moody lbw b Squires | 7 |
| T. C. Gore b Squires | 1 |
| M. D. Hildreth c and b Squires | 26 |
| P. C. Clarke b Seabrooke | 20 |
| K. S. Lawton not out | 30 |
| J. C. P. Barton lbw b Squires | 0 |
| Extras | 9 |
| Total | 115 |

*Played on 9th August, 1947, at Catterick*
*Royal Signals v. Free Foresters*

Signals, having won the toss on a good wicket, made a poor start when Gale was out before he had scored. Squires and Froggett batted very soundly, however, and soon began to score freely. Stanley failed but Hall and Evans attacked the bowling, which included an England player in F. R. Brown, and in a fine partnership added 64 runs. Evans was very aggressive and scored his 48 not out very quickly, enabling him to declare at 143 for 4 wickets.

Wickets fell quickly when the Free Foresters batted, and they were soon out for 95 runs. Much of the best innings was played by Walford, who had stood down from the Signals' side to play for the Foresters. He played with great care and was eventually not out for 38 runs. Seabrooke, Porter and Squires all bowled well and the good Signals' fielding was again a feature of the match.

Signals won by 48 runs.

ROYAL SIGNALS—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer-Cadet Squires b Gillespie | 33 |
| Lieutenant G. Gale c Worley b Gillespie | 0 |
| Signalman Froggett b Gillespie | 38 |
| Signalman Stanley b Gillespie | 2 |
| Signalman Hall not out | 18 |
| Major Evans not out | 48 |
| Extras | 4 |
| Total (for 4 declared) | 143 |

Captain Porter, Captain Halliday, Sergeant Morgan, Second-Lieutenant Turner and Signalman Seabrooke did not bat.

FREE FORESTERS—1st INNINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| E. H. Hawkins b Porter | 4 |
| D. W. Gillespie lbw b Squires | 16 |
| R. Leader c Hall b Seabrooke | 18 |
| Garnons-Williams c Seabrooke b Porter | 1 |
| F. R. Brown b Seabrooke | 13 |
| J. E. S. Walford not out | 32 |
| R. W. Thompson c Evans b Seabrooke | 3 |
| J. A. Worley lbw b Squires | 2 |
| J. H. Dalrymple run out | 0 |
| P. G. Barber c Evans b Porter | 2 |
| J. Elmshurst run out | 1 |
| Extras | 3 |
| Total | 95 |

**Association Football**

2nd Qualifying Round of the F.A. Amateur Challenge Cup.

25th October, 1947.—Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Sunnybrow Colliery Welfare, home match, won 3-1.


COLDS THAT COME from NOWHERE!

There are a lot of "surprise" colds about. Nobody knows how they come and where they come from. It's more to the point to know WHAT TO DO when they put in an appearance. The answer is — **use 'ASPRO' directly the shivery, depressing symptoms begin to afflict you.** 'ASPRO' speedily prevents the further progress of the cold—soothes away aching sensations and promotes a healthy skin action, thereby helping to eliminate the poisons by way of the pores. This is the time of the year, too, when many complain of the return of rheumatic and neuralgic pains. But they have only to take 'ASPRO' and the safe, soothing, pain-relieving action will make these troubles disappear in a matter of minutes—disappear as though they had never been. WHY NOT LET 'ASPRO' DO ALL THIS FOR YOU—AND SAVE YOURSELF FROM COLDS, 'FLU AND RHEUMATIC PAIN?

*Throw them off by using* **'ASPRO'** *at first signs*

**R.A.F. MAN BEATS A COLD**

Dear Sir, Cardington, Nr. Bedford.
I have recently got over a very bad cold. I tried several different things for it and the only thing that did anything for me was 'ASPRO' and I can tell you that, from now on, I shall never be without them.
Yours in appreciation, A. J F.

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CREAM CRACKERS
&
WATER BISCUITS

*Recommended for use in Messes and Canteens as suitable accompaniments to all meals*

W. & R. JACOB & CO. (L'pool), Ltd.

Aintree Biscuit Factory