THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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Editorial

MOST of our readers will know of the excellent work of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association, but many may be unaware of the facilities afforded by the S.S.A.F.A. Married Families' Club. The club, at 14/16 Nevern Square, Earl's Court, London, S.W.5, is for the use of all members of H.M. Forces below commissioned rank, either serving or ex-Service, and their wives and children, and consists of three houses, which have been knocked into one, providing accommodation for 100 people.

There is a spacious lounge, two dining rooms, and a children's nursery, where the children may be left while the parents go out by themselves. The bedrooms are various sizes, catering for a variety of families, for instance, for the Serviceman with a large family there is a bedroom with a double bed for the parents, two single beds for the larger children, and two cots for the babies. Other bedrooms cater for smaller families. There is also a laundry room and a library. All this is supplied for the charge of 5s. per person, for bed, bath and breakfast. Children of five years and under are half-price. Supper is available at 1s. 6d. each, and a mid-day meal on Sundays is 2s.

The atmosphere is bright and gay, and those who wish to avail themselves of a short trip to London could not do better than stay at this club.

Her Majesty Queen Mary, President of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association, visited the premises recently, and was most interested and asked many questions.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Club Director.

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REUNION—No. 1 COMPANY, No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNALS

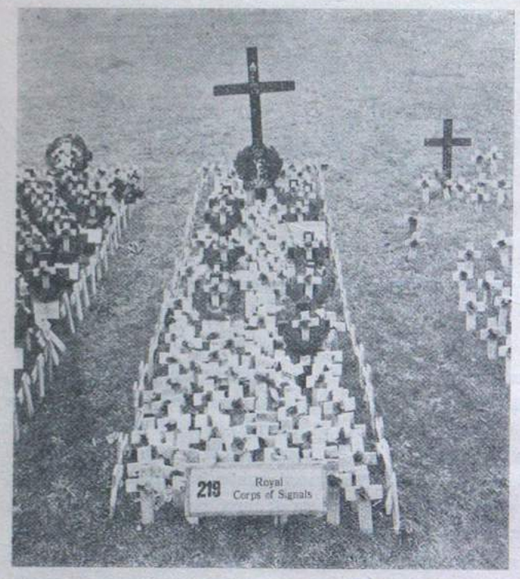
A reunion dinner and dance of members of No. 1 Company, No. 15 Air Formation Signals, and their wives was held on 12th October, 1947, at the "La Boheme" Restaurant, New Bond Street, London, W.1.

The chair was taken by Major G. H. McKowen, M.B.E.

One hundred and fifty were present. The dinner was followed by a dance, which was enjoyed by all. It was a most successful evening and it is hoped to hold a similar function next year.

Among the guests were Major and Mrs. E. M. Gleadle-Richards, Major A. Barnet, Captain and Mrs. G. E. Gyngell, Captain S. Peddlesden and Officer-Cadet R. McCormick, son of Captain R. R. McCormick.

Empire Field of Remembrance, 1947



An Empire Field of Remembrance in the grounds of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, was organised by the British Legion poppy factory. The Corps was allotted an area, and a party of the London branch of the Old Comrades' Association planted a badge cross on behalf of the Royal Signals' Association, and a number of wreath crosses were contributed by local branches. Remembrance crosses were planted by ex-members of the Corps and their families who visited the field.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1948

We should like to remind those of you who have not yet paid your subscription for 1948 that the price of THE WIRE remains unchanged at a shilling a single copy or ten shillings for the year, post free. Remittances should be sent to:

The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square,
London, S.W.1.

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PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

THE H.L.I. CHRONICLE, October, 1947.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE SERVICES NEWSLETTER, 27th October, 1947.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 22nd November and 6th December, 1947.

R.E.M.E., December, 1947.

THE PIONEER, October, 1947.

R.A.S.C. JOURNAL, November, 1947.

"CERTOBUST," Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2.

CA IRA, December, 1947.

THE WISH STREAM, Vol. 1, No. 2.

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

December

Pass Off Parade. The salute at the pass off parade of Course 189 on 18th November, 1947, was taken by Brigadier J. R. Patten, C.B.E., M.C., C.S.O. Northern Command. The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet R. W. Hughes, and the Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet P. Tainsh.

Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Reunion Dinner. On Saturday, 1st November, some 57 members of the O.C.T.U., past and present, gathered together for the second annual reunion, which was held at the Connaught Assembly Rooms in London. An informal tea party, held at the Waldorf Hotel during the afternoon, to which ladies were invited, enabled old friends to get together and to revive old memories. After dinner the toast of "The Unit" was proposed by Colonel W. H. N. Dent, C.B.E. (Commandant, January, 1942, to September, 1944), who also took advantage of the opportunity to congratulate and to thank the Secretary, Major K. D. Anderson, for the very excellent work that had resulted in the second reunion dinner. Colonel J. R. Pinsent, D.S.O., Commandant of the O.C.T.U., January, 1941, to January, 1942, reminisced of his experiences leading up to the formation and the running of the O.C.T.U. in those early days. It is hoped to publish a photograph of the dinner in the next publication of THE WIRE.

Inter-O.C.T.U. Sports Meetings. On Saturday, 15th November, we were at home to the Royal Artillery O.C.T.U. The programme included the following items: Rugby, soccer, hockey, cross-country, basketball, squash, golf and boxing. The social side was not neglected, a film show in the unit cinema, followed by a supper party, enabled us to meet our opposite numbers, whilst the visit wound up with a most successful dance in the unit gymnasium. All events were well contested, with the Gunners winning six out of the eight events. Our teams won the rugger by 29 points to 10 points and the boxing by 6 fights to 3. Special reference must be made to the very plucky fight put up by Officer-Cadet Bray, who beat his Gunner opponent in a hard-fought bout, when much punishment was given on both sides.

Rugger. This season has proved, up to the present, one of the best the unit has ever known, our record so far being: Matches played 9, won 8, lost 1. Points for 157, against 63. We have won all our inter-O.C.T.U. fixtures. Our successes have been due not only to the presence of such players as Officer-Cadet G. Davies, the Welsh International, and Officer-Cadet J. W. Williams, Army and Combined Services, but also to the great enthusiasm and team spirit that exist in the team. In the Army Rugby Football Cup we have combined with the School of Signals. On Thursday, 28th November, the combined team met the 48 P.T.C. and Depot, Northamptonshire Regiment, in the third round. At half-time we were leading by 6 points to 0, the final score being 15 points (3 tries, 2 penalty goals) to 0 in our favour.

Soccer. The unit team has improved greatly, and has conceded one point only in the last seven games. At present the team is placed second in the Garrison League and has fought its way into the third round of the Garrison Cup. The team has been well served by Drivers Lynch and Homer and by Sergeant Spence and Corporal Travis. These two N.C.O.s have been selected for the Royal Signals (Catterick) team in several matches in the F.A. Amateur Cup.

Cross-Country. By being placed third in the S.T.C. League run on 5th November, with a total of 601 points for that race, the unit has moved into fifth place in the league with a total of 1,861 points. The result of the first run of the Catterick District Cross-Country Running League, held on 29th October, places our team in fourth place with a total of 595 points.

Mountaineering Club. Eight members of the Mountaineering Club attended a rock climbing meet at Almscliffe Crag, near Harrogate, on Sunday, 9th November. Some thirty routes were negotiated and included many boulder problems; the classification of the routes varied from severe to very severe standards. Cadet members were pleased to have among them a representative from H.Q. Squadron and hope to welcome many more into their "Spirit of the Hills" group.

Catterick District Miniature Rifle League. The season 1947-48 has commenced well for our team, who hope to repeat their success of last season, when they not only won the championship cup and medals, but also established a record in going through the season without losing a match. During the month of November four matches have been fired off, all of which have been won by our team. The results are as follows: Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 745 *versus* R.A.C. Depot 709. Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 367 *versus* R.E.M.E. 656. Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 719 *versus* 57 T.R. 689. Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 737 *versus* 1 T.R. 662. Officer-Cadet Tyrell scored 98 points in the match against 57 T.R.

Finally, to the Corps in general and to members, past and present, of the O.C.T.U. go our very best wishes for Christmas and for the New Year.

No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

December

REGIMENTAL H.Q. The past month, as usual, has seen changes in officers of the Regiment. Major M. G. de Blum, Second-in-Command and P.R.I., has proceeded on leave pending his retirement, his place as P.R.I. being taken by Major B. W. Beale, recently returned from 13 Corps Signal Regiment. Boys' Squadron has lost Captain L. R. Griffiths, returned to Palestine, and Captain J. St. C. W. Robinson, now attending the Pre-University Course. New arrivals include Captain G. A. Horner, ex-India, and Captain J. C. Green, rejoined after a long spell in hospital. Captain R. H. Maxfield, late of 13 Corps Signal Regiment, has taken over as Adjutant, replacing Captain T. H. Howat, due to attend the Staff College, Camberley, in January. Other newcomers are Second-Lieutenants Ribbons, Royal Signals, Rogers and Morris, both R.A.E.C. Our congratulations to Major C. E. Bucke on promotion to his new rank.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Things have been rather quiet during the past month but we have seen some old faces leave and some new "old" faces return to the fold.

Arrivals include R.Q.M.S. Hipperson, S.Q.M.S. "Busty" Murray and Sergeant Scullion. Those who have left are R.Q.M.S. "Jumbo" Charlton, S.Q.M.S. "Banger" King and S.Q.M.S. "Jock" Robertson, all to No. 2 Depot Regiment for overseas. S.Q.M.S. Morris left us for Scottish Command Signal Regiment.

The monthly Mess dance was held on Friday, 21st November, and proved, as usual, a most enjoyable evening. The cabaret, which was an innovation, was ably conducted by our compère. A grand Christmas dance is scheduled for Tuesday, 16th December, and the usual festivities, including a draw, are being laid on. In January we propose to hold a Mess Night; date as yet unfixed.

News of old Mess members would be welcomed, especially from Singapore way.

Rugby. In the Garrison Cup competition the Regiment has won through as far as the finals. Results of the first three rounds were:—

	For	Against
v. No. 6 Training Regiment ...	11	7
v. Royal Signals O.C.T.U.	11	8
v. 62nd Training Regiment, R.A.C.	32	0

Some of the Regiment's players are included in Royal Signals (Catterick) XV, which is by now well known in Yorkshire Rugby circles. In the recent Command matches five of our men were chosen to represent Northern Command and three have had Army trial games. Lance-Corporal Evans, scrum-half, was selected for the Army Trial XV touring B.A.O.R.

Soccer. Results for November were as follows:—

	For	Against
Division I		
v. No. 6 Training Regiment ...	1	1
v. No. 6 Training Regiment (Garrison Cup match)	2	3
v. No. 5 Training Regiment ...	0	2
v. No. 4 Training Regiment ...	4	2
v. No. 3 Training Regiment ...	2	5
Division II		
v. No. 3 Training Regiment ...	2	4
v. No. 2 Training Regiment ...	4	3
v. No. 19 P.T.C.	9	1

Hockey. So far the Regiment has had a very successful season and in the Catterick District League heads the table with nine games played and won. November matches were:

	For	Against
v. Depot R.A.C.	3	0
v. 62nd Training Regiment, R.A.C.	4	2
v. R.A.F. Regiment	4	0

In the Northern Command Knock-out Competition the Regiment beat Y and N Brigade Training Centre in the first round by 4—1, and in the second round is due to play the winners of No. 2 Training Regiment *v.* 62nd Training Regiment, R.A.C.

Cross-Country. After the fifth run, the Regiment now holds second place to No. 2 Training Regiment in the S.T.C. League with 2,009 points.

Signalman Soar is a welcome member to the Regimental team from No. 6 Training Regiment.

No. 3 SQUADRON. The last week-end of November was of major importance to the Scots element of No. 3 Squadron. On Saturday, 29th, which was St. Andrew's Night, the St. Aidan's Society, largely composed of No. 3 Squadron members from the right side of the border, held a supper and dance. The supper was celebrated with all due pomp and ceremony, including piping in the haggis (freshly shot) by Sergeant Kidd. The Address to the Haggis—a genuine specimen, part of Scotland's export drive—was delivered by Sergeant Craig. The supper followed, consisting of "Haggis, champit tatties and bashed neeps," which being translated means haggis, potatoes mashed and turnips mashed.

On the conclusion of the meal seven toasts were proposed, among them "The Armed Forces," to which Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., G.O.C. Catterick District, replied. Speakers from the Squadron included Lance-Corporal Urquhart and Corporal Taylor, Lance-Corporal

Cooper, late of the Squadron and now with No. 6 Training Regiment. The dance which followed the serious part of the evening was accompanied by all the usual yelling and prancing. At a rough estimate, about a third of the males present came from No. 3 Squadron, which doubtless accounts for the increased attendance of the feminine element. Rumour hath it that Sergeant Craig was so exhausted by the dancing that he had no voice left to say "Yes please" when offered a cigarette !

On Sunday, 30th November, another noteworthy event took place. Major-General D. A. Graham, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., presented an oak pulpit to St. Aidan's Church on behalf of the 2nd Battalion, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Here again practically all the Scots of the Squadron turned up for the special service.

BOYS' SQUADRON. There have been many changes in the Boys' Squadron staff recently, and in addition to those named elsewhere in these notes we shall shortly be losing Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. Smith to civilian life after 15 years' service, which started off in Boys' service with the Squadron.

Regular other ranks who are serving with the Squadron are S.S.M. Hargreaves, S.Q.M.S.s Clarke and Holmes, Sergeants Blades, Harrison, Lees, Markey, Morris and Venner, and Corporal White. Tommy Blades is still soldiering on (latest date, July, 1948), with his 32 years' service, of which 19 have been with Boys' Squadron. The active part he takes in cross-country training is ample proof that old soldiers never die. The Squadron now has 350 boys under training, led by S.S.M. Boy Canham, and Sergeant Boys Barnden, Day, Mingauld, Peplow, Robinson and Webb.

We congratulate one of our ex-boys, "Tex" Canham, brother of our present S.S.M. Boy (he held this rank himself), on his recent appointment to a commission. We are also pleased to hear that ex-Boys Coppock and Sharp are now at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Personal. The "Sheriff" would like to hear from any old members of 1st Cavalry Troop (Risalpur), 1931-1938.

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

December

By the time these notes appear in print Christmas, 1947, will be just another memory, but though we are too late for the usual good wishes we do hope the memory is a pleasant one and that the New Year will be one of good fortune for all.

We must apologise for such a long absence from these columns and promise that we shall do better in future. During this prolonged silence we have seen so many changes that it is impossible to mention everyone individually outside Part II orders. Nevertheless we must record the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. R. Scott, who has left us for warmer climes. We welcome in his place Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise, who, after a tour in Malaya, faces a Catterick winter without qualms. We also welcome Major H. Kelly, our new Chief Instructor, who replaces Major A. B. Dryland, to whom we tender our congratulations on his qualifying for the Staff College.

Among the O.R.s we have wished good-bye to S.S.M. Hopkins and S.Q.M.S. McGillivray to Dalton for another trip across the sea, and to S.Q.M.S. Nicklen, who preferred to try his hand as a civvy after 24 years in the Corps. In their places we extend the glad hand to S.S.M. Douthwaite and S.Q.M.S.s Statham and Bourner.

Football. The Regiment has entered teams in the First and Second Divisions of the District League and has also entered for the Army, Northern Command and Catterick District Cup tournaments. The First Division team have up to the present dropped only three points in eleven league games and have a goal average of 56—15. The Second Division team have dropped only four points in thirteen league games and have an even better goal average at 81—12. In the preliminary round of the Army Cup we met 65 H.A.A. Regiment, Royal Artillery, whom we defeated by 6 goals to 1. The first round found us drawn against our neighbours, No. 4 Training Regiment, and in a well supported match we emerged the victors by 12 goals to 2. Our opponents in the second round were S.M.E., Ripon, whom we beat by 4 goals to 2 in one of the best matches we have played this year. With a bye in the third round we are looking forward to the fourth round with high hopes. In the Catterick District Cup we completely outclassed our first round opponents, 323 Royal Pioneer Corps, by scoring 16 goals without reply, and in the second round of this tournament we beat I.S.T.W. by 5 goals to 0. In addition to the above programme our teams have contributed an average of eight or nine players to the Royal Signals, Catterick, team, which has been doing very well in the Amateur Cup competition. Taken all round, we spectators have been treated to some very entertaining football in all these competitions. Now and then our teams have outclassed their opponents by registering wins in the First League by 10—0, 8—0 and 12—2, and in the Second League by 21—0, 11—3 and 15—1, but as a rule we have seen some very good exhibitions of team work that render it unnecessary to congratulate individual players by name, though an exception must be made in the case of Signalman Elmes in recording his selection to play for the Army team to tour B.A.O.R. later this month. We also congratulate Corporal Knight, Lance-Corporal Dare, Signalman Atkins and Signalman Emblen on being selected to play for the Northern Command Amateur XI aaginst Combined Universities.

Hockey. Without the ostentatious following of the football teams our hockey team has been equally successful in its sphere. In the Catterick District League we have played 13 matches and have won 11 of them, placing us third in the league table. In the district knock-out competition we met Royal Signals O.C.T.U. in the first round and beat them 4 goals to 0.

Boxing. An inter-Squadron novices' boxing tournament was held in the Regimental Gymnasium on 21st and 23rd October. On the first evening No. 2 Squadron beat Headquarters by 18 points to 13 and No. 3 Squadron beat No. 1 by 21 points to 12. In the finals, after losing four of the first five fights, No. 3 Squadron staged an exciting recovery to win the contest by 16 points to 15 after an extremely interesting evening's sport, during which excitement ran so high it was sometimes difficult to remember the "Silence" rule, and so No. 3 Squadron retain the trophy which they won last year.

Early in November we met No. 5 Training Regiment in the S.T.C. novices' competition. In all but two bouts our opponents were victorious, and in most of them our fighters were obviously up against far superior men, and are to be congratulated on putting up very plucky displays, even though outclassed.

And that for this month will be all for sport. Later I hope to get some news from our rugger enthusiasts and the cross-country runners, who at present appear to be hiding their lights.

Social activities are for the moment overshadowed by the imminence of Christmas leave, though no doubt the usual Christmas parties will be taking place soon. At the moment the R.S.M., in his capacity of indoor games officer, is busy running an indoor games tournament, of which we will no doubt hear more anon.

Training still runs its imperturable course, just in case readers have the impression we exist solely for sport. G.S. intakes arrive with unfailing regularity, and in twenty weeks disappear as O.W.L.s or in five weeks as O.S.T.s. No. 1 Squadron is leaving the Sandhurst block for the comparative wilds of Basra Lines. The walk before breakfast should be very good for the appetite, though I doubt if the Messing Officer will accept that as a good enough reason for increased rations.

Births. Congratulations to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Holt on the arrival of twins (a boy and a girl). Is that what one means by a mixed blessing? Anyway, since the happy event a rather anxious look has appeared on the faces of one or two expectant fathers. In fact, I am not at all sure whether I should not finish this column "to be continued." Time will tell.

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

December

We have been celebrating various occasions. First, H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth's wedding, which, although not officially recognised as a holiday, was the excuse for a magnificent party in the Officers' Mess. Second came the departure of certain members of the A.T.S. (no cause for celebration in itself), whose farewell dance proved to us how attractive the A.T.S. really are, if the proportion of men to women is anything to judge by. Last and not least, the Sergeants' Mess Christmas ball was agreed by all who went to be one of the great successes of the year.

We welcome to the unit Lieutenant G. Musgrove, home from Italy, and fully understand his resentment at finding himself in Catterick.

To our latest arrival, Second-Lieutenant S. Squires, Catterick is no novelty, as he has come straight from O.C.T.U. S.S.M. Sinclair and Sergeant Lewis have also joined us, the latter rejoining from Civvy Street. We hope their stay with the Regiment will be long and pleasant.

All ranks of the Regiment congratulate Captain and Mrs. J. I. Parkinson on the birth of their son, a strapping lad, who made his appearance at Scarborough in time for breakfast on 26th November, thereby conforming with the rules for all intakes in the Regiment. His name has been duly entered in the rolls of the Regiment, and those Squadron Commanders who have previously suffered at the hands of his father in his capacity as Adjutant are looking forward to taking it out of the boy on his arrival.

It is with regret that we have to say good-bye to Captain Parkinson, who is leaving us to take up an appointment of G.S.O.3 at the War Office (first rumour that it was V.C.I.G.S. has not been confirmed). Not only will Captain Parkinson be missed in the Orderly Room, but also on the hockey field. We wish him and his wife and son the best of luck, and are all looking forward to going to London for the christening. We congratulate Captain Strevens on succeeding Captain Parkinson as Adjutant.

On the field of sport the hockey and rugger teams have continued to be successful. The hockey team now runs fourth in the District League and has the distinction of having the least number of goals scored against them of any unit in the league. The rugger side has now reached the finals of the Garrison League, having beaten the 57th Training Regiment, R.A.C., 15—8. At basketball we have only been defeated once in the league out of five games played.

We would like to end by wishing all members of the Corps where ever they may be a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

No. 5 TRAINING REGIMENT

December

This month No. 5 Training Regiment has proved itself a worthy opponent in the world of sport to any comer. The most gratifying soccer victory was unquestionably that over No. 3 Training Regiment, who were beaten soundly to the tune of 5 goals against 2. From a negligible factor in the football stakes, the Regiment has risen to a foremost place, with an encouraging table of victories; of eight games played, the Regiment lost one.

In the Northern Command Motor Cycle Trial, held at Catterick on 19th November, twelve of the first thirteen positions were held by personnel from this Regiment, the first man in being Sergeant Nicolson. In hockey, No. 5 Training team was placed eighth.

A new arrival has been W.O.I Newton; otherwise the staff position has not altered much. Captain Fowler-Dixon has left to taste the rigours of civilian life, while personnel in 62 Group embarked for York dispersal centre in pouring rain. The release clerk, who happened to be in this group, suddenly discovered that he had forgotten to "demob" himself. "I could have been out last Thursday if I had known," he said laconically.

The cold spell came and went at Tholthorpe, followed by rain, which churned the fields, reducing them into seas of mud. Every morning can be seen the edifying sight of the Orderly Room staff trekking their way across the fields, carrying wood and branches for unfreezing themselves at their destination.

A new addition to the entertainment offered to the O.R.s is a gramophone programme every week. This is well attended. At the moment the material offered is purely popular, but it is hoped to raise eventually an audience for a "classical" programme.

Sergeant Rawlinson, representing the R.A.E.C. at Tholthorpe, is considering the inauguration of a "Brains Trust" here in which the local intelligentsia will hold off all trespassers on their territory.

The formation of a Debating Society is on the same agenda, but with the fluctuations that occur in the Regiment, there are certain difficulties, such as obtaining (and holding) the interest of the trainees, who, when on a mere abbreviated driving course, are apt to look upon the Regiment as a tiresome step, necessary but unwelcome.

However, there is no need to give up hope; the cadre, when they are not playing football or riding motor cycles, will gather round and co-operate.

No. 6 TRAINING REGIMENT

December

A sharp increase in sporting activities has marked this month; in boxing, football, Rugby and hockey our trainees have pulled some excellent performances out of the bag.

The future for sport holds no good, however, as great changes are rumoured. It is probable that we shall cease to train "A" tradesmen in January, and in our new commitment will not keep our men long enough to find talent and train. We must wait and see, and hope that things will not be as bad as they look at first sight.

The tumbrils are calling for their quota with monotonous regularity. This month we have lost not only the famed Captain (T.O.M.) Adcock, and ex-Adjutant and No. 2

(continued on page 8)

Reunion

I went to meet Charles at the station. I wore my best nylons, and lots of scent, and a very silly hat. In the taxi, I remembered Charles used to hate silly hats, so I took it off and swung it on my finger, and tried not to go weak at the knees and clammy in the palms of the hands.

Three years is a long time—Charles and I used to be That Way about each other then, and he'd written to me four times since, which is a record for him, and even asked me to meet the train. His letters were, frankly, a bit uninspired, and seemed to be mostly about wireless, but never mind, I used to say to myself, we'll soon forget all this high-frequency low-tension business when he comes back.

Here he was, too—the train was just drawing in as I walked down the platform. Actually, I was in such a state about meeting him again I don't know how I walked at all. There

lots of scent, and a very silly hat...

...their lieutenants with pale shirts and dark ties....

were masses of officers about and I had to look for him and it was all madly cosmic, but in the end I saw a back I knew in a dog-eared British Warm, surrounded as far as the eye could see by men with the *most* enormous moustaches, so I was frightfully brave.

"Charles!" I said, and they all turned round eagerly. There he was, all right, with mountains of luggage and haversacks and things all round him. "Darling!" he said, quite enthusiastically, and then he waved a great hand at all those moustaches and said "Meet the chaps, darling, we're all going to have a last drink together," and all the chaps said "WHat-HO!" and things, and we moved off down the platform like a sort of rugger scrum with porters skirmishing about with luggage. We just about filled the bar.

"This one's on me, chaps," said Charles, and they all pressed round us saying, "No, no, old man, I owe you one from that time in Dresden," and "On me, this time, Charles; remember what happened in Hamburg?" so in the end I found myself squashed in a corner with a small pink gin and two thin Lieutenants with pale shirts and dark ties and very smooth manners who were drinking beer. "Charles!" I said. "I'm so sorry," said the nearest Lieutenant, "my name's Austin, actually," so I said "How nice!" and pushed madly back to Charles.

A small red-faced man had just materialised in front of him and was saying "By gad, old man, I haven't seen you since Benghazi in '42!" "Then you owe *me* one!" said Charles, giving the man a huge great pint of beer, and they all drank, and someone began to sing "Lily Marlene," and then a perfectly strange man in the Rifle Brigade suddenly looked at the clock, gulped the rest of his drink, and said "We'd better hurry if we're going on to 'The Lamb,'" and they all began to pour out.

....an enormous officer in a kilt....

I clung on to Charles. I felt a bit battered by this time, but, after all, three years ago we had CERTAINLY been That Way about each other. "Darling!" he said, with what I can only call a very high-tension look, "you don't mind the chaps, do you? We all came over together and we shan't meet again for ages, and—well, you know how it is with chaps!" I said yes, I was beginning to understand, and then just as we were going to have a nice talk a Major in a camel-hair waistcoat came up and said "INTO the taxi, old man, we're all off to 'The Lamb'!"

"I don't think . . ." said Charles, but by that time we were all in a taxi in pitch dark driving away into the night. Someone put an arm round my waist so I began to feel cheered, and then we passed a lamp, and I saw it was a red-haired Captain I'd never seen before in my life. I think he was in a Light Infantry Regiment. "Heavens!" I said, thinking the worst, and then I saw Charles sitting in front by the driver. He turned round and made faces at me through the glass, but I wasn't much soothed.

"I say, I'm sorry," said the man next to me, "I thought you were Sally." "I'm not Sally," I said. "Actually," he said, "my name's Gerald." I said, "Really." Then the taxi stopped and we all got out and Gerald fell on Charles crying "Old man, I haven't seen you since Maymyo!" and Charles slapped him heartily on the back and said "What happened to old Porky Williams?" and we all poured into "The Lamb" and it was full of moustaches.

A Lieutenant-Colonel got me a sherry and I looked round for Charles, and there he was, telling a long story about some webbing equipment to three Captains. "Charles!" I said. "Actually, my name's Vivien," said the Lieutenant-Colonel, taking my glass. There was a huge uproar at the door and an enormous officer in a kilt came hurtling in shouting "Old man, I haven't seen you since that damn' good party we had in Lisieux—heard anything of old Stinker Arbuthnot?" Someone gave him a drink and the ranks closed again.

"Thank you," I said to the Lieutenant-Colonel as he gave me another sherry. When I looked again I saw it was a different one with a monocle and hogskin gloves. "How are you?" I said madly, "I haven't seen you since that simply *brutal* evening we all had in Tangier—seen anything of old Slogger Pitchforth, the man who drank the anti-freeze?" "I *am* Slogger Pitchforth," he said bleakly, and went away.

I began to feel I'd put up a black, and I was no nearer Charles, who, I was sure, was still feeling increasingly That Way about me and would rather have been some place quiet telling me about his high-tension. "Charles!" I said.

"So I said to the old Adj," said Charles, "'Pinky!' I said—and he never dared mention slit trenches again!" There was a burst of cheering and several men slapped me encouragingly on the back with their free hands. I smiled weakly, and accepted another small sherry from a distinguished-looking cavalry type with suede boots. "Actually, my name's Piers," he said, "and d'you know, I'm sure you're the girl I damn' nearly married in Florence in '43!"

"In '43," I said, "I was working for the Red Cross in Stoke-on-Trent." "My dear, *gay*," he said. I said, "No." Then Charles saw me, waved his beer, and worked his way through the chaps towards me. We fell into the street. A taxi loomed up. We fell in.

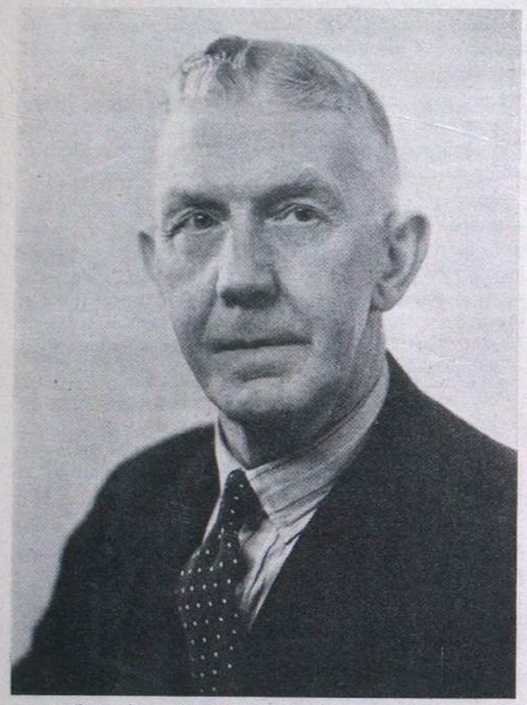
It was quiet—Charles obviously still felt That Way, and so did I. After a bit, "Charles" I said. "Actually, my name's Roger," said a voice. I looked at him. He was a perfectly strange officer with three pips and green eyes. I screamed. I remember the taxi-driver thought I was mad. After a bit I thought so myself.

..perfectly strange officer with three pips and green eyes....

Home Stations *(continued from page 5)*

Squadron Commander Captain F. Haley, but also such noted and valuable personalities as S.S.M.s Phillips and Williams, and S.Q.M.S. Garrad—all for another tour of overseas service.

Captain Adcock's return to Civvy Street has closed nearly 38 years of service, which began in the Royal Fusiliers on 10th May, 1910. It included service in the old R.E. Signals as well as such noted Royal Signals units as 29th Divisional



Captain Jimmy Adcock, T.O.M., No. 6 Training Regiment

Signals, Cavalry Divisional Signals, 2nd Divisional Signals, 3rd Divisional Signals and the Signals Companies of the Rhine, Danzig and Silesia.

He can be particularly remembered as a boxing referee of considerable efficiency and as T.O.M. who was never at a loss. We have enclosed his photograph with these notes, but his face will need no reminder in these parts for many a long day.

Soccer. Since our last notes we have played 17 1st and 2nd Division matches, 8 won, 2 drawn, 7 lost. Our league positions are now: 1st Division, sixth; 2nd Division, ninth.

Rugby. A very strenuous and hard-fought game against No. 1 Training Regiment resulted in a defeat by 3 points to nil. Extra time had to be played and the winning try was scored in the last few minutes of the game.

Our first and second teams did battle with the first and second of S.M.E., Ripon, and in very keen and quick games we were unfortunate to be beaten by narrow margins.

The pride of our talent plays on more exalted levels, and can seldom be made available for Regimental games. The efforts of the remainder are all the more creditable for that.

Hockey. Three out of four games in the District Hockey League have fallen to us, and we are now fourth in the league with every prospect of going higher.

No. 1 SQUADRON. Last month we bade farewell to two of the old stagers of the Squadron. S.S.M. "Tich" Williams and S.Q.M.S. "Bugsie" Garrad wended their way to No. 2 Depot Regiment, carrying with them the good wishes of the cadre. The trainees miss the fatherly advice of "Q" and there hasn't been the same drain on the supply of A.F.s B281 and 252 since "Tich" swung himself down from his chair.

In his place we welcome S.S.M. Wall, fresh from the Airborne, who is carrying on the Williams tradition of keeping the Squadron on its toes. S.Q.M.S. Holdsworth (the man who speaks Chinese) has returned to the stores from Civvy Street. He couldn't take it!

As far as work is concerned, the Squadron is still busy turning out potential officers in spite of the shortage of instructors. Intakes have been coming in thick and fast (nothing inferred!) and with the N.C.O. Instructors' Course thrown in we have our hands full.

No. 2 SQUADRON. No. 2 Squadron are still in splendid isolation down in Baghdad. Unfortunately the changing system of training for the R.T.M.s now means that the Squadron will once again be broken up and that we shall be losing many of our old friends of the Instructional Cadre to No. 1 Training Regiment.

Corporals Farrell and Elder left us in November for the B.A.O.R. and we still live in hopes of an epistle from them. (German papers please copy.)

Jackie ("Laugh-it-off") Wratten can still be found, surrounded by reams of paper, in the C.I. clerks' office, one hand on the 'phone and the other idly strumming on the cat-gut. Johnny Taylor and Busty still disappear into the blue at week-ends, in varying stages of undress. Nobody has yet found where they get to, despite careful watch of generations of trainees. Bert Wells manages to wring some semblance of tune out of the N.A.A.F.I. piano and his weekly Madhouses are well attended by a large proportion of the Squadron.

LONDON DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

December

It is a long time since the activities of this Squadron featured in THE WIRE and a great deal has happened in the meantime. We are now a mixed unit, approximately 150 men and auxiliaries all told, occupying an old A.A. gun site on the northern edge of Hampstead Heath.

The only Regular Officer, Major D. M. Haslehurst, leaves us in January to undertake the next Staff College Course at Camberley. We extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Major A. Hill, newly arrived from Egypt. The Admin. Officer is Captain "Don" Banham, an old timer from "Y" Signals. The training side is represented by Lieutenant C. G. Robertson, and the M.T. by Second-Lieutenant C. Carr. A.T.S. affairs are in the capable hands of Junior Commander Hilda Brown, who was a mid-summer arrival from Scottish Command. Even more recently with us is Junior Commander Mary Kendall-Carpenter, who previously served in Catterick.

The Sergeants' Mess has also its chief, S.S.M. Willis, leaving for Canterbury just before Christmas. His place was taken by R.S.M. "Curly" Meese, another migrant from Egypt. Other regulars in the Squadron are S.Q.M.S. Mulcahy, Sergeant Duke, Sergeant Sellex and Corporal Jones. Prominent on the A.T.S. side are Sergeants Baylis, McCue and Argo, all stalwarts from the Park Lane days. Park Laners will also remember Corporal Mulvaney,

Corporal Grimes, Lance-Corporal Wells, Lance-Corporal Brydon, Private "Pritch" Pritchard, Private Ferneaux and Private "Flo" Graham amongst others.

The officers gave a very successful cocktail party in late November. The C.S.O., Colonel R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., was unfortunately prevented from coming by illness, but the whole of his staff appeared in force, accompanied by their wives. It was a pleasure to welcome Major and Mrs. G. H. McKowan, Captain and Mrs. M. Woolhouse and Captain J. Emberton. We were also glad to see Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. E. Tozer and Major R. E. D. Mathews amongst the distinguished gathering.

Meanwhile preparations are afoot to make this Christmas unforgettable, and it will also be an opportunity for "house warming" the new canteen. Appetites are kept aflame by the football team doing their First Division best on Wednesday afternoons, and the A.T.S. their P.T. almost every day. Despite this exercise, most people wish Mr. Gaitskell would increase the coal ration, but, for all the shivering, London district is a very popular place to be in, and we all appreciate how lucky we are to be near so many cultural and entertainment facilities.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

December

Owing to the stringent economies imposed upon us in the fuel drive we are just about bearing up in this Scottish clime, having experienced, so far, everything from wind and hail to cats and dogs. Our favourite topic of conversation is now how to avoid the new idea of cross-country walks on Wednesday afternoons. They certainly warm us up, but so do the stoves G.S., when you can find one.

We welcome Major Gregory, who has now joined the happy band, and has taken over No. 1 Squadron. Major Flynn is, unfortunately, in hospital, and we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Our congratulations also to ex-Corporals Murray, Ridgeon and Grange on becoming members of the Sergeants' Mess. It is with regret that we shall shortly have to say goodbye to Sergeant Ridgeon, who is going to Catterick for a Foreman of Signals course.

The Officers', Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes have each had "smokers," "socials," "house warmers," or whatever you care to call them, in varying degrees during the past month, and judging by appearances on the following mornings' parades they all seem to have been successful.

In the sports world two cup matches have been played at football, with highly satisfactory results. The first was against 641 Company, R.A.S.C., in Edinburgh, and after a first-class game the unit were worthy winners 5—3. The other was held at Carstairs Military Hospital, once again the unit proving their worth to the tune of 3—0. The tea kindly laid on for the players and supporters seemed to be the main topic of conversation after the match. At hockey the unit has been, unfortunately, prevented from playing its cup match against 25 P.T.C. due to the ground being waterlogged for some weeks. It is hoped to be able to report a succeessful result in our next notes. So much for sport.

The spirit instilled into some of us by our signal training seems the main reason for one of our young N.C.O.s having taken up a keen interest in the field of amateur radio. Lance-Corporal Dumbill has now received his licence for amateur transmission on his home-built electron-coupled oscillator coupled to an 807 power amplifier running about 22 watts. He is operating on the 3.5 mc/s and 14 mc/s hand with call sign GM 3CCY/A, and is keen to contact other Signals personnel.

News from our out-stations at Perth, Glasgow and Orkneys has not filtered through, no doubt due to the climatic extremes under which they suffer. We hope to give you a little gen about them in our New Year notes.

Training Troop is still "showing the flag" at various places up and down Scotland, and a lightning visit down to 8 Training Battalion, Royal Engineers, at Lockerbie, despite fan belts breaking and cylinder-head gaskets blowing, was highly successful. We are also providing equipment and bods for a recruiting demonstration in Rossleigh showrooms, just by the West End in Edinburgh. The tone of our exhibits is an "old and new" touch, i.e., 1 sets and 9 sets flanked with 53 and 19 h.p. sets. The general effect is pretty good.

That's about the lot from Scotco Signals. May we use the pages of THE WIRE to pass very best wishes to all Signal units and personnel for a very successful 1948.

The bloke that really did have a good Christmas!

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

December

The Regimental Training Courses are still going strong and very shortly the numerous candidates will be sitting for the final examinations. No doubt, after it is all over, less worried frowns will be seen and the instructors will be sighing with relief until the next time.

This month saw the "Pass Off Parade" of the Eighth Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Course held in the Regiment. The standard of drill and turn-out was exceptionally good and the Commanding Officer was highly pleased. Credit must be given to the instructors for the hard work they have put in and for the good results achieved. The present Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Course is also proving successful, and is being used to give demonstrations to the remainder of the Regiment stationed in Hilden on the Commanding Officer's Saturday drill parades.

Among the new arrivals to the Regiment are Captain L. H. Sharp (Cipher Officer) and Captain T. G. Simpson (Assistant Adjutant). We extend a hearty welcome to all of them. We said good-bye to Captain Jock Grant, who left the Regiment on 18th November on posting to the H.E., and no doubt will move later on to sunnier climes. The Regiment wish you all the best of luck, Jock, wherever you may go.

As reported in last month's WIRE notes, "Jimmy's Tavern," which has now been re-named "Jimmy's Club," was still in the hands of the R.E. workmen. This month saw the completion of the first stage of the reorganisation of the Club, and the R.E.s have finally finished the interior decorating and renovating, and the premises really do look first class. One billiard table has been installed, also two table tennis tables. Another billiard table is on order from the N.A.A.F.I., but so far it has not arrived.

Sport. 101 Medical Company, R.A.M.C., were at home to the Regiment at Kettwig on Wednesday, 12th November, in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition. The game was played in very bad weather, the high wind and rain making conditions atrocious for both players and spectators alike. The final score was: 101 Medical Company, R.A.M.C., 1, 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment 3.

In the next round of this competition the Regiment have been drawn at home to the York and Lancaster Regiment, who have recently arrived in this area from Berlin with a very good sporting reputation.

The Regimental Inter-Troop Football League is going "great guns," thanks to the co-operation and enthusiasm of all concerned. There are twelve teams in the league; the aim is for each team to play one another twice on a home and away basis.

The second game of the Regimental Rugby XV was played against an H.Q. R.A.S.C. XV on Saturday, 8th November, on the Divisional H.Q. ground, Hilden. After a very good game, in which the team played very well together—they seem to improve with every game

played—the final score was: H.Q. R.A.S.C. XV, 3 points, Divisional Signals XV, 19 points.

The photograph reproduced above shows Lance-Corporal Dodwell with Betty and Lottie, who, as reported in previous notes, were placed first and third respectively in the Jumping Competition at the 6th (H) Brigade Horse Show.

Five members of the Regiment were selected for a Divisional hockey trial held at Wuppertal during the month, these being Captain Simpson, Corporals Rumford and Slavin and Lance-Corporals Ball and Eldridge. Captain Simpson and Lance-Corporal Eldridge were selected to play for the Division versus 7th Armoured Division at Hamm on 19th November. This game was in the nature of a trial to pick players for the B.A.O.R. hockey team.

Stop Press. Result of the second round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition: 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment 3, York and Lancaster Regiment 1.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Celle

December

No startling change has occurred in the activities of the Regiment at Celle in the past month. As the winter draws in, leather-jerkined figures are much in evidence about the camp, while intensive preparations are in hand for the entertainment by those who will be here for Christmas. Much beer and good spirit is anticipated.

The unit turned out 50 strong for the Armistice Day church parade, when we solemnly remembered before God those who gave their lives in two wars. The salute was taken by the A.O.C. 84 Group and Brigadier Scot-Ellis, and the Regiment was congratulated on a smart turnout.

Our new club, "Ye Olde Log Cabine," continues to thrive and offer attractions such as the weekly tombola evening, when the services of the Regiment's voices are called in. The hobbies now run in the evenings—carpentry, model-making, toy-making, and leatherwork—form a further attraction, whilst in town the C.S.E. still supplies excellent entertainment in variety, pictures and music. The fortnightly Regimental dance is still being run under the auspices of S.S.M. Mudge, and the monthly Married Families' Dance in the Sergeants' Mess enjoyed its customary success.

We take this opportunity of bidding farewell to all members of Groups 62 and 63 who are leaving us, and wish them every success on this return to Civvy Street. Also to the large number of men who have been posted to Wings or other units.

Football. In the Celle Football League the Regiment has been relegated to second place with a total of 25 points, one point behind the 1st Dorsets, who have a total of 26 points.

The following matches have been played during the month of November:—

13th Infantry Brigade Knock-out Competition Final: 1st Battalion Oxford and Buckinghamshires 2, No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 0.

Maitland Knock-out Competition: No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 2, No. 2 District Police 0; No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 2, No. 3 Armoured Car Squadron 0.

Celle League: No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 2, No. 2 District Police 1; No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 1, No. 54 R.A.F. Hospital 0; No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 3, R.A.C. Training Centre, Belsen, 1; No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 2, R.A.F., Scheuen, 2.

In the final of the 13th Infantry Brigade Knock-out Competition against the Oxford and Buckinghamshires the Regiment were very unfortunate to lose. During the first half they certainly had most of the play and did everything but score. The opposing team were only able to break through about four times and it was during one of the breakthroughs that they scored their first goal. About two minutes from half-time Signalman Harrison, the Regiment's inside-left, sustained an injury to his knee, which although he did not leave the field, rendered him practically useless as far as playing was concerned.

After about 20 minutes' play in the second half, the Oxford and Buckinghamshires scored their second goal, the final score being 2 goals to 0.

The Regiment are drawn to meet 123rd Wing, R.A.F., in the semi-final of the Maitland Cup, to be played on Wednesday, 10th December, and it is expected that this will be a very keenly contested game.

Inter-Troop football has now reached a point where it is only too obvious that 73rd Wing Signal Troop will win the first series, having played 8, won 7, lost 0, drawn 1, goals for 25, against 3, points 15.

Hockey. In the second round of the Army Hockey Competition the Regiment lost to the 1st Battalion, Oxford and Buckinghamshires at Luneburg by 5 goals to 3.

Several friendly games of hockey have been played during the past month and quite a number of new players have been found within the Regiment.

The Inter-Troop Knock-out Competition has now reached its final stage, and the final is to be played off on Boxing Day at Goodwood Barracks, the finalists being Regimental H.Q. and the winners of M.T. Troop and 67th Wing. In the match between R.H.Q. and 115 D.R., in the semi-final, R.H.Q. won by 4 goals to 0.

Cross-Country Running. The Regiment now has a cross-country run each week, and our cross-country enthusiasts are settling down to some training. Recently the Regiment took part in two inter-unit cross-country runs, one with 84 Group, in which they came third, and one at Luneburg in the 13th Brigade Championships, when the Regiment got fourth place. In the near future it is hoped to have an Inter-Troop Competition.

Miniature Range. Inter-Troop miniature range firing has commenced and is going strong. This is on a league basis and there is keen competition amongst the Troops.

No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Gutersloh

December

R.H.Q. AND No. 2 SQUADRON. On Saturday, 16th November, 1947, Lieutenant-Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich left us to take up his new appointment as C.S.O., West Africa. A special parade was held, at which Lieutenant-Colonel McOstrich said "goodbye" to the unit. At 1030 hours, when he left his office for the last time, he walked out to his car to find that the men were all ready to pull his car through the unit lines with the aid of white ropes. As his car was slowly pulled out of the lines the unit, who were lined up on each side of the road, gave him a last resounding cheer as he passed them. Our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. A. Hepper, has taken over the Regiment, and I am sure that we shall still be known as the happiest unit in B.A.O.R.

The Signals Inn is once more going with a swing, and quiz, darts and table tennis competitions are going well. Housey-housey is also proving very popular. The two dances which we have held since re-opening have not been as much a success as we had been hoping. This was due to two reasons, the first and foremost, the shortage of lady partners, the second the weather. Now that there are only about 18 W.A.A.F.s on the station it means that lady partners have to come from as far away as Bad Oeynhausen, about 1½ hours on the Autobahn, and on cold and rainy nights a journey such as this offers no encouragement. A concert given by the unit concert party and dance band on Thursday, 20th November, turned out to be a big success, and it is hoped to hold more of them.

Marriage. On 15th November, 1947, Craftsman Holdsworth, a member of our L.A.D., was married at Leeds to Miss Grace Horsfield, of 7, Marley View, Leeds. Craftsman Holdsworth also comes from Leeds. To the happy couple we extend our heartiest congratulations. What price "Operation Union"?

Boxing. The boxing team is in full swing under the masterful eyes of R.S.M. Kerr and R.Q.M.S. (Jock) McCulloch. The highlight of the team is Signalman (Basher) Walker.

Shooting. Miniature rifle shooting under the leadership of Second-Lieutenant T. Madden has caused great interest in R.H.Q. and No. 2 Squadron, and volunteers for shooting are almost in excess. It is hoped to fire inter-Troop and inter-Squadron and later inter-Unit competitions.

Cross-Country Running. On Wednesday, 26th November, a four-mile cross-country run took place in No. 2 Squadron. Signalman Jeff obtained first place in 23 minutes 18 seconds. The inclusion of cross-country running amongst organised sports on a Wednesday afternoon has revealed several good players in the field of soccer, rugby and hockey!

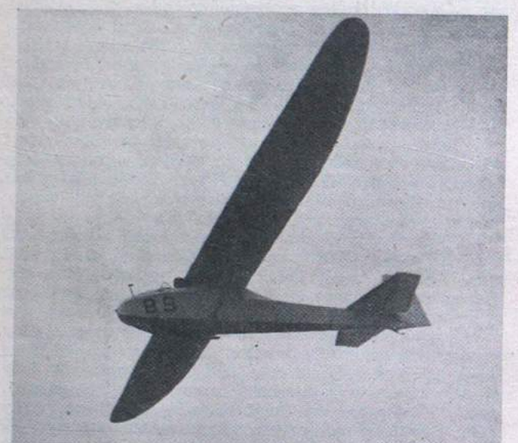
Rugby. After a Regimental trial, when No. 2 Squadron defeated No. 1 Squadron by 5—0 in a sea of mud, we had high hopes of beating the B.A.O.R. Training Centre in the second round of the Divisional Knock-Out Competition. However, despite the keenness of our small forwards and the solid tackling of our backs, we were beaten by 18 points to 4. A very fair result, but, oh, how we wish we were bigger! The station team is well supported by Signals

personnel, with Second-Lieutenants Pugh and D. S. Jones and Signalman Dodd being regular players and always giving a good account of themselves.

Soccer. The Soccer team has struck a bad patch. Three of the last four games have been lost. On Saturday, 29th November, we lost to the 1st Royal Tanks at Detmold 7—2 in the third round, Divisional Competition.

Hockey. Interest has at last been created on the hockey field. In our last game against a crack German team we gave a good acount of ourselves, and after a very exciting tussle the game ended in a draw 2—2.

Gliding Club. Several members of the unit belong to the R.A.F. Gliding Club at Oerlinghausen, many of them being successful in obtaining their A, B and C certificates.



"They fly through the air with the greatest of ease"

This B.A.F.O. gliding club, which is open to "Brown Jobs," provides excellent tuition, and no previous experience is required to master the art of soaring, in fact, our chaps are now able to hover like those large birds of India fame. See photograph.

No. 1 SQUADRON (BUCKEBURG). The last month has seen much activity on the part of our linemen on Buckeburg airfield. Four of our cables were dug up by local labourers by mistake, with the result that it has meant many late nights for our linemen.

Preparations are still going on with great speed for the Christmas festivities. We are combining with the R.A.F. Regiment and, if everything goes according to plan, we should have a really good "do."

In the near future we are "going on the air." A B.F.N. roving microphone will be visiting us, so listen in to "On Parade" on 20th January, 1948.

Association Football. During the past month our Soccer teams have not been showing their true form. Due to personnel on leave the teams have been changed from week to week, and have not had a chance to settle down. Three of our players have found a place in the area team, viz., Signalman Stone (centre-half), who has been playing very consistently since joining the Squadron, Signalman Booth (outside-left) and Private Irvine (inside-right).

Our records to date are as follows:—

					Goals		
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
"A" team	10	3	4	3	44	18	10
"B" team	9	5	0	4	26	23	10

Both teams are third in the respective league tables.

Rugby. After a rather poor start our Rugby team has struck winning form. More players have joined the club, and on Wednesday, 19th November, we were able to supply the Regimental team with six players and field a team which beat B.A.F.O. Police School by 16 points to 6 points. We hope to be able to repeat the form shown in this game and carry on winning in our future matches.

No. 3 SQUADRON (R.A.F. STATION, UETERSEN). On the entertainment side things are going with a swing. The cinema is now operating well, and one day last week a little variety was given in the form of a live show, Primo Scala and his band. A station dance for all ranks went off very well indeed on Friday, 28th November, 1947. The Squadron now has a games room, with table tennis and a dart board, a quiet room, and also a room for the use of budding Marconis.

Sports. The Squadron has played four league matches since the last notes were written, and results obtained were won 2, drawn 1, lost 1. In the Knock-Out Competition, the first round of which was played on Saturday, 29th November, the team managed to draw with the team from No. 38 Field Butchery. This team had a high reputation and holds top place in the league, and to date had won all its matches. The team played a remarkably good game, in dirty weather on a very slippery pitch, further handicapped by our regular goalkeeper being away playing for the Regiment.

No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

December

Several incidents have happened since we last appeared. On Remembrance Day a Garrison Church Parade Service was held in the gymnasium, Harewood Barracks, followed by a March Past of the Garrison—including 549 E. & M. Company, R.E., 101 Zone Postal Depot, R.E., and 151 Vehicle Park R.A.O.C. Major-General J. S. Lethbridge, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., took the salute and roughly seven hundred assembled in the gymnasium for the service, which was taken by Padre Jarvis, Staff Chaplain H.Q., B.A.O.R. (our own Padre was on leave in U.K.).

A dance was held in the Merrico Ballroom on Hallowe'en Night, at which everyone present enjoyed themselves immensely. I hear that *Deadly Nightshade* won first prize at the Fancy Dress Parade. (Shades of Dusty!!)

Mr. Elias Prins gave a really excellent lecture on "Holland in the Post War World" in November.

Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons have each held a smoking concert, which have been very much appreciated.

On 25th November Major H. F. Jahn, M.B.E., departed for U.K. on Python after having served seven years with this Regiment, a record in war time. He had filled various positions, such as Chief Signalmaster, Adjutant, O.C. 2 and O.C. 3 Squadrons, during his tour of duty. We wish him the best of luck in the future in civilian life, which starts for him on 10th January, 1948. An Amateur Radio Club has been started, also a Unit cinema has been built by Lieutenant

S.Q.M.S. W. C. Whitbread and his bride, Christel Zander, of Flensburg

Lawson. Unfortunately he has now left us for the wilds of Ceylon and High Speed Wireless. The Mercury Theatre continues to put on a show each week and is gaining popularity weekly. We have a recent marriage to announce—Signalman V. Warner and Private Olive Rudd, A.T.S. Signals, both of whom have put in some very hard work with the theatre. Our congratulations are tendered to both of them.

Everyone is now actively employed in getting ready for the Christmas season, and the Admin Office looks like the toy department of Marks and Spencers.

Sports. The Regimental hockey team are progressing very well in the Eastern League. We were unfortunately beaten 4—1 in the semi-final of the 7th Armoured Division Tournament Branch of the Army Hockey K.O. by H.Q. Squadron, 7th Armoured Division, who subsequently beat 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. We had hoped that it would be an all-Signals final!

The Regimental football team has also been putting up an excellent record and have finished up—I think—top of the Eastern League. (Final results are not yet to hand.) In our last game we beat 101 Zone Postal Depot, R.E., 6—1. We are looking to the next half of the Division League in January, 1948.

We have recently received some Fencing Kit, and under the able supervision of Captain Gavey several students are progressing well.

The Quiz Team has had two successes on B.F.N. on 10th August, 1947 and 14th December, 1947; they are on again on 21st December, 1947, and we are hoping!

No. 1 SQUADRON. The past month or so has seen many changes in the officers of the Squadron. Our O.C., Major H. W. Philpott, M.B.E., has left to take over command of 2 Squadron at Bad Oeynhausen, where he now controls the mysteries of Rhine Army Signal Office. His chair has been filled (dare I say "well filled"?) by Major F. Mansfield, late of 1 Corps District Signal Regiment, who already winces every time jointers trailers are mentioned. We also wonder if he enjoys his daily ride in his Humber Snipe (when he can get it!).

Two concerts have now been held under the sponsorship of this Squadron and ably supervised by Captain "Joe" Lynch; both proved a great success (where were the sergeants?).

Boxing training has begun, also table tennis, snooker and other indoor sports are in full swing within the Squadron.

We take this opportunity of wishing all past and present members of the Squadron the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Captain Hodgson left us this month on posting to 11 Air Formation Signals.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Major Philpott has now taken over the Squadron from Major Jahn, who has proceeded on Python—all the best, sir. The Mercury Theatre continues to give some excellent shows, the latest being "Maria Marten" (or, "The Murder in the Red Barn"). This was continued for a further week, and an additional item was the serving of beer during the intervals by appropriately costumed barmen (or chuckers-out). The show was admirably compered by Major "Dusty" Miller—who, we are sorry to say, is leaving on 19th December, 1947, for leave and a tele con course in February, 1948.

No. 3 SQUADRON. This month we say farewell to our popular O.C., Major S. E. Miller, who is proceeding on leave prior to a course at the School of Signals. Major A. E. Wood has taken over, and we wish both all the best.

We regret to announce the death of Signalman B. G. Hemingway on 9th October, 1947, as a result of a traffic accident in a jeep.

Indoor games in addition to soccer are flourishing within the Squadron. A Squadron concert was also held in the dining hall and was a great success.

Stop Press. On the occasion of the visit of the Archbishop of Birmingham the Regiment provided a Guard of Honour at the R.C. Church, Bad Oeynhausen, under command of Captain J. F. J. O'Connor. The photograph shows them leaving the church and formed up outside the church as the Archbishop leaves.

4th ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

December

4th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron wishes all members of the Corps a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Since our last notes there have been a few changes in the Squadron; some of us have been demobbed, and we wish them the best of luck, and others have just joined from other parts of the globe. These we hope will soon settle down and be as happy as the remainder of the Squadron.

Our S.Q.M.S. (John Roake) is at present spending his leave in the U.K., and I am sure that his return will be welcomed by many, as it is often heard said, "When is the 'Q' due back?"

The Squadron took its part in the Remembrance Day parade on Sunday, 8th November, 1947, with a service held in St. Nicholas Church, Luneberg, followed by a

4th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron on Remembrance Day Parade, 8th November, 1947, led by Major J. R. G. Walker, Royal Signals

march past. The salute was taken by our Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. P. de Winton, C.B.E. From all accounts our troops put up a very good show.

Sport this last month on the football field and hockey ground has given much entertainment to the spectators, as well as some good games for the players. Results are quite good, but we are always handicapped by one or two of our best players being away on leave. From all reports Christmas should see us having as good a time as ever, so we hope to let you know all about that in our next issue. Places of interest being visited by members of the Squadron this month are the silk factory, the sugar beet factory, and the canning factory.

Football. November results: 4th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron *v.* 58 Plant Squadron, R.E., 3—1. *v.* "B" Company, 1st Worcesters, 1—1. *v.* "A" Company, 1st Worcesters, 3—1. *v.* "S" Company, Oxford and Buckinghamshires, 5—0. *v.* "B" Company, Oxford and Buckinghamshires, 0—5. *v.* 60 Rifle Squadron, 1—1.

"Y" TROOP (ATTACHED 3RD ROYAL TANKS). The last month has brought a few changes of scenery in the Troop. We have lost two friends in Signalman Sucker, who has proceeded on Class "A" Release, and Signalman Goodyear, who has gone on posting to the 7th Hussars. We wish them the best of luck in their new locations. In their place we extend a welcome to Signalmen Miller and Blacow, who have joined us from Trieste. We hope that they will have as happy a time here as they had in their last unit.

The Troop Amateur Radio Station D2CJ is still doing well, and was represented at the "Hamfest" held in Hanover by Sergeant Britton and Corporal Hughes. They tell us that they were still sober when it finished, but your guess is as good as mine.

For the rest of the Troop and myself I would like to extend our congratulations to Corporal Hughes on his promotion.

In the realm of sport our own Troop team beat the R.H.Q. Transport by 4 goals to 0, and it is hoped to continue our success when we play H.Q. Squadron Administration in the near future. It may be of interest to other Signal Troops in the Brigade to know that we have only 14 men in the Troop.

Well, readers, I expect you have had enough for now, so, hoping you had a Happy Christmas, this is yours truly signing off till our next few lines. Cheerio. A. B.

"W" TROOP. The Brigade training season having drawn to a successful close, the Troop have now settled down to a spot of individual training, and many members of the Troop are endeavouring to learn how wireless actually works. "Straight," "Superhet," "Negative Feedback" and "Phase Splitting" are now household words among the "Star Gazers." However, good luck to you, chaps, and may you successfully bamboozle the examiners on the Trade Board.

Sport, and in particular football, has played a predominant part in the Squadron working programme during the past month and, despite the unavoidable setbacks due to demob., courses, etc., we have managed to maintain a comfortable position in the Brigade Football League table, and have high hopes of finishing the season very close to the top. Competition and enthusiasm has been so great that we have had to form a second team at football. Nice going, considering the unit's strength.

Competition in another sphere, and this time inter-Troop, is evident in the fact that H.Q. Troop have accepted responsibility for decorating the Squadron canteen and "W" Troop the mess room. The adjacent woods seethe with activity as "W" Troop enthusiasts gather fir cones that, after a treatment of drying and painting, are being set aside for the eventual decorative endeavours that will break into life at the conclusion of the upgrading course. We are determined to outdo H.Q., whatever the resources available.

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

December

A general slow-down in the fulfilment of fixtures in the league games for both hockey and soccer has been made necessary owing to the severity of weather conditions recently. It was, however, possible to play the following games, with results as noted:—

Soccer. Division II: *versus* 59th Provost Company, R.M.P., lost 0—2. Signalmen L. Barker and J. Cram qualified as Army Football Association referees, Class III.

Hockey. League: *versus* 3rd R.T.R., lost 0—2. An excellent game with visibility low owing to heavy ground fog. Position in the league is that of third from the top.

Rugby. The unit has now some 17 persons interested in rugger, and efforts are being made to make a ground available for practice. Lance-Corporal Vater has been selected as a member of the B.A.O.R. representative team due to tour the U.K. from 9th to 18th December. Our congratulations and best wishes go with him.

Miniature Range Shooting. Arrangements to reopen the miniature rifle range are going ahead and hopes are high that a Shooting Club will be formed in the near future.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

December

This month has been quite an eventful one, with the arrival of many new faces and the rousing of new interests. The unit's first team came up against strong opposition in the Berlin Junior Football League, losing three matches and drawing one. Goals for 5, goals against 13. It is hoped that this bad patch will soon be passed. The table tennis team is improving. After having lost their first two matches and drawing the third they finally won the fourth. Keep it up. The Squadron snooker and darts tournaments are well under way, and the progress of "fancied favourites" is being watched with interest.

Congratulations to Signalman Ashton on winning first prize in the Berlin Hobbies and Handicrafts Exhibition. This entry was an excellent model of a grand piano done in plastics.

Lieutenant P. A. Baldwin is now O.C., 16 High Speed Wireless Troop, Second-Lieutenant Montagnon having gone back to 2 L. of C. Signals. Their recreation room has been completely redecorated, and a successful "housewarming" dance and party has been held.

On Sunday, 9th November, a church parade and march past was held, every unit of British troops, Berlin, being represented. The turn-out and bearing of the Signals contingent under Lieutenants Baldwin and Seymour was most favourably commented upon. Well done, Signals!

Preparations are already under way to throw a Christmas party for German children. The Squadron intends to cater for about 200 guests, and from all accounts they should have a really good time. There is also a feeling of expectancy in the air concerning our own arrangements. For quite a number of the Squadron this will be their first Christmas in the Army and possibly their last, so everything is being done to make it a memorable occasion.

BERLIN JIMMY

No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Munster in Westphalia

December

During the month of November the unit has carried on, overcoming the many headaches showered upon it, and has emerged into December conscious of progress having been made in all spheres. The "vacant log cabin" referred to in the last month's WIRE has been converted into a luxury cinema thanks to the good work of a handful of enthusiasts working under Sergeant Kelly (who has taken over from Lieutenant Dent on the latter's being posted). A prize of 10/- has been offered by the PRI for the most suitable name suggested for this cinema, which is to be opened on Boxing Day; by this date it will be lined with polished oak panels and equipped with *real* tip-up seats.

Various clubs within the unit have also progressed:—The Camera Club has an extremely well equipped dark room, and a very kind offer from Messrs. Ilford, Ltd., to assist in supplying useful information and materials. Most interesting lectures have been given by Captain J. A. Bleach on various aspects of photography. The Radio Club is now awaiting official authority to open up on the air, and the Motor Cycle Club has made great strides in "acquiring" sufficient scrap to build four bikes; the crisp, hollow roar of a newly tuned, unsilenced engine may be heard, not infrequently as late as 2200 hours, from the club room.

The weekly dances held in a country restaurant, close at hand, continue very successfully, while the A.K.C. fill each Thursday night with a well attended cinema show. Christmas arrangements, at the time of this going to Press, are in full swing, the usual Officers versus Sergeants football match having been laid on, as well as several parties, one of which is for the children of the German staff.

Sport. The unit football team continues in the Munster League upholding its good name. The scores we feel need no further comment:—

Nov. 1	v. Hospital B	won	1 — 0
,, 5	v. 11 P.W.D.C.	won	7 — 0
,, 8	v. 246 Provost Company	won	6 — 1
,, 12	v. 58 Company R.A.S.C.	lost	3 — 4
,, 15	v. 67 Company R.A.S.C.	draw	2 — 2
,, 19	v. 177 Battery R.A.	won	7 — 2
,, 22	v. 110 Mil. Gov.	won	7 — 0
,, 26	v. R.H.Q. 55 L.A.A.	won	2 — 1
,, 29	v. Hospital A	Match postponed due to ground condition	
Dec. 3	v. Q Movements	Match postponed	
,, 6	v. No. 1 Transit & Release Camp	won	3 — 2

Position in League 3rd

Played	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drew*	*For*	*Against*	*Points*
23	17	5	1	87	28	35

Birth. We heartily congratulate Captain and Mrs. L. H. Lacey on the arrival (22nd November) of Michael Clive, their third son. At the christening (7th December) he was in fine form, already showing off his "soothing," truly Lacey, voice.

Tailpiece. The fear of having to renew broken car springs after visiting us need no longer deter any would-be visitors to the Unit; the craters on the road into the Unit have at last been filled in and a new surface laid.

No. 32 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Plön

December

Gone are the tanned bodies on P.T. parade; now we see shivering figures, sporting blue noses, racing around the running track in an endeavour to keep warm and fit at the same time. Yes, winter is here once more, and with it comes all the rigour of maintaining Signal communications in such a large area as Schleswig-Holstein. The arrival of Jack Frost was confirmed by the appearance of a large crop of moustaches being raised from the O.C. down to the lowest "G.D. wallah," and it is expected that "mutton-chops" will soon become the latest fashion. During the month we have welcomed to the Squadron two new officers besides many other new faces. Gone are the days when everyone knew everyone else by the name of Charlie or Ted.

Captain A. H. J. Dent came to us from No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron to take up the post as Lines Officer; since then we have hardly set eyes on him, for he has been trotting round the area "fiddling with telephones and exchanges." Captain W. C. Day has also arrived to take up the post of the "all-important" Admin. Officer, and came wafting in on a magic carpet from far-off India. Welcome, gentlemen, and may your last unit's loss be our very pleasant gain.

Our Technical Officer, Second-Lieutenant Rothery, has now become a family man on the arrival of Mrs. Rothery from U.K. Need it be said that since that happy day he has been last to work and first away?

The highlight in November's happenings was in all probability the birth of our unit magazine, "Certobust" (a name which was chosen with many tongues in an equal number of cheeks). Conceived by the brains of the unit (who else but

the ever-chagrined Orderly Room staff?), it was received with great enthusiasm, and holds the exalted position of being the foremost magazine in the area—modesty prevents us saying B.A.O.R., but at least we can dream. We should welcome the opportunity of exchanging "rags" with any Signal unit for we are always anxious to learn more about you than perhaps WIRE notes permit.

Preparation for Christmas is well on the way. Chaps rehearsing for panto in our own theatre, the "Old Vic," can be seen nearly every night wandering along the corridors with damp towels around their foreheads, feverishly muttering their lines and practising the entrance of the fairy godmother.

A prize has been offered by the Camp Commandant for the best decorated portion of the mess hall at Christmas. We hope the Squadron will rake in the lucre; not because of the possibility of free drinks all round, but rather because of the spirit of rivalry existing between Camp and Signals.

The C.O., Major L. J. Parker, is looking after the Christmas celebrations of the families children, and it is rumoured that he will turn out on Christmas Eve dressed in a red nightgown—we pray that we shall be there to see it.

In the Indoors Sports Section, which occupies most of our time, now that the dark nights are here, we have been busy playing off the snooker and billiard championships. The final of the snooker was won by Signalman "Hawkeye" Shuttleworth, who won by a short cue over Corporal "Ron" Schwartz, our local champion. The billiards crown was eventually carried off by Sergeant "Busty" Thorpe, who was a comfortable winner over Signalman Gabbittas, after many hours of secret training in the Mess.

The unit football first eleven have not been at all busy this month. They played 4th Armoured Brigade O.F.P. twice, the scores being 1—0 for us the first time and 1—1 the second. The matches were played away, so the suggestion is that ours was the better team.

The Squadron has no Rugby team of its own but supplies the Sub-Area H.Q. team with most of its talent.

They managed by fair means or foul to reach the semi-final of the Area Knock-out Competition, but unfortunately were then beaten by 17 points to 12 by Neumunster Garrison. Credit goes to S.S.M. Rockall for a remarkable performance. Since that day he has never been the same but limps round holding his back and groaning in words not understood by the younger members of the unit.

We close with the wish that a "Merry Christmas" is spent by all Signals wherever they may be, and a hope that the Guinness goes round.

No. 33 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Dusseldorf

December

The big "grip" at present is the wholesale evacuation of our old billets at Shellhaus to Zapphaus, the present site of our Signal Office. This change will, I think, be welcomed by the "'erbs" of the Troop, as it will bring the Church Army Canteen more into the limelight. It will also make the whole layout more compact than at present, though visions of Signal Office staff coming on duty in their pyjamas, complete with mug of tea grasped firmly in both mitts, are in the minds of the exalted. Work is starting this week on the building and decorating of a new canteen in Zapphaus; this would be a great improvement on our existing one, which is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. First-rate amplifiers and a "mike" are being installed so all around it should be "just the job."

Squadron strength seems very fluid at present, with bods being whipped away on upgrading courses, etc. However, with the disbanding of our detachment at Brussels a definite horde of types has descended upon us; no doubt they have taken a dim view of leaving the land of nylon and dollar worship. Still, the old adage "You can't take it with you," or "You didn't know you were gonna leave it that soon," should suffice them, we hope.

Sport. This month has been a real Gala Occasion in our sporting activities. The much-discussed football eleven has gone from victory to victory both in league and cup. A measure of our success can be gained from the results listed below:—

Friendly fixtures: Played 16, won 13, drawn 1, lost 2.

League fixtures: Played 3, won 2, drawn 0, lost 1.

The first round of the 4th Brigade Knock-out Competition took us to Wuppertal to play one of the York and Lancaster six teams which are entered in this cup. This game ended in a draw, the equaliser being snatched by Signalman Dickson with a lovely header about 30 seconds from time. The game as a whole was a rather sticky afternoon's entertainment.

The replay again was at Wuppertal, with a few inches of snow making things more difficult than usual. However, this time the "civvies attached," as the Infantry were prone to call us, made no mistake and we ran off winners by 3 goals to 1. In the second round we disposed of 32nd Medium Regiment, R.A., in a game in which we completely dominated the play, although we were one down after five minutes' play, but this seemed to inspire our forwards, who rattled in four to clinch matters.

There is no doubt that the team is playing well, but I think a large part of their success is due to the faithful moral support supplied by the remainder of the Squadron, who have shouted themselves hoarse at times. A lively interlude is always provided by Signalman Knight, from Dortmund, who accompanies his outbursts with an assortment of bells and tin plates. This guy would make a fortune with Spike Jones. Another character new to these parts is Signalman Noskowicz, who with his Flying-Officer Kyte type moustache fairly frightens the wits out of the opposing support. With the arriving of the Brusselites we secured the services of Lance-Corporal Twist and Lance-Corporal Chris Anderson for our team. The latter has played with Aberdeen in civilian life—hence our half-back line has been strongly reinforced. This definitely proved to be the case on Saturday, 6th December, when in the semi-final of the cup competition we beat a strong team from "C" Company, York and Lancaster Regiment, at Dusseldorf Stadium, by 5 goals to 2, despite an appeal for light by our opponents at the end of the match.

So it's on to the Cup Final and, we hope, victory. The rattles and flags will be there in force on Saturday, 13th, at the magnificent Dusseldorf Stadium to urge the boys on.

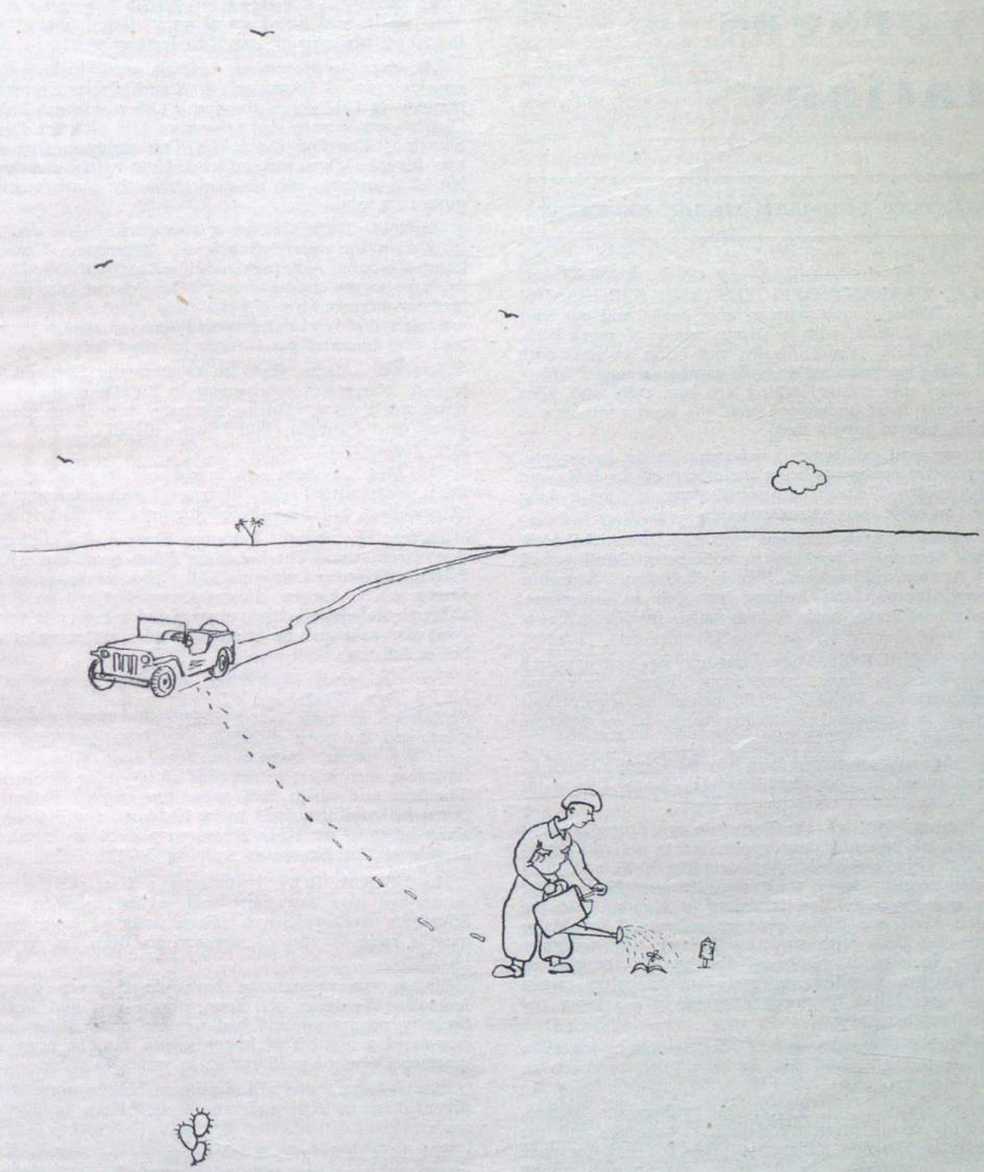
Entertainments. With the approaching festive season, programmes have been drawn up to provide the unit with the maximum of Christmas spirit—liquid type, we hope. A party for German children and for children of British families has been laid on, and it is hoped that it will be as successful as it was last year. A Christmas and New Year's Eve Ball is provided for, which we expect will be a "sell out." The usual Saturday dances and Tuesday socials continue in a grand style. Tuesday evenings have had a real "short in the arm," so to speak, with the return of Corporal Brandham with a pile of discs from the U.K.

A "free" night is arranged each month, and this next one will be highlighted by a games contest between officers, N.C.O.s and men. Foaming pints and steady dart hands will be the order of the evening.

Departures. As is usual every little while, we lose some of our old stagers. This month is no exception, and we all wish Signalman "Nobby" Morris, one of our daring D.R.s of Tattoo fame, along with our stalwart of the soccer team, Private Geordie Metcalfe, all the best now they've collected their one-way tickets to the U.K.

TOMMEE

SIGNALS IN ACTION—XI



Construction Plant Troop

Other Overseas Stations

PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

December

R.H.Q. WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS. Winter is now with us once again, and out have come suits of B.D. with a strong odour of moth balls. However, S.S.M. (Pistol) Brady, not being satisfied with issued B.D., has procured at great expense a natty "Spiv" suit. The only things lacking are lace cuffs and glass buttons, but it is understood that the local contractor is doing his best to supply them.

We have held two games tournaments in the last month, our respective opponents being the officers of the R.E.s and Royal Signals. We won both tournaments and are looking forward to some early return matches.

We extend a hearty welcome to S.S.M. Jones, S.Q.M.S. Martin, Sergeant Cheetham and Sergeant Mullins, all ex-1st Armoured Divisional Signals Regiment. Sergeants Grinham, Johnson and Bedford have left us on release, and take with them our very best wishes for life in Civvy Street.

No. 1 SQUADRON. One Squadron has not appeared in THE WIRE for some months now. Firstly, we extend our best wishes to Major H. J. Funnell on his appointment to Second in Command of the Regiment, and we welcome his successor, Major B. Butler.

The "line up" of officers here is now: Captain G. H. C. Carter, Captain P. Lock, Lieutenant P. Johns, Lieutenant C. M. Ferguson and Lieutenant J. Page.

At present, although the Squadron anticipates a swift run down of personnel, our commitments are still extensive. Squadron responsibilities, including U/G and O/H line maintenance over a wide area between Hadera and Rafah, and trunk SDS as far south as Kantara. In the Garrison itself our SDO, recently redesigned by Major Funnell, functions with smooth efficiency. We consider that, for its size, it is one of the best in the theatre. Last July the Squadron suffered fatal casualties, when linemen were killed by mines attached to a loading pot on the Jerusalem cable.

Sports and Entertainments. The Squadron fosters a promising football team, and we have good prospects in the Garrison League.

A keen trio of D.R.s, skilfully led by Sergeant Jaggard, successfully competed in the Sarafand Scrambles and the 1st Infantry Division Reliability Trials. The latter were held in Transjordan over 35 miles of extremely tough country, and included many vicious hazards.

Preparations for Christmas are well in hand. We are also looking forward to the arrival of the Corps Band in early December, for which a comprehensive programme of concerts has been arranged.

No. 2 SQUADRON (HAIFA). The Squadron are now in battledress as from 17th November, 1947, as it gets very cold here at nights on the mountain top. The Area Commander, Colonel Rathbone, inspected our camp on 29th October, and he seemed to be very satisfied with things in general.

We had a very big storm on 8th-9th November and the camp was turned into a sea of mud. The "Eagles" up at the 10 set site certainly got their feathers wet.

The day, 6th November, 1947, is going to be a day to remember by all personnel in Signal Office Troop. On this day, at 1130 hours, the Signal Office of North Palestine District was invaded by a force of 6th Airborne Division Signals ("The Red Devils"). This amalgamation of the two Signal Offices was rather a blow to the members of No. 2 Squadron, but on the whole the amalgamation is quite successful.

Our billiard table is now complete with shade and lights (thanks to the unit "Chippies"). Signalman Grant and Lance-Corporal Alderman have had an A.K.C. course, so we hope to get on the circuit. Our 35 mm. projector has been withdrawn by U.F.S. The N.A.A.F.I. trio are making a weekly visit to the canteen, and always provide a couple of hours of good music for the "lads."

Sergeants' Mess. On 18th October the Corporals were invited to a games tournament in the Mess and the final result was a draw. During the latter part of the evening a game of "Cardinal Puff" was played, R.S.M. Froud presiding as chief cardinal.

The Mess has been redecorated and it now looks more like a Mess instead of a "dungeon," although some of the old members will miss the photographs of "nifty nites."

Sport. The North Palestine District League started three weeks ago. The Squadron's first game was with the Palestine Police and we won 3—2. The scorers were Tudor, Brown and Chalmers. It was a very fast and good game, although it looked as though we shouldn't get the winning goal; we managed to break through just seven minutes before full-time.

The following Wednesday we were entertained by No. 3 Base Workshops. It was a fine game, but the Squadron lost their power near goal. The defence was great, and the game ended in a 2—0 defeat. One of the goals was scored from a penalty. Last Wednesday the Squadron met defeat to the tune of 10—3 by 193 R.A.S.C. The less said about this game the better. Barber, our centre-half, unfortunately broke his wrist, and I think that about broke us up. The Squadron played the Jewish team Macabi on 1st November and lost 3—1.

No. 3 SQUADRON (JERUSALEM). Since our last contribution we have lost more than a few members of the Squadron to Civvy Street. Fortunately we have also had quite a large number of new arrivals from 1st Armoured Division.

Up to the present we have played seven games of football. We have won four, drawn two and lost one. Security regulations and bad weather have, unfortunately, postponed a number of league games, but the team seems quite confident of good results in games to come.

The hockey team is in quite a healthy state, having played four matches and won four. Keep up the good work.

We have only played three games of basketball this season, winning one and losing two. No 3 Squadron 3, *v.* 13 Field Survey 4. No. 3 Squadron 14 *v.* 283 R.E. Works 13. No. 3 Squadron 14 *v.* Mov. Levant 18.

The main difficulty the basketball team has to face is getting all the team off duty at the same time.

The arrival of the Royal Signals Regimental Band early next month is being eagerly anticipated, and we are all looking forward to a programme of band concerts and dances.

MALAYA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

December

The sight of our first notes, published in the October WIRE, has spurred us on to further efforts to give you the latest situation here. There is little actual news as life here goes its monotonous way and one day seems much like another. We have had plenty of rain in the last few weeks but it does not seem to improve the water supply to H.Q. lines. We are given various reasons for not getting water and are told we have used our quota, or someone else has used or wasted our supply for us. Whatever the reason, going for a bath is like backing a horse days in advance—you can never be sure that it is running. We can report no further advancement in the construction of Q.M. and T.M. lines, and although they are partly constructed they are of as much use to us as the wide open spaces. With the departure of the Indian Engineers even the spasmodic efforts have ceased. It is to be hoped that the reported civil contract will soon become effective. The completion will help to reduce our guard commitments.

The much-dreaded day of the departure of Group 64 has come and gone. Strange to relate, we maintained communications somehow, even though we lost 100 men of our depleted strength. Things got a little complicated, to say the least, and having detailed various officers to stooge in the Signal Office, we were about to detail the married families to take over the guard duties when, joy upon joy, we had a pleasant surprise. The *Empress of Scotland* donated about 100 of her subjects straight from U.K. Needless to say, they were heartily welcomed, and before some of them could make up their minds whether they liked Kuala Lumpur or not, they were whisked away to the outlying man-hungry Squadrons. Man-power shortage produces, to say the least, a variety of occupations, and some people find themselves with jobs they never thought existed. Even S.Q.M.S.s have to work these days.

All ranks are looking forward to Christmas festivities, and we send our greetings to all ranks and members of the Corps, wherever they may be, wishing them every success and happiness in the coming year.

Officers. We welcome Major A. C. Cox, M.B.E., Major C. Worrin, Captain (T.O.M.) L. K. Bramwell and Lieutenant (T.O.M.) Shirley, all of whom have arrived since we wrote our last notes. Major Cox becomes Second-in-Command in place of Major Woodward, who has departed to U.K., whilst Major Worrin has taken command of No. 3 Squadron at Seremban. The presence of two T.O.M.s staggers us, to say the least. The move of the Mess to the new District Staff Mess has now taken place, and although we appreciate the splendour of our new home we lose our identity of a Signals Mess and become residents in a Staff Mess called Mandalay, secretly wishing we were back in the old home. It is very nice having an abundance of slipper baths, showers and wash bowls, etc., all attached to living quarters. We wish we were able to put them to better use, as we find our water supply drastically cut. In a land of plenty it is strange to report a scarcity of water, especially when we have had so much rain, almost daily, but such is the case and it is a daily gamble whether you can get your shower before the water is turned off—that is if it has been turned on.

The Mess itself is well built and substantial but the living quarters are not in the least soundproof, so that when everyone plays their radios and gramophones the din is terrific. At night the least sound is magnified and footsteps echo and re-echo, even when proceeding on tip-toe, which, incidentally, few people do. People who talk in their sleep are liable to broadcast their secrets to a large audience.

No doubt we shall get used to our new surroundings and mixing with the staff should assist us to come to a better understanding with them.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. New arrivals include W.O.II Townsend and S.Q.M.S. Bennett, fresh from the land they adore; but the departure of other members has left us with a very small Mess. We congratulate the following on having made the grade, and despite discomforting rumours regarding sinking of boats, drying up of the Mediterranean, and so on, embarked for U.K. and a new life. The lucky people are S.Q.M.S. ("Biz") Lindsay, Sergeant (C.C.L.) Rhodes and our erstwhile O.R.S., Sergeant Webb. All were suffering from severe funnel fever.

Any old comrades of R.S.M. ("Dusty") Miller will be sorry to hear that he has had a few weeks in hospital, and pleased to know that he is now due for a period of convalescent leave in the Cameron Highlands. His chief henchman, Sergeant ("Clem") Clemson, couldn't stay away from his side and took the next bed. We hope they will both be on their toes again before the Christmas festivities.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

November

To the accompaniment of the unrhythmical cacophony of Tripolitanian bells, the clap-clap of trotting ghari horses, the weird unbusiness-like yet enthusiastic cries of Arab egg and charcoal vendors, plus the mist-like vapours bequeathed to my head by the local brew of distilled uranium—alias beer—I endeavour to subscribe to the pages of the THE WIRE an introduction to the Tripolitania Signal Squadron.

Primarily I introduce:—Our C.S.O. and C.O., Major T. H. Madeley, who has recently graduated from the "rookie" class after having qualified with 28 years' service in and out of all the "crab" stations the War House select for Signals personnel. It is said: Austerity Civvy Street is clearly marked down as his next posting. All will miss him when he gets demobbed in the near future.

Captain A. G. Mactavish (no relation to any whisky baron) is our dapper businesslike Second-in-Command who, it is alleged, endeavours to fiddle (Nero style) whilst his newly-born daughter "burns up." Congrats, sir—for the daughter I mean.

Captain J. R. Mayall (S.O.III to C.S.O.) is not on the actual strength of Trip Sigs, yet he is almost a Squadronite, he being our Messing Officer. Even whilst he deals with an inundation of correspondence (official) one can perceive an air of anticipated success, as his subconscious toys with the forthcoming Catering Competition.

Captain (H.A.M.) G. W. Carpenter is O.C. Lines Troop. He finds it most difficult refraining from gesticulating when speaking; caused, no doubt, through having had an enormous amount of dealings (legitimate) with Italian linemen.

His evenings are spent in causing undue despondency amongst the locals by blotting out the Blighty programmes on the 19 m. band with his ham transmissions.

My espionage system tells me that to eradicate such troublesome Q.R.M. a request has been made to authorities unknown for the removal of all domestic wireless sets to within a minimum radius of 30 miles.

However, for the benefit of all other hams, the call sign is MD2B, so get twiddling on 14 megs.

Second-Lieutenant R. B. Murray is O.C. Op. Troop (Signal Office and Wireless). He recently applied to Somerset House via Reading for permission to add Coward as a middle name after having at Tripoli's Miramare Theatre produced and played in a one-act play which received no mean success.

And so at last but not least I come to our own special

"Two Types," Lieutenants G. E. H. Maggs and R. E. Coward respectively, both of the East Surrey Regiment, who, knowing all about the shortage of personnel and dollars, condescended to help Tripolitania Signal Squadron along its hard-worked path. Results: they are attached hard and fast and now wondering whether a D.O.V. in circular flight above the highest part of their anatomy will ungraciously let. Suspense I calls it.

Within the comfortable confines of the Sergeants' Mess can be found on most evenings S.S.M. H. F. Wood and wife, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Knight, S.Q.M.S. Freemantle (ex-Malta), S.Q.M.S. Harrington, due for Python (Did the Q Bloke give you your winter woollies, Bert? Blighty is a cold place these days), Sergeants Gilbert and wife, Edwards and wife, Rogers, the QSA5s E/A King, and Bland, our enlightener in the way of life, Army Education style.

A keen interest in all sport is shown by all ranks and is greatly responsible for showing other units here that Tripolitania Signal Squadron is really a formidable opponent.

They were winners of the Tripolitania District Motor Cycle Trials Shield, 1946; Tripolitania District Hockey Shield, 1946 and 1947; Tripolitania District Table Tennis Cup, 1947; Tripolitania District Minor Units Athletic Cup, 1947; Tripolitania District Cricket League Championship (M.U.), 1947.

It is our hope that this season we shall win the Hockey League for the third consecutive time, thereby retaining for good the Hockey Shield.

All here join in to wish the following ex-members of the Squadron good luck, wherever they may be, or in whatever they do:—Sergeants Carter, Taylor, Corporals Carroll, Proctor, Signalmen Tandy, C. Brown, Devey, Balding.

My introduction to a hard-worked Squadron is finished, and so on behalf of Trip Sigs I convey to all ranks in the Corps, past and present, a Very Merry Christmas and good hunting in the future.

I pen au revoir until time, space, and less *work* permits another contribution.

H. F. W.

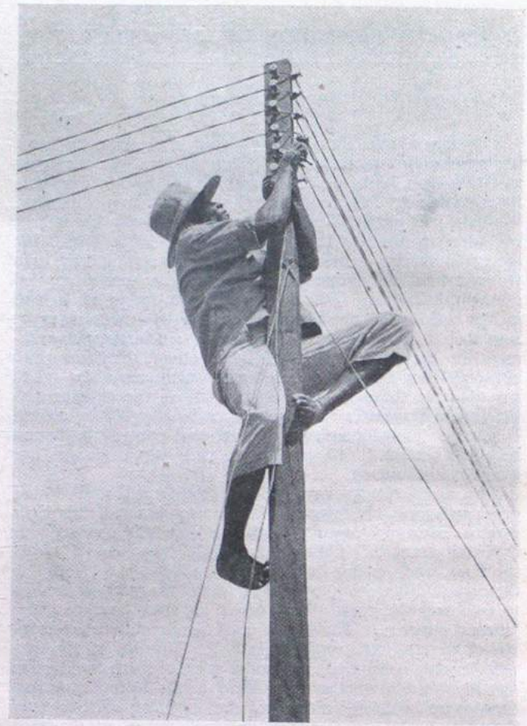
WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

Accra

December

The Regiment after teething troubles is settling down. It has been re-organised and re-formed for six months now out of the larger war-time units. Many elsewhere in the world will wonder whether a change from austerity to the "White Man's Grave" is not worth considering and whether perhaps the name is not a misnomer designed to keep out all but the lucky ones. There is a lot in that.

The Regiment is a scattered one—H.Q. and a Squadron in Gold Coast Colony, one Squadron in Nigeria and one dealing with both Sierra Leone and Gambia Colonies. All told there are about 140 British and 700 or 800 African members of Royal Signals. British ranks are roughly one-third corporals and two-third sergeants or higher, and the majority will be regulars in future. There's promotion in them dark places. A tour is for 18 months and we have a good many on their second tour after volunteering. Conditions vary, as they must in a Regiment scattered over 1,000 miles of seaboard and up to 800 miles in-land as in Nigeria. Some have the fleshpots of civilisation and the high prices of Accra, Freetown or Lagos, and others the detached freedom of wireless stations in the "bush." Eighteen months is not so long and gives little continuity, so on the whole once a man is fitted into his place he settles down for his tour. The main task is wireless communication within each Colony, the inter-Colony network and the link connecting Command H.Q. with U.K.



Linesman of the West African Corps of Signals marking off a cable road crossing during the war

Sport is good; all tastes catered for. In our next issue more particular information about living conditions, married families, advice, and amenities will be included. Naturally austerity at home is reflected to some extent. The expression "None on the Coast" although strictly banned as an excuse is sometimes justified.

There is a lot to be told about our activities in each Colony and our plan in future will be to emphasise news from each Squadron in turn.

News flashes of recent events throughout the Regiment cover Monty's visit. He had a great reception, escorted by Despatch Riders Sergeant (Jock) Stewart, Corporal Sam, Corporal Haruna, Signalman Anum and Signalman Quarshie. The tattoo showed him the African soldier and surprised him: P.T., drill, massed bands of a high standard. Signals staged a fiery dragon hunt and trick bottle shooting from a motor cycle.

Operation "Express" tested Signals during the recent strike in Gold Coast. A hurried job, but all went well. Operation "Lungi" provided those in Freetown with a beach party when the Ministry of Civil Aviation and B.O.A.C. asked for assistance. The Waterloo airport was out and the old one at Lungi had to be used. R/T to aircraft and C.W. to Waterloo 50 miles away were needed. Two hours by launch from Freetown, a heavy surf to be waded through with all equipment as head loads, were exciting, and D.A.A.G.s seem to thrive on being topped up with sea water. The launch sank on one passage. Anyway, aircraft were landed and found in the 12 ft. high grass. Unfortunately, B.O.A.C.'s thanks do not include free week-end trips home.

Colonel C. D. Clapp, our late C.O. and C.S.O., will be leaving soon. We wish him a speedy passage home for Christmas. He has looked after Signals very well and kept going all through the difficult period of reorganisation. Our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Lyddon, has joined us. From ski-ing to surfing is a drastic change.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. The strength of the Mess continues to increase in numbers, passed over to us from the Junior N.C.O.s, who chuckle to think they can now sit down in comfort instead of tossing coins for seats. A welcome and happy stay to Sergeants Gyngal, Barrett, Edward, Lewis, Wilkes, Kolski, Hackshall, Elliott, Eliot, Nixon, Boloten, Marihall, Chaston, Deakings. We also welcome R.S.M. G. Payne recently arrived from U.K., a real asset and an old sweat, for when he joined the Army Signals were part of the Royal Engineers.

Social activities are few and far between due to lack of ladies, but we amuse ourselves with games and tournaments, and the competition is keen. Treble sixty is an every day occurrence and to see a domino game in progress between the experts is a sight indeed. Otherwise our main amusements are the cinema, surf riding and sport.

Our Amateur Radio friends are still arguing on the merits of ZD.4AL, which operates on 20 metres. S.Q.M.S. Field would like to Q.S.O. any Signal Unit in any part of the world.

Soccer. Football is the means by which we exist—anytime—or anywhere—and quite rightly we are proud of our achievements against the many Units that oppose us. At Accra, in the present league games with only two matches to play, we have won every game—and it is hoped in our next WIRE NOTES to be able to say we have completed the hat trick by winning every game. The knockout cup has started and we have put the School of Infantry out. Our thanks are due to the fine team spirit shown by Captains Wragg, Chambers and Smith, R.Q.M.S. Cordner, S.S.M. Hendry, S.Q.M.S. "Cliff" Field, Sergeants Dixon, Stewart and Kolski, Corporals Thomas and Forsyth. Sergeant Constantine, our enthusiastic team manager, is helped by Sergeant Barratt, the linesman. The Unit is only a small one, but soccer enthusiasts are many, hence a "B" team also playing in the same league. With the exception of Mr. Morris and Mr. Vousden this team consists of Junior N.C.O.s. In Nigeria, with smaller numbers, we help District H.Q. and do well. A good goalie is needed.

Boxing. This is proving very popular with the A.O.R.s, and a successful contest was held recently in the African Lines Friday. All contestants were African and many promising lads were noted. The organisers were Captain D. V. Pummell (Q.M.), Sergeant R. Kennedy and Sergeant F. Dixon. The chief judge was that well-known boxer Major P. Wheeler, A.P.T.C., who is well known in the Corps. At the end of a most enjoyable evening the C.S.O., Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., presented the prizes, which were well earned. The A.O.R.s of the Sierra Leone and Gambia Squadron had the best Unit average in the recent District Boxing Competition. Good show.

A well camouflaged Field Wireless Station in Northern Nigeria, 16th May, 1943

Congratulations. Many old-timers will be pleased to hear that Sergeant (Tich) Metcalfe, at present at Freetown, has been promoted S.Q.M.S.—he was P.O.W. in Japanese hands after Singapore fell, and lost promotion, but we hope to see the crown soon. He is now an enthusiastic "Ham" and would like to contact all friends on the air.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

December

Since our last notes for THE WIRE the arrivals and departures in the unit have been very few. On 13th October we said farewell to Lance-Corporal Fox and Signalman Aplin, who left for Class "A" release, and we take this rather belated opportunity of wishing them every success in civilian life. Our best wishes are also extended to Corporal Whalley, who was reverted to home establishment whilst enjoying a spot of L.I.A.P. in the U.K. We welcome to the unit Signalmen Chapman and Friend, who arrived here on 14th October.

Our congratulations to Signalman Heal and Signalman Snaith, winner and runner-up in the Unit Individual Rifle Championships, with S.S.M. Bradbury a good third. Signalman Heal is now the proud possessor of a cup and Signalman Snaith a medal.

It was a very close competition, as can be judged by the scores:—Signalman Heal, 86; Signalman Snaith, 82; S.S.M. Bradbury, 80; Lance-Corporal Hogg, 73; Signalman Friend, 70; Sergeant Aylmer, 61.

Wednesday, 17th December, will be marked as a special occasion, being the day fixed for the marriage of Corporal "Duds" Stokes to our ex-Exchange Supervisor, Miss M. Trinidad. It is very significant to note that this is the first local wedding in this unit since 1937. Our most hearty congratulations to the young couple.

We wish past members of the Gibraltar Signal Squadron, now in civilian life, a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous 1948.

Football. Five matches have been played in the Minor League, and of these we have won two and lost three. The results are as follows:—*v.* R.A.O.C., lost 2—3; *v.* Garrison Emp. Company, lost 1—3; *v.* R.A.M.C., won 3—1; *v.* R.A.P.C., won 4—1; *v.* R.E.M.E., lost 2—5.

Our centre-half, Corporal Ratcliffe, played in a trial match for the Combined Services team, and we hope to see him playing against the Gibraltar F.A. XI yet.

Hockey. The hockey team have more satisfactory results, having played three matches in the Eleven-a-side Minor Hockey League and winning two, as follows:—*v.* Gibraltar Grammar School, lost 2—3; *v.* C.R.M.P., won 4—3; *v.* R.A.P.C., won 2—1.

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Subscriptions for 1948 should be sent to

The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Territorial Army

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

December

With the individual training season at hand, it was appropriate that we should hold a conference for all officers and P.S.I.s of the Regiment. Consequently the 30th November—despite its being St. Andrew's Day *and* a Sunday—was chosen for a conference, followed by a S.E.W.T. for all T.A. officers of Royal Signals in Southern Command. The exercise was directed by the C.S.O. in person. The day was most profitable from the training knowledge gained and the social aspect of seeing each other in the flesh. The good lunch and refreshments supplied in "B" Mess, H.Q., Southern Command, fortified one for a long though interesting three to four hours of "listening." The tea meal was a pleasant break. The day ended with a demonstration by Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmith of showing the nets of various formations by means of coloured lights on a huge table intricately wired. The invention was ingenious and should prove most useful to Squadrons for winter training. We were pleased to have Lieutenant-Colonel Knott and members of 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment with us from Taunton.

"SIXTYTHREE"

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNALS UNIT, T.A., EASTLEIGH, HANTS. The unit is now settling down to training in earnest. Owing to the non-arrival of equipment, we have had a series of lectures of general interest and a modicum of drill. We are fortunate in having first-class instructors among the officers and senior N.C.O.s. Besides purely Signal topics, we have had most useful instruction on the infantry and the R.A.F., the lecturers being such experts as S.S.M. Curtis (formerly R.S.M. of the Rifle Brigade) and Lieutenant Hasselldine (ex-Flight-Lieutenant, R.A.F.). The full attendances and obvious interest shown augur well for the future.

On 22nd November our friends and neighbours, 535th Light A.A. Regiment, T.A., celebrated the redecoration of their drill hall with a free exhibition and dance, in which they very kindly allowed us to share.

The Drill Hall was officially declared open by our Mayor, who was introduced by Lieutenant-Colonel Howard, R.A., in a characteristic speech which gave quite as much prominence to No. 10 A.S.S.U. as to his own unit.

"ASSULIKET"

26 A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP, T.A. Several of us who were in the original 43rd Divisional Signals went to their second reunion at Southampton on 19th November and met many old friends.

We have invited the Salisbury branch of the Old Comrades' Association to hold their next meeting at our H.Q.

Congratulations. To our P.S.I., Sergeant Jack Lloyd, on the result of his course at Royal Signals Records.

To Lieutenant R. H. Stock on being chosen first reserve for the county Rugby fifteen. We don't wish anyone any harm but hope he gets a game.

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT (KENSINGTONS)

We have been active on both the training and social sides during the past month. Major Hencher and his Method of Instruction Team paid us a welcome visit. They put on two evening training shows which were both amusing and instructive. His first lecture gave us a few qualms about the sanity of the School of Signals, but he proved to us that in fact there was method in his madness as well as his instruction.

Our social activities included a dance on 2nd December at Hammersmith Town Hall. This was our first effort and I think everyone who came will agree that it was a great success.

When 16th Airborne Divisional Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry) issued us a challenge to a miniature rifle meeting, they imagined, to judge by their propaganda, that they would have a walk-over ! Pride comes before a fall, they say, and to cut a long story short the "birdmen" scored 317 to our 362 and were just pipped on the highest score (Lance-Corporal Isely got a possible for us). But it was a grand

The Miniature Shooting Match against 16th Airborne Signals (Middlesex Yeomanry)

evening and we hope we shall see them here again shortly and, for that matter, any other Signals Regiment in the London area. We can shoot fairly straight and some of us can throw the old dart; as for snooker, there is no telling what we cannot do. How about it ?

Wishing all Signals everywhere, and especially Phantoms, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

No. 13 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The highlight of this, our first year's training, was when the Edinburgh Squadron went for a week's camp to Craigiehall in October.

We were treated very well indeed by the regular personnel, and the fact that everyonee enjoyed themselves so much was largely due to their co-operation and friendly help both on and off duty.

Our strength at camp was 30, of which only a mere handful had seen previous military service. Some of the recruits had their uniform on for the first time on the Sunday morning we went to camp.

Through the efforts of the officers and assistance of the ex-Regulars a ceremonial parade with a march past our Honorary Colonel (Colonel Sir Harold Mitchell, Bart., J.P., D.L.) during the week went off without a hitch. It was hard indeed to recognise that these were the same men and women who formed up at the drill hall the previous Sunday.

Visitors' day was held in the camp N.A.A.F.I., when relations and friends were entertained to tea. About 50 guests were present, including one of the first British Service women to cross to France in the 1914-1918 war on switchboard duties; her only comment was, "I wish I was young enough to join up again."

Considerable progress in signal training was made possible because most of the recruits are in the Post Office and used to handling telecommunication equipment in civilian life.

The weather, which at this time of the year in Scotland is variable, was very kind to us and no outdoor activity had to be put off on that account. This added very much to our enjoyment. All ranks are now looking forward to a full regimental camp next year.

The Regimental Mess has now been established, and on 15th November we had our first guest night, at the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh. Having our Squadrons in three widely separated counties causes difficulties in these matters, but all except two officers managed to attend, and all brought guests, so we had an excellent party. The P.M.C. enjoyed himself, even though he ground his teeth when he noticed too late that the port was being poured out by waitresses, who wandered round with bottles in their hands. "The old order changes."

[Photo by "Evening Dispatch," Edinburgh

Demonstration in R.A.F. plotting on the early warning table in the A.A.O.R.

Left to right: Privates Goodbrand and Black, Captain D. V. Seddon, Royal Signals, T.A., Privates Livingstone and Reid

[Photo by "Evening Dispatch," Edinburgh

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Sutcliffe, O.B.E., receiving a message from the Gun Control Board in the A.A.O.R.

Left to right (back): Sergeant Hogarth, Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Sutcliffe, O.B.E., Private Dick. Left to right (front): Privates Baptie, Fraser, McLean and Sutherland

It is with great regret that we say farewell already to one of our officers, Captain D. G. Heilbron, who, after a struggle to keep up attendances, has had to announce that he can no longer cope with his civilian job and a military one at the same time. We all wish him luck and hope that his flood of work will not keep him away for long.

No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

The compliments of the Season to all friends.

Situation almost unchanged, but technical equipment growing and indeed outgrowing storage space. Since notifying you of our permanent staff earlier in the year the following have been promoted to the ranks now shown: S.S.M. W. Hade, S.S.M. N. Jones, Sergeant W. Chandler.

The Men's Recreation Room is well established and the Bar regularly stocked. The stage in the Drill Hall is being redesigned, a task which has resulted to date in the loss of four hammer heads and the disappearance of fifteen teeth from a saws hand 26 inch. Not all the T.A. members are carpenters. Alas. The All Ranks' dance on the 26th December is priority one at the moment and much spare time is being given to the necessary work of fixing things. It will be all right on the night. We hope. Our great wish was for each and every T.A. member to bring along a friend for enlistment, but we find ourselves still up against a reluctance on the part of the youthful citizens to sign on the line. Nevertheless, arrangements for the reception of National Servicemen and their continued training in Corps activities go forward steadily. I'd like to tell you a lot more about the Unit, but you know how it is in the middle of December. No doubt I could think of a vastly better excuse for concluding if I really gave myself up to it.

"BARLEUX"

No. 15 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

The first conference of officers of this Regiment was held on Saturday/Sunday, 15th/16th November, 1947, at Leeds. This was the first chance the officers of the Regiment have had of meeting one another, and several old acquaintances were resumed. Sixteen officers were present altogether, and it was unanimously decided that these meetings should be held at three to six monthly intervals and be assembled at a different Squadron H.Q. each time.

It is hoped that the next meeting will be held at 36 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., Newcastle, and that there will be some new faces around the conference table.

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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

During the months of October and November, 1947, 154 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £934 17s. 10d.

Benevolent Fund

Summary of Grants Disbursed

Purpose	No. of Cases	Amount £ s. d.
General assistance	65	329 14 10
Rent, rates and insurance	7	32 0 0
Cots and prams	20	86 0 0
Beds and bedding	2	15 0 0
Furniture	9	58 12 6
Clothing	4	33 0 0
Doctors' bills	14	102 8 0
Convalescence	3	20 0 0
Spectacles and surgical appliances	4	11 7 6
Dentures	3	15 15 0
Removals	5	30 0 0
Travelling	4	23 0 0
Rehabilitation	7	130 0 0
Tools	2	15 0 0
House repairs	1	10 0 0
Funerals	4	23 0 0
Totals	154	£934 17 10

Analysis

Discharged or released soldiers, 109; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 34; B.A.O.R., 3; C.M.F., 3; M.E.L.F., 4; India, 1.

Old Comrades' Association

New members registered during the months of October and November, 1947:

Life members	94
Annual members	284

Donations received for the Fund

	£ s. d.
Eighth Army Signal Regiment	10 10 9
No. 5 Air Formation Signal Regiment	14 2 5
No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	5 7 0
"E" Indep. L. of C. Signal Regiment	16 6 0
No. 16 L. of C. Signal Regiment	60 8 8
3rd Infantry Divisional Signals	345 10 3
13th Infantry Divisional Signals	14 5 4
45th Divisional Signals (No. 3 Company)	3 11 10
A.F.H.G. Signal Squadron	45 0 0
Malaya Command Signals	304 7 9
" " "	116 5 11
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1 16 0
War Office Signal Regiment	10 10 0
S.T.C., Catterick (Combined Units)	151 0 0
Royal Signals O.C.T.U. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	1 5 0
Shoeburyness Troop	1 1 8
Thames Est. and E. Anglian Coast Troop	13 6
H.Q., No. 3 A.G.R.A. (Fd.) Signal Squadron	44 15 10
Special Communication Regiment	8 0 0
Royal Signals Band Fund	9 7 0
H.Q., A.A. Command	100 0 0
H.Q., R.A., 4th Infantry Division	25 16 5
Army Benevolent Fund	2,000 0 0
Mrs. Walker	5 0 0
Captain W. H. Terrell	8 9
R. L. Trotman	2 6
Sergeant A. J. Turner	3 3
Total receipts	£3,295 15 10

Information

Extra Clothing Coupon Issue for Demobilised Service Men and Women. Applicants who have lost the release document which it is necessary to produce to the Food Office in order to claim the supplementary coupons are advised to apply for a replacement in writing, giving Service identification number to:—Officers: The War Office (A.G.1 Officers (D)). Other ranks: The "Officer i/c Records" for particular Arm or Corps.

Food Supplies in Remote Areas. The Minister of Food reminds people who live in remote areas, to which regular supplies of food may be cut off by severe weather, that they can apply to their local Food Office for permission to buy during the winter months all rationed and points-rationed foods, except meat and bacon, one four-week period in advance.

This arrangement means that such people may, at the beginning of any rationing period, have a stock of food for eight weeks—their rations for the current four-week period plus advance rations for four weeks.

National Assistance Bill. The Bill makes provision for comprehensive services falling into two main groups:—

(A) National assistance, taking the form mainly of financial aid to those in need (and whose needs are not otherwise met by National Insurance or from any other source);

(B) Residential accommodation for the aged, the infirm and others who require care and attention to be provided in this way, with special welfare services for handicapped persons.

The Bill provides a unified State service which will replace the following: (i) Unemployment Assistance; (ii) Supplementary Pensions; (iii) Blind Domiciliary Assistance; (iv) Tuberculosis Treatment Allowances; (v) Outdoor Relief under the Poor Law.

(A) National Assistance

Persons who may apply for assistance: Any person aged 16 years or over who is in need will be able to apply for assistance, including a person who needs assistance to supplement a pension or insurance benefit. Where need is established the assistance will provide for dependents as well as for the applicant. (Children under the age of 16 will be provided for in another Bill, which will deal with the care and maintenance of such children.)

Treatment of resources: The needs of a husband and wife living together will be considered jointly, and their joint resources will be considered available to meet the needs of both. The resources of other adult members of an applicant's household will not be taken into account except that it will be assumed that they are making appropriate contributions towards rent and overhead expenses of the household.

(B) Residential and Other Accommodation

Residential accommodation will be provided for persons who by reason of age, infirmity or other circumstances are in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them. Services will be available to those in need irrespective of their means, and a standard charge will be made to those residents whose resources permit.

Welfare services for handicapped people: Local authorities are empowered under the Bill to make arrangements for the blind, deaf, dumb and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity. These arrangements may take the form either of instruction to handicapped persons in their own homes or elsewhere, or of provision of residential accommodation.

Note: A summary of the provisions of the Bill (Cmd. 7248) can be ordered from H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d.

Birth Certificate—Short Form. As from Monday, 15th December, the new and short form of Birth Certificate, costing sixpence, was available, showing only the name and surname, sex, date of birth and, where possible, place of birth. There will be no particulars of parentage or adoption.

Application in respect of births registered in England or Wales can be made to the Superintendent Registrar in the district in which the birth occurred, or to the General Registry Office, Somerset House, London, W.C.2. A short certificate can also be obtained from the local registrar at the time of registration of birth. Certificates of births registered abroad and those relating to adopted children can be obtained only from the General Registry Office.

The particulars which applicants should give in order that the birth entry may be identified are:—Name and surname; date and place of birth; name and surname of father; name, surname and maiden surname of mother.

In the case of adopted children the particulars asked for are:—Name of child; date of birth; name and surname of adopter; and date of Adoption Order.

A sixpenny postal order, crossed "& Co.," and a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed with postal applications.

Civil Defence—New Organisation. The Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons on 19th November that discussions will soon be started with the representative associations of local authorities with a view to providing a new Civil Defence organisaton. This will consist partly of civilian static and mobile services and partly of military mobile columns trained in Civil Defence duties. Recruiting for the Civil Defence will be on a part-time voluntary basis, but details of the scheme will not be available until the discussions are concluded.

The clubs and associations of men and women formerly connected with, or interested in, civil defence, and other voluntary agencies, as well as the general public, will be asked to help in building up the civilian services.

Food Rationing—Social Functions. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food announced on 27th November that "entertainments connected with some really important non-recurring event, either in the life of the individual or the community, such as the conferment of honours, golden weddings or centenary celebrations of important institutions and also annual functions of a traditional character," will be eligible for a licence exempting them from the restriction on meals served at a function for more than 100 people.

National Service—Registration. After the registration on 6th December, 1947, of young men born between 1st January, 1930 and 31st March, 1930, there will be no registration till June, 1948 (instead of March). The effect of this change in procedure will be that for the time being young men will, after the December registration, be called upon to register at age 17 and 11 months to 18 and 2 months, instead of 17 and 8 months to 17 and 11 months. This will slow down the rate of intake to the Services, and give industry the advantage of three months' extra service from the young men before they are called up.

Travel Abroad and Currency Restrictions. Many people think there is a complete ban on travel abroad, except for certain approved purposes. The only ban is on allowances of foreign exchange to those wishing to travel outside the sterling area, which consists of:—

(i) The British Empire (excluding Canada and Newfoundland, but including the other Dominions, and India and Pakistan).

(ii) The British Mandated territory (e.g. Palestine), British Protectorates and Protected States.

(iii) Iraq, Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

Note: Egypt and the Sudan are now excluded.

People are free to travel anywhere if they do not need foreign exchange; i.e. within the sterling area; or outside it if they can make arrangements to receive free hospitality. The Government have, however, asked all citizens to refrain from unnecessary travel abroad during the present critical months.

The allowance of sterling notes which may be carried into or out of the United Kingdom is £5 per head.

British coin or bank notes may not be sent anywhere except within the U.K. and Eire, and money may not be sent in any other form to places outside the sterling area except by permission of the Bank of England, which will only be granted in most exceptional circumstances.

This ban applies to British forces with the B.A.O.R. or elsewhere outside the sterling area.

Members of the Forces outside the sterling area who wish money to be transferred from an account at home to meet *urgent* needs abroad should apply to their Commanding Officer, who may apply to the authorities in this country for the necessary arrangements to be made.

Postal orders or bank drafts may be sent without restriction to places within the sterling area, and notes, *in the currency of the country to which they are being sent*, may also be sent within the sterling area.

Sports Notes

Hockey

Corps Matches

A corps trial was arranged during October, which was not as well attended as we had hoped. This was probably due to the rather short notice given because of the illness of the Secretary. However, the trial produced some outstanding players and an extremely useful side was selected for the first series of games. Since then units have forwarded more names and it is hoped that another trial may be arranged early in 1948. Up to date, the team has been very successful. Five games have been played, with the following results:—

v. R.A.O.C., at Feltham	Won 5—2
v. R.A.S.C., at Aldershot	Drew 1—1
v. R.A.M.C., at Crookham	Won 9—1
v. Royal Artillery, at Woolwich	Won 3—1
v. R.M.A. Sandhurst, at Camberley	Won 4—1

With the exception of the game with the Medicals they were all fiercely contested, and our team were the aggressors throughout. The defence is exceptionally strong with Captain Parkinson and Lance-Corporal Gibbons usually outstanding. The forwards combine extremely well, aptly backed up by the wing halves. In the game with the R.A.S.C., however, they just could not get the ball into the net more than once although numerous attempts were made. The goalkeeper opposing them played very well, but he was lucky enough to see excellent shots hit the posts and his body without him being able to do much about it. Lieutenant A. G. Smith has been the chief goal scorer, but he will be the first to acknowledge the grand passes he receives from the rest of the forwards. The side plays as a team and all their success is attributable to this fact.

The side has consisted of the following players:—

Goal—S.Q.M.S. Morris, Scottish Command Signal Regiment; Sergeant Walker, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Right back—Captain I. Parkinson, War Office, ex 4 Training Regiment. Left back—Sergeant Gartery, 3 Training Regiment. Right Half—S.Q.M.S. Langley, 1 Training Regiment. Centre Half—Lance-Corporal Gibbons, H.Q. S.T.C. Left Half—Captain Gordon, Northern Command Signal Regiment; Officer-Cadet Ashworth, Basic O.C.T.U., ex 6 Training Regiment. Outside Right—Captain R. O. Edwards, 3 Training Regiment. Inside Right—Signalman Taylor, 6 Training Regiment; Lieutenant R. O. Cant, 6 Training Regiment. Centre Forward—Lieutenant A. G. Smith, School of Signals. Inside Left—Major K. M. Evans, 4 Training Regiment. Outside Left—Lieutenant Line, War Office Signal Regiment. Reserve and Umpire—Corporal Leach, 2 Training Regiment.

All units are requested to forward names of players, whom they consider of a sufficiently high standard to have a trial for the Corps side, to Lieutenant R. O. Cant, 6 Training Regiment, Catterick Camp.

ROYAL SIGNALS (CATTERICK) MATCHES

With half the season completed, I am giving a résumé of the games played. As most of the players who represent the Corps hockey side are available, we have a strong side to put in the field. The civilian clubs we play against take their hockey very seriously and we can therefore never take any side too easily. We have had some exceptionally good games with the hockey from both sides of a very high standard.

Our first game of the season was against Norton H.C., at Norton. We won by three goals to one, but only after a most evenly contested game. The week previously the Norton team had beaten the Catterick Services eleven by three goals to two, and as we were well represented in the Services side, we were out for revenge. It was a grand game. The second game was against Bradford, which we won easily by nine goals to one. The Bradford team was a very weak one, due to them having another fixture the same day. Our return fixture with them will be much better as they do have a very strong side when all players are available. On 22nd October we played at Manchester against the University. This game was extremely fast and even, but as we lasted the game better than our opponents we emerged winners by three goals to one. 25th October saw us against our old friends the School of Military Engineering, from Ripon. As usual, this game was a hard battle. Good, clean, hard-hitting hockey was played by both sides. The defences played well against eager forwards and the result of two goals each was a fair result. There were no games during November owing to most of our players being away on Corps games and Inter-Command trials and matches.

The Corps was represented in the Command trials by Major K. M. Evans, Captain I. Parkinson, Lieutenant A. G. Smith, Captain N. G. Gordon and Officer-Cadet Ashworth.

Major K. M. Evans and Lieutenant A. G. Smith were selected to represent the Command against Western and Southern Command. Congratulations to both of them.

On the 3rd of December we went to Leeds and played the University. This game was played on an ice-bound pitch which made hockey very difficult. However, once the players got used to sliding about and the ball bouncing at awkward times, a good game ensued. So good, apparently, that the umpire forgot about the time, causing us to play three-quarters of an hour in the first half. Well done, Frankie! We managed to win by one goal to nil. These Leeds boys are keen and we enjoy visiting them.

Saturday, 6th December, saw us at Scarborough on the Cricket Club ground against the Scarborough H.C. At one time it was doubtful whether the match would be played owing to the weather. It cleared up in time, however, and although the ground was a bit heavy a very good game was played. Our team, which was weaker than usual (on paper), played extremely good combined hockey and we led at the interval by two goals to nil. In the second half, Scarborough pulled themselves together and subjected our defence to terrific pressure. They equalised the scores and looked as though they would go on to win, but as it generally does, the fitness of our side told and we threw off the pressure and went on to score another goal which gave us victory.

The first half of 1947/48 hockey season comes to an end with the Corps and Royal Signals Catterick hockey teams unbeaten. It is hoped that our team will remain as strong and fit, so that we will be able to keep up our record through the second half of the season. It is hoped that reports of all games will be sent to the editor immediately after they are played.

Here is a summary of results up to date:—

v. Bradford H.C.	Won 9—0
v. Norton H.C.	Won 3—1
v. Manchester University	Won 3—1
v. S.M.E., Ripon	Drew 2—2
v. Leeds University	Won 1—0
v. Scarborough H.C.	Won 3—2

The following players have represented the team in the various games:—

S.Q.M.S. Morris, 1 Training Regiment; Sergeant Walker, Royal Signals O.C.T.U.; Captain Parkinson, 4 Training Regiment; Sergeant Weeks, 6 Training Regiment; Sergeant Gartery, 3 Training Regiment; S.Q.M.S. Langley, 1 Training Regiment; Lance-Corporal Gibbons, H.Q. S.T.C.; Corporal Leach, 2 Training Regiment; Captain Edwards, 3 Training Regiment; Lance-Corporal Urquhart, 1 Training Regiment; Sergeant Taylor, 6 Training Regiment; Lieutenant A. G. Smith, School of Signals; Lieutenant Fitch, 5 Training Regiment; Major Evans, 4 Training Regiment; S.Q.M.S. Cutter, H.Q. S.T.C.; Officer-Cadet Ashworth, 6 Training Regiment; Lieutenant R. O. Cant, 6 Training Regiment.

A rather depleted Royal Signals (Catterick) team visited Scarborough Hockey Club on Saturday, 6th December, 1947.

A really excellent game was played, with both teams playing hard and fast hockey.

In the first half the Signals were well on top, and except for close marking by the Scarborough defence the score would have been much greater than 2 goals. These were scored by S.Q.M.S. Cutter and Lieutenant Fitch.

The second half started with our opponents crowding on pressure, for a period over-running our defence, which gave way, allowing the Scarborough forwards to score two well deserved goals. This roused our team and we again pinned Scarborough in their own half and eventually scored a well-taken goal by Signalman Taylor.

The final score was: Royal Signals (Catterick) 3, Scarborough 2.

Cross-Country Running

On Saturday, 6th December, Royal Signals (Catterick) entertained Durham University to a straight match of nine-a-side, six to count.

The course was set over six miles of varied country in the Colburn, River Swale, Catterick Bridge area, a course that has become well known in the recent S.T.C. League and Garrison League runs. Severe frost, followed by three days' rain, made heavy going under foot, but, despite this handicap, the first man home, Signalman Hewitt, of No. 2 Training Regiment, covered the distance in the very good time of 35 minutes 45 seconds.

The final count gave Royal Signals 33 points, Durham University 46 points. D. Graham, last season's Northern junior champion, was running for the University, and took the third position, covering the distance in 36 minutes 2 seconds.

Altogether the result is most encouraging, for Durham University have no mean reputation at this sport. It is hoped that a return mid-week match will be arranged early in the New Year at Durham. This should prove of advantage to both teams, since some good racing experience will be needed to tone up our training prior to the heavy programme of championship events we are committed to in February and March.

The score sheet for this event was:

	Durham University		R. Signals (Catterick)	
1	Graham	3rd	1 Hewitt (2 T.R.) ...	1st
2	Craven	5th	2 Field (2 T.R.) ...	2nd
3	Gass	8th	3 Brown (4 T.R.) ...	4th
4	Hudson	9th	4 Moyan (2 T.R.) ...	6th
5	Lee	10th	5 Rowden (6 T.R.)	7th
6	Madgewick	11th	6 Shearman (2 T.R.)	13th
	Total 46		Total 33	

Individual Times	
Signalman Hewitt	35.45
Lance-Corporal Field	35.51
D. Graham	36.02
— Sergeant Brown	36.11

Signals Association Branch Notes

East Africa

The first meeting of the East Africa branch was held on 24th October at Nairobi with 18 serving and ex-members of the Corps present. This may seem a very small number, but when we consider the size of this country and the distances which sometimes have to be travelled we really thought ourselves lucky. Our actual branch members number 20, which, when added to the number of old life members, brings the total to almost 40.

Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C. E.A. Command, has kindly consented to be our President, for which we feel very honoured, and Colonel F. K. Wilson, late C.S.O. this Command, is vice-president.

A committee was elected for the coming year, with Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Ellis (C.S.O.) as chairman, S.S.M. Fox as hon. secretary and treasurer. Our members are Major Badley, Major Hollingshead and Mr. Archer.

Unanimous expressions of thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Ellis were made for his untiring efforts to get all serving and ex-serving members of the Corps together, and we have had dozens of letters of congratulation and good wishes from all over the country.

Enquiries have been received regarding the enrolment of ex-A.T.S. and W.T.S. members of the Corps, and we soon hope to have mixed meetings.

A general exodus to the lounge of the New Stanley Hotel seemed to be in order after the meeting, where many mutual friends were recalled.

Birmingham

A Happy New Year to you. Cheer up! Things are sure to get better one of these days. We had another gathering of the members in the recreation room at Cateswell House on the evening of 9th December. This was a very pleasant affair and was well supported. Even Bob Barlow brushed the spiders out of his saxophone and "had a go."

Will you please make a note of the date of the annual general meeting, 26th February, 7 p.m., at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. Come and make the crowd even larger than we expect it to be. Not that we expect it to be as large as that.

Uncle Ralph: "What are you talking about?"

Me: "Psychology. They're sure to read that again."

I'm afraid there isn't a great deal of news for you this month. Many of us are busy counting our pennies to see if we can manage a few Christmas cards and nuts this year. By the time we have paid £10 for the turkey and tipped the dustmen, we shall be saying what we always say, "What a blessing it only comes once a year."

And now, as you read this, it is all over, apart from pinning the receipted bills together. Any time now some awfully witty comedian will be saying, "Only 335 days to Christmas." A raving studio audience will acclaim this profound observation with wild cheering and clapping.

Give me my aspirins and tell that wretched cat to stop stamping up and down the corridor.

Order early for February. BARLEUX.

Coventry

December

We had a lot of fun on 2nd December. This was the night of our Christmas party and dance. At the last moment the band retired to bed with 'flu, but some desperate work on the part of our Social Secretary provided another band, which nobly stepped into the breach at a bare hour's notice. There was a fine crowd present and everyone seemed to be enjoying the party. Our thanks are due to

the Manager of the "Charterhouse," who provided a goodly array of liquor and refreshments, as well as two roaring fires. The most pleasant surprise of the evening was the raffle organised by members Platt and Wall. They provided the prizes (made by themselves), the tickets, and some charming ticket sellers! Branch funds benefited to the extent of nearly £2 from this grand voluntary effort.

Newcastle and District

On Friday evening, 31st October, O.C.A. members were invited to a smoking concert arranged by No. 3 Squadron, 50th (N) Divisional Signals, which was held in their new drill hall at Gateshead. A thoroughly enjoyable evening it was, too, and quite well attended. Many old battles were re-fought and many a tale was told, and here let me add that the refreshments were really first-class. Our chairman of the branch committee, Brigadier G. H. Walton, was, of course, at this function, and very pleased we were to see him. In his speech in connection with the O.C.A. he once again exhorted us to turn out the wagon and take it on its celestial journey. Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, the Commanding Officer of the 50th (N) Divisional Signals, took the opportunity to outline the present-day T.A. conditions of service and made an appeal for recruits.

A dance for old comrades and their friends was held in the Gateshead drill hall on Thursday, 20th November. This, too, was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Much credit for the success which attended the above two functions is due to Major G. F. H. Walker, our branch hon. secretary, and we, who enjoyed ourselves so much, tender our sincere thanks to him and to those who, behind the scenes (and the bar), did such a grand job of work.

The formation of an O.C.A. club at the H.Q. of No. 3 Squadron is now an established fact, so now, you old soldiers, here is your opportunity to get together and enjoy yourselves.

Cheerio everybody, and the best of good fortune for 1948.

N.J.W.

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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.

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FEBRUARY • 1948

Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 2**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE following message was sent at Christmas by the Director of Signals to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief:

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal,
Harewood House, Leeds.

Major-General Vulliamy presents his humble duty and begs to send good wishes for Christmas and New Year from himself and all ranks your Corps.

* * *

Since publication of the monthly magazine, THE WIRE, and the CORPS QUARTERLY JOURNAL was resumed, the Association has been glad to supply these publications to all members of the Corps who applied for them. Those who were not in a position to pay the annual subscription of 10/- and 15/- respectively were asked that payment should be made at the rate of 1/- and 4/- respectively on receipt of the publication.

It is regretted that many have not met our wishes. This has involved much additional correspondence, and the consequent risk of financial loss to the Association.

We are reluctantly compelled therefore to introduce a system of payment in advance, either by annual subscription or by monthly payments, as under:

	Annual Subscription	*Monthly Payment*
THE WIRE	10/-	1/- on the 1st of each month
QUARTERLY JOURNAL	15/-	4/- on the 1st of each quarter

This system will come into force with effect from 1st March, 1948.

* * *

RE-UNIONS

No. 4 Indian Air Formation Signals

The first re-union dinner for Officers of this Unit was held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London, on 20th December, 1947.

The following officers attended: Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Rowett, P. Costin, W. Nicks, H. J. Cocks, G. B. Richardson, W. J. Hetherington, R. W. Rogers, N. Stewart-Jones, P. de Berker, G. Johns, G. P. R. Cobbett, J. Mansfield, A. Cross, L. Hobling, F. G. M. G. Myer, J. C. Bradford.

The next re-union dinner will be held in London during the autumn of 1948, and all Officers of the Unit who have not already done so are asked to send their present and/or permanent addresses to R. W. Rogers, "Sevenoaks," Curzon Park, Chester.

* * *

No. 12 Line Maintenance Section

The second post-war re-union dinner will be held at Duke's Restaurant,

Jermyn Street, London, W.1, on Saturday, 13th March. Will all those interested please communicate with Mr. John E. Goodey, 5 Hesketh Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.

S.T.C. (B.) Mhow

It is proposed to hold a re-union of the S.T.C. (B.) Mhow Staff, 1940-1945, on 28th February. All those interested are asked to get in touch with Sergeant J. W. Ludgate, 4 Ronelean Road, Tolworth, Surrey (Telephone number: Elmbridge 7883).

☆

New Year's Honours

We offer our congratulations to the following members and ex-members of the Corps who received awards in the New Year's Honours List:—

C.B.:—Major-General R. T. O. Carey, late Royal Signals; Major-General O. P. Edgcumbe, late Royal Signals.

K.C.M.G.:—Maior-General Sir Hubert Elvin Rance, late Royal Signals, ex-Governor of Burma.

C.M.G.:—Brigadier J. G. Deedes, late Royal Signals, lately Telecommunications Attaché in Washington.

M.B.E.:—Major Thomas Stibbs, Royal Signals; Major S. J. Williams, Royal Signals.

B.E.M.:—Sergeant Harry Barton; Sergeant Arthur Alfred Hardy; W.O.II George Webb; C.Q.M.S. George Arthur Chandler (4 Divisional Signal Regiment); C.Q.M.S. Douglas Franklin Wood (Indian Signal Corps School).

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Successful candidates enter one of the Company's Technical Schools, in January, May, or September. As at present arranged, the initial course would be taken in London, followed by a further period at Portcurno, Cornwall, occupying two years in all.

The syllabus covers electricity and magnetism, mathematics, machine drawing, workshop practice, mechanisms, cable testing, signal shaping, duplex balancing, equipment maintenance, telegraph operating and circuit working. On satisfactory completion of the full course, trainees are posted to one or other of the Company's Branches to consolidate their knowledge and commence effective duty.

Men in the Services who would like to obtain further particulars with a view to making application for one of these openings should write direct to:

The Managing Director,
Cable and Wireless, Limited,
Electra House,
Victoria Embankment,
London, W.C.2,

clearly marking letters "Technical Students — Overseas Service," and giving precise details as to age, education, special qualifications, military service record, date of release, and any other relevant information to denote their suitability.

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

Pass Off Parades. There were two Pass Off Parades during December. Brigadier W. C. V. Galway, O.B.E., M.C., took the salute when Course 190 passed off. The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet W. Hill, who also received the Commandant's Cane.

Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander Catterick District, took the salute at the pass off the Course 191. The Senior Under Officer for this parade was Officer-Cadet Riley, whilst the Commandant's Cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet Knock.

J.T.C./A.C.F. Attachments. We welcome to the Unit No. 2 J.T.C./A.C.F. Course, consisting of 71 cadets on its week's attachment.

We hope that its stay with us will be both instructive and enjoyable. Rumour has it that one under-fourteen cadet was overheard making a date in anticipation of his call up in four years' time. He must have had more than his share of the D and I pills reserved for the more senior courses.

Sport. "'NIM' HALL out of action" was the startling sports news of most of the national papers during the last week of December. An injury suffered when he was hit in the eye by a ball some three months ago has compelled N. M. Hall to give up all rugby, at least for the present.

We sympathise with him in his great disappointment in having to withdraw from the England Rugby team which played the Australians at Twickenham on 3rd December, 1947. We all wish him a speedy recovery and an early return to the handling code.

He will be particularly missed by the combined School of Signals and O.C.T.U. Army Rugby Cup team in our semi-final match against the S.T.C. on 12th January.

Garrison Miniature Rifle League. Our shooting team, by winning all four matches shot off during November, 1947, heads the league with a lead of two points. They also won the cash prize for the highest aggregate, whilst the second prize for competitors making the highest individual score was won by Officer-Cadet Tyrell with a score of 98.5.

Mountaineering Club. During the past month the Mountaineering Club has been pursuing its activities in the Helvellyn area of the Lake District, with ascents of Helvellyn itself and the rock climbing on Dovedale Slabs in snow and ice conditions.

The above is perhaps a bald account of the club's activities, the following extract from the club diary is more revealing:—"29/30th November. Three members left Glenridding at 2235 hours and traversed Striding Edge, Helvellyn, Swirral Edge and Catchedican in snow and ice conditions. The party returned to camp at 0210 hours."

Which all goes to show that there are more ways than one of spending a week-end.

Arrivals and Departures. We extend a hearty welcome to Subaltern K. Grimes, A.T.S., and in doing so bid a fond farewell to Subaltern N. F. Allen, A.T.S., who leaves us on posting to another unit in the district.

To S.Q.M.S. Port, Sergeant H. C. Walker and S.Q.M.S. E. J. Brown go our best wishes for the future. The first two N.C.O.s are bound for East Africa, whilst S.Q.M.S. Brown is earmarked for M.E.L.F. with all its possibilities.

No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

January

We have been steadily growing in numbers during the past few weeks, having now completely taken over the training of Line Mechanics, Telegraph Mechanics and Radio Mechanics within the Signals Training Corps.

The main event in the latter half of December was, of course, the Christmas leave. Special trains were run from Richmond Station, and the great exodus from the Regiment started at 1800 hours on the 23rd December.

Special trains were run from London, and a number of the larger cities, leaving late on the night of the 29th December. As we tumbled from our trains at Richmond Station in the early morning with dark rings round our eyes and that "after Christmas feeling," we were met by Lieutenant Grayson, who, before we had fully woken up, had piled us into recreational transport and deposited us in Unit Lines.

We then watched the small cadre of Scotsmen and Christmas duty volunteers proceed on "New Year's leave." Lucky people, they had it still to come.

Those who stayed behind over Christmas had the normal round of duties, but later breakfasts were served, fires allowed in barrack rooms, and considerable improvement in food helped to induce the festive spirit. Christmas dinner was the climax of the proceedings in camp and produced the extraordinary situation of a number of trainees refusing the second helpings offered to them.

We would like to thank all those who sent Christmas cards to the Regiment, and take the liberty of wishing past members of the Regiment and other friends all a "Very Happy New Year."

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. At the present moment our 110 odd members are recovering from the after-effects of Christmas and New Year leave, so things are rather quiet.

Since our last notes we have seen a few more changes.

Arrivals. Sergeant Newton, Sergeant Whalebelly, from 6 Training Regiment; Sergeant Searle, R.A.E.C. All to Boys' Squadron.

We also welcome to the Mess the recent Regimental Promotions: Sergeant Harrison, Sergeant Smith, Sergeant Lockwood, Sergeant Gray, Sergeant Taylor, from No. 2 Squadron; Sergeant Montgomery, Sergeant Dow, Sergeant Rice, Sergeant Parsons, Sergeant Hutchinson, Sergeant Arnott, Sergeant Parkes, from No. 3 Squadron.

Departures. S.S.M. Philips, Eastern Command Signals; S.O.M.S. Eeckelaers, shortly to move off to B.A.O.R.

We wish them all the best and hope that they will soon settle down in their new surroundings.

During December we had the usual monthly dance, held on the 16th. We were honoured by the presence of Brigadier and Mrs. Straight and all our friends from the various Catterick Messes. The dance was a most enjoyable success and was brought to a final pitch by a very well organised draw, which Mrs. Straight kindly consented to make.

At the beginning of the present month, the Children's Christmas Party was held on the 3rd and was also a very well organised and highly successful party.

The Mess dinner, which was mentioned last month. will be held on the 22nd January.

No. 2 SQUADRON. The dark rings under the eyes of many of our personnel, due to an over-hectic Christmas, are fast disappearing. In fact, we are now back to normal, except for the magnitude of our numbers. Our strength has topped the 600 mark on several occasions recently.

I'm sure the whole Squadron will join me in wishing Sergeants Wright, Askew, Hobbs and Lance-Corporal Portsmouth "Good Luck" in civvy street.

No. 3 SQUADRON. We now occupy the whole of Vimy and half of Kemmel Lines, having taken over the buildings vacated by Boys' Squadron last spring. The Instructional Staff has been increased to cope with the Codes, and this has resulted in an alarming multiplication of stripes around the Lines. Second-Lieutenant Russell has run a fortnight's course for junior N.C.O.s to give a start to some of the cadre received straight from the training "belt."

BOYS' SQUADRON. We were pleased to welcome last December Captain G. A. Horner, Royal Signals, and Second-Lieutenants I. Morris and R. Rogers, R.A.E.C., who have been posted to the Squadron.

Our congratulations go to the following Boys on their promotions: Sergeant Boy Mingaud (now S.S.M. Boy), Corporal Boy Davies (Sergeant Boy).

To those ex-Boys who have just left the Squadron, we offer our best wishes for their success in the future.

We congratulate most heartily ex-Boys Blake and Dunn, who have recently been accepted for training at the Royal Signals O.C.T.U., and ex-Boy Rees, who now plays for the Royal Signals Catterick Rugby Football Team.

The Blue and White Club. Last September the Boys' Club was re-opened in our new location at Somme Lines, and several affiliated societies are now flourishing.

The Club has been visited by a representative of the National Federation of Youth Clubs as a result of our application for membership, and it is expected that our affiliation will soon be approved.

Expenditure last term was rather heavy, and any donations, however small, from well-wishers will be most welcome.

Rugby. The First XV, captained by Lance-Corporal Boy Stringer, and the Juniors, under Boy Fox-Roberts, had quite a successful winter term, and we were particularly pleased to beat Ampleforth College in both our matches. It was the first time that Ampleforth Colts had been defeated in two-and-a-half years.

Soccer. In the Darlington and District Junior League, our First XI, captained by Corporal Boy Lerigo, had a good measure of success, winning nine matches and losing four.

Cross-Country Running. Our team headed the North Yorkshire and South Durham Harriers League, Boy Martin and Lance-Corporal Boy Holmes running particularly well. Martin is warmly congratulated on his fine performance in gaining second place in the Heaton Harriers Memorial Road Race.

Boxing. A good display was given last term in the Squadron Boxing Competition, and a good spirit of sportsmanship was displayed. Congratulations to Boys E. Bell and Parvin, adjudged the best boxer and the best novice respectively.

Basket Ball. Congratulations to the members of the team on winning the Inter-Squadron Basket Ball Competition.

Athletics. Diplomas of Honour have been awarded to Lance-Corporal Boy Holmes and Boys Bower, Field and Seymour, who are all heartily congratulated on their good performances.

Prize-Giving Ceremony. Last term, in place of the customary pass-off parade, an indoor prize-giving ceremony was held in the Gymnasium.

A review of the Squadron's achievements was given by the Officer Commanding, Major G. W. Blackbourne, Royal Signals, followed by a résumé of training progress by the Officer I/C Training.

Prizes, cups and medals were distributed by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant of the Signals

Training Corps, who congratulated the Squadron on its achievements.

We were pleased to see several ex-Boys, who were able to be present by arrangement with their Commanding Officers.

An Appeal. The Squadron is at present training 350 Boys to become useful members of the Corps. Sport plays a large part in our curriculum, but at present we are working under difficulties caused by the shortage of most items of sports equipment.

In the past help used to be given by various Units, especially those which were disbanding, in the form of donations or the presentation of sports kit to the Boys' Squadron.

Recently, very little assistance has been forthcoming, and any help which can be given by Signals Units will be deeply appreciated. Offers of assistance will be gratefully received by Officer Commanding Boys' Squadron, 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals Catterick Camp, Yorks.

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

January

As may be imagined during the second half of December we were engaged on the usual festive celebrations. We started with a dance held by the Sergeants' Mess in the Le Cateau Gym, which, though not overcrowded, was a most successful show. This was followed by the kiddies' party, and, of course, the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw. From what has been said by those who spent Christmas in the lines, a better show could not have been enjoyed.

We welcome back Major Hall, who, after a somewhat protracted illness, once again sits on guard over PRI funds. Amongst recent promotions are included Corporals Oxbury and Nichol to Sergeants.

On the sporting side we were kept rather busy.

Soccer. The Unit team having reached the semi-final of the district cup were faced with the hard task of meeting No. 5 Training Regiment away. The first half ended with no score, but after the restart No. 5 Training Regiment played more aggressive football and took the lead. The game continued to be a hard struggle, but No. 5 Training Regiment increased their lead before Signalman Stanley scored a penalty goal for No. 2 Training Regiment. In the closing minutes No. 5 Training Regiment scored twice to finish winners 4—1. Honours go to Robertson, No. 2 Training Regiment's goalkeeper, who saved a number of good shots, and Goodwin, who played very well at centre-half. In the Northern Command v. Scottish Command match on 14th January, 1948, Signalman Stanley has again been chosen to represent Northern Command.

Hockey. THE ARMY CUP. No. 2 Training Regiment Royal Signals v. No. 2 Army Training College. The Signals lined up for the continuation of this "Marathon" match with a side weakened by injuries to three of their regular players.

The "bully off" took place in driving rain, and conditions more fitting to water polo than hockey.

From the "off" the Signals attacked; Beverley on the left wing hit in some grand centres, but Hopkins, Sherriff and Hough each failed to take full advantage; nevertheless, the attacks continued, but strong and first time hitting by the College changed the run of play, and Signals fell back on defence. The Signals' more experienced defence, well led by Corporal Leach, held the determined attacks, and this game became a duel between two keen hard hitting defences. Both half-back lines tried hard to get their forwards moving, but attacks on both sides broke up on the breakwater defences; Major Gray, the Signals centre-half, was a tower of strength in the attack and defence, well assisted by Sergeant Carter, who, playing at the top of his form, started a Signals attack; beating two defenders, he slipped the ball through to the Signals winger, Hutchings, who tried a first-time effort to no avail, the 'keeper turning the ball for a corner. From the "free" the ball was hit well down by the College defence. The centre-half sent the right winger away, who took the ball well down, drew the defence and centred to the centre-forward, standing unmarked on the circle line, who shot hard and high into the Signals net.

From "bully-off" the whistle blew for change over.

Score: Signals 0, College 1.

The second half was reminiscent of the first with the Signals more determined in the attack, and several good efforts at goal deserved a better fate. Again the College with first-time stopping and hitting, kept their lines intact and turned defence into attack, in one of these attacks the College centre-half sent his left-winger away who, beating Leach, drew McGee from his goal, beat him, positioned himself and shot hard for the Signals goal only to see his effort wonderfully saved at full-length by the Signals keeper, who had recovered himself to turn the ball for a corner. From this corner, the shock of "near miss" and the encouragement from the contingent of Signals supporters who had braved the elements to watch this match, spurred the Signals attack, and time after time the College goal had narrow escapes. The heavy going was beginning to tell on both sides, and with five minutes to go for time, and the College striving desperately to keep their goal intact, and the Signals throwing everything into attack, the Signals right winger was presented with a "sitter" five yards from goal, with only the keeper to beat, he steadied the ball and drove hard and high over the College bar. This was the end of three thrill packed games to see who should meet the School of Signals in the next round.

To sum up, the Signals lost because they failed to take advantage of their chances, four of the forwards missed open goals. Army College had two good chances and scored a good goal from one of these. The games were played in a most sporting and hard manner by both sides.

Cross Country Running. At the fifth meeting in the S.T.C. League, held early in December at No. 6 Training Regiment, we came second to No. 1 Training Regiment, who scored 336 points to our 414 points, No. 6 Training Regiment came third with 436 points. Although we lost this meeting we are still heading the league by 710 points from the combined five meetings now held.

The aggregate results for the five meetings are:—1st, No. 2 Training Regiment, 1,299; 2nd, No. 1 Training Regiment, 2,009; 3rd, No. 6 Training Regiment, 2,056; 4th, No. 4 Training Regiment, 2,696; 5th School of Signals, 3,063; 6th, No. 3 Training Regiment, 3,611; 7th, No. 5 Training Regiment, 4,731.

Two meetings are yet to be held, one at the School of Signals and the final at O.C.T.U. to complete the season's fixtures.

The third run in the Catterick District League was held on the 10th December at Barnard Castle, No. 59 Training Regiment, R.A.C., winning this meeting with a score of 302 points; our team came in second with 455 points, No. 6 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, third with 479.

Our total points are now 916 from the three runs that have been held in the league. We are approximately 200 points in the lead to date, although we also lost the meeting. To lose twice in a month is a new experience for us, but will help to remind us that other units have promising runners who are up and coming.

ADMIN. SQUADRON. They continue to challenge everyone at sport and never seem to be beaten more than 5—2. It is said that an Admin. clerk thought a 1483 was his group number. He is recovering in the sick bay.

No. 1 SQUADRON. If the back of a theatre during rehearsals is anything like the Squadron lecture rooms are now, our sympathy is with producers, including Corporal Harris, who is arranging a Squadron concert party. The first show comes off next week, and we shall speak more of this in the next issue.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Welcomed back S.S.M. Smith from hospital, where he had been resting a badly twisted knee after a "Stanley Matthews" act for the Sergeants' Mess soccer team, also Sergeant Nicholson, who was unfortunate enough to get his cheekbone broken by a hockey ball.

No. 3 SQUADRON are also interested in the theatre, Lance-Corporal Elliot is playing the dame in "Dick Whittington" at the "Signals Theatre."

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

January

With the after-Christmas atmosphere still in the air it is not without a certain amount of relief that I have to report a dearth of material for the January Notes. On the evening of 21st December a very smoothly executed combined operation by the United Bus Co. and the late L.N.E.R. saw a mass exodus from Catterick for the Christmas leave period. Despite a lot of wishful thinking, a slight fall of snow on 29th December did not interfere with the return travel arrangements, and we were back to normal (or almost so) by the 30th.

Prior to the leave period, events had gradually indicated the approach of the festive season. The children of the Regiment were given parties in the Sergeants' Mess and the Regimental Canteen, and there appeard to be very little doubt that the guests of honour had enjoyed themselves. On Sunday, 21st December, as a departure from the conventional entertainment, a tea dance was arranged in aid of St. Dunstan's, which has so far realised £15 for that worthy cause. It is intended to augment this sum with the proceeds of another dance to be held in the near future.

Sport, along with other activities, took a back seat in December, the most important feature of the month being our defeat in the Catterick District Cup football tournament by No. 5 Training Regiment at Tholthorpe. We congratulate No. 5 Training Regiment on winning that trophy eventually. After a very busy first half season the Football Team enjoyed a well-earned rest on leave in preparation for:—

FOURTH ROUND, ARMY CUP

In a typical Manchester downpour, No. 3 Training Regiment played 63rd P.T.C. in the fourth round of the Army Cup on the latter's ground at Altringham on Monday, 12th January, 1948.

The original pitch being flooded, the match was played on a very second-rate ground on which the turf had given way to thick mud. Neither team was really comfortable at the start and the players had difficulty in keeping their feet on the muddy surface. The Signals' team soon settled down, and, after a thrilling moment when a free kick was awarded against their goalkeeper, Watson, for carrying, started to apply pressure. After about 15 minutes' play Elmes, on the left wing, drew the defence and centred, Atkins' drive being intercepted by Dare, who lobbed the ball over the goalkeeper's head to open the scoring.

From this point the Signals' team began to show its superiority. The ball was kept well up to the opponents' goal area, except for occasional breakaways by the home team, which were liable to be dangerous. The Signals' defenders were steady, however, and kept their forwards on the attack; in fact, just before half-time the home team's goal was threatened at least four times in as many minutes. A centre from Elmes was just diverted from under the cross-bar by the goalkeeper, and a shot from Dare went just wide. A hard drive by Pattison was headed away by a defendant running up, and, finally, Dare headed a centre from Pattison just over the bar.

Half-Time Score: 63rd P.T.C. 0; No. 3 Training Regiment 1.

From the kick-off in the second half the home team went forward into the attack, and Signals were forced to concede a corner. The kick was well placed for McDonald to head in, and, though Absom breasted the ball out, the referee decided it had crossed the line.

With honours even it was Signals' turn to go straight in to the attack, and before the home defence had time to settle, Jones had the ball in the net less than two minutes after play had resumed in the second half.

The Signals' team continued to press, and when the second half was seven minutes old Atkins headed an Elmes corner just past the post. Five minutes later a long high kick upfield by Mays was misjudged by the home goalkeeper for Dare to run in and score in an empty goal. A few minutes later, with Signals still pressing hard, Jones made no mistake with a loose ball, to make the score 4—1.

Signals were now definitely on top, though 63rd P.T.C. were still making sporadic raids causing Watson to defend his goal on two or three occasions. From one of these clearances the ball was sent upfield for Dare, in the centre, to go through on his own and make the score 5—1.

In the last fifteen minutes Signals were still trying to increase their lead over a team that did not give up despite the odds. In this period a free kick by Caldwell was well saved by the goalkeeper, and shots by Jones and Elmes hit the post. Then, in the closing minutes, after a clever interchange of positions between Jones and Pattison on the right wing, the ball was put through to Dare, who beat McDonald to put in a shot which left the goalkeeper helpless.

Final Score: 63rd P.T.C. 1; No. 3 Training Regiment Royal Signals 6.

Thus No. 3 Training Regiment pass on to the fifth round of the Army Cup for the second season. The team played extremely well in every department, and thoroughly deserved their victory.

S.R.B.

* * *

Captain (T.O.M.) George Gibson, late of 30th Corps Signals, wishes to hear from old friends. This request from the "Tom" reminds me that I had intended to include a monthly list of some of the "old hands" who have come home to roost again at Catterick. This may help to re-establish some broken links, so here goes. As reported last month the Regiment is now commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise, ex-Malaya. Major Kelly is Chief Instructor, Captain R. O. (Bob) Edwards is the Adjutant, and the Squadron Commanders are H.Q., Captain W. K. McNair; No. 1 Squadron, Captain C. A. Smith; No. 2 Squadron, Captain J. E. P. Sampson; No. 3 Squadron, Captain A. Rowe. Old hands among the O.R.s include R.S.M. Clark, R.Q.M.S. Lobb and S.S.M.s Douthwaite, Burdes, Richardson, and Jones. I hope there is enough

information to be useful, but to ask these types for more—well, I just haven't the time to listen, anyway.

Those basking in the sunshine may be interested to learn that Catterick is just showing belated signs of its traditional winter reputation. As one who was basking in the sun last winter I wish it would hurry up and get on with the winter, because I hope then we might hear the last story of last year's great freeze-up and the floods, though I certainly hope to get off lighter than last year's victims.

No. 6 TRAINING REGIMENT

January

Writing in a mist of hangovers and the remnants of our paper hats and streamers we can say that we had quite a good Christmas month, thank you. The festivities began with our Christmas dance and draw, which was extremely well attended. The Skyliners, our Regimental dance band, were at the top of their form and when dancers passed the bandstand it was necessary to lean against the wind.

The highlight of the evening was the draw, an onerous duty kindly undertaken by Mrs. Straight, assisted by Brigadier Straight. Among many other valuable prizes, numerous turkeys and bottles of whisky were drawn by lucky ticket holders all over the country. As a result of the dance and draw the sum of £202 5s. 10d. was handed to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, and a similar sum was given to the Royal Signals Sports Fund. A very noble effort on the part of all concerned. We hear that Major Fraser, in the course of distributing prizes to the local winners the following day, was compelled to share in all the liquid parts. It is not true that he was seen that evening sitting on the roundabout at Camp Centre struggling to force a corkscrew into the skull of a turkey.

With a brief respite we launched into the children's party. You never know what the soldier does with his spare time until you have a children's party and you find that the nippers outnumber the Regiment. A cheerful, hearty lot they were, and after absorbing a tea which would have made most of Richmond's ration books look silly, they settled down to enjoy a film show, magic, Punch and Judy, a wonderful Christmas tree, and a real Father Christmas, who descended a genuine chimney. (Some said it was the T.M.O. in disguise, but it couldn't have been. All those presents for nothing!)

If their noise is a gauge of children's enjoyment, our party will be remembered for many a day.

We were able to get the greater part of the Regiment away on Christmas leave, but the unfortunates who had to remain for Christmas duties were not forgotten.

Christmas Day followed the traditional pattern. After meeting in the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants moved off to the men's dining room where they dispensed meat, drink and good cheer to all and sundry.

Guards and picquets were taken over by W.O.s and Sergeants and many a shoulder that last ported a pike, sloped a rifle that day.

A prodigious dinner was provided and with music and free beer the lads could say that Christmas in barracks was not so bad after all.

Cross-Country. In spite of reduced numbers and the attendant difficulty of maintaining a team, the Regiment has done very well in this field.

Always among the first few we have finished the S.T.C. League in second place.

Musketry. Small bore shooting is being revived and some preliminary shoots have produced enough talent to justify a competition team. We are glad to see a crop of young 'uns whose cards show that a clear eye can compete with long experience. What we set our minds to we achieve, and the Garrison Competition will be hearing from us.

Hockey. Bad weather has prevented us from playing our matches in the local league.

In the eliminating round of the Army Cup against C.O.D. Chilwell, we were unfortunate to be beaten in the last few minutes of the game, having led 2—1 for most of the game Chilwell, with great dash, scored two rapid goals.

Soccer. We have maintained a good position in the first division of the local league, and have very bright prospects for the future, hoping to move up from third to first place. In two good games against No. 57 Training Regiment, R.A.C., and the R.A.C. Depot, we were able to beat them both 4—2 and 5—1 respectively.

Our position in the second league is not so good, we lost both our matches against No. 1 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., and No. 6 Company, R.A.O.C., who both deserved their wins. However, with our reduced numbers we cannot expect to do well in everything.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

January

We welcome Captain (Q.M.) A. M. Yorke, ex-Base Transit Depot and Canal Signals (M.E.L.F.), who will be taking over the duties of Quartermaster from Captain (Q.M.) R. C. Webb, who in a very short time will be leaving us for Civvy Street after a long association with this Regiment. We regret that at present Captain Webb is in Millbank Hospital getting over a serious operation.

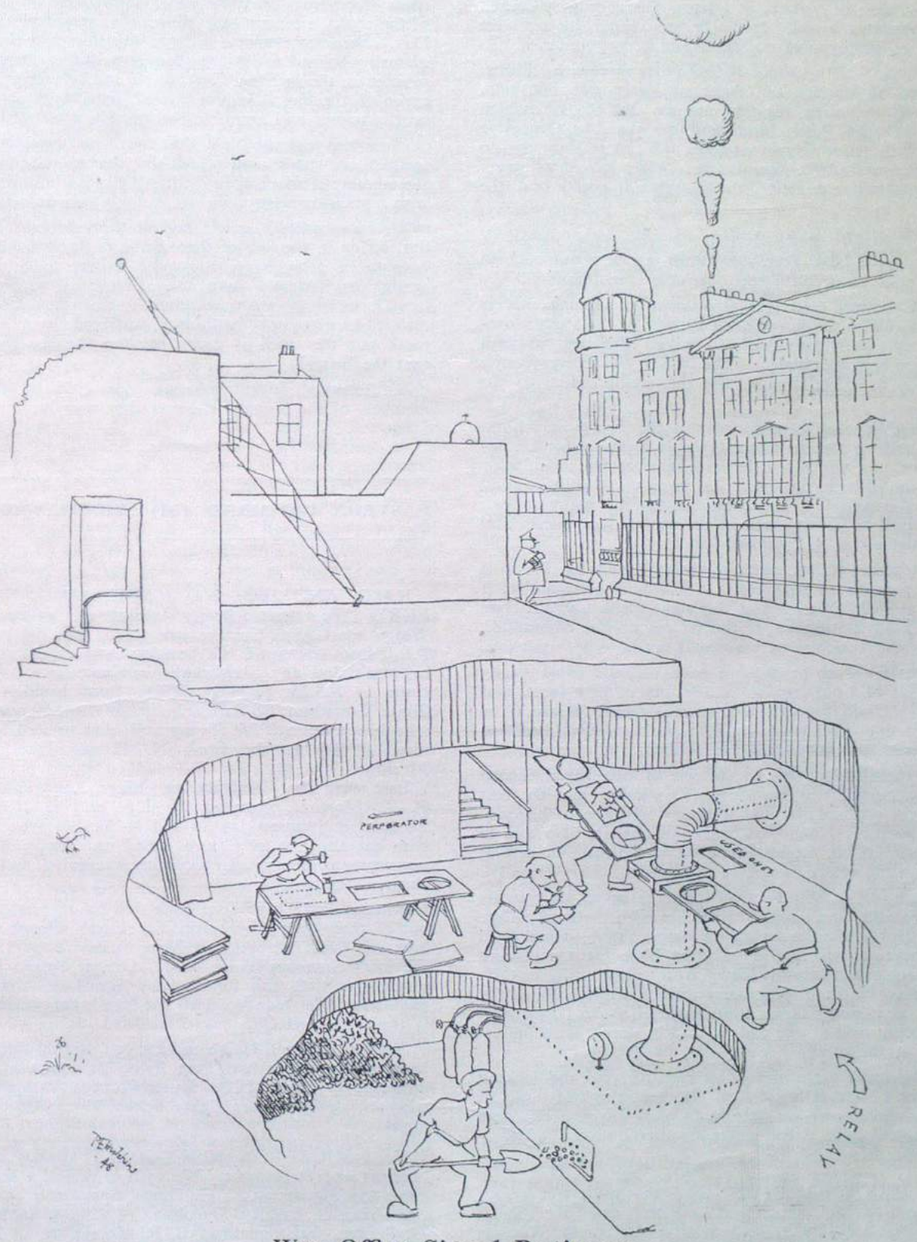
Also a new arrival is Lieutenant (T.O.M.) J. Connaghton, ex-Northern Ireland District Signals. Lieutenant Connaghton relieved Captain (T.O.M.) E. A. Ravenhall, who had also been with us for a long time, and is now getting used to the outside world. We wish him every success for the future.

The officers held a regimental dance on 12th December in the T.A. Drill Hall of the 11th A.A. (M) Signals Regiment, Brompton Road, which was loaned by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, Royal Signals (T.) for the occasion. Much hard work was put in by Lieut. W. C. Barber and his helpers in decorating and arranging the hall with the assistance of Captain (Q.M.) H. E. Mott. The dance band was provided by the Welsh Guards, and catering was by Messrs. Weinberg. We were very pleased and honoured by the attendance of our Director, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B.E., D.S.O., and Mrs. Vulliamy, and Deputy Directors Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., and Colonel G. St. J. Martin, C.B.E., and many other officers of the Corps.

We welcome R.S.M. Taylor and S.S.M. Davison from No. 1 Depot, and Sergeants Knight and Vickers from No. 6 Training Regiment and No. 3 Training Regiment respectively. Amongst the recent arrivals there were four of the 1947 Royal Signals Display Team, which appeared at Olympia, namely Lance-Corporal Riddle, Signalmen Cave, Clough and Oran. They joined us from No. 5 Training Regiment on 1st December. They will find exhibition riding very helpful in dodging the London taxi-drivers, who are somewhat exhibitionists themselves.

Though everyone who could be spared was given Christ-

SIGNALS IN ACTION—XII



War Office Signal Regiment

mas leave, there were about 250 who had to remain behind as a minimum operational staff and have their leave later, welcoming in the year 1948. A Christmas dinner, with the main dish of turkeys and ham, was very well cooked and appreciated by all. Iced Christmas cakes for tea were well up to professional standard, and very popular.

As so many of the junior N.C.O.s and men with children lived out of London, a Christmas party was not held. Instead all the value was put into the cost of toys, which were bought by P.R.I. funds and given to the fathers to add to their home Christmas trees. We were thus able to buy better and more useful toys. We looked at many London shops, but found the N.A.A.F.I. could beat the best.

"D" TROOP, PIRBRIGHT. Having now started in earnest on the New Year, the Camp is just about back to normal after an eventful and enjoyable Christmas.

The Christmas festivities were again a howling success —chiefly due to the hurculean exertions of the Party Committee and cookhouse staff, to whom due and grateful thanks are hereby extended. The dinner was in everybody's opinion a complete success, and did credit indeed to the cooks.

The highlight of the occasion was the Troop Social and Dance, held on the eve of the Troop's break-up for Christmas leave, and which will be long remembered, mainly for the amount of beer consumed. After much scouring around for the "local talent" and the sending of many invites, we managed to do very well in the way of lady guests, and the mistletoe was well utilised—so they tell me.

So altogether things went swimmingly, and the Troop is looking forward to next year's "do" in the hope that it will go as well. We must at this stage thank Captain Dare for his kind indulgence of the whims of the Committee, without which such a success would not have been possible.

In the last week or two we have had the usual steady trickle out of "old hands" and influx of new faces, and recently we said farewell to Lance-Corporal (Where's my screwdriver?) Wilkinson, and Signalman Paul off to wrestle with the intricacies of a foreman's course.

This month also saw the release of our genial Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Wills. So here's wishing him the best of luck in civilian life, and a hearty welcome to his successor, Sergeant Knight. Congratulations are also due to Signalmen Capon, Dodd, Merwood and Mason in getting the first rung of the ladder to promotion.

Though our Troop Football Team is as yet only in its teething stages, in a couple of matches with the local village team at Normandy the surprising victories of 4—1 and 6—0 were obtained, which give us great hope for the coming year. Our ground, kindly loaned by a neighbouring factory, is, however, far from ideal (sorry to look a gift horse in the mouth), as it slopes down at an angle of about 1 in 6 and, whilst being bald at one end, is thickly strewn with undergrowth at the other.

Having reached the end of an eventful year and looking back over a vista of forest fires, floods and serried ranks of double rhombics, we are wondering what this year can have in store, and hope it will prove as entertaining. "Happy New Year to you all."

"E" TROOP, BAMPTON. Now that readers have been introduced to "E" Troop and have been given the "gen" on the part we play in keeping alive the communications of the Army, perhaps a little information regarding our off-duty life will be of interest.

Naturally enough, our main interests recently have been concerned with the festivals of Christmas and the New Year. All who could be spared were given leave for Christmas and the remainder leave for the New Year. Although most of us would have preferred our Christmas at home, those who stayed were well catered for. The Mess Room was gaily decorated and, thanks to the efforts of the cooks, a scrumptious dinner was served on Christmas Day. Beer was available in large quantities and the number of men who had to rest on their beds during the afternoon testified to the fact that "eat, drink and be merry" was the order of the day. Several "Rec" trips were arranged to nearby towns, and everyone had quite a good time.

Christmas and the New Year over, our thought are now focused on our annual social and dance, and judging by the amount of work done by the Welfare Committee, along with numerous helpers, we are in for a gala occasion.

We have quite a good football team here in Bampton but, owing to the fact of there being no local league, games have to be arranged with anyone willing to field a team against us. After a long and arduous struggle with the local farmers, we are now proud to possess a field of our own. (At present, something of a struggle as to who shall mark out the pitch is going on, but the less said about that the better!)

We extend heartiest greetings for 1948 to all fellow members of the Signals wherever they may be.

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

January

R.H.Q. AND H.Q., No. 2 SQUADRON, CANTERBURY. We extend a hearty welcome to Captain E. F. F. White, late Claims Commission, Cairo, who has taken over P.R.I. from Captain L. G. Lamden, now demobbed. Sorry he won't find any Shepheard's in Canterbury. Also welcome to S.S.M. (Tikker) Willis, from London District Signal Squadron. S.S.M. Phillips is another new arrival, who has gone to T.M. Troop and is at present also technical adviser to the Cook N.C.O. i/c Plate Washing Machine.

Last week the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. K. Morton, presented the L.S. and G.C. Medal to Sergeant E. Johnson, late 15 and 11 Air Formation Signals, who has also not long since joined us. Many others, too numerous to mention, keep coming and going, and we wish them all the best.

Football. We have done quite well recently, winning two out of three games by surprising scores. Depot the Buffs beat us 7—2, but we beat Kent Coast Troop 13—2 and the local Sentinels Team 4—1. Driver Benton leads our goalscorers with six, followed by Signalman Clarke, who has five. We have reached the last eight in the Home Counties District Cup.

Boxing. Captain Haigh and Lance-Corporal Lamprell are keeping the Regimental Flag flying in competitive bouts, arranged by District H.Q. Lance-Corporal Lamprell should win one or two more fights before leaving us for civvy street.

No. 1 SQUADRON, KENT COAST TROOP, DOVER. *Arrivals and Departures.* We wish to extend a hearty welcome to: Signalman K. G. Green, Signalman H. Curnow, Signalman G. Pashley, Signalman A. Abbott, Signalman D. H. Smiter, also Signalman B. P. Moore; we all hope you have a long and happy stay with us.

We wish Signalman R. E. Stowe all the best in civilian life, also we extend best wishes to Driver K. G. Blackwell, who has left us to try his luck at Canterbury.

Table Tennis. After numerous inter-troop practice games, we managed to win our first outside game by 14 sets to 11.

Football. Three games were played, one win and two defeats. The two defeats were against Grand Shaft Barracks, 5—2, 7—1. The one win was against R.H.Q. Canterbury, 5—3.

THAMES ESTUARY AND E.A.C. TROOP, CHATHAM. Since our last notes we have welcomed another officer into this Troop, namely Second-Lieutenant M. H. Davis, who has assumed the position of Second-in-Command.

The Troop has now risen to its highest strength for many months, due to the arrival of five Linemen, who have now been absorbed into the Troop H.Q. and its detachments. They are Signalmen Bolus, Blackbourn, Davies, Miles and Webb.

Demob. has only claimed two this month: Signalmen Ledwich and Brennan, who have left us after a very short stay. We wish them every success in civvy street. Work at Chatham is still fairly extensive, and work on the rifle ranges still continues.

Our Recreation and Quiet Room is now completed, and is really a credit to those who took part in its renovation.

SHOEBURYNESS TROOP. The Troop is responsible for the installation and maintenance of all communications required by the Ministry of Supply on the Experimental Ranges. The work is varied and interesting and includes plenty of the Lineman's joy—"Dig."

Sport. Football, pending a start to the Garrison League, is confined to keenly-contested friendlies. Lance-Corporal Sephton plays regularly for the Garrison Soccer Team and Lance-Corporal Carteret for the Rugger Team.

Departures. We said a reluctant good-bye to Sergeant Carter, who had a boat to catch. The Troop will be sorry to say au revoir to Captain (TOT) P. S. Harris, who will be departing for a much sunnier clime.

No. 2 SQUADRON, COMMAND H.Q. TROOP, HOUNSLOW. Having removed all signs of Christmas Festivity, including the mistletoe cunningly hooked over the door of the Rest Room, we are now well under way with 1948.

Our first big event in December was the netball match played against E.A.D. Signals Troop, in which, despite our hours of practice in Beaver's Camp Gym, they beat us by 11 goals to 8. The match was played in Colchester, and the E.A.D. Troop gave us a never-to-be-forgotten tea afterwards in the N.A.A.F.I. Club. Owing to the Christmas break, a return match has not yet been played, but we hope to remedy this in early January. A match has been arranged against Home Counties District Troop, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled. The present members of our team are: Subaltern Courtney, Corporal Remmington, Private Oliver, Private Flatters, Private Wright, Private O'Brien and Private Barton. Reserves are: Corporal Richardson, Lance-Corporal Oak and Private Cooper.

We were all very sorry to say good-bye to Sergeant (now S.S.M.) Thomson, A.T.S., on her posting to Canterbury, but congratulate her on her promotion and hope she will pay us a return visit in the near future. Here's wishing her every success in her new position.

Our Troop Christmas dance was held on 15th December, 1947, and proved a tremendous success, thanks mainly to W.O. II Leak, Lance-Corporal Venables, A.T.S., and Corporal Hubbard, Royal Signals. Several Officers from R.H.Q. and No. 2 Squadron attended, and some of the girls who have been demobbed paid us a welcome return visit. These included Lance-Corporal Becker, Lance-Corporal E. Venables and Private Steele. Lance-Corporal Brown made an excellent M.C. and kept us all happy. It was a very enjoyable evening in every way.

Welcome back again to Junior-Commander Jackman, who returned to us on New Year's Eve on completion of her course. Subaltern Goodridge, who left us on posting to Colchester, has been ill with bronchitis, is now back at work again, and we are hoping to see her when we play our return match with E.A.D. Troop.

The girls who were on duty over Christmas made us all feel envious when they told us of the lovely party Lieutenant-Colonel O'Kelly, Coldstream Guards, A.A.G., Eastern Command H.Q., arranged for them on Christmas Day. They tell us he did everything in his power to give them a wonderful Christmas, and he certainly appears to have succeeded.

Wedding bells seem to be the order of the day here. First of all we must congratulate Corporal Remmington, A.T.S., on her recent engagement to Sergeant Barber, H.Q. Eastern Command, and wish her every happiness.

No less than four members of this Troop have been married this month—W.O. II Leak, A.T.S., Private Hughes, A.T.S., Lance-Corporal McVicar, Royal Signals, and Signalman Gibney, Royal Signals. One of these was almost an inter-Troop wedding, as Lance-Corporal McVicar married ex-Lance-Corporal Fawcett, who used to be one of our Switchboard N.C.O.s. May we take this opportunity of wishing them every happiness and success in their married lives.

And that completes our news for this month. Here's wishing you all a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

January

With the Christmas and New Year festivities over, the "Scotco" scribe takes up his pen once again, and, shaking off the last vestiges of alcoholic remorse, proceeds to pen the most popular feature of THE WIRE. The Unit Christmas and New Year festivities were smashing, and I can't remember anything like it for many years. Naturally the bulk of the Unit, being civilised, were home for Christmas; those who were left were submitted to a round of gaiety, parties and boozy celebrations reminiscent of Barnard Castle in 1942-43. At this stage we should introduce Major L. H. Gregory, recently returned from Operational Delhi, not to be confused with base New Delhi: the rigours of this station, where "Firpo's" closes at 2330, and just try and get a taxi after midnight, do not need to be related. He has taken over No. 1 Squadron *vice* Major Flynn who, we regret, is still sick, but has certainly not confined his indefatigable energies to purely Squadron matters.

Back for a moment to holiday celebrations. Over the Christmas-New Year period, four All-Ranks Parties-cum-Dances were organised—a lot of sport was played—a terrific amount of soft drinks were consumed, and also a little work was done. As a final fling to the New Year festivities, on 10th January in close integration with the Edinburgh Branch of the Royal Signals' Association, a children's party was staged in the Unit N.A.A.F.I., which to say was a success would be a masterpiece of understatement. It was perfectly lovely to hear the patter of little feet about the N.A.A.F.I., coupled with the occasional crash of crockery and the odd breaking of chair legs. Seriously, though, it was grand fun. I shall long remember one Warrant Officer's little son who, after eating 10 sandwiches, 14 chocolate biscuits, five plates of jelly, seven cakes, and drinking six

The Junior N.C.O.s Scottish Command (M.) Signal Regiment

glasses of lemonade, and a jug of tea, sat at the top of the table singing "There's Nothing Left for Me."

Back to serious Regimental life for a few paras . . . The weather has so far been reasonably kind to us this winter, and we are hoping for a fairly mild February and March. Cadet Training is once again in full swing and a most successful New Year course was attended by 60 or so Cadets from local Edinburgh High Schools and Colleges. The other troops at Fairmilehead are still carrying on with the good work. Major Gregory is at present touring all the F.S.S. commitments of the Unit to find out how Captain Allan has been occupying his time for the last five years and four months.

On the other side of Edinburgh we still have No. 2 Squadron commanded by Major E. M. Fox, and it is here that all the Unit Lana Turners and Hedy Lamarrs hang out. In spite of odd difficulties of personnel they still admirably carry out their many commitments, staffing the Signal Office, and providing drivers, cooks, storewomen and wives to anybody on application. Incidentally, we should have mentioned No. 2 Squadron in connection with our holiday celebrations. They joined in all the fun and merry-making, and staged three parties at Broomfield Camp which were similarly successful.

We deeply regret to announce the defeat of the Unit Football Team to the tune of four goals to two by No. 35 Detachment, R.A.P.C., at Glasgow, 12th January. This was in the Fifth Round of the Lord Provost's Cup.

The Unit, however, is still in the Lowland District Cup Championship, and play 71st P.T.C. at Glasgow on 21st January. We hope in the next edition of THE WIRE to report success in this match.

Unfortunately we have no reports to hand from the Unit detachments at Glasgow, Perth and the Orkneys, so presumably they require a longer convalescent period than ourselves.

Although it will be a little out of date by the time this gets into print, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing all Signals Units at home and abroad a very happy and successful 1948, and, although much as we would like to we cannot send them all a present, we are doing the next best thing by enclosing for publication a photograph of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe, the Second-in-Command, Major T. Stibbs, M.B.E., the Adjutant, Captain V. S. Gilliam, and R.S.M. Buchanan, surrounded by our happy and contented junior N.C.O.s.

To finish we would like to record in print the Unit's sincere congratulations to Major T. Stibbs on his well-deserved award in the New Year Honours, and we are confident that many WIRE readers who have known and served with this officer will associate themselves with these wishes.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

January

One day's snow turned to a rather severe frosty spell which has again turned to mild but wet weather, with an occasional gale blowing off the Plain, but on the whole the weather has done little to deter the usual routine of the camp.

Recently we have seen the departure of Captain (Q.M.) J. Springett, Captain (T.O.M.) Pollard, who has left for B.A.O.R., and Captain Boughton, who has been released. We welcome to the Unit Captain (Q.M.) J. T. Gardiner, who has come to take over from Captain (Q.M.) Springett; R.S.M. Darby, recently arrived from No. 1 Depot Regiment; Sergeants Horlock and Licence, and Sergeant Hallilwell, of the R.A.E.C.

We extend congratulations to Sergeant Cunningham, of 146th Line Troop, on his marriage over the Christmas period.

On 19th December the Officers' Mess entertained the Sergeants' Mess to a social evening; a very good time was had by all. On 31st December the Officers' Mess held a New Year's Party, and were pleased to have as their guests Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E. (C.S.O., Southern Command) and Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. B. Bower (O.C., 2nd A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment) and Major E. Y. Nepean (C.S.O.'s Branch).

The Sergeants' Mess held a social evening on 22nd December; a good and wet time was had by all.

The regular Thursday evening All-Ranks Dances have been suspended over the Christmas period, but I understand that they are scheduled to start again on 8th January.

64th Group have now departed, and they included such well-known "fixtures" in the Camp as Corporal Guerney (T.O.M. Troop), Lance-Corporal "Draughty" Reed, and Lance-Corporal Brown, and Signalman Taylor, of No. 1 Squadron.

Several members of the Unit spent a very enjoyable afternoon on Wednesday, 10th December, when they were able to witness the Corps Hockey Team impose a shattering defeat on the R.M.A., Sandhurst.

The Unit Hockey Team is still rather in its embryonic stage, but we have had some very interesting games within the Unit, and shortly we hope to participate in the Salisbury Plain District Knock-Out Hockey Tournament.

Association Football. The Unit's achievements in this sport have so far proved various, as owing to postings, releases, injury and leave, it has not been possible to keep a side constantly playing together. Playing in senior football in the Salisbury and District League (Wednesday Section), we have not fared too well, having won only one league engagement and drawn one; the remainder have been lost. In Round 1 of the Wednesday Cup, however, we disposed of doughty opponents in R.A.S.C., Bulford, 3—1, and are due to play round two before these notes appear in print; a win in this round would place us in the last eight of the competition. In the Small Units' League (Military), too, we have performed well, having won seven of the nine games played, and share the leadership of the league with two other teams—No. 13 Holding Regiment, R.E., at Barton Stacey, and the Army School of Chemical Warfare, both of whom we have beaten. We hope to win this league, but then so do the teams at present sharing the leadership with us. S.S.M. Skiffins is our soccer chief, and the regular team members are: Signalman Brian Howard (captain), Signalman George Green (vice-captain and chief scorer), Signalman E. R. Tunstall, Signalman R. Bond, Signalmen G. Prentice, H. Hawkins, B. Cockerham. A record of games played will be published in a later issue, and, it is hoped, a team photograph.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

January

During November we were twice on the air, which enabled us to make ourselves heard—more than usual that is. On the morning of 9th November, "Down Your Way" took command of the Light Programme and came from Lisburn. Richard Dimbleby was in the camp a few days before and recorded a couple of interviews, but, alas, not of Signals. We did, however, come into our own in the evening when a "live" broadcast was made of the Remembrance Service from our gymnasium. Also during the month we have to announce the engagement of Corporal Eric Addington and Lance-Corporal Peggy Walker. "Addie" has since departed to the wilds of Catterick in an attempt to become a Foreman of Signals.

December was the occasion for many celebrations. On Tuesday, 16th December, we put on a concert. It is true to say that not only Signals took part, but 90 per cent of the artists knew the morse code—or should have done. Major George Bayliss undertook the production, direction and all the worry and trouble associated with these concerts, with the result that the whole thing was an enormous success. After two rehearsals up went the curtain, and we were on our way. Every taste was catered for and the menu was very good and served up by some very nice "dishes"!! The G.O.C. did us the honour of being present and expressed his appreciation of the show. The following night the play "While Parents Sleep" was performed. This time it was definitely a Signals "do." Second-Lieutenant Percy John, who besides acting in it was made responsible for scenery, stage decorations and what have you, apparently managed to find time to do this while not otherwise "engaged"—on Q.M.F.N.A., of course! Those taking part in the production were (in order of appearance to stop any arguments) Private Nancy Harrison, Corporal Peggy McNeill, Second-Lieutenant Percy John, Corporal Bob Hubbard, Sergeant Mary Senior, Corporal Ray Campbell, and Private Bobbie Dente. Sergeant Neil MacGregor-Wood, of the R.A.E.C., who produced the play, also took part when Signalman "Taffy" Hughes (now a civilian) departed on leave. The following night yet another attraction was on. Our Squadron dance, which for so long had had to be postponed, at last arrived. We danced away from 9 p.m. till 1 a.m. and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Then, of course, came Christmas. Those of us who went on leave are now considering whether we were lucky or unlucky. Apart from the Christmas pudding, beer and all the normal Christmas fare, entertainment was worked out so that everyone could have all one could wish for at such a time. Dances, sing-songs and even a treasure hunt were the order of the day—or days. Other Units also arranged socials, in which all the camp joined in. Perhaps the best part from the lads' and lassies' point of view was on Christmas morning, when the traditional "tea and rum for the boys, tea for the girls" arrived early in the morning, brought round by the Officers and Sergeants, who rose bright and early to deliver it—even if some of them hadn't shaved!

Signal Office now has some male runners and also three male teleprinter operators. Although the latter are Lance-Corporal Bob Fraser, Signalmen Paul Sutcliffe and Dennis Balshaw, they are affectionately known to the girls as "Faith, Hope and Charity." Private Sally O'Brien and Private Jean Holmes have now left their years as runners to join the "staff" of Signal Office. The fact that Jean always seems to be in possession of a piece of blank cypher tape is only coincidental!

Sport, of course, has always been one of our greatest assets. Football, no doubt, still reigns supreme, but hockey is running a close second. For the best part of the season our lads have been playing for the H.Q. team, but at last we have enough players to start up on our own. We have won twice as many as we have lost so we feel very pleased with ourselves. The girls, of course, still find netball the attraction. They played 8th Clerical Company, A.T.S., and sent them away with their tails between their legs after beating them 20—2. If only the men could get "netted" as often. Badminton is now coming into its own. Twice a week, over a dozen of us trot across to the gymnasium and play "to you, from me" with the shuttlecock. It is whispered that Second-Lieutenant Dudley George is to become Officer-in-charge and arrange matches. (After reading these notes how can he refuse?) Our stars of the game are Second-Lieutenant Dudley George, Sergeant Monty "Pass the shuttlecock, Cock" Aldridge, and Corporal Peggy McNeill, while others of us, whether commissioned or not, are learning—and providing great amusement for the spectators at the same time.

Even if we are late, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and demobilised New Year, so until next month from all of us to all of you—au revoir and good luck.

"RAY"

A REGAL *Commitment*

"TAKE stores to do a bit of everything and be self-supporting. It's a V.I.P. job!"

That order, when amplified, led some few hours afterwards to a small convoy of three 15-cwts. and a couple of D.R.s driving south from Cairo, bound for the oasis of Fayoum, some 80 kilos away. The time was February, 1945, and Cairo was seething with V.I.P. activity. The Yalta conference was in progress and rumour had it that the entire conference was due to move to Cairo. At any rate, hotels were being prepared to receive important guests, and Signals were flat out laying on special conference communications at the famous Mena House Hotel, scene of earlier gatherings, and at the house of the Resident Minister. The call to Fayoum was a bit of a mystery, as no one had heard of the hotel, "Auberge du Lac," which was our final destination.

It had been pleasantly cool in Cairo, but out here in the desert it was uncomfortably hot, and we had to stop to cool down, for the driving cabs were becoming unbearable. The shadows were lengthening as we hit the edge of the oasis, and we were grateful for the softness of its deep greenery after the gravelly glitter of the desert. Our way

King Ibn Saud

led for some miles along a dusty track fringed with palm trees until, just as the light was failing, we saw ahead the wide, cool expanse of Lake Karoun and the lights of the hotel on its edge, twinkling through the dusk.

The Catering Adviser was the only military figure we could discover, but he proved a friend indeed, for not only did he know the allocation of accommodation, but better still he got the entire Signals Detachment on to the hotel strength for rations and accommodation. Our field accommodation stores were enthusiastically dumped, but I never did get used to seeing our linemen taking their siesta stretched out on eggshell-blue divans with decor to match. Conference Signals opened up shop in a cloakroom just off the entrance hall, and before packing up that night we had Cairo on the line and our distribution scheme started. Later we sat on the verandah discussing our V.I.P. I remember we decided he must at least be Stalin.

By midday next day, to the manager's very evident relief, we had finished draping wire all over the hotel, and sat back to await events. Excitement had reached fever pitch. We were certain now, following some wild suggestion, that Hitler was on his way to negotiate peace. It was not until quite late that night that our D.R., who had been posted as a scout on the edge of the desert, rushed up breathlessly to report the imminent arrival of a large convoy. Half of G.H.Q. car company, resplendent in soft cream enamel, swung into the car-park and halted. We waited respectfully but curiously in the entrance hall to pay our salaams.

In through the swing doors strode two swarthy Arabs—we gasped in astonishment. Their long white galabiehs were trimmed with rich gold brocade, over which they wore

Essential preliminary

heavy brown cloaks. Each carried at his waist a be-jewelled dagger in a long curving sheath, which gleamed and sparkled in the bright light. At the hip they carried wicked looking sub-machine guns, and as they advanced towards us they seemed most displeased to see us. Someone whispered "Saudi Arabian!" Of course, it was King Ibn Saud.

Preceded by this fearsome bodyguard, the King, a most impressive figure, entered followed by a retinue of sons, ministers, astrologers, fortune tellers, coffee brewers and sundry slaves and scullions. That isn't invention—that's how they were listed officially, and there were over thirty of them. All was hubbub for some time. The accommodation plan was unsuitable, and everyone played musical chairs for hours—so it seemed. Eventually all became quiet. The hotel manager had at last dissuaded the sundry scullions from lighting fires on the parquet floor, and the hotel slumbered, while the King's bodyguard and the Royal Artillery guard cemented international relations over Woodbines and innumerable ceremonial coffees.

Our routine soon sorted itself out. There was not much work to do, but there was certainly plenty to look at. We had considerable difficulty adjusting ourselves to Saudi Arabian zone time suffixes, apparently 0001 in Saudi Arabia is our 0600Z, for the perfectly logical reason that as it dawns then the day should start then. The hotel was awakened each morning by the muezzin calling for prayers, a solemn ritual which was repeated at midday and six in the evening.

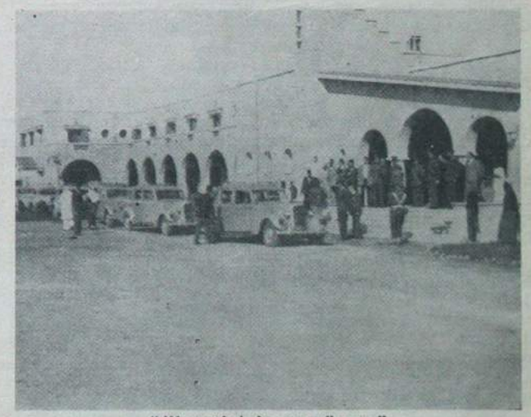
On the third day, and without any warning, a string of Staff cars drew up and out stepped Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden. This rather floored us temporarily, but the great man's infectious personality soon put everyone at ease. After lunch the conference proper started. We had two scares. First of all the King objected to our secraphone frequency changer in the conference room. As far as we could ascertain he took it to be either a bomb or a recording device, and so we quickly disconnected and removed it while history waited. The second was even more startling. An urgent request came to get the Flag Officer, Mediterranean and Levant, on the telephone. He was reported to be fifty miles off Alexandria, steaming west at 20 knots, but such was the efficiency of Cairo Trunks and the Navy that in just under three minutes he was chatting away merrily.

The conference lasted for some three hours, and when it broke up there was a reception in which everybody gave everybody else presents. Mr. Churchill gave the King some rare perfumes and received a sword in a fabulous gold sheath of intricate design. In the evening Mr. Churchill prepared to leave. The King and he were obviously on very good terms, for they remained together in animated conversation even after Mr. Churchill had entered his car. It was somewhat of an anti-climax when he had left, but we were glad to get our breath back. The King and his party remained a further two days before preparing their departure. During this time Signals made many friends amongst his retinue; the Minister of Communications was particularly interested in our equipment.

We stood on the steps of the hotel watching the cars pull away. What had happened at the conference we never knew, but several days later Saudi Arabia, together with other Arab countries, declared war. We did know, however, that our experience of providing Signals to a King was one which would be ever precious in our memories. As the last car disappeared down the track behind a cloud of dust we realised that it was all over, and turned to the business of recovering stores.

The King's Bodyguard

King Ibn Saud



"We watched the cars pull away"

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

January

The first phase of the Regimental Training Courses, 1947-1948, were completed in December, 1947. Examinations were completed well before the Christmas holidays, which enabled both instructors and candidates to prepare themselves for the festivities. To those who succeeded in gaining a higher trade rating, congratulations and good luck. To those who were not so successful, try again and better luck next time. Further Regimental Training Courses and Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Courses are scheduled to commence in January, 1948.

This month saw the departure of Captain (Q.M.) J. W. Pape, M.M., and Mrs. Pape to the U.K. Pindi was posted to the Home Establishment pending further posting—I wonder where? The best of luck, Willie, wherever you may go. New arrivals within the Regiment include Second-Lieutenants Barber, Skalding and Travers-Smith, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

The weekly quiz competition is proving very popular indeed and is attended by a large audience on each Monday evening when the quiz is held in Jimmy's Club. Congratulations to the Regimental Quiz Team who, on Saturday, 3rd January, 1948, defeated 77th British Military Hospital in the semi-final of the Divisional Knock-out Competition held in the Opera House, Dusseldorf. The Regimental Quiz Team, along with 10 Company, R.A.S.C., now go forward to represent the Division in the Inter-Services Quiz Competition being held in the British Forces' Network studios, Hamburg, at a later date.

The Christmas festivities within the Regiment stationed in Hilden were on a grand scale and everybody was catered for. Great credit is due to all those who helped to make the Christmas such a successful "operation." On 18th December, 1947, the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., and Mrs. McVittie, held a Christmas party in their home for the families' children of the Regiment. The party was a huge success judging by the screams of delight I heard when I went along. After tea the children were given a film show, this being followed by ice cream, and shortly afterwards the children began to return to their various homes with the present each one had been given, all having had a very good time and an excellent beginning to the Christmas holidays.

The Regiment gave a Christmas party to 150 children of the German employees of the Unit on 20th December, 1947, which was held in Jimmy's Club. An excellent tea was served, during which music was played by a German orchestra. Afterwards the children were entertained by a conjurer, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The party was a great success and before leaving each child was given a toy and a bag containing sweets, apple and orange.

Christmas morning saw the members of the Sergeants' Mess distributing "gunfire" to the Junior N.C.O.s and men of the Regiment, which proved to the doubtful ones that the immortal cartoon of "The Sergeants bringing gunfire to the recruit" does really exist.

The C.O. and Officers were entertained by the members of the Sergeants' Mess on Christmas morning prior to serving the men's Christmas dinners. At 1300 hrs. everybody proceeded to the Men's Dining Room to begin serving dinners. The first soup was served and 35 minutes later the last pudding was served, the number of men being served being about 270, and it is claimed that this period has broken all existing records for *Servitor Servientum*. During the dinner the traditional toasts, "The King" and "Absent Friends," were proposed and drunk. Great credit is due to Sergeant White, A.C.C., and his staff for an excellent dinner, efficiently organised, and which was certainly highly appreciated by all who partook of same.

On Christmas morning, Major P. A. Toombs, O.C. 1 Squadron, visited the members of the Regiment in hospital. Each was presented with a token from the P.R.I. and wished the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

During the Christmas and New Year, dances were held for the Junior N.C.O.s and men in the Visiting Officers' Restaurant on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. These were held in conjunction with the Camp H.Q. Staff and proved to be very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Boxing Day began with the C.O. and Officers entertaining the members of the Sergeants' Mess prior to their Christmas dinner. Many and varied yarns were being told, which became more and more varied as the mellow drinks were consumed. The Wine Member has become increasingly famous for the latter.

Sport. Following the victory over 101 Medical Company, R.A.M.C., in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition in November, the Regiment were at home to the 1st Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment in the second round, the game being played on 3rd December, 1947. Watched by quite a large crowd of supporters of both teams, the game began in wintry conditions with a slight covering of snow on the ground which made ball control difficult.

Both teams missed chances in the early stages of the game, and when Signalman Bewley, the Signals goalkeeper, fumbled the ball, the Infantry were very nearly one up. After this shock, Signals began to play some constructive football and, following good work on the left wing by Signalman Duncan (inside-left), Corporal Jamieson opened the scoring with an easy goal, the Infantry goalkeeper being out of position.

After the kick-off, the Infantrymen pressed strongly and were rewarded by a very good goal scored from 30 yards by their inside-left. Immediately following the kick-off, Signals attacked strongly, and once again from a very nice centre by Signalman Duncan, Signalman Hodgkinson netted from close range, the goalkeeper having no chance, and very soon afterwards the whistle went for half-time. On the resumption, the visitors began to attack strongly, trying for the equaliser, and gave the Signals' defence a harrassing time; the defence, however, stood firm and refused to be beaten. Considering the condition of the ground, play continued to be extremely fast and was continually swinging from end to end giving the supporters a thrill a minute, both goals having narrow escapes. Signalman Duncan continued the good work on the left wing and his centres were always dangerous to the opposition. Then came the final blow for the visitors. A nice pass down the centre caught the opposing defence out of position and Signalman Hodgkinson was away on his own. His shot, however, bounced off the Infantry goalkeeper to Corporal Jamieson, who made no mistake, and crashed the ball home from close range, making the game secure for Signals.

FINAL SCORE:

2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment ...	3
1st York and Lancaster Regiment	1

The Regiment has been drawn against the 1st Carabiniers (Belgian Army) in the third round of the competition at home.

STOP PRESS.

Result of third round of the B.A.O.R. Football Competition:

2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment ...	1
1st Carabiniers (Belgian Army)	0

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Celle

January

No sharp wintry spell has yet set in here at Celle, although we have had one or two light snowfalls. One of these was prior to Christmas festivities but a white Christmas was not realised, because of a sudden thaw.

This in no way deteriorated the "Christmas Merry Makings." A mug-full of hot coffee and rum awakened us on Christmas morning instead of the usual "Wakee, Wakee." Dinner, served by the Officers and Sergeants, was no "mean fare"; everybody had their fill of turkey, pork, roast potatoes, parsnips, brussels sprouts, plum duff, oranges and nuts. One must not forget the lubricant liquor, beer, which flowed freely once the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Sladen, had wished us all a Merry Christmas and the best of luck for the New Year.

Peter Witton and his sextet provided us with musical melodies, and all the well-loved songs were harmoniously sung with a community spirit. Many of us thought of Christmas at home, and a number of us are grateful for the invitations given by many of the Married Families for members of the Unit to share at home with them a little of the homeliness of Christmastide.

Christmas activities never seemed to dull, for in the early hours of the morning following Boxing Day Corporal de Boltz rolled round the Barracks (with mace in hand) leading his "Ragtime Band," who were equipped with tins and boxes of various shapes and sizes. A professional drummer was in their midst (so it did really have some resemblance to a band). I believe they attempted to plant the first tree ever known to grow in the middle of a parade square. Evidently their attempt bore no fruit for there is no sign of any foliage now!

Not all the fun went to members of the Unit. A Christmas party was held at the "Air Formation Arms" for the children of the German employees. After a substantial tea party, the children were presented with toys, oranges and chocolate, and finally a film, "The Sleeping Beauty," brought to a close their Christmas party.

A similar Christmas party was given to the British children on Christmas Eve. Santa Claus visited both parties, in the form of Sergeant Brown, who, unlike the Santa Claus in a New York stores who had his whiskers burnt, was seen running rapidly round the Sergeants' Mess in full dress (perhaps his reindeers had taken leave of him!).

Entertainments in Celle is still of a high standard,

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Back row (reading from left to right): Sergeant K. Windmill, Sergeant A. C. Withey, Sergeant G. Clixby, Sergeant R. Cottee, S.Q.M.S. J. Foster. Centre row: A.S.M. L. Simpkins, S.Q.M.S. A. Bain, Sergeant Smith, S.Q.M.S. C. Spencer, Sergeant R. McCollom, S.Q.M.S. W. Telford, Sergeant Williams, Sergeant A. H. Brown, Sergeant D. Foster, Sergeant J. Buckley, S.S.M. L. Broadhead. Seated: Captain G. Bateman, S.S.M. G. Eccleshall, Major R. A. Milligan, R.S.M. R. Staton, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen (C.O.), Captain S. L. Gant (Adjutant), S.S.M. J. Mudge, Major W. J. Hotchkiss, Major J. P. Hewitt.

although perhaps the variety and quantity is on a reduced scale. Christmas week brought to the Union Theatre the famous comedy play "Worm's Eye View," which is still drawing a full house in London. Symphony concerts are given occasionally by the North-West Germany Symphony Orchestra, so keeping music lovers in touch with their subject.

Dances within the Regiment have been frequent over the past month. Both the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess held two successful dances over the Christmas period. The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess invited the Officers and ladies to join in a combined Christmas party and dance; a good time was had by all.

The O.R.s also held a dance at the "Air Formation Arms" on the Monday preceding Christmas, under the auspices of S.S.M. Mudge, who acted as M.C. Perhaps this was the best dance of the year, and we express our appreciation for the work done by the Entertainments Committee throughout the year, especially S.S.M. Mudge ("Uncle Jack") and Lance-Corporal Cartwright, who have done much to make the activities of the Entertainments Committee a success.

A notable event during the past month has been an inter-quiz competition sponsored by the Education "sparks," with Question Master Sergeant Gellatley (A.E.C.) in the chair. The following are the results and, as can be seen, the Officers' team (Puzzle Sharpeners), led by Lieutenant Millichamp, were the winners, with the Corporals' team runners-up:

FIRST ROUND:

O.R.s 38½ pts. v. Officers 43½ pts.

Corporals 39½ pts. v. Sergeants 33½ pts.

FINAL:

Officers 43 pts. v. Corporals 35 pts.

During the past few weeks we have said our adieux to many members of the Unit who have returned to Blighty (you lucky people), amongst whom were Signalman Blackmore and Signalman Kingan. Corporal Beckford, of late i/c Canteen, has now wheeled his way to Herford for training as a cipher operator. Sergeant Smith also posted to Malta Command Signals. Signalman Bowman leaves the Unit this week to rejoin his old regiment, Malaya Command Signals, Singapore. We wish him all the best in those more tropical climates.

Again many leave us for demobilisation and we wish them every success in civilian life. Many new faces can be seen in the barracks and a hearty welcome is given to all newcomers, especially to Lieutenant McIntyre, O.C. 80 Wing Signal Troop.

Owing to the disbandment of 84 Group, the Celle League has ceased to function, consequently Football, Hockey, etc., within the Regiment has, until the re-organisation has been completed, come to a standstill.

Football. The Regiment finished third in the Celle League, the 1st Dorsets and 135 Wing, R.A.F., being first and second respectively.

In the League Knockout Competition for the Maitland Cup the Regiment reached the semi-final and had to withdraw after drawing with 123 Wing, R.A.F., 3—3 at R.A.F. Station, Celle, on Wednesday, 10th December.

During the latter part of the 1946-47 football season and up to the present time the Regimental football team has had a very successful year. It will be recalled that at the close of the 1946-47 season the Regiment had won every honour in the B.A.O.R. that football had to offer, including the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit, 1st Corps, 5th Division and 15th Infantry Brigade championships; in addition, the Regiment won the Celle League, R.A.F. Maitland Cup and R.A.F. 84 Group K.O. Cup. This finished off a most successful season, which resulted in 30 games won, two games drawn, one game lost. The Regiment started off the 1947-48 season very well and won every match in the league up to their eighth when they were defeatd by 135 Wing. The final result at the conclusion of the league was:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
11th Air Formation Signals Regiment	15	12	1	2	59	13	25

which, considering continuous changes in the team due to demob., leave, etc., is a very good record.

Hockey. Although no Hockey League has been formed in the Celle area, the Regimental hockey teams have had some very thrilling and interesting games and have won five and lost three games since the hockey season began. The Regiment reached the second round of the Army Challenge Cup when they were beaten in a very hard game by the 1st Battalion Oxfords. and Bucks. by five goals to three.

In the Inter-Troop Hockey, the competition was run on a knock-out basis, the winners being R.H.Q. Troop who defeated 67 W.S.T. by six goals to one in the final on Saturday, 27th December. The Inter-Troop Shield was presented to the team captain (Lance-Corporal Happell), at the conclusion of the game, by the Second-in-Command, Major W. J. Hotchkiss.

Cricket. The Regiment was represented in the Celle Cricket League and finished in the third place, winning ten games and losing three. In the 13th Infantry Brigade Cricket K.O. Competition the Regiment came out winners and had the honour of representing 13th Infantry Brigade in the 5th Division Finals which they lost to 5th Divisional Ordnance who, incidentally, won the Army Championships.

All old Corps cricketers will remember Captain (Q.M.) A. J. Carpenter and will be interested to learn that he represented the United Services, twice during the cricket season, against Denmark, and the Services won one and lost one.

Athletics. The Regiment won the Junior Athletic Shield in the 84 Group Championships in July.

Cross-Country. During the present season the Regiment has had several runs and has competed in the 84 Group and 13th Infantry Brigade Championships, in which it was placed third and fourth respectively.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the Regiment has had a very eventful and successful year and we hope to go on doing better than ever.

No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Gutersloh

January

R.H.Q. AND No. 2 SQUADRON. The Unit is once more getting back to normal after Christmas and the New Year. During the Christmas week many functions were held, the main ones being the Officers and Sergeants v. Other Ranks comic football match on Christmas morning; as soon as the kick-off whistle went, everything seemed to go chaotic, card schools, impromptu dances, and football were all taking place on the field at once while two well-known members of the Sergeants' team as "Barrow Boys" proceeded to sell fruit, etc., to a laughing crowd of spectators. After an hour's play, when both teams seemed to be on the verge of collapse, the final whistle was blown; don't ask me what the score was, nobody bothered to count! The O.R.s' Dinner was then served at half-past twelve and our congratulations and thanks are due to Sergeant Cochrane, A.C.C., for a most excellent dinner, complete with all the trimmings. Well done, Jock, "you're a wee smasher." On Wednesday, 24th December, the C.O. and Officers of the Unit gave a party to all the Signals children. A Punch and Judy show and a "magic man" (as the children called him) were among the main events. Each child received a handsome present from the Christmas tree; this was a really good start to the Kiddies' Christmas.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Christmas day was a very busy day for the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, starting at eight in the morning. They took early morning tea to the men in bed. After much bell ringing and shouting of old Regular Army terms, guaranteed to awaken the dead, the men awoke to find R.S.M., A.S.M., R.Q.M.S., S.Q.M.S.s and Sergeants and what have you standing beside their beds ready to pour out tea. One bright lad who awoke, forgetting what day it was, and seeing the R.S.M. hovering over him, went into a hurried and lengthy explanation as to why he was in bed after reveille. At ten o'clock we combined with the Officers and played the O.R.s at football, the rules as laid down by the Crazy Gang. At 12.30 we went over to the Main Dining Hall and served Christmas dinner to the O.R.s and finally finished at about 3 p.m. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' dinner was held in the R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess the same evening. On Tuesday, 30th December, the married families of the Mess gave a party to single members of the Mess. Guests were invited and I am sure all our single members and guests really enjoyed themselves. On Boxing Night the C.O. and Officers entertained the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Officers' Mess and everyone had a very enjoyable evening, even if a tie or two was lost!

Arrivals. We have had two recent additions to our L.A.D.; they are Craftsman Williams who joined us from 31 Lorried Infantry Brigade, and Craftsman Hughes who joined us from 7th Armoured Brigade Workshops. We bid you both welcome and hope you will soon settle down with us.

No. 1 SQUADRON, BUCKEBURG. At the present moment re-organisation is taking place and, as a result, a large number of chaps are being posted back to the U.K. This came as a "pleasant" surprise in the middle of our Christmas arrangements. As soon as we have been re-organised we will give you all the "gen."

Social Activities. At long last we have a canteen inside the barracks. Two very successful dances have already been held and we hope to make it a weekly event. This Club has become the centre of our activities and a very full programme was drawn up for Christmas to please all tastes. This included: Comic Revue, Challenge Football Matches, Community Singing, Smoking Concert, Cinema Shows and Station Dance. A good time was spent by all.

The Christmas Committee collected chocolate from the men of the Squadron and a party was held in the German Children's Hospital with Signalman Edwards filling the role of Father Christmas.

Association Football. With only one more game to play in the present inter-unit league, it may be worth while recording some of the triumphs of certain members of our team. Signalmen Stone, Mansell, Booth and Stephenson and Private Irvine have all turned out several times for the B.A.F.O. H.Q. Area team. Signalman Stone has been our outstanding player this season so far. He was chosen to play right-half for B.A.F.O. Command team against British Troops Berlin, but owing to inclement weather the match had to be cancelled. Further success is almost certain to come his way before the season ends.

Both our "A" and "B" teams have done well in their respective leagues. Our "A" team should finished third and our "B" team have still some matches to play before completion of the league.

Rugger. At the start of the season only five members of our team had played rugger before and it is to the credit of the Squadron that we have turned out a rugger team every week during the last two months. There has been no league or cup competition yet, but in the friendly matches played we have beaten B.A.F.O. Police School twice and 2 Squadron once, going under to stronger opposition in R.A.F. Buckeburg and R.A.F. Sundern.

Hockey. It was mentioned in the December issue of THE WIRE that our team was doing well under the captaincy of Corporal R. Smith. Since that issue, Corporal Smith has turned out for B.A.F.O. Command team and several times for the Area XI. As several of our hockey players are rugger players as well, it has been difficult on occasions to field a team but, when it has been possible, it has been with success.

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

January

Christmas, 1947, saw the unit justifying the season in a truly festive manner, commencing on Christmas Eve with a grand All Ranks dance.

Subsequent activities included a farcical fancy dress football match between Officers and Sergeants and The Rest of the Unit, film shows, smoking concerts, until the New Year was heralded in with another All Ranks dance.

The Unit's Christmas Party was a great success. Three hundred German children were invited and Mickey Mouse cartoons, a "Father Christmas" and gifts of chocolate completed a happy occasion.

Soccer. Activities of the Unit football team have been rather restricted of late owing to unfavourable weather. In Division II, however, the following games have been played with results as noted:

. . . versus 15 B.O.D. "B." A game of close competition, 15 B.O.D. winning 3—1.

. . . versus 41 Movement Control. An excellent game resulting in a win for the Unit 5—1.

The Unit hopes that two representatives, Signalman Davies and Astle, will be playing for the English side in the forthcoming "International" League match.

Hockey. Weather conditions have severely restricted the teams' activities, with only one game played of late.

. . . versus 22 Heavy Workshops, who were successful in defeating the Unit side 4—1.

Rugby. A ground has now been made available for practice and efforts are being made to form a Unit team.

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The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association,

88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Christmas Day Footballers

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

January

As is to be expected, this article consists mainly of a report on what happened during the Festive Season, and even so, it will be difficult to include everything. The celebration really started on Saturday, 20th December, when the Squadron entertained 250 German children at a party. First they had a meal of sandwiches, pies, pasties, cakes and tea which went down very well and helped to dispel any doubts they had previously entertained. This was followed by a conjuror, a juggler and a Punch and Judy show. After this it was free for all, and members of the audience got up on the stage and added their contribution. Then came a snack topped off with ice cream, but, of course, the highlight of the afternoon was Father Christmas, who distributed sweets and chocolate to everyone. I think that all present were sorry when it was time to go.

On the 23rd a dance was held in the Dining Room. A German band was engaged for the occasion, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The football match on Christmas Day deserves special mention, as seen in the photograph. The Rest in all seriousness turned up in soccer kit ready to lick the pants off the other team. Anglo-American relationship had been fostered, however, and the Officers and Sergeants had borrowed a set of American football kit, complete with breeches, shoulder pads and crash helmets. "The Rest" recovered from the shock and the game commenced. After about 10 minutes of football, an Officer picked up the ball and then the riot started. It rained steadily throughout the game, but did not dampen our spirits. Major Bower, the referee, soon had the play under control, and although the final result is still doubtful, no one seemed to mind, particularly the spectators, some of whom had also turned up in fancy dress.

There is not much left to say except that we have once more settled down to routine after a very pleasant interlude.

The only member of the Squadron to be released this month was Signalman Duffield, who left on 17th December. We hope he enjoyed Christmas in Blighty as much as we did out here.

In conclusion, we wish our readers all the very best in this New Year of 1948.

No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Munster in Westphalia

January

December in Munster was quite sane and normal, that is, up to the happy hectic period of the Christmas holidays. There was but one outstanding event which occurred on the 18th December, the arrival of the new T.O.M., Mr. Hense, who, incidentally, is making a good job of it. However, to get back to the "hectic" period, everyone was awakened on the fateful morning at the unearthly hour of 0700 and by a means drastic and shatteringly efficient—in other words, a siren. After devouring appreciatively a breakfast of ham and eggs, everyone trooped in gleeful anticipation to the Unit football field, where quite the most amazing spectacle ever to be seen in Munster took place. There, in full battle honours, the opposing teams were ranged against each other. Some of the outstanding players were "Train Buster" Freemantle, R. Sowles (the two goalkeepers), "Fruit Salad Medal Ribbons" Lacey, Sergeant "Fearless" Freddie Thornton, who distinguished himself by making a beautiful dive into a puddle about two inches deep, also "Jankers" Greenaway, "Snow White" Bleach, and one probable runner (on leave), "Tooty Fruity" Grundy.

There was an excellent children's party, held in the Red Diamond Club, which was followed by a Disney cinema show, after which each child was given toys and sweets by Father Christmas. The fact that the children's party was a complete success is shown by the many letters received from appreciative parents.

Club activities were rather eclipsed by Christmas holidays; that is not to say that the various clubs are wilting at all. In fact, the Motor Cycle Club continues its fervent search for all "spare parts" from the various known sources, whilst the Camera Club is as active as ever.

Sport. Still tenaciously holding our position in the league, we are slightly on the up-grade from last month. Scores as follows:

			Scorers
6th Dec., 47	v. Transit Camp (home)	won 3—2	Pte. Mitchell (1) L/Cpl. Bradley (1) Sigmn. Sharpe (1)
10th Dec., 47	v. 25 B.M.H. "A" (home)	lost 2—3	Pte. Mitchell (1) L/Cpl. Bradley (2)
13th Dec., 47	v. 17 C.R.E. (away)	lost 1—3	Sigmn Sharpe (1)
18th Dec., 47	v. 59 Battery R.A. (away)	draw 2—2	Sigmn. Hutton (1) Pte. Higgins (1)
3rd Jan., 48	v. 37 M.S.D. (away)	won 3—2	Pte. Mitchell (1) Sigmn. Grime (2)
10th Jan., 48	v. Q (Moves) (away)	won 2—1	Sigmn. Sharpe (2)

PRESENT POSITION IN LEAGUE

Third

P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
30	21	7	2	97	40	44

Amenities. A dance was held on Boxing Day at the Heidekrug for the Sergeants. The whole party was a great success and lasted until 0300 hrs. when the company broke up in mellow and merry humour.

No. 31 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Hanover

January

We wish to take this opportunity to wish all other units of Royal Signals a happy and prosperous New Year—and may your "Tele F.s" *always* work.

This Unit had, over Christmas, in common with the rest of B.A.O.R., 4½ days off duty—and the festivities were right royally enjoyed.

Decorations were numerous in the barrack rooms in our block here in London Barracks—painted paper and sheer ingenuity providing a brave show.

Parties were held over the period for English and German children—and to judge by the childish screams issuing from the Men's Mess, a *very* good time was had by all!

The confectionery for these feasts was provided in the most part by the lads themselves.

On Christmas Day the men kept the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants "doubling-up" in their Mess, and the top meal of the year lasted until 3 p.m.—it had all the usual ingredients. We have a large Unit—and the Mess Hall is correspondingly large. Yours truly, staggering around with loaded plates, did enough P.T. to last well in to 1948!

A dance was held in the Café Fasanenkrug on Boxing Night—it was quite an hilarious affair—with Sergeant Joe Lunn officiating—*and* gripping!

We are left wondering if the elephant really *did* commit suicide—or was it just a dream, Joe?

Sergeants' Mess. Dances were held Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve—both were well attended by Married Families—and happy-go-lucky parties were the order of the day. The New Year's Eve dance was fancy dress—and although our contribution to the Mess is small (we have 11 members), at least two improvised and turned up as a Golfer and a Buccaneer.

This dance "raged" (that *is* the correct word) until round about 4 a.m.—and was quite unforgettable!

Needless to say, breakfast on New Year's Day was very poorly attended!

So much, then, for our Christmas Holiday.

We are back in our stride again and hope 1948 will bring more settled conditions all over the world—and in our own little world, the 31st!

Departures. This month we shall say farewell, amongst others, to Lance-Corporal Mudd, Corporal Lindsey and Signalman Smallridge. They are all of Group 64.

The footballing clique will miss "Ginger" Mudd—a great sportsman and a good friend.

Our loss—Mrs. Mudd's gain!

Promotions. During December the Sergeants' Mess welcomed Sergeants Gaukroger, Tucker and Rosie into their "sanctuary."

So they gain (?) yet another confirmed "Gripper," of which this Unit has its share!

The above-mentioned three are to be congratulated.

Sport. Since the discontinuation of the Hanover League our Soccer Team has had only friendly matches—three to be precise—and we have won them all.

Our position in the now defunct league was third—so it has been a most successful engagement for us.

We have a small artificial lake at the rear of our Block—but the recent very mild weather has played havoc with the fond hopes of the would-be Skating Fraternity. It just refuses to freeze!

Anxious Signalmen can often be observed gingerly testing the "scum" on its surface!

Still—who knows—we *may* have a repetition of last year's "Brass-Monkey" weather.

(But I join the greater part of the Unit in fervently hoping that we don't!)

"Tosh"

No. 32 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Plön

January

In noticeable contrast to last year's cruel winter, we have so far experienced a comparatively mild season with typical frosty mornings and evenings and fresh afternoons. Even though the night shadows are gradually lengthening and encompassing early morning P.T. and first works parades, we still bear up to these military necessities, with sleepy half-closed eyes and muttered imprecations. Our "old soldiers" long for a return of last year's snow, and the cancellation of parades that accompanied it. So far their prayers have not been answered, and only a light blanket of snow has fallen, which was swept away almost immediately by a storm of rain.

Gone indeed are the days when "Dismiss" was the signal for all those lucky ones who were off duty to don swim suits and dash down to the Plöner See for an hour of mermaid hunting. Now, unfortunately, the Great Water welcomes none but the wind and rain and the lonely seagulls, who find it difficult to dine and keep house on Gull Island. We look forward to the freezing of the Lake and with it the return of ice yachting and skating which

occupied so much of our spare time during the winter of last year.

With the aproach of what may be a late visit from Jack Frost, the Squadron is preparing to combat the climate. The winterisation of Jeeps and billets has been Operation Vital. Needless to say, an ample ration of Guinness is expected by all, for, like mechanical transport, the human body must also be diffused with anti-freeze. We are lucky in possessing what is probably the finest "Kaserne" (to the uninitiated this means barracks) in B.A.O.R. and the liberal use of double windows and central heating by the designers has gained them our heartiest appreciation. Whatever else is said against our location, etc., we shall never complain about our personal comfort.

The "Churchill Canteen" (Naafi to you), whose popular manageress is affectionately known as "Winnie" Westwood, still remains top favourite with all "off duty" men. One of the highlights of December, literally speaking, was a fire started in the "House of Westwood" presumably by a careless smoker. Much was the consternation at the thought of the "Canteen Cowboys" forlornly looking for somewhere to hitch their horses. But don't despair, the day was saved by a resourceful Signals Guard, who quickly doused the inferno with jugs of beer—proving conclusively that beer is as good as water any day, or vice versa, no matter what Winnie says! Thank goodness "My goodness, my Guinness" was not used.

This being the great festive season of the year, we all took the Christmas spirit to heart and played quite a leading part in making the German children's party a great success. With lots to eat, a bag of sweets and a toy each, they truly understood the meaning of British hospitality. The party for British children was also a grand achievement, even though many an "intelligent" word was spoken by the D.R.s who afterwards laboriously picked the cotton wool from Father Christmas' Jeep.

Christmas Eve really marked the commencement of jollifications, and a Grand Dance cum Cabaret was the order of the evening. With "Lights Out" an hour later than usual, the sounds of happy celebration rang far into the night air—much to the unhappiness of the "chosen few" who constituted the Signals Guard, who were at least up early for breakfast next morning! The issue of "Gunfire" brought round by the "habitués" of the Sergeants' Mess on Christmas morning was hailed with delight by the youngsters of the Unit, whose first Christmas it was in the Army.

The Merry 25th and 26th again saw the Unit justifying its reputation for "mucking in," but the crowning glory was the winning of the Mess Hall decoration competition by a small band of Signals who had "borrowed" everything from far and near that in the least resembled decorations. Congratulations to all those who took part in this decorative masterpiece and to the man who punched the holes in the paper streamers. A word of praise also for all the rooms, which took part in the Billet Competition. Many variations of paper chains and Christmas trees were used. In fact, one abode reminded us of Epping Forest—so many evergreen branches were strewn around—we understand the occupants swear they saw fairies at the foot of the bed!

A splendid Christmas Day dinner was the delight of all who were lucky enough (?) not to be on leave at the time. Turkey, roast pork and all the trimmings were liberally washed down with sparkling champagne, and, for those who could still breathe through the bubbles in their noses, a couple of bottles of beer each were still to be imbibed. Much could be written of the variety of food enjoyed that day, and the next, but a word of thanks to the Cooks is perhaps a finer tribute—we forgive all their past errors, even the "slingers."

The Panto, which was to have been presented at this time, was displaced by an even greater attraction, namely, to quote the poster, "A Sparkling Revue—'I Go For This,' Sketches, Songs, Melodrama, etc." Once again the Signals were well to the fore and, by kind permission of the whole cast, we enjoyed a most amusing and refreshing show. Good luck, lads, for your future adventures into show business.

Another highlight, and one which gained the praise of all and sundry, was the publication of the bumper Christmas number of "Certobust," the Unit magazine. After many hours of feverish preparation, our five weeks' old "rag" blossomed forth to issue a challenge to any Unit who could do better. Needless to say this edition now holds an exalted position in the library of rare books at the British Museum. We repeat our last month's offer of exchanging magazines with other Signal Units—or are we the only Squadron who possess one worthy enough? We hope this sally will reward us with a copy of every Signals magazine at present in publication.

Sports. In the realm of football we have had quite a successful month, winning 1—0 against 103 Provost Company Royal Military Police and drawing 2—2 against 10 L. of C. Workshops. Both matches were extremely hard fought games, in particular the former, when two of our first team were enjoying a spot of furlough.

Our only other match was played at Boostedt against 854 Ammunition Depot where we won by 3 goals to 0. This being a friendly, we did not therefore gain any points to climb to the top of the league. Next month we hope will see us well on our way to carrying off the honours.

Table tennis soared into the news headlines when our potential Barna's and Leach's were victorious over a Camp five by 17 games to 8. The games were played in grand style by both teams, and the spectators who rose at an early hour, to wit 0900 hours on a Sunday morning, to watch the tournament, were well rewarded.

To all our scattered friends of the Royal Signals we wish a happy and prosperous New Year and may 1948 be as fruitful to you as 1947 was to us.

"ALFONY"

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

The Annual Corps Dinner will take place on Monday, 31st May, 1948, at Simpson's Restaurant in the Strand, at 7.0 for 7.30 o'clock.

The number of persons who may attend this year has been limited by law to 100. It has therefore been decided to confine the dinner to *subscribing members only* of the Corps Dinner Club.

Dinner tickets: (Members) 15s. Dress: Uniform, dinner jacket or dress clothes.

Tickets: Obtainable from Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 514a, Leconfield House, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

Latest date for applications: 30th April, 1948. If over 100 applications are received by 30th April a ballot will be held.

* * *

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following publications:

R.E.M.E., January, 1948.

THE BORDERERS' CHRONICLE, December, 1947.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, December, 1947.

R.A.S.C. JOURNAL, December, 1947.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 20th December, 1947, and 3rd January, 1948.

Mount Fuji-Yama, Tokio, Japan

Post-War Japan

By **SERGEANT J. BARNES** *and* **SIGNALMAN L. J. FROST**

LIKE many Eastern countries, Japan has remained something of an unknown quantity to the Englishman until quite recently, and his impressions of Japanese life have undoubtedly been coloured and distorted by Hollywood film technique, in the broadest sense of the word. The occupation of Japan, therefore, by a contingent of British forces has produced the salutory effect of shattering these nebulous and exotic illusions and of substituting in their place a far more genuine fascination based on personal experience.

Climatically Japan is quite similar to Western Europe, although the extremes of temperature are more pronounced. In summer the heat is more intense, and in winter the countryside is often covered with considerable quantities of snow. Phenomena with which we are unfamiliar in this country include typhoons, volcanoes and earthquakes, of which the last are by far the most important. They exercise a profound influence not only on the distribution of population and the method of constructing houses, but even on religious thought and popular superstitions.

Town life is full of contrasts. The broad clear streets of the larger cities, alive with jostling crowds and ubiquitous rickshaws, are lined with modern earthquake-proof buildings. They possess this very necessary quality as the result of foundations ingeniously built on damp sub-soil. The narrow back streets, on the other hand, are reminiscent of Petticoat Lane or the bazaars of Calcutta and Suez, an unforgettable mixture of colour, noise and good humour. At night the theatre is the most popular form of relaxation, particularly variety shows and serious plays, although, stimulated by American influence, the Japanese film industry is now making a considerable contribution to the world of entertainment. Significantly enough, the favourite theme of the Japanese is family life.

Economically, Japan has made a rapid recovery from the war. The towns contain very few beggars, and traders appear to be living in a secure shell of prosperity. Similarly, agrarian conditions compare favourably with those of most Eastern countries. Agriculture is, however, not a lucrative profession, primarily because of the primitive methods and absence of machinery. The main crop is, of course, rice, grown on the terraced hillsides and watered by tortuous irrigation channels. In appearance the countryside again contains the familiar English features of allotment fields, wooded hillsides, and orchards, in which mandarin oranges and peaches grow with profusion. Japan is often known as "the land of the cherry blossom": it is an ironic trick of nature that the cherry trees produce no cherries! The population is scattered, but each district and hamlet has its own mayor, who exercises powers of jurisdiction not unlike those of the Roman paterfamilias.

The staple food of the average Japanese household is fish and rice, consumed with the assistance, or handicap, of chopsticks, and "lubricated" by water or green tea. Contrary to popular belief, the Japanese are not doctrinaire vegetarians, although in practice the prohibitive price of meat makes anything but a vegetarian diet impracticable. The favourite drink on festival days is "saké," a type of rice whisky. Festivals, incidentally, occur very frequently, but the most important date in the Japanese calendar is 1st January, when each individual celebrates his birthday. Thus even a man who is born on 31st December is accounted one year older on the following day! As might be expected, their dress is very colourful, although in the cities national costume has been discarded in favour of Westernised clothes. In the country the kimono is more

popular, with a very curious and highly practical type of shoe known as the "geta," designed specifically for walking across rough country.

Religion, both Shintoism and Buddhism, plays a notable part in everyday life. The former is surrounded by an elaborate system of ritual and superstitions, a fact which in no way detracts from the profound sincerity of Japanese belief. Their credulity extends to the point of fortune-telling, which takes place periodically in the temples. The victim shakes a box full of needles, one of which eventually falls out of a small hole. According to the number stamped on the needle, he then receives a piece of paper on which is inscribed his fortune. If it is favourable, he keeps it; if it is adverse he hangs it on the holy tree in the temple garden in order that his future may be purified. The temple itself is guarded by the images of two mountain cats, one with an open mouth, to admit the good, and one with a closed mouth, to shut out the evil. Every house has its own "torri," or Gate of Heaven, which is set apart as a shrine. The "torris" of Beppu and Miyajima are world-famous.

In physical appearance the Japanese are of small stature (except for the Hairy Ainu in the North), and their flat-featured faces reflect the simplicity which characterises their lives. They are a polite, trustful, methodical and systematic people, regular in their habits and punctual in their appointments. At the same time, they are an extremely happy race, delighting in simple things. Their art, especially poetry, draws its inspiration from nature, and from those wonderful facts of life which appeal to us so much in our childhood. Their attitude towards the Mikado has undergone a complete change, a change which is not entirely unconnected with the recent emancipation of women. Now that he has become more democratic in his habits and renounced his almost deified status, he is held in much higher esteem than before. The Japanese probably like the English as much as they like anyone, a feeling which is definitely reciprocated by the troops.

As far as the military occupation of Japan is concerned, B.C.O.F. (British Commonwealth Occupation Forces) is an interesting experiment in the co-operation between Empire forces, an experiment which has proved an unqualified success. The B.C.O.F. zone includes Central and Southern Honshu and Shikoku, while the American sector consists of North-Eastern Honshu and Kyushu. The Royal Signals, Indian Signal Corps and Australian Signals are jointly engaged in the task of running communications. The Japanese switchboards and lines, taken over at the beginning of the occupation, are quite reliable, and Japanese mechanics who are often responsible for maintenance, have displayed an expert knowledge of the equipment. The peculiar difficulties involved in servicing O/H cable routes in Japan have provided our engineers with valuable experience.

Welfare for the troops is of a remarkably high standard. B.A.F.S.V.s—British Armed Forces Special Vouchers—are used as currency in military establishments, which usually contain an unlimited variety of Australian and Empire goods. Sports of all kinds, including swimming, ski-ing and ice-skating, are given first priority by H.Q., B.C.O.F. Several leave hostels in the hills are open for troops in the summer. They provide conditions of palatial luxury and food which would delight anyone of epicurean inclinations. Thus it is not difficult to see why Japan is among the most popular of overseas stations, and why ex-B.C.O.F. men in this country are pining with nostalgia—they are foregoing what was undoubtedly a magnificent life in a truly magnificent land.

Aussies see Tokio the easy way !

Other Overseas Stations

No. 3. G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fayid

December

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. By the end of the next two months, during which time several of our members will be leaving us, the Mess will be able to settle down as one of the more stable parts of the Regiment, due to the fact that it will then be almost entirely composed of competent "old timers."

We extend our hearty welcome to our new R.S.M., R.S.M. Rowbury, and hope that he will be happy amongst us. We might add that his moustache has been the envy of several other members who are aspirants to this decoration in its larger form.

We deeply regret the departure on release of Sergeant Collier. Many and varied were the attempts made to persuade him to "sign on," but he was immovable, and so we lost an extremely competent Orderly Room Sergeant. Along with him we also lost that irrepressible and never-ending source of humour, Sergeant (Syd) Burnikell. We wish them both the very best of luck in "Civvy Street."

We are soon to be deprived of much of the company of our President, S.S.M. (Pip) Stone, whose wife will soon be arriving in Fayid. He now joins the company of R.S.M. Rowbury, R.Q.M.S. Willoughby and W.O.II Quartermain, all of whom are well established in married quarters. We are pleased to hear that Sergeant Usher has also been successful in obtaining a passage to Egypt for his wife. She is at present living in Alexandria.

Another early departure is to be S.S.M. Cooper, who leaves us in a month's time, having completed his Python tour, his second in the Middle East. One of the most popular figures in the Regiment, we wish him the very best of luck upon his departure.

In the darts tournament, which has been organised by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club, Fayid, the Mess team has acquitted itself well, and, thanks to the unerring aim of S.Q.M.S. Battell (captain), Sergeant Rogers, S.Q.M.S. Hulme, Sergeant James, S.Q.M.S. Cunningham, Sergeant Bowers, Sergeant Sheldrake and Staff-Sergeant Phillips (R.E.M.E. attached), is now in the final, when its opponents will be the neighbouring North Staffs.

The same success has, unfortunately, not been met with by the Mess table tennis team, which was severely thrashed by the Corporals' Mess team. We hope to get our revenge, however, by waiting for either the promotion of the Corporals' team or their release.

The Mess dances, which are held once a month, are great successes, and are now considered by outside opinion to be the very best in the area.

Sport. The present interest in sport in the Regiment is higher than at any time the present writer can recall in his two years of connection with it.

Our Unit football team, after an indifferent start, has now pulled itself together and, for the rest of the season, promises to be a formidable side. The first sign of its powers was shown when it defeated the present leaders of the league, since when it has remained unbeaten. The most pleasing factor about the Unit football is, however, the terrific keenness in the inter-Squadron games.

The hockey situation also has its pleasing features. Due to the size of the Unit, we have been obliged to enter two sides in the area league, and as a result the strength of both of them has, to a certain extent, been depleted. The "A" team has not met with very much success, but this has been counter-balanced by the efforts of the "B" team, which is now well in the running for league honours. In addition to the league games, the Regiment has also played several friendly games, including one in which a combined side of the Regiment and the attached A.T.S. beat the combined side of the R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. from 107 M.U. Other friendlies have been a series of games against a local German P.O.W. side, which resulted in some exceptionally good, clean games, in which honours rest even.

The Rugby team has not been as successful as in past years, and despite the efforts of Captain Sullivan, Lieutenant Henessey, S.Q.M.S. Wride and Staff-Sergeant Phillips, it has been found difficult to field a stable fifteen. The choice of players is not large but there is terrific keenness amongst the few enthusiasts.

As there has been no contribution from the Regiment to THE WIRE since the end of the cricket season, despite the fact that it is now well behind us, it is worthy of mention that the cricket eleven again attained the strength of previous years and was successful in winning the Canal South District League.

"Ham" Club. The club was formed on 15th August, 1947, and has a present membership of 30. The president is Lieutenant R. G. Wakerley (MD5TS) and the vice-president Major K. E. S. Ellis (MD5KW).

MD5TS has, during the last two months, contacted some 60 countries. His transmitter line up is as follows: ML6, VFO, 807 Buffer Doubler driving into a single 814, giving 50 watts into a three element, 10 metre Rotary Beam.

MD5KW, probably better known as SUIKE or G5KW/Portable, is an old hand at the game and has put us on the right path by passing on the wealth of his experience to us beginners.

Major McAnsh, MD5BU, better known as XABU, has been with us for some time. He recently returned to the fold following a visit to Malta, and is getting restless once again.

Other licensed members of the club are: MD5JH, Signalman Head; MD5AM, Sergeant Rawlings, R.A.F.; MD5MK, Craftsman Mackay; MD5KH, Major Hinton, Royal Signals; MD5TB, Captain Bourdillon, Royal Signals.

The Club's call sign is MD5AP, and the original transmitter, consisting of an ML6, VFO, and two PT 15's, has been giving trouble and had to be abandoned altogether on CW. A new transmitter has been built and recently installed—line up as follows: ML6, VFO; VT501 Buffer; 807 Doubler Driver into two PT15's, giving some 50 watts into a Zepp Aerial. The receiver is an AR77.

The Club has just opened a QSL Bureau for incoming cards only, and we are awaiting the first batch of cards.

Constructional work is being carried out by many members—mainly on receivers. MD5KH is modifying his HRO for 60 mc/s working and reports good progress. MD5MK and MD5JH are building their own transmitters.

The last Club meeting in October was a guest night. Two local R.A.F. "Hams," MD5AL and MD5PC, from

began the great serve, followed by all the enthusiastic No. 3 Forces Broadcasting Unit, Kabrit, gave us an interesting account of their 14 mc/s working, and Major Connell, of Asmara, gave us all the griff on activity in his part of the world.

During the past month, MD5KW has been busy on 6 metres and is to be congratulated on his great success. He has been making many contacts with G, ZSI, ZS6, VQ2, PA and has heard many signals from W.

Great interest and enthusiasm has been shown by the club members, who are eagerly looking forward to increased activities in the future.

PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

January

The last issue of THE WIRE found us planning and awaiting both the Corps Band and the coming of Christmas. Both have now passed. The former, regretfully, and the latter, with the heartfelt remark from the Messing Officer, "Thank heavens it only comes once a year."

The Corps Band spent the greater part of December in one or another part of our scattered Unit, giving several concerts, playing at dances, football matches, and so on. Their visit was much appreciated by all ranks.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., O.B.E., D.S.O., inspected all Squadrons of the Regiment and expressed satisfaction with the working of the Unit.

No. 1 SQUADRON, SARAFAND. The Squadron football team continues the struggle with other members of the Garrison League and now holds eighth position.

The visit of the Corps Band was the highlight of December. The Band, under the leadership of the Corps Director of Music, gave an excellent series of concerts in and around Sarafand.

No. 2 SQUADRON, HAIFA. Several changes in personnel have occurred through release. We were sorry to say goodbye to Corporals Atkinson and Hearn, Lance-Corporal Webb, Signalmen Staines, Fanning and Gilford, all of whom have rendered yeoman service to the Squadron. On the credit side we were pleased to welcome Captain (Tom) Goat to our midst to take charge of Workshops Troop.

Football and hockey are now in full swing. The Squadron has so far played three games of hockey, losing two and winning one. Three games of football have been played, resulting in one win, one draw and one game lost.

At 2200 hours on Saturday, 13th December, Pal North Military Exchange ceased to function after several years of good service. It has been the major commitment of 2 Squadron, and a tribute to the smooth service it has provided can be claimed from the fact that there have been few, if any, complaints.

We regret to announce the death of Signalman Lack, of Pal North Troop, accidentally killed in late November. He was buried in Haifa Military Cemetery, the various messes and troops sending wreaths, while the pall bearers and firing party were provided from Pal North Troop.

R.H.Q. AND No. 3 SQUADRON, JERUSALEM. Arrivals and departures in 3 Squadron have been so numerous that any attempt to chronicle them would produce nothing more than a rather boring nominal roll. Sufficient now to say "Hail and Farewell." Mention must be made, however, of Captain T. A. Fairhurst, who left us in December on Class "A" release, after filling the onerous role of Adjutant over a very difficult period. His place has been taken by Captain L. R. Griffiths, late of 1 Armoured Division.

Christmas passed off with all the usual and unusual celebrations. Christmas morning saw Officers and Sergeants in weird array battling fiercely in a sea of mud in what was described as a comic football match. It was. An excellent Christmas dinner followed, served by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Our C.S.O., Brigadier Kennett, paid us a visit and was observed to be usefully employed opening beer bottles. The afternoon was spent quietly in Egyptian P.T.

On Boxing Day a Donkey Derby and a Donkey Polo Match were held, the Officers winning the silver cup for the polo, so very kindly presented by themselves. In the evening, Tom Moffat, of Forces Broadcasting, entertained us and conducted a quiz, in which the Officers' and Sergeants' team was soundly trounced by the superior guesswork of the O.R.s' team.

Football. Squadron H.Q. are top of the Inter-Troop League, having won all matches played. The Squadron team have, unfortunately, been knocked out of the East Palestine Sub-District Cup in the first round.

Hockey. In the East Palestine Sub-District League we hold second position, the 1st Suffolk Regiment taking the lead on goal average only.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

December

Officers' Mess. On the eve of Christmas the Commanding Officer and Officers gave a Christmas party to the children of all married personnel within the Unit. Sincere thanks to all wives for the great help they rendered—the kiddies did really enjoy themselves so much. Our thanks also to a superb and very successful Father Christmas—Mr. Dawson, ex-Major Dawson, Royal Signals—who inspired confidence amongst the children and then from a multi-coloured illuminated Christmas tree handsomely distributed parcels of pleasure.

It hardly need be recorded, I'm sure, that all adults present let their memories wander back along the path of the past to their own childhood days. In any case, they all did well pushing toy motor cars, spinning humming tops and the like around and amongst the young and happy throng. The coming of darkness demanded the termination of the children's Christmas Eve. Thus they departed.

Later, all married families, minus children, continued the festivities in the Officers' Mess. All had a most enjoyable time.

Christmas morning was spent Ascot style—a day at the races—for donkey racing was the main attraction. Much enthusiasm was shown by riders, but unfortunately the donkeys were in their usual form and frame of mind, having not been "A.B.C.A.D." beforehand by our educationalist Corporal Bland on that persuasive pamphlet, "Incentives to Work." However, the morning was successful and gave all participants and spectators an appetite and thirst for Christmas "Big Eats." The bookies, Signalmen Newton and Rodenby, are now worrying the Orderly Room for a vocational training course on bookmaking after having run their book at a dead loss. "Too many spivs in Trip. Sigs.," they constantly mutter now.

1300 hours. Scene: Dining Hall. Large rows of tables, expectant diners, a beautiful "air" of turkey and Christmas pudding, etc. The C.S.O. and C.O., Major Madeley, waiters of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. It is said that both Messes were afterwards inundated with offers of jobs for members as Maitre D'Hotel and head waiters with any reputable eating house this side of Suez. Old Jimmy was certainly upheld—Certa Cito and not a drop of gravy spilled.

Afternoon came, and to many dreamland . . .

Boxing Day brought along besides a beautiful day a fancy dress football match between Officers and Sergeants v. O.R.s.

Photograph hereunder tells its own story.

Standing: S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Knight, Corporal (Hon. Sergeant) Cantle, Sergeant Gilbert, Sergeant (Ali) Rogers, Lieutenant M. R. Potter. Sitting: S.S.M. (Wog) Wood.

Result: Two teams with heads purged of fog and those little men with hammers and anvils; much fun and an acquired thirst.

Boxing evening was enjoyed by all, thus bringing the Yuletide festivities within the Squadron to a very enjoyable conclusion.

New Year crept in very quietly, no doubt due to the resolutions made after Christmas. Still, everyone enjoyed and will remember a memorable Christmas spent with Trip. Sig. Squadron.

Soccer. The Squadron soccer team is gradually creeping towards the peak of the league, having won three out of their last four games.

Hockey. Our team of sticks is also upholding the Squadron's prestige, having only lost one game out of seven. This loss was to a very gallant and good Battalion team of the 2nd Cheshires, who departed from Tripoli with the memory of an excellent game. "The best we have had during our sojourn in this part of Africa," so many of them remarked.

Arrivals. Ex-L.I.A.P., U.K., Lieutenant M. R. (Gillie) Potter, Corporal Christian.

Departures. S.Q.M.S. Bert Harrington (Python), Sergeant Bert Gilbert and wife (Python and release).

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

January

The strength of the Squadron is rapidly diminishing with the continual ebb of personnel returning to the U.K. for demobilisation; however, we are hoping that the Unit will have increased in numbers by the latter part of January. Despite the fact that the Unit is so undermanned, a high standard of work has been maintained throughout the first months of winter, and the Line Troop must be complimented for the efficiency of the tele-communication system of the Rock.

Christmas was, on the whole, a great success, and following an excellent dinner, the result of much hard work on the part of Cooks Broadbent, Clark and Hartshorn, S.S.M. Bradbury proposed the health of the C.O. Captain Terry wished the Unit the compliments of the season. During the meal, Corporal Betts showed remarkable prowess as a waiter and appeared to be in a condition fit for the occasion.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. McIntosh spent Christmas in Tangier with their family, but the Colonel has since returned at the expiration of his leave.

The Unit has not yet been fortunate in drawing a winning ticket of the Gibraltar Government Lottery, even though a Unit Syndicate has been formed, purchasing a number of tickets on each occasion; nevertheless, hopes and expectations are still running high.

The first of a series of organised trips to Spain was successfully carried out on Sunday, the 28th December, when 17 men of the Unit, accompanied by S.S.M. Bradbury, visited Tarifa and Algeciras. All who went had a most enjoyable day and are anxiously awaiting future trips. This facility enables men to see the Spanish interior with a minimum of difficulty and cost and is consequently much appreciated.

With the passing of Christmas we were sorry to lose five prominent members of the Unit, who proceeded home for Class "A" release, S.S.M. Spelman, Lance-Corporals Sharps and Cox and Signalmen Whitehouse and Crosby, all 64 group; they were probably as pleased to leave Gibraltar as we were loath to see them go. We wish them prosperity and good fortune as civilians in 1948.

Football. The Unit has been less fortunate this season, but this may only be attributed to the difficulties the team has had to overcome. Of the eight matches played, the team has won only four, an anti-climax after last season's continual victories. This is obviously due to numerous changes and shortage of players and not to the spirit of the team, which is as high as ever. Perhaps our luck will change for the better with the next six matches to be played.

Hockey. The hockey team has played well, winning three of six matches played. The loss of S.S.M. Spelman was a severe blow, as he was undoubtedly the team's outstanding player. Let us hope results will continue to be favourable without his support.

Territorial Army

No. 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Since our notes appeared in the December issue we have had a fairly busy time.

We arranged our third dance of the season on 22nd November, at which 200 people made merry and enjoyed a first-class evening. We even had a little over to swell our none too ample funds. Our next is due early in the New Year.

Our training has proceeded quite smoothly and the good attendances have been very gratifying. Up to now we have concentrated mainly on lectures, and we have endeavoured to be general in our talks and not too technical, so that all ranks can be better acquainted with the considerable scope and duties of an Army Signal Regiment.

On 18th December we had a visit from the Army Method of Instruction Demonstration Team, who gave an excellent performance both to ourselves and our honoured visitor, Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. (C.S.O., Eastern Command). Brigadier Steward inspected our Headquarters, and afterwards, in a chat to the C.O. and the Officers, gave us much useful advice and tips on future Signal policy.

Our Wireless Squadron, consisting of two Medium Wireless, two Wireless Carrier, and one High Speed Troop, with S.S.M. Stickells as prime mover, has rigged up a station and establishes communication daily with our sister Regiment, No. 1/10 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., at Birmingham, and No. 49 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment at Leeds. We are using a 33 set and they are using 19 H.P.s. Transmissions have been fives either way, R/T and C/W.

We should like to contact other Units, and we should be pleased if anyone interested would get in touch with us, subject, of course, to the sanction of C.S.O.s concerned.

Meanwhile we look forward to an intrustrious New Year and trust that during 1948 we shall have recruited enough ex-Corps chaps to form the nucleus of a training team in readiness for the first National Service Intake into the T.A.

No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

An exchange of New Year greetings between the Quartermasters of No. 1/20 and No. 2/20 Army Signal Regiments T.A. *via* radio only goes to show that, etc., etc.—if you see what we mean. It certainly proves something, as the driver said when he left his pliers on the terminals of the Jeep battery all night.

One of our quite promising recruits, Signalman J. McGuire, dumped all his kit on the Quartermaster's doorstep on New Year's Day and announced that he had joined the Regular Army. We wish him the best of luck, but at the same time we do hope that this is not the start of that "Ten Little Nigger Boys" nonsense. Our venture into the world of entertainment on Boxing Day with a Grand Dance was a success. We are emboldened ('ark at me) to run a series of monthly dances for the Unit on the last Saturday in every month. Why not call in and see us? We hope to make ourselves better known to the local youth.

The large shabby stage has at last been demolished, and a new modern-style platform, designed by Captain T. W. Baynes, has been erected at the opposite end of the Drill Hall by T.A. personnel. Foreman, Sergeant Docker. Fluorescent lighting is by E. C. Warrilow, contractor and recent recruit, who is familiar with these premises from his 48th Divisional Signals days. A new band is to be tried out on 31st January. They'd better be good.

Training, of course, goes ahead strongly. We are in possession of a 53 station, Nos. 19 and 22 sets, teleprinters, carrier equipment, switchboards, telephones, tools, vehicles and coloured chalk. We still require a lot more men to come and take an interest. We also need some R.E.M.E. types to form the L.A.D.

All this alleged talk about being "browned off" with the Service is just a lot of hooey. The truth of it is: (a) Petticoat influence, and (b) a considerable doubt as to whether the recruit will be able to afford a week or more at camp. We can only hope that the former will be overcome when a few ladies have spent a pleasant Sunday evening in our Recreation Room at Cateswell House, whilst (b) depends largely on the attitude to be adopted by civilian firms and municipal authorities. If the week or fortnight camp is to be regarded as the annual holiday with pay then it is tough luck on mother and nippers. That it will all come out right in the end we have no doubt, but judging by past experience the "end" is always so very near the end that there is a mad rush to catch up. Don't you just love these clear and concise sentences? We will publish Part II orders again next month. Meanwhile, a welcome to Captain G. F. Hoe, who has started a Field Security Section with commendable secrecy and invisible men.

"BARLEUX"

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

Christmas and New Year festivities being over and offices only just having got down to work again, news is scanty. But we are not altogether defeated, as surprisingly enough we again have some family news to report. We wish to congratulate S.S.M. and Mrs. Drake on the birth of a daughter, Rosemary, born at Tidworth Military Families' Hospital on New Year's Eve. The family Messing strength is now five. Though this is the second month in succession in which we have reported a birth, let me hasten to assure all readers that this will not be a permanently monthly feature of our Regimental Notes.

We hope to give some details of training activities in the next issue.

"SIXTY-THREE"

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNALS UNIT (T.A.), EASTLEIGH, HANTS. From the training point of view December has been a quiet month. Much the same epithet would appear to apply to our building contractors, whose efforts to re-floor and re-decorate the Drill Hall are only revealed by the gradual increase in size of the piles of rubble before the front door. The rate of increase is only just sufficient to prevent the appearance of a natural rock garden.

However, we must be thankful that we still had the use of the main hall for our New Year's Gala Ball which, socially and financially, proved a great success. Mr. Glasby, our private magician, produced Christmas trees, showers of balloons, a cabaret, and a Midnight Fairy. Who could ask for more?

Major Hencher and his Method of Instruction Team came down from Catterick to provide us with a most amusing and instructive performance. For the occasion our numbers were swelled to more than sixty by contingents from No. 535 Light A.A. Regiment, R.A., No. 100 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, and No. 25 (M.) A.A. Signal Squadron, the latter including about 25 A.T.S.

The proceedings were enlivened by several sudden deaths, the first of which was so realistic that it almost became necessary to administer first-aid to some of the female elements in the audience, one of whom had already been reduced to tears by an over-brutal instructor. However, by the end of the performance we could all face disaster with a smile, and, after receiving restoratives in the Canteen, were even able to trip the light fantastic to the strains of some instructional music on the gramophone.

On the night preceding the show, Sergeants Payne and Shields had elected to sleep in the Drill Hall, blissfully unaware that it was a training evening for the Girls' Training Corps. We understand that a good time was had by all.

Our thanks are due to Major Hencher and his Thespian Team for a grand show, and we look forward to seeing them again very soon.

We have had our first hockey match against a scratch team from University College, Southampton, and, to our surprise and joy, beat them. Now we are going to get down to it in earnest. I hasten to add that the same, of course, applies to training.

"ASSULIKET"

42nd (LANCASHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The main event this month was a dinner held in the Officers' Mess on 7th January, to which the following guests were invited: Brigadier W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E., C.S.O. Western Command, Colonel T. Blatherwick, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., A.D.C., J.P., chairman, East Lancashire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, Colonel J. B. Coates, O.B.E., M.C., secretary, East Lancashire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, and Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E., B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., A.M.C.T., who is on a course at Manchester University. Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command, Major-General G. C. Evans, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C., 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Division, T.A., and Colonel W. S Ashley, O.B.E., T.D., our Honorary Colonel, were also invited, but were unavoidable prevented from attending. Their places were taken by Brigadier F. J. Mitchell, C.B.E., M.C., officiating G.O.C., 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Division, T.A., and Brigadier G. W. P. N. Burden, D.S.O., Commander, 127th Infantry Brigade, T.A. His Worship the Mayor of Stretford, Councillor E. Forbes, J.P., was also invited, but owing to a Town Council meeting, he was only able to partake in the festivities after the dinner. Everyone enjoyed themselves, but the menu for the dinner is strictly confidential!

Welcome additions to our Permanent Staff in October and November were S.Q.M.S. (Foreman of Signals) J. U. Wolfenden, Sergeant W. P. Scott and Corporal G. Harrison, who form our workshops staff. They proved very useful during the extensive preparations necessarily made for the first dance held in the Drill Hall since the floor was smoothed and polished; it was held on 20th December by the Manchester Branch of the Royal Signals Association and was a great success, over 400 people attending. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of many more social events to be held by the Branch and the Unit.

No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q. AND No. 37 SQUADRON (LEEDS).—A New Year's Eve party was held in the O.R.s' canteen at Gibraltar Barracks by R.H.Q. and 37 Squadron. A large majority of the members of the Unit attended with their wives, husbands, boy friends, girl friends.

Thanks are due to the members of the Entertainments Committee, who most certainly made the party a success.

Congratulations. Our congratulations are extended to Lance-Corporal B. Corry, A.T.S., of R.H.W. Staff, and Corporal R. Templeton, Royal Signals, 49 Armoured Division Signal Regiment, T.A., on the occasion of their engagement.

38 SQUADRON (ROTHERHAM). The first annual dinner of 38 Squadron, held in the canteen of the Fitzwilliam Road Drill Hall on 15th December, 1947, was a grand affair.

The guests included the C.O., Adjutant and A.T.S. Junior Commander. All the Christmas fare was provided by Squadron personnel, and the menu included such items as "Poulets aux Marché Noir" and "Auxiliary Pudding." About 30 soldiers and A.T.S. were present at the dinner, and wives and sweethearts were invited to the social afterwards. Will Major H. J. Funnell, Royal Signals (Jackee), believed to be in Palestine, forward present address to Captain J. Kilner, c/o 38 A.A. (M.) Signal Squadron, T.A., the Drill Hall, Fitzwilliam Road, Rotherham, Yorks, for news of present whereabouts of members of 4 G.H.Q. Signals, Baghdad.

Members of No. 38 A.A. (M.) Signal Squadron, T.A., at Technical Training. (The O.C., Captain J Kilner, Royal Signals (T.A.), at the "printer").

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

REGIMENTAL H.Q. AND H.Q. SQUADRON. The festivities of Christmas and the New Year having been left behind, the Unit as a whole is settling down in earnest to its training programme, and it is hoped that in the near future all our ex-Signals personnel will be again holding their trade ratings.

Amongst the Christmas festivities of the Unit, prior place must go to No. 1 Squadron at Exeter, who on Saturday, 20th December, 1947, held a Christmas Party for the children of their T.A. personnel. Wives, of course, were invited, and from all accounts the elders enjoyed themselves as much as the kiddies. Amongst the attractions were a Grand Tea Fight, and a film show given by the Adjutant (Captain J. C. Clinch, Royal Signals). Ex-personnel of Guards Armoured Divisional Signals please note that "Liberation of Brussels," directed and produced by Captain J. C. Clinch, was NOT repeat NOT shown. Father Christmas was wirelessed for—Signals again produced the goods, and the father of all Yuletide celebrations arrived and distributed presents from his ever-full sack.

On New Year's Eve, No. 1 Squadron held another Ball which, notwithstanding the poor weather, was very well attended. At a few minutes to midnight, 1947 (represented by the old man and his scythe) was, on the stroke of midnight, driven out by the A.C.F. Bugle Band which was, of course, the signal for the usual New Year greetings.

On Saturday, 10th January, 1948, our No. 2 Squadron, Bridgwater, held another Dance, which was extremely well attended and an unqualified success.

The Royal Signals Method of Instruction Team visited us and gave two grand shows on Monday, 12th January, 1948, at Exeter, and Tuesday, 13th January, 1948, at Taunton. This team, composed of Major W. R. G. Hencher, Royal Signals, Sergeant (Wangle) Payne and Sergeant (Jock) Shields, certainly demonstrated how NOT to instruct. Major Hencher, after taking the part of an extremely bad Sergeant Instructor, ably assisted by Sergeant (Jock) Shields as the more than dumb Signalman and Sergeant (Wangle) Payne as the Officer we pray never to meet, gave us all a short résumé of the sketch, pointing out the bad method of instruction. Two films completed the show. We feel indebted to the Royal Signals Method of Instruction Team for giving us a good show, and look forward to receiving a visit from them again. Their help in pointing out the "Method of Instruction" to us will be of great assistance both now and in the future.

Since our last contribution, a change has taken place in our Permanent Staff, Sergeant V. Sampson has left us to join No. 23 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., and in his place we now have Sergeant (Tim) Taylor, from No. 15 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment, T.A.

New Year greetings to ex-P.S.I.s of this Unit, R.S.M. (Dave) Parks, now with No. 11 (M.) Signal Regiment, T.A., Sergeant J. Noble with No. 89 A.G.R.A. (Fd.) Signal Squadron, and Sergeant V. Sampson with No. 23 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

No. 3 SQUADRON, TORQUAY, DEVON. Our Unit Dance at the Spa in October, 1947, was a very good one from all accounts, but accidents will happen in the best regulated circles, and the spirits of Unit members were somewhat damped. Anyway, it was an ambitious start and paid its way comfortably, so one day we'll have another.

On 3rd November last, practically all the Squadron members paid a visit to the local G.P.O. automatic exchange and trunks switchboard room. Thanks to the G.P.O. staff, we all had a very enjoyable and informative time. I think the trip was an eye-opener to all, and with the instructive talks by G.P.O. engineer i/c the automatic exchange and the help of a large number of switchboard operators on the trunks boards, who got hold of us individually and gave us the works, we were very sorry to leave, even to go for a drink. We are all very grateful to the chief engineer for arranging the trip for us and to the staff for their hearty greeting and very pleasant evening. In return it seems the best we can do is to wish them all a very prosperous New Year (especially with their penny points pools).

To-night is our Bounty Night, so we have reached a milestone in our career, and in the coming year we hope both to enjoy ourselves and work steadily through Colonel Frith's training programme for Signals of the South-West.

"TOPPER"

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment closed down for three weeks or so over the festive season to enable the Permanent Cadre to take what remains of their end-of-war leave, etc. Consequently there is not much activity to relate.

On 15th December we challenged the Old Comrades' Association to a games tournament. Although this was our first tournament in which we played as teams, a very creditable performance was given, in which we succeeded in winning the darts championship (despite the threat by the C.O. to revert S.S.M. Lloyd to Lance-Corporal if he did not get the darts on the board), though the final result of the tournament is rather in doubt, due to the hilariousness of the latter part of the evening. Photograph taken during the evening is reproduced.

On 18th December we had an all ranks social evening in the canteen, which had been given a very festive appearance by the decorations put up by S.S.M. Lloyd

and a band of helpers. The evening was very gay with dancing, musical chairs and other frivolities, providing amusement for all who came. There were pleasant surprises when four promotions to Corporal and four to Lance-Corporal were announced.

Now we are back at work again and are carrying out training every Wednesday evening. We hope to see some more old Signals fellows along in the future. You will all be welcome.

SPORTS NOTES

Rugby

On 6th December, in wet weather, Royal Signals (Catterick) met Roundhay in the fifth round of the Yorkshire Cup. Royal Signals were without several of their usual players, including Officer-Cadet Glynn Davies, who was playing in a Welsh Trial, and a strenuous game in conditions which made handling difficult ended in a draw of three points all. The re-play takes place at Roundhay on 24th January, 1948.

On 10th December, Royal Signals (Catterick) travelled to London and proved far too good for St. Bartholomew's Hospital, winning by 50 points to six. The game was played in fine weather and the fast, dry ground suited our backs, who combined splendidly. Signalman J. Hall hooked well, and the Signals' play was of a high standard. Officer-Cadet Glynn Davies was in brilliant form and scored five tries, while T. G. H. Jackson scored three tries.

On 12th December, Headingley were the visitors to Catterick, and this leading Yorkshire club was defeated by nine points to eight in a close game which developed into a forward struggle in the wet weather.

The Corps match *v.* R.E.M.E. was played at Arborfield, Reading, on 17th December, 1947, and Signals won by 13 points to 10. Corporal Goddard (2) and Second-Lieutenant Williams (1) scored tries for us, one of which was converted by Sergeant Parffitt. Owen Jones was prominent for R.E.M.E., scoring a try and kicking two goals.

Royal Signals (Catterick) played Glasgow University, at Glasgow, on 20th December, and the Press were unanimous

ARMY CUP SEMI-FINAL
(S.T.C. v. O.C.T.U. and S.O.S.)
A line-out

ARMY CUP SEMI-FINAL
(S.T.C. v. O.C.T.U. and S.O.S.)
Sergeant Parffitt kicks a penalty goal for S.T.C.

in thinking Glasgow University were lucky to draw. Corporal Evans scored for Signals in the first half in reply to a penalty goal for Varsity, kicked by Ferguson. In the second half, Signals had all the better of the game, but the Varsity defence held out until Froggett cut through from the halfway line and scored a try under the posts. Sergeant Parffitt unaccountably failed to convert. An isolated raid by the Varsity resulted in MacIntosh scoring an unconverted try in the last minute to level the scores.

The last eight clubs of those who started playing from the beginning in the Yorkshire Cup Competition were drawn against each other to play for the Yorkshire Shield, and Royal Signals (Catterick) found themselves drawn to play Sheffield, at Sheffield, on 3rd January. Royal Signals, who had been "tipped" as favourites by the *Sports Chronicle*, for both the Yorkshire Shield and Yorkshire Cup Competitions, were unexpectedly beaten three—six in a muddy game.

One of the best games ever seen at Catterick was that when S.T.C. played O.C.T.U.—School of Signals in the Semi-Final (Home Commands) of the Army Cup on 12th January. The score was opened by Sergeant Parffitt kicking a penalty goal for S.T.C. from near the touchline, and soon after some quick following up by Rees, after a kick ahead by Froggett, increased the score to 8—0 in favour of S.T.C. A good forward rush by O.C.T.U. took play to the corner flag, where Officer-Cadet Huntley dived over for a try. A few minutes later Major Geary, picking up after a loose scrum, scored near the posts. Officer-Cadet Taylor converted. O.C.T.U. took the lead when Major Hamersley scored an unconverted try, and at half-time O.C.T.U. led 11—8. After change of ends, with the wind behind them, S.T.C. showed their superiority, and O.C.T.U. were seldom out of their own half. Second-Lieutenant Williams (2) and Corporal Rawson (1) scored tries, neither of which were converted, and Signalman Froggett dropped a neat goal, leaving S.T.C. winners by 21 points to 11 in a hard, clean and well-fought game. The game was

characterised by great keenness and much good play on both sides. Perhaps most prominent for O.C.T.U. were Officer-Cadet Huntley, Officer-Cadet Wheeler and Major Geary among the forwards, and Captain Fairman, who played well at back. Officer-Cadet Glynn Davies and Officer-Cadet Aspinall were closely marked and never got far. For S.T.C., Sergeant Parffitt played a fine game at full-back. Corporal Shaw was the best of a clever three-quarter line, and Signalman Froggett's kicking was a feature of the game and his dropped goal a neat effort. Among the forwards, Signalman J. Hall hooked very well and got the ball from most of the scrums, and Corporal Rawson, Signalman Broderick, Corporal Goddard and Major Rowntree were often prominent. Second-Lieutenant Williams led the S.T.C. well, and their rushes severely tested the O.C.T.U. defence.

The record of Rugby matches played to date by Royal Signals (Catterick) is as follows:

				Points	
Played	*Won*	*Drawn*	*Lost*	*For*	*Against*
16	11	2	3	311	86

OFFICER-CADET N. M. HALL
(Royal Signals and England)

Great sympathy is felt for Officer-Cadet N. M. Hall (Royal Signals and England). Signalman Hall (as he then was) was playing for No. 6 Training Regiment *v.* No. 1 Training Regiment in a Catterick Garrison Cup match, and during the course of the game the ball hit him in the eye. Hall experienced only momentary inconvenience, which neither he nor anyone else paid any attention to, and, in fact, it was not until some eight or nine weeks afterwards that Hall felt that his sight was not as good as it should be. He had, meanwhile, captained Yorkshire in their successful game against Lancashire, and had scored 14 points himself in the final trial, England *v.* The Rest (20th December), which naturally ensured his selection for England *v.* Australians. Unfortunately, a week before this match an examination by a specialist revealed serious trouble, and an operation on the eye has been performed. Hall has been having a very trying time with both eyes bandaged for weeks, and everyone will wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

Hockey

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. Old Watsonians, at Edinburgh

The Royal Signals (Catterick) Team made its first visit to Scotland in search of fresh honours on 10th January. The event was heralded in the Scottish evening papers as "The visit of the all-conquering team from South of the Border"—a compliment viewed with some misgiving, it being known that the Watsonians have a very strong eleven and were, to us, something of an unknown quantity. One and all, however, were determined to leave their mark behind.

The game was full of interest from the start, although on the rather heavy ground the Signals team took some little while to settle down. Play was even throughout the first half, the Watsonians scoring first through their inside-left after a spell of heavy pressure on their part. This setback appeared to put fresh life into the Signals' team, and an equaliser quickly followed, scored by Lieutenant Lines. Half-time came with the score still 1—1.

The opening of the second half was disastrous to the Signals team: the Watsonians pressed heavily and were soon two goals in the lead, the goals being scored within five minutes of each other. This reverse stimulated the visiting team, who from then to the end of the game exerted pressure, goals being scored by Major Evans and Lieutenant Smith. The final result was 3—3.

In the evening the Signals' team had a thoroughly enjoyable time as guests of honour of the Old Watsonians. Dinner was followed by impromptu entertainments and a sing-song, the evening being rounded off with "Auld Lang Syne" and the Army way of showing appreciation—"For they are Jolly Good Fellows," followed by three lusty cheers for the Old Watsonians. The Signals team unanimously declared the visit to be "a right royal week-end."

The Signals team was as follows: Sergeant Morris, Captain Parkinson, Sergeant Weeks, Officer-Cadet Ashworth, Corporal Gibbons, Captain Gordon, Corporal Urquhart, Signalman Taylor, Lieutenant Smith, Major Evans (captain), and Lieutenant Lines. Reserve, Corporal Leach. Umpire, Captain Barton.

* * *

B.A.O.R. Representative Teams

Royal Signals in B.A.O.R. were represented by one hockey and two Rugger players in the B.A.O.R. Teams which visited the U.K. during December, 1947.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, S.X. Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R., was one of fourteen hockey players who made the tour, and he played against Aldershot Services and the U.K. Army. B.A.O.R. beat the R.M.A. Sandhurst 9—0, drew with Aldershot Services 4—4, and lost to the U.K. Army 0—3.

Second-Lieutenant T. E. Richardson, No. 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, and Lance-Corporal Vater, No. 1 Wireless Regiment, were among the nineteen Rugger players who visited the U.K. with the B.A.O.R. Rugger team. They played in both games, one against the U.K. Army, who won 17—11, and the other against the R.M.A. Sandhurst, who won 17—3.

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During the month of December, 1947, 75 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £406 13s. 6d.

Benevolent Fund

Donations Received for the Fund

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters, British Forces, India and Pakistan	197	2	4
Eighth Army Signal Regiment	10	0	0
18th L. of C. Signal Regiment	413	3	9
2nd Independent Squadron, Air Formation Signals, C.M.F.	75	14	6
War Office Signal Regiment	10	10	7
Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Troop	1	2	0
Kent Coast Troop	3	18	5
No. 67 Wing Signal Troop	1	1	0
Colombo Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess	26	0	0
Birmingham Branch, Royal Signals Association	10	10	0
Liverpool Branch, Royal Signals Association	10	0	0
Army Benevolent Fund	2,000	0	0
Mrs. Walker	10	0	0
C.Q.M.S. J. H. Fish	1	8	0
Mrs. K. Wakeling		5	0
Mr. D. Bewick		10	0
Mr. J. Harfield		5	0
No. 1 Depot Regiment (Sale of Kits)	1	7	0
Headquarters Collection Boxes	3	16	8
Total Receipts	£2,776	14	3

Summary of Grants Disbursed

Purpose	No. of Cases	Amount £	s.	d.
General Assistance	25	116	0	0
Rent, Rates and Insurance	4	17	0	0
Cots and Prams	9	49	0	0
Beds and Bedding	3	16	0	0
Furniture	5	28	10	0
Clothing	5	22	0	0
Hospital and Doctors' Bills	10	60	11	0
Fares	2	13	0	0
Spectacles and Surgical Appliances	3	14	12	6
Funerals	1	13	0	0
Removals	2	6	10	0
Rehabilitation	3	45	0	0
Dentist's Bills	1	2	0	0
Tools	1	2	10	0
Chelsea Pensioner (Christmas grant)	1	1	0	0
Totals	75	£406	13	6

Analysis

Discharged or released soldiers, 48; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 15; widows of deceased soldiers, 12.

Old Comrades' Association

New members registered during the month of December, 1947:

Life members	41
Annual members	69

Signals Association Branch Notes

Birmingham

Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., was with us again and took his usual place in the "chair" on Thursday, 1st January. This was the meeting held over from Thursday, 25th December, which, for a reason no one is prepared to reveal, was considered a most unsuitable day for the discussion of Branch affairs. Talking about affairs, all ours are in a very satisfactory state, thanks to Captain Ironmonger and his efficient helpers. They are likely to stay that way so long as Ralph remains on the job and the present Committee agree to carry on for a further term. There is still time for me to remind you once more that the annual meeting will take place in the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, on Thursday, 26th February, at 7 p.m.

One subject that came up for discussion concerned the regrettable absence of a detachment of the Birmingham Branch from the Memorial Service held at the Hall of Memory on 9th November. It was firmly resolved that the Branch would be well represented in November, 1948.

Unlike the man in the radio programme, I do not make deliberate mistakes. It just comes natural with me. In the December Wire I told you about a mythical Vic King, who went to Canada. Take your scissors and cut it all out. No, not those, silly; they're mother's. This is the "gen." Messrs. V. D. Key and F. T. Eccles sailed on 28th October (I think) for Canada. They arrived safely and are now in a lumber camp chopping down trees as fast as they can. We wish them the best of luck, and would like to ask how their blisters are getting on. My apologies. A disappointing absence of T.A. members was referred to when the Branch meeting at Cateswell House in December was discussed. This meeting was very pleasant and quite well attended, and it was felt that a little closer contact with the T.A. members would have resulted in a recruit or two for the Signal Unit. Mr. Les Robson continues his good work finding jobs for ex-Service men. He includes 152 ex-Signals placed in the right employment during the past year.

There is room for a few more members in the Crown Hotel on the last Thursday in the month. Make an effort, chaps.

"Barleux"

Glasgow

Greetings to all serving and ex-members of Royal Signals from the Glasgow Branch of the O.C.A.

We are still increasing our membership, and have now a total of 569 members. The Branch is greatly indebted to the local T.A. Association and to the Officer Commanding No. 50 L. of C. Signals for the use of a hut, which we intend to utilise as club premises. This concession is appreciated, and no doubt will allow our Secretary and Chairman to be in closer contact with personnel of the Branch.

Despite our difficulties we still maintain our social fes-

tivities, and we held a very successful dance at 21 Jardine Street on 14th November, 1947. This was followed by a re-union dinner held by members of G.H.Q. Signals, ex-Supplementary Reserve. In attendance were three ex-Commanding Officers of the Unit—Brigadier-General Harris, who came from Edinburgh for the occasion; Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Cumming, who commanded the Unit in France during the war, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Robertson, who commanded us in the days before we were mechanised. We were also honoured by the presence at the dinner of Lieutenant-Colonel T. M. Niven, Chairman of Glasgow Old Comrades' Association.

In our next notes for THE WIRE we hope to give all interested some news as to the development of our Club. Until then, "Cheerio for the noo" to all Signals.

If these short notes should catch the eye of any ex-Royal Signals members in Glasgow or district, again we tender a hearty welcome to join us in our efforts to maintain that friendly comradeship which existed during our Service days.

Bristol

The Bristol Branch of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association held an extraordinary general meeting at the New Drill Hall, Horfield, Bristol, on Thursday, 18th December, 1947, followed by a social evening.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, D. G. Hamlin; vice-chairman, J. S. Hill; hon. secretary, A. S. Wallen; assistant hon. secretary, J. Righton; hon. treasurer, E. A. Randell; committee, D. P. J. Holbrook, B. E. Barr and L. R. Jenkins.

The Secretary's address is: 47 Chester Park Road, Fishponds, Bristol.

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The Official Organ of the SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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☆

MARCH • 1948
Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 3**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

ROYAL SIGNALS WAR MEMORIAL

In our December number we published the decision of the Royal Signals Corps' Committee to establish two Royal Signals War Memorial Holiday Clubs as the Corps War Memorial.

Premises in the Bournemouth Area have been purchased, and we now publish the Charter which has been drawn up by the Trustees and approved by the Corps Committee.

* * * *

ROYAL SIGNALS MEMORIAL HOUSE, BOURNEMOUTH

CHARTER

1. *Objects of the House.* In conformity with the majority wish of the Corps a permanent war memorial in honour of all ranks, Royal Signals, who lost their lives in the war of 1939-45 has been established in the South of England. (A second house is to be purchased in the North of England at a later date.)

The house, which is freehold and completely furnished, has been purchased by the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund.

A memorial volume inscribed with the names and regimental particulars of all officers and other ranks who died in the 1939-45 war will be preserved in Mercury House (and also in the second house when purchased).

The objects of the house are to provide:

(i) Rest for those members and ex-members of the Corps who are considered to be in need of it (see paragraph 6 below); and

(ii) Holiday accommodation for members and ex-members of the Corps, and their families, at reasonable tariffs (see paragraph 12 below).

2. *Title.* The memorial house in the South of England has been named Mercury House. Its full address is:

14 Florence Road,
Boscombe,
Bournemouth, Hants.
Telephone No.: Boscombe 86.

3. *Management.*

(*a*) Trustees appointed by the Royal Signals Corps Committee are:
(i) General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.
(ii) Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.
(iii) Major-General V. J. E. Westropp, C.B., C.B.E.

(*b*) The house will be controlled, in accordance with the general policy laid down by the Royal Signals Corps Committee, by a Committee of Management composed of:

Chairman: C.S.O. Southern Command (*ex officio*).

Members: A serving Officer, Royal Signals (nominated by the Chairman); a retired Regular officer (invited by the Royal Signals Corps Committee); General Secretary, Royal Signals Association; one member to be elected by the Bournemouth Branch, Royal Signals Association.

Hon. Secretary: To be elected by the Bournemouth Branch, Royal Signals Association.

4. A Resident Manager, an ex-member of the Corps, has been appointed by

the Royal Signals Corps Committee. The Manager, who will be assisted by his wife, is responsible to the Committee of Management for the running of the house ; both are whole-time paid workers.

5. *Description of House.* Mercury House is located in a good position, near Boscombe shopping centre and within a few minutes of the sea front. It is near the main Bournemouth–Christchurch road ; the main line railway station at Bournemouth and bus routes are within easy reach, as are also theatres, cinemas and other places of amusement.

The house contains two reception rooms, 11 bedrooms (h. and c. basins in all rooms), bath, garages and excellent heating and cooking arrangements. Rooms are bright and furniture and decoration are good.

The house has been run as a private hotel and has been taken over complete. It is unlicensed and will remain so.

The Manager is allotted one double bedroom and one small reception room from the above accommodation for use as living and office accommodation.

6. The Royal Signals Association has the right to reserve rooms for deserving cases by giving two weeks' notice. Persons living in the house as guests of the Corps will be treated in every way as other residents and may occupy their rooms for such periods as may be decided by the Royal Signals Association.

7. *Use of the House.*

(*a*) Rooms in the house may be reserved by members, past and present, of the Corps, who may be accompanied by their wives and children.

(*b*) All ranks share equally in the use of the house.

(*c*) During the period April to September inclusive reservations will only be made for a maximum period of a fortnight ; at other times of the year for a maximum period of one month. Reservations may be extended by similar periods if the rooms are not required by other visitors.

(*d*) Not more than two rooms will normally be allotted to Officers or ex-Officers, but the Manager will use his discretion where rooms might otherwise remain vacant.

(*e*) The Manager will keep a register of all visitors to the house.

(*f*) Applications for accommodation will be dealt with by the Resident Manager, to whom they should be addressed as in paragraph 1.

8. *Finance.* The house will be self-supporting and is run for the benefit of members and ex-members of Royal Signals.

9. The Manager will keep the accounts of the house. He will keep :

House account, including rates, other outgoings, repairs to fabric, replacement and repairs of equipment and furnishings.

Messing, including wages of staff.

Insurance premiums on policies for house and contents. (The Committee of Management will hold the policies.)

Bank accounts will be kept in the name of Mercury House and the Resident Manager is authorised by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to operate them.

10. The Royal Signals Corps Committee will place a working balance of £500 from the Royal Signals War Memorial Fund at the disposal of the Committee of Management.

11. The Committee of Management will arrange for the accounts to be audited annually as at 31st December and for copies to be forwarded to the Secretary, Royal Signals Corps Committee. The audit board will check also the inventory and stocks.

12. *Charges.* The Committee of Management will lay down the rates to be charged, and these may vary from time to time, but the following maxima will not be exceeded without prior reference to the Royal Signals Corps Committee :

Adults : £4 10s. per week inclusive.

Children under 12 years of age : £3 10s. per week inclusive.

The Manager is authorised to expend up to £10 in any month on repairs and replacements. The Committee of Management has power to authorise expenditure on any service up to £100.

14. *Staff.* The Manager may engage additional staff as justified by the number of visitors.

15. *Royal Signals Association.* The purchase of Mercury House has been carried out as between the vendors and the Royal Signals Association, who hold the title deeds on behalf of the trustees and the Royal Signals Corps Committee. No liability whatsoever, either financial or otherwise, will devolve on the Royal Signals Association in respect of this transaction.

16. *Opening Date for Mercury House :* 1st March, 1948.

NOTE.—" Ex-members of the Corps " mentioned in paragraphs 1, 7 and 8 above will be taken to include widows, sons and daughters of those members of the Corps who died during the 1939-45 war.

H. C. B. WEMYSS, General
C. W. FLADGATE, Major-General
V. J. E. WESTROPP, Major-General
} *Trustees.*

London, S.W.1.
January, 1948.

* * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DEAR SIR,

MAJOR B. L. HERDON, M.B.E., INDIAN SIGNALS

I have just received from Major J. F. Maxwell, O.B.E., Commandant, Mewar Bhil Corps, the following extract from the " Fauji Akhbar " concerning Bertram Herdon, perhaps the best-known Officer of Indian Signals, certainly the best loved. It is inconceivable to us who knew him and who knew the depth of the feeling which our Indian soldiers had for him, that Bertram could be the victim of murder. The reason is, of course, that he stuck it out in his bungalow on the River Ravi beside the head works of the Upper Bari Doab Canal on the Borders of India, Pakistan and Kashmir, and, knowing Bertram, he probably openly opposed violence and certainly took the side of the oppressed. No other line is compatible with his character.

Readers of THE WIRE will join with readers of the " Fauji Akhbar " in offering their deepest sympathy to his mother, "Aunt Lizzie."

Yours, etc.,
R. M. ADAMS, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 5th A.A. Group (M)
Signal Regiment.

Thulston,
Near Derby.

EXTRACT FROM " FAUJI AKHBAR "

We regret to announce the tragic death of Major B. L. Herdon, an ex-Editor of the " Fauji Akhbar." He breathed his last on 26th August at Madhopur, Gurdaspur district, during riots. He was a victim of the mad frenzy which seized the people of what was known as the Punjab.

Ever since his retirement he was living a peaceful life with his mother in a remote village in the district of Gurdaspur. Even during his retirement he never lost contact with " Fauji Akhbar " in the building of which his share was considerable.

Our readers, we are sure, are quite familiar with his educative articles which we published off and on. He wrote with conviction and had a personal touch in his writings, which was highly relished by our readers. Alas ! we will not be able to publish any of his articles now.

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to his mother, Mrs. L. Herdon, and assure her that his name will always be remembered by the " Fauji Akhbar " and its readers.

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

February

PASS-OFF PARADES. Course 192, consisting of 20 Officer-Cadets, passed off on 20th January, 1948, the salute being taken by Colonel G. S. O. N. Power, C.B.E., Chief Instructor, School of Signals.

The senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet R. I. Hart, and the Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet J. H. Darrah.

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U. REUNION DINNER. In last month's " Notes " appeared an account of the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Reunion Dinner, held at the Connaught Assembly Rooms, London, on 1st November, 1947. A photograph taken at the dinner has since been received, which it is hoped the Editor will be able to reproduce. Whilst on this subject, will all ex-O.C.T.U. Officers please make a note of the date of the next reunion, Saturday, 30th October. Communications should be addressed to the Dinner Secretary : Major K. D. Anderson, 6, Woburn Terrace, Tavistock, Devon.

INTER-O.C.T.U. SPORTS MEETING. During the week ending 25th January, 1948, the R.A. O.C.T.U. were " at home " to a large contingent from this O.C.T.U. Our Gunner hosts spared no efforts to make the visit an enjoyable one. Of the seven events in the programme, we managed to hold the Gunners to drawn games in two events, two goals each at hockey and one at soccer, the remaining five games being won by the Gunners. This meeting will be the last one to be held between ourselves and the R.A. O.C.T.U. and so ends a series of fixtures which have done so much to build up and strengthen not only a bond of friendship but a greater understanding between ourselves and the Gunners.

Arrivals and Departures. We welcome to the Unit, Major H. Worrall, who has assumed command of No. 1 Cadet Squadron *vice* Major T. S. Foster. The latter has left us for the School of Signals, where he is to take the next Tele-Coms. Course.

Past members of the Unit, and particularly ex-Cadets, will learn with interest that Captain C. A. Clarke has been provisionally warned for overseas. Captain Clarke joined the Unit in November, 1940, and was for many years an Instructor in Signals Tactics. He will be best remembered by ex-Cadets of the war years by his association with that major bogy " Exercise, three day." Latterly he has been employed as Assistant Chief Instructor and as Sports Officer. Major T. S. Foster and Captain C. A. Clarke have our best wishes in their new sphere of activity.

To Sergeants Beckley and Barton and Corporal Slater go our best wishes on the occasion of their departure from the Unit. Sergeant Beckley has joined Eastern Command Signal Regiment and Sergeant Barton has left us for the School of Signals, where he is taking a Pre-Foreman of Signals Course, whilst Corporal Slater has joined Southern Command

Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Reunion Dinner. Those shown in the photograph are Colonel W. H. N. Dent, O.B.E., Colonel J. R. Pinsent, D.S.O., Colonel E. G. McHutcheon, T.D., O.B.E., Majors D. H. Fender, W. M. Buchanan, S. W. Trill, J. S. Blamire, A. K. Tudor, T. S. Foster, R. G. R. Randall, K. D. Anderson, F. T. Pitt, M.B.E., F. Warhurst, M.B.E., J. C. Anderson, D. N. Van der Goot, H. H. Garner, J. A. Cakebread, P. H. Lewis, J. P. Berryman, Captains D. G. Meredith, D. H. Miller, W. H. Long, P. T. Davies, H. Scott, H. Rawnsley, J. Hindshaw, W. Murphy, J. E. DeGalleani, J. Dorè, J. Osborn, A. P. Gardner, R. H. Noxon, A. Dudley, H. Cam, E. F. Bunyan, K. P. Kinnersley, C. Pathyjohns, C. Lambert, E. Fielding, G. Barton, L. Staden, R. W. Watson, A. J. Arthur, R. C. Bird, L. G. Toogood, N. G. Webber, W. E. Fill, C. J. Wilcox, W. B. Pain, S. Maynard, D. W. Soutar, C. A. Clarke, H. M. L. Beresford, Lieutenants D. I. Grant, T. Cooban, J. E. Ray

Signal Regiment, and by his posting to a station south of the Thames has become the envy of many.

Congratulations. Our congratulations go to Sergeants Arnold and Holdaway on the occasion of the birth of a daughter and son respectively, and to Sergeants Gorton and Stonehouse on their admission to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Congratulations also to Corporals McIntyre and Little on their promotion to Corporal.

Mountaineering Club. During the month the club has been flourishing with climbs of Stickle Pike in the Langdale Pikes group under snow conditions, and also the Goblins, White Crack, Johnson's Crack and South Slabs in the Almscliffe area. This is one of the keenest activities of the Unit.

Cross-country Running. In the District eliminating run for the Northern Command Championship our team finished second to No. 2 Training Regiment, who were easy winners.

In the S.T.C. Cross-country League, run over a course of seven miles, during the previous week, Officer-Cadet Connel was first home, the team gaining fourth place.

Soccer. 1st Division *v.* 4th Training Regiment, won 7—1 (Driver Lynch, "H.Q." Squadron, 4 goals); 2nd Division *v.* No. 1 S.T.W., lost 2—1.

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

February

One of my New Year resolutions was to keep a WIRE Diary of events to simplify the task of compiling these notes. The diary is here but the events have just not occurred outside the sphere of sport. The only news of real interest is the weather. Having been one of the lucky ones who managed to be posted from Catterick in the Autumn I looked forward to this my first full winter in this notorious spot with some trepidation. My luck seems to have held for the famous Catterick winter has not appeared yet, though I am still keeping my fingers crossed. Nevertheless, if all the rain we have had were to have been snow I might be telling a different story now.

Sport. The Regiment's first football team have held the limelight during January by their progress in the Army Cup. On Monday, 12th January, they visited No. 63 P.T.C. at Altrincham in the fourth round of the competition and registered a well-merited 5—1 victory. On the 28th, drawn away to 38th Training Regiment, R.A., at near-by Barnard Castle, they were easy winners to the tune of 5 goals to nil. The semi-final, Home Forces, saw the Regiment drawn to play 121st R.A. at Dover. Only a few supporters were able to travel so far to see the team live to fight again, at home, by drawing 2—2 after extra time. We now look forward hopefully to the replay at Catterick on 16th February.

Meanwhile, the Second Eleven are striving hard for honours in the Second Division of the District League. Their league record is :

				Goals		
P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
19	15	—	4	102	35	30

and their record also shows full points from the eight matches played at home.

The hockey team also are fighting hard for laurels in their own sphere and although the weather has interfered with the programme the team continue to register victories in the few matches that have been played and can look back on a record that shows only one defeat in fourteen matches. Amongst recent successes pride of place goes to that over 1st Training Regiment by 3 goals to 1. At the time of going to press we have been unable to ascertain the league position, but if we do not actually head the table we are very near it, and we have also reached the semi-final of the District Knock-out Competition.

Continuing from where I left off last month in introducing personalities of the Regiment we come to Captain A. E. Harvey, P.R.I., and now O.C. "H.Q." Squadron in place of Captain McNair who has found a better job in civvy street. The Quartermaster is Captain (Q.M.) Napper. Captains A. E. S. Jackson, W. J. S. Clemmy and W. Dermit are gracing Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons respectively, while Lieutenant D. H. W. Barnes is Assistant Adjutant. Coming to O.R.s a welcome is extended to S.S.M. Goldsmith, and now our "Q's." Almost too numerous to mention they are S.Q.M.S.s Carter, Butterworth, Monk, Dearing, Holt, Bourner, Statham, Burge and, lastly, another new arrival, S.Q.M.S. Hayes. Before concluding this paragraph here is a message for R.S.M. (Badgy) Morton, late of this Unit, S.S.M. Jones asks "Where is that long-promised Goof Chit?" (Singapore papers please copy.)

Arrivals. We tender congratulations to S.S.M. and Mrs. Douthwaite and to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Dearing on the arrival of daughters, and that is positively the last time I record births in these notes because I know I miss more than I record; in fact, I just cannot keep up with the Stork.

"Each member of the guard received a cup of hot—what did you say it was, Carstairs?"

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

February

The New Year has brought with it many new faces. We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E., who has taken over the reins from Lieutenant-Colonel Treseder, O.B.E. Captains Smith and Nation have come to winter here from sunnier climes. Second-Lieutenants J. Lane and R. Wellesley also have joined us, but to them Catterick is no novelty. Before our next notes we shall have bid farewell to Captain Richards, our "oldest inhabitant" (he has been here since June, 1944). He is passing over to civilian life, and we wish him the best of luck.

All ranks in this Regiment wish Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Treseder the best of luck on taking up their new appointment in Oslo. In this Unit we shall miss them very much, from the oldest officer down to the most junior signalman. We all felt that Colonel Treseder's presence as Commanding Officer raised us to a position from which we could look down on any other unit in the Army with pride. It is on record that one man (who shall be nameless) staggered into the Adjutant's office immediately after C.O.'s Orders, on which he had received one of those "terrifying" dressings down which we knew so well and asked to be taken on as a Regular soldier. Such was the effect.

We shall miss Mrs. Treseder just as much. To us she was the perfect C.O.'s wife—always tactful, always charming and ever ready to help those in trouble. It is said that a diplomat's success depends upon his wife. By this standard we shall look forward to seeing Colonel Treseder in Washington very soon.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The New Year's social events commenced in fitting style on 23rd January, when a very successful social and dance was held. Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. N. Seddon were warmly welcomed on this their first visit to the Mess.

The exodus, alas, continues, and in this issue we record the demobilisation of Sergeants Brown, Rigley and Gaylard, wishing them every success on their return to civilian life.

On the other hand, we welcome into the Mess this month S.S.M.s Hague, Hughes and Wall, together with Sergeants Sanford, Lustig, Wenman, Herring, D.C.M., Ellis and Harding, most of whom have come from No 6 Training Regiment.

Sport. The Unit has distinguished itself on the fields of sport. The Rugby team fought its way to the final of the Garrison Cup and found that their opponents were No. 1 Training Regiment, the Rugby enthusiasts. The match was played on the Central Ground in filthy weather. Nevertheless, it was a hard-fought game and, although the Unit lost 8—0, they were not dissatisfied with the result. Major K. M. Evans, whose leadership and play were an inspiration, was largely responsible for the team's success in the Garrison Cup.

Since the final the team has been greatly strengthened by the posting of potential Officers from No. 6 Training Regiment. With these additions it is greatly hoped that success will come our way in the Northern Command Cup. The team's ambition is to reverse the result of the Garrison Cup final.

The hockey team has also had a very successful season of 12 league matches played and 10 of these won.

In the Army Cup, after beating 6th Battalion R.A.O.C. in the quarter-finals 3—0, we lost by the odd goal to School of Signals 3—2 in the semi-final. However, we hope to get our revenge when we play School of Signals again in the semi-final of the Northern Command Cup.

At the moment we have five players in the Unit who are regular members of the Corps hockey team.

We offer our congratulations to Junior Commander R. D. Aylen and Sergeant Nicholson on playing in the A.T.S. badminton trials.

Education Centre. The gramophone recitals, which have always been a feature of our evening activities, have been extended in both their scope and their patronage under the competent hands of Sergeant Foster. His advertisements for Swing Club, Music Circle and Duffle Bag are to be found wherever personnel of the Unit are likely to gather together.

Swing Club is essentially for rhythm fans, whilst Music Circle caters for those with more conservative tastes. Perhaps the most successful feature is the fortnightly Duffle Bag, a mixed bag of records requested by members of the Unit, a programme in which there is always something for music lovers of every taste. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking the many units in Catterick District who have kindly loaned us records on numerous occasions.

On the handicrafts side the rug-making industry is thriving, and it is an unfortunate sign of the times that the demand is far greater than the supply.

No. 1 SQUADRON. No. 1 Squadron is just settling down again after the upheaval caused by the transfer to Basra Lines. The new area is much more compact than the old, with the Squadron Office just around the corner, a mixed blessing. There have been several changes, Captain Sly now being O.C. and S.S.M. Hague has taken over from S.S.M. Collie.

No. 4 SQUADRON. After their move from No. 6 Training Regiment the Squadron is now getting used to its new surroundings and home (?). The main part of the business was completed by 3rd February and training started on 4th February. However, the Orderly Sergeant has not yet found the position of the S.S.M.'s bunk, unless it be to take the char and wads.

For the benefit of "old boys," the present team of experts is much the same and as follows: Major K. M. Evans is O.C. Squadron, with Captain Smith as Second-in-Command. Training is under the leadership of Lieutenant (Jock) Cant and Second-Lieutenant Lane. The instructional staff is much the same, and we have still with us such old sweats as Sergeants Wenman, Lustig, Harding, Herring, D.C.M., and Ellis, Corporals Holiday, Young, Paton, Lunn, not to forget "Shape and Shine" Gordon, while chaos is kept at a minimum in the office by Corporal Pete Bowler with his satellites, Snailham and Corporal McCullen.

We have one or two new faces in the Squadron, among them being S.S.M. (Cabby) Hughes, M.B.E., who wrestles with the P1954s and the accommodation returns. More strength to your pen hand, "Cabby."

We have to pass on congratulations to two lucky husbands this month. Sergeant and Mrs. Sanford are blessed with a son, name not yet to hand, while Sergeant and Mrs. Ellis have a new daughter to contend with—Rita.

In the field of sport the Squadron has done very well and has left its mark on many opposing teams (metaphorically speaking). Signalman Dowling was chosen to run with the Corps cross-country team, while such athletic types as Lieutenant Cant, Signalman Ashworth and Co. regularly appear on the playing fields of Catterick.

Before closing this month's report we would like to console the hard-pressed natives of No. 4 Training Regiment by saying that we gradually improve, and may even be like you some day.

Cheerio for now, Signals everywhere. All the best.

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

February

R.H.Q. During the past month we have lost a number of key men from the ranks of this stalwart Troop, as releases take their toll. The Regimental Orderly Room has suffered the worst casualties with the loss of the Orderly Room Sergeant, Sergeant A. H. Long, who has valiantly held this unenviable position with the Regiment for the past two years. We all wish him the very best of luck on his way into civvy street. We think the Adjutant must have lost the "DOV" file. Other releases include Corporals Shaw, Stephens, Haigh and Webster, not forgetting, of course, our A.T.S. Part II Order Clerk, Corporal Baldwin, who partnered our O.R.S. so well. We understand that wedding bells will be ringing in the near future for them, and our congratulations are combined with all good wishes to them both.

We hope that Corporal Brown will keep the wheels turning with the sadly depleted staff.

Recent arrivals include Corporal Chapman, Lance-Corporal Howse and Signalman Lockwood, complete with their "sweat" charts.

(S.S.M. Swinson, please note this article.)

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Amongst recent arrivals we extend a hearty welcome to Sergeants Jones, Peggie and Wood and hope that their stay may be a happy one.

Departures include Sergeant Johnson (21 years). So you have made the plunge, Johnny.

Social activities have been very limited this month owing to the small number of members, but we hope to make up for this later on.

Watch your step, " Tara," otherwise Catterick will be seeing quite a lot of you.

No. 1 SQUADRON, KENT COAST TROOP. With the departure to civilian life of Lance-Corporal Mansfield, Signalmen K. G. Hutchins and J. F. Wilson at the beginning of the month we lose three group happy boys to whom we all extend the very best of good wishes in their respective ventures in civvy street.

To Signalman Walmsley, who left in such a rush on transfer to become a Paratrooper, we wish all that he wishes himself and sincerely hope that his high hopes are realised.

All extend a welcoming hand to S.S.M. Willis on his attachment to this Troop from R.H.Q. The S.S.M. is now wallowing in the luxury of soldiering in his own home town. This somewhat goes to prove that the very nice things one hears about the modern Army are not all moonshine.

Football. In a mid-week fixture the Troop played the 1st A.A. Brigade Signal Section. Result a draw 1—1. A fair result to a most enjoyable and well contested game. A marked feature of the game was the extremely fine handling of it by the referee (S.S.M. Willis). This was most welcome, for refereeing in the past has not been of a very high standard.

At present the Troop is concentrating on inter-troop games (searching for hidden talent amongst the new arrivals) in an endeavour to build up a reasonable Troop side.

Some of the Troop were fortunate enough to enjoy seeing the 3rd Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick, play the 121st Training Regiment, R.A., Dover, in the semi-final cup match at Dover on Wednesday last. Result 2—2 after extra time. All the Troop join in wishing the 3rd Training Regiment the very best of good luck in the replay.

Table Tennis and Badminton. Judging by the number of balls disposed of during the week, there is every prospect of producing some pretty good exponents of the game. Unfortunately, owing to the scarcity of other teams in the Garrison, it is most difficult to fix up team games.

Badminton is indulged in, but not to the extent of football and table tennis.

THAMES ESTUARY AND E.A.C. TROOP. The major event in our notes this month is our welcome to Major (T.O.T.) D. Todd, M.B.E., who is to take command of the Troop on his arrival from leave. Major Todd supersedes Captain (T.O.T.) F. J. Cook, who is returning to his original position of T.O.T., No. 1 Squadron, H.Q. We shall be very sorry to lose Captain Cook and his Alsatian dog, " Fritz," the latter a very popular member of the Troop.

Demob. has taken rather a heavy toll this month, claiming Signalmen Davies, Ferguson and Healey, also Driver Strong. We wish them every success in civil life.

Arrivals have, however, exceeded the number of departures, and we are pleased to report the arrival of Lance-Corporal Cranfield and Signalmen Warner, Cadwallender, Struthers, Wind and Hunt.

Corporal Garrett and Signalmen Edwards and Turner have at last returned to Troop H.Q. after an extended period on detachment at the rifle range at Purfleet, and now each wears that " sorry to be back " look.

The Troop fired a rifle course a short time ago, but shooting, on the whole, was only average, due, perhaps, to the very cold day and the poor visibility. The highest score of 72 was gained by Sergeant Knight (Troop Sergeant).

SHOEBURYNESS TROOP. The Troop linemen are very busily engaged upon various Ministry experimental range installations. Digging is very hard going, too heavy for the mechanical excavator sometimes.

Sport has usually been washed out through waterlogged grounds, but occasional hockey has brought participation by some Troop members with the R.A. side.

Driver Holland has arrived to replace Driver Johnson, to the consternation of the R.A. (A.T.S.) drivers. Signalman Jeffries reported from " Y " list and quickly built a two-valve " infrequent modulated " to celebrate. A detachment of 130th Line Troop were welcome arrivals from Canterbury ; they are busy introducing shovels, G.S. to earth, Shoeburyness.

We have said good-bye to Captain (T.O.T.) P. S. Harris, departing for the Far East, and we wish him all luck in his new sphere.

No. 2 SQUADRON. This month has started very well with an unusually large intake of personnel from all over the world. One can hear " grips " on Germany, Palestine, West Africa, Italy, etc., in barrack rooms and mess. We extend a welcome to them all.

Sport. The football team met an unexpected defeat in the second round of the Home Counties District Cup Competition, being beaten at home by the East Surrey Regiment to the tune of 2—0. Hard luck, Signals ; you tried hard and were knocked out in a fighting fashion.

Our hockey team were also defeated in the District Challenge Cup Competition by the Small Arms School. Result 4—0. The result was unquestionable.

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

February

The most noticeable feature of last month was the rain. There was slight flooding about Chester but M.T. usually managed to get through. Things were much more serious at Shrewsbury, however, and it was impossible to pass through the centre of the town from Mid-West Troop's billets at Mount Camp to District H.Q. A detour was found, however, over the one bridge that remained open, south of the town. All the troops, however, whether north or south of Chester, seem to have had their share of mud.

A Cadet Assistant Signalling Instructors' Course was held in camp from 4th to 11th January. Although the weather was too bad for the out-door schemes, the boys all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and letters of high appreciation have been received since they returned home, expressing thanks, particularly to Second-Lieutenant Coward, Sergeant Ireland, and Lance-Corporal Oliver. (P.T. ! !)—(Why is it boys revel in this sort of thing between 14 and 18, but when they are " called up " *at* 18 they couldnot be less interested ?)

It is said that mixed units are always a little different. We disproved this at our Christmas celebrations on Thursday, 8th January. Dinner was served in the dining hall, where a little band of enthusiasts has contrived to obliterate the usual appearance of such establishments. It did not look quite like " Bollands " but we did have table napkins and, of course, the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants to wait on us. There were definitely no complaints in respect of the meal and the cooks were thanked for their most creditable display of hard work and zeal.

A dance followed immediately afterwards in the gymnasium. Everybody had captured the party spirit by this time and the dance was both lively and enjoyable. Uncle Tim Healey presented a cabaret during the interval and the

artistes, all local lads and lassies, are to be congratulated on their performances.

The beer ran out at 10.30 p.m. but even this major catastrophe failed to damp the proceedings.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to run our usual weekly dances but hope to start them in the very near future.

Other social activities include " Twenty Questions " (without any particular arrangement with Maurice Winnick) and a gramophone recital. Both are held weekly in the Unit education centre and have proved very popular.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The past two months have been marked by increased activity of all kinds. The " Farewell " Party for R.Q.M.S. Nuttall (acting R.S.M.) and R.Q.M.S. Bradbury, both on overseas draft, on 14th November was attended with considerable success. This spurred us on to yet greater efforts, notably the Christmas party on 20th December and another " Farewell " party, this time for Sergeants Abbot and Coombes and Sergeant Carmichael, A.T.S., all due for demob., on 20th January. Other activities have been table tennis and darts tournaments which have proved very popular.

Recent arrivals include R.S.M. Barrett, S.S.M. Hourigan and S.Q.M.S. Humble among the men and Sergeants Pell and Miller among the A.T.S. News of former members from any quarter of the globe is welcome.

Sports. The continuously changing faces in the Unit make it difficult to maintain sports teams at a consistent standard but, however, in spite of postings and releases into civvy street, we feel that we have had a fairly successful season ; and certainly an enjoyable one.

The soccer team has been ably captained by Signalman Law, assisted by the vice-captain, Lance-Corporal Smith, who succeeded Signalman Johnson, released, in that capacity.

Signalman Johnson, our former vice-captain

Although not in a league, the team boasts a full fixture list with Services' and civilian teams.

The hockey team is also holding its own. A most enjoyable match was played against Hawarden R.A.F., which we lost 4—1. We are looking forward to the return match, at Hawarden, on 4th February, when we hope to turn the tables on them.

Rugby football has not as yet been played in the Unit, but we are pleased to note that Lieutenant E. G. Watkeys and Second-Lieutenant D. M. Powell are playing members of the Chester Rugby Football Club.

It is expected that Corporal Moorhouse and Signalman Dean will be entering for the coming Army Boxing Championships. If they do, we wish them every success.

MID-WEST DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP. Numerous activities have taken place within the Troop during the past month. Some old friends have left us for civvy street and nearly all our A.T.S. have gone, including Sergeant Miller who had been here for a long time and was with the troop during some of its busiest periods. The greater majority of our new arrivals are youngsters—very raw, but keen to get acquainted with their jobs.

Officers here include Captain A. L. Maxwell, O.C. ; Lieutenant F. W. Oakes, Second-in-Command ; and Captain T. Bennett, T.O.T. R.S.M. Cairns was with us for a brief spell but has departed to Pembroke Dock. In his place we have S.S.M. Mitchell. Sergeant Ireland is another of our little bunch.

Chief interest outside the Unit has been centred around the much-talked-of floods. Seeing bold statements in the press, such as " Shrewsbury Flooded," makes us think, for no possible idea can be obtained of the inconveniences suffered by the inhabitants. One might be able to cope with the downstairs rooms, but when one's bedrooms become flooded there is nothing left but the roof and who on earth likes roofs for comfort. There *were* some some humorous incidents, as, for instance, the agile elderly lady who tried to walk some planks over a depth of about 3½ feet with a bicycle draped around her neck, fell in, and was located, sitting bolt upright, gesticulating wildly under water and was retrieved by the hair of her head. A small boy standing nearby was heard to say " She'll find no fish in them there waters, mister."

We are expecting our third camp trek in a few weeks into Copthorne Barracks. May this speedily come about for, at present, we are rather cramped in many ways.

To all our ex-members we send our sincere regards and good luck.

No. 2 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

February

Yet another Christmas has passed, and was duly celebrated. The majority of the Unit went home and, judging by their faces on return, they had an (un)corking time. The few brave Scots who stayed behind to hold the fort got away to celebrate Hogmanay in good time. They, too, did their best to " drown the haggis "—or is that what Scots do on New Year's Eve ?

Prior to the breaking up of the Unit for Christmas, a big, and extra special dance was held in the Gym. Some people we know started celebrating then, and did not finish until well into the New Year ! The main object was carried out in as much as everyone had an excellent time.

Since just before Christmas, Dame Rumour has had a great run. The Unit is on the move again. Bristol, Southampton, Reading and London were all hopefully mentioned as possible new camps. But now we know. It is Bulford—the old home of 3rd Division Signals. Some of the regulars know their way about there, and information is given " at a price." The advance party moved off on 4th February. So far no casualties have occurred from " Malarial or other Jungle Diseases." The M.T. Section is putting in extra time to ensure that there will be no breakdown *en route.*

We regret the loss of Captain Hill to civilian life, and welcome Capt. Emley, ex-Palestine, in his place. We also welcome Captain (Paddy) O'Rourke, who is taking over M.T.O. *vice* Captain Inglis. At present, we are in the lucky position of having two M.T.O.s. But only for a short while. Opinions on this matter are very divided in the M.T. Section.

Early in the New Year, Second-Lieutenant Parsons and Sergeant Cook took a Line Section down to Bude in Cornwall, to construct some new practice routes. We hear that line-laying is done at the double to ensure a quick return to R.H.Q.

We extend our best wishes to Junior Commander Cawthorne on her engagement to Capt. Wilson, R.A. We congratulate S.Q.M.S. Stoner on the birth of a son. Another one for the Corps ! ! !

Sport. Football is still in full swing and the Unit team keeps its record clean, or nearly so, anyway. Result of the league was as follows : Played 7, won 4, drawn 2, lost 1 ; goals for 37, against 15 ; position in the league, 3rd.

Hockey is not so popular this year, owing to the difficulty in getting a ground. Only one game has been played so

far. Twenty-two brave lads played on the concrete gun park. Some casual observers thought they had dropped in on a hurling match in Ireland. However, injuries were nil—why or how nobody knows. The A.T.S. as yet cannot be persuaded to have a go at hockey. They content themselves with netball.

Cross-country running is on the up-grade, under Second-Lieutenant Edwards. But we do notice some people studying the local maps a lot. I wonder if it has anything to do with the short cuts ! !

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

February

These notes are the first that have been submitted for some time, and it is hoped that they will be received by ex-members of this Unit as enthusiastically as they are sent.

Shortly before Christmas a " new order " was devised by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Adams. This appears to have settled down into working order, with Major Costen as O.C. No. 1 Squadron, Captain Norfolk, O.C. No. 2 Squadron, and Junior Commander Ridler, Adjutant, A.T.S. The only difficulty now is to find enough accommodation to be used as Troop offices and stores, cinema, information and games rooms.

The scenery around the camp is beginning to change, and in place of two rough patches of ground the shape of a parade ground and an alpine garden have grown. Despite the fact that it was impossible to find a few spare mountains for the garden, bushes and trees have sprung up with amazing rapidity, due, no doubt, to the fact that our canine stock is on the increase. From an authoritative source it is learned that a textbook by Mr. Middleton has been consulted in order to make the most of the ground available to produce a good show for the summer.

We welcome to the camp Captains Hobbs (Q.M.) and Fayerman (Adjutant), who have replaced two well-known men of Signals, Captains Colwell and Wilson.

With our best wishes for their success in civvy life the following have departed :

A.T.S. : Corporal S. M. Gooch and Privates D. Mescus, Biggs, O. Shutt and P. Hopkinson.

Military : Corporals Stanley and R. Hare, Lance-Corporal Watkins, Signalmen Akehurst, Fletcher, Mason, Mullen, McLellan and Price and Driver James.

Congratulations to S.S.M. Lawrence on obtaining her crown and to Sergeants Hasselstrom and Lamb for gaining their third.

Marriage. Our heartiest good wishes are extended to Lance-Corporal R. C. Smith and to Private H. Biggadike on their recent marriage.

Football. Due to the wealth of talent amongst the recent arrivals, our team has improved in strength and during the past month have won three out of four games. Driver McMillan and Signalmen McKenzie and Dyson are the most prominent members of the team.

Duke of Wellington's : Won 4—0.

Thulston United : Won 2—1 ; won 4—1 ; lost 2—3.

Hockey. The return game against Group H.Q. took place in Nottingham and our team recorded its first win of the season by four goals to two. The game was even until 10 minutes before time, when the penetrative powers of Captain Norfolk and Second-Lieutenant Ingledow broke the opponents' defence to score two quick goals.

The auxiliaries in the side (Staff-Sergeant Buckle and Privates Honey and Bettley) played well and contributed a lot towards a good win.

No. 3 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

February

Many things have happened since the last publication of notes from this Unit, all of which take a place in the background due to the comprehensive change over of Officers.

The C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. McNair, is due to leave the Group very shortly. Good-bye, sir, and the very best of luck wherever you may go.

Our O.C., Major G. A. (Tiny) Low, the recruit of the Squadron, will be leaving us on 10th January for Pocklington. His stay has been a memorable one and he will be greatly missed by all ranks.

The Admin. Officer, Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Mitchell, M.M. (Shorty), is due to leave during the month, also for Pocklington.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., Major D. L. Hyde. We also welcome Second-Lieutenant W. A. N. Ede. As we already had a Second-Lieutenant Eve in our midst, complications are liable to send our already overworked Orderly Room staff to the nearest lunatic asylum.

The following O.R.s have left us to try their luck in civvy life : Sergeants Lomas and Heale, Lance-Corporal Farrant (Plymouth C.I.D. please note) and Signalmen Warden, Gunn, Hardacre and Eden. The very best of luck to them all.

Lance-Corporal W. C. G. Harris has been promoted to Corporal. (The Group recruiting centre still remains open, Corporal.)

The following have reached the dizzy heights of Lance-Corporal and have ordered an extra size in haversacks to carry the baton : Signalmen K. E. (Handsome) Evans and (Muscles) Dixey.

The Group fortnightly dances are still going strong, thanks to the very noble efforts of Sergeant Johnnie Petts, A.T.S. The dance held in the cinema on New Year's Eve warrants special praise for the whole of the Entertainments Committee. A grand time was had by all and the New Year was welcomed in no uncertain fashion.

Here's wishing all past and present members of the Corps the very best of luck in 1948.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

The Annual Corps Dinner will take place on Monday, 31st May, 1948, at Simpson's Restaurant in the Strand, at 7.0 for 7.30 o'clock.

The number of persons who may attend this year has been limited by law to 100. It has therefore been decided to confine the dinner to *subscribing members only* of the Corps Dinner Club.

Dinner tickets : (Members) 16s. Dress : Uniform, dinner jacket or dress clothes.

Tickets : Obtainable from Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 514a, Leconfield House, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

Latest date for application : 30th April, 1948. If over 100 applications are received by 30th April a ballot will be held.

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

February

The first phase of Regimental training courses was completed in December, 1947, and the New Year saw the beginning of further training courses within the Regiment, these consisting of an open stars upgrading course and another junior N.C.O.s' drill and duties course.

The standard of drill and turn-out of the junior N.C.O.s' drill and duties courses is exceptionally good, the Commanding Officer being highly pleased at the pass-off parades which are held at the termination of each course. Captain I. F. G. Warner, Royal Hampshire Regiment, and his N.C.O. instructors are to be congratulated on the high standard of each course.

Jimmy's Club is progressing very well and is proving a very popular rendezvous for the junior N.C.O.s and men of the Regiment. Numerous games tournaments have been started which consist of billiards, snooker, darts and table tennis. Apparently many budding champions are in the making. The weekly quiz competition is still going strong and very soon now we shall be seeing the two Troop teams who are to meet in the final.

On 5th January the Regiment was visited by the D.C.S.O. Rhine Army, Colonel Morrison, who, I believe, was quite impressed with everything he saw. The D.C.S.O. dined with the Officers of the Regiment the same night, a night which proved quite disastrous for a couple of members, one of whom was seen limping around for a few days afterwards (that will teach you, M.T.O.).

Looking Back. A short review of the past year shows advances and improvements in all aspects of Regimental life. In spite of many changes, there are a considerable number of Officers who have now been in their present jobs for the greater part of the year. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' cadre is settling down into the post-war pattern, and there the changes have been less frequent. With other ranks we have seen the service of those proceeding on release fall from over four years to just over three and must look forward to a steady fall to two years by the end of 1948. A small but increasing number are remaining in the Service on Regular and short service engagements and a valuable Regular cadre is slowly growing.

Education and pre-release courses are at last well under way and all, both Regular and National Service, should benefit from these courses. A feature of the year has been the two- or three-week N.C.O.s' courses, which have proved highly successful in providing for the continual requirements of N.C.O.s. Promotion has been rapid and those who have " buckled to " have reaped their reward. Accommodation at some outstations and at Headquarters has been improved and redecorated, and a small beginning has been made in the provision of furniture for barrack rooms. At Headquarters new ground has been cleared to make larger pleasure and vegetable gardens and to make the barracks less formal.

Sport facilities have been improved and reorganised, and for the first time teams representative of the whole Regiment have competed in football, swimming and musketry. An inevitable improvement has resulted and should produce even better results during 1948.

Technical improvements have taken place both on static and tactical communications. Increased use of automatic exchanges and transfer of responsibility to the Reichspost is a feature of the first, and the provision of No. 53 sets and improved technical vehicles is a feature of the second.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. On New Year's Eve members, wives and lady friends were entertained to a social evening and dance. This was adjudged to be the best ever, and many thanks are due to the Entertainments Committee for putting on an outstandingly well organised show. At midnight precisely Father Time appeared (portrayed by Squadron Q.M.S. Edwards) complete with scythe and the trickling sands of time. After a few unsuccessful efforts to conduct a series of beheadings he managed to control the scythe long enough to say his piece.

Father Time's piece was followed by an object (animal, vegetable or mineral) which was eventually recognised as " New Year's Frolics," ably acted by Sergeant Waters, whose deep voice changed so suddenly to high falsetto as to cause deep concern for his future.

All members who contributed towards the success of the Mess festive season are to be congratulated on a first-class show very well organised and enjoyed in fine festive spirit.

Several new members have been welcomed into the fold : Sergeant Thrumble from No. 2 Field Broadcasting Unit, S.Q.M.S. Erridge from 5th Divisional Signal Regiment, and Sergeant Watkins, " O " Troop, on promotion. Sergeants White and Howells (" L " Troop) have both returned to civilian life. All the best of luck to our merry misters.

Heartiest congratulations to Squadron Q.M.S. Bailey and Sergeant Daniels on the recent births of their sons. It was really a terrible strain the " watching and waiting," but the babies' heads were " wet " in true Mess style.

Our worthy T.O.M. Troop has done many jobs for the Unit and Messes, and we of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess do truly thank the boys most heartily for our latest acquisition, to wit, a fine board, mounted with our Corps badge, upon which will be recorded annually the names of the Mess champions in the following games and sports : (*a*) .22 rifle shooting ; (*b*) Table tennis ; (*c*) Snooker ; (*d*) Darts ; (*e*) Billiards.

We are running slightly in arrears with our championship programme, due to the late start which was made. However, so far the .22 rifle championship has been decided for 1947, won by R.S.M. Griffin. Darts and table tennis are into the third round. Unfortunately, we shall not be able to play off the billiards and snooker until we move into our new Mess, as we have not the room to install a table in our present Mess. However, there is every hope that we shall move by April. Our one prayer is that the R.E.s will not fall behind schedule in this respect.

On 17th January we held our once monthly Mess social evening with German guests, which was the usual success. 21st January was the date chosen for the Mess .22 rifle championship for 1947. Placings were as follows :

First : R.S.M. Griffin.
Second : S.Q.M.S. Clarke. } Decided on a re-
Third : Sergeant McGuinness. } shoot.
Fourth : S.Q.M.S. Beale.

On Sunday, 1st February, we held our families' social evening, which consisted of a cinema show followed by a supper and a " get-together." This was also adjudged to be a good show, and we feel that our single members enjoyed it as much as the families did. Many thanks are due to the A.K.C. representative and to Signalman Betty, our Regimental projectionist, who so kindly gave up an evening in order to help entertain the members and families.

In addition to entertainment which is arranged by our own committee, we also have an open invitation to the weekly

"O" TROOP "A" FOOTBALL TEAM

Standing: Sergeant Daniels (trainer), Lance-Corporal Miller, Signalman Duncan, Signalman M. Evans, Signalman Bewley, Captain D. F. L. James (O.C.), Lance-Corporal Nicholls, Corporal Walton, Signalman J. Bailey, Corporal M. Vickers, Sergeant Archibald (Troop Sergeant). Sitting: Fusilier Paterson, Corporal Slaughter, Signalman Fearon, "Colonel Pooch," Signalman McCormick, Lance-Corporal Brown, Signalman Donovan

whist drives organised by the Divisional H.Q. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held on Wednesday weekly. We extend many thanks to R.S.M. Sutherland for his kind privilege. Also our families are frequently invited to attend the all-British dances held in the Divisional H.Q. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, which are always very enjoyable.

Sport. The outstanding sporting fixture for the month of January was the fourth round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition, in which the Regiment met the 1st Carabiniers (Belgian Army). This match was of special interest, as the Regiment is the only 2nd Division team left in the competition. The Belgians kicked off before a large crowd of Signals supporters and were soon off the mark with some very good moves. The Belgian team impressed everybody by their speed, their approach work being excellent, but their finishing was poor. The first half was a ding-dong struggle, play going from end to end with both sides missing opportunities, and both teams should have scored at least once. Half-time arrived with the score sheet blank. On resumption Signals improved and Signalman Fearon, on the left wing, was a constant worry to the Belgian defence. As a result of his good work a Belgian defender was forced to handle the ball in the penalty area, and from the resultant spot kick Lance-Corporal Pugh gave their custodian no chance with a fine drive. The Belgian team went all out to get on equal terms, and the game developed into a most exciting struggle. Time after time the Belgians swept down to the Signals goal, but all their efforts were in vain, the defence keeping their goal intact, thanks to the valiant efforts of Pugh, Byrnes and goalkeeper McLaughlan, who held out to the end, and the Signals supporters heaved a sigh of relief when the final whistle blew. The game was very well handled by Q.M.S. I. Brown, A.P.T.C., H.Q. 2nd Division.

Final score: 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment 1, 1st Carabiniers (Belgian Army) 0.

In the next round, which is the semi-final, we have been drawn against the 29th Company Royal Engineers, and the game will be played at the 2nd Division Stadium, Wuppertal.

We have entered a Regimental hockey team in the Divisional Inter-Unit Hockey Tournament commencing in February, and have been drawn against the 1st York and Lancaster Regiment. Cross-country running has commenced and it is hoped that the Regiment will have a strong team. To judge by the first practice runs, it certainly appears that we shall have a team that will make itself felt in the Divisional Cross-Country Championships. Herewith reproduced is a photograph of "O" Troop "A" team complete with mascot, who are in second place in the Inter-Troop Football League.

7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bad Rothenfelde

February

Owing to weather conditions, which were milder than expected, no dances were held at New Year, so the main attraction for the first weeks of January were centred in Corporal Druce, Lance-Corporal Crocker and Signalman Smith, the Housey-Housey squad—no one, apparently, winning a fortune.

On Monday, 26th January, the Unit was "on parade" with the British Forces Network and, according to reports, listeners from all over the B.A.O.R. were entertained, perhaps enthralled, by the C.O., R.S.M. Johnstone, S.S.M. Homer, Sergeant Falkingham, Corporal Druce, Signalmen Silk, Davies and Taylor, and Private Cannings, with stories of interest before, during, and after the campaign. A successful dance was held on Saturday, 31st January, ending peacefully, yet with a demand for more dances to be held in the near future.

This has been a month of considerable activity in the Regiment. Three weddings have taken place, namely, those of Lance-Corporal Lawson, Signalman Goodman and Trooper Benison, all of whom have served with the Regiment for a considerable time.

We say good-bye to our very old friends Lance-Corporal Gaskell, the man who starved us, and Lance-Corporal Smart the Unit coalman. Another good friend, who has not been with us for so long, and is shortly leaving us, is Corporal Parry, a fitter, whom the M.T. staff will always remember when talking of, or working on, the 4x4 Humber. We also say farewell to Lance-Corporal Mosley, who represented the Regiment in all our motor-cycle grass-track meetings, and also the two road-racing meetings at Belsen.

Officers' Mess. After the Christmas festivities the Officers' Mess resumed its normal, peaceful life, only to wake up and thoroughly enjoy the G.O.C.'s farewell party on 10th January.

The Officers' "At Home," held in Shepheard's Officers' Club, on 21st January, was esteemed to be the party of the year, everyone thoroughly enjoying the excellent buffet and cocktails provided by Captain J. Warren and Captain J. Offord.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. With the advent

Standing (left to right): Sergeant G. Ford, Sergeant W. Osborne, Sergeant R. Simpson, Sergeant J. Falkingham, Sergeant F. Hancock, S.Q.M.S. J. McRoberts, Sergeant D. Norwood, Sergeant H. Warren, Sergeant T. Rigby, Sergeant F. Durber, Sergeant T. M. C. Deller. Sitting (left to right): S.Q.M.S. J. M. Philport, S.S.M. G. Homer, A.S.M. R. Boorer, Lieut.-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison, R.S.M. P. Johnstone, R.Q.M.S. H. George, S.S.M. B. J. King

Back row (left to right): Second-Lieutenant A. J. F. Trott, Second-Lieutenant M. F. U. N. Seddon, Second-Lieutenant A. W. W. Heath, Second-Lieutenant K. A. Holdsworth, Second-Lieutenant G. W. Starling, Captain S. T. Parker, Second-Lieutenant D. K. Waterlow, Captain S. C. Moore. Middle row (left to right): Captain J. Offord, Captain A. Juniper, Lieutenant K. G. Holdway, Captain N. W. P. Pearce, Second-Lieutenant D. C. Bull, Second-Lieutenant D. A. Irving, Captain A. M. O'Hara. Front row (left to right): Captain J. W. Brooks, Major S. Schofield, Major T. P. Saunders, Lieut.-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison, M.C., Captain F. Williams, Major B. M. Thimont, Captain J. W. Warren

of the New Year and its customary celebrations, the members really let their hair down, adopted Scottish nationality and went "first footing" with our genial Sergeant Cook, Hamish McFord. We had very little left to look forward to other than the anticipated break-up of the Unit and the arrival of B.F.N. (British Forces Network) to put the Unit on the air in their popular "On Parade" programme. To those who were listening it seems that the broadcast was quite a success, but to those who took part from the Mess it seems to have been quite a test of nerves considering the number of cigarette ends which littered the stage of Bad Rothenfelde's massive Kurhaus! However, following gamely in the steps of our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. C. Harrison, who appeared to be quite at home in front of the mike, R.S.M. Johnstone (one foot off the ground before I shoot) and S.S.M. "Trunky" Homer (twenty questions) managed to stagger through with Sergeant Falkingham limping along as last man on the programme. B.F.N's compère, Captain Ken Taylor, was afterwards entertained in the Mess, thus bringing to a close a very enjoyable evening.

At the time of writing there are many anxious faces in the Mess, with the anticipation of "unwanted Pythons" and postings to that wonderful country, England, but with the lines of a familiar song, "For the best of friends must part," going through our minds the Mess continues to function. S.S.M.s Worcester and Alexander have left us for civvy street but a little bird tells us that Alex. has, once again, forsaken civvies for uniform so we hope to seem him back soon.

Sport. There has not been a great deal of sport during the past month. This was partly due to inclement weather, and partly due to the playing off of the final matches in the B.A.O.R. half of the Army Hockey Championship and Divisional Knock-out Competition. Then the hockey team played the 5th Royal Tanks, who won 9—1. The football team have played three matches against neighbouring units, resulting in two wins and one loss.

Radio Club. The Radio Club D2DB was on the air for about six months. A detailed write-up was given in *Soldier.* for February. The station first used a battery transmitter (U.S.A. BC191) but the club members later built a new rig which gave 150 watts on the 80 and 40 metre bands. In the next three months nearly 300 stations were contacted and about half of them sent their Q.S.L. Cards which make an imposing array on the wall of the shack. Stations contacted were in Italy, Denmark, Great Britain and all the other European countries, as well as in Greenland, Canada and U.S.A. The results achieved by team-work and a little ingenuity are comparable with the new knowledge gained and the happy hours spent in the club. It was great while it lasted.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Buckelburg

February

While the Regiment has been settling down and recovering from the Christmas and New Year celebrations, a major transformation in the composition and organisation of the Unit has been taking place. A large measure of decentralisation, not yet completed, is being effected, while the strength of the Unit has been considerably depleted. Many familiar faces departed on 29th December on a large draft to England; others have gone further afield. Since then No. 53 Conversion Troop have moved to Uetersen, No. 115 D.R., No. 115 T.E. and the L.A.D. have moved to R.A.F. Station, Sundern, while the advance party of R.H.Q. is comfortably ensconced at Air H.Q., Buckeburg, in the same block as No. 1 Squadron, 15th Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Goodwood Barracks, Celle, now has a somewhat deserted and rather hushed air, with only No. 64 T.M., No. 102 Tele-Op. (now known as Celle Squadron) and the remainder of R.H.Q. Troops still there. At Buckeburg, R.H.Q. seems to be still more closely associated with the R.A.F., as we are in a R.A.F. barracks.

Sergeants' Mess Farewell Dinner and Dance. A farewell dinner and dance was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 24th January. Toasts were proposed to the Colonel-in-Chief, departing members, and the Regiment. The C.O. and the Officers were invited to the dance, and everyone enjoyed a very pleasant evening's entertainment. S.S.M. Mudge presented the C.O. and Mrs. Sladen with a goblet of wine on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess, on the condition that the C.O. took it round to all present. The provision was duly carried out.

Congratulatory. The Regiment takes this opportunity of offering its heartiest congratulations to S.S.M. and Mrs. Broadhead on the birth of a son, weighing 10 lbs. 1 oz., on 30th January, 1948.

No. 15 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Gutersloh

February

R.H.Q. AND No. 2 SQUADRON. It is the misfortune of most units raised during war-time that their life is short. Many units in the late war existed for only a year or two, and we are luckier than many in having survived five years. But our turn has now come, and this is our last appearance in THE WIRE.

All regiments should write their history, but very few war-time regiments do, and it is the destiny of those who leave no written record to be soon forgotten by the world at large. Only the men who served in good regiments will remember them, and we hope that all old members of No. 15 Air Formation will look back with some pleasure—and not a little pride—on the days they spent in this Regiment.

(*continued on page 73*)

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA

H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth at the Royal Hospital on Founders' Day, 29th May, 1947

Picture above shows the Portico, Centre Court

THOSE who have never seen a Chelsea Pensioner in the flesh will nevertheless be familiar with his picturesque, uniform, which has been employed so often for advertising purposes. Who has not seen a rubicund pensioner, larger than life, on the poster hoardings, either quaffing a pint of ale or smoking a reflective pipe? Nor are these advertisements altogether misleading, since a pint of beer is included in the daily ration, and on certain days of the week it may be commuted, if desired, for tobacco.

The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, which has been the home of the Chelsea Pensioners for over 250 years, is not, of course, a hospital in the modern sense of the word, but rather a hostel or retreat, though it does include an infirmary for the sick and bed-ridden. It was founded by King Charles II in 1682, in the days when the Army numbered under 10,000 men, and was intended to accommodate all the Army pensioners. With the increase in the Forces, and consequently in the number of pensioners, many of the latter had to be placed on out-pension, and at the present day the Army out-pensioners number over 90,000, whereas the establishment of in-pensioners has always been restricted to about 500. To be admitted an old soldier must either be qualified by long service or have been "broken in the wars," that is to say, he must be in receipt of a pension either for service or wounds. In practice the great majority of those admitted are widowers, who, feeling lonely in their old age, turn to the companionship of their old comrades.

The buildings, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, are arranged round three quadrangles, which stand in spacious grounds of over 60 acres, thus forming a pleasant retreat amid London's busy streets. The buildings were badly damaged by bombs during the late war and are now in course of being restored, but, owing to the priority given to housing, the work will necessarily take some years to complete. Meanwhile, as there is room for only about 200 pensioners at Chelsea, a large building at Leatherhead, formerly occupied as a school for the blind, has been taken over to provide additional accommodation. This annexe, which stands in its own grounds, is administered like the Royal Hospital and has proved very popular with the "recruits," who are mostly sent there.

The Royal Hospital has a distinguished Governor in General Sir Clive Liddell, who is assisted by a Lieutenant-Governor and staff, organised somewhat like a regiment, in which selected pensioners serve as N.C.O.s. Though run on military lines the duties are light and every allowance is made for physical infirmities, while the parades are limited to those for church and pay.

The basic pay is 1s. 9d. per week for those who receive the contributory old age pension and 3s. 6d. per week for those who do not, but it is hoped that the latter rate may shortly be raised. Pensioners may also earn additional money as N.C.O.s or in various light employments, and when on leave they are paid ration allowance at the rate of 2s. 6d. a day. In the Royal Hospital pensioners are required to wear uniform, but on furlough they may wear civilian clothes if they wish. The ration is as generous as the present restrictions will permit, while other amenities provided on the premises include allotment gardens, a bowling club, billiards, a lending library, and a supply of daily newspapers and periodicals. In short, it may be said that the whole object of the Royal Hospital is to make the Chelsea Pensioners as comfortable and happy as possible.

Colonnade

C.G.T.D.

British Army of the Rhine *(continued from page 71)*

Although from now on we shall be widely separated by distance, and increasingly, as the years go by, by time, we must all do our best to keep in touch with old friends. There are three ways in which we can do this. First, by writing and giving news of any former members of the Regiment we are still in touch with; secondly, by attending functions organised by branches of the Royal Signals Association in many towns; and, thirdly, by visiting the new Royal Signals memorial clubs when they are formed.

In these days we are lucky to find one man, Corporal Lindley, who has been with the Regiment since the beginning. From the first Lindley was the C.O.'s driver-batman and had as good a chance as anyone to see what was going on. Thanks to his phenomenal memory, we are able to piece together something of our history. Without him much would have been already forgotten. The following account has not been checked from any documents, but will probably not be far wrong.

"X" H.Q. Signals was raised in January, 1943, at Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, by our first C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Behn, O.B.E., T.D., and moved to Stirley Hill in March. In June the bulk of our men arrived and we became No. 15 Air Formation Signals. In July the Regiment moved to Crumlin, Co. Antrim, where it did four months' intensive training. Lindley says that "Crumlin was a lousy dump."

In December the Regiment moved to Hendon and took over the communications of No. 2 Group, 2nd Tactical Air Force. It continued to serve this Group until the Group was disbanded last May. In January, 1944, Lieutenant Inch's Wing Signal Troop was the first to become operational, when it joined No. 140 Wing near Bishop's Stortford. In March the Regimental Command Group, with several Signal Troops, moved to Mongwell Park, near Wallingford, and the remainder of the Regiment to Turner's Court. In April or May No. 3 Squadron moved to Goodwood Park.

When the invasion came in June, No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment were disappointed in their hope of an early crossing, but in August, led by No. 150 Line Troop, No. 1 Squadron landed on the Normandy coast near Avranches, and in September reached Brussels via Falaise, Beauvais and Amiens. Early in October No. 2 Group, 2nd T.A.F., crossed the Channel and established its Headquarters at the Caserne de Cavalerie in Brussels, and the Regimental Command Group and No. 2 Squadron moved in at the same time. They remained there for nearly a year. A month later No. 3 Squadron and the "tail" of the Regiment crossed over from England and the Squadron established itself near Douai. This Squadron later moved to Eindhoven and in September, 1945, took over the Regiment's commitments in Brussels. Lieutenant-Colonel Behn gave up command of the Regiment in August, 1945, after over two and a half years in command, and on 15th August Lieutenant-Colonel F. Davies became the C.O. (Those who are interested in the writing of history may like to know how this date has been established with a fair degree of certainty without having recourse to records. We had evidence that Lieutenant-Colonel Davies left No. 14 Air Formation Signal Regiment on promotion at the end of April, 1945, to command No. 15. That he left on promotion at the end of April seems certain enough, but he cannot have gone direct to No. 15, for Corporal Lindley remembers that he arrived to take over on 15th August, which was Corporal Lindley's birthday. Moreover, Lieutenant-Colonel Behn was still commanding on 28th July, because that was the day of the big parade of the Guards Armoured Division in Brussels. On that day Lindley should have taken Lieutenant-Colonel Behn to the parade, but the C.O. was taken ill and Lindley had to take him to hospital instead. We hope this will give you some confidence in the accuracy of this record.)

The end of the war saw no immediate change in the situation of the Regiment, but as the months went by the spectre of disbandment began to walk abroad. On 1st September, 1945, the Regiment, less No. 3 Squadron, moved from Brussels to Gutersloh (about half-way between Dortmund and Hanover). The following month No. 1 Squadron

moved to Wuppertal and was soon after disbanded and we took over command of No. 1 Squadron, No. 16 Air Formation Signal Regiment in Paris. This Squadron had been originally in No. 18 Air Formation Signal Regiment. When No. 18 was disbanded it became part of No. 17, and when No. 17 went it was transferred to No. 16. Our old No. 3 Squadron disbanded early in 1946 and was replaced by No. 3 Squadron of Nos. 16 or 17 Air Formation Signal Regiments, then at Ghent. At the same time we took over a fourth Squadron from No. 14 on the disbandment of that Regiment. In June or July our No. 3 Squadron from Ghent was disbanded and our No. 4 Squadron, then at the famous Bad Godesberg, became No. 3 Squadron.

In February, 1946, Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. Shepherd came from No. 13 (disbanding) and took over command from Lieutenant-Colonel Davies, who was then being released. By September No. 12 was also disbanding, and their C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich, came to us and took over from Lieutenant-Colonel Shepherd. Colonel McOstrich remained with us until last November, when he left to take up the appointment of C.S.O., West Africa. In September No. 1 Squadron was also disbanded and we took over No. 1 Squadron of No. 12, which was stationed at Bad Eilsen, where it was responsible for the communications at Air Headquarters, British Air Forces of Occupation. There was still one further change of Squadrons in July, 1947, when we took over No. 1 Squadron of No. 11 at Hamburg as our No. 3 Squadron, while our No. 3 Squadron became No. 1 Squadron of No. 11.

That, then, is our brief history. At one time in 1945 our commitments extended over a large part of Western Europe. We had men in Denmark and in the extreme south-west corner of France, near the Spanish border.

There were detachments in or near many French and Belgian towns, including Paris, Brussels, Lyons, Douai, Cambrai and Ghent. Those were the days—days when there were leave centres in Biarritz and on the Riviera! And we still have detachments near Fulda in the American Zone, in Adenau in the French Zone, and at Eindhoven, and on the Marseilles airfield at Istres. Now we hand over these many duties to No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, who, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, will be the only Air Formation Signal Regiment remaining in B.A.O.R.

Though on paper we are now being disbanded, it is, in fact, an amalgamation with No. 11, and the majority of our Officers and nearly all our men will go to No. 11. Among those who transfer will be Major Western, our Second-in-Command (to Second-in-Command of No. 11); Major Jarvis, our O.C. No. 2 Squadron; and Major Wood, our O.C. No. 3 Squadron. The two Squadron Commanders take over the same Squadrons in No. 11. Our R.S.M., R.S.M. G. Kerr, and our R.Q.M.S., R.Q.M.S. McCulloch, take over similar appointments in No. 11.

We are very sorry to say good-bye to Major C. W. Wheeler, M.B.E., who has commanded No. 1 Squadron ever since it came to us from No. 12 in September, 1946. He has gone to No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment as their quartermaster. Major Hewitt, who since Christmas has officiated as the Squadron Commander, becomes O.C. No. 1 Squadron, No. 11, which takes over our No. 1 Squadron's commitments at Air Headquarters and all its remaining Officers and men.

We will not close these notes without mentioning Sergeant Cochrane, A.C.C. He joined us towards the end of 1943 and, except for Corporal Lindley, is our oldest member, for no one would think of regarding him other than as a member of the Regiment. He has done more for our messing than anyone else could have done, and both Officers and men will long remember him as the master chef who could produce—from apparently nothing—a banquet equal to any ever seen at the Guildhall. We do not yet know his future, but we hope it will be a very happy one.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

February

The month has been a quiet one; in fact, almost uneventful. The anticipated snow and frost failed to materialise, completely upsetting all our arrangements for skating. On one occasion the thermometer registered —5° C., but, apart from that, this winter has been a very mild one.

Three of our members left for home this month: Lieutenant "Jock" Halton, Corporal Morley and Lance-Corporal Steele. Our good wishes go with them. "Jock" was captured by the Sergeants one night before he left and disappeared till the following morning.

Second-Lieutenant Grimshaw arrived on posting from U.K. some time ago and is now comfortably settled in.

Soccer. Results of the Berlin Junior League just published showed that the Squadron was placed ninth as follows:

Games	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals for	Against
11	3	7	1	29	35

Towards the end the team was sadly depleted, the result of postings and release. A knock-out competition is just about to begin and it is hoped that we shall have better luck in that.

One member of the team, Driver Wignall, has repeatedly been included in the Combined Services, Berlin, team, which is a feather in the Squadron's cap.

Table Tennis. To date we are fifth in the league and of seven matches have won two and lost five. The opposition has been tough, but at last we seem to have struck a winning sequence.

Basket Ball. Following a purge carried out by the Sports Officer, the Squadron now has three basket ball teams. The enthusiasm is there all right, although science is lacking. There are, however, definite signs of improvement, and we are now looking round for opposition from other units.

Snooker and Billiards. A successful snooker tournament has been held which attracted many competitors. The winner and runner-up were Signalmen Ritchie and Phillips respectively, and they are to be congratulated on their skill. As a result of the keen interest shown a billiards tournament has now been organised.

Darts. The winner of the last darts match was Signalman Phillips. There were some very good contests and the final was very close.

While this article is being written it has started to snow, so perhaps we will get our winter sports after all.

"BERLIN JIMMY."

HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

February

Since our last effort at producing copy for THE WIRE many changes have taken place here. In the first place the Hamburg District Signal Office has now moved from Standard House to Luftgau Barracks, Blankenese, and the billets from Klopstockstrasse to Phillips Barracks, Osdorf. This caused much heart burning, as it means no more elevenses in the Carlile Club, and we are now away from the bright lights and night fairies. Still, our accommodation is good and we now have a Signal Office second to none in Rhine Army.

Our present Signal Office Troop Sergeant is none other than S.Q.M.S. "Darkie" Follows, well known in Corps boxing circles in the good old days. Sergeant Berry, another old timer, is in charge of the D.T.s.

Many of the old stalwarts of this Troop have departed for civilian life or for further service under the hot sun. Amongst these are Sergeants Johnson, Daly and Smith and Corporal Smith of S.D.S. Office fame. Old favourites still with us include Corporal (now Sergeant) R. C. Wright, Corporals Mitchell, Johnson, Waters and Dennis and Signalmen Glover, Lattimer, Bernard, Hartle and Hill (O.K.L.). Signalman Jones has returned from civilian life to take up Army life seriously and is now with 2nd Echelon sporting a tape.

A few days ago we welcomed a new intake from 5th Divisional Signals.

We offer sincere congratulations to Sergeant Leech on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Lilian Roddam, one of the exchange supervisors.

Our R.S.M. Baker would be interested to hear from Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Shirley.

No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

February

H.Q. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Introducing the Mess, we have a strength of 36 dining members and 14 married "pads" from Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons. No. 2 Squadron, who are stationed at Bad Oeynhausen, have their own Mess.

Our President is R.S.M. D. Herberts, ex-49th Divisional Signals. We have quite a few Regulars among our members and their names might be of interest to other Regulars serving elsewhere. "Tara"—as above: W.O.II (Ted) Clayton (Chief Scribe), S.S.M.s (Fred) Lathbury (S.S.M. No. 3 Squadron), (Pat) Walsh (S.S.M. No. 1 Squadron), (Pot) Pash (S.S.M. R.H.Q. Squadron), (Tich) Parker (i/c Unit M.T. Stores), S.Q.M.S.s (Bob) Blaikie, (Jimmy) Latimer, (Mick) Roman, (F. of S.) Pritchard, Sergeants (Red) Bentley, (Bob) Charnock, (Busty) Oram, (Slim) Pauley, (Tich) Gorman, (Tich) Newman, (Gestapo) Stead.

Being accommodated in what used to be a German Panzer barracks, our Mess is spacious and has been made very comfortable through the efforts of our P.M.C., the skill of Sergeant Charnock and others pulling their weight. Consequently our Entertainments Committee have plenty of scope to show what they can do, and it is sufficient to say we have some good "do's." At present a billiards, snooker and darts knock-out competition is being run. Interest is keen and, as always, there are one or two "dark horses." It is hoped to give the winners' names next month.

Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to R.S.M. (Jimmy) Scott on getting his commission, and we hope he will soon settle down with Hamburg District Signals.

Good luck to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Timperley on taking his demob. and to Sergeant Chantry on posting to H.E. (M) Signal Regiment, Southern Command.

Births. Four to record since the last publication of our notes, and we extend to the following our heartiest congratulations: R.S.M. and Mrs. D. Herberts, a son; S.S.M. and Mrs. C. Burman, a daughter; S.S.M. and Mrs. S. Parker, a son; Sergeant and Mrs. O'Keefe, a daughter; all at No. 155 Military General Hospital, Bergkirchen, B.A.O.R.

Marriage. We extend to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) and Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. (Jock) Harvey our best wishes for a happy married life.

The Mercury Theatre's Second Birthday. The Mercury Theatre is an institution run voluntarily by personnel of No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and A.T.S. Signals, Germany (with a few exceptions), and is quite a well-famed home of entertainment in Bad Oeynhausen. On 1st February it reached the ripe old age of two years, and to mark the occasion a special show was devised and presented to packed houses on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th February. The final performance on 6th February proved to be a real bumper show, and amongst the audience were Mrs. E. M. Bastyan (wife of Major-General E. M. Bastyan, M.G.A.), Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Royal Signals (C.S.O. B.A.O.R.), Brigadier R. L. Tavener (Deputy Military Secretary), Brigadier R. C. Harris (D.J.A.C.), Colonel the Hon. N. F. Sommerset (Garrison Commander), Controller C. E. Aymer, O.B.E. (D.D.A.T.S. B.A.O.R.), Senior Commander C. H. M. Jackson, O.B.E. (C.O. A.T.S. Signals, Germany, Vice-President Mercury Theatre), Colonel D. McGregor, Royal Signals (C.A.F.S.O.), G.I Miller (Senior American Officer in the Garrison), and the Commanding Officer No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Conway-Gordon (President of the Mercury Theatre), and Mrs. R. C. Conway-Gordon.

In a speech given by Lieutenant-Colonel Conway-Gordon the history of the Mercury Theatre was outlined, mentioning the fact that the theatre was originally a bombed-out furniture showroom, and by dint of sweating brows and willing hands the Mercury Theatre was born on 1st February, 1946. Since that date 80 shows have been put on at the Mercury in an endeavour to keep to the theatre's maxim, "A show a week." In continuing, the C.O. said that these shows consisted of 69 three-act plays, three evenings of one-act plays, and eight variety shows or revues. He also announced that a number of ex-Mercury members had banded together to form a theatre group called the Falstaff Theatre Group, and they are hoping to create a counterpart of the Mercury in England, possibly in the Kingston area. Up to date they are 25 strong, most of them belonging at one time to No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment or A.T.S. Signals, Germany. The audience seemed to appreciate the spirit and courage of this band of adventurers, judging by the applause that echoed round the walls of the Mercury Theatre as Lieutenant-Colonel Conway-Gordon concluded his speech. The variety show, in which the Rhinelanders Regimental Dance Band played a leading part, was a great success and the audience thoroughly enjoyed itself, and after the final curtain the players came down from the stage complete with costume and make-up and mingled with the audience in the foyer of the theatre. Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. C. Conway-Gordon concluded the evening's celebrations by cutting a very large birthday cake with one of the Mercury's property swords.

No. 1 SQUADRON. This month we said good-bye and good luck to Captain C. H. Kelly and Lieutenant Mackie, two of the old faithfuls of the Squadron, who left for U.K. on Class "A" release. We think that their last few memories of the B.A.O.R. will be among the happiest they possess. We also lost Second-Lieutenant R. Truby to R.H.Q. Squadron, where he has taken up duties in the Admin. Office.

To counteract our losses we are pleased to welcome Lieutenant C. Sinclair, who has already found his vocation at the Mercury Theatre. We wonder here if Captain D. S. Horne (Second-in-Command) and Lieutenant C. Sinclair are to form a branch of the good old Handlebar Club. Second-Lieutenant Irving arrived this morning from 7th Armoured Division, and; since he is a Scot, we are hoping to have gained another good footballer.

The centre of attraction this month is the miniature range, where keen competition is being experienced and all contestants are out for a place in the Unit team. One member of the Squadron was among the successful contestants in a recent Unit boxing match against 1st R.T.R. Signalman Haskins, welter-weight, was an easy winner, as indeed he was in several boxing matches in No. 2 Training Regiment, Catterick, as a novice. Training is still in progress and we look forward to bringing more details of successes at a later date.

Under the expert supervision of the Regimental Lines Officer, Captain D. W. Sutherland, and Sergeant J. Yendall the Squadron is running a jointers' course. The school is open in the evening and good use is made of it by those interested in getting a little extra practice.

Squadron H.Q. held their much belated Christmas party on 20th January. We were very loath to part with Lance-Corporal Oram, the O.C.'s driver, and several of his friends who left the Squadron on Class "A" release last week. The party was their farewell one and was honoured by the presence of Major S. G. Hodgson and Captain Litteljohn. The N.A.A.F.I. provided an excellent dinner and a good time was had by all.

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

February

Over the past six months personnel changes in the Regiment have been very frequent. Since last autumn new arrivals in the Officers' Mess have included Captain H. B. Williams, Second-Lieutenants J. C. Greenwood, J. R. Mackie, D. McNeil, R. S. Ferguson and J. C. B. Nunneley. Our best wishes go to Lieutenant H. Allen, who will by now be starting on his post-service career.

The Sergeants' Mess, too, have seen many changes. Sergeant Flooks, an old hand of the Unit, unfortunately met with an accident last year and is now in a U.K. hospital. We hope he is well on the way to recovery. Best wishes go to Sergeant Lane, who recently left for civvy street. New faces in the Mess are those of S.Q.M.S. Miller, who arrived last month from U.K., and Sergeants Stebbings and Ellis, who are now busy justifying their newly-gained third tape.

The Regiment could perhaps assert a claim of being a typical B.A.O.R. unit for activities are almost completely limited to within the barrack area, large towns being not within easy reach. Consequently, we depend very much on each other for our recreation. The Entertainments Committee, headed by Second-Lieutenant Mackie, is therefore kept very busy, organising twice weekly dances and cinema shows, besides frequent and more varied pastimes such as skittles and smoking concerts.

Education, too, plays its part in encouraging correspondence course students, handicraft and discussion groups. The Education Officer, Second-Lieutenant Ferguson, has been busy increasing the stock of the Unit Library, which is always in great demand.

Our inexhaustible radio amateurs are now "on net" again with their call-sign D2LM and, having just received a gross of Q.S.L. cards, are only just too anxious to despatch them to other unit "ham "groups on the 14 Mc. band.

The winter being extraordinary mild skating enthusiasts have had to swallow their disappointment and join the football fans, whose activities have been almost non-stop this season. The Unit team has, by hard practice and good football, reached second place in Division II of the Hamburg Sub-Area League. Recent opponents have been No. 1018 Port Operating Company, R.A.O.C., and No. 194 Provost Company, R.C.M.P., final scores being respectively 5—2 and 2—1 in the Unit's favour.

Our goal-keeper, Signalman Miller, a one-time schoolboy international, was included in the representative Hamburg Sub-Area team last month. Results of the trial match for selection of the English team in Hamburg Area's forthcoming "International" have not yet been announced, so the four Unit team stalwarts who took part are still busy "hoping and practising."

4th ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

February

Quite a few changes have taken place during the past month. The first week of February saw the departure of 12 O.R.s from this Squadron on posting to the U.K. for further service overseas. We wish them the best of luck and *bon voyage!* Inter-troop postings have also taken place, with most of the lower age and service group O.R.s being posted to our out-troops which, in some cases, are U.K. bound; the higher groups being called in to join "H.Q." and "W" Troop. We hope all these changes have not broken up too many romances.

Last week saw the end of a week's instructional visit by six operators; three from No. 32 L. of C. Signal Squadron and three from Schleswig Holstein Sub-Area. The object of this visit was to enable operators to see the work done by Signals in an Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. The operators, we have heard, enjoyed their stay but were glad to get back to their own unit as they had more attractions during off-duty hours than they did at Luneburg.

(Anyway, your guess as regarding attractions is as good as mine.)

Visits each Friday are still looked forward to by all members of the Squadron. The latest places of interest visited were the British Forces Network, British European Airways and the Nordwestdeutsche Rundfunk. Thanks are extended by all ranks to the originator of the visits and also for the hospitality shown by the men who show the troops round.

A whist drive is held one evening each week in the troops' dining hall and is attended by the majority of the Squadron. Sergeant Malton (Dick) runs the drive with great success. One lucky person won a cigarette case one week and the following week managed to get a lighter to go with it.

"W" TROOP. Training during the past month has followed very much the usual pattern of winter training, with the accent on sport, educational discussions, and weekly visits to local industries.

Surely the most "gripping," but nevertheless the most interesting of the evening educational periods was a talk by the Troop Commander, Captain S. Vernon, Royal Signals, on East Africa. Never before have I seen so many gripped so successfully for so long on so little. The whole Squadron were literally glued to their chairs and, even though the talk was scheduled to last 45 minutes to one hour, at the end of 90 minutes each individual was simply hanging on to the next word. Time and time again the audience were told that if anyone wished they could leave, but not a soul stirred. At the end of two hours—having a wife and baby waiting—I simply had to go, but the talk went on. That is "gripping," soldier! I am a bit of a gripper myself, but I willingly forfeit all claims to the Piala.

About a week later, a draft left this Unit for England, *en route* to service in sunnier climes, but I do not think they were quite as heavy hearted as the average draftees. Some of them, I feel sure, were silently hoping to get to East Africa. Maybe, chaps? But it might even be Burma—that is another story though.

We have had one or two very successful social evenings. The junior ranks, feeling bold, challenged the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants to an in-door games tourney and received a thrashing. "Appy" Andrew, our grosser grocer, did not consider the men's team fully representative and a return match was arranged.

The tables were turned by the men winning the evening, but it was a close fight and, altogether, a very enjoyable evening. Even S.Q.M.S. Roake left S.S.M. Nurse's toy train alone for once and joined in the sports.

Another unusual occurrence was the holding of a dance at Luneberg's Palais. It was a tremendous success and almost the whole Squadron turned up. The P.R.I. is still staggering around with an ice pack on his head. It certainly cost a tidy penny, but was well spent; everyone enjoys a drink on the house.

Sport plays a major part in the Squadron routine and, despite the fact that five members of the soccer team are at present indulging in the evils of home life in England, we have maintained our reputation at football by winning two of our three league games during January, 8—2 and 6—0, losing the third 2—4. Many older members of the Troop have returned to their more peaceful occupations in civvy street—wherever that might be—and with best wishes for the future to them all, I will say cheerio.

"Y" TROOP, ATTACHED 3RD ROYAL TANK REGIMENT. Well, friends, this is our final contribution to THE WIRE as "Y" Troop, but we hope that we will be able to contribute under a new name when the time arrives.

In the realm of sport these last two months the Troop continued with its run of football successes by winning three games, drawing one and losing one in running. Our cross-country expert, Driver Fleming, has been also doing well. In the regimental cross-country competitions, so far, he has still to be beaten. He has also been chosen to represent the Regiment in the Schleswig-Holstein Sub-Area Cross-Country Run. We hope that he will maintain his record and we wish him success.

Our amateur radio station D2CJ has at last had to close down, but it is hoped that we will be able to re-open under another call sign soon after our arrival in U.K. We will let all our ex-contacts know our new call as soon as we can.

Since we have started to get ready for the move, it has been noticed that all the Troop have very tired looks in the mornings; it must be the quick change from leisure to work that is doing it. Even the wireless operators have been helping—to the amazement of all concerned. We now wonder what they are all after. Soon after we arrive back in U.K. we shall be losing our Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Britton, so we should like to take this opportunity of wishing him every success in his civilian life.

No. 31 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Celle

February

During the latter half of January this Squadron was rudely uprooted from the even tenure of its existence in Hanover, and transplanted to Celle. The transition period covered a matter of three weeks—and we have yet No. 37 T.O. Troop to grace us with its presence. They are still in Hanover, running the Signal Office, until properly relieved.

Our new abode is Trenchard Barracks, until lately the roost of No. 84 Group, R.A.F. The accommodation is similar to that of our last station—but the barracks are much more extensive—why—M.T.O. is thinking of having a walkie-talkie net from the Squadron Office to his garages.

We are taking over the responsibilities—with regard to communications—of the 84 Group, R.A.F. Signal Office communications at the moment of going to press are: two teleprinters to Rhine Army, one to 5th Division, R.A., and one back to Hanover. S.D.S. operates as far afield as Oldenburg and further south, Brunswick, Bielefeld and Bad Oeynhausen.

Naturally, with heavier commitments we have received reinforcements. From No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron we have: No. 181 Tele. Op. Troop; O.C., Second-Lieutenant Hawkins; Troop Sergeant Young. No. 149 Tele. E. Troop; O.C., Second-Lieutenant Hense; Troop Sergeant Lord. No. 133 D.R. Troop; Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Thornton. And also, from No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron: No. 63 Op. Troop; O.C., Second-Lieutenant Barnes; Troop Sergeant, Sergeant Phillips.

They are already operational. Signal Office reliefs are now 16 strong and D.R. runs extensive.

Of course, reunions have been widespread between "Bods" and everybody is settling cheerfully. Celle possesses a very fine N.A.A.F.I. in the Riverside Club and, although smaller than Hanover, caters very well for off-duty key-pounders.

Making sure I have this item of news under the right heading, this is where we officially congratulate our Commanding Officer, Major J. L. Purdon, and his wife on the birth of a son at Hanover on 25th December.

Demob. has claimed, amongst others, Signalman Manning, of imperishable memory, if only for his P.O.W. "grips." We shall be losing all the old faces between February and April, however, so we are steeling ourselves for heartrending partings. Lots of "Bods" are cheerfully packing their bags and leaving us for "Demob. courses"; that, of course, is B.A.O.R. language for "Pre-Release Skive."

Captain Bounds is in Blighty on a 10-day course and our Second-in-Command, Captain Dickson, is on leave, also in the promised land. Captain Bounds entered the ranks of the benedicks towards the latter end of last year. Handy course, sir, eh?

We are literally too busy to organise any sport. Our soccer team has not played since 24th December and the hockey enthusiasts, ably led by Sergeant Kelly, are energetically searching for a very elusive hockey pitch.

The S.S.M. has pinched the only likely-looking spot for the morning parades!

"TOSH"

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

Knowing the value of comradeship during your service in the Army you will no doubt appreciate its equal importance in civil life. By joining The Signals Association you will be assisting to perpetuate friendships and connections formed during the war, and whose continuance will be the foundation of good relationship throughout the Empire in peace.

The broad objects of The Signals Association are:—

To establish a link between old soldiers and their former comrades in the Corps.

To arrange for periodical social reunions.

The publication of THE WIRE, the Corps Magazine, giving Signals Association news. All old comrades can obtain a copy on application to the Editor, THE WIRE, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Full details are given in our Editorial page.

Advice and guidance are at all times available, and, in cases of necessity, financial assistance.

It is very much in the interests of all serving and former members of the Corps that they should join The Signals Association. Apply now to:—

The General Secretary,
The Signals Association Headquarters,
88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1,

who will be glad to give you the fullest information and also the address of the nearest branch of The Signals Association to your home town.

No. 33 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Dusseldorf

February

With January having come and gone, here is the first bulletin of 1948 from Dusseldorf. We are now firmly established in our new quarters at Zapp House, but with the depletion of our strength due to postings and demob. the place is not so overwhelmed with Signal types. Everyone seems to have agreed that the Christmas and New Year celebrations were a big success. A big hand should be given here to Messrs. Melville and Hagen, who, with a small band of helpers under Captain Haystead, performed the donkey work in knocking the new canteen into shape. The comfort and attractiveness of the canteen has been much appreciated at the January dances, social evenings and during the cold, damp day of the Ruhr. In anticipation of the Squadron break-up Munster has claimed a considerable proportion of our " bods " already, and no doubt many more of us will be seeing the " Munster pile " when the day of reckoning comes.

Sport. January has proved to be perhaps the most eventful month in the history of the Squadron. Having won the honour of representing 4th Brigade, No. 33 L. of C. advanced to the Inter-Brigade Football Competition of 2nd Division, with 5th Brigade and 6th Highland Brigade being the other contestants. It was a home and away affair, and, although losing our unbeaten record to 5th Brigade (we have an excellent reason, really), our team proceeded to win the trophy after a memorable decider at the massive Dusseldorf Stadium. In this game no fewer than three penalties were awarded against us, but do not get me wrong; all the penalties were for handling. Amazing Signal luck prevailed, for the penalties were all missed.

Here is how the competition finished up :

	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Point
4th Brigade (No. 33 L. of C. Signals) ..	4	2	1	1	5
5th Brigade (40th Battery, R.A.)	4	2	0	2	4
6th Brigade (Highland)	4	1	1	2	3

Thus on the very last day of January, and on probably the last occasion on which the Squadron will be represented on the soccer field, a memorable victory was achieved. The inscription " No. 33 L. of C. Signal Squadron " is now firmly engraved on the 4th Brigade and 2nd Divisional trophy, so even when we are disbanded Major Staerck and his merry men will not be forgotten up 2nd Division way. One of the most heartening features of it all has been the tremendous enthusiasm shown by the whole Squadron, from the O.C. to the O.C.'s tea boy, " Titch " Bowdler.

Entertainment. With the festive seasons over for another year things are settling down to a less hectic form of entertainment. The twice weekly dance and social evenings are still well attended and the disc music provides a welcome change from that usually played by the Liermann Orchestra, and the canteen resounds to Opus No. 1 instead of " Schenk mir Dein Laecheln, Maria."

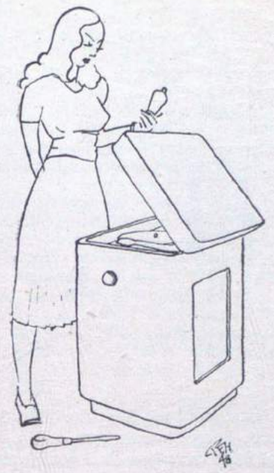
" ANDY "

DORTMUND DETACHMENT. During the month of January the Detachment has suffered a number of changes, all of which seem to lead up to the transition from No. 33 to No. 30 L. of C. Signal Squadron. As a direct result of this change of command Second-Lieutenants Barnes and Whyte have bid a reluctant farewell to the Detachment and vice versa. Mr. Barnes is now in Celle and Mr. Whyte has taken up residence in Munster. Both have, from time to time, been heard chanting that well-known psalm, " By the waters of Celle (or Munster) we sat down and wept when we remembered thee, O Dortmund." Command of the Detachment has been assumed by Captain W. F. Grundy, Royal Signals, recently arrived from Munster. Captain Grundy is doubtfully assisted in his hazardous task by Second-Lieutenant Scott, who, much to his delight, has been designated Second-in-Command, M.T.O., O.C. 1st T.E. Detachment and Sports Officer. After having been posted backwards and forwards between Dortmund and Dusseldorf with monotonous regularity, Mr. Scott has eventually become part of the Detachment furniture. This state of affairs will presumably continue until demobilisation, that insidious disease which can deprive you of your best friend almost overnight.

The year opened, of course, with a New Year's dance, where fancy dress was compulsory. Where all the costumes came from, I should not like to hazard a guess, but every man was bedecked in some fantastic manner and the whole affair was very colourful. The prize for the best costume was awarded to a gentleman who converted himself into a very convincing " spiv," a truly noble effort. The supply of good cheer again appeared to be unlimited, and more than once I was aggressively asked what I thought I was doing riding a man-eating tiger across the dance floor.

Football has continued to flourish throughout the month. Having convincingly won the 4th Brigade knock-out competition, the Squadron proceeded to represent 4th Brigade in the Divisional Inter-Brigade League. After four very close and exciting matches we again came out on top, and the team must be congratulated on becoming 2nd Division champions. Special mention should be made here of two of our players, Signalmen Dickson and Gibb, at inside left. Dickson has invariably caused his opponent to curse the person who ever presented him with his first pair of football boots, and Gibb, our goalkeeper, has on numerous occasions called unstinted applause from friend and foe for his almost incredible feats of agility. In passing I should also like to note that Dickson is to be commended for arresting and bringing to book a very dangerous and desperate character who endeavoured to make away with public property.

Finally, we must send best wishes to our demobees, Private Wilson, whose joy was unbounded when he discovered he went out with his infantry group, Lance-Corporal Madge, who successfully fiddled the canteen for a considerable time, Lance-Corporal Alexander, with the inexhaustible energy on the football field, and Private Whittingham (A.C.C.), who managed to acquire a reputation that would be the envy of the Borgias. We wish them good luck and trust that beer will soon be as cheap in civvy street as it is here.



.. unscrewed some bits — and looked at them.

HELP!!

THE third time I broke the radiogram *nothing* seemed to do it any good—I mean, I did all the usual things like hammering on the top with a book, and slapping the sides gently with the hand and, finally, I unscrewed some bits of it and looked at them, but still it wouldn't work. So I rang up Charles.

" I know *everything* about radiograms," he said confidently, " after all, darling, I *was* in Signals!" So I said, " Very well, then, come round and fix mine." He can't have come *absolutely* straight round, because when I opened the door there were about five of the chaps with him, hulking great men in barathea trousers and hairy tweed jackets. They all shambled in, grinning amiably and flexing their great fingers, so I showed them the radiogram, which was lying cowering in a corner with a screwdriver and a can-opener and one of those things off corned beef tins, which was all I could find to help, and, quickly emptying the chrysanthemums out of the large jug, I nipped round to the " Lord George Russell " for some beer. When I came back the sitting-room was full of men: there were two of them, in lurid checked flannel shirts, sitting on the sofa reading the *New Statesman* and making hideous comments at the end of each paragraph, and about half a squadron was clustered round the radiogram, making clucking noises to it as if it was a nervous horse.

" Charles! " I said. He came out of the kitchen with the pint enamel jug I use for gravy in one hand, so I filled it with beer. " Is it serious? " I asked.

Charles said, " We think it's the inductance," in the voice of a specialist giving you six months more.

" Is that bad? " I asked.

" Well, David says if he had some fuse wire and a hairpin he thinks he might try a dodge he learnt off a man in Tel-el-Kebir once." So I flew off to fetch it, noticing vaguely as I passed that three of the chaps were drinking beer and playing poker dice in the corridor. The sitting-room was, by now, full of smoke and the noise of men telling each other about T.M.O.s they had known in Basra, Jub, Rawalpindi and Catterick in the years 1923-1938, so I said " David! " loudly and a neat character in a scarlet waistcoat came up and told me about how he had been in Signals himself. So we drank the health of the Corps (I noticed the glasses must be running short as there was a huge morose man in a corner, drinking like a mad thing out of one of the best coffee cups) and I gave him the fuse wire and a rather part-worn hairpin, and he crashed through the crowd to the radiogram. Before they closed in on it again I saw they had very efficiently disembowelled it, and it lay with its component parts indecently exposed on a sheet of *The Times*.

" Have you anything to eat? " asked Charles. I looked at the chaps and thought about the store cupboard. " No," I said.

"Anything in a TIN, darling," asked Charles in the sort of voice that must have gone down well with his General. So I whipped up some corned beef sandwiches and the chaps engulfed them without turning a hair, and someone started a poker school and I lost 5s. 4d. so quickly, I hardly noticed.

Then the door bell rang and when I answered it there was a man on leave from B.A.O.R. with a lot of German gin, who said he had been in R.E.M.E. and had come about the radiogram. So we let him in and he unscrewed some more of it. After a bit, someone said to me, " Where was it you thought it went wrong? " So I said I though it was the light-weight pick-up.

" Basil! " said everyone at once. " Where's Basil? "

" He lives in Putney," said the morose man with the coffee cup.

TMOs they'd known in Basra, Jub.....

" Marvellous man with a light-weight pick-up," said David, sadly, " but, of course, Putney's too far out."

" Is there anything else we could use ? " I asked.

A man in yellow socks said " It seems a bit of a shame to take your electric iron to pieces, of course, but when I was in Hamburg we had a man in the Mess who could get the B.B.C. Light Programme with some bits of an iron and, of course, other things as well, you know how it is . . ." It sounded frightful to me, but the two men on the sofa, who were doing the *New Statesman* competition by this time and were surrounded by dictionaries and books of verse, suddenly sat up and took notice.

" Was that old *Simpson* you met in Hamburg ? " they asked.

" Well, they used to call him Potty Simpson—man with a mania for shrimps, with a little moustache, and always wore suede shoes ! "

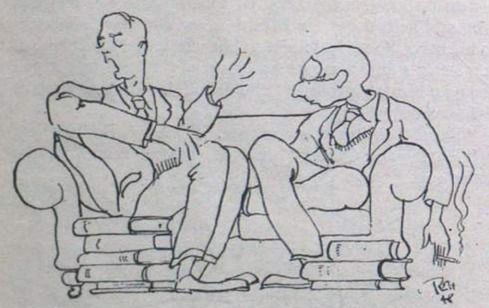
" I met him in the Calais Transit Camp," said the taller of the two chaps, " being demobbed."

" No ! " said the man in yellow socks. I went out into the corridor.

" How's it going ? " asked the nearest man.

" Not too well," I said, " we're stuck for a man called Basil, but he lives in Putney and it's too far out."

" My name is Basil," said the other man, " and it isn't Putney ; it's Hurlingham." He went crashing off into the sitting-room, and I sat down in the corridor with the other man, who told me about his girl friend back in Fort Worth, where he had once attended a course. It was a long sad story and, by the time we had to go back for more beer, you could not see across the sitting-room at all for smoke, and Basil was nowhere to be seen. I approached the radiogram and saw they were now re-assembling it, but when I asked



... surrounded by dictionaries + books of verse ...

Sophomore year at ....

Charles, who had just come back from the " Lord George Russell " with more beer, how it was going, he said, " Frankly, darling, I don't know how Basil got his majority," so I felt a bit downcast. When they had finished putting the radiogram together again I asked him again, so we turned it on and nothing happened.

" Well, " said Basil, " I can't think why it's like this ! Reminds me of the time we had that trouble with the 10 Set in Tunis."

One of the chaps said " Was that in '42 ? " so they were off again.

I looked at the radiogram. It had a dejected air. I picked up the nail-file off the mantlepiece and tried screwing up the screws on the end of the light-weight pick-up. Then I turned it on. It said " Did you know you could do your Sophomore year at the American Army College of the Rhine ? " so I moved it a bit and several saxophones broke into a long, low rhythmical moan.

Charles said " Dance ? " so we did. Several of the chaps did some close-harmony renderings, and Basil said it was his turn for the " Lord George Russell," and about ten we had some more sandwiches and the chaps read aloud their competition entry for the *New Statesman*, and they began to go home about half-past. The man with yellow socks said on the doorstep, " I say, it was awfully decent of you to ask us all round like this to listen to your radiogram. It's an awfully good one ! If you ever have any trouble with it—I mean, if it won't work or anything—you just ask us round, and we'll have it going again in two ticks. Most of us were in Signals, after all ! "

" I'll do that thing," I said.

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

BERTAND STEWART ESSAY

Captain Bertrand Stewart, an Officer of the Cavalry Division, was killed in the Battle of the Aisne in 1914, left a sum of money for the purpose of starting an essay competiiton to " increase the efficiency of the British Army as a fighting force."

Captain Stewart was not a regular soldier, but had seen active service in the South African War. In 1911 he was imprisoned by the Germans on a trumped-up charge of espionage and, on his release two years later, was able to furnish Ministers of the British Government with vital evidence about the Germans' preparations for war. He also learned a great deal about German military methods and was the author of the Active Service Pocket Book, which proved invaluable to many Officers training Kitchener's Army and was the ancestor of the modern Field Service Pocket Book.

So much for the man—now for his bequest. Captain Stewart had a great love for the Army, which was based on the interests and needs of the serving soldier. His bequest enables not only the Army men of all ranks, but men of all Services, to make their views known to the Army as a whole.

The subject which has been set for the Prize Essay for 1948 is the following :

" It was in the Middle East that Napoleon, Kaiser William II, and Hitler all staged major offensives to bring about our defeat. It was in, or from, Egypt that Napoleon received his first major defeat, and our enemies in World War I and II sustained their early land defeats in the sequence of our victories that led to their final overthrow.

" Hitherto both we and our enemies have realised the vital importance of control of the Middle East in war. In the light of present and probable political and scientific developments, discuss the future strategic importance of the Middle East to the British Commonwealth of Nations."

The competition is open to all who are serving, or have served, in the Forces of the British Commonwealth or Empire.

Entries must not exceed 10,000 words in length, and must be typewritten and submitted in quadruplicate to the Editor of Army Quarterly, Little New Street, London, E.C.4, by 24th June, 1948.

The authorship of the essays must be strictly anonymous. Each competitor must adopt a motto and enclose with his essay a sealed envelope with his motto typewritten on the outside and his name and address inside.

The title and page of any published or unpublished work, to which reference is made in any essay or from which extracts are taken, must be quoted.

Judges are appointed from the three Services and their decision will be final. They will announce the result of the competition in October, 1948, and the winning essay will be published in Army Quarterly.

The prize for 1948 will be £80 and the judges are empowered to distribute it or withhold it altogether, according to the standard of the entries submitted.

* * *

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Receipt of the following publications is acknowledged :

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, December.

THE ROYAL PIONEER, December.

H.L.I. CHRONICLE, January.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, January.

R.E.M.E., February.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 24th January, 7th February and 21st February.

Other Overseas Stations

WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

Accra

February

R.H.Q. The Regiment is now settled down and Regimental Headquarters functioning as in a normal Signals Regiment. The Commanding Officer is at present on an inspection visit to the Squadron in Nigeria and after the hard work of the past two months he will welcome the change. The T.O.M. returned from Freetown a few weeks ago and the Second-in-Command has just returned from Freetown. The Quartermaster has gone to Takoradi and on to Kumasi and Tamale. The Cipher Officer is at present in Lagos and the Adjutant goes there in a few days' time ; quite a mobile Regimental Headquarters !

Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., our late C.S.O., left on 23rd December by air and we are pleased to know he was home for Christmas. All ranks of the Regiment wish him the best of luck. We welcome to West Africa our new C.S.O., Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich. Twelve N.C.O.s of the Regiment left for home on 24th January, 1948, and we wish them luck either on the home establishment or in civilian life. Sixteen N.C.O.s arrived on 22nd January, 1948, and we give them a hearty welcome to West Africa.

Photograph taken during the visit of Mr. Claisole Barnett, Chairman of the Associated Negro Press of U.S.A., to Command Signal Office, accompanied by Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E.

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON. Sport over the January period was confined to football with cup-tie fever a predominant factor. After a hectic and very successful season Signals 'A" and Signals " B " were drawn together in the semi-final of the knock-out trophy. A fast, keen game resulted with "A" team running out winners by 5 goals to 2. " B " team claimed all five were " unearned income." We then looked forward to the final *versus* " H.Q." West Africa Command. This took place in front of a fairly representative

appreciative audience, who were in cup final mood. The game, exciting throughout the 90 minutes, was notable for goal-mouth spills and thrills. H.Q., W.A.C., took a splendid break-away goal in the second half and defended like heroes for the rest of the match to win 1—0. Below is the league table showing Signals "A" to be well ahead with only one match left to play. It is notable that Signals "A" team had played 25 games (including seven challenge matches) without defeat until the cup final—you cannot have everything. Stalwart service has been rendered by Sergeant Stewart, Corporal Forsyth and Captain P. Smith, who formed a redoubtable half-back line, and in the back division by S.Q.M.S. Field and R.Q.M.S. Cordner, who sent the shutters up and said goals were not on issue.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
W.A. Signal Regiment "A"	17	16	1	0	90	13	33
H.Q., W.A.C.	18	12	2	4	53	16	26
No. 1 Static Workshops	18	10	2	6	33	36	22
Royal Engineer's "A"	17	10	0	7	61	39	20
W.A. School of Infantry and Education	16	9	1	6	30	36	19
W.A. Signal Regiment "B"	17	8	2	7	45	37	18
No. 2 G.C. Independent Light Battery, W.A.A.	18	4	5	9	18	27	13
No. 1 G.C.R.	17	3	3	11	22	48	9
Arden Camp	18	4	1	13	24	45	9
R.A.M.C. (Hospital)	18	1	3	14	16	93	3

Hockey and cricket seasons are beginning now. However, more of these anon.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. The Squadron has settled down to hard work again after a very welcome break for holidays. One good thing about service out here is that time does not hang on one's hands. There is always something to do in Lagos and, though the climate can be rather sticky, life is pleasant.

At the moment we are busy with Trade Training and although our men are enthusiastic it is rather difficult to get them up to the required standard. Actually, Africans are now filling jobs which before were considered above them, such as radio mechanics and vehicles mechanics, and it is hoped in the fulness of time to make the R.W.A.F.F. completely African.

TRADES TRAINING TROOP PERMANENT STAFF

Back row (standing): Corporals Sam, Acquay, Haruna, Awuku, Komla, Lawson, Ogan, Tekoh. Front row (standing): Sergeant Adjei, Corporal R. W. Ellement, Corporal E. G. Howells, Corporal G. L. Mann, Corporal D. A. Bowden, Corporal J. E. Ellis, Sergeant Lomotey. Back row (sitting): Lieutenant E. V. Vousden, Captain W. L. Howard (O.C.), Sergeant W. Constantine. Front row (sitting): Sergeant Badu, Sergeant Codjoe

Our five out-stations provide a change of air for a good number of our S.O. Troop and provides us with chances to see the interior of the Colony, to study the difference between tribes and indulge in a variety of sport. There is a splendid leave camp at Jos, high up on the Plateau, where those who can be spared spend 14 days of local leave. One can also spend a pleasant week-end at Tarquah Bay, where there is safe swimming and amenities provided by N.A.A.F.I.

Welcome additions to our little community are the wives and families of two of our British N.C.O.s. They are living in pleasant surroundings on the edge of the lagoon.

Our African troops are cheerful and contented. Most of them live out and their pay, plus allowances, compares very favourably with that of civil counterparts. We have had numerous requests from them to become Regular Soldiers, and large numbers defer their release.

Sport. The newly elected sports committee, under Sergeant Stockdale, is providing us with plenty of games. We play basket ball (Sunday morning effort), cricket and football. Our activities in the hockey world are curtailed by lack of grounds. Our one and only pitch at Lancaster Barracks cannot now be used. We are attempting to build a *mutti* pitch nearby, but at the moment it is too rough.

Three of our members play for the Military cricket team, and all did well in their last match. We are practising for a match against Pay and Records.

In the football world we have had some enjoyable games with our neighbours. The results are :

v. Combined C.S.D. and No. 481 Company	Won	6—2
v. H.Q., N.D.	Won	5—1
v. Pay and Records	Drawn	1—1
v. B.O.D.	Lost	2—3

Our next match *versus* R.E.M.E. Workshops promises to be of the cup-tie variety for they are our keennest rivals.

Social and Personal. Our little band has received welcome reinforcements from Accra. They are Sergeants Kennedy and Dixon, Corporals Catt, Bowden and Damper. They are already settling down and enjoying the change. Our married families are Mrs. Stockdale and children, and Mrs. McWilliam. We hope they will like Nigeria. We are expecting a visit from our new C.O. in the near future, and we hope to see the new C.S.O., Colonel McOstrich, in the next few months. Nigeria is an interesting country and our out-stations are all near historic places of interest.

For a long time we have been agitating for our own Sergeants' Mess; at present our senior N.C.O.s live with H.Q., Nigeria District, and, at last, we have had a promise of a new building.

The Corporals' Mess has been re-decorated and re-arranged. It is now a very cosy place. The Christmas festivities went with a swing, thanks mainly to the efforts of the chopmaster and barmaster. There was plenty of eats and drinks. One memory we shall take back from the Coast is that of the amount and variety of the good things to eat. Table tennis seems to be ousting darts at the moment, but there are a few die-hards who prefer the arrows.

Obituary. A very tragic occurrence marred our Christmas break here, when S.Q.M.S. MAUNDER (Sam to most people) met with a fatal accident. He died on Boxing Day and was buried with military honours in the Military Cemetery, Lagos, the following day.

Sam had a very likeable disposition. He was popular with all ranks, European and African, and will be sorely missed. Always willing to help in extra regimental duties, he wrote WIRE notes and entered into all our games and social activities. He was extremely well liked by members of other units, all of whom sent representatives to the funeral.

All those in the Corps who knew Sam will join us in our heartfelt sympathy for his young wife and child.

Territorial Army

No. 60 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

The Regiment is now settled down to individual training, with one of the objects being to prepare the T.A. personnel to assist the Regular staff in the training of the National Service men when they come along. Volunteer recruiting, on the whole, is disappointing, but the emphasis is on quality and not quantity, and at the moment, with very few exceptions, our "recruits" are ex-W.O.s and N.C.O.s of Royal Signals.

All ranks, in conjunction with No. 50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., are now busy preparing the Signals stand which is to be part of the "Services Cavalcade" in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from 20th-28th February, 1948. We have invited all ex-Signals living in Glasgow and it is hoped that it will be a bumper reunion.

On Friday evening, 14th November, 1947, O.C. 84th AGRA (Field) Signal Squadron, T.A., invited all ex-Signals of Kirkcaldy to a display of signal equipment held in the Squadron H.Q. at Hunter Street, Kirkcaldy. All the boys turned up and a very pleasant evening was spent in a "bun fight" and yarn swopping.

On 21st November, 1947, an Old Comrades' smoker was held in the Dunnikier Arms Hotel, Kirkcaldy. In keeping with custom, after-dinner speeches were made by the Chairman of the Branch, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Woods, T.D., Major A. Frazer, O.B.E., M.C., and Captain H. L. C. Melville, and were replied to by the guests of honour, Brigadier C. Knowles, C.B.E., C.S.O. Scottish Command, and our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Crawford, M.B.E., Royal Signals. Much talent was displayed in the way of entertainment and everyone had a most enjoyable evening.

Talking of old comrades, readers, particularly ex-Mounted Wing, will be pleased to know that "Hotpot," of Royal Tournament fame, is enjoying a quiet retired life on an estate near Dundee. She is now 18 years old, remarkably fit, but rather tubby now that her jumping days are over. "Hotpot" will be remembered for her "near miss" at winning the Prince of Wales Cup at Olympia in 1935 and for her numerous successes in the jumping rings of agricultural shows all over the country.

The formation of a "Ham" Club in each of our Squadrons is under way and it is hoped soon to publish callsigns for all interested "ham sparks" of the Corps.

Our best wishes go to S.S.M. J. B. (Mutt) Matthews, who left us recently to take up duty with No. 1 T.T. Regiment at Catterick Camp. Good luck, Sergeant-Major!

We welcome Sergeant L. T. Axam, from No. 1 T.T. Regiment, who recently joined 85th AGRA (Field) Signal Squadron, T.A., at Glasgow. We hope that his blood is not too thin to withstand the Scottish elements.

S.S.M. A. H. Grace, No. 26 (S) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A., has recently been reunited with his family. Mrs. Grace and son arrived from India on 3rd January, 1948. We sincerely hope that their stay near Dundee will be a pleasant one.

Very little opportunity is afforded the Cadre to take part in military sports, and three of our permanent staff assist the Kirkcaldy first hockey eleven regularly, Captain D. D. Driscoll, S.S.M. S. B. Harvey and S.S.M. T. Denholm, under the able team leadership of Major R. B. D. Steele, O.C. 84th AGRA (Field) Signal Squadron, T.A.

A new branch of Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association has been set up in Dundee, with Major J. B. Dunn in the chair, S.S.M. W. H. Brooks as Secretary, and Major P. C. J. McGrath as Treasurer. The branch is now well established and held a whist drive on Friday, 30th January, 1948, which was a big success.

Congratulations to our Adjutant, Captain D. D. Driscoll, and Mrs. Driscoll on being presented with a son, David Singleton, at Edinburgh on 24th January, 1948.

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

As anticipated in our last notes the individual training season is now in full swing. Our Squadrons are recovering from the first sight of the ambitious training programmes sent out from R.H.Q. early this year and have got down to work as there is much to do in the comparatively short period between now and going to Annual Camp.

On 24th-25th January we held a Trade Test Board for personnnel of 63rd H.Q. Signal Regiment and 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division Signal Regiment. The number of candidates who presented themselves for the test was very gratifying. The results were also most satisfactory and reflected much credit on the Squadrons from which the successful candidates had come.

"SIXTY-THREE"

No. 26 A.G.R.E. SIGNAL TROOP. We are now beginning to settle down after the Christmas period. Much of our long-awaited equipment has now arrived and we hope to begin serious training without delay.

Congratulations to the undermentioned, who passed Standard Trade Tests at a Command Trade Test Board held week-end 24th-25th January, 1948 :

Sergeant R. A. Jolliffe, Lineman, B.II; Corporal L. R. Compton, Despatch Rider, C.III.

Recruiting during the past two months has been disappointing, but we are not downhearted and hope to welcome many more to the fold, so come along all you Salisburyites and, whenever you feel inclined, drop in at the Drill Hall, Wilton Road (near Skew Bridge).

"AGRE"

10TH AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT. The builders have at last arrived and spend the days happily smashing the floor of the main hall with hammers. The Permanent Staff are bearing up well, but, in the stillness of the evening, are apt to roar at us as though we were stone deaf. Training continues in our only available room, the Canteen.

We look forward to the arrival of several of our vehicles which are now awaiting collection at Aldershot, having been brought there from V.R.D.s by drivers kindly loaned by No. 356 Company, R.A.S.C. They will be housed temporarily with No. 100 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron at Blighmont Barracks, Southampton, but their permanent address is still unknown.

After our hockey victory over a Southampton University side we launched ourselves boldly at the Pirelli Works' team only to fall back shattered by the adverse score of 7 to 2. However, we learned a lot, and are keener than ever. The fact that our goal was kept, and practically obscured, by Captain Warren did not deter our opponents in the least, except perhaps on one occasion when he attempted to kick the ground from under their feet.

"ASSULIKET"

No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

The fact that we have almost nothing to say this month in no way deters us from occupying a little space in THE WIRE. On the contrary, we are adept at making too many words chase too few facts.

Recruits Cronin and Curtis are the latest to be approved and several more are only waiting for the final word. End of Part II Orders.

Another grand dance, on Saturday, 31st January, pushed our reputation up a couple of notches. The bar was again looked after by Ralph Edwards' Enterprises, with the usual success. We must have a go at this ourselves one day. There is money in them thar tills. The Band, under Reg Aldis, was very good and his boys have discovered that it is not necessary to blow their saxophones out straight in order to fill the Drill Hall with melody. This is known as professional restraint, as opposed to amateur enthusiasm. Corporal Warrilow was the M.C.

For a week, during Whitsun, we are going to camp. Packing up, saying good-bye and arranging transport will present no difficulties. The journey may be dismissed with a wave of the hand, or both hands for that matter. The theme song is " I'm Happy Right Here," for we propose to mobilise ourselves at our own Drill Hall and really get down to some hard work and training. We shall never be really satisfied until we have everything working efficiently, from the 1260-watt charging engine to the big wireless stations, all wiring through to everywhere and the whole set-up ready to function at the touch of a switch. We keep asking the girl in our local post office where we can obtain some sawn-off telegraph poles for a breast route, but she says if we do not stop bothering her she will tell on us. Never mind, we shall have the thing working eventually. It is the men who come along to the T.A. *now* who can help us to reach this desirable goal. How about it, chaps ?

Every now and again we have visitors. They come from all sorts of places and are always very welcome, even when we are half-way up a long column of figures. A few days ago, Captain A. E. Dunn called in to say " howdy," drink a small one and tell us about friends in foreign parts. Captain Dunn seems to have spent a long time in India and we were most interested to learn the whereabouts of the many people he mentioned. We hope he will come and see us again because we have thought of some more questions to ask.

T.A. Associations all over the country seem to be short of money, for some projects at any rate. Ours is no exception. Being determined people we have had our Drill Hall floor resurfaced, sandblasted and polished at our own expense. The first person to measure his length on it was the Quartermaster. He was 5 ft. 8 ins. and extremely annoyed. When the Barrack Officer asks for his chairs back, and really means it, some people are going to do a lot of standing because the Association says there just are not any chairs, and even if there were, what will they use for money ?

We would like news of those notorious musicians Tom Sayers, George Mitchell and Ron Softly. And while on the personal column may we offer our very good wishes to Captain and Mrs. Jim Adcock for happy days ahead after such a long spell of soldiering.

" BARLEUX."

No. 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The last month has brought in one or two recruits and, although our numbers are still too few, our enthusiasm is in much greater strength. Our training goes on apace and attendances are good; practical work on Tuesdays and lectures on Thursdays. Both nights prove interesting and instructive.

On 3rd February a cocktail party was held in the Officers' Mess to welcome to the Unit our recently appointed Honorary Colonel, Brigadier J. L. French, C.B.E., T.D., D.L. Among our visitors for the occasion were Lieutenant-General Sir Evelyn H. Barker, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., and Colonel R. V. Read, C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (Secretary of the Essex Territorial Association).

A most pleasant evening enabled the Officers of the Unit to get to know Brigadier French and to exchange notes. It also had the secondary factor of enabling the Officers' ladies to get together, and, we hope, will help foster the enthusiasm for the Unit which we should wish them to have. Their menfolk's " evenings out " can now, we hope, be considered in their proper perspective.

Brigadier French is probably no stranger to many readers. In the first world war he served in the Middle East and between the wars he rose to command the 4th Battalion The Essex Regiment, T.A. In the recent fracas he was early appointed Commander Colchester Garrison, from whence he migrated to the War Office as a Sapper. It was in Persia, as a Brigadier, that he met with the unfortunate accident which resulted in the loss of a leg and put a stop to a very distinguished and promising military career.

We feel certain that Brigadier French is going to be of the greatest help to us, not only practically, but also from the wide experience he has to draw on as Chairman of the Essex Territorial Army and A.F. Association. No one could be keener on the well-being of the Territorial Army, and we are looking forward to our future with him.

Our camp this year is to be at Canterbury during the period 7th-14th August. We are hoping for a maximum attendance.

We have not so far heard from any other units wishing to contact us on the air. Come along, you wireless types; let us be hearing from you.

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT (KENSINGTONS)

We are proud to announce that General Sir H. Colville Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. Few members of the Corps will be ignorant of his distinguished career, which was published in a short résumé in the first post-war issue of THE WIRE (November, 1946). It is a great honour for this new Signal Regiment, formed from the Kensington Regiment and the war-time G.H.Q. Liaison Regiment (Phantom), and all ranks are extremely glad to welcome him to this appointment.

M.T. instruction in progress under Lieutenant Downes

Since the middle of last month we have been training hard on Wednesdays and Fridays. Except for the normal beer and billiards in the canteen afterwards, we have had no social occasions of any note. The miniature range is now getting properly under way and we have a number of fixtures arranged for the next few weeks, starting with the Kensington Regiment Old Comrades in a few days' time.

Recruiting has been progressing steadily over the last month and we now have a number of well-known Corps personalities in the Regiment. These include S.Q.M.S. Wright (FBCEC) (ex-7th Armoured Division and Mobilisation Centre), S.Q.M.S. Johnstone (ex-" A " Corps and No. 1 L. of C. Signals), Lance-Corporal Scott (ex-2nd Army Signals), Sergeant Alldred (ex-5th Corps Signals), Driver Booth (ex-No. 3 Special Signal Section) and Signalman Barrett (ex-7th Armoured Division). For those who are interested in statistics, our rate of recruiting has been 12 men in the month, which works out at 144 per year. So, if you are thinking of joining, you had better make up your minds soon, or we shall be full ! Did someone say statistics are baloney ? Let him ask the Coal Board.

50th (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

With the end of Christmas festivities, which included a very successful dance and children's party, members of the Unit started their training season on Tuesday, 20th January, 1948. Since its formation last May, recruiting as a whole has been rather disappointing. Nevertheless, recruiting figures of this Unit compare favourably with other re-formed North Country Territorial units. After a slow start the Darlington Squadron finished the year well and now have a considerable lead over the Middlesbrough and Gateshead Squadrons.

Good progress is being made in the building up of a cadre of experienced ex-Service men who will be capable of taking over the duties of instructors when National Service men start to enter the Territorial Army.

A number of talkie film shows have been arranged as part of the training programme for the remainder of the winter months. Another feature of the training programme, which should prove popular to wireless operators, is the inter-drill hall wireless link which is in operation on drill nights between Darlington, Gateshead and Middlesbrough. It is hoped later to extend this to include Signal Regiments in other parts of England. Later in the season it is hoped to hold a number of week-end camps and exercises, which will culminate in the annual camp to be held this year near Scarborough.

The formation of an O.C.A. Club at the three drill halls is now an established fact and, although some of the old soldiers are not too keen on re-enlisting into the T.A., they do enjoy themselves at social evenings amongst members of the Unit, when many old batttles are refought and many a tale told.

Old members of this Unit may be interested to learn of the proposal to place a Divisional memorial in Bayeux, the first town to be liberated by the Allies. This memorial—a plaque to commemorate the fallen of the " T " Division—will, it is hoped, be formally unveiled on 6th June, 1948, the anniversary of D Day. Following the first world war the Division established a memorial at Wielje, in Belgium, and a new inscription is to be added to this for the recent war.

A Northumbrian District Sports Club has been opened in Darlington and the club has welcomed as members all civilian T.A. personnel who wish to take part in the various games.

" KHASSADAR "

No. 51 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Like all post-war T.A. regiments we were formed on 1st May, 1947, and since then have been through all the trials and small triumphs which have occurred in the new life of all units. We are located at present at " Signal House," Atkins Road, Clapham, S.W.12, and are tenants of the 56th (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. We share joint Messes, but as our recruiting has produced sufficient numbers we now have separate drill nights, our landlords on Wednesday and ourselves on Tuesday. Up to now relations have been very friendly and our wish to have a separate Headquarters of our own is not because landlords and tenants do not agree.

Our Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel H. K. Hagon, O.B.E., who will be well known to many 21st Army Group people and to some who served in A.F.H.Q., C.M.F. Our Adjutant is Captain G. J. C. Sumner and our Quartermaster is Captain (I beg his pardon—Major !) Green who, unfortunately, is under orders for posting away. W.O.I Willcocks and W.O.II Lundie will be known to many regular soldiers and old comrades, and many will remember Lundie as a Corps cricketer. Our officers include Major E. C. H. Organ (ECHO) and Major Frank Warner, both of whom will be remembered by old 21st Army Group people.

We have just started refresher courses for officers and other ranks and any Tuesday will find us hard at it. It is amazing how much people have forgotten (and how much people never knew).

Even our great Carrier experts are trying to remember what morse they ever learnt. Recently some officers attended the Eastern Command Signal Exercise " Evolution " and it is said that their presence was an enormous help in arriving at the official solution. One at least of the officers was in very good voice, and the exercise went with a swing, particularly after lunch and large doses of N.A.A.F.I. port at N.A.A.F.I. prices.

On the lighter side, the Officers and Sergeants recently held a games night and the presence of their ladies kept the whole thing under control. An interesting and enjoyable visit was paid to the Tower of London for an evening party given by the very hospitable " Beefeaters."

War Office negotiations have been proceeding many months on the acquisition of a site for new Headquarters in the City of London. As the site is at present owned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, we are faced with the interesting situation of two immovable objects meeting one irresistable force (the C.O.). Hutting is waiting to be erected on the site, and everybody is ready to supply us with all our needs as soon as we have somewhere to consume them. The negotiations are at a very high level and it is alleged that even Mr. Shinwell is involved. The hutting includes a large building which will be used as a drill hall, and there are tremendous plans for every sort of social function in addition to our full training programmes.

Recruiting has been going on steadily and we are well into two figures for both officers and other ranks. We have concentrated on quality, and all our " recruits " are key men who will be well established by the time the much-publicised expansion occurs. There are still a few vacancies for Officers

and Sergeants and all ex-21st Army Group Signals will find many old friends if they pay us a visit. It has been decided by the War Office that we are the post-war successors of the old L. of C. Signals, S.R. A warm welcome waits any old comrades if they visit their old Headquarters on a Tuesday night. If they arrive early enough they will probably find the Adjutant flogging one of the Officers round the squash court.

No. 39 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

Sunday, 1st February, was a field day for No. 39 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., the enthusiastic and fast growing Royal Signals Squadron in Nottingham.

Commanded by Major L. Hayes, the Squadron proceeded to Budby, South Forrest, in its own transport, complete with D.R.s and comprehensive line equipment. The scheme was code named "Operation Pontoon," and on arrival at the rendezvous—in the heart of the Dukeries—signal exercises and practice manœuvres were carried out.

Lines were laid, base H.Q. and forward area H.Q.s were set up and communications were established. Though cold and windy, there was luckily no rain, and the Squadron, composed mainly of enthusiastic ex-Royal Signals personnel, carried out its duties with keenness and efficiency.

The Second-in-Command was Captain Legger and the hard-working P.S.I.s were R.S.M. Macken and Sergeant Grainger.

Based at the Drill Hall, Beeston, Notts, the Squadron would welcome new members to its ranks, and the O.C. would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join this lively and go-ahead Squadron. The Squadron is a mixed one and consists of T.A. and A.T.S. personnel.

No. 11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

A very successful St. Valentine's ball was held on Saturday, 14th February, 1948, at our Drill Hall, 206 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3.

The St. Valentine theme, together with a good band and some versatile entertainers, conduced to everyone's complete enjoyment. In this respect it would be unfair not to mention a ubiquitous bearded gentleman who moved mysteriously amongst the ladies and a group of Wrens who arrived amidst cheers of "The Navy's here!" or a small immaculate S.S.M. known as "Spike" who worked unremittingly throughout the evening in an endeavour to raise a couple of "boat race" teams.

The able M.C. of the evening was Sergeant Len Jackman, who is, unhappily, leaving us at the end of the month in order to take up the hotel business in Stratford-upon-Avon. Judging by his cherubic beams at the evening's end, other hands had assisted in making the party an enjoyable send-off for him.

A good gathering of Royal Signals Old Comrades was present for the evening and amongst them a particularly strong contingent of past members of No. 18 Air Formation Signal Regiment (Middle East).

Members of the Regiment were all delighted to see their Honorary Colonel, Colonel Sir John Dalton, in their midst for the first time since the war.

Finally, a word to serving members of the Corps who are expecting an early release to civvy street: we extend a standing welcome to any who would care to call in upon us on any Tuesday or Thursday evening for a drink or a chat.

"206"

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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

Old Comrades' Association

New members registered at Headquarters during the month of January, 1948:

Annual members	109
Life members	48

Benevolent Fund

Summary of Grants Disbursed

Purpose	No. of Cases	Amount £	s.	d.
General Assistance	41	174	10	4
Rent, Rates and Insurance	6	34	5	0
Cots and Prams	11	47	0	0
Beds and Bedding	2	9	0	0
Furniture	5	48	0	0
Clothing	6	31	5	0
Hospital and Doctors' Fees	11	89	3	3
Fares	3	13	0	0
Spectacles and Surgical Appliances	2	8	4	0
Removals	6	54	0	0
Convalescence	2	11	7	6
Funeral Expenses	1	3	0	0
Tools	2	12	10	0
Rehabilitation	1	25	0	0
School Fees	1	9	10	8
Totals	100	£569	15	9

Analysis of Persons Assisted

Discharged or released soldiers, 68; widows of deceased soldiers, 9; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 21; M.E.L.F., 2.

Donations Received During January, 1948

	£	s.	d.
Eighth Army Signal Regiment (No. 2 Squadron)	9	3	2
No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment	5	0	0
No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment:			
H.Q. Officers' Mess	10	0	0
No. 2 Squadron Officers' Mess	21	6	0
No. 17 L. of C. Signal Regiment	106	16	1
13th Corps Signal Regiment	25	3	10
7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	7	2	6
S.T.C., Catterick (Combined Units)	321	6	7
S.T.C. (B), Mhow, India (Officers' Mess)	115	16	11
No. 1 Depot Regiment (Sale of Kits)	2	3	6
Royal Signals O.C.T.U. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	1	8	10
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	2	2	0
3rd A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron	96	17	10
No. 1 Signal Park Squadron	18	9	5
H.Q. Mess, Catterick (subs. from 10 Officers)	10	3	8
Signals Directorate Fund, India	3	14	0
Manchester Branch	5	0	0
Captain F. P. Rickard		7	6
Lance-Corporal J. Allton		14	0
Mr. G. F. Stedman	10	0	0
Mr. F. Vernon	1	0	0
Mr. J. W. Barham		10	0
Mr. A. Cordery		3	0
Total	£774	8	10

Signals Association Branch Notes

Birmingham

Thursday, 29th January, found us gathering together in the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, in even greater numbers than before. All my plans for an early evening went west as one after another, old friends crowded in. It was a very pleasant surprise to see so many after a few recent meetings that were, to say the least, a bit below normal. However, with 864 members on the books one is entitled to expect the minimum of elbow room at these reunions. The Honorary Secretary will by now have done a little pruning of long-lost members, but it is not expected that our membership figure will be substantially reduced. If you, reading this, have a conscience about subscriptions you know what to do.

Quite a number of recently demobbed people have joined us and have undoubtedly derived much pleasure from looking in at our meetings. If you are still serving and happen to be in the city on the last Thursday in the month make an effort to call on us. You will be very welcome. Even C.Q.M.S. Bill Langham, who is still serving (no kidding), might manage to prise a pint out of me if he turns up.

There is still no hope of putting on our Annual Dinner under the present food restrictions, though I believe that about 400 odd jewellers may sit down to a banquet. Did I say odd?

Arrangements are being made for a trip to the Royal Tournament in June. All members of this Branch have been circularised on this and other subjects, but if you have not heard about it please get in touch with us. Seems an excellent idea.

Mr. Joe Carnall was the Honorary Secretary of this Branch right through the late war and it is largely due to him and his loyal supporters that the Branch survived to welcome everyone home when peace broke out. It will therefore be of interest to many readers to learn of the marriage of Miss W. D. (Vicki) Carnall to Dr. G. Shirlaw Brown at Yardley Old Church, on Saturday, 24th January. Vicki is an accomplished singer and has delighted us on several occasions at our entertainments. She served in the W.R.N.S. from 1942 to 1946 and finished as a Petty Officer after some excellent work attached to the Fleet Air Arm. Even then she managed to fit in some concert work in her spare time.

Doctor G. S. Brown served as a Captain in the R.A.M.C., attached Gordon Highlanders, and was in Italy and Austria.

The following Branch members and their wives attended the wedding ceremony and, afterwards, the reception, the latter being held in the Ring o' Bells Hotel (lucky people): R. H. Ironmonger, G. Shale, S. Whitty, H. Stafford, J. Pearce, H. Aldridge. A wedding present from the Branch Committee consisted of a morning set. The Birmingham Branch wishes Dr. and Mrs. Brown the very best of good fortune in the future. Can a doctor's wife find time to sing? We sincerely hope so.

Before closing, I should like to invite members to drop me a line if they have anything of interest to relate or wish to rediscover a friend. Address your letter to me, c/o Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham, and try to let me have it before the 10th of the month if it is intended for publication.

"BARLEUX"

Liverpool

Our General Meeting which preceded the "Hot-Pot" and entertainments held on Saturday, 24th January, proved quite a success. and ninety members sat down to dinner. The hot-pot served up was very nice and there was plenty of it for the asking. I noticed there was not much free beer left and, from what I could see, everyone seemed to be enjoying himself. We had a good half-hour's entertainment following the dinner, from a professional conjuror, and he certainly did his stuff! After his turn we had one of our own members, W. Snooks, who sang three songs and played his ukulele; it was a good turn and our thanks are due to him for his performance. After this, we retired to the men's mess, where it was much warmer; then things got going properly by the gang. They were accompanied at the piano by Tommy Black, and the songs they sang were of the last war. I am afraid I could not take part because I did not know them—but they enjoyed themselves. Those who could not, or would not, sing were either too busy round the bar or talking of old times. That is just as it should be. We are now looking forward to the next function of this kind. When we are free of rationing it is our intention to have a reunion dinner that you will talk about for years—so keep smiling!

F.J.J.

Coventry and District

Another of the very popular Branch Dances will be held in place of the usual monthly meeting for March. This will take place at Branch H.Q., the Charterhouse Hotel, Stoke, on Tuesday, 2nd March, at 7.30 p.m. Those who have been to the previous functions will know that this is an occasion *not to be missed*. All ex-Signals in the Coventry area are heartily welcome, together with their wives or lady friends. Do not forget the date, 2nd March, and the time, 7.30 p.m.

Warrington

In October, 1947, Mr. Wyke got in touch with Colonel J. J. Graham, Royal Signals, with the result that after a notice in the local paper, an inaugural meeting was held in the "White Hart," with 30 ex-Signals attending. A really good show. The following committee was formed:

President—Colonel J. J. Graham, Royal Signals (of 4th A.A. Group Signals fame); *Chairman*—Mr. F. Bennett (one of the old original S.R.s, better known as "Busty Bennett," O.C.T.U. instructor); *Secretary*—Mr. Wyke; *Treasurer*—Mr. Twiss (another well-famed S.R.).

A second meeting was held in the "White Hart" in the last week of November, 1947, with 40 members present. Meanwhile, our worthy chairman had arranged to have the following meetings at the British Legion Club (Warrington Branch). Many thanks to him and gratitude to the generous gesture on the part of the British Legion. We hope we will be able to return the compliment one day.

A "Hot-Pot" on 5th January, 1948, was a good social start for this branch. The local talent was amazing. The one-and-only "Stan Poole" of Waziristan fame, was up to his tricks as usual. A really good evening, and a fore-runner of many more, we hope.

The membership is now over 50 and rising steadily, and I think we are well on our feet.

All ex-Signals living in, or touring, this district please note: Monthly meetings, 1st Monday of each month, 1930 hours, British Legion Club, Warrington.

Quite a number of serving members of the 4th A.A. Group Signal Squadron stationed in Warrington are interested, and as many as like to visit us will be welcomed with open arms.

Our greetings to all serving and ex-members of the Royal Corps of Signals.

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SPORTS NOTES

Cross-Country Running

S.T.C. League

The seventh and final run of the S.T.C. League was held on 14th January, positions in the league table being :

1—2nd Training Regiment, 1887 pts. ; 2—6th Training Regiment, 2668 pts. ; 3—1st Training Regiment, 3084 pts. ; 4—4th Training Regiment, 3543 pts. ; 5—O.C.T.U., 4422 pts. ; 6—4th Training Regiment, 5119 pts. ; 7—School of Signals, 6130 pts.

The league has been a new departure for cross-country running in the S.T.C. and was inaugurated as a means of developing talent. Starting in early October runs have been held fortnightly over progressively longer distances, so that by January, racing was taking place over seven miles. In addition the first ten runners in each race were relegated to a fast pack, handicapped at the rate of half a minute per mile of the course to be run. The combination of progressive increase in distance and handicapping the first ten home in each race provides ample scope for the development of both the able and weaker runners. As a team event, where twelve per regiment have to count, brain as well as brawn is required to achieve results.

Forty-seven runners qualified for the fast pack ; fifteen of these have run through the field to qualify a second time ; seven qualified three times, and Lance-Corporal Field of 2nd Training Regiment qualified four times. His record was :

2nd Run—First home (from scratch).
4th Run—First home (handicapped 2¼ mins.).
6th Run—Fifth home (handicapped 2¾ mins.).
7th Run—Seventh home (handicapped 3½ mins.).

Catterick District Championships

The District Championships were held on 21st January as a qualifying round for the Northern Command Championships. 2nd Training Regiment won this event with a comfortable margin of points. Signalman Bryant of 6th Training Regiment and Second-Lieutenant Haywood of 4th Training Regiment, and Signalman Tulett of 1st Training Regiment qualified as individual entries for the Command.

Royal Signals Trophy Road Relay Race

This race, originally intended as an event to mark the close of the season, was always run from Sunderland to Catterick on Whit-Monday. The intervention of the war years caused it to be discontinued and to-day's austerity has prevented its reappearance in its old form. However, the North-Eastern Cross-Country Association, the sponsors of the event, decided to re-introduce the race this year in a modified form. Thus, at Stockton on Saturday, 24th January, eleven teams from the North-East assembled to contest the trophy. The conditions were novel. Teams of six were called for ; a figure-of-eight course was planned with one circle of the figure 4½ miles round, the other 3½ miles. A youth from each team ran the 3½-mile lap, followed by a senior running the 4½-mile lap, and so alternating in this manner until all six members of each team had run the course.

Saltwell Harriers set the pace on the first leg—Royal Signals were 7th. On the second leg Corporal O'Brien made good four places to run in third. Boy Wilkins dropped one place, but was only a split second behind the third runner. Saltwell were still in the lead by about thirty seconds when Corporal Hoskins took over. Rapidly he took over third place, and overhauled the second man (an Elswick Harrier) before the first mile had been covered. At this stage R. S. Walker of Saltwell Harriers ran off course—a great pity and ill-fortune for Saltwell for they lost so much ground that they decided to scratch. Boy Martin followed Corporal Hoskins, completing his lap within a second of the record time, and for the final lap Corporal Kinsey kept up an easy pace to win the race quite comfortably from Elswick Harriers.

We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy with Saltwell Harriers and hope that we may give them an opportunity to match their prowess at Benwell on Good Friday, when we shall defend our title to the " Grantham " Trophy.

Northern Counties v. Midland Counties v. Universities Athletic Union v. R.A.F.

This match, held at Worsley, near Manchester, on Saturday, 31st January, was a new venture in the annals of English and Corps cross-country running.

The distance was eight miles—four laps of two miles of meadow land per lap. Our opponents were the pick of the Counties, Universities A.U. and R.A.F., so that it was no surprise to find the pace hot and competition keen. We make no excuses or apologies—we were outclassed, but not dismally so. Our team benefited by the experience, saw the marginal difference our best and some of the best in the country and, although defeated, appreciate that there is much room for harder training in order to match up with competitions of this class.

The result was : 1st, Midland Counties and Northern Counties (tied), 45 pts. ; 3rd, U.A.U., 118 pts. ; 4th, R.A.F., 169 pts. ; 5th, Royal Signals (Catterick), 218 points.

J. Corfield of Midland C.C.C.A. was first man home, in the very good time of 43 mins. 53.5 secs. He led the field after two miles and rapidly put distance between himself and the rest of the field. Lance-Corporal Field and Corporal Kinsey completed the course in 46 mins. 50 secs.

Royal Signals (Catterick)

Saturday, 14th February, must surely go down in the history of the Corps as a day of great achievement. All three North-Eastern Counties Cross-country team Championships were captured by Royal Signals (Catterick).

The youths' event was the first to be run off. Eighty-seven runners took the field, representing fourteen different clubs from the North-East. The Signals team comprised runners from Boys' Squadron. The individual championship was won by A. Cumming of North Shields Polytechnic, who completed the three-mile course in 16 mins. 37 secs. Boy D. Martin was second man home, in 16 mins. 59 secs. The team score was 56 points, which beat the second team, Elswick Harriers, by 20 points. This is the first time since 1937 that Boys' Squadron have captured the Youths' Trophy.

The junior event was quite a new departure for us. A team of young men between 18 years and 21 had been trained up for this event. The field numbered sixty-odd runners, representing eight clubs. Lance-Corporal Field soon established his superiority over the field and completed the six-mile course in 33 mins. 54 secs., followed by J. Graham of Gateshead Harriers and Durham University, in 34 mins. 38 secs. Royal Signals team scored 20 points, thus beating Benwell Harriers, our nearest rivals, by 33 points.

Royal Signals (Catterick) were defending their 1946-47 title in the Senior Championship. The inclusion of a team in the junior race of necessity weakened the chances of the senior's success. Nevertheless, it was thought that against the competition we were likely to meet, we could compete in both without seriously jeopardising our chances of retaining the senior title. In point of fact our margin of safety was tight, for Gosforth Harriers were only 9 points away from our score in the final count.

Ninety-odd runners took the field in the senior event, representing eleven teams. The first man home was M. Smith of Blaydon Harriers, who covered the nine miles in 49 mins. 17 secs.

The first Royal Signals man home was Corporal Kinsey, running a good race to finish fifth in 51 mins. 34 secs. The whole of the team of six were all within the first twenty-one places. The team scored a total of 80 points.

This achievement of one club winning all three team championships in the same season is a record never before accomplished in the history of the North-Eastern Counties' Cross-country Championships. Such a record speaks well for the keenness and tenacity of purpose of all those actively engaged in cross-country running in the Corps at Catterick.

Rugby

The chief interest lately has arisen in the epic struggles between the Royal Signals (Catterick) and Roundhay in the fifth round of the Yorkshire Cup, and in the drawn game between S.T.C. and R.E.M.E. (Arborfield) in the final of the Army Rugby Cup (Home Commands). Roundhay were met three times before being vanquished 13—8 and Royal Signals (Catterick) now play Morley, the holders of the cup, at Morley on 21st February.

In the Army Cup Final at Leicester, on 12th February, S.T.C. had a gruelling game with R.E.M.E. in mud and rain and, after extra time had been played, the score was still three points all. S.T.C. meet R.E.M.E., at Northampton, on 19th February in the re-play.

On 21st January a Corps match *v.* Royal Engineers ended in a win by 8 points to 3. On 14th February Oxford University Greyhounds were met at Oxford and a close game ended in a win for the University by 8 points to 7. Froggett, with a dropped goal and a penalty goal, scored all our points, but as we were without Glyn Davies, Captain T. G. H. Jackson and several other players suffering from injuries, the result was not too bad.

It looks as if we shall have four players in the Army side in representative matches—Captain T. G. H. Jackson (right wing), Signalman Gloag (left wing), Officer-Cadet Glyn Davies (stand-off) and Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams (forward).

The latest news about Officer-Cadet N. M. Hall (Royal Signals and England) is that the operation on his eye was successful and it is hoped he may make a complete recovery.

Army Cup Final Re-play

As we go to press we learn that Signal Training Centre won the re-played Home Command Final of the Army Rugby Cup, beating R.E.M.E. Training Centre (Arborfield) by two dropped goals and a try (11) to two tries (6), at Northampton on 19th February.

Dominating the scrums and faster outside, Signals attacked throughout the first half, but their only score was a dropped goal by Tranter. R.E.M.E. improved and Jones, their outside-half and best attacking player, scored a try.

Shaw replied with a try for Signals, but again R.E.M.E. got within a point with a try by Samuels. With the last kick Tranter dropped his second goal.

Hockey

Royal Signals (Catterick) v. St. Andrew's University

The Royal Signals Hockey Team (Catterick) visited Scotland to play St. Andrew's University on Wednesday, 4th February, 1948.

An excellent game was played, with the Royal Signals team the superior in stick-work and combination. The ground was heavy, owing to recent rain, but this did not affect the standard of play as much as was expected.

The University players showed lots of dash, and their centre-forward was extremely dangerous, but the Signals defence, with Lance-Corporal Gibbons outstanding, kept them well out of the " D." Very soon the Signals side settled down and with good combined play scored three goals, all by Lieutenant Smith.

In the second half, playing downhill, it was expected that the Signals would improve their lead, but the University defence played so well that the Signals were only able to score one more goal. In the closing minutes of the game the Signals defence was caught out of position and let the opposing centre-forward through to score.

Final Result :

Royal Signals (Catterick) 4 ; St. Andrew's University 1

It was an enjoyable game and played in the best spirit. The reception given to the team by the University was very good, and it is hoped that an annual fixture will be arranged. The team was composed as follows : S.Q.M.S. Morris ; Lieutenant Cant, S.Q.M.S. Middleton ; Officer-Cadet Ashworth, Lance-Corporal Gibbons, Captain Gordon ; Corporal Urquhart, Signalman De Cruz, Lieutenant A. S. Smith, Sergeant Hammond, S.Q.M.S. Cutter.

Reserve—Signalman Taylor. Umpire—Captain Barton.

On Saturday, 17th January, 1948, Royal Signals (Catterick) entertained Darlington Nomads to a match on the Central Sports Ground. Darlington were unfortunate in arriving with rubber-soled shoes, thinking that in Catterick we always play on hard pitches—thus they were seriously handicapped from the commencement of play. However, the game opened out into a very fast-moving contest. Corporal Urquhart made an individual effort to score the first goal.

Half-time saw Signals three goals up, Lieutenant Smith and Signalman De Cruz each having added a goal. On resumption of play, for several minutes Darlington had the run of the game, but were successfully checked by Signals centre-half—Lance-Corporal Gibbons—and the two backs. Signals once again took control and added a further three goals—Lieutenant Smith (2) and Signalman De Cruz (1).

School of Signals

Owing to the usual weather conditions since Christmas, in common with other sports, hockey has been badly interrupted. However, a bi-weekly game of gymn Hockey has kept the team together and, largely as a result, the School can report some successes both in the Northern Command Knock-out Competition and the Army Inter-Unit Competition.

H.Q., Northern Command

1st round—Bye.
2nd round—*v.* 4th Training Regiment, 2—2.

Army Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition

1st round—*v.* No. 51 P.T.C. at Command, 5—2.
2nd round—*v.* No. 2 Army College, Welbeck, 5—2.
3rd round—*v.* 4th Training Regiment, 3—2.

The School of Signals *v.* 4th Training Regiment match was played on the Hospital Ground, Catterick, on 10th February, 1948. The ground was in surprisingly good condition, when the School, losing the toss, started with the slope. The 4th Training Regiment was the first to score, but the School settled down and took a goal almost from the bully-off, and kept a continual pressure on their opponents' half, and crossed over with the score 3—1.

Until the interval, the School was playing fast, open hockey which seemed to keep their opponents on the run. However, the second half was a complete reversal and, in spite of several good runs in the centre and on the wings, the balance of play was with School half. Some very gallant work by the goal-keeper and his two backs, and one or two last-minute clearances by the wing halves, kept their opponents out and the final score of 3—2 was a very fair result.

The good advice of Captain Brandon and the vocal support of the few spectators was very much appreciated, and the team hopes that in the future there will be an even larger noise from the touch-line.

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Editorial

G.P.O. COURSES

IT is pleasing to be able to record that four new courses are now available under the Army Educational Scheme for both Regular and National Service soldiers. These courses, conducted by the G.P.O., are at No. 3 Army College, Chiseldon Camp, Wilts, and are graded to suit men with various types of technical background, and success in them fits the candidate for possible employment with the G.P.O.

Course 1 deals with overhead construction, and Course 2 with underground construction, and both include maintenance. They are suitable for linemen or beginners with a good general education.

Course 3 deals with elementary installation and maintenance of subscribers' telephones, and covers magneto, central battery and automatic systems, including the fitting of small exchanges and the wiring of buildings. Linemen (permanent line) Class I, telegraph, radio and line mechanics should do well on this course, and on passing the course stand a good chance of employment as skilled workman IIB, with prospects of becoming a technician or an engineer with further training and experience.

Course 4 is devoted to the more advanced stages covered in Course 3, and covers the adjustment of automatic telephone exchanges. Telegraph, radio and line mechanics are considered the most suitable candidates for this course, and success in it makes the candidate eligible for employment as skilled workman IIA, which is the grade from which the technicians are drawn.

The pay of a technician rises to 155s. per week in London, and prospects are quite good for an ex-line mechanic or similar Group "A" tradesman who is willing to work and improve his technical education.

Tradesmen of Group "B" such as operators may or may not have the necessary technical background. It depends on the individual. A promising man would, however, get his chance.

REUNIONS

A reunion dinner of No. 9 Operating Section of the former 3rd (1st London) Corps Signals was held at the "French Horn and Half Moon," Wandsworth, London, on 31st January.

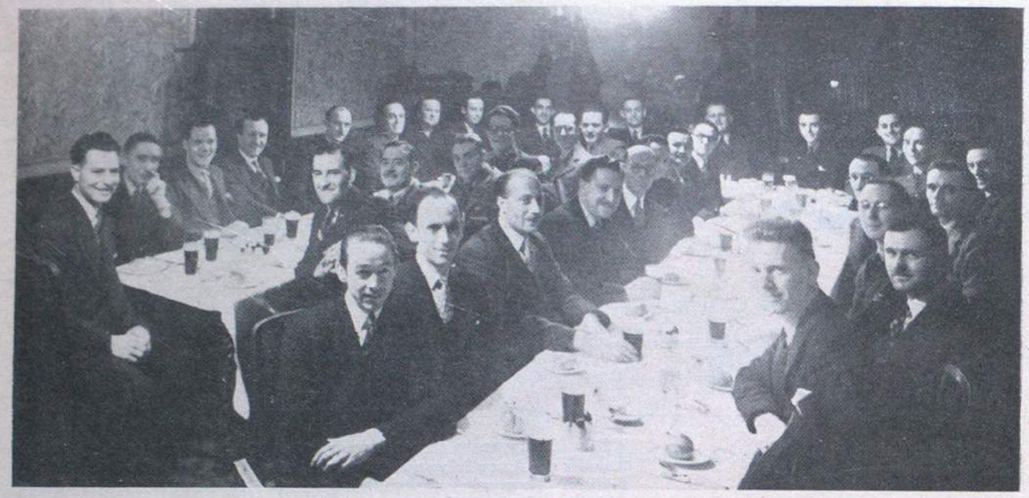
The "do," organised by Jimmy Sharples and Pat Dykes, was a very representative gathering, and some of our old comrades even travelled down from the Midlands.

We should like to express our deepest appreciation to the hosts and hostesses who entertained our provincial friends, thus making their trip to London a very comfortable and memorable occasion.

It is hoped to make this reunion an annual affair, and if any old friends are interested, please write to "Jimmy," at 32 Aldren Road, Lower Tooting, London, S.W.17.

* * *

It is intended to hold a reunion of No. 3 L. of C. Signals and 9th Army Signals (M.E.F.). Will former officers of these two units get in touch with Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Harvey, Royal Signals, 85 South Road, Faversham, Kent.



The first annual re-union of the Cadre of S.T.C.(B) Mhow was held at the "Prince's Head," Prince's Street, Westminster, on Saturday, 28th February.

Captain R. O. Edwards, Royal Signals, who was in the chair, expressed his appreciation of the presence of so many old friends, particularly those who had come long journeys to attend.

Those present were Captain R. O. Edwards, Messrs. J. A. Polwart, J. F. Arnison, T. O'Keefe, P. I. Holden, W. Murrill, A. W. White, R. Dwyer, B. Jeffries, C. Andrews, G. C. Smith, C. S. Hurst, G. H. Caswell, K. Brown, P. E. Evershed, R. H. Moss, G. S. Martin, D. Lomasney, P. Wood, P. A. Lewis, F. A. West, R. Jones, A. Smith, J. W. Blunt, J. Cherrington, D. R. Clapham, H. Howarth, W. E. Long, S. E. Clark, W. Parks, D. Williamson, R. C. Banner and J. W. Ludgate.

An enjoyable evening was spent in talking over old times, and one voice was heard demanding "'oo moved the 'un?" and the "Chelsea Pensioners" marched again.

Old "Mhowites" should get in touch with Mr. J. W. Ludgate, 4, Ronelean Road, Tolworth, Surrey, in order that they may be included in the next re-union.

Royal Signals Officer Married in Canada

The wedding of Major Robert White, Royal Signals, and Miss Margaret Rita Palmer was celebrated at Barriefield, Kingston, Ontario, on Saturday, 3rd January. Hon. Captain J. F. Goforth, M.C., Army Chaplain, officiated.

The bride was given away by Lieut.-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson, O.B.E., Royal Signals, who is on the Directing Staff of the Canadian Army Staff College in Kingston. The best man was Captain J. J. Williams, R.C.C.S.

After the service a guard of honour was formed outside the chapel by eight officers of the Royal Canadian School of Signals (see photograph). The reception was held in the Officers' Mess of the school.

Major White is serving on exchange with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, and has been at the Royal Canadian School of Signals since his arrival in Canada in May, 1947; he is at present commanding the Training Wing of the school.

His bride, who comes from Birmingham, arrived in Canada on 20th December, 1947, having waited many months for a passage by sea or air.

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

March

Pass-off Parades. On 10th February, Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command, took the salute at the pass-off parade of Course 193.

The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet Gibbs, who also won the Commandant's Cane.

When Course 194A passed-off on Tuesday, 24th February, Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Commandant, School of Signals, took the salute.

The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet D. N. Linden, who also won the Commandant's Cane.

Congratulations. Our congratulations to Captain M. D. Scott, Royal Signals, and Sister Jean Shaw McKinnon, Q.A.I.M.N.S.(R) on the occasion of their marriage at Richmond on Wednesday, 11th February. The wedding reception was held at "The King's Head," where a large party of friends assembled to toast the happy couple's health and to wish them all happiness. Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., made an admirable groomsman, even having a pair of handcuffs available, but they were not necessary.

Arrivals. We welcome into the Unit Captain C. Masser, who has been initiated into the hidden mysteries of the Lines Troop, also two subalterns who are by no means strangers to our way of life, Second-Lieutenants J. R. Evans and P. G. Riley. Mr. Evans has taken over the duties of Messing Officer, whilst Mr. Riley has been posted to No. 1 Cadet Squadron.

We also welcome Armourer-Sergeant Mark, R.E.M.E., who has relieved Corporal Barrett. May all Sergeant Mark's cases of cordwear be related only to lanyards, and bulged barrels to those Warrant Officers and Sergeants who reflect so well the good catering in their Mess.

Our heartiest congratulations to W.O.II (S.S.M.) G. Arnold on the birth of his daughter, Maureen, on 4th February.

Mountaineering Club. On 15th February seven members of the club paid a return visit to Alms Cliff. The morning was spent in climbing easy routes in fine but breezy weather. After lunch the party tackled the more serious side of their cult. Lone Chimney and South Face were among the routes tackled, and these included opportunities of practising rope technique down cliff faces.

Shooting. Our miniature rifle team still continues along its winning way. Up to date nine matches have been fired off, all of which have been won. The results of the January shoot have not yet been announced, but we have two claimants to the medal for the highest individual score, Officer-Cadets Levett and Hanson each scoring 98 points.

Rugby Football. February saw the beginning of the play-off for the Northern Command Rugby Cup. Having had a bye in the first round we met No. 4 Training Regiment in the second round and beat them after a hard game by 6 points to 3. In spite of No. 4 Training Regiment's rather strong back division, they were beaten in both set and loose scrums, which proved to be the deciding factor. In the third round (area semi-final) we had a much easier game, and, even without Glyn Davies, were able to beat 12th Royal Lancers 20—5.

A notable addition to the team has been Officer-Cadet McGilvray, who has shown himself to be a very useful centre.

We have played three friendly games, losing to York, when we fielded a weaker side, by 6—8. In the game against the Yorkshire and Northumbrian Brigade we won 23—3, and in another hard tussle lost to No. 4 Training Regiment by 3—10. In the area final for the Northern Command Cup we are to meet No. 1 Training Regiment for the second year running. We hope to reverse last year's result.

Cross-Country. On Wednesday, 11th February, we provided one of the two teams (each of 15 runners) to represent Catterick district in the Northern Command Inter-Unit Championship. Our team finished fourth with 426 points. The fourth of the district runs was held on 18th February, when the team obtained third place with 403 points.

Squash. A tournament has been organised between the Officers and the Cadets, and is already producing a considerable improvement in the standard of play. The introduction of a squash ladder has provided still greater incentive.

Hockey. Owing to the inclement weather during February only one game of hockey was played. This game took place on 11th February at Catterick village versus the R.A.F. Regiment. Our team was beaten after a well-fought and enjoyable game by 3 goals to 1. Officer-Cadet Exell scored our only goal.

No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

March

During the last month we have had extremes of weather in Catterick Camp, from a covering of frozen snow, which brought winter sports enthusiasts out on the neighbouring slopes, to the present springlike weather with a clear blue sky.

We must say good-bye to a number of officers—Lieutenant (Q.M.) Ted Smith to Civvy Street; Captain (T.O.M.) W. J. (Paddy) Bush to Africa; Captain R. Allison (A.C.C.) to the Army Catering Corps Aldershot Depot; and last but not least, Major P. G. Curry, who is just about on his way to take over a Guards Brigade Signal Squadron in the South.

We are happy to welcome Major G. H. R. Flynn from Scottish Command to take over Training Officer, No. 2 Squadron; Captain R. H. P. (Dick) Thomas, just back in the country from Venice, Italy; Captain J. Gaule, A.C.C.; Second-Lieutenant F. K. Stokes; Second-Lieutenant W. H. Moss; Second-Lieutenant N. C. H. Brown; Second-Lieutenant V. S. Robertson, just home from India; and Second-Lieutenant J. Boardman.

Visit of the Right Hon. Emanuel Shinwell, Secretary of State for War

During the last 18 months No. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, has had the honour of being visited by a number of distinguished visitors, including H.R.H. The Princess Royal and Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery. We were not surprised, therefore, to hear that we had been selected for a visit by the Secretary of State for War during a tour of Northern Command on 3rd and 4th March. Since his appointment as Secretary of State for War, Mr. Shinwell has undoubtedly made it his primary aim to see as much of Army life as possible and there is no doubt that he is a shrewd observer and is quick to see both good and bad. We were very glad to have him as we had much of interest to show—

mostly good, we considered. The visit took place on the afternoon of 3rd March and Mr. Shinwell, accompanied by the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command and the G.O.C. Catterick District, arrived at about 1550 hrs. on what was a glorious spring afternoon. We were slightly dismayed to note that as the Secretary of State approached he was followed by what seemed a never-ending procession of Press cars.

On arrival he was met by Brigadier Straight, Commandant School of Signals, and Brigadier Galwey, Commandant S.T.C.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hobson, the C.O., then proceeded to show him round our carrier, V.F. and repeater laboratories, where he was able to see young trainees learning the maintenance and repair of various types of line equipment. He expressed appreciation of the fact that most of the trainees were ex-P.O. employees and were benefiting both the Army and themselves by being engaged in similar work to their civilian occupations. The party then moved on to the Radio Mechanics Squadron, where once again he saw trainee radio mechanics fault-finding and repairing a wide selection of Army radio equipment. In particular he remarked on the large size of this Squadron (600 trainees). This had been effectively demonstrated by a group photograph of the whole Squadron which was shown to him.

A display from our Amateur Radio Club was on view, and Mr. Shinwell examined and admired the handiwork of the members in the way of set chassis, amplifiers and other gadgets which had been constructed by them during their spare time.

Amid the clicking of cameras he was enrolled as a member of the Radio Club and handed a membership card by the District Commander. The next venue for the party was the Boys' Squadron, Royal Signals. Here Mr. Shinwell met Major Blackburne, the O.C. The Secretary of State visited the gymnasium, saw barrack rooms and boys studying in the physics laboratory. He also visited the School Certificate class, where he was impressed by the standard of education

[*Photograph by courtesy of "The Catterick Express"*

Mr. Shinwell addresses the Boys' Squadron. In the picture are Major G. W. Blackburne, Sergeant G. Markey, Boy Corporal Tombs, Boy Jones, Boy Crabb, Boy Jenkins, Boy Hazel, Boy Lance-Corporal Brooker, Boy Shorter

[*Photograph by courtesy of "The Catterick Express"*

Mr. Shinwell talks to W.O.II Jackson, R.A.E.C. Major C. W. Blackburne, O.C. Boys' Squadron, looks on

available to the modern Royal Signals boy. It should be noted here that the educational goal of this Squadron is now the Schools Certificate and the Forces Preliminary Examination, and our boys are given an education equal to any good school.

Another direction in which this Squadron has been making great strides recently is in physique and turnout, and there was no doubt that our distinguished visitor was most impressed by a squad of senior boys doing arms drill. He had the squad stood at ease and complimented the boys on their fine physique, turnout and drill. Sergeant Markey, their drill instructor, was given a special word of praise for the excellence of his products.

Mr. Shinwell then passed on to a squad of recruit boys who had only been in the Army a few days and, picking on the two smallest boys—Denis Talbot and William Grieves—he asked them what they hoped to be in the future. Denis said he hoped to be a general, but William, not to be outdone, said that nothing less than field marshal would satisfy him. This caused a good deal of amusement and Mr. Shinwell remarked that a general and a field marshal in one squad was good going. This incident appealed to the reporters' news sense and the boys had quite a busy time being photographed and giving interviews to the large circle of Press correspondents. Sergeant "Tommy" Blades was also introduced to and spoken to by Mr. Shinwell. Tommy has 32 years' service, of which he has spent no less than 21 in the Boys' Squadron. Mr. Shinwell complimented him on this fine record.

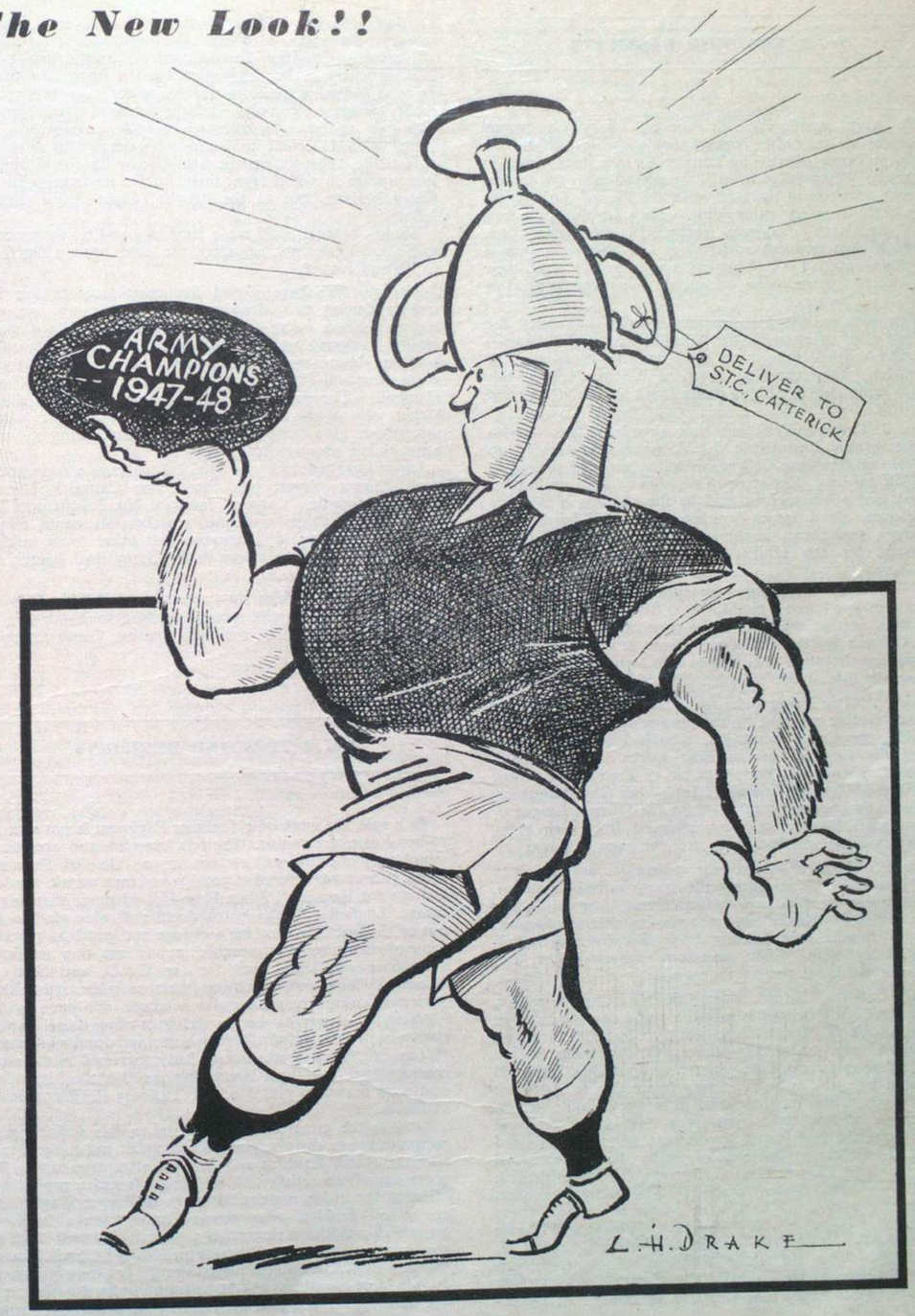
Time was getting on, and after expressing his appreciation and thanks for all he had seen, the Secretary of State left for tea at the Officers' Club.

We were glad to hear later that the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command had been very pleased with the visit and was particularly impressed with the physique and turnout of the boys.

So ended what was an interesting and pleasant visit, and our best wishes go with the Secretary of State for War in what must be an arduous and difficult appointment in these days of stringency and retrenchment.

WANTED.—Good quality secondhand uniforms. Anyone who has a uniform for sale, which is in really first-class condition, should write to the address given below, giving full details and the price required.—Captain F. H. Worlock, Q.M. Stores, The Warren, R.M.A., Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.

The New Look!!



No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

March

We have mentioned our concert party on several occasions; we are rather hopeful they will carry off the cup which is being offered by district for the best party in Catterick. It would seem as if we specialise in the drama, for nine members of the Unit assist the Signals Theatre, far more than from any other Unit. They are not all actors, some are stage managers, carpenters, electricians, etc. Catterick does not lack such talent, our theatre keeping a very high standard of production, and many Units run their own concert parties, none we venture to suggest as good as the Mons-Trosities.

With eyes on the Mitchell-Hill Trophy—presented for the best Unit effort under the Army Agricultural Scheme—we have turned over nine acres to the production of vegetables. Four times as much as last year's area, this land is being cultivated by a motor hand plough and a hand seed drill.

No. 2 Training Regiment have already witnessed with delight Admin. Squadron's S.S.M. (who has attended an Agricultural Training College) wrestling with the plough in the Unit gardens. Replete with supplies of seed, sowing has started, and a big problem will be the planting of 6½ tons of potatoes. Seed frames have been improvised by the Unit gardeners, and these should go far to provide the plants necessary for the Unit's new acquisition—the "Arras Five-Acre."

While we are becoming more agriculture-conscious, and parades in corduroys—pitchforks at the slope—are likely, vegetables are not the only items growing up the Agricultural Officer's sleeve. Bulbs and plants, it is hoped, are on the way to brighten the Unit's huts, which will aim at earning the title of the "Garden City of New Richmond."

Soccer. After losing three first team players in January we were further set back by the posting of Lance-Corporal Denniffe, the Corps' inside-left, who had been the brains behind the forward line in most games. With such a weakened side we lost heavily to No. 5 Training Regiment 6—0 in the Northern Command Inter-Unit Championships, and again in the same week 6—1 in the District League.

Signalman Stanley has now returned from sick leave, and we hope he will be able to pull the team together.

Cricket. With the season near at hand we are hoping to get a mat wicket down during the month to begin practice.

Once again we shall have to form almost a new team due to the demob of many of last year's players, although Captain Blake, Corporals Leach, Snow, Frost, Brophy and Signalman Stanley, all of whom were keen enthusiasts last year, will be available for part of the season.

Cross-Country. Army Cross-Country Championships, Aldershot, 26th February, is indeed a grand day to remember in the annals of Signals cross-country. For the Northern Command team pulled off another win, this being for the second year running. Last year it was on a Unit basis and was won by our Unit. It is very interesting to note that of the team of ten men, eight of them were Royal Signals, and seven of this eight were from this Unit. Corporal Kinsey was the first Royal Signals man home, taking third place. If the course had been of greater distance Corporal Kinsey should have finished further up, for he finished in grand style with no sign of strain. The Army Champion this year (1948) is Officer-Cadet Maugham, of Southern Command, who ran a well-judged race. The second runner in, Second-Lieutenant G. Saunders, Northern Command, was followed by the other members of the Northern Command team in the order shown: Corporal Kinsey, 3rd; Lance-Corporal Field, 6th; Corporal Hoskins, 9th; Lance-Corporal Moynan, 13th; Signalman Hewitt, 16th; Lance-Corporal Lawrence, 23rd, last counting man.

Northern Counties Cross-Country Championships on 28th February. After helping to win the Army Championships at Aldershot the Royal Signals senior team travelled up to St. Helens, Liverpool. The run was over a well-planned nine-mile course, and, although a little travel-weary, the team finished second to Sutton Harriers, who won the senior title. The junior title was won by the Royal Signals junior team in grand style, much to the amazement of the Civvy harriers, but to the delight of the Royal Signals followers.

Lance-Corporal Field ran a hard race and finished second to Second-Lieutenant Saunders, the latter being a Northern Command runner.

Hockey. We have played five matches since our last notes, winning two, drawing three and losing one, our league position being fifth. The team has lost Captain Hough on demob and Lance-Corporal Hutchins on posting, but have found several likely players in Lieutenant Jones, Lance-Corporal Pitchford, Signalmen Brown, Maxwell and Henshall. The game against the Royal Armoured Corps Depot, who are the league leaders, was most exciting, played throughout at a very fast pace, the result being a draw, a not unfair result to both sides.

Lance-Corporal Frost, of No. 2 Squadron, a consistently good Rugger player, was chosen for Catterick District against Newcastle. Corporal Jones, of No. 3 Squadron, has played for the Corps in all their matches this season, taking part in a number of Command and other finals, and is likely to represent the Corps in the Army final against the B.A.O.R. champions.

Rifle League. Under the captaincy of R.S.M. Howley, our team have held the second position in the league to date, having fired in 11 matches, winning 8 and losing 3.

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

March

As a rule, the work of a Training Regiment is not such as to be of rare news value. Projects, exercises and operations which vary in a field unit are not for us. On 12th February the Regiment was ordered to provide and man certain wireless stations for Exercise "White Rose II," whatever that might mean. Undoubtedly the instructional staff were glad to get out of the lecture rooms for a change and put into practice some of the things they preached; at any rate, they acquitted themselves sufficiently well for the C.S.O. and Staff of Northern Command to express their complete satisfaction with the work of the personnel concerned.

Sport. February has been a very interesting month in this sphere, with plenty of thrills, high hopes and disappointments.

The first eleven football team had progressed to the sixth round proper (semi-final Home Command) of the Army Cup and were drawn to play No. 121 Training Regiment, R.A., at Dover.

Despite the great distance involved, a fair sprinkling of supporters were there to give vocal support and to see a very thrilling match finish as a 2—2 draw after extra time. To some extent the satisfaction of having forced a replay was offset by the unfortunate accidents to goalkeeper Watson and centre-half Emblen, who were suffering from a fractured wrist and concussion respectively. The replay took place on the Garrison Ground at Catterick on 16th February. Watson was still unfit and Emblen played though not fully recovered. A very large crowd saw the home team lose by 2 goals to nil. We have since heard that the victors have beaten their semi-final opponents from B.A.O.R., and our good wishes go with them for the final.

In the Garrison Senior League the first team have lost some ground by losing for the third time this season to our rivals of No. 5 Training Regiment. In the Junior League the second team are continuing to pile up the goals, and now have an aggregate of 130 to 36 in 21 games, having won 17 and lost 4. Their latest success was to topple the leaders (R.A.M.C.) with a 4—1 victory that sent them to the top of the league.

The hockey team, still without ostentation, continues to go from strength to strength. In the District Cup tournament they were defeated in the semi-final by School of Signals, this being their first reverse since very early in their season.

The basketball team have only recently drawn the glare of publicity to their activities, but even so, few members of their Regiment know that the team have a 100 per cent. record in 12 games. We thought of announcing the aggregate of points scored until we discovered that they are making a habit of scoring between 40 and 50 points per match, so we let well alone in case the second football eleven became jealous. To prove their versatility, our assistant P.T. instructors have been putting the Regiment on the map in yet another sphere. In the District Badminton Tournament, Corporal Heath was beaten in the semi-final by Sergeant-Instructor Morris, A.P.T.C., while Corporal Caldwell won his semi-final round to lose to the same opponent in the final. In the doubles, Corporals Caldwell and Knight defeated their opponents in the District Finals and thus qualify for the Command Tournament.

Lance-Corporal Pratt, our sole boxing representative in the Command Individuals, was defeated by Corporal Prentice, No. 5 Training Regiment, the eventual winner of the light-weight event. Lance-Corporal Pratt has been chosen as second string to represent Northern Command against Western Command in the near future.

Whilst not exactly under the heading of sport, it is appropriate to mention the departure of Captain R. O. Edwards, our erstwhile Adjutant and Football Officer, who has worked indefatigably in the interests of Regimental and Corps football, and also found time to play hockey for both the Regiment and the Corps. All ranks wish him the very best of luck and hope that some day we shall see a Signals team with its name inscribed on the Army Football Cup.

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

March

The varying accents that are now heard in the N.A.A.F.I. queue, plus the shrills of the D.I.s on Mosul Square, are proofs that No. 1 Squadron of No. 6 Training Regiment—the pre-O.C.T.U. and N.C.O.s' D. and D. Course—has been transferred into this unit to form No. 4 Squadron. We welcome them into our midst and hope that they will soon get used to us.

The highlight of the month was the ceremonial parade that No. 4 Squadron, accompanied by the Corps Band, staged on 16th March. The inspecting officer was Brigadier C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant S.T.C. The entire command was taken by potential officers, amongst whom was Signalman G. J. Garvey, who showed that as a Squadron Commander he has great possibilities, especially as he was chosen to command the parade. He was assisted by Signalmen Rogers, Dawson and Standing, who acted as Platoon Commanders.

It has just been brought to our notice that we have a "man" in the unit. It is none other than Sergeant Bill Mitchell, who is now the proud father of twins (both boys—and they *are* like their daddy).

Aided in the past by Lieutenant G. H. Anderson, and at present by Second-Lieutenant S. Squires, the Unit Dance Orchestra, which started from scratch, has increased in size and popularity during recent months. On New Year's Eve, Shaiba N.A.A.F.I. was filled to capacity. Under the leadership of Lance-Corporal Jimmy Venn, it is undoubtedly the best band in the camp. It relies mainly on playing tuneful commercial orchestrations rather than concentrating on showmanship.

Although our soccer team are not doing as well as they might, our basketball team have only lost two games this season. We have just received a most welcome addition to the team, Lieutenant Cant, who was previously at No. 6 Training Regiment. The team is playing together well and we have hopes of going forward to bigger events. Within the unit, enthusiasm for the game continues to increase.

On St. Valentine's Day, a very successful dance was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Also an impromptu social and games night was held in the Mess recently, and everybody had a very enjoyable evening—and some a very enjoyable morning.

We congratulate Corporal Allen Crabtree, one of the oldest of No. 2 Squadron Cadre, and Private Dorothea Ball, also of No. 4 Training Regiment, who were married at Birmingham on 21st February. We in No. 2 Squadron would like to wish Captain R. H. Richards the best of luck in Civvy Street, and also to welcome our new O.C., Captain G. W. Nation.

As we sign off, the sun is streaming into the office, and we are glad to be able to say that we have not had a real winter in Catterick this year. In fact it has been very much like summer for the past few weeks.

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

March

General. At the end of March we again become an all Royal Signals unit, except for a small Troop of A.T.S. manning the Command switchboard, who will be attached to the G.D. Company.

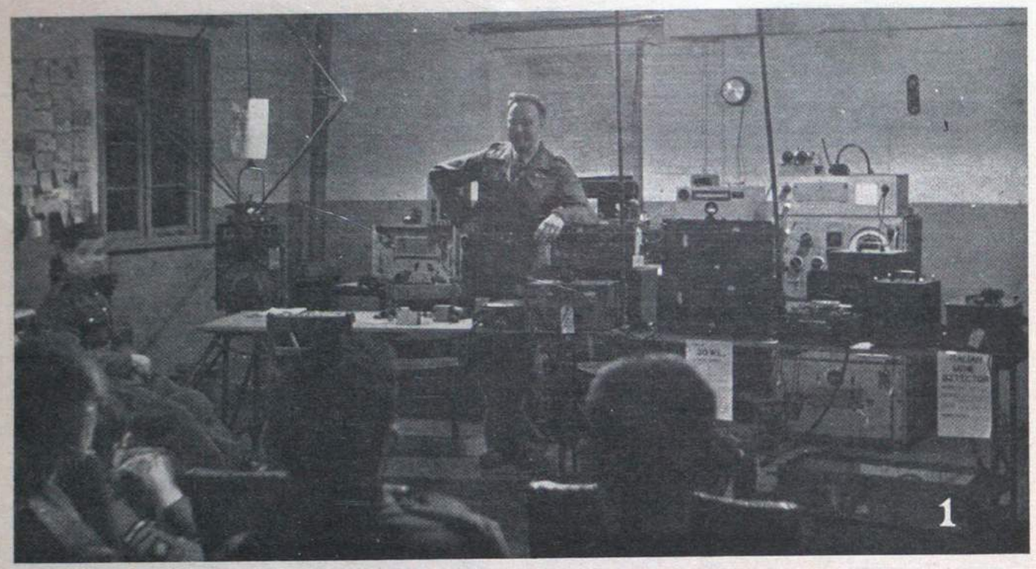
The A.T.S. (or should we say W.R.A.C.?) stayed with us exactly 12 months. Many difficulties, seen and unforeseen, were met and overcome, the W.E. was amended, revised, reviewed and recast, then we reviewed the amendments and revised our recasting until we were dizzy, as the volume of A.T.S. replacements dwindled. Now they all go, so all we have to do is re-write it completely.

Dare we hope that this time it will be at least temporarily permanent?

We have for some months now, too, had half a dozen "odd-bods" who have been posted to and held on the strength of a non-existent No. 3 Squadron. On 24th February, however, the first Troop of the new Squadron, 130 Line Troop, arrived from Eastern Command Signal Regiment, and it is to be hoped that the formation of the new Squadron of "real" Signal Troops will proceed apace.

There has been very little to report in the social sphere since the last publication of our notes. Evening activities in the Education Centre here are going well and have increased considerably in popularity. It is said that even warrant officers and sergeants have found time to attend—probably due to the fact that well-known local landmarks have been incorporated as objects in the "Twenty Questions" series. What question-master said that the Second-in-Command's

continued on page 100



CATTERICK *amateur* RADIO CLUB

By **G. J. PRICE**

THE "Shack" is in Loos Lines and from external appearance there is no other word for it, but once inside one receives a very different impression, for this is the home of Catterick Amateur Radio Club. Here they speak a language of their own in the club rooms in which the phonetic "Q" comes very much to the fore, and here of an evening one might find the Honorary Secretary, Lance-Corporal B. Taylor (G3AKF) "calling CQ," or perhaps a friend from South Africa, Lieutenant Reeves (ZS6EY) establishing contact with fellow "Hams" in his home country.

The founding of the Club dates back to February, 1945, when, under the presidency of Major-General R. T. O. Cary, Catterick District Commander, a few chaps who were known better to each other by their call-signs than by name formed the nucleus of the present organisation to promote the interests of amateur radio in the area. They moved from Kemmel Y.M.C.A. *via* S.T.C. Exchange Block (and, strange to relate, a stable) to their present quarters, but in rolling the stone has gathered moss and the scope of the Club has broadened considerably. A workshop has been set up where those interested can use tools and equipment provided to build wireless sets and other bits of equipment. It is of interest to note that this department is greatly patronised by the younger members of the Club from Boys' Squadron.

On Wednesday nights there can be heard the intermittent pipping of an oscillator keyed by the instructor of the Morse class, but Tuesday night is the big night when the Club holds its weekly general meeting and there is usually a lecture on some radio topic by a member or guest of the Club.

Outstanding among these lectures was one by Major Nepean (G5YN) on his experiences when establishing station AC4YN, the first and only amateur radio station in Tibet, another by Lieutenant Reeves on South Africa, and more recently one by Vice-President Captain K. A. Smith, Royal Signals (O.C. No. 2 Radio Squadron, No. 1 Training Regiment), on the technicalities of captured German and Italian military radio equipment. Like most of our lectures, this was backed up by practical demonstrations so that members could actually see and handle the sets themselves.

Notable personalities who have had connections with the Radio Club are Major "Ken" Ellis (among whose call signs are G5KW for Great Britain, SU1KE for Egypt, ZC6NX for Palestine, and MD5KW for the Middle East), Major

Jarvis (G2BPC) and Signalman Piper (G3BGO)—"Pip" to his friends—who, along with Captain Ray (G2TA) and "Joe" Raby (G8RF), was a founder member. The Club also remembers with gratitude the work of the last Secretary, Corporal Alan Hall (BRS 14526), now released. He was responsible for contacts such as LU9CK (Argentina), OH2QM (Finland), MB9AG (Austria), PY4ID (Brazil), MD1B (Benghazi) and UA1KBB (Leningrad, U.S.S.R.).

It was only very recently that the Club enrolled a new honorary member of distinction in the person of Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, who during the course of his visit to Catterick Camp got a glimpse of the Club's activities and seemed duly impressed. Other signatures in the visitors' book have at their side such call-signs as VU2EW of India, VE4TY of Canada, and SU1DM of Cairo. The Club waxes strong at the moment, having a membership of over 300. Perhaps their most ambitious project for the near future is a new transmitting aerial, of which the model is now complete, and volunteers are commencing the actual construction of the real thing. The aerial will have unusual directional

properties and should bring in many new QSL (confirmation of contact) cards to swell the Club's collection.

Despite difficulties, Catterick Amateur Radio Club thrives under the able leadership of its President, Vice-Presidents and Committee, all these offices being open to all ranks by Club election.

All interested are invited to look in if they are near at hand, and if they are not, to listen on any of the "Ham" bands for G3CIO.

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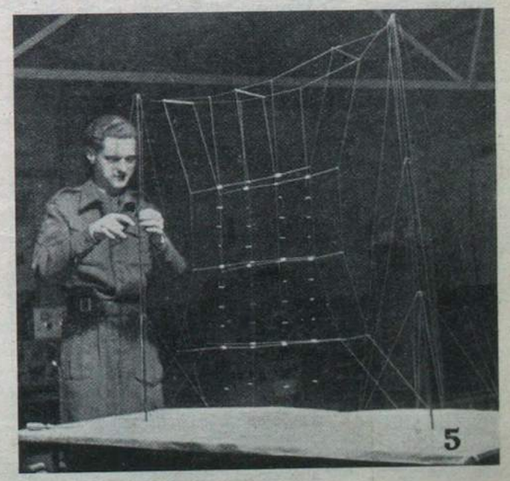
1. A lecture in progress. Captain K. A. Smith, Royal Signals, lecturing on German and Italian radio equipment
2. The Catterick Radio Club building
3. Corporal Brewer (Brew) checks an aerial feeder for no radiation
4. ZS6EY on the band
5. Model of the new transmitting aerial in the club room. Corporal Martin Lees is putting the finishing touches to it



continued from page 97

dimple was abstract and the moustache of a certain other senior officer was definitely vegetable ?

The A.T.S. are putting mere males to shame these days in the enthusiastic way they are taking part in P.T. Not exactly a social attraction, perhaps, but brief shorts and blue knees on a frosty morning are considered worthy of mention. In fact, the men mention it quite a lot !

Sports. Football and Hockey. We have one hockey and two football teams, all doing very well indeed, in spite of the many changes in personnel due to "demob" and draft.

Driver Law — our left-back

The sports fixture list is always practically full and some extremely good games have been enjoyed with local teams, both military and civil.

We are becoming well known and the best compliment is paid to us when we are asked to provide (as often happens) two or three players, both hockey and football, to help out other units' teams.

The majority of unit personnel are very keen and our biggest difficulty is arranging for everyone to take part in their particular sport. However, we are gradually reaching that happy state when satisfaction can be given to all.

The girls are doing their part in unit sports and several mixed games of hockey have been played in the unit. They have a first-class netball team willing to take on all comers.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

March

R.H.Q. Since our last notes quite a number of changes have taken place. We have said "Good-bye" to the following officers:—Major G. H. Hewlett to Catterick, where we think he will be found helping to fuddle the brains of pre-University candidates; Major J. H. Collins to Camberley for Staff College Course; Captain (Q.M.) R. W. J. Adams (well known at Portsmouth) to Civvy Street. We wish them all success in their new spheres. We have not lost sight of our old Q.M., Jack Springett (mentioned in last month's notes); he has taken employment under the Regiment's wing at Portsmouth.

We extend a welcome to the following, who have recently joined us, and hope they will enjoy the breezes of Figsbury Ring:—Lieutenant S. C. Walton to 146 Line Troop; Captain (T.O.T.) G. Harris to F.S.S. Troop, Plymouth; Major R. G. Baker to command No. 2 Squadron; Captain (T.O.T.) J. Kavenagh to F.S.S. Troop, Bulford; Captain J. McIlvride to F.S.S. Troop, Portsmouth; Lieutenant F. J. Gregory to Southern Command H.Q. Troop; and last but not at all least, Major W. J. S. Gray, our Second-in-Command and P.R.I.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Following the lead of many other units, we feel that we should like to introduce our present members or, at least, in this issue, those stationed at Headquarters, and in the next issue those stationed with detached Troops. Our R.S.M. is well known among those who have served in Catterick and India, R.S.M. W. Gee. The R.Q.M.S., also well known in India and late of 48th Northumbrian Divisional Signals, is R.Q.M.S. R. Softly. In addition we have S.S.M.s J. Holt, W. Lea and A. H. Skiffins, S.Q.M.S.s S. Britton and G. Marsh, Sergeants Horlock, Licence, Moverley, Cunningham, Chantry, Dyamond and Cairns. Sergeant Charlesworth has just arrived and doesn't quite know what he is in for yet. Our only A.T.S. representatives at Headquarters are C.S.M. D. Rees and Sergeant Bartlett. Also permanently attached and quite notable members are Sergeant Halliwell, R.A.E.C., and S.M.I. Langman, A.P.T.C., together with his band of nine or so instructors who staff the Southern Command School of Physical Training. More about them in subsequent notes. Sergeant Horlock, who has not been with us very long, may be well known as an Army soccer referee and is already well established in soccer circles here. Sergeant Licence, as a hockey player of no mean ability, came with a reputation and has so far lived up to it.

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Licence on the birth of a son, Llewellyn Peter.

Association Football. Since the publication of our last notes the unit team has made its exit from the Wednesday League Cup, being beaten in the second round by R.A.F., Upavon, after a disappointing game. In the Salisbury and District League results have continued to be poor and the one bright spot is the Small Units (Military) League, which we have every hope of winning. In this competition we have won 10 and drawn 1 of the 13 games played to date, with a goal aggregate of 58—27. All the old players have passed on their various ways and new faces in our team include Signalman D. Parker, who has taken over the role of chief goal-scorer at centre-forward, Signalman C. T. Dakin and Signalman McConid. Our captain and vice-captain are both away from the unit on detached duty. Corporal Bastable has assumed the captaincy but he too is at present in hospital having his tonsils removed. We hope for his speedy return.

A.T.S. The A.T.S. of Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment have become very "sport-minded" and are enjoying mixed hockey matches, both inter-unit and with local branches of the Forces. The girls at H.Q. are extremely lucky in having the facilities for badminton, netball and basketball put at their disposal, and a very great keenness is evident in these sports, particularly netball, as it is hoped to run an inter-Group match. It has also come to our ears that Senior Commander Hogh and Subaltern Riley put up a jolly good show in the table tennis match, playing for Southern Command *v.* London District and Eastern Command on 9th February, and, we hear, were the "star turn." Good going, our officers !

Great keenness is also being shown in a new scheme for leatherwork, etc., at the Bulford Hobbies Centre. We are hoping in the future that this initial interest will "snowball."

Plans are going ahead for a trip to the "Old Bailey" for educational purposes, and to get the "gen" before the *News of the World* reporters ! We are hoping to round off this trip with a visit to the broadcast of Merry-go-round, maybe to bring fame and glory to Figsbury by trying our luck in the cash quiz and to provide, at the same time, enough money for our "breaks" the following week.

No. 1 SQUADRON. On 4th January the camp once again acted as host to a number of hungry cadets, hungry both for mental as well as bodily food—a statement borne out by the fact that the instructors were actually seen swotting, and the cooks on duty were actually seen with only one hand in their pocket and a wary eye on the extra grub. It took twice the usual number to serve the food, and when either of these two was approached by an honest signalman about to ask the time, he was usually met with the rebuff, "Sorry, mate, those kids 'ave ate it."

The instructors agreed that the course was by no means easy, and that it had given the cadets a thorough grounding in Signals work. Of the 42 on the course, 9 qualified as instructors and 20 were classified as signallers. The failure of the remaining 13 was due almost entirely to the fact that they were too young and had no previous Signals experience.

In charge of their instruction was Captain Joyner, whose team of instructors consisted of Second-Lieutenant Lord, Second-Lieutenant Edwards, Sergeant Horlock, Sergeant Moverley and Sergeant Licence.

146 LINE TROOP. We feel our modesty has been carried far enough. The Cinderella of Southern Command (Mixed) Signal Regiment is screaming for publicity. During the past few months we have been making our presence felt in all parts of the country, and a visitor from a foreign shore could witness members of the 146 Line Troop working in such widely dispersed points as Harrogate and Bude.

At the end of last year we lost our Officer Commanding, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. J. Walke, who departed from our midst to sample the burdens of Civvy Street. His place has been taken by Lieutenant S. C. Walton, who is settling down to some hard work after "good time charleying" in the Middle East.

Another recent arrival in the Troop is Sergeant C. F. Chantry, B.E.M., who has joined us from B.A.O.R.

We should like to congratulate the following members of the Troop:—Sergeant Cunningham and Signalman Adkin on deciding to take a "better half" unto themselves; Jim Walke on the arrival of a fourth ration book into his family—David Jones; Sergeant Moverley, assistant unit football team trainer; Sergeant Chantry on the award of his L.S. and G.C. Medal; and finally to all those members of the Troop who eventually decided to risk the uncertainties of civilian life and resisted the temptation when their demob group came round.

ALDERSHOT AND HANTS F.S.S. TROOP. It appears that little is known of our Troop, left to uphold the old traditions of sport in the Command, and the large area in which we have to maintain communications in the Aldershot, Bordon and Bramley districts.

We have in our midst such old stagers as Major Beattie, Charlie Mepham, Jack Brown, George Tibble, McGregor, Goodman and Jack Hayes, our civilian clerk, who are all still doing a good job for the Corps. Our Troop Sergeant McIntosh (818) joined us in September, 1947, and has now settled down nicely in Marlborough Lines.

Old friends will be pleased to know that we still have some good matches, both Rugby and soccer, on the Command Ground.

The old hands would like to hear from any of their old friends, and Sergeant McIntosh would be pleased to hear from "The Muffin Man," Nairobi.

PORTSMOUTH AND ISLE OF WIGHT F.S.S. TROOP. As these are our first notes, our introduction had better be made. Our military numbers are small, but for operational duties we are well supported by highly-skilled civilians—all ex-Service men. Our duties are normal F.S.S. communications and we are proud of the service which we are giving to dependent units. The operational side of the Troop is in the capable hands of Major (T.O.T.) G. Wray, M.M.

The social life of the Portsmouth Troop was brightened up on Wednesday, 4th February, when the outgoing 65 Group held a farewell party in the Gloucester Hotel, which started the civilians flowing in on their way.

In the entertainment world this month we have turned our attention toward a new venture. Every Friday, thanks to the A.K.C., we have been visited by one of their mobile film units. These visits have proved themselves to be so popular that they have recently been increased to two a week. Owing to transport difficulties, we have been forced to cancel the weekly dances which have been held here for over a year. We hope, however, that this will only have to be a temporary measure.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

March

Entertainments have once again been the great attractions in the Unit for the past month. On Wednesday, 25th February, the Ariel Dramatic Society, Belfast, who are the holders of the Ballymoney, Bangor and Lurgan Festival Cups, presented the play, "Night Must Fall." Over 300 of us packed the N.A.A.F.I. to see the grand acting of a star-studded company, which includes three gold medallists. The next grand attraction was our fancy dress ball in the Gymnasium on Thursday, 4th March. About 20 of us appeared in fancy dress costumes. Prizes went to only one of our crowd, Sergeant Mary Senior, who came as a little schoolgirl—perhaps we should say a very advanced little schoolgirl if we are to judge her by the books she was carrying, namely, "What Every Little Girl Should Know," "No Orchids for Miss Blandish" and "Forever Amber." Our two "Spivs" were Sergeant Eddie Morey and Sergeant Joe Dickinson. They came in on the dance with a barrow full of oranges, which they proceeded to sell at "Spiv controlled" prices—the money, incidentally, went towards the cost of the dance! The only trouble with Joe Dickinson was that, as he is normally known as "Spiv" when dressed, we were left wondering whether or not he *was* in fancy dress!

The A.T.S. in H.Q., N.I.D., played the W.A.A.F.s at netball. Representing the Unit in the team were Privates Mary McFarlane, Betty Mason, Agnes O'Leary and "Ginger" Webber. The only injury reported was to the reserve, Private Kath Lusty, who, in an attempt to do something outstanding, fell up the steps and got cuts and bruises. The score was 11—10 in the W.A.A.F.s' favour, but Mary McFarlane scored 6 of our 10, and much credit must go to Betty Mason, who played defence very successfully against a P.T.I. Sergeant. Praise must also go to the other two for their part in the match.

We played the Civvies a badminton match—without our experts, Sergeant Monty Aldridge and Second-Lieutenant Dudley George—and won by 8 points. The Civvies hope to turn the scales at our next match with them. We feel very confident, however, that our victory will be even greater, as, to quote one of the players, "We'll do 'em rotten."

Football is still being played—despite the grand weather—and still we are proving ourselves as good if not better than all comers. St. Joseph's Old Boys were sent away after losing 2—0, and, after much hard luck and despite the grand football of Lance-Corporal Harry Jarvis, in a match with the R.A.S.C. the result was a draw 2—2.

Demob has once again robbed us of a few of the old faithfuls. Signalman "Paddy" Mason, Signalman John Ward, to whom we owed the scenery, lighting and stage managing of all the concerts, plays, etc., that have been performed here, has left us for Essex. Lance-Corporal Jack "Gripper" Allister, plus his red Airborne beret, has gone off to Newcastle to become a "copper," while his "oppo," Signalman Frank Addison, is also away. The girls we have lost in the past few weeks are Sergeant Betty O'Donnel (the old mainstay of A.T.S. Signals) and Private Margaret Turner, who left us on a cross-posting to London District. We wish all of you the best of luck.

We are now in the process of rehearsing another concert, which we are performing on 22nd March. All the old stagers are back in—this will be the last of the Nidwits this year, owing to the summer months coming along.

Captain Pete Palmer has arrived at C.S.O.s branch to fill the place of Captain John Melsom, whose departure was

noted last month. Another arrival has been Sergeant O'Malley.

"The time has come the walrus said"—and now your scribe says it. If I may write a few personal lines for a moment I would like to thank all past and present N.I.D. lads and lassies who have written to me or have helped me in the writing of my notes for the past nine months. I depart on demob soon after writing these notes, and would like to say through THE WIRE "thank you very much indeed" for all the fun I've had writing for you. My successor will be Sergeant Eddie Morey, an old Regular warrior, who will, I hope, have as much fun writing as I have had.

That's all for this time, so here's wishing all of you, from all of us, the best of everything always.

"RAY"

No. 4 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

February

It is with great pleasure that I write these first few notes of the new No. 4 A.A. Group Signals.

This Group was closed shortly after the war and re-opened again in January, 1947. After a year of hard work for all concerned we are now well on our feet and the Group is running very efficiently. I understand this is the only Signal Squadron that actually "lives" with its parent A.A. Group, consequently we are under the watchful eyes of the staff. High up in the staff is our C.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., Royal Signals (late C.S.O., Southern Iraq and Persia, 1945-6, and Commanding 3rd G.H.Q., Signal Regiment, Middle East, from 1945 to end of war). Our S.O.III is Captain E. Williams, who would perhaps be remembered as O.C. No. 2 Company, "J" L. of C. Signals, India, in 1945, and O.C., No. 2 Company, Eastern Command Signals, India, in 1946.

This Squadron is ably commanded by Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E. (of Indian fame and well known throughout the Corps). Our other officers are Lieutenant P. Magee, Lines Officer, Second-Lieutenant F. W. Hartley and Junior Commander E. Nixon, A.T.S. Our "Q" side is looked after by W.O.II S. E. Poole (also fairly well known in the Corps, ex-Waziristanites note) and he seems a wizard at producing the right thing at the right moment, except when you have a battle dress for exchange.

We consist of a Headquarter Troop, Group Signal Office Troop (A.T.S.) and a Line Maintenance Troop, all at Warrington, and a Brigade Troop at Clatterbridge, commanded by Captain R. N. Richmond, but Captain Jerram has just arrived to take over this Troop, so there'll be more news of them at a later date.

As I have previously stated, we live with Group Headquarters, and Major R. H. Farlow is O.C. Troops as well as O.C. Signals. Also the Quartermaster's store looks very gay with the coloured flashes of R.A., R.E.M.E., R.A.E.C., R.A.S.C., and all the various Units of Group Headquarters that are attached to us for all purposes.

We had the honour of providing a guard of honour for the late Lord Derby on his visit to the Group in December. All went well, a good show and a feather in the Royal Signals cap. We have the G.O.C.'s annual inspection on 19th February, and, although there isn't the white-wash of pre-war days, everything looks spick and span. We are all doing a good job and are a happy little band.

Sergeant W. Hammond, our Line Sergeant, has just left us on a Foreman of Signals course in Catterick. Good luck to him.

We have a reasonably good football team considering the size of the Squadron and they are doing very well. Our badminton team has achieved great successes against the Navy and R.A.F. We have run a number of dances in the gymnasium, and so popular has dancing become that we even have a civilian instructor to show the lads all the latest "steps" once a week. A good innovation in these "hard" times.

With "all the best" to all members and ex-members of our Corps I'll say "cheerio" till next month.

"STAPOO"

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

March

A trip to watch the S.T.C. Rugby team in action against R.E.M.E. at Leicester was successfully undertaken, and the only regrets were when the final whistle blew and Signals had to be content with a draw. However, the replay has proved that we were supporting the better side, and our congratulations are added to those which have already been sent. Unfortunately, we did not hear of the fixture for the replay until too late to make arrangements to attend.

During the past few weeks the camp has been enjoying the privilege of two cinema shows per week instead of the usual one. Not only does this scheme give greater enjoyment to the film fans, but eases the financial matters to some degree.

The fortnightly dance is showing profit, due to the energies of such people as Second-Lieutenant Ingledow, Corporal Allen, Corporal Jones, Signalman Reeve, and numerous helping hands.

On St. Valentine's Day the D.R. post orderly was seen to be staggering along beneath numerous sacks of mail. The only persons who are still in doubt as to their admirers are Junior Commander Ridler and R.Q. Ditchfield.

Hearty congratulations are extended to Signalman Holton and Private Hayes on their recent marriage; may they both enjoy their new life. Also to Corporal Smith and Private Biggadike.

Second-Lieutenant Melford and Second-Lieutenant Dacre, recent arrivals, are settling down to the new surroundings, and it is welcome news that they are both hockey players.

R.S.M. MacDonald and Sergeant Baker recently arrived from Palestine and are most welcome. We hope that they will enjoy their stay.

Best wishes for their re-entry into Civvy Street are given to Private Price, Lance-Corporal Watkins, Corporal Jones, Signalman Charnley, Driver Dean, Signalmen Gubbins, Hodson, Lowry, Drivers Butterfield and Brand, Signalmen Kavanagh, Pasquier and Spencer.

On 6th February a party paid a most interesting visit to the Atomic Train at Derby. Some members of the Unit attended the No. 5 A.A. Group Boxing Finals, at which function we provided public address equipment.

Second-Lieutenant Watson and his gang are busy demolishing huts in another place and erecting them in Elvaston as garages. The first one did not blow far in a gale we had.

Football. The football team continues in winning ways marksman, and in defence Signalmen McKenzie and Kavanagh have been outstanding.
and during the past month have recorded three victories to one defeat and one draw. Driver McMillan is the chief
No. 5 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment v. Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 5—4; v. Alvaston,

continued on page 107

British Army of the Rhine

No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

March

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Just when we were about to dig out the flannels and ratting jacket in hopes of welcoming an early spring, the Weather Clerk administered a hefty kick in the pants to those ideas. Snow and severe frost has been the fashion these past two weeks, so much in fact, that for the first time this winter we have been able to indulge in ice skating on the frozen swimming pool.

On the 21st February the Mess ran a dance and social evening. Attendance of ladies was not what we usually get, but however, the evening was pleasantly spent and thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

A new feature within the Mess is the formation of a "Bung" Club, initiated and presided over by Sergeant "Jock" Giles, ex-5th Divisional Signals. Initiation into the club begins with the drinking of one pint of "wallop" in one go, so its easy to guess that the club members have all graduated from the "Elbow Bending School." Woe betide any Bung member who fails to produce his bung on the order, "Flash," within the count of 10. We heard it cost Sergeant "Tich" Gorman 17/6 at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club one evening for being forgetful. So it's flash your bung or it's "bungo ole chap."

We were sorry to hear a short while ago that Sergeant "Bob" Charnock had the bad luck to break his ankle whilst on a Ski-ing Course at the French mountain training centre. However, we now have him back into the fold, having had the ankle repaired successfully under Anglo-French-American arrangements. Sergeant "Syd." Newman, who also attended the Course, returned fit and immediately proceeded on leave. So as yet we have been spared a big "grip" on how to ski.

During the past month many new faces have appeared in the Mess as a result of the disbanding of 5th Divisional Signals. To S.Q.M.S. Bardwell, Sergeants Giles, Flintoff, Thompson, Grant, Agar, Farquar and Menzies we say, welcome, and make yourselves at home.

We take this opportunity of extending a welcoming hand to Mrs. Littlewood and Mrs. Anderson, who arrived from England during the month to join our colony of married "pads."

Our congratulations to S.S.M. "Pat" Pash and his wife on the birth of a son and heir at 155 Military General Hospital.

"TICH PKR"

NO. 3 SQUADRON. Since the last issue, 7th Armoured Division (Static) has been disbanded and, as a result, the No. 10 Set link from H.Q., B.A.O.R., via Bismark and Bielefeld to Bad Rothenfelde, closed down 14th February, 1948, and detachments returned to Herford for overhaul. It is expected, however, that these sets and others recently received will be fully committed in the very near future; at least O.C. Wireless Carrier, Lieutenant T. Winder has been doing extensive swanning with this in view. (Wot! No suitable sites, Tom?) Lieutenant K. Banks, who is taking over Wireless Carrier, is getting his own impression of the 10 Set and swanning set up.

Wireless Group H.Q., B.A.O.R., still continues to do sterling work manning control sets of the B.A.O.R. W/T Network. These links are now working 24 hours a day and handling a considerable volume of live traffic—the numbers mounting weekly. Command here has changed recently, due to the posting of our Second-in-Command, Captain R. H. Stewart to home establishment on Python. Captain G. S. Blackburn has taken over Second-in-Command once again. Lieutenant Mike Sinclair has taken over the duties of O.C. Wireless Group H.Q., B.A.O.R., assisted by Second-Lieutenant Redley, recently posted to this Unit from 5th Divisional Signal Regiment. We are confident the usual high standard will be maintained.

Lieutenant W. Kay organised a 3 Squadron Quiz last week, in which teams representing the Squadron Officers, two Wireless Troops and the D.R. Group took part. From this Quiz the D.R. Group team emerged the victors after pulling up considerably during the last round, to beat the Officers, who were leading. In the near future they will be competing against 1, 2 and R.H.Q. Squadrons, so we wish them all the very best of luck.

Two darts matches have been arranged against a C.C.G. Mess in Hammersmith Barracks, Herford—also one darts and snooker challenge match, and on each occasion the unit team came out on top.

We take this opportunity to welcome all new arrivals from the U.K., 5th Divisional Signals and 7th Armoured Divisional Signals.

On 11th March, 1948, we must say goodbye to our Second-in-Command, Captain "Roy" Stewart, and his wife, on posting to the U.K. We wish them *Bon Voyage,* and with them go our very best wishes for the future.

No. 1 SQUADRON. With the advent of both frost and snow the centre of attraction soon became the ice rink. A convenient field, at one time flooded, makes an excellent rink, with no great danger of sinking above the waist. Only the fading light forced the people back to barracks last weekend, and I am sure that a re-appearance of the frost next weekend is included in most nightly prayers.

We feel that the change of weather has something to do with Captain R. Y. Littlejohn's sudden decision to return to civilian life next month. It can only be commented that it will be even colder in the kilt around Leith than it is out here.

Little in the way of outdoor sports (other than skating) has taken place recently, due mainly to bad weather conditions. A few brisk early morning walks with the P.T.I. has, however, maintained our high standard of physical fitness.

An All Ranks Dance was organised by the Squadron, in the N.A.A.F.I. on the 25th February, 1948, and was attended by the Commanding Officer and his wife. The music was supplied by the Regimental Dance Band, namely "The Rhinelanders." Some 180 ladies attended the dance, and from all accounts enjoyed it a great deal. It was indeed a victory for our side when a large number of A.T.S. Signals walked in, an act rarely observed in this Regiment. Good prizes were awarded by the P.R.I., and amongst the lucky winners in a Spot Waltz were the Commanding Officer and his wife.

Next month, a visit of the Mercury Players is being organised by the Squadron Entertainments Officer, and it is hoped that it will be as well attended as the dance.

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

March

The Training Courses within the Regiment are progressing very well, as is also the Junior N.C.O.s Drill and Duties Courses. The latter are considered to be a very important phase in the building up of good Junior N.C.O.s, so necessary to the well being and running of a Regiment.

Jimmy's Club is now fully established and proving to be very popular indeed with the Junior N.C.O.s and men of the Regiment. The second billiard table has now been installed by N.A.A.F.I., the amenities now consisting of two billiard tables, two table tennis tables, and two dart boards. Games tournaments are in full swing, and darts matches are played against outside teams in a darts league that has been formed within the area.

The honour of "going on the air" in the B.F.N. Regional Quiz Competition has befallen the Regimental quiz team, who, on Saturday, 24th February, at the Dusseldorf Opera House, defeated a picked C.C.G. team from North Rhine Westphalia by 24 points to 20. The Regimental team, consisting of Second-Lieutenant J. C. Evans, Lance-Corporal M. Standing, Signalman M. Clements and Signalman A. Mitchell, had an air of assurance about them as they faced the footlights and a barrage of fast questions. Honours were fairly even throughout the contest, and at one time the C.C.G. team were in the lead. In the closing minutes, however, Signalman M. Clements gained the winning points by naming Gainsborough as "The Blue Boy's" artist. Hearty congratulations and the best of luck for the forthcoming contests. Captain D. F. L. James officiated as the Quizmaster, with Captain D. Jenkins (G.S.) presiding over the gong.

Sergeant Aitkenhead holding the 40in. Sail Plane that won him an hon. mention in the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, and Corporal Sutton, who is holding the plane that won him first prize

An Aero Modelling Club has recently been formed within the Regiment, with Sergeant Aitkenhead, R.A.E.C., as President. The club opened to a comparatively slow start, but is now flourishing extremely well, and the President is finding it difficult to keep the membership, which at present consists of 22 enthusiasts, within the limits set by space and materials.

Models in the making

The club entered five working models for the 2nd Division Arts and Crafts Exhibition and walked off with the first, third and honourable mention prizes. Corporal Sutton, the treasurer of the club, obtained the first prize with an uncovered powered duration model and was also awarded third prize for his Balsa glider. Sergeant Aitkenhead received the honourable mention for an impressive model of a 40 inch sail plane. These exhibits have now gone forward to Rhine Army for the B.A.O.R. competition. The photographs herewith reproduced are of the members of the club and the models built and in process of being built.

A hearty welcome is extended Major Rowett, Major Kidd, Captain Howes, and all new arrivals who joined the Regiment this month.

Good-bye was said to Captain Goldsmith (Static), who proceeded to U.K. to attend a course, after first of all having a spot of leave; the best of luck, Goldie. We also said good-bye to Captain and Mrs. J. Dunbar this month, to whom we wish all the best and every success in their new home. "Jock," as he was familiarly known, was Officer Commanding 6th (Highland) Brigade Signal Troop, and all who know him will regret his going and miss his cheery smile.

H.Q. Troop cross-country team, winners of Regimental Inter-Troop Championship. Seated: Corporal Miller, R.H.Q., R.S.M. H. Griffin, Captain H. S. P. Miles, Officer Commanding H.Q. Squadron, S.Q.M.S. Bailey, 1 Squadron, H.Q., Corporal Castleton, "Q" Troop. Standing: Craftsman Hastie, L.A.D., Craftsman Baines, L.A.D., Signalman Pritchard, R.H.Q., Signalman Cleverton, "Q"

Sport. The semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition, in which the Regiment met 29th Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers, took place at Wuppertal Stadium on Tuesday, 3rd February.

The game was of special interest, as the Regiment was the only 2nd Division team left in the competition. Quite a large crowd turned up to watch the game, including 300 Royal Engineers, who arrived by special train from Luneberg to give their side a cheer.

Although the Sappers played better together as a team, Signals had far more opportunities of scoring. Great praise must be given to the Signals defence and especially goalkeeper Lance-Corporal McLaughlan, who played a brilliant game.

Final score: 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment 2, 29th Army Troops, Royal Engineers, 3.

The Regimental Inter-Troop and Individual Cross-Country Championship for 1947-48 was held on Wednesday, 18th February. Twelve Troops competed, six from Headquarters, three from Brigade Headquarters, and three from the Field Regiment Headquarters—in all a total of 96 competitors.

Runners were "briefed" on the course by R.S.M. H. Griffin, who organised this particular branch of sports for the Regiment.

The "off" signal was given at 1515 hours. Owing to the cold, dry weather, the ground was extremely hard, and a keen wind made comfortable running almost impossible. The course of five miles was completed by the first man home, Lance-Corporal Hunter, of "L" Troop, Headquarters, 6th (Highland) Brigade, in 35 minutes, a very good performance indeed. He was closely followed by Second-Lieutenants Spalding and Richardson, both of "C" Troop, second and third respectively.. The fourth man in was Corporal Griffin, "B" Troop, fifth, Second-Lieutenant Tripp, and sixth, Corporal Miller, "H.Q." Troop.

The team event was won by "H.Q." Troop with a total of 106 points, second, "E" Troop with 154 points, third, "K" Troop with 166 points. Lance-Corporal Hunter's win was a surprise to all, and much is expected of this very fit young N.C.O. in the forthcoming Divisional run on 10th March, 1948.

The Regiment entered for the Divisional Inter-Unit Hockey Competition and were drawn against the 1st Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment, in the first round.

The Regimental team travelled to Wuppertal on Saturday, 14th February, for the fixture, which, unfortunately, we lost by 4 goals to 1.

However, it was quite a good game and good experience for the beginners of the game included in the Regimental side.

The York and Lancaster Regiment held too many guns for Signals and included at least six ex-Indian wallahs, which gave them quite an advantage.

Unfortunately, three of the Regimental side were unable to play owing to other duties. A replay is being arranged, and we hope to give a better account of ourselves in this game.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg

March

During the past month several changes have occurred here in Bückeburg. No. 64 T.M. Troop have joined us from Celle, so that all R.H.Q. Squadron (with the exception of "Q" Branch) is installed here.

We extend a hearty welcome to the newcomers, Major Western (Second-in-Command), Captain Benson (Adjutant), Lance-Corporal Grey, Signalmen Bailey and Cromar from R.H.Q./15. Also to Signalman (U.B.D.) Lovejoy (from 5th Division) and his bus !

We say good-bye and good luck to Captain Gant (late Adjutant) on posting to the Home Establishment, to S.S.M. "Uncle Jack" Mudge, posted to Allied Liaison Branch, Signalman Tierney (of the Rhine Army), Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Ings, Lance-Corporal Close and Signalman Biggs, who have gone on demob.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Clutterbuck on the birth of a son on 9th February, 1948, at Hanover.

Our congratulations also to Private Davenport (No. 1 Squadron) on his marriage to Fraulein Elvira Fix at the Garrison Church, Bückeburg, on 21st February, 1948.

Quizzes. During the past month a team from the unit has been to Hamburg twice to take part in the B.F.N. Quizzes on Sundays. The "brains"—Lieutenant Millichamp, Signalman Clifford, Sergeant Foster and Second-Lieutenant Ellis—were successful the first time, and hence were featured on a second programme. This time, however, we were beaten by a Rehabilitation Unit. The answers appeared to be better known at the receiver end than at Hamburg, and it was even said of one member of the team that "he ought to be put in a home" !

Since that time, another successful quiz has been held at "A" Sergeants' Mess, Bad Eilsen, the Bückeburg team emerging victorious against the opposing team of W.A.A.F., Married Families and R.A.F.

Hockey. Several matches have been played during February, including one against the Women's Services, in which we managed to draw 1—1. The Women's Services were on top for three parts of the game and we were very fortunate in drawing level just before the end.

The hockey team has lost a very valuable player in Captain Gant, who has been repatriated to the U.K.

No. 2 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, SUNDERN. This is our first contribution as No. 2 Squadron, No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. The Squadron is commanded by Major W. C. Jarvis, M.B.E., Royal Signals, with Captain J. Mark as Second-in-Command and Captain G. Bateman as Lines Officer. Our rusty (sorry, trusty) S.S.M. is S.S.M. Goff Spearman. The following officers are commanding Troops of the Squadron: Lieutenant Jones (129 Tele. Ops.), Lieutenant Garner (115 T.E.), Lieutenant Muir (73 Wing), Captain Martin (81 Wing), Captain R. E. Rooks (141 Line).

On the amalgamation of Nos. 15 and 11 Air Formation

Sergeant Gahan and bride cutting the cake

Signal Regiments, 115 T.E., 115 D.R., 73 and 81 Wing Troops came under command of the Squadron and we said good-bye to 77 T.M. Troop on disbandment.

The following departed from this Squadron during the past month:—Second-Lieutenant E. J. Pugh to No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment—all the very best Taff. To Civvy Street: Sergeant Bremner, Corporal Snowden, Lance-Corporal Robinson (L.A.D.), Signalmen Latter, Porter, Wragg, Savin, Drivers Clarke, Helbrow and McLean.

We extend the welcoming hand to the following new arrivals and hope their stay will be long and pleasant:—Sergeant Gallivan to 115 T.E. Troop; Corporal Cochrane, Lance-Corporal Traynor and Signalman Walshe from R.H.Q., No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment to Squadron H.Q.; Signalmen Walker and Cave from R.H.Q., No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment to 129 Tele. Op. Troop.

Congratulations to the following on reaching the first rung of the ladder of fame:—Lance-Corporals Middleton, Lythgoe and Bowyer.

Heartiest congratulations to Sergeant Gahan on his marriage to Fraulein Helene Ullrich at the Roman Catholic Church of Maris Grun, Blankenese, Hamburg, on 24th January, 1948. (Penny buns now cost twopence, Bill.)

Football. During February the Squadron soccer team had success in both matches played, against 73 Wing Signal Troop with a win of 15—0 (Breeze 5, Shuttleworth 3, Traynor 2, Storey 2, Mackinder 2 and Ady 1), and a win over R.A.F. Station (6—4) after a very exciting game.

Table Tennis. Other Ranks played the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants at table tennis in the Signals Inn, the match being won by the Other Ranks. A very pleasant evening was had by all ranks. The Squadron played the R.A.F. Regiment later in the month and won by 15—10.

Boxing. Lance-Corporal Winfield, Signalman Bewick and Signalman Walker have entered for the B.A.O.R. Boxing Championship taking place at Bielefeld on 27th February, 1948. Here's wishing them the best of luck.

"TWOSQUAD"

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

March

This month has seen further changes in the personnel of the Unit. Captain Shiner has departed for U.K. and welcome arrivals have included Major Whitaker, Major Beaumont, Captain Vinn, Captain Stickley and Second-Lieutenants Marsh, Fettes and Gordon. The Unit is also expanding with the coming of more and more married families, and any Unit sports team is sure of a full-throated encouragement from the younger fraternity.

Winter of truly Arctic temperatures descended, if belatedly, and those fortunate enough to possess skates are making full use of the excellent skating facilities in the district. We have had the minimum of snow, much to the disgust of the children, but to the complete satisfaction of any members of our transport section who have experienced snow-bound German roads in previous winters.

Outdoor sporting activities have been somewhat curtailed by adverse conditions, and our Unit soccer team are most impatient to recommence their journey along their all-conquering path. Within the past few months the team has had many changes, due to demobilisation, but all former stalwarts would be pleased to learn that tradition is being stoutly upheld.

Indoor recreation has been going with a swing, and darts and skittles matches have been the centre of much excitement and amusement, inter-troop matches being played weekly.

We have our own Unit cinema, which is open six nights per week, and high attendances are assured. The twice-weekly dances, which are held in the nearby town, have suffered a little in attendance as the result of the inclement weather, but are still very popular with the regular supporters. At the invitation of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, the Coporals' Mess paid a visit to a riotous evening of hilarity, interspersed with hotly-contested games ranging from shove-halfpenny to table tennis, which, if a nightmare to the appointed score checker, was an all-round success to the participants. This month marked the initiation of N.A.A.F.I. within the Unit, and its benefits are felt most markedly in the evenings, when to venture forth causes quite a deal of trepidation, and hot, well-cooked meals are the order of the hour. It is hoped to organise table tennis leagues and billiards tournaments in the near future, when N.A.A.F.I. Canteen takes over more accommodation.

As ever, the radio amateurs are "ether bound" and continue to "meet" new friends on the 14 Mc band. Weather conditions are no deterrent to their zeal, and results have shown their enthusiasm and optimism to be well rewarded.

Football. The Unit has put up a very creditable performance in the Hamburg District League, and are at the moment holding second position in the table. In the last two games, which virtually settled the championship, we lost after a very exciting game to the 59th Provost Company by 5 to nil, though the score did not reflect the closeness of the game, as we had far more of it territorially and played good football, but the forwards just would not shoot. So from the few breakaways that they enjoyed, the Police ran up their score.

In the second game, against 194 Provost Company (Ports), we played quite good football until a 3-goal lead was established, then the forwards again got very shy, and played pretty, pretty football, so that we ran out winners by 3 goals to nil. We are now combining with all Royal Signals Units in order to get out a team to represent the Corps in the inter-Services Tournament, and with the material available we should be able to produce a team fully able to uphold all the best sporting traditions of the Corps.

Two of our players recently released may be joining another of our ex-players in the professional ranks, i.e. Signalman Hendry, inside-left, is being watched by Arsenal, and Signalman T. Millar is being watched by Charlton, while the other, ex-Corporal Armstrong, is being watched by thousands while he is busy for Chelsea.

Hockey. The Regiment has entered for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Knock-Out Competition. This is the third season that they have taken part in this competition, having reached the quarter-finals in the two previous seasons. At present they are busy holding practice matches on Wednesdays and Sundays to select players to replace those who are being released in the near future.

On Wednesday, 3rd March, the unit played the 22nd Heavy Workshops, R.E.M.E., and after a hard-fought game lost 1—3. A special mention must be made of the excellent performance of S.S.M. Davy in goal. We play the return match on Saturday, 6th March, and hope to reverse the result.

A.T.S. SIGNALS, GERMANY

Bad Oeynhausen

March

Our Commanding Officer, Senior Commander C. H. M. Jackson, O.B.E., has recently been on a Military Law Course at Colchester, and judging by the "knowing look" in her eye, could give us quite a few tips on how to wangle out of any escapade.

Auxiliaries are constantly leaving this theatre to try their skill in civilian life, but in several cases we are welcoming the return of Auxiliaries who served with this unit 'way back in 1945, and have since been demobilised and rejoined the A.T.S. to find themselves back in B.A.O.R.

We can claim to be a 33⅓ per cent. Regular unit, and the only A.T.S. Signal Unit serving in Germany. Stationed in Bad Oeynhausen, Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, the Auxiliaries staff the 20-position switchboard, supervised by capable N.C.O.s and their officer-in-charge, Subaltern Mary Wynn, whom many Auxiliaries will remember from Brussels and 30 Corps days.

Sergeant Weller, our chief of staff in the cookhouse, is haunted by Press photographers—*Daily Graphic*, we believe, was talent-spotting, and what better talent than a nice tasty meal? Subaltern C. D. Ellis feels she is feeding the five thousand when she signs her indents as Messing Officer.

Signal Office—that home of ormig and tape—is in the capable hands of the Chief Signalmaster, Captain R. Wythe, and it is whispered he is a good propagandist when he wants A.T.S. Superintendents to defer their release. Sergeants Murray, Black, McMillan and Meredith all flocked to append their signatures to a two-year contract after his little pep-talk. Subaltern "Nan" Dallas, well known both at 30 Corps and 1 Corps, is still fighting a losing battle to become officer in charge of anything rather than D.S.O., but she is so efficient and at home in the Signal Office that it would be a pity to disturb her.

Subaltern D. H. Evans we have welcomed from the U.K. a few months ago, and she has also joined the ranks of the Duty Signal Officers, though whilst our Q.M. (Subaltern D. C. Harris) was on leave Miss Evans stepped into the breach admirably and became quite "Q"-minded.

At Senior Commander Jackson's right hand is the Second-in-Command, Junior Commander D. S. Gavin, who after weeks of deliberation has decided that life without orderly rooms wouldn't be worth while and has agreed to become one of the Extended Service Officers. It sounds as though C.S.M. V. Kerby has had some influence here.

Occasionally we offer lambs to the O.C.T.U. slaughter. It was learned recently that our Sergeant K. Fozzard, known to Auxiliaries who worked the Trunk Exchange at Minden, is now Second-Subaltern Fozzard, posted to a Northern Command unit in Nottingham. C.S.M. Byrne should also be putting up her first pip soon.

Wedding bells have been ringing in this unit—Private M. B. Murray married Mr. H. G. Andrews (C.C.G.) on 20th December, 1947; Private Parsfield married Signalman Young (Royal Signals, No. 30 Independent L. of C. Regiment) on 22nd December, 1947; and Sergeant H. P. Bett married Sergeant J. A. Broadley (R.E.) on 23rd January, 1948. Garrison Church is working overtime.

Handicrafts are in the news. Exhibits for the Forces Handicrafts Competition are safely tucked away in the safe until the appointed day of submitting to Bielefeld. We have extremely good exhibits from Junior Commander A. G. Vivian, Corporal Frith and Private Ryan.

Finally we say good-bye to Controller C. E. Aymer, M.B.E., who is leaving this theatre and also the Service. Very best wishes are extended to her from all ranks of A.T.S. Signals, Germany.

No. 3 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

Minden

March

We blushingly make our entrance into the pages of THE WIRE, as this is our first attempt at informing the Corps at large of our presence within the family, and also make our muttered apologies for being such a long time about it.

However, better late than never, so here goes.

Unit location is Clifton Barracks, Minden, until recently the home of Industries Division, C.C.G. Definitely a change for the better, as our previous billets in Herford were by no means salubrious.

Although we are not engaged in manning fixed communications, being basically a Training Unit, we cannot claim to be left with any time on our hands, and Tentacles (Wireless Detachments) can be seen at any time careering the length and breadth of the British zone bound for airfields and anywhere else where demonstration "Strikes" by the R.A.F. are taking place; apart from Unit schemes in teaching the young idea how to shoot as preparation for summer exercises.

Our contribution to Part II Orders is to forward a list of Regulars in the Unit, so that all who read these notes may say "So, that's where old so-and-so is."

O.C. Unit, Major F. G. Bolam, 2nd i/c, Captain J. Sheridan, Admin. Officer, Captain H. J. Sumner (Badgy—shades of Gibraltar), S.S.M. W. J. James (ex-1st Cavalry Signals, Risalpur), S.Q.M.S. W. Howcroft, S.Q.M.S. T. F. Dunkley, Sergeant R. Barry, Lance-Corporal F. J. Wilde, Lance-Corporal A. Hindley, Corporal B. H. W. Bond.

We also have our quota of married families, which are a boon but not always a blessing, when it comes to a harried S.Q.M.S. wrestling with furniture vouchers, debit vouchers, marching in and out states, and demands as to what has happened to the odd length of curtain material.

We have great ideas for indoor entertainments, but, like everything else, it all seems to take time, and considering we had to start off from scratch in a barracks as bare as it could possibly be (as proof of which it took quite a lot of persuasion to get enough electric light bulbs to fit out the rooms alone) we have not done so badly. Consternation was caused when we saw our piano, specially ordered for us, disappear in the N.A.A.F.I. and become common property. But the need of the majority is paramount, and we are not the only Unit in the barracks. So we are about to order another for the use of our budding Paderewskis and Fats Wallers.

Nightly the call sign of our Unit Radio Club (D2 IH) goes out on the air on the 20, 40 and 80 metre bands, operated by Signalman McLean (Paddy). Enthusiasm runs high with our "Hams," and although at times the station does take on the appearance of a junk shop, being littered with wireless parts which have a meaning only to the Hams themselves, still, judging by the number of Q.S.L. cards on display, results are achieved.

Sport in general has been rather retarded during the winter due to lack of kit in the main, but the situation has improved very considerably since the beginning of the year, and the coming summer should see us doing our best in the various activities of sport. Of this, more anon.

"ASSUDONYM"

Home Stations *continued from page 102*

4—8; v. H.Q., No. 5 A.A. Group, 4—1; v. R.E.M.E., Castle Donnington, 4—3; v. Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 2nd Battalion. 2—2.

Netball. After little training the auxiliaries went to Nottingham and put up a really magnificent performance in the No. 5 A.A. Group Netball Tournament by scoring the second highest number of goals. Girls who represented this Unit were Staff-Sergeant Buckle, Lance-Corporal Etherington, Privates Foster, Craig, Connaughton, Wolfe and Osborne.

P.E.D.

Royal Signals Band

AFTER a visit to B.A.O.R. which has already been described in this journal, the greater part of 1947 was spent in overhauling our equipment and instruments, which had been toured constantly round the British Isles and the Continent since 1940. Manufacturers, in making an instrument or case, do not envisage the rough treatment meted out by stevedores or the bumping about an instrument gets when travelling about in a three-ton lorry in France or Holland, or even on the Treaty Road in Egypt, where we saw our last violoncello descend from the lorry and smash to pieces on the road.

Much recruiting also had to be done to lay a firm foundation for the future. It takes approximately eight years to make an experienced soloist and vacancies occurring many years ahead have to be studied, and new recruits started on those instrumental vacancies many years before the old hand is due to leave. In this respect we are now thinking of 1951 and 1952.

We continue to receive good news of our war-time " stars." The following were great artistes and musicians of no ordinary calibre and their playing brought much pleasure to officers and men of the Corps, and will be remembered by many who were fortunate enough to hear them during the war:—Clifford Knowles, Professor of the Violin at the Royal Manchester College of Music; Kenneth Heath, principal 'cello, London Symphony Orchestra; John Ayre, principal horn, Hallé Orchestra; Israel Hoffman, busy teaching in London and giving recitals; Raymond Cohen, B.B.C., Manchester; Norman Cunliffe, B.B.C., Manchester; John Bristowe, Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; Allan Massey, Henry Hall and his Orchestra.

We have seen all the above in recent tours around the country, and it is very pleasant indeed to meet old members of the Band as we travel around.

Our Corps Band must have been the most travelled band in the British Army during 1947, for apart from the visit to B.A.O.R. and the American zone, we also visited Egypt, Palestine, Cyprus and embarked for Malta.

Leaving Liverpool on 30th October, 1947, on H.M.T. *Cheshire*, we landed at Port Said on 12th November, after quite a good trip except for the usual entertainment in the Bay of Biscay. It was a great joy to see our newly-promoted Director of Music—who had flown out in advance after bidding us farewell at Liverpool—waiting on the quay for us with the usual three 3-ton lorries to convey us direct to Moascar instead of that unpleasant wait which everyone assured us we should suffer in the Transit Camp.

After a few days polishing up our kit, we started a very heavy programme which went on for 40 days without a day off or a week-end free. But had we not come out to play to the Corps ? Our programme had been very carefully planned and much thought had been given to it. We were able to show the flag at concerts at Sir John Crocker's residence when the G.O.C. of Palestine was also present, and to many high-ranking officers at the residence of our C.S.O., Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on the side of the Bitter Lakes and very aptly called " Bitter Sweet."

Before leaving our account of Egypt we must mention that we were accommodated by No. 2 Egypt Command Signal Regiment, commanded by our old friend Lieutenant-Colonel Hardy, and everyone in the unit did all he possibly could to facilitate the execution of our duties and to make us at home.

Captain Roy Brown was attached to us to pilot us around and show us the various places at which we had to perform. He put in a tremendous amount of work in looking after us, and his knowledge of the Canal Zone and Palestine left little to be desired. It was mainly due to him that the administrative side of the tour was so devoid of hitches.

Leaving Egypt on New Year's Eve, we travelled on the well-known train to Palestine and, arriving at Lydda after a most amazing breakfast at Gaza, we travelled by lorry up the historic hills to the troubled City of Jerusalem. Of the train we will say little. Its extreme discomfort is well known to all. Soldiers have sat on the same wooden seats all night since 1930.

In Jerusalem we were accommodated by the Palestine Command Signal Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson, and again we were treated very kindly indeed. Arrangements were made for us to visit the Dead Sea and Bethlehem, and Colonel Robinson himself conducted us on one of the tours, which will always light up in our memory at Christmas time. Whilst in Jerusalem, we broadcast from the Rock Studio, gave a concert at the magnificent Y.M.C.A. and at Mount Scopus, which overlooks the Jordan valley, and played many times to the troops.

Leaving Jerusalem behind us, we travelled down to Sarafand, which had grown out of all recognition to those of us who knew it in the thirties. We were again accommodated by the Palestine Command Signal Regiment, Major Butler being our C.O. on this occasion. It was a great treat to be able to walk about again unarmed after the rigid security measures in Jerusalem, and we enjoyed our stay in Sarafand very much indeed both for that reason and also for the fact that we were made very comfortable indeed by the unit with whom we stayed.

Whilst in Sarafand we met Lieutenant-Colonel Rhind with his caravan, but owing to his Division being on the move we were unable to play for them. We also met him again in Malta, having flown with Major Philp (whom we also kept bumping into) from Fayid.

Our next move was to visit 6th Airborne Divisional Signals on the top of Mount Carmel with the glorious view over Haifa Bay. The Dance Orchestra here proved to be immensely popular for each evening it volunteered to play in the N.A.A.F.I., which was always crowded, as apparently one did not go out in Haifa unless one had to. There was very little to see and shooting matches between Jews and Arabs were part of the nightly entertainment. And so each evening the lads congregated in the N.A.A.F.I. and the Dance Orchestra played all the popular jive numbers. There was an extension every night and much beer flowed under the bridge. Whilst in Haifa we broadcast on two occasions, one being by the Dance Orchestra.

The embarkation for Cyprus was held up owing to an illegal immigrant ship docking just as we were due to leave. One of these boats has to be seen to be believed. The passengers literally sleep in layers on all decks, and how 600 people travelled the length of the Mediterranean in the boat we saw will always be a matter of great interest to us.

Eventually we got aboard H.M.T. *Tripolitania*, a vessel which had been salvaged from a Red Sea port and of about 3,000 tons, well known to all who have served in the Middle East. As we pulled away from shore a storm was blowing up, and by 8 p.m. there was rain, lightning, thunder and every other entertainment to gladden the heart of a sailor. One boat in front of us was blown 160 miles off its course, but we arrived in Cyprus a mere 12 hours late on a 16-hour journey, and just as dark was falling on Christmas Eve. A heavy sea was running and we had to be taken off in T.L.C.s, which added to the fun of the occasion.

Lieutenant-Colonel du Cros, an old Band President, and his unit, No. 2 Wireless Regiment, made us very comfortable indeed and we spent a very cheerful Christmas, although we were away from our families and on the move. On Christmas Eve we received a very nice and thoughtful cable from General White which we appreciated very much indeed.

We were not very much impressed with Cyprus except as an excellent example of bad colonial development. Colonel du Cros very kindly and thoughtfully arranged for us to go on a sightseeing tour of the island on Boxing Day, and we visited Nicosia and other places of interest.

From Cyprus we went back to Egypt via Haifa and Kantara, but instead of going to Moascar, as we had hoped, to finish our shopping, we found ourselves in the 156 Transit Camp at 0330 hrs. on 1st January. And so commenced 1948.

Almost before we had found our tent, we were ordered to embark on the S.S. *Orduna*, and immediately we arrived on board the gallant 34-year-old boat we were asked to play as the retiring G.O.C. Troops in Egypt was coming on board with full honours. We steamed past Simon Arzt playing " Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty " with much feeling.

We were not sorry to see the George Cross Island again, as we encountered another nautical entertainment of the first magnitude *en route* and few were seen on deck or in the dining-room. During this period Band Sergeant-Major Purvis was seen making regular runs in a certain direction, but we understand he was looking for daffodils.

Arriving at Malta at 8 a.m. on 12th January, 1948, we were greeted with beautiful sunshine and the music of church bells from all over the island. Surely Malta must be the happiest island in the world. Having just left the troubled land of Palestine, it was indeed a pleasant contrast to walk amongst the happy crowds patrolling up and down Kingsway, Valletta. In all its long history this island had never known the unhappy tension which we had just left behind in the Holy Land.

Our old friend Lieutenant-Colonel Solly was guardian of our welfare and he had laid on a most interesting programme for us, which brought the name of the Corps very much to the fore. He broadcast with us from the British Institute, and our string quartet very much enjoyed the evenings at his house on the front at Sliema. Colonel Solly is a musician of great refinement and has an intense artistic taste and sense of interpretation.

From Malta we moved to Tripoli, and for once we had a very smooth crossing. Major Madeley, the C.S.O. in Tripoli, was waiting on the quay for us and we were soon away to find our billets. The harbour at Tripoli is still full of sunken boats but they are being raised one by one. The natives ransack all the empty buildings and the shops that are left are very poor compared with Malta.

Our best concert in Tripoli was given at the Officers' Club, a most magnificent building, and another successful function was the Sunday evening concert at the Theatre there. We played in church on Sunday morning at what proved to be a very dignified service.

Another interesting day we had was on our visit to Leptis Magna, an old Roman city built by Emperor Severus in 400 A.D. We took advantage of the fine Roman Theatre there to give our concert out of doors in brilliant sunshine, and troops from nearby units packed into the historic setting.

continued on page 113

[*With acknowledgments to the " Times of Malta "*

The Band in Malta

Other Overseas Stations

PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Jerusalem

March

R.H.Q. AND No. 3 SQUADRON. There are many new faces amongst the unit now and we do miss quite a few of the old ones.

In spite of much "local activity," work goes on just the same but at a much higher pressure, especially over wireless and line links.

The Squadron sends its best wishes to Lance-Corporal Megrah, who was seriously wounded, due to terrorist activity, and hope that he will soon be round and about once again.

Obituary. The whole unit offers their most heartfelt sympathy to the widow of Corporal W. Robinson, who was killed by terrorist activity in Jerusalem, and was buried at Ramle Military Cemetery with full military honours. He had been in the Squadron (Cipher Section) for seven months and was a popular N.C.O. both in his Section and in the Squadron.

Hockey. The Squadron has been making quite a name for itself in the hockey world by beating the Suffolk Regiment in the final of the East Palestine Sub-District Tournament by 2 goals to 1 and thereby qualifying to enter the Palestine Command Tournament, which was also won by beating the K.R.R.C. (2—0), A. and S.H. (3—0) and the 2nd/3rd Parachute Battalion by 1—0 in the final. The original team was as follows:—Signalman Ravenhill; Second - Lieutenant Charles, Captain Griffiths; Signalman Lambdon, S.Q.M.S. Gillott, Captain Brice; Captain Butler, Major Locke, Major Lyske, Captain Grant, Sergeant Wright.

It was regretted that Major Locke had to be replaced owing to a pulled muscle, but Lieutenant Callaghan deputised for him and played a "storming" game, scoring the only goal in the final.

Foreman of Signals Chetwynd took the place of Major Lyske in the final owing to Major Lyske and his wife both receiving leg wounds whilst travelling to the match. We all hope that both Major and Mrs. Lyske are soon out of hospital and that the Major is wielding a nifty stick once more.

No. 1 SQUADRON, SARAFAND. In spite of the combined efforts of the denizens of this Holy Zoo, work in No. 1 Squadron pursues the uneven tenor of its way. Our linemen have increased burdens to shoulder due to spasmodic fun and games, but are amply rewarded by the wonderful tales they are able to tell on their return from "No Man's Land."

We literally killed the fatted pig for Captain "Nick" Carter a short time ago when he left for Haifa on a special mission—forgotten your telephone directory, "Nick" ?—also for Lieutenant C. T. R. Johns, the man with a thousand jobs, and Lieutenant "Fergie" Ferguson, who will be remotely remembered in connection with M.T., both departing for civilian life shortly. It is with bowed heads and unshed tears they go.

Taking Captain Carter's place, and placing feet instead of a dog beneath the Second-in-Command's table, was Captain D. J. L. Garbutt from No. 18 Air Formation Signals. Second-Lieutenants "Paddy" Evans (ex-No. 5 Training Regiment, Tholthorpe) and Dick Trelawney have also just arrived.

Old friends will be sorry to hear that S.S.M. G. Holt has been in hospital for the past three weeks—rude sniggers proceeding from Sergeants' Mess—and his place was taken temporarily by S.S.M. J. Sims from Jerusalem. S.S.M. Holt is now back with us—healed.

Cross-Country Running. The unit entered a team of 14 runners in the Garrison Cross-Country Championship and after a hard run of five miles finished a good second. Signalman Bryant, of Lines Troop, was the first to finish on the Signals side.

Boxing. Signalman Harper, Operating Troop, won his fight by a technical knock-out in the second round during the finals of the South Palestine District Individual Championships.

Football. The unit team have done well, winning two games against the R.A.S.C., the last game being the first round of the Garrison Minor Knock-out Cup.

"*Hams.*" It may be of interest to some people to hear that two "Hams" are making their contemporaries' lives miserable by howling into microphones and receiving no reply. They are ZC6NP, 10 m., and ZC6NJ, 20 m. Please do something somebody—but quick !

No. 3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fayid

March

Despite the fact that, of late, we have not appeared in these pages, we are, nevertheless, a large and active Regiment, and since our move from Cairo last year we have settled in very contentedly at Fayid.

For anyone who likes sand, Fayid holds considerable interest, although it has many other attractions for those whose wants are less specialised. Here we have the usual canteens, Y.M.C.A., Church of Scotland, M.M.G. and the others all doing great work ministering to the needy signalman and his colleagues in khaki; and by the lake can be found clubs which cater for every rank and taste. There is a busy shopping centre, and we boast two churches, a theatre, two cinemas and numerous playing fields. The Great Bitter Lake provides facilities for swimming, yachting, sun-bathing and idle contemplation for those who are not of an energetic disposition.

The thriving town of Ismailia is but an hour's run away, and Cairo is within reasonable distance for a week-end trip. Those, then, who are posted to our midst need have no fears; we live in a wilderness—with many modern conveniences.

To turn to matters of a more personal note, we were honoured with a visit by the Director of Signals on 16th February, in company with Major-General White, our C.S.O. We feel very proud of Major-General Vulliamy's final comment, ". . . a damn good show," and hope we shall continue to live up to it.

While we work hard, we also play hard, and the Regiment is a hive of activity after duty hours. Our hockey teams, of which there are three, are making excellent progress; one lies high in the Fayid "B" League. In soccer we lie first in the Canal South District First Division, with every prospect of staying there, and our punch has been felt in the boxing ring, where Warrant Officer II Quartermain and Sergeant James (an old friend of the Corps) have recently upheld our honour.

On 21st February we held our Unit Sports at Fayid Stadium, and although there were no outstanding times and no records were broken, we can be sure of a good all-round team in the forthcoming District Sports.

Our rugger team has not been too fortunate. Blitzed by demobilisation, it struggles gamely on but badly lacks a strong pack. There are, however, still hopes of renewing our old standards.

Although we are without a shooting team at present, we have hopes, as there are many promising riflemen among us. A rumour has it that we may soon launch a fencing team, in which case our sabres will no longer rest at peace on the walls of the Officers' Mess.

Among our less athletic pursuits we boast a large Music Circle, which holds court twice weekly. Its morale has been severely shaken by the birth of a strange body calling itself the "Downbeat Society." We trust that they will live side by side in physical if not in musical harmony. We also possess a unit magazine which flaunts its libellous pages fortnightly, and there are those who would sleep more soundly if they thought their misdoings would not be discovered in print.

Some of our number belong to the G.H.Q. Theatre Club, while many devote their spare time to yachting on the lake. We possess four Alexandrian harbour luggers, based on the Inter-Services Yachting Club, and they provide us with many contented hours afloat. Amateur radio is another hobby which has many adherents, and Major K. E. S. Ellis, M.B.E., O.C. No. 3 Squadron (MD5KW), was the first person in the Canal Zone to contact England on the 50 megacycle band, while Captain Wakerly (MD5TS) and the Unit Club (MD5AP) regularly disturb the ether on the 10 and 20 megacycle bands respectively.

Education is a subject which plays a large part in our off-duty hours, and an important one at that, and many are fervently studying for the Forces Preliminary Examination next May, while the constant stream of applications for pre-release courses grows in volume day by day. We are lucky to be within a short distance of the Middle East College of Education, the Desert College, at Geneifa, and many of us make our pilgrimage to the shrine of learning. Those who are not so fortunate make use of our large library to the best of their ability.

Demobilisation is, of course, a subject of interest with us, and the excitement runs to fever heat with every fresh rumour. We only hope, if all the Regimental prophets are correct, that there will be enough of us left to justify another contribution to THE WIRE next month.

MALTA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

March

Many events have taken place since we last wrote and we have all been kept very busy, but there have been the lighter moments and no one in the unit feels that he has been too overworked. From the strictly Signals viewpoint, the most important happening has been the reorganisation of the Signal Office. We are now working with remote reception and transmission, the receivers being in the old station at Mosta and the transmitters in the Ravelin, while the operators sit in quiet down in Lascaris Ditch. This has resulted in the closing of most of the accommodation in Mosta Fort, as the only people still there are a radio mechanic and three O.W.L.s for tuning. The Signal Office itself had to make a quick move a few days ago; a civil policeman arrived and told the superintendent that the bastion wall was going to fall in on top of the office ! A hurried exit was made to safer accommodation and, although there has been no fall yet, there is a nasty-looking bulge in the wall about 100 ft. above the old office.

Back row: Corporal Aldrich, Corporal Priestley, Captain J. H. Donaldson, Sergeant Bayfield. Centre row: Signalman Allen, Captain F. Speakes, Captain E. A. Knott, S.Q.M.S. Leach, Signalman Webb. Front row: Corporal Anderson, Sergeant Lawson

Old friends of Malta will be sorry to know that Victoria Exchange has finally closed. Everyone will remember the friendly and efficient service the "Victoria girls" gave us and we were all sorry to see them go. To say good-bye, the officers gave a cocktail party in their honour; just a quiet party with no guests except the G.O.C., Major-General Davidson, and his wife and the Chief of Staff, Brigadier McCance, who brought his wife and daughter. A string section of the Corps Band played for us during the evening and added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Another farewell party was given by the officers when they held a luncheon at the Union Club in honour of Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. N. Solly, C.S.O., who has now left us on completion of his time in Signals. Our best wishes will go with him for the future. His place has been taken by Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. G. McNair, who came to us from No. 3 A.A. Group.

Visit of Corps Band. During the month of January we were fortunate in having the Corps Band visit us. They arrived on 3rd January and stayed for a week. During that time they gave a variety of excellent concerts to Signals personnel, other services, and in public. The orchestral concert at Australia Hall for all services, the military band concert on the Palace Square, and the performance of the Dance Section at the Sliema Club were among the most successful.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all concerned for a very pleasant week's entertainment.

Sports. As mentioned in our last issue, we had some small success at small bore shooting and a photograph of the unit team is published in these notes. The cups are the Malta Command Small Bore League Cup and the Malta Command Small Bore Aggregate Cup. The trophy for the Inter-Services Cup had not been presented at the time of the photograph and so could not be included. The C.S.O.'s prize for the highest aggregate, a silver tankard, was presented to Captain E. A. Knott, team captain, who had an average of 93.88 over 18 matches fired. After the leagues were finished, we turned to the Inter-Services match, in which representative teams of the three Services fought a very close battle. Captain Knott led the Army team to victory, and the unit was represented also by Sergeant Lawson, Corporals Anderson and Priestley, and Signalman Allen. The scores were: Army 1,490, Royal Navy 1,487, and R.A.F. 1,478, and Signals provided the Army's four top scorers. The Malta team fired their shoot in the Colonial Small Bore Competition and once again the unit was well represented with Captain Knott as captain of the team and Corporal Anderson and Signalman Allen also firing.

Personalities. We have lost a lot of our old friends and

at first the Squadron did not seem quite the same without them. S.S.M. Sharpe has been released and it is believed that he is going to be a W.D. policeman ! Sergeant Lawson has also left for Civvy Street, though he was heard to remark just before he left that we needn't be surprised if he came back one day. He and Corporal Priestley, who left us for O.C.T.U., will be greatly missed when the small bore shooting starts again. A rather sad departure from the strength of the unit was that of S.Q.M.S. Buchanan, who has been in hospital for a long time and who has been boarded out of the Army as his leg will not be well enough again for Service life. But even though he has put off his uniform, he still lives near us and we hope to see him whenever he cares to drop in on us. Sergeant Leach has taken his place as S.Q.M.S.

Among recent arrivals have been Captain Bosworth for X Branch, Second-Lieutenants Brine and Glew, S.S.M. Adams from 4 A.F. Signals, and Sergeants Parfitt and Smith, the latter being a brother of the Sergeant Smith we already have—they are both in F.S.S. Troop now and it looks as if things are going to get complicated ! Other arrivals not on the Squadron strength include Mrs. Bayfield, wife of our workshops sergeant, and an addition to the family of Sergeant Finch.

Others too numerous to mention have come and gone, and we wish them all a happy stay with us or good luck wherever they go when they leave.

CEYLON SIGNAL SQUADRON

Colombo

March

Since our last appearance in these pages there have been many changes within the unit, although our commitments have remained almost unaltered.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend, who was appointed C.S.O. on the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. Holmes in September, will be leaving shortly to take up an appointment with the Burma Mission in Rangoon, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. Houghton, O.B.E., arrives in March to take his place. Among others departing this month will be the Q.M., Captain Bert Hodgson, and his family, and Second-Lieutenants Brown, Beirne, Rogers and Whittet, all of whom are returning to U.K. on release. Our best wishes go with them into the perils of civil life. These departures leave the Squadron with a skeleton staff of officers throughout the island. Major P. A. M. Tighe is commanding the unit and together with the T.O.T., Captain W. MacCulloch, looks after the Colombo area. The High-speed Wireless Troop is still under Captain R. T. R. Cocks, with Lieutenant F. G. Lawson, who arrived recently from B.A.O.R., at the Transmitter Site. Captain Bill Langwith is the lone officer in Air Formation Signal Troop at Negombo, and up at Trincomalee Second-Lieutenant M. D. V. Geary looks after No. 2 Troop.

Our only other new arrival is Captain W. Cole, the Cipher Officer, and he completes the team of eight.

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Guard of Honour provided by No. 4 Troop at Independence celebrations. Negombo, Ceylon

The shortage of N.C.O.s is equally acute, due to the recent departure of old hands such as Sergeants Noyes, Davies, Poynter, Scott and Marshall, the two Quarterblokes, Hasnip and Smith, and S.S.M.s Jordan and Toogood. C.Q.M.S. Haynes, recently returned from Lilop, occupies the position of senior N.C.O. in the Squadron.

The turnover has been just as complete with the other ranks. Almost all the old faces have gone and have been replaced by younger and, may we say, fresher ones. The new arrivals from U.K. and Burma are gradually settling down and discovering that a year in Ceylon is really not such a bad prospect after all.

February has been a month of considerable importance to the island, when on the 4th February Ceylon attained its independence. On 10th February H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester opened the first session of the new Parliament of the Dominion of Ceylon amid scenes of great splendour and magnificence.

In company with the rest of the Garrison, the unit took part in the lining of the streets for the processions on that day, and No. 4 Troop provided the guard for the ceremonial hoisting of the new Dominion flag. Apart from these more spectacular roles, certain communications had to be provided by the Squadron for traffic control, broadcasting facilities and official salutes by the Coast Artillery. As usual, special circuits were demanded at the last moment but the facilities were always provided as required.

No theatrical performance is complete without Signals, and so we found the leading man, Major Tighe, for " Young Mrs. Barrington," produced by the Colombo Amateur Dramatic Club in February. Naturally, behind the scenes was a Signals preserve. Our backroom boys contributed greatly to the smooth running of an excellent show.

New hockey and football leagues have begun in the Garrison and both Nos. 1 and 3 Troops have been meeting with considerable success in the matches so far played. The No. 1 Troop teams have been composed of our British as well as our Ceylonese troops, the latter finding their preference for playing in bare feet no handicap whatsoever. Indeed, it was to Sergeant De Silva that fell the rare privilege of bursting a ball during the course of a recent match by the simple process of kicking it hard. He has been persuaded not to make a habit of this, No. 1 Troop P.R.I. being somewhat limited.

The High-speed Wireless Troop has had several visitors recently—from the War Office Majors Mitchell and Newall (who liked it so much that they called in again on their way back from Singapore), and another flying visit in January by Major B. E. Sykes, on behalf of the C.S.O. Farelf. Apart from this, we keep our " splendid isolation " tucked away in this small and extremely young Dominion, Ceylon.

No. 3 RAILWAY TELEGRAPH SQUADRON

Austria

February

Hello, everybody ! Just to introduce ourselves, here is a brief history of our Squadron.

The Squadron was formed in the Middle East and saw its war service in the Western Desert and the Italian campaigns. Its first C.O. was Major S. R. Bishop, who is now Mr. S. R. Bishop, M.B.E., Principal Control Officer, Railways Branch, Transport Division, C.C., Germany, who, by the way, is still connected with the Squadron—by a direct teleprinter link. None of the old gang who saw their war service with the Squadron are now serving with it.

At the end of hostilities the Squadron moved from Italy to Sattendorf, near Villach, in Austria. The Squadron was situated on the very banks of the Ossiachersee, a lovely lake in the midst of the mountains, where the members of the Squadron took full advantage of all the facilities such a situation afforded them—boating, fishing and swimming in summer, ski-ing and skating in winter. Their operational commitments covered all transportation and movements telephone and telegraph requirements in B.T.A. and C.M.F., with detachments at Vienna, Graz, Udine, Padua, Venice, Rome and Trieste, with S.H.Q. at Villach. These requirements were more or less a network of private lines quite separate from Army Signals and mainly Austrian and Italian State Railway lines requisitioned for our use and maintained by the railways but operated and supervised by the Squadron personnel.

On the closing of C.M.F., the Squadron became a ghost of its former self, losing all its detachments in Italy and serving Transportation (A.C.A.) and Movements, B.T.A., whose H.Q. are in Vienna, Klagenfurt and Villach. In addition to the railway communications, the Squadron, greatly depleted in strength, helps to man Villach Signal Office under the aegis of 138th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, which includes the War Office Courier Service to Hook of Holland, Vienna-Villach S.D.S. Courier Service, and ties up with Train S.D.S. Villach-Trieste for Betfor.

For this purpose personnel are attached to the Squadron from No. 3 Squadron, 8th Army Signal Regiment, and 138th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.

In September last the Squadron moved from its pleasant location in Sattendorf to Medjez Barracks, in Villach. A hutted camp which we share with three other small units, with a central administration pool as regards messing, laundry, etc., but retaining our identity as regards P.R.I., stores, etc.

The Squadron has been commanded since March, 1947, by Captain H. R. " Rusty " Steele, late of 8th Indian Divisional Signals and Scottish Command Signal Regiment. He is ably assisted by Second-Lieutenant F. R. Overend.

The only regulars are S.S.M. H. Illingworth, from No. 12 Wireless Squadron, and S.Q.M.S. " Blanco " White, who joined us from No. 2 Squadron, 8th Army Signal Regiment, in Vienna. He will be known to ex-rats of '24 vintage and to fellow-sufferers of the P.O.W. camp in Kanu, Siam.

Like everyone else, we are now in the process of losing all our old hands and taking on the new. We hope *both* will be happy in their new locations.

The old hands up to Group 74 have decided to hold an old Tele-Squadron reunion in Manchester on 9th and 10th October, 1948. We should be pleased to put any ex-members of the Squadron in touch with the organiser if they will drop us a line.

The Squadron maintains a fairly useful soccer team, finishing up sixth in the local league before the snow. We expect the newcomers to increase the soccer team's prestige by winning the " after-snow " league.

We also hope to organise our hockey team again pretty soon.

As regards miniature rifle shooting, along with 138th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, we entered a team for the B.T.A. competition but are still awaiting the results.

Table tennis ? We have quite a few outstanding players but none quite good enough to enter into any competitions, as yet. Practice makes perfect.

Our Games Room has been functioning very well in the past, having had various " smokers," in which we have invited other units of our " barracks," and had numerous darts matches.

Royal Signals Band *continued from page 109*

We found plenty to study during the short time we were there, and the remains of historic buildings proved of great interest to many of us who know the remains at Bath so well.

Leaving the sand of North Africa in the background, we set sail again for Malta, but this time Father Neptune again put on a splendid entertainment for us and we had a very rough trip indeed, and it took some days for many of us to feel right and proper again.

Arriving back in Malta, Major Burski again very kindly agreed to accommodate us, and we spent the few days waiting for the boat home having a good clean up of all our instruments and kit, repairing cases and music, and getting ready generally for the heavy programme we knew would be waiting on the Band President's table for us. At the request of the Maltese people, we gave another concert on the Palace Square, which was broadcast.

On 3rd February we embarked on H.M.T. *Samaria*, and on 16th February we arrived back in Catterick—our home.

We would like to thank Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., for the very kind letter he sent to us on our return expressing his appreciation of our work whilst on tour. This alone was sufficient reward for any extra work we may have done or any little discomfort we may have suffered. Also we would like to thank all the units who accommodated us for their kindness to us. We appreciate that a visit by the Band causes a lot of extra work to many people, but in return we give of our best and try to be worthy ambassadors of the Corps.

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THE SERVICES CAVALCADE

Recruiting Exhibition

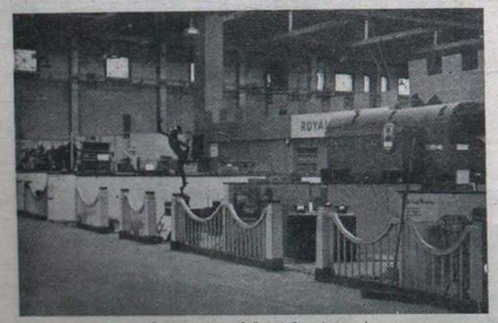
GLASGOW

GLASGOW was certainly stirred by this impressive Recruiting Exhibition, which was formally opened on 20th February by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, and subsequently honoured by a visit from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, during the following week. The exhibition was held in Glasgow's immense Kelvin Hall, the entrance of which was gaily decorated with flags and boasted two mounted sentries of the Household Cavalry in full dress. If from nothing else, one could not help being attracted inside by the alluring strains of martial music provided almost continuously from one or other of no less than six separate bands in attendance.

In the hall itself the built-up part was used as an arena, where a very impressive miniature review was held twice daily, except on one evening when a boxing tournament was staged. There were some 500 performers in the cast, which included troopers of the Household Cavalry, mounted and in full dress; a party from Lowland Brigade, I.T.C., who went through a complete table of squad drill without a single word of command; the Ceremony of the Keys, done by the Scots Guards in full dress, as it is performed in the Tower of London; a costume pageant, depicting important events in the life of the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) from its inception to the present day; also numerous other items, giving a very spectacular two-hour show, which, judging by the "full house" notices every night, was fully appreciated by the public.

The remainder and larger part of this immense hall was used for stall space, where almost every arm of service was represented, including stands by the R.N.V.R. and R.A.F.V.R,. right down to the Army Cadets. The A.A. manned a complete gun site, with its A.A.O.R., and the Paratroops gave demonstrations of jumping from the training tower they had erected in the hall; R.A.O.C. had a mobile laundry in action, amongst other things; and the A.C.C. a mobile bakery. The R.A.M.C. had a very realistic C.C.S. rigged up and complete with operating table, where a wretched "corpse" was constantly being "put under" for a mock operation with M.O.s and Sisters all dressed up in their No. 1s. Another notable exhibit was a working model of the famous Mulberry Harbour.

Finally there was our own—the Signals stand, which could be favourably compared with any other in the exhibition. In fact, we are told unofficially, judged to be



General view of Royal Signals stand

Centre-piece of Royal Signals stand

the best by the G.O.C. Thanks to some very hard preliminary spade work by Captain (T.O.M.) G. A. Stanley and numerous back room boys we really had a splendid array of equipment to show.

The centre part of our stand was used for the main display, with an A.C.V. in the background and a formidable array of sets, phones and exchanges arranged in tiers in the foreground. One section was devoted to line equipment, carrier equipment, etc., and another contained the No. 10 set, together with a few models and a couple of motor cycles, one being a "Wellbike," which seemed to command unusual interest. We also had a T.M. workshop on show, and a standard signal office layout, though just a little bit too near the copy book style to be really true. Then, finally, there was "the Public Play Pen," which was undoubtedly the draw of the day. It did not perhaps draw the "recruitable types" we were looking for, but right from the first day to the very last it was packed to overflowing with all sorts of people, both young and old, who seemed to delight in playing with the odd phones, fullerphones and exchanges installed. The two printers on show came in for a "terrible bashing." It was not an uncommon sight to see as many as six different hands all pressing the keys at once. However, we are glad to report that they came through this—surely the most exacting test—with flying colours. In one corner of the pen we had a Playback wire recorder, and this seemed to be most popular with the ladies, who appeared to be just as keen to hear their own voices as they are for other people to hear themselves in the normal course of events. In the other corner there was a No. 53 set working direct to Edinburgh, and we have no doubt that it must have been somewhat of a surprise to the operators to hear the voice of their Colonel-in-Chief, who personally sent a message over the air when she visited the stand.

In all, we can say that the exhibition was a grand success, and very well attended throughout. Whilst recruiting may appear to have been slow, there is no doubt that it brought back happy memories to many old-timers who are thinking things over, and we shall hope to see many of them turning up in due course.

Territorial Army

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Events of the past month have been few but none the less important.

Our late Quartermaster, Captain (Q.M.) P. W. Steele, M.B.E., has left us to join the Depot at Pocklington whence he will proceed to civil life on release. We welcome to our midst Captain (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint who has just come home after a sojourn of 17 years in India.

We much regret to record that our Commanding Officer —Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith—met with an accident to his ankle whilst playing hockey for H.Q. Southern Command against the R.A.S.C., Bulford. He now gets about most efficiently on crutches despite his right leg being in plaster up to the thigh. We sympathise with him in his handicap and trust he will soon be fit and well again. May we advise—no more hockey for a while?

"SIXTYTHREE"

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT. February has been a trying month for our Permanent Staff They have spent much of the time wheeling heavy barrow-loads of extremely valuable stores along narrow planks across wet concrete. So far there have been no mishaps, excepting the stray dog that decided to perpetuate its memory by doing a brisk and squashy circuit of our virgin floor. Sergeant Wheldon's Labrador pup was our first suspect, but is now exonerated because there is no sign of the wide channel which would inevitably have marked the passage of its pendulous paunch.

As you may have gathered from the above, R.A.O.C., with truly satanic insight, have held up our stores until our builders' upheaval had reached the ultimate chaos Then, no doubt with fiendish chuckles, they struck. Load upon load of equipment has been crammed into our only available room, the Canteen. When it will be opened for checking only the builders can tell.

Then a certain member of the C.S.O.'s Staff, who shall be nameless, decided that he must have the handbook of the Canadian 348 Wireless Set. With sinking hearts we calculated that it must be in the first package that had arrived. Valiantly we strove, perspired, and strove again. The package was at last unearthed from the farthest, bottom corner of the dump. With trembling, blistered fingers we opened the packing note and rejoiced to find that our deductions had been correct. Then we started in with screwdrivers, chisels, hammers, and penknives. Those Canadians must have taken a course in packing under an Egyptian embalmer, but we persevered until the innermost sarcophagus was revealed to view. Reverently we removed the wrapping, yards, and, yards, and yards of it.

The set lay naked to our eager gaze. It leered back at us with all the green malevolence of its Magic Eye. There was no handbook. Shall we draw the veil across that poignant scene? Perhaps we had better.

Training is now next to impossible, but we look forward to the day when our hall arises like the Phoenix, and we are no longer prematurely grey with cement dust.

Our O.C. is somewhat disconsolate. Apparently he had talked persuasively to a prospective recruit for about thirty-five minutes. Forms were signed, and routine enquiries made to Admiralty Records. After three weeks came the reply, "No Trace." Followed further enquiries at the alleged home address. Again, "No Trace." Today the search has been ended by a paragraph in the local paper. H.M. Prisons are not the best source of supply for an efficient T.A. We are happy to say that the P.R.I., after a hurried investigation, has pronounced the safe and its contents to be still with us.

"ASSULIKET"

No. 100 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON. In spite of a deplorable shortage of recruits, the Squadron has commenced its training, at the completion of which, it is hoped that we shall have qualified tradesmen, who, together with our members already proficient, will supply the necessary instructors to teach the National Service intake in 1950. Tradesmen in the T.A. are required to pass the "Q" sheet applicable to the Regular Army, and, for personnel of this Squadron, Trade Boards are arranged with Southern Command (M.) Signal Regiment, Figsbury Barracks, Nr. Salisbury.

Everyone looks forward to the Annual Camp with great enthusiasm. This year it is being held at Lepe on Solent, from 10th-18th July. Certain personnel of the Squadron have been selected to attend a course in lieu of attendance at Camp. Some enthusiastic members are attending both!

Before signing off, may I introduce our Squadron personnel—and there are vacancies for 154 more!

Officer Commanding, Major M. G. R. Adams, ex 94th Light A.A. Regiment, R.A.; O.C. H.Q. Troop, Captain A. F. Cook, ex 17th Air Formation Signals; O.C. Fire Command R.A. Signal Troop, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. J. Walke, ex Indian Army; Signalmen: C. J. Gray, ex Corps (43rd Divisional Signals), A. W. G. Wadhams, ex Corps (43rd Divisional Signals), L. H. Hill, ex Corps (43rd Divisional Signals), A. J. Kimber, ex Royal Navy, R. A. B. Wilson. Our P.S.I. is S.S.M. R. H. Hall, ex 1st H.Q. Signals, B.A.O.R. Sincerest regards to old friends.

"W.E.J."

No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Recruits continue to pour in. Well, when I say pour—anyway if you are thinking of joining us you must decide quickly before our vacancies are filled. Latest arrivals include old friends, P. Darrall, well known in the motor-cycling world and A. E. Ashman one time batman in 48 Divisional Signals. Also S. T. Lord, W. J. Brown, G. P. Powell, J. R. Sheldon. "Tubby" Spencer is hovering on the brink but comes to help in the Orderly Room until he makes up his mind. Captain Hoe, whom you may remember formed the Field Security Section without any assistance beyond a fountain pen, has, for security reasons (his own presumably), left us for Africa. A man must go where his bread and butter lies of course, but we are indeed sorry to lose Captain Hoe. Now we shall have to buy our own pink gins. Pity.

In addition to the training given to the T.A. personnel, the permanent staff are busy with the School Contingents. These lads are very keen and should make useful additions to the Corps in time. Their favourite subjects are wireless and brewing tea in the field. S.S.M. Beautyman instructs in both.

It was a bright but chilly day towards the end of February when I arrived back from a remote A.A. site which the T.A. had wished on us. Not that we minded that because it has great possibilities. Everything was as all right as it could be in an austerity world. Then as my jeep turned

the corner I saw the C.S.O.'s car. Hesitating only long enough to appreciate the A.T.S. driver I skidded up to the office. Everything was still all right. Then I met Brigadier J. R. Patten, C.B.E., M.C., and he said it was a "goodbye" visit. From the 1st March he goes into gents' natty suiting. How hard it is to see one's friends stepping one by one out of the picture. A cold bleak dismal day. Probably only sausage for lunch. Nothing could be right on a day like that. Oh well. All of us here who know Brigadier Patten wish him the very best of good fortune and happy days.

I am indebted to Sergeant B. Howell for the following information on the Indoor Sports activity of this unit. The Birmingham Territorial Army Darts League was formed early in November, 1947, with the idea of fostering friendship between the T.A. units in the Birmingham area and with an eye on possible publicity for recruiting. Nine units are represented in the League. Teams of eight players are confined to enlisted T.A. members and the Regular Army permanent staff. The Warwickshire T.A. Association have taken a keen interest in the league and have provided not only a valuable shield, but silver medals for presentation to the league champions. Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. have provided a set of silver medals for the winners of a Knock-out Competition between teams in the league. The three leading League positions are as follows: 18th Battalion Para Regiment, played 10, lost 2, points 16; 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, played 11, lost 3, points 16; 21 (N.) Corps Troops Column R.A.S.C., played 8, lost 2, points 12.

In the M. and B. knock-out competition we have reached the semi-final by defeating 18th Battalion Para Regiment, 22 (N.) F.D.S. R.A.M.C., and 268 Field Regiment R.A. The final will be against 21 (N.) Corps Troops Column R.A.S.C., some time in April.

The Unit Dances continue to draw big crowds and we are slowly recovering funds to offset the expense incurred by putting the Drill Hall in good shape. The next Regimental Dances will be on 10th and 24th April. Come and have a go.

"BARLEUX."

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A. (KENSINGTONS)

The last month has been a very full one for the Regiment. We have been training on Wednesday and Friday evenings and ended up with a Sunday exercise to Fingest which is a small village in the Chiltern Hills. This exercise took place on the 29th February which fortunately was a glorious day. We left H.Q. at 0930 hrs. in a mixture of Unit and R.A.S.C. transport and arrived at Fingest about 1100 hrs. Wireless communications with two patrols at Benson and Bledlow were excellent and we had a profitable day's training. Lunches were provided by the village inns in each location; very excellent they were too. There is no need to enlarge upon the quality of the beer! We arrived back in time to have a late cup of tea(!) in the canteen before dispersing.

On Friday, 13th February, the Old Comrades' Association took us on in the Miniature Range and we regret to say that the Old and Bold were too good for us (we should have known better than to take on ex-13 London Regiment members on the 13th of the month). "Rocky" Knight, a veteran of both world wars and Quartermaster of the Kensingtons from 1934 to 1947, made the top score.

On 8th March the Officers' Mess gave a cocktail party to introduce General Sir Colville Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the new Honorary Colonel, to present officers of the Regiment and to former Commanding officers. Among the guests present were Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. (C.S.O. Eastern Command) and Colonel R. W. Morgan, O.B.E. (C.S.O. London District).

Recruiting is still progressing and we hope to see more ex-members of the Corps in the Regiment before the beginning of Summer training, which will include eight days camp in Canterbury at the end of July, and a week-end exercise in choice areas nearer home once a month.

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q. and H.Q. SQUADRON. With the Spring, our thoughts automatically turn to camps and this unit, like the weather these days, is getting away to a good start as we are all looking forward to our first week-end camp of 1948, which is being held the R.A.C. Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset, from 27th—29th March, and we all expect to spend a useful and enjoyable time during this period. More will be written on this subject in our next contribution to THE WIRE.

The 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A. Officers' Mess is being re-opened in the very near future. Letters have been sent to all known ex-officers of the unit giving details of the activities of the Mess. If any ex-officers of the unit who haven't received our letter read this and would like to join the mess as honorary members would they please get into touch with the P.M.C. (Major L. E. O. Evans, Royal Signals) here at Taunton. The Mess Annual Dinner is being held at the Tudor Restaurant, Taunton, on 10th April, 1948, and it is expected that this will be the forerunner of a number of attractions to be held.

A Territorial Ball is being held at the Empire Ballroom, Taunton, on 14th May, and it is hoped to have the Royal Signals Corps Band in attendance; "full house" notices are expected this night.

Recruitment has taken an upward trend during the past few weeks and with the coming of better weather and the better facilities to arrange schemes etc., around the country, this upward trend is expected to continue.

We welcome to the fold S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) C. Churchill, who has been with us now for only a few weeks but already has given yeoman service in the workshops.

We now pass you over to the Squadrons.

No. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET. We welcome into the fold, R. P. Jarvis ex R.A.C., C. O. Bonney ex Duke of Wellington's Regiment, C. A. Taylor ex C.M.P. and Palestine Police, R. C. Usher a brand new recruit to the Army but has the right spirit. Of course I must report my own arrival as S.S.M. to the Squadron here in Bridgwater, Somerset.

Best wishes and good luck go with Sergeant R. A. Taylor on his inter-unit posting to No. 1 Squadron, at Exeter, Devon, a move nearer home for him and may he enjoy the fine spirit predominating among the T.A. members of the Squadron that I enjoyed for 12 months—also to Sergeant J. H. J. King, who has clinched a technical position, through applying Royal Signals procedure at a Radar Experimental Establishment in Kent, also a step nearer home.

We proudly announce that we have started our "Jimmy" Club, complete with a well stocked bar, terms are strictly cash—it is almost as homely as the old "arabiyeh" *Sudan* the Signals' houseboat on the Nile. Remember?

No. 3 SQUADRON, TORQUAY, DEVON. Congratulations to that Old Soldier (Old ?) and to Mrs. Robinson on the addition of another lusty infant to the fold. Robbo knows his stuff and put himself in hospital and out of the way two days before the event came off (experience does give one knowledge and foresight). It is now firmly believed that at long last a football team has been formed to beat up Torquay United and to start them off successfully it would be a good idea for them to take over our set of football gear.

We welcome to the fold recruits Corner and Bond, and feel confident they are now well on the way to getting the elusive T.A. Long Service Medal. I shall still be here when they get it anyway, but it is to be hoped they will be able to give me a good game of billiards by then.

Shark Radford won our buster sweep last week and buzzed off to a dance to spend it. Our Nap school is very peeved about it and he took a grave risk of being discharged from this gallant band of warriors.

Fond farewells from all here to Busty Hayman, best wishes to him in his new job and new unit (44th Divisional Signals).

51st/52nd (S) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Well, here we are again, making our first post-war contribution and introducing ourselves to all and sundry.

The old division is now blossoming forth again in even greater force. We have now combined forces with our friends in the Lowlands to make one united and even stronger division from Scotland. In Aberdeen we have Unit Headquarters, 1 Squadron and J Troop; in Stirling 2 Squadron and in Glasgow, 3 Squadron, less one troop.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., has come back to command the regiment again with even more enthusiasm than he did in 1939. Jack Hillman has returned as our Q.M. and in November we were joined by Captain D. H. Freland as Adjutant. Major A. H. Reid has taken over command of No. 1 Squadron, ably assisted by Captain Charles Smith, M.B.E., who recently commanded 3 Squadron of 3 Divisional Signals. Captain Gordon Mackinnon, late of 49th Divisional Signals and North Levant Signals is also with us, and Lieutenant J. K. Lamb has just joined us from India. Lieutenant Jim Mooney, M.M., a long-standing member of the unit has just got his commission and we wish him the very best of luck.

Then at Stirling we have Major Pat Dewar, O.B.E., T.D., late of 36 Divisional Signal Regiment, and at Glasgow Major Douglas Edwards, very ably assisted by Captain R. Logan Stewart, both ex 52nd Lowland Divisional Signals. Last but not least amongst this merry band we have Lieutenant Ian Wotherspoon from 17th Indian Divisional Signals.

Now let us go down to the more notable members of the regiment. R.S.M. Higgins has joined us from India Command and S.S.M. Grant "fathers" No. 1 Squadron. We also have Sergeants Bailey, Panther and Mackay as P.S.I. of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons, respectively. In our future issues we hope to bring you more news of those who have joined the unit.

No. 1 Squadron managed to run a very good week-end camp last summer. They met with unbounded hospitality from Mr. Rendall, of Arnwell Farm, Banchory. They seem to have done very little else but live on strawberries and cream. Ever since then, drills have been going strong and we have the thought of Trade Boards looming up before us in the very near future. The C.S.O., Brigadier Knowles, ran a very excellent Officers' Exercise down at Perth just before Christmas, in which many of us took part and learned a tremendous lot.

Recruiting has been going a bit slow of late in spite of tremendous efforts put up by all at a Recruiting Shop in Aberdeen on 6th-8th December. However, we have no doubt that things will improve once the bitter Scottish weather has worn off.

To turn to more social events. In conjunction with our flourishing Signals Association in Aberdeen, 1 Squadron have been holding a good all ranks' dance once a month, and in particular a Children's Party at Christmas. The latter was a great success and there were two hundred children present who just screamed their heads off when they saw the cakes! Don't tell anybody, but Jack Hillman was seen quietly knocking off buns and beer, with R.Q.M.S. Mitchell in the "Q." Stores. Aren't these "Q." blokes the limit!

To crown our social events, all officers and many ex-officers of the regiment and other notable guests were entertained by our new Honorary Colonel, Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., T.D., to a regimental dinner. Our only regret was, that our two retiring Honorary Colonels, Colonels Walter Elliot, M.P. and F. R. G. Forsyth, M.C., D.L. ("The Chaser") were unable to be present.

"SCOTTIE"

53rd (WELSH) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The main event last month was a recruiting drive held in Cardiff during the last week of January.

We were lucky in obtaining the use of the "foyer" of the largest cinema in Cardiff, where we displayed a 12 set H.P. with R.107 and various equipment from the Q.'s store. Recruiting posters and photographs of the Corps in action were arranged around the main exhibits. The *piece de resistance* was a 19 set working to a similar set in a jeep. This jeep, suitably placarded, toured round the main streets of Cardiff, stopping to invite potential recruits to "try their hand" on the wireless.

One particularly amusing incident which is worth recording occurred on the first night of the campaign. It had been decided to try out the 12 set, as the 19 set wasn't giving such good results to certain parts of the town. Unfortunately the centre of Cardiff is D.C. only, but the projectionist gave us a lead from his machine which was 110 volts A.C. The film being shown was a re-issue of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit." Imagine the consternation occasioned when over the screen during the seance scene came "Hello Able, Hello Able, report my signals, Able over."

We feel that the week was not wasted as it brought home to the people of Cardiff the fact that they have in their midst the Signal Unit of Wales's own Division.

"BARDICROWN"

No. 12 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q., 12 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.: Horfield Drill Hall, Bristol, 7

24 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.: Horfield Drill Hall, Bristol, 7

25 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.: Blighmont Drill Hall, Millbrook Road, Southampton

26 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.: Inniscara, Bath Road, Reading

27 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A.: The Drill Hall, Millbay, Plymouth

106 A.A. Brigade (M) Signal Troop, T.A.: The Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston-on-Thames

For the information of the old members of the Corps, the Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Gambier, Royal Signals. The following are on the staff of R.H.Q.:—Adjutant, Captain H. Scott, Royal Signals; Q.M., Captain (Q.M.) W. Holmes, M.M., Royal Signals; Junior Commander G. Prosser, A.T.S.; R.S.M. T. L. Wilding; S.Q.M.S. R. H. Salmon; Sergeant C. Preston.

During August, 1947, we said farewell to Captain (Q.M.) R. F. Fields, Royal Signals, who quitted the ranks to take up duties in Civvy Street. We hope by now, sir, you have found suitable occupation and say "Cheerio" with all the best from the Regiment.

From a very slow start, recruiting is now progressing favourably and vacancies are getting fewer, especially from the A.T.S. angle. The male side, although very slow, manages to produce one recruit per week, and now that the ice has been broken we are hoping for greater things in the near future.

Royal Signals Display Team. The Royal Signals Display Team gave an excellent display at Knowle Stadium during the interval of speedway racing, which gave the Bristolians something to talk about and produced two good recruits as D.R.s plus several more enquiries, but unfortunately, owing to their ages and restrictions on national service grounds, we were unable to recruit them.

Congratulations. To Lance-Corporal D. Poole, No. 24 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., who voluntarily gave up one week of his annual holiday to attend a lineman's course which was held at The Drill Hall, Horfield, and by all reports gave a very good account of himself.

To R.S.M. and Mrs. Wilding on the birth of a son.

To S.S.M. and Mrs. McKenna on the birth of a daughter.

To Sergeant and Mrs. Sergeant on the birth of a daughter.

To Signalman Hinton, who decided that two ration books are better than one and was married somewhere in Yorkshire during January.

Training. All Squadrons can now boast two drill nights a week, one for all ranks and one as an N.C.O.s' drill night.

The Regiment will proceed to camp at Bude, Devon, from 25th July to 8th August, 1948.

Perhaps the announcement of the annual camp dates at a recent drill night is the reason for a few of the recent prospective recruits who are making tentative enquiries.

"MACKTA"

No. 13 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Training, recruiting and even accommodation are improving at a visible rate, and we are now fairly under way with the arrangements for this year's camp. The camp is to be at Burrow Head, Wigtown, during the second half of July, and when we did a reccy the other day everything seemed to be in good order. The camp has recently been evacuated by Polish troops, and all boilers and steam cookers are marked "Niema wodi," which is presumably a Polish cuss-word, but we are not disheartened.

Those who say that the T.A. is not what it used to be, going into a hutted camp and all, may take comfort from the fact that the wind at Burrow Head is sufficient to strip the sides of Nissen huts.

We were very sorry to say good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. G. McNair in the middle of January. Sorry for our own sakes, that is, as he had done so much to help us as C.S.O., No. 3 A.A. Group, but glad for his, as he writes to say that H.Q., Malta Command, is treating him well in the way of weather, work, and a married quarter at last.

Sergeant C. H. Bridges has also acquired a married quarter in Redford Barracks (No. 41 Cavalry, in case he has any callers) and is finding life easier on that account. Having waited a year for one, he is now counting the days to his posting—we have already foiled one deep-laid plot to take him from us.

Training accommodation in Edinburgh is getting no better, because we share the Drill Hall with No. 3 A.A. Company, R.A.O.C., T.A., and both units are slowly growing; but in Glasgow both Squadrons have got a little bit extra, and No. 32 Squadron at Blairgowrie has expanded into Perth, where we are raising No. 78 A.A. Fire Command Troop, with the intention of raising 207 Line Maintenance Troop in the not too distant future.

Two officers have joined us from Dunkeld, whence they gallantly make their trips into Perth and Blairgowrie—a cold journey to make at night in mid-winter in the back of a 15-cwt. They are Subaltern Mary Ross, A.T.S./T.A., and Subaltern Janet Bruce.

Signals Association Branch Notes

Birmingham

It must have been a great disappointment to Brigadier E. A. James, our President, that his enforced stay in a nursing home should have prevented his attending the Annual General Meeting of this Branch. We all hope that he will soon be fit again. Colonel P. H. Keeling stepped into the breach at short notice and took the chair in his accustomed energetic style. Prior engagements kept many people away whom we would have been glad to see. Nevertheless, we counted 215 and then gave it up. Colonels F. E. B. Jones, M. Holdsworth and Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins were there and Lieutenant-Colonel H. Dudley with Major L. Suggars came over from Coventry to see what it was all about. Messrs. E. Shackleton and "Bob" Danielsen were surrounded by old friends and ex-R.Q.M.S. Jimmy James surrounded his friends. Ex-Sergeant Steve Burstow made his annual appearance having presumably obtained the bride's signature to his pass. Congrats Steve. Any headaches son? (78th Divisional Signals' pass-word).

But we seem to be starting in the wrong place. It was Thursday, 26th February and a fine night at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. The swing doors flapped backwards and forwards steadily until the room upstairs was comfortably full. Then another hundred came in. This was the signal to open the business of our annual meeting. As stated, Colonel Keeling presided. Captain Ralph Ironmonger was re-elected Honorary Secretary with much enthusiasm and most of the old committee agreed to carry on with the good work. This point being settled to the satisfaction of all concerned, the Honorary Secretary gave a potted version of the Branch activities during the past year. If you are a WIRE reader you will know what these activities were. If not—etc., etc. A visit to the Royal Tournament on 12th June is planned for a limited number of members. It is estimated that the cost will be in the region of two guineas per head. Don't dilly dally. Write to the Honorary Secretary about it and be very definite.

There were not many suggestions or comments and certainly no criticism when these were invited by Colonel Keeling. Mr. Harold Thomas suggested that the monthly meeting should be held on a Friday, but for a variety of

reasons the majority voted for Thursday. Certainly a Friday would rule out any T.A. members as that is a Training night at Cateswell House.

Speaking of Cateswell House reminds us that the O.C. 1/20 Army Signal Regiment T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., very kindly offered the Drill Hall or Recreation Room as a meeting place for the south side members if they really would like a Friday occasionally.

The serious business of the evening was concluded and the members sorted themselves out into groups. You know the way they do. Liquid refreshment arrived in large quantities and speedily disappeared. Entertainment was provided by a pianist, two comedians and a lady singer. The comedians did their best no doubt but the room was thinning out. The lady singer was her natural charming self and by the end of her first song the room had filled up again. This surprised nobody because the singer was Miss Vicki Carnall, now Mrs. G. Shirlaw Brown.

Ten minutes after we posted these notes, we thought of a lot more things to tell you. We chased the postman down the road but it was no use. What a shame. However, we shall be with you again next month. Queue up facing page 2.

"BARLEUX"

Newcastle and District

The year 1948 has opened very well for this branch—very well indeed! What a pity though that of approximately 300 members, only about 70 came along to enjoy a first class supper and tip-top entertainment. The wallop too, was in excellent condition. What more do you want lads? Where did all this take place? why in the County Hotel, Newcastle, on Wednesday, the 14th January.

We were very sorry that the Director of Signals, Major General C. H. H. Vulliamy who journeyed from London to Tyne-side to attend the above function was, at the last moment owing to sickness, unable to do so. A bitter disappointment for you Sir, and for us. We hope that you have fully recovered from your indisposition and that you will be able to join us in a social evening at some future date. However, let me say how pleased we were to have as our guests, Brigadier F. S. Straight, the Commandant, School of Signals, and Lieutenant-Colonel Foster of the Australian Corps of Signals. We very much enjoyed your company, we trust that you enjoyed ours.

A branch general meeting is to be held in the near future when it is hoped that there will be a strong muster. This will be an opportunity for members to express their views and make suggestions for future entertainment.

Roll up lads and give the committee your support.

"N.J.W."

Bristol and District

The Annual General Meeting of the branch was held on Friday, 13th February, 1948, at the "Old Duke," a favourite haunt of various local associations. The majority of officers having been elected at the extra-ordinary general meeting held last December, it was only necessary to elect three more committee members. These are Mr. E. G. J. Stephens, Miss E. V. Stone (formerly of the A.T.S.) and Mr. E. F. Hedger of Bath. The Bristol District incorporates Bath and members of the Association from there can be sure that their views are well represented on the Committee. The remainder of the evening was spent in discussing future policy and activities and in pleasant "conversazione." It was also decided that informal monthly meetings will be held at the "Old Duke" on the second Friday of every month. For the benefit of the uninitiated I would add that the "Old Duke" is situated on the corner of King Street and Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol, 1 (opposite the famous Llandrogger Trow where Long John Silver is reported to have sunk a pint or two!) We have a large private room available and equipped with the necessary supplies of chairs, tables and, of course, a piano (to say nothing of a little hatch through which supplies of beer can be passed to those whose vocal activities have made them hoarse and thirsty!)

The first informal meeting was held on Friday, 12th March, and was very well attended. The next meetings are on 9th April and 14th May, and on 3rd April a dance is being held at the Drill Hall, Old Market Street. Dancing will be from 8 p.m. until midnight to the music of Ken Lewis and his band. We are indebted to the O.C. 44th Tank Regiment T.A. for the privilege of the use of the Drill Hall and we hope to maintain our very good relations with this Unit through Major A. M. Keeling who is O.C. Signal Squadron and one of our members.

An Employment Register has been started and already a number of firms are co-operating. Details of vacancies and applications for vacancies have been received and every effort will be made to obtain the right job for the right man and vice versa.

That is all we have for this month. Good wishes to you all from Bristol—and if you are ever down our way just look us up. To ex-Corps members in Bristol I will just say "Roll up chaps and swell our membership."

"D.P.J.H."

Sheffield and District

The new Sheffield and District Branch was formally inaugurated at a meeting in Sheffield on 25th February, with Major G. E. Stone in the chair, Mr. G. J. Oliver as Honorary Secretary, and Major W. F. Warburton, M.B.E. as Honorary Treasurer. It was very pleasing indeed to see an attendance of well over 30 members present, including a sprinkling of ex-A.T.S. Signals personnel. A full committee was duly elected, including a lady member to take care of the interests of those members of her sex.

After the reading of the H.Q. Authority for the formation of the branch, and of greetings and best wishes for its success from other branches, suitable financial arrangements were made for the normal routine minor expenses to enable the officials to carry on business on behalf of the members.

There was a very pleasing sense of comradeship present; many members were able to renew old friendships with those who had lost touch after demobilisation, and it was agreed that the newly born infant was a very promising one.

For the present, meetings are to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 8 p.m., in the Ex-Services Institute, Milk Street, Sheffield, 1. The Honorary Secretary would be delighted to welcome any who may not have heard of the formation of the Branch; and those who would like further details will find willing response. The address is:—

G. J. Oliver,
80 Holmhirst Road,
Sheffield, 8.

The Meeting closed after the resolution had been passed, to send a letter of greeting to the Princess Royal, and H.Q. Committee and Members.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:

St. George's Gazette, January and February.

R.A.S.C. Journal, February.

R.E.M.E., March.

Catterick Express, 6th March.

SPORTS NOTES

Cross-Country Running

Royal Signals (Catterick) were well represented in the Northern Command team at the Army Championships at Aldershot. Eight out of the team of ten representing Norco were: Corporals Kinsey, O'Brien, Hoskins, Lance-Corporals Field, Lawrence, Moynan, Signalman Hewitt (No. 2 Training Regiment), Signalman Rowden (No. 1 Training Regiment).

Northern Command won the team trophy by a comfortable margin of points. Corporals Kinsey and Hoskins and Lance-Corporals Field and Moynan obtained their Army colours and will represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championship.

Corporal Hoskins, Lance-Corporal Lawrence and Signalman Hewitt have recently been awarded Army colours for the 1946-47 season.

Northern Counties Championships. The week ending 28th February was a hectic one for cross-country runners. The Northern Counties Championships came two days after the Army Championships, but quite apart from the closeness of the two championships, all the tedious travel from Aldershot to St. Helens was a strain in itself for any but fit men. However, Western Command Signal Regiment kindly undertook the task of putting up our team overnight on Friday, 27th February, and it was largely due to their kind and thoughtful hospitality that everyone arrived at St. Helens refreshed and ready for the fray.

In the Youths' Race, Boys' Squadron—entered as Royal Signals (Catterick) Youths—came ninth out of twenty-five teams. This was a very creditable performance since the members of the team are all on the lower side of the age bracket for the race. With more experience from another year's racing in big fields this team will make a formidable challenge to all comers.

The Junior Race—confined to the age bracket 18 to 21 years—was a new venture for us, and the team, led home by Lance-Corporal Field (No. 2 Training Regiment) romped away with the championship with a total of 52 points. As will be seen, Lance-Corporal Field secured his Army colours, qualified for the Inter-Services team, and came second in the Northern Counties all within the space of 48 hours.

Individual placings are well worth recording for this team:—Lance-Corporal Field (No. 2 Training Regiment), 2nd; Signalman MacKenzie (No. 7 Selection Regiment), 5th; Signalman Bryant (No. 1 Training Regiment), 7th; Signalman Jackson (No. 2 Training Regiment), 9th; Signalman Soar (No. 1 Training Regiment), 14th; Signalman Smith (No. 2 Training Regiment), 15th.

The Senior Race was undoubtedly the hardest run for our team, for seven members having completed their six miles at Aldershot, were now called upon to do nine miles.

With close on 300 in the field, representing 38 Northern clubs, the race was exciting enough. Held on the local club's home territory—Sutton Harriers, holders of the Northern and English team title—much of the interest and practically all the support was with them. Quietly and at a suitable vantage point, we who had gone with the Signals team kept a check as each lap was completed. Going into the last lap, it was clear that we should not win the race, but we were well placed for second.

The final count gave Sutton Harriers 79 points, Royal Signals (Catterick) 179, Manchester A.C. 201, Salford Harriers 210, Pembroke 211, Sheffield Harriers and Airedale Harriers 215, for the first six places.

Corporal Kinsey ran a remarkably fine race to finish fifth, only a yard or so behind M. Smith, of Blaydon Harriers. Fourteen days previously Smith had beaten Kinsey by a good two minutes over approximately the same distance. A comparison of times showed no deterioration by Smith but a great gain by Corporal Kinsey.

Taken as a whole, our achievements at St. Helens are a credit to good teamwork, and great stamina, resulting in a further step forward in the re-establishment of the Corps amongst cross-country athletes.

Association Football

Royal Signals (Catterick). The end of the club's first season was marked by a social evening held in Mons N.A.A.F.I. on 23rd February, 1948. Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, President of the Club, presided. The 40 present comprised Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Colonel G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., M.A., Officers Commanding all Signals units in the district, members of the Committee and all players who had played for the Club during the season.

A substantial meal was served by the N.A.A.F.I. staff and beer was in plentiful supply.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker spoke on the success of the Club in its first year of existence, of its venture in entering the F.A. Amateur Cup, and complimented all the players on the wonderful spirit of friendship and sportsmanship displayed by them. In all games played, referees' decisions were accepted, right or wrong, and the team had been complimented at various times for their clean play. Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker extended thanks to Captain R. O. Edwards, Secretary of the Club, for the whole-hearted attention he had given to the Club's activities and hoped that in his travels overseas he would form more Signals teams with impressive records like the one in Catterick. In closing, Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker wished Captain Edwards, on behalf of the Club, best wishes in his travels overseas.

Captain Edwards suitably replied, stating that his association with the Club was a very happy one, and wished all members success for the coming season.

Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., then said a few words on sport in the Army, and was pleased to say that the Signals team had displayed all the qualities of true sportsmen during the season.

A list of games played, with results, is appended:—

Royal Signals and Royal Signals, Catterick

27th September, 1947. F.A. Amateur Cup (Preliminary Round). Royal Signals, Catterick *v.* Washington Welfare. Won 2—1.

11th October, 1947. F.A. Amateur Cup (Qualifying Competition, 1st Round). Royal Signals, Catterick *v.* Wearmouth Colliery Welfare. Won 5—2.

25th October, 1947. F.A. Amateur Cup (Qualifying Competition, 2nd Round). Royal Signals, Catterick *v.* Sunnybrow Colliery Welfare. Won 3—1.

8th November, 1947. F.A. Amateur Cup (Qualifying Competition, 3rd Round). Royal Signals, Catterick *v.* Evenwood Town. Won 6—3.

22nd November, 1947. F.A. Amateur Cup (Qualifying Competition, 4th Round). Royal Signals, Catterick *v.* East Tanfield. Lost 1—2.

27th November, 1947. Inter-Corps. Royal Signals *v.* Royal Artillery, at Woolwich. Lost 3—5.

10th December, 1947. Inter-Corps. Royal Signals *v.* R.A.O.C., at Chilwell. Lost 2—7.

21st January, 1948. Friendly. Royal Signals, Catterick *v.* Manchester University, at Manchester. Won 3—1.

11th February, 1948. Inter-Corps. Royal Signals *v.* Royal Engineers, at Ripon. Won 5—1.

Rugby

The Army Cup. The replay of the Army Challenge Cup (Home Commands) between S.T.C. and R.E.M.E. (Arborfield) took place at Northampton on 19th February. S.T.C. had some anxious moments when at the practice the day before it was found that both Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams and Signalman Gloag were unfit. Sergeant Parfitt (full-back) had recovered from injuries and his steadiness and positioning proved of considerable value.

S.T.C. opened the scoring by a dropped goal by Signalman Tranter, who came in on the left wing instead of Gloag, and although S.T.C. had the better of play, this was all the scoring at half-time. Early in the second half R.E.M.E. scored an unconverted try but S.T.C. went further ahead when a grand effort by Corporal Shaw following a cross-kick by Sergeant Rees resulted in a try. R.E.M.E. replied with another unconverted try, and just before the close Signalman Tranter dropped a magnificent goal from near the touch line, leaving S.T.C. winners by 11 points to 6.

S.T.C. met the winners of the B.A.O.R., viz., Hamelin Garrison, Royal Engineers, in the final of the Army Challenge Cup on the Command Central Ground, Aldershot, before a large crowd which included members of the Army Council, Army Rugby Union, the Director of Signals, Colonel Commandant, R.E., and other distinguished officers.

Unfortunately, Officer-Cadet Hall (Yorkshire), who had "hooked" well throughout the competition for S.T.C., had been recently posted to Basic O.C.T.U., Aldershot, and was thus ineligible to play in the final. No "specialist" hooker could be found, so Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams "hooked" and the scrum was re-arranged. The pack was further weakened by the absence of Lance-Corporal Goddard, who had to "cry off" unfit at the last moment.

Although the forwards played very well in the loose and got the ball well in the line-outs, the tight scrums appeared ragged and S.T.C. failed to get their share of the ball in the set scrums. They were quicker, however, as a pack and the backs handled the ball better and had more thrust than their opponents. If any fault could be found with the S.T.C. backs, it was their tendency to kick rather than to get the ball to their wings as speedily as possible.

Nothing could have been better than the determined running on the part of Lance-Corporal Gaunt (right wing) and Signalman Gloag (left wing), both of whom scored tries. On each occasion the wing man had several opponents to beat and their tries were the result of admirable running and determination. Sergeant Parfitt failed with six penalty kicks and two conversions—a sad lapse on the part of a player who has kicked goals from all angles! S.T.C. were the more polished side, pressing continuously for long periods, and thoroughly deserved their win by 6 points to 0. For the winners, Second-Lieutenant Williams, Sergeant Lees and Signalman Cavanna were the pick of the forwards, Corporal Evans played well at scrum-half, as did Signalman Froggett at stand-off, and Froggett's accurate touch-finding was a feature of the game.

The two centres, Rees and Shaw, were closely marked and the wing men, Gloag and Gaunt, made the most of the few opportunities that came their way. The whole side, however, played with great keenness, as they have done throughout the competition, and their success, due in large measure to excellent camaraderie and team spirit, will be very gratifying to members of the Corps all over the world.

The cup was presented to Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams after the match by the Adjutant-General, with medals for each member of the team, and a replica of the cup which is held permanently.

At a party after the game at the Queen's Hotel, Farn-

[Photograph by Marshall's, Camberley

The team after their victorious final. Full-back, Sergeant Parfitt. Three-quarters, Signalman Gloag, Sergeant Rees, Corporal Shaw, Lance-Corporal Gaunt. Halves, Signalman Froggett, Lance-Corporal Evans. Forwards, Signalman Shenton, Lance-Corporal Goddard, Second-Lieutenant A. K. Williams, Sergeant Lees, Signalman Roderick, Signalman Seabrooke, Corporal Rawson, Signalman Cavanna

[*Photograph by Marshall's, Camberley*

Second-Lieutenant Williams receiving the cup from General Sir James S. Steele, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Adjutant-General to the Forces

borough, the cup was well christened and Brigadier Galwey passed on the congratulations of the Director of Signals and complimented all members of the team on their fine effort.

Royal Signals (Catterick). Our success in the Yorkshire Cup, for which we were strongly "tipped" in the sporting press, was undoubtedly affected by the frequent calls of the Army Rugby Union on three of our "star" players, Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams, Second-Lieutenant Glynn Davies and Signalman Gloag, but to "battle through" to the sixth round (and the going was tough at times) in our first season in the competition was a good performance.

Royal Signals (Catterick) defeated Roundhay (12—8) at the third attempt in the fifth round of the Yorkshire Cup at Roundhay but were defeated by Morley—the holders—in the sixth round before a large crowd of enthusiastic Morley supporters by 12 points to 7 on 28th February. In this match we were without six of our usual players. The Morley forwards played with great vigour and dominated the first half, when Morley led 12—0. Signals had the better of the second half and were unlucky not to score on several occasions. The Morley line had many narrow escapes before Signalman Gloag rounded off a good bout of passing with a fine try, and just before the close Signalman Froggett dropped a neat goal.

On 14th February Royal Signals (Catterick) journeyed to Oxford, where the Oxford University Greyhounds were met before a good crowd on the Iffley Road ground. A number of players were being rested on account of the Army Cup game and the Greyhounds just managed to defeat our depleted side by 8 points to 7. Froggett, a dropped goal, and Rawson, an unconverted try, were our scorers.

Percy Park paid us a visit to Catterick on 6th March and won an enjoyable game on the Central Ground by 17—12.

As Williams, Glynn Davies and Gloag were playing in the Army *v.* Navy match, and Froggett, Gaunt, Rees and Seabrooke were being rested in view of the Army Cup Final, our reserves did quite well against this old-established Northumberland club.

Hockey

THE ARMY CUP. The School of Signals reached the final round of the Northern Sector of the Army Cup, displacing 51 P.T.C. 5—2, No. 2 Army College at Welback 5—3, No. 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 3—2, and finally drawing with the S.M.E., Ripon, away. There they found what was almost a representative Sapper side and lost 1—6, their heaviest defeat of the season.

The School was still feeling the effects of the 3-ton lorry when the game opened, Signals playing with the sun on their right. The Sappers started attacking very early, and had scored two goals before the School settled down and started a series of attacks which were foiled by the good Sapper defence. However, the School managed to force several short corners but failed to score, and before half-time the S.M.E. scored again.

The effect of playing on a grass pitch for only the third time in the season was already beginning to tell, and after the interval the S.M.E. scored again. The School managed to force a series of short corners, from one of which a goal was scored, but in spite of several more attacking movements the Sapper goalkeeper had an easy afternoon, while the School goalkeeper was kept very busy. The final whistle went at the score 1—6, and we wish the S.M.E. the best of luck in their future rounds.

The School owes a great debt to Captain (Q.M.) Brandon, who by his sound advice helped the School to pass its previous rounds. The School are very fortunate in possessing one who is both a sound coach and a first-class referee.

We congratulate Lieutenant A. G. Smith on being granted his cap for Scotland, and Sergeant Hammond and Signalman Turner on representing the Corps.

NORTHERN COMMAND KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION. School of Signals won the Catterick District portion of the competition by beating the R.A.C. Depot 6—0. This was not the best round the School had played, but by virtue of the score easily the most satisfactory. School, as usual, lost the toss and were given the slope in the first half, and attacked from the first bully. The R.A.C. counter-attacked, and one or two good movements were foiled by the tactics of the backs, who often put the unwary opposition offside.

The School, meanwhile, attacked their opponents' goal and scored four times before the interval, while in addition several good movements went astray in the opponents' half. After half-time the School maintained pressure, and even after the right wing strained a back muscle, succeeded in scoring twice again. Their opponents started a series of rushes, which were spoilt by too much offside and some rough tactics, which, however, got them nowhere, and the final whistle blew as the School were scoring a seventh time.

First round: School of Signals *v.* 19 P.T.C. Second round: School of Signals 4, No. 4 Training Regiment 2. Third round: School of Signals 1, No. 3 Training Regiment 0. Quarter-Final: School of Signals 3, R.A.C. Depot 0. Semi-Final: School of Signals 6, R.A.C. Depot 0.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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The Royal Signals Association Buttonhole Badge or brooch type, available for A.T.S. members, 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.

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Funerals	2	6 1 0
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Rehabilitation	4	57 10 0
Total		£530 11 10

Analysis

Discharged or released soldiers, 68; widows of deceased soldiers, 6; families of soldiers serving in the U.K., 14; B.A.O.R., 2; M.E.L.F., 1.

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	£ s. d.
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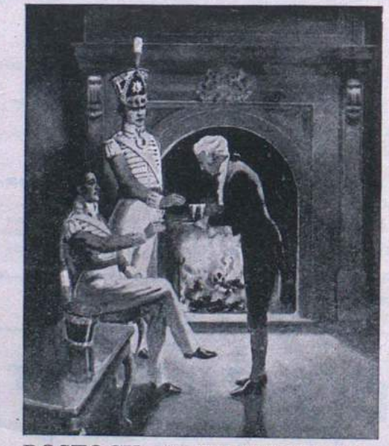

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Volume 2 *New Series* No. 5

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Editorial

A YEAR ago, in the May, 1947, issue of THE WIRE, we let off a puff of steam generated by the impact of the Budget upon an Editor almost boiling with exasperation at the paucity of pictures to enliven the pages of the magazine. This appeal to readers for contributions had some effect, and for a while matters improved, but from whatever cause—numerous releases or just short memories—the situation regarding good copy has again become one which fills the office with gloom (helped, we admit, by another Budget!).

Pictures are important, but their scarcity is not the only worry. Well-written articles, stories and topical reports are all essential if the paper is not to die from an unbalanced diet, so we once again exhort YOU to examine your conscience concerning unused talent, and not to consider your duty towards the Corps Magazine to be completely discharged by the monthly despatch of a list of goings and comings in the Unit.

Some contributors have been very loyal in their regular literary and artistic support over many months, and we are most grateful for their work. Similarly, certain Units have produced a good number of individual contributors — one Regiment found five within its ranks — due possibly to personal interest taken by the commanding officers.

We have received some complaints that notes are not always published. This we admit with regret, but it is not possible to include every contributing Unit in every issue. We do try, however, to give everyone a fair share by turns, although the quality and interest-value must also weigh in deciding what items merit publication.

* * *

So that's the way it is, and we hope our readers will allow Spring to inspire them in literary vein, in addition to any other directions in which it may bid their fancy lightly turn.

NOTICES

Married ex-P.O.W. British Officers or ex-Officers of the rank of Captain and below, with one child or more, in Indian Army or attached, who served in India or S.E.A.L.F., are granted special allowance w.e.f. 1st November, 1944, for the period of their captivity. Indian Army Officers should write to the Commonwealth Relations Office, 28 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3; attached British Officers should write to the Officer in Charge, Officers' Accounts, Stockport Road, Manchester. Next of kin of deceased officers should write as above.

* * *

A kind thought on the part of the wives of the officers of the Royal Canadian Signals has resulted in the arrival in this country from Kingston, Ontario, of gifts of food and clothing for Royal Signals families. In these days of austerity the addition of succulent extras is very welcome, and several

mothers of growing families have had some of their coupon problems solved, and have been able to add a welcome variety to their diets. Our grateful thanks are sent to these ladies for their generous gifts, and perhaps even more for the thoughts which prompted them.

* * *

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PERSONAL

Squadron Sergeant-Major Pitt, of 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, Hilden, B.A.O.R., would like to hear from R.S.M. "Dusty" Miller and R.Q.M.S. "Doc" Sinclair of Malaya fame.

* * *

Lieutenant (Q.M.) L. Bosher, of Singapore District Signal Regiment, c/o G.P.O., Singapore, Malaya, would like to hear from any ex-members of No. 4 Company, 2nd Air Formation Signals.

* * *

J. T. Appleby, of 6 Moulton Avenue, Bedford, wishes to know the whereabouts of "Ginger" Saunders—ex-Boys' Squadron.

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

April

There were two Pass Off Parades during March. Course 194b passed off on 9th March, when Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., took the salute, Officer-Cadet R. O. Watson, the Senior Under Officer, received the Commandant's Cane.

On 25th March, Course 195 passed off. On this occasion the salute was taken by Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Commandant, School of Signals. The Commandant's Cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet D. H. Ford, the Senior Under Officer.

With the advent of spring, the gipsy in us has been stimulated and a general restlessness is in evidence in all parts of the Unit. Old roots are being torn up and much accumulated litter is finding its way into salvage. A considerable number of changes are due to take place in the near future. Already Nos. 1 and 2 Cadet Squadrons have been abolished, and with their disappearance, the Officer Training Squadron, commanded by Major H. Worrall, has come into being. Major J. H. St. G. Hamersley, who commanded No. 2 Cadet Squadron has been appointed Chief Instructor to the Officer Training Squadron.

The following are welcomed into the Unit, Captain R. T. M. Sharpe, Captain J. B. S. Brabham, Second-Lieutenant G. Davies, Q.M.S.I. Richards, A.P.T.C., and C.S.M.I. Lennox, A.P.T.C. We hope that they will enjoy their tour of duty with us. Captain Brabham is no stranger to Catterick, nor to the O.C.T.U. His father was an instructor in the Unit during the early war years.

The departures include Lieutenants A. H. Graham and F. B. James, Corporal W. Callegari on release, Captain M. D. Scott to Basic O.C.T.U., Captain M. D. Leatherland to West Africa, and Sergt. Holdaway to Kabul. Our best wishes to you all.

Congratulations. Our congratulations to Major J. H. St. G. Hamersley on the birth of a son, Hugh Richard.

Garrison Miniature Rifle Shoot. Our Miniature Rifle Shooting team, under the captaincy of Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., still maintains its unbroken run of successes in the Catterick District League.

The results for February have just been published and show that our team, having won all eleven matches fired, has a lead of six points. The team won the highest aggregate prize for January and for February. Individual honours for the two months are as follows:—

January—Money prize and medal to Officer-Cadet Hanson for the highest score of 98. During February, Officer-Cadets Hanson and Levett won the runners-up prizes, each scoring 98.7.

Whilst the official results for March have yet to be published, it can be said that the team has again won all its matches.

With only 138 Cadets in the O.C.T.U. from which to maintain a team of eight, the results speak well for the enthusiasm of the club members and for the fitness of the O.C.T.U. as a whole.

Mountaineering Club. The club members had two outings during March. On the 13th, seven members of the Club spent the week-end in the Lake District. Langdale was the rendezvous, and on the way out two members, Jones and Lewes, left the party to climb Middle Fell Buttress. This was in the nature of a reconnaisance as Jones was to lead one of the parties in the climb next day. The reconnaisance was a success and next morning six members left base at about 0945 hours. The administrative tail was not neglected; the camp chores having been attended to, Officer-Cadet Simple took the two drivers for a scramble up Lingmoor Fell (1,400 ft.).

The main party reached the base of Middle Fell Buttress (1,500 ft.) at about 1015 hours, where the climbers, in order to increase speed of climbing, and to give everyone more experience in belaying, split into two parties. The climb was in three pitches, all moderate and difficult, and the top was reached at about 1230 hours.

The party then went on to scramble across Harrison Stickle (2,401 ft.) to Stickle Tarn, where a well-earned lunch and rest were most appreciated.

After lunch the party proceeded on around the Tarn to the base of Pavey Ark (1,700 ft.). The first 300 ft. of Pavey Ark were climed individually, on reaching Ginns Chimney, Lewis and Jones took the lead on a climb which proved to be very tiring, the final stages of which were very difficult and moderately exposed.

All the party reached the top (2,351 ft.) and after a rest the return journey was commenced. And so, under perfect weather conditions, ended an interesting week-end of climbing.

Sunday, 21st March, saw the members at Almscliffe where, under difficult conditions, four practice climbs were made. The strong, gusty wind made hard going of the climbing, chiselling and rope technique being very difficult. It is hoped to produce some action pictures in the near future, the problem lies in the difficulty of finding a member who is both a camera man and a climber.

Rugby. Owing to the withdrawal of 1 Training Regiment and 33 P.T.C. from the Northern Command Rugby Cup Competition, our Rugger XV went through to the final and on 24th March met S.M.E. Ripon to decide who should hold the cup for the year. Our team lost the toss and were faced with a fairly strong wind and sun. After about ten minutes play we were five points to the good. The S.M.E. retaliated by scoring a dropped goal and a goal, making the half-time score 9 points to 5 in favour of S.M.E. In spite of the score we were still optimistic and the team, inspired by the brilliant play of Glyn Davies, felt that they were on top. About half way through the second half the S.M.E. started an all out rally and caught our men off balance to run out winners by the comfortable margin of 21 points to 10.

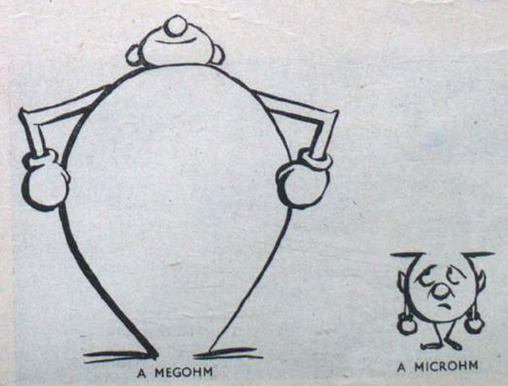
Soccer. There were two League I matches played, both of which we won, beating Yorkshire and Northumbrian Brigade by 4—3 and 7 Queens Own Hussars by 3—2.

In League II we were well and truly trounced by 8 Royal Tank Regiment to the tune of 7—0.

Hockey. With the improvement in the weather has come an increase in the number of hockey games played. In the matches played in the Catterick District Hockey League we gained full points. On the 3rd March our hockey team travelled to Tholthorpe where 5 Training Regiment are embedded, and after a hard fought game, with play fluctuating from end to end, Captain Brabham obtained the goal which gave us the honours. Our thanks to our hosts for the welcome extended to our team and for the enjoyable game.

In the game against 4 Training Regiment we were without the services of Officer-Cadet Ashworth, a Corps and District player who was absent through boxing injuries. We were fortunate to win by the only goal scored, again by Captain Brabham. Once again, versus 3 Training Regiment, we owed our win to a flick by this hard working inside forward mid-way through the second half of the game. The game never lacked dash, and time after time, merely Dame Fortune and Sergeant Gorton (our first season goalkeeper) prevented the opposition from taking the lead.

STUDENT DOODLES—1



In addition to these league games the usual scratch games in the way of training and talent spotting, have been played. One game worthy of mention was that between the Cadet Squadrons and H.Q. Squadron, resulting in a 2—1 win for the latter. This game saw many "old stagers" wielding the stick, among whom were S.S.M. Craig, Sergeants Winter and Holland.

Cross-Country Running. The final run in the Catterick District Cross-Country League took place on 17th March and resulted in a win for our pack with a total of 265 points. Officer-Cadets Witelegge and Selby finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Badminton. The Unit was represented in the final of the Men's Regimental Doubles in the District Badminton Championships by Officer-Cadets Oxley and Turner. Though our pair lost the match by two games to one, it was well contested, reaching a score of game all and thirteen points to eight in their favour before their opponents took the initiative and won by game-thirteen.

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

April

At the time of going to press this Regiment is beginning to get an idea of what it is like at Blackpool on Bank Holiday. The Unit lines are thronged with strangers looking for a place to sleep. So far we are able to report that there is no mass camping out on the moors. One Squadron Sergeant-Major was seen casting longing eyes at the lawn in front of the Sandhurst Block, but his evil intentions were frustrated by the discovery of a few more beds in store and some doubling up on the R.E.'s figures for the capacity of the barrack rooms and the misappropriation of some of the sitting rooms.

All this means that we have received the first intake from our neighbours of No. 7 Selection Regiment together with the last of the intakes from the old P.T.C.s. We are a bit crushed but we welcome them all to the fold and if some of them are finding the accommodation not quite up to modern standards, at least it could be a lot worse, and it will certainly improve as they settle in. Looking round the swollen ranks, a very junior member of the Cadre was heard to remark, "It looks as if our export target has increased again"—out of the mouths of babes and sucklings. . . .

One of the outstanding events of the month was a visit by the Corps Band on 24th March. An orchestral concert of light and classical music, played in the O.R.s Dining Hall during tea, was very much appreciated by all ranks. The solo numbers in particular being well received. It is hoped that the Director of Music will be able to repeat this very welcome visit whenever their programme permits.

The sports programme has been rather curtailed this month partly due to some bad weather and latterly to the Easter break. Our latest meeting with our old rivals 5 Training Regiment in the final eliminator of the Command Cup resulted in a 6—5 victory for 5 Training Regiment after extra time. By the time the next notes are due it should be possible to make a complete survey of the winter sports activities. Already "sunny events are casting their shadows before them"—we hope. The officer i/c cricket has started the annual search for talent, whilst the P.T. wallahs are seeking new fields to mark out for field and track events. All that is required is the co-operation of the weather department. If the weather clerk checks up on his last year's files we will not be quite satisfied, and look forward to a pleasant summer season.

March has seen the usual quota of comings and goings in the Regiment. Major N. de la P. Tate has taken up the

Chief Instructor's reins, releasing Major Kelly to take over No. 1 Squadron. Major S. J. Williams has joined H.Q. Squadron and is in process of taking over P.R.I. Captain R. H. Stewart, Second-Lieutenant T. A. Payling and Second-Lieutenant A. C. R. Race have joined No. 2 Squadron. Captain F. X. Weitz has joined No. 3 Squadron. Captain W. Dermit has left 3 Squadron and taken over the duties of Adjutant. The Sergeants' Mess have said farewell to S.S.M. Richardson (ex 3 Squadron and recruiting tour) and Sergeant (Pip) Morris our erstwhile O.R.S. Both have taken appointments with the T.A., the former at Rugby and the latter in the wilds of Scotland.

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

April

On Tuesday, 16th March, 1948, a ceremonial parade was held at which Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant, Signal Training Centre, carried out an inspection of potential officers and took the salute. The Corps Band, just returned from a long overseas tour, was in attendance. The photograph below shows the parade passing the saluting base.

Officers' Mess. We have had one good party in the Mess during the last month to mark the departure of Major C. E. Storey. He has left us for Germany, and we wish him all the best.

There have been three new arrivals whom we should like to welcome; they are Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., our new Chief Instructor, Lieutenant MacFadgen and Second-Lieutenant F. A. C. Smith.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. It's been a quiet month in the Mess as regards entertainments. Apart from one or two farewell parties, the highlight of the month was the St. Patrick's Night Dance; this was a "roaring" success, and the Irish certainly upheld their tradition, ably led by Sergeant "Paddy" O'Meare. A very pleasant games evening was spent at the 8th Royal Tank Regiment Mess, and on their return visit to our Mess they managed to beat us after a struggle at snooker and billiards, and in doing so knocked us out of the Garrison League.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to S.S.M. Wall, who was married on Saturday, 3rd April, 1948, and wish him and his wife all the luck in the world on their new adventure. Also our congratulations go to S.Q.M.S. "Pip" Pearson and Mrs. "Pip" on the addition to their family of a baby daughter.

Among this month's pass-out to post-war civvy street are Sergeants Doug Sidebottom, Alf Raven, Tommy Austin, Bill Hitchings, Jimmy Ingles and Pete Darrington. We have also lost S.S.M. Bill Sinclair, who after completely reorganising 4 Squadron's training programme has finally got his long sought-after overseas posting. The Mess suffered a great loss when that well known Army International footballer, Sergeant Bill Smith, A.P.T.C., was posted to No. 7 Selection Regiment. We wish him good luck in the future.

The Mess members join me in congratulating Sergeants John Garbett, Jimmy Cameron, Les Bratley, "Nobby" Clark, Alf Reed, "Danny" Danials, Jimmy Archibald, "Bud" Berry and "Jock" (Cookie) McLoughlan on their recent promotion, and welcome them into the Mess—we're a queer lot but you'll soon get used to us.

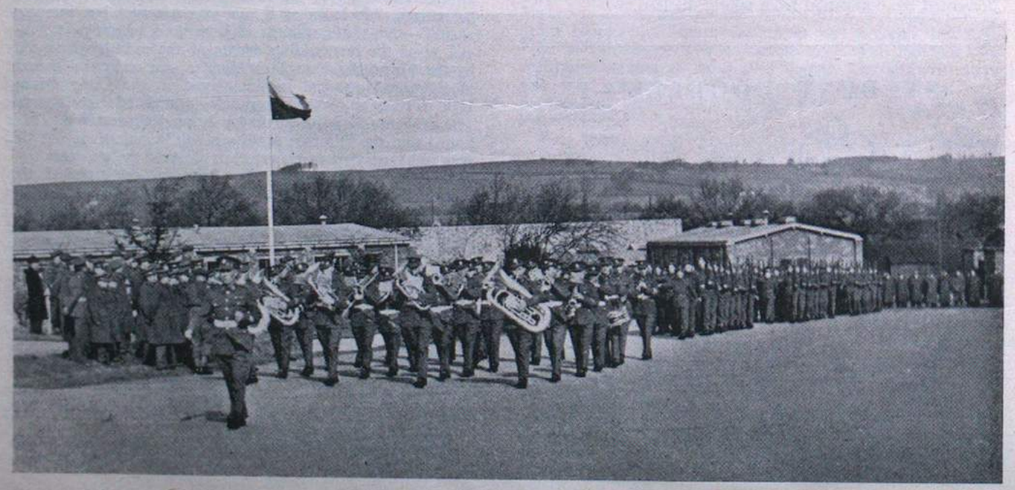
S.S.M.I. Cadwallender, A.P.T.C. joins the Mess in place of Bill Smith—welcome, "Muscles," and we hope you'll carry on the good work that Bill started.

Entertainments. The activities of Catterick's No. 1 Band, 4 Training Regiment Dance Orchestra, under the able leadership of trumpeter Lance-Corporal Jimmy Venn, have been numerous during the past month. Each Sunday has witnessed a jovial crowd enjoying music for dancing as presented by a fourteen-piece orchestra, and the attendance is on the increase. The band is ever in demand throughout the Catterick area and many dances have been very successful on their appearance.

A request programme, when a section of the orchestra is in attendance, has been organised, and troops in the camp are able to hear their favourite tunes at lunch time in the N.A.A.F.I.

Covetous eyes are being cast in the direction of a cup being offered for the best variety show to be presented in the district. Artists and producing personnel are going "all out" to ensure we get it. Our effort will have its preview on Thursday, 15th April, 1948.

"Dufflebag," a record programme, organised and presented by the Educational Staff, remains popular and is well supported



Left to right: General Sir Philip Christison, Bart, G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. (General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command), Lady-in-Waiting to H.R.H., H.R.H. the Princess Royal, Junior-Commander L. Bowler, A.T.S., Subaltern R. C. Firbank, A.T.S., Lieut.-Colonel T. A. K. Howe (Commanding Scottish Command Signal Regiment), and Major T. Chambers

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

March

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL, COLONEL-IN-CHIEF. The Unit was honoured on 25th February last by a visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

H.R.H., accompanied by the C.S.O., Scottish Command, Brigadier C. Knowles, C.B.E., and her car escorted by two D.R.s of the Unit, first journeyed out to Broomfield Camp, Davidsons Mains, where No. 2 Squadron, composed mostly of A.T.S., is detached. She was there received by the G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, General Sir A. F. Philip Christison, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. On arrival the C.S.O. presented the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe, to H.R.H., who in turn presented the Second-in-Command, Major T. Stibbs, M.B.E., and the officers of No. 2 Squadron. A complete tour of the camp followed. H.R.H. showed the greatest interest in every aspect of camp life, the hairdressing salon receiving particular notice.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal continued her visit by proceeding to Regimental H.Q. at Fairmilehead Camp, where on arrival the C.O. presented the R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron Officers and Warrant Officers. Inspecting the camp, H.R.H. visited the Demonstration Room and Transmitter Sites, the N.A.A.F.I. Institute and the A.T.S. quarters. The Colonel-in-Chief was particularly impressed with the Library and Education Room, where an electrical quiz device held her interest for many minutes.

Consequent on a very full programme, H.R.H. was only able to remain at the Headquarters for approximately one hour, and after completing her tour proceeded for lunch to Dreghorn Barracks, H.Q. of the Lowland Brigade Training Centre. The accompanying photograph was taken during the inspection of living accommodation.

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

March

The Unit can be described nowadays as being in a very fluid state. On 1st April we shall officially cease to be a mixed Regiment, a step which is generally regretted. Junior-Commander Foster and Subaltern Bolton have already left us. Junior-Commander Foster has gone South to the London area and Subaltern Bolton to Salisbury, we wish them all the best of luck as we do Captain Newman who we are sorry to say is also leaving us. Captain Newman was a prisoner for four years in Greece and Germany and is now going back to B.A.O.R.

The departure of the A.T.S. as a whole has been the occasion of farewell functions here. The Corporals' Mess gave a party in the gym on Monday, 18th March, when the proceedings were well conducted by Corporal Robinson. The following Thursday it was the turn of the Sergeants' Mess, and Friday, that of the Officers, on the whole it can fairly be considered a worthy send off.

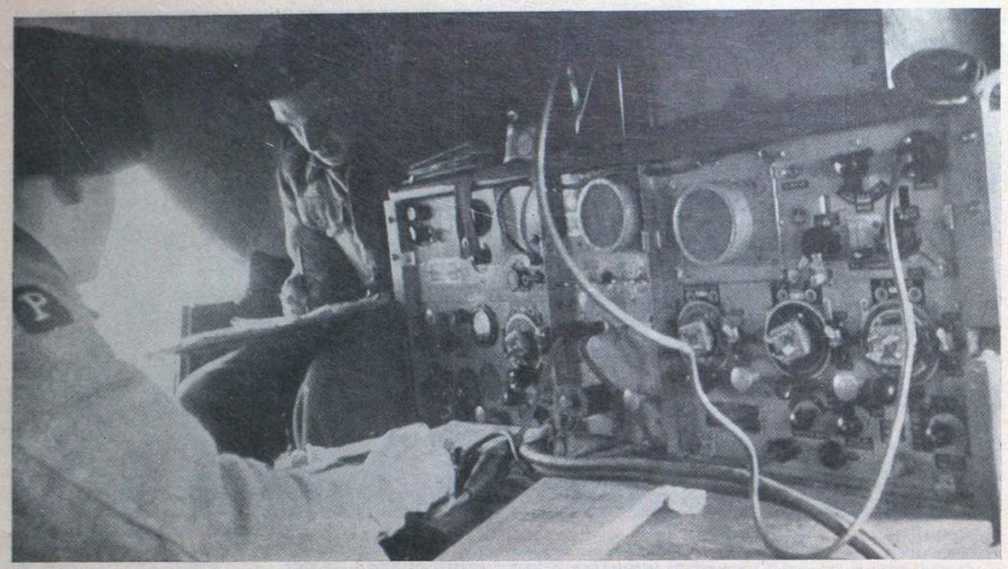
In addition to the departure of the A.T.S., the Regiment has been further reshuffled by the formation of No. 3 Squadron. The new Squadron is commanded by Major Clarke, who recently joined us, and as yet consists only of the new No. 130 Line Troop.

Those who did not proceed on Easter Leave were here to welcome a course of 24 J.T.C. and A.C.F. personnel.

They were here for ten days and should have learnt a great deal under Captain Hoar, Lieutenant Oakes and S.S.M. Mitchell. We hope that they enjoyed their stay at Blacon.

Captain Hoar is one of the several officers who have arrived here during the last few weeks. The others are Major Kingman, the new T.O.M., Second-Lieutenant Carr,

(*continued on page* 131)



Interior of armoured car, showing operator working on 52 set

THE STORY OF 'phantom'

THE name "Phantom" really dates back to the formation of No. 3 British Air Mission, the Air Liaison Mission to the Belgian General Staff, in November, 1939. This Mission was commanded by Wing Commander J. M. Fairweather, D.F.C., R.A.F., and was designed to furnish the Commander of the British Air Forces in France (B.A.F.F.), Air Marshal Barratt, with the ground information necessary for the most expedient use of the forces under his command, particularly during the period between the German invasion of the Low Countries and the linking up of the British and French Forces with the Belgians on the Meuse Canal, Albert or Dyle positions. The code name of this Mission was "Phantom."

In mid-November an Army Staff car arrived at Valenciennes where No. 3 Air Mission was training. It contained Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Hopkinson, M.C., North Staffordshires, his batman, one clerk and a driver. The car had come from Vincennes, where the "Hopkinson Mission," as it came to be called, had split itself off from the Howard Vyse Mission to General Gamelin. Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson had been posted to No. 3 Air Mission as a "military observer" under Wing Commander Fairweather. It would be difficult for anyone who had ever known "Hoppy" to imagine him remaining an observer for long. Both "Fairy" and "Hoppy" were quick to realise that much of the information that Air Marshal Barratt would require in battle would not be available at Belgian Grand Quartier General (G.Q.G.) and could only be obtained through ground reconnaissance.

The War Office accordingly agreed to the formation of a mixed Unit commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson, which was to work under the orders of Wing Commander Fairweather and supplement the information the latter obtained from Belgian G.Q.G. When the forces of the Hopkinson Mission began to be mustered at Valenciennes the name of Phantom was adopted as the code-name for the combined missions, and the Hopkinson Mission, for the first time, sewed on their tunics a white "P" on a black ground. The organisation grew in size and scope, and in its final form it consisted of fifteen officers and 110 other ranks, and comprised Mission Headquarters with "Hoppy," a G.S.O.2 and a G.S.O.3 and a subaltern administrative officer; the "Phantom Squadron" (commanded by Captain J. A. Warre, 12th Lancers) consisted of two Troops of armoured cars fitted with No. 11 wireless sets, and a Motor-Cycle Platoon, picked motor-cyclists from the Queen Victoria Rifles, commanded by Second-Lieutenant J. A. T. Morgan; an Intelligence Section (commanded by Captain J. S. Collings, 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards) of six subalterns and six junior N.C.O.s, all French-speaking and mounted on motor-cycles; lastly a Wireless Section of two No. 9 and two No. 11 sets manned by Royal Signals personnel.

In the course of development and training in France a secondary role was given to the Hopkinson Mission, that of supplying G.H.Q., B.E.F., with the same information as was provided for A.C.A.B. (Allied Central Air Bureau). This commitment, undertaken in an effort to "winkle" extra wireless equipment out of G.H.Q., was perhaps the foundation stone of modern "Phantom," an information service for the Army by the Army.

The Mission continued to train on wireless movement,

Army organisation, and message writing, and was able to give a very good account of itself in the chaotic events that led up to the evacuation at Dunkirk.

When the German Army commenced that series of lightning armoured thrusts and all-powerful advance that taught the world the meaning of the word "Blitzkrieg," and crushed the Armies of France and Belgium in a few weeks of agony, the value of the newly-formed Phantom patrols began to show in earnest. As the Allies were forced to retreat, and formations cut off, the existing plan of communications suffered badly.

The highly mobile Phantom organisation was fully tested in a series of moves within a few hours, yet the flow of information continued.

Phantom liaison officers worked closely with the staffs of the various headquarters, and the armoured car Patrols kept the wireless communications going to report the progress of the battle on the British, French and Belgian fronts to the C.-in-C.

But the situation grew more and more hopeless and the retreat continued until the B.E.F. was ordered to evacuate.

Towards the end, the Hopkinson Mission provided an escort for the C.-in-C. during the moves of G.H.Q. to the ports, and finally helped in the defence of the beaches at La Panne.

On 30th May they were relieved of this task by the 12th Lancers and prepared for evacuation.

In the early hours of 31st May the Hopkinson Mission left Ostend for England.

By a great misfortune, the whole of No. 3 Air Mission, including Wing Commander Fairweather, the C.O., were lost when their ship was torpedoed by an E-boat just off the Belgian Coast.

From June till October, 1940, Phantom was rebuilt and re-organised under its "founder and father," Colonel G. F. Hopkinson, to whose genius and drive the new Regiment owed its very existence.

Unorthodox and farseeing, "Hoppy" searched everywhere in the Army for the men and equipment he wanted for Phantom. Armoured cars from the 12th Lancers, men from the K.R.R.C. and Royal Signals formed the nucleus of the Regiment, whose H.Q. was at Richmond Hill, Surrey.

By the Spring of 1941 there were eight Groups or Squadrons in the Regiment, known as Group "A," Group "B," etc., each allotted a task in the expected battle for Britain around the coasts.

The same Spring, also, two Squadrons were sent overseas. "G" Squadron to Northern Ireland to be on the spot in the event of an invasion of Eire, and "H" Squadron to Greece to be plunged almost immediately into a hopeless struggle that ended with the remnants of the Squadron reforming in North Africa, where it gradually lost touch with R.H.Q.

In 1941 "Hoppy" left Phantom to join Airborne Forces, as did Major Hugh Kindersly — then Second-in-Command. "Hoppy" finally commanded the 1st Airborne Division and was killed in action when the Division spearheaded the attack on Italy in 1943.

His death was a great blow not only to Phantom but to the whole of the Army.

In 1942 two Squadrons were sent to North Africa to work with the First Army, during the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

So far, however, Phantom had not been used completely as its creator intended, and it fell to Colonel A. H. McIntosh, who commanded the Regiment in the North-West Europe Campaign, to organise the all-out effort of the Regiment for the final phase in the liberation of Europe and the defeat of Germany.

This was done to such good effect that shortly after D-Day in Normandy there was a Phantom patrol with each

(*continued on page* 152)

Home Stations (*continued from page* 129)

Second-Lieutenant Pratt, Second-Lieutenant Sutherland and Second-Lieutenant Couzens.

Another interesting arrival is Lance-Corporal Barrett, the R.S.M.'s brother, we trust that Lance-Corporal Barrett will maintain the high standards of his distinguished brother.

We were strongly represented at the Grand National at Aintree this year. Lieutenant-Colonel Boileau and family joined the G.O.C. on his barge at Beechers Brook. Captain Mead and Sergeant Matthews were also in attendance to deal with the Signals aspect of the arrangements! Sergeant Matthews, however, did not confine himself to wireless and reports state that he had an indecently large sum on Sheila's Cottage "to win." What is certain is that he has not been seen since! Junior-Commander Nalder won the Officers' Mess sweep.

Stop Press. It seems that it was *Mrs.* Matthews who had the money on Sheila's Cottage which, of course, as all married men will know is a different thing altogether!

Boxing. The Western Command Individual Boxing Championships held at Oswestry on Wednesday, 10th March, attracted quite a large crowd.

The unit was well represented by competitors and spectators. With the help of Major Dixon and Captain Hayles transport was arranged to take the boys and girls to the show.

The only sad thing of the evening was when on arrival at the gym we found that both of our men had been beaten in the semi-finals.

Corporal Moorhouse met a man who hit with everything but the bucket. In spite of this he gave a very good account of himself. I have it from a very reliable source that he is getting married soon and his boxing days are numbered.

Lance-Corporal Dwan was also unfortunate to lose by a very narrow margin, but was so good that he was selected to fight for Western Command against the Northern.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP. Since our last report our move to Barracks has commenced. This was scheduled to be completed by 8th March, but through circumstances quite beyond our control we are all now half moved and in a state of suspended animation. However, we sleep in good quarters and feed well, and the little difficulties we experience are quite bearable, in view of these major comforts.

The last of the A.T.S. have now left us and although we felt a little nervous of the H.Q. switchboard when left on our own for the first time, we have now complete confidence and latterly one or two compliments from the staff have come our way for which we are duly grateful.

Congratulations to Signalmen Bowers and Green, now both Lance-Corporals. It is with regret we note the departure of S.Q.M.S. Hughes for Squadron H.Q. How many of us owe him our thanks for dry feet, good clothes and good bedding.

Frequent changes due to releases at our detachments at Liverpool and Longtown tend to make life a little difficult at times, but we are quite convinced after a period in this Troop that the Army thrives on difficulties.

Well, they come, they go, but somehow we still get by, though how, we have never yet found out, and certainly dare not ask. L/A/U/CORRESPONDENT

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

April

The most notable feature of last month was the closing down of the A.T.S. side of 13 and 17 Brigade Signal Troops. This, of course, gave rise to a corresponding

increase of A.T.S. at H.Q. Accommodation was an awkward problem, but after a united effort some sort of satisfaction was achieved.

It was during these moves that the spirit of spring was first discovered. For moving about the unit lines were trailers and barrows full to the brim with stones and being pushed along as cheerfully as a load of "loot." Needless to say the gardens suffered a certain amount of damage which I've no doubt will be effectively repaired before many more weeks are gone.

In order to make our horticultural show as good as possible, a party of able-bodied men left camp early one morning to take advantage of a vacated P.O.W. camp's gardens. The results of their endeavours will be seen in a few more months when it is hoped that the gardens will be the best in the district.

Once more a change has taken place in the educational programme and our teachers and students now devote Tuesday of each week to the inner mysteries of the Army's Educational Scheme. It is on this day that the camp is shrouded in a silcence befitting our leading universities and has now become known—on Tuesday only—as "Thulston Academy."

Easter leave was taken by the great majority of people, leaving behind only the minimum of staff. These I fear had not a very enjoyable time, for the N.A.A.F.I. decided to decorate, and was placed "Out of Bounds" on the day of departure of the crowd. The weather, however, was most kind and some of the left-behinds were seen to indulge in a spot of sun-bathing.

This month we welcome amongst us C.S.M. F. Pavey and S.Q.M.S. R. Routledge, both from Pocklington. It is hoped that their efforts in M.T. and Barrack Stores respectively will be appreciated and successful.

Spring is in the air? Anyway, it's around, and now we record the longest list to date of the marriages that are taking place in the near future. Congratulations to them all, and the Unit as a whole hopes that their new life will be happy: Corporal Bailey, A.T.S., Lance-Corporal Mason, A.T.S., Pte. Parkhouse, A.T.S. and Driver Giles, both of this camp, who are being wed in the local church.

Soccer. During the past month we have striven in vain to produce a balanced side, but have met with no success, and our list of defeats is growing much too rapidly for the good morale of the side. Despite our defeats, Driver McMillan, Signalmen McKenzie and Steel work hard in the hope that their labours may one day meet with success.

Completed programme of the last few weeks:

Thulston United	Lost 3—6
5 A.A. Group H.Q.	Lost 3—7
Thulston United	Won 3—2
R.E.M.E. Castle Donnington	Lost 3—8

Hockey (*Mixed*). With the arrival and inclusion of Second-Lieutenant Melford in the hockey team, great events have taken place, for the side has won a further two games.

Once more we have to thank the A.T.S. for coming forward and making a game which would otherwise have been cancelled.

R.A.O.C., Chilwell	Won 2—0
R.A.O.C., Chilwell	Won 3—2

P.E.D.

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NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

April

Entertainments have once again been a main feature of the last month's activities. The "Nidwits," under the directorship of Major George Bayliss, put on another show during March, which once again proved popular, in fact it was a great success, being thoroughly enjoyed by all. The usual faces once more appeared in the show, and Corporal Ray Campbell (who has since left the fold for "Civvy Street") as compere, greatly assisted by Second-Lieutenant Dudley George in short sketches, proved as popular as ever. Thanks for the laughs. The glamour part of the show was in the girls of the chorus, who once again did their stuff. Thanks to Sergeant Mary Senior for the hard work put in, training the girls.

Hearts have certainly been beating overtime, as we offer congratulations to Private Jean Holmes and Corporal Bob Hubbard, who have decided to become Mr. and Mrs. We certainly wish you all the best of luck and happiness Bob and Jean, on your venture of married life. Also Bob, every success on the course, on the termination of your leave. Congratulations are also extended to Private Edna Doherty and Corporal Bill Forrester, on tying the first loop of the knot by becoming engaged. It appears the Unit Orderly Room always has volunteers for Duty Clerks!

In the field of sport, hockey seems the main thought as the girls of the unit are concentrating in readiness for the A.T.S. Hockey Tournament in York. A few of the energetic ones can be seen in the early hours of the morning on the playing field, or are they mushrooming?

The Orderly Room has another change in faces by the arrival of S.S.M. Denehy, who came from Cyrenaica, to whom we wish the best of luck during his stay with us, on relieving "Spiv" Sergeant Joe Dickinson, who has left to join the Burma Mission. Best of luck, Joe, on your new appointment.

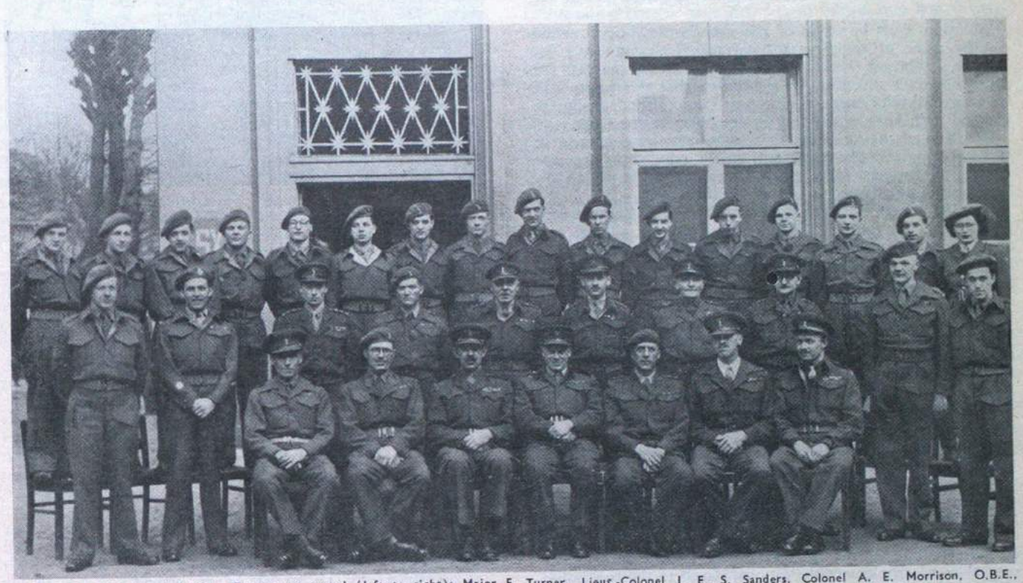
We have lost a few familiar faces this last month, as Demob has been calling and hasn't gone unanswered, with our latest losses to "Civvy Street" is Corporal Ray Campbell, former writer of these notes, who decided to become "Mr." once again. We shall certainly miss Ray's cheerful company, as he did much for the entertainments side of the Unit. Here's wishing you all the best and every success, Ray, in your new sphere of life, also to all other N.I.D. Wallahs, departed from our fold.

Weekly entertainments still go strong with the ever popular whist drives and dances. Badminton and table tennis still show their popularity as indoor games, by the keen attendances of an evening. Several games have been organised, with outside teams, and up to the moment honours have been even. The football team this last month has played three matches with the varied results of winning 2 and losing 1.

This is about all the gen for now, and as it is my first contribution of writing these Wire Notes for N.I.D., this is Sergeant Eddie Morey wishing all readers the very best of luck everywhere, and all ex 9 Indian Division, who may still be going strong.

E.F.M.

British Army of the Rhine



S.X. Branch Staff, March, 1948. Front row, seated (left to right): Major E. Turner, Lieut.-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, Colonel A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Keddie, Major H. W. Lowe, Major C. W. Fountain, M.B.E. Second row (left to right): Sergeant C. T. Dunkley, W.O. I. L. Partridge, Captain G. A. Madden, M.B.E., Captain E. J. Bardell, Captain R. H. Harmer, Captain J. G. James, M.C., Captain R. V. Pearce, M.B.E., Captain J. S. Dale, W.O. II W. Graham, Sergeant G. A. Steven. Third row (left to right): Lance-Corporal R. Cook, Signalman P. J. Cheshire, Signalman J. Wood, Signalman J. A. Reeves, Private K. J. Pepper, Signalman G. Y. Rose, Lance-Corporal A. Cook, Signalman J. B. Johnson, Sergeant A. R. Lampert, Corporal M. Phillips, Corporal P. E. Fletcher, Lance-Corporal A. McQuater, Signalman K. Rayner, Signalman S. Clark, Driver J. Lapsley, Private V. S. Newton

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

April

This month saw the commencement of Troop Training within the Regiment and with H.Q. 2 Division. Day exercises have been held to practice convoy driving and harbouring of vehicles on arrival at the area set up and in which the H.Q. of 2 Division work. These exercises to date have proved quite successful, and with the rough corners knocked off the Regiment will without doubt acquit itself well, and give of its best in the forthcoming Divisional and Army Exercises which are being held in B.A.O.R. this year.

On Wednesday, 24th March, the Regiment met 10 Company, R.A.S.C., in the third part of the first round of the Inter-Service Knock-out Quiz Competition organised by B.F.N., this being the final round in 2 Division and deciding who should go forward to the quarter finals of B.A.O.R.

The contest was relayed from Jimmy's Club and 10 Company, R.A.S.C., ran out the winners after a very exciting struggle, by 29 points to 25½ points. Before zero hour, Jimmy's Club was crowded with spectators, who were entertained by Captain Mitchell-Taylor (Major Clueless) with some stories, and then gave a brief outline of the quiz itself. Captain K. Foster, of Welfare, 2 Division, officiated as score keeper and gong master.

Questions ranged from general knowledge—through music in all its forms—literature, history and geography—until in the last round the "Quickies" were reached.

The contest throughout, especially the first three rounds, was very close with both teams giving of their best. Corporal Fundrey, the team Captain of the Regiment, during this period, saved the team many points by stepping into the breach and answering the questions asked by the Quiz Master.

The Quiz was most exciting and enjoyable—altogether a grand evening's entertainment for the spectators who were present.

On 24th and 25th March, the Regiment was visited by the Chief Signal Officer, Rhine Army, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Royal Signals. The C.S.O. visited the Quiz Competition held in Jimmy's Club on Wednesday evening, 24th March. Before going to the Quiz, the C.S.O. met and was introduced to the Officers of Regiment and the wives of the officers, who are stationed here in B.A.O.R. at a Cocktail Party held by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., Royal Signals, and Mrs. McVittie in their house.

The following day the Regiment was out on a Divisional Exercise which the C.S.O. attended, and which he thoroughly enjoyed by all accounts. Anyway, sir, you brought fine weather with you, for which we were most grateful.

Great interest is being taken in the Aero Modelling Club recently formed within the Regiment. On Wednesday afternoons and week-ends the R.A.F. "types" gather together

like birds of a feather (Oh!, Wizard prang) to study the unpredicted manœuvres of their models in the air, whilst on these same days the cynics of the Regiment gather on the "flying strip" to study the unpredicted manœuvres of the same R.A.F. "types."

Mention must be made of the experiments being carried out by some of the Sergeants of the Regiment on a Jet Engine. Though the designers refuse to broadcast the secrets of their invention, it is believed that the engine will be powered with oxy-acetylene. The finished design is awaited with keen expectancy by members of the Club.

The aim of the Club members is to encourage interest in this hobby within the Regiment, and if possible to organise competitive rallies with other Aero Clubs in B.A.O.R. Here's wishing all success in their venture.

The Regiment extend a happy welcome to Captain and Mrs. Steel, Captain and Mrs. Allan, Captain (Tom) and Mrs. Juniper, Captain (Q.M.) Parker and Captain Wolfendale, and to all new arrivals who have joined the Regiment this month.

This month saw the departure of Captain and Mrs. "Jerry" Pearse. Jerry has been posted to the U.K. and the Regiment send him all good wishes for the future in his new station, wherever he may be posted to. Jerry, as he was familiarly known, was Officer Commanding 4 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop which has now been taken over by Captain Wolfendale who, by the way seems to have settled in to his new job very well.

The gardens in the Regimental Lines are now beginning to look quite spring-like, and so far a good show of crocuses have appeared, which have been followed by the daffodils and tulips. These gardens make all the difference in the world to the area around the Barrack Block.

Troops have been allocated a plot of ground which is to be cultivated by them and used solely for the growing of vegetables to supplement the rations, issued to the cookhouse for the men's dining room.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. A few changes have taken place during the past few weeks. S.Q.M.S. Beale to U.K. on Python, Sergeants McDonald and Burden have decided to renew acquaintance with Civvy Street, Mac will be sorely missed in Mess life for he was a first-class secretary and held the distinction of not having an observation on the Mess accounts during his sixteen months as secretary. He will be also missed in the 406 Inspection Bay where he carried out and maintained a highly efficient inspection branch of the Regiment. Sergeant Burden promises to keep in touch on the Ham Band, so here's to hearing more from Swanage. Sergeant Stebbing (L.A.D.) has taken up his new duties with the Royal Horse Guards (L.A.D.) and is a great loss to the Regimental Rugby side.

A welcome hand is extended to the following new members:—

S.Q.M.S. Reece, S.Q.M.S. Eckeleers, S.S.M. McGraw (to "K" Troop), Sergeants Farquhar (Provost Sergeant), Nock ("M" Troop), Owen "M." Troop), Flanagan ("A" Troop), Yates ("B" Troop), Dale (L.A.D.), Bradley ("O" Troop), Petit ("H" Troop), Durber ("K" Troop), and Garton (Mess Caterer).

Congratulations to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Nobby Clarke and Mrs. Clarke on the birth of a bonny daughter, the first of many, we trust!!!

The eyes of the Mess are focused on the Garrison Engineer, and we are keeping our fingers crossed in the hope of moving into our new Mess in the not too distant future.

Sport (Cross-Country). Our Regimental Cross-Country Team acquitted itself most nobly in the Divisional Championship held at Hilden on the 10th March, finishing third in a field of fifteen teams.

The 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers finished first with 272 points, and 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers

The Regimental Cross-Country Team, third in the Divisional Inter-Unit Championships, held at Hilden on 10th March, 1948.

Seated (left to right): Second-Lieutenant R. P. Spalding, Lieutenant T. E. Richardson, R.S.M. H. Griffin, Corporal E. Lund, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., Commanding Officer, Sergeant J. Bennett, Captain T. G. Simpson, Second-Lieutenant P. G. Tripp, S.S.M. A. W. Pitt. Standing (left to right): Signalman J. G. Carr, Fusilier Morriner, Signalmen G. R. Harrocks, H. D. Pritchard, R. K. Fearon, Corporals J. W. Castleton, R. R. Miller, Lance-Corporals W. J. Kent, L. E. Langouroux-Fay, J. M. Hunter

second with 550 points, our team third with 595 points. We make no excuse for failing to gain second place, but we do feel justified in stating that had Second-Lieutenant Spalding been on form then the result would have been reversed, unfortunately he had injured his ankle previously in a game of Rugger, but he gallantly completed the course and came in 134 out of 240 runners.

The high standard of running can better be judged by taking the result of the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championship, held on 27th March, into consideration, as the Royal Fusiliers emerged victors with the Royal Welch Fusiliers in second place.

Our team positions were as follows:—
9, 16, 17, 31, 48, 51, 52, 54, 66, 70, 87, 94.

Each team comprised fifteen runners (twelve to count).

All members of our team are to be congratulated on the enthusiastic manner in which they tackled their training, which was done mostly in their off duty hours.

Lance-Corporal Hunter, "L" Troop, continued to show fine form, being our first man home. Special mention must also be made of Lance-Corporal Langouroux-Fay, Second-Lieutenant Tripp and Lieutenant Richardson (of Army Rugby fame), who did remarkably well in such a field of strong runners.

The photograph herewith reproduced depicts the Cross-Country Team which gained third place in the Divisional Championship, 1948.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg

April

R.H.Q. is now assuming some of its former aspect, and its previous compactness has been almost achieved. The few remaining personnel at Celle—mostly Q.M. Staff—are gradually moving here, together with the Q stores. The Regiment has acquired a new block, which is nearly ready for accommodation of stores.

R.S.M. Staton and S.Q.M.S. Cameron have departed on repatriation to England. We wish them a hearty farewell, and fond memories of their long association with No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

A hearty welcome is extended to Second-Lieutenant G. W. Hunt and Second-Lieutenant Lund on their arrival in the Regiment from the Signals O.C.T.U., Catterick, and to R.S.M. G. Kerr, recently arrived from Sundern.

No. 1 SQUADRON. During the last month there has been a lot of activity to complete the hand-over from No. 15 to No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Troop Commanders, in particular, were a harrassed lot, and they were heard mouthing strange sounds about G 1098 and Issues and Receipts. Nevertheless, things went very smoothly and the big flap is over.

Unfortunately, due to a mild winter, our preparations for winter sports availed us nothing.

Some lucky people of the Squadron, however, get plenty of winter sports. Sergeant Kealy and Lance-Corporal Minton, both of 118 D.R. Troop, landed a ski-ing course at Bad Mitteburg in the French Zone, while Signalman Warboys was entered for the B.A.O.R. Individual Ski-ing Championship. The two N.C.O.s came back slightly the worse for wear, both having had an accident prior to their return.

Signalman Warboys also had a slight accident. Here is his own account of the trials: "The representatives of the B.A.O.R. arrived at Ehrwald, Austria, on 11th January, 1948, for training in preparation for the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships, which were to be held on the Zugspitze on February 8th, 1948. The snow condition in Ehrwald during January was very poor and most of the training took place at St. Anton, the famous pre-war ski resort.

"The team had the misfortune to lose both its trainers, Count Sapari having sustained a broken leg, and Miss E. Pinching who was away at the Olympic Games. However, many good ski-ing days were enjoyed and, apart from a few minor accidents, the marvellous runs of the Kandahar and Astang did much to improve the technique of the Team.

"The race, which had been arranged to be held on the Zugspitze, had to be cancelled owing to a blizzard. It was impossible to see the course and so it was decided to hold the Downhill Race at Garmisch the following morning and the Slalom at Ehrwald in the afternoon. The condition of the course was good and the 1936 Olympic Course gave a good test to our weeks of training. The prizes were presented at a luncheon given by Lieutenant-General McCreery.

"I was fortunate to be chosen to carry on training to represent B.A.O.R. at the British Army Championships which were to take place at Kanzel, Austria, and representatives of B.A.O.R., B.T.A. and Home Forces were present. The quality of ski-ing was excellent and, as was expected, the honours went to the three Olympic skiers, Sergeant Taylor, B.A.O.R., Cadet Parkinson, U.K., Lieutenant Boyeais, U.K., with B.A.O.R. as the winning Command.

"The next race was a friendly one between B.A.O.R. and the Americans, as the Inter-Country Race was cancelled.

"The Downhill Race was held at Kreutzag on the American Standard Trail, and I was fortunate to win the Golden Ski for a descent of 2.5 km. in 1 min. 50 secs. The Slalom took place the next day at Ehrwald and the final scores showed B.A.O.R. to be an easy winner."

Social Activities. A very successful dance was held in the barracks Malcolm Club on 17th March. It was a Shamrock Dance and the A.T.S., who kindly visited us from Bad Oeynhausen, were subject to quite a lot of "blarney."

Darts and Table Tennis competitions are flourishing in the Malcolm Club, and there is a lot of friendly rivalry between Signals and the R.A.F. Regiment.

Below is a photograph of some of the D.R.s from 118 D.R. Troop. Included in the photograph are Second-Lieutenant Mitchell, Squadron M.T. Officer, and Sergeant Kealy, N.C.O. i/c 118 D.R. Troop. These are some of the men who covered 14,517 miles last month in SDS runs without an accident. They are justly proud of this grand effort.

No. 2 SQUADRON, GUTERSLOH. It is with regret that we say "Farewell" to Captain (T.O.M.) E. Bigg, Lieutenant (Q.M.) V. S. Hayden, M.B.E., and Captain T. Forbes, who have left on Class "A" Release. Captain Bigg, however, will soon be back in the British Zone in the capacity of a civilian with the Control Commission. We wish him all the best in his new job. Captain Forbes and Lieutenant Hayden have decided to take a one-way ticket, and we wish them all the best in Civvy Street. We also say "Good-bye and all the best in Civvy Street" to Craftsmen Christie and Holdsworth, Signalmen Pearce, Shuttleworth and Stott, who have departed on Class "A" Release.

Boxing. Signalman Walker, of R.H.Q., No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment (now of 129 Tele-Op. Troop, No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment) was entered for the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships. He fought in the flyweight class of Hanover District, duly winning this fight on a knock-out. He then went forward to the semi-finals held at Bielefeld on 19th March, 1948. This fight being won by him on a points decision. It was an exteremely tough contest, particularly in the first round, but in the second and third rounds, with continuous use of his left hand and clever boxing, the decision went to Walker. This win enabled him to go forward to the finals, which were held on 20th March, 1948, at Bielefeld. The gruelling contest of the previous night had left its mark on Walker, and against medical advice he decided to box, and entered the ring rather weak. His opponent had, therefore, a distinct advantage, and made full use of it. He had Walker down for two counts—one of seven and one of eight in the first round. The referee intervened and stopped the contest. It is hoped that a return fight can be arranged with the same opponent in the near future.

Forthcoming Marriage. We extend heartiest congratulations to Lance-Corporal Adamson on his forthcoming marriage. We hope he and his future wife will enjoy perpetual happiness.

Cross-Country Running. Of the six Cross-Country runners who represented R.A.F., Gutersloh, in the B.A.F.O. Championship, three were from 73 Wing Signal Troop. They were: Second-Lieutenant W. H. W. Muir, Signalmen Duncan and KcKinnon. The team came in second.

"A" Trades Training School. The formation of the Training School under the command of 2 Squadron has brought together three of the D2 licence holders in the British Zone—D2CH, D2DN and D21N, and it is hoped that by the time that this is published the stations will be active and on the air. It is hoped to operate on 160, 80, 40, 20 and 10 metres, operation to be on key and phone. The shack which has kindly been placed at our disposal by O.C. 2 Squadron now contains two transmitters and two AR88 receivers, besides a SCR 221 wavemeter and a pile of associated junk. Aerials in use at the moment are two dipoles and a ¾ Wavelength End Fed for 80 metres. It is hoped as soon as possible to be working on regular schedules and QSL will be 100 per cent. from all stations from con-

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Philips, Signalmen Brown, Brayshaw, Low, Lance-Corporal Brett, Sergeant Kealy, Lieutenant Mitchell (M.T.O.), Signalmen Parsons, Whitcombe, Wells, Thomas, Cooke and Smith

tacts made. To all our old friends on the bands we say 73's and all the best of DX, and we will be looking out for you in the very near future.

No. 3 SQUADRON. With the approach of the summer a great revival of sport has come about, in which we are co-operating closely with the R.A.F. Preparation for the C.O.'s cup competition is taking up most of the time, also there is a very fine shooting range which is being made use of by both the Services.

We are sorry to see the departure of Major G. A. Fleming, who has only just arrived here, and we wish him good luck where and when he eventually settles. Also departing are Second-Lieutenant Ellis and Second-Lieutenant Broome, who have left the Service on demobilisation.

Recently joined is Lieutenant N. E. Coates from 2 Squadron.

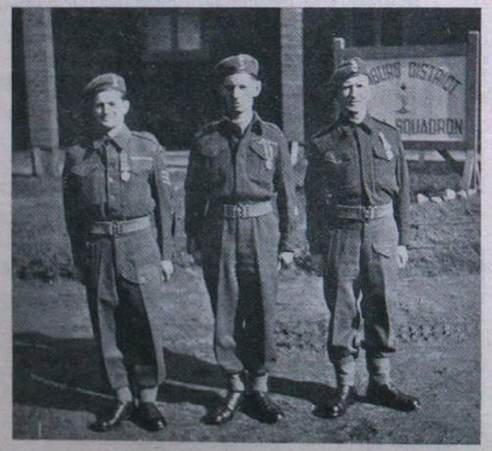
There is much preparation for the visit of the Secretary of State for Air on 2nd April at this time.

HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

April

A parade was held on 10th April, 1948, when our O.C., Major L. H. Caldicott, M.B.E., presented medals to R.S.M. Baker—the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Sergeant Mitchell—the General Service Medal with Clasp Palestine, and to Signalman Page—the Indian General Service Medal with Clasp North-West Frontier, 1937-39. The photograph shows the recipients of the medals.

The Squadron has been quite busy during the last months and the run down of soldiers on the speed-up of releases is now beginning to be felt, and, as each week passes, the squeeze becomes greater. A number of men are carrying out duties which a month ago they never thought would be possible. Particularly we notice our Workshops personnel, headed by Corporal Jeffs, doing extraordinarily good work—he has a 1,001 jobs to do and usually gets through them all. His present big job is fitting up a new wireless room at Hamburg District. When the Wireless Room is finished, we are thinking of using it as an extension to the canteen, as it would appear to be more suitable for that, with its polished floor and wireless cabinets.



No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

April

This month has brought many changes in the Regiment. We lost our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Conway-Gordon, who has been with us for the last 15 months, our Administrative Officer, Major (Bill) Manning, and our Quartermaster Major (Q.M.) Ted Adams. To them we wish the best of luck in "Civvy Street." We should here like to wish a very warm welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Seely, O.B.E., and our new Second-in-Command and Administrative Officer, Major H. E. Clarke. The Quartermaster vacancy was filled by Captain (Q.M.) (Joe) Lynch, who now combines the duties of Q.M. with that of O.C., B.A.O.R. Signal Park.

A quiz team from No. 1 Squadron competed on the air from B.F.N. last month with a team from the A.T.S. Signals and was soundly thrashed.

The recent news of the speed up of General Demobilisation have gladdened the heart of many an old warrior, and talking of long service we are reminded that two members of this noble Regiment are shortly to be presented with their L.S. and G.C. Medals—congratulations S.S.M. Clayton and Signalman (Paddy) Brown.

And so with the Easter holidays behind us, and the Whitsun leave yet to come, we say a reluctant farewell from the land of Danke and Bitte (not half a pint).

F.A.G.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. This month has seen many changes and a forecast of many changes to come in the Mess. Our R.S.M. (Ginger) Herberts will be leaving us on the 19th April, together with S.S.M.s (Pat) Pash and (Teck) Parker, needless to say, a farewell party is being arranged, of which more next month.

A very successful dance was held in the Mess on Easter Saturday, indeed it took the whole of the remainder of the Easter period for certain members to recover. Billiards, snooker and darts tournaments are in full swing and the energetic Entertainments Committee have many functions arranged for April, of which more next month.

No. 1 SQUADRON. It is unfortunately our monthly duty to say farewell to many very fine officers. This month we said goodbye to Major S. G. Hodgson, who has left to take up an appointment with S.X. Branch H.Q., B.A.O.R.

We have to welcome as our new Officer Commanding, Major R. E. Crawford, Royal Signals, who has recently arrived in the B.A.O.R. from England. Lieutenant Pierce, Royal Signals, is also among the new arrivals in 1 Squadron on posting from 5 Divisional Signal Regiment. Lieutenant K. G. Holdway has returned to the flock once again from 7th Armoured Division and has taken over the duties of Squadron M.T. Officer.

The Easter holiday period was a great opportunity for the newcomers to Germany to see the sights. The weather was perfect and many trips were arranged to such places as Möhnesee, Hamlin and Bad Harzburg. A holiday period we can say that will be remembered by many for a long time to come. We should like to be able to report that it would be remembered by all, but that is impossible as a large number of Sergeants do not even remember having a holiday.

The disbandment of 48 Construction Troop has meant amongst other things the loss of a good football team. We now find the one time expert combination of backs competing against each other on the field.

The Squadron is once again organising a dance to take place in April, and it is hoped that it will be as successful as the previous ones.

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Hamburg

April

Spring has meant for most of us here an anticipation of both summer and U.K. leave. Indeed, some of us who have already enjoyed the latter are beginning to believe that they have "had" the former now that our Easter Summer has been replaced by March winds and April showers (or downpours).

Since that last issue more arrivals and departures have occurred. The Officers' Mess have welcomed new members from three zones, Major Beaumont from U.K., Captain Vinn from M.E.L.F., and Captain (Q.M.) Stickley from B.A.O.R.

Captain E. A. Bailey left us last month bound for U.K. and we wish him all the best in his new unit.

S.S.M. Hedley and S.S.M. Gibson, who recently arrived from U.K., are now well settled, bringing the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess up to a formidable strength when games tournaments occur. And mention of games brings the subject of the Units latest "pride and joy"—the Welfare Darts Cup won by our local "Darts and Froth Blowers' Association."

Football fans remembered at the time the cup they "almost" won last season. However they were very close runners-up and we hope next season they will succeed.

Preparations are now in hand for an additional hockey pitch, cricket pitch and hard tennis court. Meantime whilst the football pitch is being given a well-earned rest, badminton, hockey and athletics hold the field.

This month the Unit submits a team for a B.F.N. Quiz. Consequently elimination inter-Troop contests are a frequent occurrence. Perhaps the most harassed individual as a result is Captain Vinn, who wanders around questing for questions.

Shooting.—On Sunday, 21st March, 1948, headed by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. P. Wolferstan, a party of officers and senior N.C.O.s sallied forth to Lockstedt Lager to annihilate herds of wild pig. After beating half of Schleswig Holstein, a pig was sighted but Captain F. C. Bailey was unsuccessful in his attempt to destroy the beast. The chase was immediately taken up by the "Doc," Captain D. Grewar and Sergeant Holford, who finally disappeared from sight and got lost in the wilderness. Three hours later they returned to the fold having tracked the party by the footprints of the C.O. (Sergeant Holford now qualifies for his tracker's badge.) "No pig."

Sergeant Rounding and S.S.M. McQuade were posted at one end of a wood and promptly forgotten by the remainder of the hunt, who were by this time proceeding to beat the other half of Schleswig Holstein.

During the remainder of the afternoon only one more pig was sighted, and one member was heard to remark, "That wasn't a ruddy pig, it was a b——— greyhound."

After seven and a half hours tramping the woods the party withdrew only to face four miles of heavy going back to their transport.

One lesson learned during the afternoon was that it is a good thing to have a rifle sling with a Rifle No. 4 Mk.I. I think the Commanding Officer will agree with this.

At 2000 hours, armed with No. 4 Mk.I. Rifles and 25 rounds each, the party arrived back, looking forward to another day's exercise in the woods.

Hockey. Since the last issue of our notes we have played the first round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Knock-out Competition. This round was played at Lubeck on 23rd March, 1948, against 10 Royal Hussars and resulted in a win for the Regiment by one goal to nil, scored by Lance-Corporal Churchill in the last ten minutes. We are rather proud of this victory as the Hussars had already won the Schleswig Holstein Knock-out Competition.

The game was played in a very friendly spirit and was touch and go up to the final whistle. S.S.M. Davy played his usual grand game in goal and S.Q.M.S. Miller was outstanding at inside-left. (M.T. Please note the hockey team now carry a supply of rotor arms.)

INTER-TROOP KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS

The Regiment is now running a seven-a-side Knock-out Competition, and results to date are as follows:

1st Round	101 Troop	2	34 Troop	3
2nd Round	34 Troop	2	Admin. and Q.	6
2nd Round	38 Troop	1	Research Section	0
2nd Round	32 Troop	4	31 Troop	0

No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Munster in Westphalia

April

We welcome to the fold Captain G. Manning, who arrived on 19th March, 1948, from No. 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Sport. The Unit Football Team has been keeping up its usual good form in the opening rounds of the 2nd Infantry Divisional Knock-Out Competition, and with a little perseverance, and perhaps a little luck, we all feel that before long No. 2 Division Trophy will be on show in our Red Diamond Club, partnering, on its pedestal of prominence, the Munster Garrison Cup.

In the first round we visited Hamm, to play 1253 Dest Mark. On a field which would certainly have reminded our elder brethren (not old soldiers) of Passchendale, the play soon merged into a hard fought battle. Every worthwhile gain was only accomplished after fierce opposition from flailing arms and legs and flying mud, as an unfortunate opponent slipped ungracefully to the ground. With such unfavourable conditions it was not surprising that he only succeeded in gaining a 1—0 victory.

For the second round of the competition we entertained H.Q. R.E.M.E., No. 2 Infantry Division, at Munster (a reception which, I fear, they will not forget in a hurry).

From a well-placed "lob" from Signalman "Skouse" Fairclough, our left winger, Sergeant James flicked a spectacular shot into the back of the net to open the scoring. Despite desperate tackling in defence and run-away raids on our goal by the hard-working R.E.M.E. "wallahs" we forged ahead with goals scored at regular intervals.

At full-time we emerged as victors with five goals to nil.

March

DORTMUND OPERATING GROUP. The month has been generally quiet, with not much more than the usual coming and going to mark its irrevocable passage. Even the C.-in-C's visit to the new amenities centre, which is gradually taking shape about us, evoked nothing beyond our customary calm efficiency, except best battledress. The opening of the Y.M.C.A. Families' Centre near our football pitch and of the new "Globe" Cinema almost next door to the Signal Office must also be recorded, if only to show that we do not live in a vacuum. The cinema is much appreciated, both for its technical excellence and its convenience, and the Families' Centre has very hospitably set aside a room for bachelors.

Dances in the Detachment's Canteen are still held every Wednesday, but social evenings are more popular, with

Housey continuing to startle the winners and tantalising those many who shout "Shake 'em up!"

The Sergeants' Mess followed the Detachment's example by holding a Fancy Dress Ball at the beginning of the month, and since then has had a dance every Saturday, to which neighbouring Messes and the cinema and Y.M.C.A. staffs have been invited. A very pleasant Corporals' Evening has also been held. Sergeant James has assumed some distinction by playing for the Iserlohn football team, which he claims to have guided to winning some league or other. An Iserlohn newspaper even commented on his absence on one occasion, connecting it with the team's coincidental achievement of a mere draw instead of the usual overwhelming victory. Sergeant Bunyan has happily recovered from his spell in hospital.

Sport. A new team is in the process of being formed, and will be known as the "Dortmund Dodgers." This football team is a mixture of Royal Signals, Royal Engineers, and also included is the manager of the new cinema which is referred to above, whether it is because he can play football or because he is the manager of the cinema no one quite knows as yet!

The Detachment team still holds its head high, although they lost their first game for many moons last week against No. 10 Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., due mainly to trying out a few new players, one of whom is a real "find"—as a clown for Bertram Mills!

We regret to announce the departure this month of our right-half cum centre-half, Corporal Rees, who leaves us to venture out to the U.K., where, so I am told, life is more skittles than beer; however, we wish him well and expect that he will be seen limping home every Saturday afternoon as usual.

A.T.S. SIGNALS, GERMANY

Herford

April

In this month's edition of THE WIRE we extend a welcome from A.T.S. Signals, Germany, to our new Controller, Controller G. Baker, O.B.E. Any A.T.S. who have served in M.E.L.F. will know her well.

Our own Unit has gained another new face in its officer collection—Subaltern M. E. Johnson, who arrived from the city lights of London, i.e., 1st A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, on 20th February.

Sergeant J. Gould nobly tackled the job of Acting C.S.M. while our C.S.M. Kerby was enjoying her leave with Sergeant Murray in the Highlands of Bonnie Scotland. We hope we shall still be able to understand the C.S.M. when she gives us our extra duties.

Whether there is something in the old saying "When spring is here a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," we don't know, but its certainly something that made Sergeant M. Lacroix and Sergeant Trendall (Royal Signals Cipher Troop) announce their engagement, and a little bird has whispered that the happy day is to be sometime in May. Also Lance-Corporal Keegan planned her wedding to Signalman G. Sheldon (Royal Signals), on 29th March, and everything went well, with the Regimental Cipher Officer (Major "Paddy" Cuffe) acting as "Giver-Away."

P.T. is not quite so much of an effort these days as it was in the cold days of winter when we turned up with blue noses and blue knees to match, which didn't blend with the colour scheme of our brown shorts and orange jumpers. Privates Waters, Sheen and Sergeant Lacroix are entering for the local P.T.I.s competition at the beginning of April. Each part-time P.T.I. will take a class and be judged by Junior Commander E. Mier, the S.O.P.T. for B.A.O.R.

A miniature rifle range has been opened at the 2 L. of C. Barracks at Herford, and on Monday evenings a team of enthusiasts assemble at the A.T.S. Cookhouse and journey over to try their skill. Several of the A.T.S. were extremely good shots, and we hear Junior Commander A. G. Vivian scored many a bulls eye.

Private Goodall is anxiously awaiting for April, to begin training us in fencing. Classes for the Signalmen have begun at Herford and we hear they are entering for the B.A.O.R. Competition, but when the required standard is reached over there they are releasing their male instructor to help Private Goodall organise classes for the A.T.S.

Quizes are in the news. One was organised by the Education Officer between the T.P.Os. and S.B.Os., and it was so successful we challenged Continental Group A.T.S. An officer from 721 Car Company compiled the questions and acted as Quiz Master, and it was held in the Study Centre in Kloster Strasse. We rather hang our head in shame to say we were beaten by Continental Group, but we hope to have a return bout later on. Sergeant Sterling, our intellectual standby, broadcast at Celle in the H.Q. B.A.O.R. Team, and was known as the "One Point Girl." She also represented A.T.S. Signals, Germany, together with Subaltern D. C. Harris, Sergeant Morrough and Private Trewin in the B.F.N. "Do You Know" programme on 21st March, 1948. The teams we competed against were No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and the winning team from the previous week, the D.C.R.E. Again we were beaten by the gong. Our final score was 11 against the L. of C. Signals 12, and the D.C.R.E. 14.

We are rather wondering what attraction there is at Ehrwald (the Leave Centre in Austria) besides ski-ing, as Senior Commander C. H. M. Jackson, O.B.E., returned from there with a beautiful tan, and five days later Subaltern H. Evans and Subaltern M. E. Roe also returned looking brown and healthy, though slightly limping—perhaps the M.I. Room is very pleasant there.

(*continued on page* 152)

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

Other Overseas Stations

MALAYA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

March

This month has remained very quiet in the matter of reinforcements and departures, with twenty arrivals from the U.K. who were snapped up by the Squadrons. Among these welcome visitors, we greet S.S.M. Tompkins of Display Team fame.

The new buildings which have been under construction during the past few months at one Squadron, are at last completed. This has permitted a long awaited rearrangement of offices, and at last everyone is settled in and satisfied.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The monthly dance was a huge success, the shortage of chairs at these functions is acute, but the bar fiends relieve us of this difficulty. A few of the officers were drawn into "Cardinal Puff" by his holiness S.Q.M.S. Parker, who after passing off with flying colours, gave up the struggle and passed out.

We welcome S.S.M. Townsend's wife to Malaya, and all hope her stay will be pleasant.

R.H.Q. AND 1 SQUADRON. *Hockey.* The season has ended, we regret to say, but our team gave a very good account of itself, winning 8 games, with 4 drawn and 2 lost. In the Area Knockout we had very bad luck, drawing 3—3 in the first game, and for the replay we had to field a much weakened team due to the loss of Captain J. H. Smith, who was injured in a previous game, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Dunlop to U.K. repat. However, the team gave a good display and were the better team of the two. The opposing side having only one outstanding player, the centre-forward, who scored the two goals. The result was 2—1. However, better luck next time, the boat sailings may not be so regular then.

Soccer. The Unit first and second teams are now settling down, several games were played in February against Army and civilian teams, the first team winning all six matches, all played away from home, which has its disadvantages. The second team are holding their own with 4 games played, 2 won and 2 lost. In the near future we hope to have our own ground constructed, thanks to the help of our parent Unit, the Royal Engineers, who lent us the necessary bulldozers for a period of a week.

3 SQUADRON, SEREMBAN. We are glad to report that the strength of the Squadron has remained steady recently with the exception of Second-Lieutenant B. E. G. Clarke, who has proceeded home on Release as he prefers to be a civilian rather than to remain in the Army (we wonder why) and we welcome in his place Second-Lieutenant J. B. A. Hill, who has just joined us from the U.K. We also welcome S.S.M. Tompkins, whose timely arrival will remove much of the burden from Sergeant Bell's shoulders.

The soccer team has been doing very well but has suffered from the recent loss of Signalman McNeil, who has been posted to R.H.Q., however we hear rumours of the ability of our new Subaltern that makes us fell more optimistic. The big test will come when we play the 1/7 Gurkhas on the 27th February, 1948; if we can beat them we feel there will be no holding us back.

Since it is the cold season at home, we have had several visits from High Ranking Officers lately, so any spare time we may have had has been spent in polishing and cleaning—to say nothing of thinking of answers to questions which we were likely to be asked (actually we thought of the answers to all the questions except the one we were finally asked).

However, nothing daunted we press on regardless.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

February

As this is our first contribution we extend our greetings to the Corps from Farelf. On looking over our long record in the Far East we admit freely that something should have been heard from us a very long time ago. Indeed the rumours have had it that our contribution has become a myth; and so to explode that myth.

We are now old hands in Singapore, having come here from Kandy, Ceylon, with G.H.Q. in September, 1945. The Regiment has recently moved into a delightfully new and as yet unfinished camp called Tyersall, built on the tropical pre-fab style, and we are honoured by having as next door neighbours, the Governor-General on one side and the French Consulate on the other.

We are very lucky in having a Leave Camp on the North-East tip of the Island at Changi. From a pre-war Malay Coastal Artillery Battery site it has been made into an excellent antidote for tired Signalmen by some very willing volunteers.

R.H.Q. Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., commands the Regiment, and has been doing so for the last three years, except for a brief spell of leave in the U.K., from November, 1946, to February, 1947, when he returned to the Regiment accompanied by his wife and small daughter. Major T. I. Ronald arrived in the Regiment from the U.K., a few days before the C.O.'s return from leave and after a short spell of Squadron Commanding has now taken over Second-in-Command. His wife and son are also in Singapore. Captain P. J. C. Lloyd, our present Adjutant, carries on as usual with much of the cares of the world on his shoulders and on occasions relapses into classical music recitals to the Regiment. Our imprest account conjurer and civil employee fiddler is Captain J. R. E. Cross, whose one purpose in coming to Singapore is to foster motor racing around the Island, and he has started a motor-cycling club in the Regiment. R.S.M. Gray, very much ex-2 Division and the Regimental Atom-Bomb was lately heard to ask an inquisitive B.O.R. whether he thought he was his father, mother and W.V.S. worker all wrapped up in one. However, he has his kinder moments, especially on Guard Mounting Parades. He, like the majority of R.H.Q., is domesticated, having his wife in Singapore.

Our M.T. is cared for by two definite stalwarts, Second-Lieutenant J. T. Martin and Sergeant-Major A. Tant. It is rumoured that if you are very nice to them you *might, repeat might,* be given a truck, and with a British driver, too. The Q.M. and T.O.M., Lieutenant Vaughan and Captain Laing respectively, two recent acquisitions from the U.K., are settling down and beginning to lend tone to the Regiment. Lastly, but by no means least, our R.Q.M.S. Hickman, who, besides doing an excellent job of work, is most accommodating, and would pass as a Class I salesman

for W.D. underwear in the best of haberdasheries. His wife is also a recent arrival in Singapore.

No. 1 SQUADRON (LINES) is now commanded by that well-fleshed officer Major S. J. Thompson, late of Ceylon Signal Squadron. Cheerful at all times (even when he is worried), Tommy caused even the hardened Regulars in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to quail when a boat race was suggested. This Squadron is particularly noted for its ability in the field of football, having won the G.H.Q. Football League and only being beaten in the final of the G.H.Q. Cup. S.S.M. Sherard is the Grand Old Man of the Squadron, although rumour has it that the chaps do not find him so very old. Aiding and abetting the O.C. is Lieutenant H. S. Michell, who is also Regimental Schoolmaster (i.e., Education Officer). The Squadron equipment is ably looked after by S.Q.M.S. A. Gilhooly.

No. 2 SQUADRON (WIRELESS). Major J. Ray presides over the Squadron with its scattered miles of Transmitting and Receiving Stations. Jimmy Ray, now to our pride a fully fledged Regular Officer, is seen little, however, and is said to lurk in the stations' spider's-web. However, we hear he may be coming up for air soon to find his way home with his wife and son. The O.C.'s shadow is a new arrival who hails from the R.A.F., Captain G. E. C. Archer, D.F.C., who has been endeavouring to arrange a regular air service between the Stations for his O.C. since his arrival.

S.S.M. Humby, whose wife and family have just arrived, ably abetted by S.Q.M.S. Fiske, look after the discipline and requirements of the Squadron respectively.

No. 3 SQUADRON (OPERATING). Major J. Blower commands the Squadron and the well-being of the Signal Office. Since this Squadron virtually sleeps, eats and is located in the middle of G.H.Q., he is kept very busy repelling boarders, and ensuring a little sleep for a very willing team. Captain P. H. F. Webb combines the arduous duties of Headquarters Signal Officer with organising hockey for the Regiment. Captain A. G. Clapham is Major Blower's

chief lieutenant. Amongst the old hands we must not forget Captain C. P. Kislingbury, our Chief Cipher Officer, who secretly possesses a private Army, but complains he's "terribly short of staff, old chap." S.S.M. Sinclair, who now and then finds time to run the Leave Camp, watches over the welfare of the Squadron, and S.Q.M.S. Cooper and family look after the Squadron's stores. The Squadron surpassed itself on the day of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth's wedding by giving a motor-cycle demonstration on the Padang in front of the Singapore Municipal Buildings, much to the delight of thousands of people of all races and creeds. Our photo shows them at practice.

Sport—1947. We are proud to say that in 1947 we

The Commanding Officer at "play".

possessed one of the best football teams on the Island, including civilian teams. We played 23 matches, won 21, drew 1 and lost 1. One of the last games being a strongly contested replay requiring extra time, when we were beaten in the S.F.A. Knock-out Cup by a Malay civilian team that went on to win the cup for the second year running.

Our cricket and hockey teams played many games and although not having the same capabilities, established themselves with teams well worth playing.

We have had two very enjoyable Regimental shoots, and have found a number of experts in the shape of Second-Lieutenant Stevenson, Driver Hardy, who won the individual competition, and Signalman Chaston, who seems to possess telescopic eyes.

We entered a team in the Table Tennis Championship of Singapore, and although we were beaten in the third round our players showed excellent form and great promise.

We have had some most enjoyable motor cycling trials in which all ranks of the Regiment, including the C.O., entered. Signalman Hurst, who just couldn't be beaten, became the year's champion, whilst Signalman Stephens was a close runner-up. A photo is given below.

Last but not least, the officers have soundly beaten the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the third time running for the "Major Hull" Cup ("All in" Mess Trophy) and are still in possession of the cup; whilst the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are growing used to cleaning the wooden spoon.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

March

Greetings once again to all past and present members of the Corps from Singapore.

The past year has seen many changes in the Unit, of personnel and location, but we seem to be settling down, at least for a few months, so, for the benefit of regulars and our war-time comrades, here is a list of the "poor devils" still "roughing" it.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. L. Morris, O.B.E. (C.O.), Major G. G. L. Hinde (Second-in-Command), Major J. A. S. Fearfield, M.B.E., Major Rahilly, Major Bill Pagett, Captain (T.O.T.) Greenfield, Captain (T.O.M.) Millichip, Captain E. Glover, Lieutenant (Q.M.) Bosher, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Holland, R.S.M. Morton, R.S.M. Ogden, R.Q.M.S. German, S.S.M.'s Webb and Ashworth, S.Q.M.S.'s Leeson, Coventry, Roberts (Yorky), Sergeants Brackenberry, Allison, and Pigg.

The Unit is kept extremely busy on the island maintaining the Changi P.L. route so that the locals can have some copper wire for their coat hangers. It has been rumoured that Second-Lieutenant Sumner has advertised in the local Press asking for the persons interested to remove the remainder of the route in the next month, as his troop has orders to recover it, and he wishes to conserve his limited supply of labour.

Apart from this we have quite a lot more pleasant diversions, including some first class all ranks dances in the N.A.A.F.I. These dances are very well patronised, and extremely well organised by our hard working entertainments committee.

A.K.C. cinema shows are held in the N.A.A.F.I. twice weekly, and are very welcome, as the unit is some fourteen miles from Singapore.

Sport. Towards the latter end of last year a nine-a-side knock-out football competition was held within the Unit, which was won after a hard game by "C" Squadron (L.E.P.) "B" team, who beat the combined Con. Troops "A" team.

Sergeant Brackenbury is now working hard to get the Unit soccer team up to scratch in readiness for the coming season.

The Unit hockey team has not been too successful so far, but we are improving immensely and have got over our first hurdle in the Singapore Hockey Association Knock-out Tournament (which is open to all Service and civilian teams on the island) by beating the Ceylonese Sports Club II one goal to nil.

Our cricket team have now started net practice for the season which starts next month.

Congratulations. To Major Fearfield on his recent marriage. To Captain and Mrs. Richardson on the birth of a daughter.

Farewell. To Captain and Mrs. N. Richardson on leaving for U.K. this month. Bon voyage and the best of luck, Richy.

"BOSH"

No. 3 RAILWAY TELEGRAPH SQUADRON

Austria

April

The cold, snowy weather has now given way to sunny spells and April showers. We had another heavy fall of snow on 2nd April, but it only lasted for one day. The sun and rain saw to that.

The countryside is now taking on its spring clothing, trees and shrubs are in bud, wild crocus, violets, snowdrops and snow roses are appearing in profusion. Yes, it's a grand spot in the spring. Old inhabitants suffering in the clutch of the British spring will be having nostalgic memories of Austria this spring and summer.

With the clearing and drying of the ground, the Squadron's sporting activities were soon under way.

At Soccer we have played the following matches—releases are beginning to be felt in the team:

Friendly v. "Z" Railway Police Coy. (K.O.Y.L.I.)
—Drew 0—0
League v. No. 6 D.A.D.O.S. Dump R.A.O.C.—Lost 4—3
Friendly v. 1154 Railway Operating Sqn. R.E.—Drew 4—4
League v. "Z" Railway Police Coy. (K.O.Y.L.I.)—Lost 3—1

The Squadron have produced four players in Captain

Steele, Signalman Runtz, Signalman Shaw and Signalman Wharton for the B.T.A. Signals hockey team in the Zone Hockey Tournament. Results of these games are as follows:

v. 316 (M.E.D.L.O.C.) Transit Camp & R.H.U.—won 3—0
v. 138 Infantry Brigade Workshops, R.E.M.E. —won 3—1
v. Dorset Regiment —lost 2—1

The Squadron is also well represented in the Medjez Barracks team, who have played two friendly matches with 316 Transit Camp, winning both, 3—0 and 2—0 respectively.

Cricket practice has started and the Squadron fishermen are already reporting good catches and gesturing with their arms.

Towards the end of this month the Squadron will be on the move again. This time to Alamein Camp—the terminus of the M.E.D.L.O.C. "C" Route. The move is not very popular but necessary, we suppose. Anyway, we shan't have to go far to book in for leave or release journeys to U.K. when the time comes.

The old boys from B.T.A. and C.M.F. know the camp quite well, and what they thought of it goes for us, too!!

Above is a photograph of the Squadron less leave and duty personnel, and we hope that old friends will recognise us.

"RUSTY"

No. 2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

April

The Regiment moved to Cyprus in June, 1947, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Du Cros, with Captain R. Bremner (Adjutant), Captain D. L. G. Joseph, Captain F. A. Davidson and Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. Jordan. Since its arrival in the island, Major C. Rolls and Lieutenant W. Oliver have joined it. Meanwhile Major E. S. Whitaker has returned to U.K. on Python after many years service in the Middle East.

Colonel C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., A.A.G., the War Office, has recently visited the Unit and addressed the officers, W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s

S.S.M. Ebbage, S.S.M. G. McClenaghan, S.Q.M.S. G. F. Farmer, S.Q.M.S. Cartwright and Sgt. F. W. Tyler have all been with the Unit for some little time. Among new arrivals are the following regulars, R.S.M. J. Bowie, R.Q.M.S. J. Hastings, S.Q.M.S. F. Church and Sergeant A. H. Pooley, who have joined us since our arrival at our new headquarters.

At Christmas, Lieutenant Judd and the Corps Band

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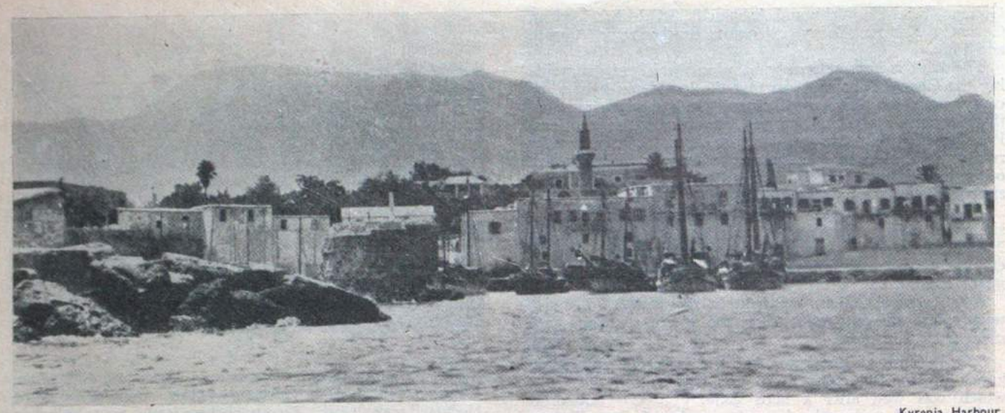

Kyrenia Harbour

CYPRUS

An Impression

ONE approaches Cyprus by sea in the early morning. First impressions are not very good—a brown, barren promontory with a lighthouse, almost desert; in the distance the rugged, uninviting peaks of the Northern Range, and, if one is lucky, in the distance a hundred miles away, the "massif" of Mount Olympus. As one swings into the harbour of Famagusta with the walls of its mediaeval Old City before one, there are views of the hutted and tented camps along the water-front.

Second impressions are not much better as one moves in a truck along indifferent roads to our camp, across (in summer) a parched and treeless plain intersected at places by dried-up watercourses.

After a time one becomes accustomed to the surroundings, accustomed to everything except the heat, which has made even hardened Middle-Easters wilt. It is a strange heat; there is great humidity, but the actual temperature is nothing compared to that experienced in Baghdad or Khartoum, probably less than that of an Egyptian summer. It is, however, very trying, and the heat felt is accentuated by the heat radiated by the inner walls of our Nissen hut.

To those who had experienced the shady permanent camp which we had just left, a shadeless temporary camp in these bleak surroundings came very hard; but as time has gone on conditions have improved, the Nissens have been whitewashed, and we have now the welcome sight of a large N.A.A.F.I. canteen rising rapidly in our midst.

As things have grown worse in other places we have learnt also to appreciate a place where we can go out alone and unarmed, that we are not so many miles from one of the finest bathing beaches in the Middle East, and that not all Cyprus is an arid plain.

Cyprus is, of course, the leave centre of the Middle East. This summer there was a large leave camp on the seashore just outside Famagusta, and up on Mount Olympus at Troodos there is another where the fortunate were able this summer to rest or walk among trees in a really cool temperature, and where at the present time (February), in spite of an exceptionally mild winter, they are indulging in winter sports, though it is certainly not true to say, as some tourist agencies do, that you can ski in the morning at Troodos and bathe the same afternoon at Famagusta, as the places are 90 miles apart.

Such amenities were intended primarily for personnel from Egypt and Palestine, but room has been found at Troodos for local leave for troops in Cyprus. Troops have also taken leave at several other mountain resorts such at Palatres, as well as in Nicosia and Kyrenia.

Kyrenia Castle

We also soon discovered that many things which were not obtainable in the camp could be found in Famagusta and, further afield, in Nicosia, such as restaurants serving reasonable food at not too outrageous prices, the various cinemas and cabarets, out of doors in summer, indoors in winter, and one ran across people from other Units at the N.A.A.F.I. "Pig and Whistle" and various bars in the town. True, the cinemas showed very old pictures and the picture-houses were very uncomfortable; and beer seemed ridiculously expensive.

Famagusta has a number of good shops and Nicosia more and better ones. We soon learnt how and where to buy lurid shirts and ties, as well as things suitable to send home in gift parcels. "Civvy" clothes are much cheaper than at home, and most of us have added to our wardrobe, so that grey flannel trousers with a sports jacket of brown Harris tweed has become almost an off-duty uniform.

For those interested in the past there is much of interest in the island. Most of us have visited the walled Old Cities of Famagusta and Nicosia, the ruins of Salamis, and at least one of the Lusignan castle in the Northern Range; some of us have looked round the Museum in Nicosia, with its relics of ancient Cypriot culture; a few may have been fortunate enough to have seen Paphos, where Aphrodite was first worshipped, the almost inaccessible castle of Buffovento, or the interesting Byzantine monasteries hidden in strange places in the mountains.

Territorial Army

No. 61 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Those who knew the old Bedford Detachment and Ipswich Detachment of No. 54 (East Anglian) Divisional Signals before the war will be glad to know that we still live; but now as a Headquarters Signal Regiment. We still are associated with Bedfordshire and Suffolk. R.H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron are at Bedford, No. 162 Infantry Brigade Group Squadron at Dunstable, No. 2 Squadron and No. 161 Infantry Brigade Group Squadron at Ipswich, and No. 3 Squadron starting at Cambridge.

Among those who have already joined and who are helping to get the new Regiment started are Signalman (old soldiers never die) Deverick, R.Q.M.S. Thurley, S.Q.M.S. Steinmatz, Corporals Bright, Gough, Skerman and Signalman Blackwell at Bedford, Sergeants Cain and Godfrey and Signalman Whiteside at Ipswich. Other characters who have already made their presence felt are Corporal Hawthorne — formerly a Regular, Signalman Griffiths and Driver Smith.

Characters among the Permanent Staff (shades of Tom Sayers and Harry Collins please note!) are R.S.M. Webb (I'm just off to order some beer for the bar). The Chief Clerk, S.S.M. Bottell, whose pencil sketches are a wonder to behold, Sergeant-Majors Robson and Webster—partners in crime at Ipswich—and Baxter, our Dunstable representative, Cox at No. 1 Squadron; and Dickens, who supports the wholesale distribution department. Sergeants Staite and Angus complete the picture. Sergeant Staite is still saving up to buy a horse so that he can go into business on his own.

Commanding Squadrons are Major Angell at Ipswich and Major Cooke at Dunstable, both pre-war members of the Unit, and Major C. R. Millen—a Territorial of long standing, also at Ipswich, and Major N. H. Smith at Bedford.

The Unit was recently presented with the old Signal Office Flag of No. 54 E.A. Signals, originally on Gallipoli in the 1914-18 war. This flag had been preserved by Captain George Kett, who was one of the original members of the R.E. Signal Comany raised in the same Drill Hall before the 1914 war. Some of those now serving are the sons of men who were in that company, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Greaves, said on receiving the framed remnants of the flag, that he was proud to receive this relic of the past. Numbers of former R.E. Signals were present, and many old comrades of the pre-war Units of Royal Signals, raised in the same Drill Hall.

Camp this year is at Canterbury, where we shall share accommodation with No. 2/20 Army Signals—old friends of our from pre-war days when we were all part of No. 54 E.A. Divisional Signals. We look forward to a good camp.

Latest piece of news is of the appointment of Colonel R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., as our Honorary Colonel.

"BEDSWICH"

No. 62 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

This is our first introduction to the columns of THE WIRE, and we are anxious to announce somewhat belatedly the official birth of this Regiment in Chester, with its H.Q. in a famous War-Time Signals Camp, *viz.*, "The Firs," Chester, which will bring varied memories to many past and present members of the Corps.

We have a large affiliated family of Squadrons, and can boast of being the largest Regiment (on paper) in the newly-constituted Territorial Army.

The various members of the family speak for themselves. Our staff consists of:—

Commanding Officer—Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Woodham, T.D., late of No. 42 and No. 66 Division, No. 6 L. of C. and No. 9 Air Formation Signals, M.E.L.F. We welcome the Adjutant, Captain L. S. Bamber, also late of No. 42 and No. 66 Division, R.E., and No. 59 and No. 53 Divisional Signals, and our gallant Captain and Quartermaster, "Bill" Mills, who served with C.S.O., Westco, in Burma between three and four years.

The R.S.M.—Mr. Dawson, late of No. 46 Divisional Signals and No. 4 Air Formation Signals, C.M.F., Egypt and Palestine, S.S.M. Lea ("Jigger"), ex-India, Sergeant Haigh ("Bomber"), ex-Palestine, and Sergeant Cornthwaite, ex-No. 13 Corps, Italy, complete our training team.

Nos. 87 and 93 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRONS, MASON STREET DRILL HALL, LIVERPOOL. Officers—O.C. No. 87 Signal Squadron, Major A. Hughes,

ex-No. 3 Divisional Signals; O.C. No. 93 Signal Squadron, Major W. K. Dunn.

P.S.I.s—No. 87 Signal Squadron, S.S.M. "Johnny" Holmes, ex-India; Sergeant "Chippy" Wood, ex-G.H.Q., Italy. No. 93 A.G.R.A. Signals Squadron, S.S.M. "Freddie" Barrett, ex-Bulford and Guards Divisional Signals.

No. 88 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON, CROSS-HEATH DRILL HALL, NEWCASTLE, STAFFS. Officers—O.C., Major E. A. Mayne, ex-East Africa.

P.S.I.s—S.S.M. "Ginger" Casey, ex-Blackdown, Egypt and Palestine; Sergeant "Tacker" Davies, ex-Blackdown and India.

No. 94 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., MEAL-HOUSE LANE DRILL HALL, ATHERTON, LANCS. Officers—O.C., Major E. R. Webster, ex-8th Army Signals, C.M.F. Captain D. A. E. Choppen, ex-B.A.O.R. Second-Lieutenant J. H. Fairclough, ex-Royal Navy.

P.S.I.s—Sergeant G. Richardson ("Badgy"), ex-Southern Command Signals; Sergeant Knowles, ex-No. 3 T.T.R., Catterick.

No. 95 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., DRILL HALL, TEMPLE STREET, NEWPORT, MON. Officers—O.C., Major R. Forest-Jones, ex-No. 8 Air Formation Signals, C.M.F. Captain W. V. McCormak, late R.E.s, ex-M.E.L.F. and C.M.F.

P.S.I.s—S.S.M. T. W. Miller, ex-India; Sergeant T. Moran, ex-No. 52 Lowland Division.

No. 96 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., DRILL HALL, GREENWAY ROAD, RUNCORN. Officers—O.C., Major T. I. J. Toler, D.F.C., ex-Glider Pilot. Captain A. G. Kneen, ex-Palestine Command Signals. Lieutenant R. Thompson, ex-India.

P.S.I.s—Sergeant V. Shreeves, ex-M.E.L.F., Sergeant R. Goldthorpe, ex-M.E.L.F.

No. 16 WIRELESS SIGNAL SQUADRON, TYPE "G," DARWIN STREET DRILL HALL, NORTHWICH. Officers—C.O., Major H. Blakemore, ex-M.E.L.F. Major The Earl Kitchener, ex-No. 8 Air Formation Signals, C.M.F. Captain B. T. Love, ex-No. 55 Divisional and No. 30 Corps Signals.

P.S.I.s—R.S.M. R. Folk, Sergeant "Blondie" Whatmough, ex-India.

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The advent of Spring seems to have put new life into soldiering in the T.A.

We opened the season with a T.A. Ball held at Blighmont Lodge Drill Hall, Millbrook, Southampton, on Tuesday, 30th March. Having proved our skill in the ballroom, we are now asked to prove it in the field by finding the solution to the problem we have been set by the C.S.O. in his T.E.W.T. for T.A. Officers of No. 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment and No. 43 (Wessex) Divisional Signal Regiment to be held on Sunday, 11th April.

The organisation in connection with the Ball fell to the lot of Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmith and Major Finney, and we are grateful to them and their many helpers for a very enjoyable evening. The Ball was a great success in itself, but was from the financial aspect somewhat tricky. At 1.30 a.m. the C.O. happened to meet two members of the Southampton Constabulary at the entrance. Knowing that they had been requested to attend by the Secretary for the purpose of conveying him and the expected bullion to the police safe, he inspected the cash box nearby to find therein the sum of eightpence. He took them on to the bar and hastily dispensed with their services.

Dance music was provided by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, under its Director of Music, Lieutenant J. L. Judd.

Phillip Ridgeway's Cabaret girls gave an attractive performance which was much enjoyed by all present.

The competition on the miniature range consisted of firing four rounds at a three-quarter inch white patch in the centre of a small Service target. The prize of 5s. was given to anyone hitting the white patch with three out of four rounds. Many fine "groups" were recorded, and we congratulate Major Harvey on being the only competitor to win a prize throughout the evening. He definitely has an "eye" for the white patch.

We are cheered to know that our Annual Camp for 1948 is to be at Haxland on the banks of the Solent, opposite Cowes, Isle of Wight. From what we hear we are in for plenty of training tempered with social attractions. The Royal Signals Sailing Association have very kindly let us have one of their yachts for our week in July from 10th to 18th.

"SIXTY-THREE"

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT, EASTLEIGH, HANTS. Training is still very spasmodic, and most of our time is spent in shifting stores from one part of the hall to another in order that the builders may continue on their remorseless way.

This unsatisfactory situation is not improved by the decision of the Powers-That-Be that no civilians can be employed as M.T. Storeman and/or Clerk. This means that our one P.S.I., Sergeant Wheldon, must continue to be Orderly Room Sergeant, Quartermaster, Returns Clerk, M.T. Clerk, Technical Storeman, M.T. Storeman, and, with the O.C., Canteen Supervisor. In his spare time he plays hockey, looks after his new family, and is a P.S.I. His motto is "One for all, and all for one." At least, as he ruefully remarks, "That is what it has to be."

Speaking of hockey, we continue to play with varying success, and ever-increasing enthusiasm. It has been our one real point of contact during these homeless days, and very soon we hope to develop the same excellent teamwork in sterner pursuits when training really gets going again.

"ASSULIKET"

No. 15 WIRELESS SQUADRON. Although Plymouth has no part of Divisional Signals in its post-war T.A., the gap is being filled by No. 15 Wireless Squadron, who at present own a large part of Raglan Barracks and hope to move shortly across the way to the old Signals Drill Hall in York Street.

Starting at Raglan in a modest way with one room, we have expanded to such extent as to be in possession of 10 rooms, and our neighbours, R.E.M.E. and R.A., are looking rather apprehensively at us in case we continue to expand at this rate.

Roy McDonald, as well fed and genial as ever, presides over an extremely well stocked bar, while down in the lower regions Sid Newcombe, back to his old racket as "Q," can be heard ripping the tops off numerous packing cases.

Training facilities include a very comprehensive lay-out in the operators' training rooms, with equipment coming in steadily, and two complete Austin demonstration chassis for the drivers and fitters.

At the moment our D.R.s have to be satisfied with sundry portions of an aged motor cycle, but several highly original schemes are afoot to remedy this.

Dick King, our Transport Sergeant, and Lieutenant Hawke, our M.T.O., have aged rapidly since the arrival of

our transport, and it is said that Dick will be pensioned off if we get any more.

At the recent Trade Board at Salisbury, Corporal "Tug" Wilson and John Hookway obtained a B II and B III respectively, and Sergeant Brunyee, Lance-Corporal Jimmie Cloke and Lance-Corporal Martin Cloke collected their old D II ratings. Who got his feet wet on the rough riding course?

Mention must be made of our 25 Engineering Cadets, who nobly endure the long lectures of our instructors and the kind curses of the driving instructors.

Our P.S.I.s appear to be getting over their first shock of being with a T.A. Unit, and led by our C.O., Major Harvey, we have had several grand nights of a distinctly social kind.

Any ex-Signals personnel in the district are always welcome to drop in for a chat and a look round; there is no compulsion to join (not much).

Congratulations to Sergeant Les Mitchell on the birth of a daughter, and to Signalman John Scobling on the birth of a son (Thanks, boys, mine's a pint).

"J.B."

No. 50 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

After many accommodation troubles during 1947, the Regiment has now settled in its new home at "Danescourt House," Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

The house lends itself well to Signals use, having 25 rooms, besides outhouses, garages, gardens and several acres of training grounds.

Starting an entirely new Unit in an area where there is no Regimental tradition is no easy job, but we hope to make "Danescourt" very attractive both for military training and for social activities.

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Calveley, O.B.E. (late C.O., No. 2 War Office Signals), now on a business trip to the U.S.A. As Second-in-Command we have Major R. D. Thirsk, D.F.C., who was a bomber pilot during the war, but a T.A. Signals Officer pre-war with No. 4 A.A. Divisional Signals. Among our other T.A. officers are Major M. Mitchell, M.B.E. (late C.S.O.'s Staff, 2nd Army), Captain L. F. C. Wootten (late No. 150 O.C.T.U. Staff), Captain J. E. Morrell (late No. 5 Infantry Divisional Signals), Captain F. H. Chambers (late S.C.U. No. 3, War Office), Captain C. P. Drake (late West Africa Command Signals), Lieutenant (T.O.M.) C. A. Cobb (late No. 5 L. of C. Signals) and Lieutenant B. G. King (late East Africa Command Signals).

The officers of the permanent staff are Captain R. W. Seabrook, Adjutant (late No. 12 and No. 18 Air Formation Signals) and Major H. J. L. Archbold, M.B.E., Q.M. (late No. 2 Air Formation Signals). W.O.I E. Launders (late No. 10 Air Formation Signals) is our R.S.M., with W.O.II G. P. Higgins (late No. 2 Air Formation Signals) and Sergeant C. Harden (late P.W., Thailand Railway) as our permanent staff.

Among the old hands who have joined us as W.O.s and N.C.O.s are S.S.M. R. E. Lymm (late No. 1 Divisional Signals), Sergeant J. B. Brown (late No. 14 Army Signals), S.Q.M.S. H. A. Cowley (late Combined Operations H.Q., Dundonald) and Sergeant F. H. Harper (late No. 2 Air Formation Signals).

Affiliated to the Regiment and housed at "Danescourt" is No. 23 Engineer Group Signal Troop, commanded by Captain R. Onions (late G.H.Q. Signals, India), with Sergeant W. H. Harvey (late No. 78 Divisional Signals) as Troop Sergeant.

Well-attended All-Ranks Dances have been held during the past few months, and a Games Tournament with the Wolverhampton Branch of the Royal Signals Association on 5th March, 1948, was the occasion for reminiscence and several "big grips."

An Officers' Invitation Dance on 19th March was attended by some 70 guests, who included many well-known local people. Our principal guest was Brigadier W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E. (C.S.O., Western Command), while among other visiting officers were the following serving and ex-members of the Corps:—Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Woodham, T.D. (Commanding No. 62 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A.), Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Huff, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Chubb and Captain G. Hart (late No. 6 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment). Staffordshire T.A. and A.F. Association were represented by Brigadier P. J. Slater, D.F.C., T.D., A.D.C., Colonel W. J. Beddows, M.C., T.D., D.L., and Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Scaife, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.

No. 1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Activity reached its peak at Cateswell House when we held a week-end camp on 3rd-4th April. Attendance was good and, as a rehearsal for the week's camp in May, the operation was invaluable. Amongst the many jobs dealt with we will mention the erection of two tall wireless masts. These give us a most workmanlike appearance. The boys evidently made a good job of it, for the masts are still quite perpendicular. This in spite of having one or two wrong halyards (no relation to Lance-Corporal Derek Halyard).

The catering for the week-end was in the very efficient hands of Mr. Watts, a local caterer introduced by Flying Officer H. Bailey, our co-tenant here with the Air Training Corps. Clean, white tablecloths and fresh daffodils struck a modern note. For the Army, I mean. How different from our boyhood days in "H" Block, Brompton Barracks. Yes, I see that some of you can just remember.

For our Part II Orders this month we have to record with pleasure the appointment to this Regiment of Lieutenant G. J. Cutler and the elevation of P. Darrall to sergeant.

As Isabella of Campobasso used to say, "Meglio tardi che mai," so we will record with regret the departure of Lieutenant E. V. R. Svensson. He left for London in January last, but not wishing to sever his connection with the T.A., now belongs to No. 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., where we trust he will be happy.

The Unit dances are still an embarrassing success, the problem being not how many we can get in, but how can we keep them out.

The foundation stone of our Type B. L.A.D. has been laid with the arrival of Armament Artificer W.O.II C. N. Lee, to whom we extend greetings and a hearty welcome (Enter chorus of little vehicle mechanics singing "Here we go gathering Nuts and Bolts").

Look out for our next thrilling instalment.

"BARLEUX"

51st/52nd (S) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The old practice of having an annual Territorial Army Officers' Ball has been re-introduced, and this year it took place on 12th March in the Town and County Hall, Aberdeen. The Ball was preceded by a dinner party in our Officers' Mess for Officers—past and present—and their

ladies. Among the many guests present at the dinner were Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O., the Divisional Commander, and Mrs. Barber. The Ball was a great success and, in spite of austerity, held true to tradition of being the social event of the year.

On the evening before the Ball, we had a very welcome visit from the Chief of Staff, Scottish Command, Major-General R. K. Arbuthnot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. In addition to listening very sympathetically to many of our problems, he visited No. 1 Squadron on training and spoke to many Officers and Other Ranks.

The Regiment learned with deep regret of the passing of Field Marshal Lord Milne, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O. The Regiment was represented by the Honorary Colonel, the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant at his funeral here in Aberdeen on 1st April.

In the middle of last month we had a very welcome addition to our permanent staff. Sergeant P. H. Morris joined us from No. 3 Training Regiment, Catterick Camp, and immediately stepped into the breach as O.R.S. The R.S.M.'s immediate reaction was to take 14 days' well earned leave!

On 6th April we had a very fleeting visit from Major Stevenson, GII Signals, Highland District. We are looking forward to his next visit and hope it will be a longer one.

No. 1 SQUADRON. Training has been going on apace this last month and attendance has been good, particularly as far as M.T. Drivers are concerned. The highlight of the month was an excellent demonstration of Methods of Instruction by the Corps Team. We are very much indebted to Major Kendall Barron, and hope he will be visiting us again soon.

Sergeant Bailey, our P.S.I., is at the moment away in Edinburgh on a Cinema Projectionists' Course, and we have great hopes of being able to add Film Shows to our Training Programme in the near future.

No. 2 SQUADRON. We are all very sorry to be losing our Squadron Commander, Major P. A. Dewar, O.B.E., T.D. He has found that his business commitments are very heavy, and that he cannot devote sufficient time to the running of the Squadron. He is being transferred to the T.A. Reserve of Officers w.e.f. 1st May, 1948, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. This is a great blow to us as he is our only officer, and another does not seem to be forthcoming at the moment. In any case it will be virtually impossible to find anyone so liked and respected by all ranks of the Squadron. He was commissioned and joined the Squadron in 1937, and had a very distinguished war record. We wish him God-speed.

We are much indebted to Captain R. S. Stewart, who commands the Highland District Signal Troop at Perth, for the keen interest he has taken in us, and all that he is doing to guide us in the absence of our Squadron Commander.

Training has been going on steadily during the month. A number of training periods have been taken up with training films, all of which proved a great attraction. Our numbers on these evenings were increased by the Army Cadet Force and the R.A.S.C. Company, T.A., who share our Drill Hall.

We are all getting very excited now because our T.A. and A.F. Association are rebuilding our miniature range, and it is hoped to get in some practice in the very near future.

No. 3 SQUADRON. At the end of February, the Squadron took an active part in the floor show of the Services' Cavalcade in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. As a result of this we had high hopes of increasing our numbers, but no such luck.

Lately, chance has delivered us a severe blow. Our P.S.I., Sergeant MacKay has been smitten with measles. We are hoping for better luck and more to tell you next month.

"SCOTTIE"

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.Q. AND H.Q. SQUADRON, TAUNTON. Our Week-End Camp, which took place over the Easter holidays at the R.A.C. Centre, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset, was indeed a very useful and enjoyable one. The programme included a Dance which was held on Saturday, 29th March, at the "Stanley Gym" from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. It went down very well and paid its way through. A number of varied incidents occurred during the evening which were very amusing. To finish the evening off one of our lance-corporals had the doubtful privilege of sleeping on a sweeping brush—to the amusement of his room-mates. The training programme included a visit to the Tank Museum, and a lecture by Lieutenant-Colonel Atthill, O.B.E., on Signal Tactics of Divisional Signals in War.

A trip to Bournemouth on Easter Sunday was of great interest to everyone. On the way back to Camp our driver took a wrong turning somewhere in Dorset and landed us in front of a Firing Range. We eventually found our tracks again and arrived in camp at about 1 a.m., after a most roundabout tour of the countryside.

During our stay the weather was very good to us right up to the arrival at Taunton, when the sky was once more darkened with grey clouds.

Our most grateful thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Atthill, O.B.E., for letting us have the full use of the Signals Wing, and to the A.T.S. and Staff for the help they gave us during our stay.

We are now looking forward very much to our 10 days' camp to be held at Fremington, North Devon, from 24th July to 2nd August, 1948, when it is hoped that another enjoyable time will be spent by all.

Our recruiting figures are still going up, and it is hoped that more keen men will take this great advantage of coming into the T.A. in the near future.

A full report on the Officers' Annual Dinner held at the County Hotel, Taunton, on 10th April will be given in our next month's contribution.

We will now pass you over to the Squadrons.

No. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER, DEVON. We have done quite a lot of training lately, and our Q.M. has already issued a substantial amount of Training Equipment to get on with. Thanks to the "muckin'-in" spirit which we have acquired by virtue of previous experience, the chaps got together and, under the guidance of the Senior N.C.O.s, have rigged up several Training Rooms and have spent hour after hour painting and decorating them. It is really a credit to us.

Quite a lot of Range Practice has been held recently, and special mention must be made of the wonderful shooting of Sergeant Pauley and Signalman Welch, who almost shot the bull out of recogition; but what amused me most was the Dart Specialist beside me who thought "he had to start off with a DOUBLE!"

Our Transport is really first-class and was complimented by the O.C., Major G. S. Dalton, who I'm pleased to say is faring well and has spent quite a lot of time in helping us to be "Fighting Fit and Fit to Fight."

Apparently we are still the "strongest Unit in the West of England"; naturally I stand corrected, and a drive for

ex-Royal Signals N.C.O.s is being carried out at the moment.

Sport. We are hoping to get quite a lot more of this as time goes by. Unfortunately we have not enough competition from other Squadrons in our Unit at the moment. Suffice it to say that at Bovington we were able to defeat No. 2 and No. 3 Squadrons at Football by 5 goals to 1. Our Adjutant, Captain Clinch, took his camera along and filmed us "in action"; we hope to see ourselves on the screen soon.

Obituary. 2603749 Signalman K. R. G. Westcott.

No. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET. Since our last contribution we have been on our Easter Camp at the R.A.C. Depot, Bovington, which we all thoroughly enjoyed, including the exclusive expensive night spent in lovely Bournemouth. However, valuable military experience and contacts were gained and made by all ranks of the Squadron.

Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s and men of No. 2 Squadron offer their deepest sympathy to the Commander, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, in the sad loss of his brother, Commodore Martin St. Leger Nott, of the Royal Indian Navy, and his wife and son in the tragic air crash.

Signalman M. R. W. Hosey and Miss Rose Cox, of Huntspill, Somerset, were married at St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater, on Saturday, 27th March, 1948. Members of the Squadron formed a Military Arch with rifles to the main church approach. The bride was given away by S.S.M. P. E. A. Hall, P.S.I. of the Squadron. We must congratulate Signalman Hosey on his keen T.A. spirit by leaving his bride four hours after the wedding to attend the Easter week-end voluntary training camp. This fact was well emphasised in the Sunday national papers. Good show, Signalman Hosey.

Sport. Football: Although severely beaten by Exeter's "Tommy Lawtons" at the Camp Match — we would, however, offer our hearty congratulations. But! we WILL avenge our past defeat at Fremington Camp in August—where we shall turn our English version of the "Russian Dynamos" out on the field.

"WILCO-NOBBY"

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A. (KENSINGTONS)

We are happy to welcome to the Regiment R.S.M. L. Bray and S.Q.M.S. G. A. C. Howard, who have joined us to fill vacancies in the Permanent Cadre. We are also glad to welcome among the Territorials, Sergeant Baker, an ex-Regular member of the Corps.

We have had an active month training, and included a Sunday Exercise on 21st March. Headquarters established itself at the London and Middlesex Rifle Association's Club at Bisley, where they made themselves comfortable for the day and received an excellent lunch and tea. "A" Patrol set up in The Manor, Datchet, chosen especially by Captain Harpur, who lives just round the corner, and "B" Patrol in The White Hart, Wargrave. A good time was had by all.

Saturday evening, 3rd April, we held an All-Ranks Social in the canteen. A double or quits cash quiz, musical chairs and dancing made the evening go with a swing, and much credit is due to S.S.M. Lloyd, who acted as M.C.

On Friday, 2nd April, we welcomed a team from No. 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, whom we had challenged to a shoot on the Miniature Range. It was a close match in which they beat us by five points, and we are only waiting to get our own back next month.

Welcome news was brought by the stork this month in the form of Merrily Jane Charlotte on 2nd April to Captain and Mrs. Harpur. Congratulations.

No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

No. 40 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., SUTTON COLDFIELD. First of all we extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C., Major N. H. Russell, who has recently been appointed to guide us along the paths of Army life. Also we congratulate Second-Subaltern Timmis, who has risen to these dizzy heights after holding the rank of staff-sergeant within the Unit for many months. Long may she reign.

The T.A. area in which we are located had a visit from General Mansergh, who represents the T.A. at the War Office. A P.S.I. on a motor-cycle was sent to guide him from New Street Station to Kingstanding Drill Hall, where a conference took place. The General was accompanied by Major-General Lockart, the Commander of No. 5 A.A. Group.

Training has been proceeding on lines which can only be described as slow but sure (we can never understand why A.T.S. faint at the sight of the switchboards and teleprinters, and when they come they say they would like to be cooks).

We are visiting Birmingham T.O.L. Exchange on 5th April, and are having a conducted tour over the place just to show our reluctant A.T.S. how easy it all is.

We shall be in camp for the week-end 17th-18th April, and in the next issue of THE WIRE we shall report our progress there.

After purchasing some photographs of Signals at work in the War Office and spending hours putting them on show, we sat back to await results. So far nothing has happened, but we still have hopes, especially if some ex-Signals types who we know abound in Sutton area read this and tear themselves away from the apron strings to which we know they are attached, and come and see us again.

No. 12 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

No. 24 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, THE DRILL HALL, HORFIELD, BRISTOL. This month's "main event" was the visit of the G.O.C., No. 2 A.A. Group, Major-General A. H. Hornby, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.

He expressed complete satisfaction with all he saw and was particularly impressed with our Auxiliaries, who he said were as smart as any he had seen, either Regular or Territorial. Bravo, girls!

We have now moved our training quarters and, as the painters and decorators have moved on from our part of the Drill Hall, we can really get down to fixing things up on a more permanent basis.

We would like to say a word of greeting to Sergeant Stevens, who has transferred to us from a local Unit. We hope he will prove a useful acquisition to the Squadron.

There is very little to report this month, except that some of the members have been busy with the social activities of the thriving local branch of the Signals

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2nd County of London Cadet Battalion

This A.C.F. Unit is the only battalion affiliated to the Royal Signals. The only other A.C.F. Signals affiliation is a Company attached to the 7th Royal Warwickshire Battalion at Coventry. Before the re-organisation of the Cadet Battalion in the County of London in 1944 it was divided into two separate Units, the 1st West of London Cadet Corps (Royal Signals) and the London Divisional Signals (Wandsworth) Cadet Corps.

The object of the Army Cadet Force is to form the character of cadets, to make them good citizens and, by their training, to prepare them for entry into the Army. This Unit has striven particularly to interest cadets in Signals and to encourage and help them to join the Corps when they became old enough to join up, or, as frequently happens, when they volunteer to join H.M. Forces. The primary training of all Cadet Battalions consists of basic Military Training up to the standard of War Certificate "A." In this Battalion, many cadets have selected Signals for post-Certificate "A" training, and at the same time Signal Training has been run in parallel with War Certificate "A" training for those interested and able to attend an additional parade. The rapid progress made by cadets after joining H.M.F. is ample indication of the value of the training given by the Battalion.

The last Annual Inspection of the Battalion was held by Major the Hon. H. R. Allsopp, of the Coldstream Guards.

On Remembrance Day the Battalion provided a Guard of Honour for the Honorary Colonel of the 7th London Brigade, R.F.A. (Major-General Sir Claude F. Liardet, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., T.D., D.L.) at their O.C.A. parade. The General complimented the Guard on its bearing and smart turn-out.

Since returning from last year's Annual Summer Camp at Stanmer Park, Brighton, the Battalion has settled down to routine training for War Certificate "A." An examination took place on 8th February, when 12 cadets passed Part I of the examination. During the examinations the Battalion was visited by the Colonel Commandant of the County of London, Colonel C. W. Fort, M.B.E., M.C., and

Lieut.-Colonel J. E. Williams, M.C., Commanding Officer, and Cadet Williams

we were encouraged by his letter to the C.O., in which the Colonel said that he was impressed by the numbers, appearance and conduct of those on parade. Colonel Fort was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel R. Lockyer Clark, the Deputy Commandant of the area. Colonel Lockyer Clark's frequent visits to the Unit are always welcomed because of the valuable advice he gives, based on his own experience as a Battalion Commander.

Summer Camp, Shoreham-on-Sea

The Battalion has recently provided entrants to several competitions arranged in the County of London in shooting, boxing and football. Unfortunately, we have not been so successful with football and boxing as with shooting. A team has been entered for the County of London Inter-Battalion Shooting Competition, and it is thought that the team has a good chance of success.

During the season several successful dances have been held with the help of No. 264 (7th London) Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). The Drill Hall was kindly loaned for the purpose by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Mayer, T.D., who has generously handed the profits of the dances to the Cadet funds.

After being at the Drill Hall, 66 High Street, Fulham, now the H.Q. of No. 264 (7th London) Field Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), for a number of years, we moved recently to Fulham House, 87 High Street, Fulham, the H.Q. of No. 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. G. Knight, T.D. We were sorry to have to leave 66 High Street, because we had operated there over a number of years in the varying circumstances presented by the War. The Gunners whom we left were very helpful to the Unit, and since transferring to the Signals premises we have been welcomed by generous offers of help.

Cadets from the Signal Platoon of the Unit have attended Signal Courses held by the School of Signals, Catterick, and by London District, and all those who attended the courses have been successful in passing the Signal Qualifying Test.

We have been fortunate in increasing the complement of officers recently, two having joined us on transfer from other counties. In addition, we have had the benefit of two under-officers, one joining us from a Royal Signals Unit and the other an ex-cadet of the Unit on the completion of his military service.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Branch Notes

Birmingham

Major F. Braine again presided at the committee meeting on Thursday, 25th March, our Chairman, Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., still being under the doctor's orders. The Committee's greetings to Brigadier James, and we sincerely hope that he will be with us again long before these notes appear. New committee members are: Miss J. Pilkington, Captain R. S. Evans and Mr. L. Whitmarsh. They are very welcome indeed. Now that the restrictions on numbers attending banquets have been removed, we turn our attention once more to the question of the Annual Dinner. 2nd October is the date in mind at the moment, but we hope to be in a position to tell you more about this in the near future. Another thing we shall enjoy telling you about will be the outing by motor coach to the Royal Tournament in June. Everything is organised, and we don't even care if it rains. We have no doubt whatever that our Honorary Secretary has even looked after this and has made an arrangement with the Meteorological Office for something special in the way of sunshine. Everyone is very interested in the news regarding Mercury House, Bournemouth, and all members here agree that such an establishment will be a most suitable memorial. Many of us will look forward to paying a visit to Mercury House and one feels that a meeting with an old friend is certain to result. Captain Ralph Ironmonger will be attending the meeting of Branch Secretaries in London and has his notes all ready. It is always a tonic to listen to Ralph, for he knows what he is talking about and has the Association very much at heart. A very fair crowd turned up in the Crown Hotel after the Committee meeting. Not, of course, as large as the one before. The annual meeting certainly draws a goodly company. We are now to consider ways and means of making the usual monthly meetings more attractive, and to plan some form of entertainment for the winter. It is to be hoped that the fuel position will be easier by that time, for undoubtedly the temperature of the room affects the attendance. The entertainment we have in mind need not necessarily involve the engagement of red-nosed comedians. One always feels so sorry for these hard-working people who never quite "make it," and it must be admitted that we don't like feeling sorry for other people these days.

We might have a Brains Trust or a Quiz. Someone may give a ten minute lecture. Perhaps someone will start a fight. You never know. In any case, a couple of hours could be used up quite well with a little ogranisation, hateful word though it is. Come and see us now that you have your "basic." Last Thursday in the month at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. It will probably be your turn to pay, but don't let that stop you.

"BARLEUX"

Sheffield and District

At the March meeting, held on 24th March in the Ex-Services' Institute, Milk Street, Sheffield, after the brief discussion of business matters affecting the formation of the Branch, attention was turned to the preparation for an attractive programme of social affairs.

The first function of such a nature is a Dance, which is to be held at Greystones, Sheffield, on 19th May. In addition to the usual buffet and bar, one committee member has discreetly hinted at a cabaret. Members, and others interested, should note that full details will be announced in the Press, and an eye should be kept on the advertisement columns of the local papers.

All members were gratified at the size of the turn-up at the last meeting, but the room will hold lots more, and, if necessary, the Committee is prepared to secure larger floor space! Many war-time comradeships have already been renewed; and if any members resident in the district have not already contacted the Secretary, he is Mr. G. J. Oliver, and his address is 80 Holmhirst Road, Sheffield, 8.

Newcastle and District

Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., was in the chair at our Committee Meeting held on Monday, 1st March. Immediately following this meeting the committee adjourned to the Bridge Hotel, Newcastle, to attend the Annual General Meeting. Here the attendance was somewhat disappointing. However, those present gave a good account of themselves and, on the whole, the meeting was quite successful.

Our committee has been strengthened by the addition of Major A. H. Donnelly and Sergeant Mick Henry.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Mensley, M.B.E., T.D., replaces Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Kirkcaldy, O.B.E., as Vice-Chairman.

It is thought that there may be a number of ex-members of the Corps in this area who are not members of the local branch of the O.C.A. Should these notes catch the eye of any such old friends they may be interested to know that there is a hearty welcome waiting for them at the No. 3 Squadron Club, 50th (N) Division Signal Regiment, T.A., The Drill Hall, Elmgrove Terrace, Gateshead. Come along and meet Mick Henry, who will tell you all about it.

May we be permitted to congratulate the Corps Committee on having established in Bournemouth the first of the two Royal Signals War Memorial Holiday Clubs. We hope that the second club, to be located in the North of England, will be established in the not too distant future.

"N.J.W."

Salisbury

The Branch Re-union Dinner was held on Saturday, 6th March at the Café Rendezvous, Salisbury, with the following in attendance, as shown in the accompanying photograph: Top row (standing) Messrs. Joy, Baker, Simms, Bailey, Thompson, Relf, Greatorex (Honorary Secretary), Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., a guest, Messrs. Sartain, Robertson, McKenna, Grey, guest, guest, Mr. Bent, Major Phillips. Seated (back table, left to right): Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E., Councillor Gordon (Mayor of Salisbury), Brigadier E. J. Murphy, C.B.E. (General Secretary), Brigadier R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. (President), Colonel A. C. Allan, D.S.O., M.C. (Vice-President), Major J. Wheeler (Chairman). Seated front (left to right): Messrs. Goodridge, Lapham, Hand, Cox, Major A. Trapmore (Treasurer), the Rev. W. Hughes, Brigadier A. C. Sykes, C.B.E., D.S.O., guest, guest. We apologise for the obscurity of the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association in the enclosed photograph (if one looks very hard, one may discern the wave of hair adorning Major Trapmore—well, that's the General Secretary's property).

We of the Salisbury Branch have been very busy organising various functions. Our draw on the Grand National proved very popular and showed quite a good profit, although the big prize money eluded our members. Nevertheless, several consolation awards found their way to deserving cases.

We held a dance at the Guildhall, Salisbury on 9th April, and, although it proved to be a financial loss, a very pleasant evening was spent by those who did attend, and now we are looking forward with great anticipation to a bumper night on 13th May, on the occasions of the visit of the Corps Band, who are playing at a dance on that date. We feel sure that with the help and co-operation of our neighbours, the Southern Command Signal Regiment, we shall have no fear of a loss on this occasion.

"SARUM"

Bristol and District

The Bristol Branch goes from strength to strength; membership is steadily increasing and the most ambitious social function yet held by the branch was an outstanding success. This took the form of a Dance on Saturday, 3rd April, which was held at the Drill Hall in Old Market Street with the willing assistance and co-operation of our good friends the 44th Royal Tank Regiment, T.A., who were ably represented at the function by their Adjutant, Captain Miller. About 180 of our own members, their friends and members of the local T.A. Signal Units came along to enjoy the fun and, it may be a hackneyed phrase but it's true, a good time was had by all. The success of the venture was mainly due to the very hard work put in by our Social Secretary, Mr. Barr (does anyone else remember him doing similar things in No. 1 Command Signals?) and as a result we were able to devote a substantial profit to Branch funds. For my own part, I am sure that I was not the only one who ran into a number of old friends with whom one had served both at home and abroad.

The monthly informal meeting at the "Old Duke" on 9th April was once again well attended, and the Secretary found no difficulty in obtaining sufficient names for the proposed skittles team! More news of this later. For those who found the atmosphere of the private room too nostalgic, the Private Bar was available, graced with the presence of Catherine Lacey and other members of the well-known Bristol Old Vic Company. We could throw an earth pin from the "Old Duke" into the pit of the Theatre Royal!

Under this month's personal column we regret to have to announce the resignation of Mr. Barr, who has been our Social Secretary and worked so hard for the Branch. He is taking up an appointment with the Forestry Commission in Bodmin, and we wish him all the best in his new job. His place is taken by Ken Brown (some of the Sahibs may remember him in No. 4 Corps Signal Regiment during the Imphal days). He has a lot of work on hand and he starts the job with our confidence and best wishes.

Hey! Barleux of Birmingham! That's right, you at the top of the page! Have you heard anything yet about this proposed combined outing of ours? It has been suggested that we meet at some place like Malvern during July or August—I know the Bristol Branch is very keen. I expect we shall hear from you before our next meeting on 14th May though, and maybe we two scribes will meet some day!

The big forthcoming attraction is the visit of the Corps Band to Bristol on 15th May. This is the Saturday of Whitsun and a committee comprising representatives of the Association, No. 12 A.A. Signal Regiment, T.A., No. 1 A.R.G. Signal Squadron, T.A., and No. 2 A.A. Signal Regiment, T.A., has already started work on organising a Concert to be followed by a Dance during the evening. All this will take place at the New Drill Hall on Horfield Common, and we are hoping for a record attendance. So make a note of the date. As I have mentioned previously, our usual monthly informal meeting will be held the night before at the same place and the same time (7.30 p.m.).

All the best for now—we shall be along in June again!

"D.P.J.H."

Branch Reunion

SPORTS NOTES

Rugby

ROYAL SIGNALS EASTER TOUR. Royal Signals Rugby XV have just concluded a most enjoyable Easter Tour in Wales.

The party travelled to London on Friday, 26th March, the officers being accommodated for the weekend at the Officers' Club, Gloucester Road, and the other ranks staying at the Union Jack Club. On Saturday the team played the Metropolitan Police on their ground at Hendon. The ground was very dry and hard, and a troublesome wind which blew across the ground ruined the game. A scrappy, rough game resulted in a win for the Police by 9 points to 3.

In this match we were unfortunate in having a centre three-quarter and a forward injured—the former, L. Gloag, so badly injured that he could take no further part in the tour, and Rawson being unable to play in the Pontypridd game.

On Easter Monday the party assembled at Paddington and caught the 8.55 a.m. train for Cardiff, and Pontypridd.

Headquarters in Wales were the New Inn Hotel, Pontypridd, a very comfortable hostelry noted for the excellence of its fare. The several Welsh players in the Signals team stayed at their respective homes and they invited one or two others to stay with them, thus leaving a party of 18 or 19 accommodated at the New Inn.

Pontypridd gave Signals a grand game, which was watched by the largest crowd the home team have had this season. Play was fast and open, some smart handling movements being given by both sides, and a draw was a fair reflection of the play. The large crowd undoubtedly appreciated the finer points of the game, and the Signals' team came in for many congratulations after the match on the exhibition of good Rugby.

Both the games in Wales were characterised by clean open play, and the Signals' players were enthusiastic over the type of football played by Pontypridd and Ebbw Vale. The result of the Pontypridd match was a draw, 8 points all. Our scorers were Parfitt (penalty goal) and Williams (a try which Parfitt converted).

On Easter Tuesday, after lunch at the New Inn, the party went by motor coach to Ebbw Vale. The journey was a delightful one, and those who did not know the hills and valleys of Wales were much impressed by the scenery.

As the Ebbw Vale ground was being re-turfed, the game was played on the Bryn Mawr ground, 2½ miles from Ebbw Vale, a nice stretch of turf 1,200 feet up.

Signals were unlucky not to win, as they came near to scoring on many occasions, and they sadly missed L. Gloag on the left wing to finish off numerous openings made by Rees.

Towards the close, a short kick ahead was fielded by Wheeler, who ran strongly and passed to Brander, who only just failed to reach the line after a forty yard run. On another occasion, Froggett was clean through, but was overhauled. The whistle went with Signals pressing strongly but just unable to get the score which would have won them the match. Result: Ebbw Vale 11 points, Royal Signals 8 points.

After the game the party were very hospitably entertained at the Bridge End Hotel, Ebbw Vale, returning later in the evening to Pontypridd, where a number attended the annual dance given by the Pontypridd County School Old Boys.

The party returned to Catterick on Wednesday, 31st March, and everyone voted the visit to Wales had been a great success.

British Army of the Rhine

(*continued from page* 138)

Subaltern Roe will be able to offer Ehrwald leave as a further inducement to signing on. She is our Re-enrolments Officer and many dread to go near her door in case she will talk them into signing an agreement to serve for another two years.

Gleaning knowledge at Gottingen, the Formation College of B.A.O.R., is Subaltern J. Cahill, who is attending a Pre-Release Course as her time with the Army is drawing rapidly to a close. She hopes to be released about the beginning of May and will have completed 8½ years' service in the A.T.S., three of those abroad.

Other Overseas Stations

(*continued from page* 141)

visited the island; during their stay they were the guests of the unit. A concert was given in Famagusta and the band also played in the camp.

Sports have been hampered in the unit by the difficulty in finding a suitable plot of land. The rock is very near the surface and the plot originally selected proved impossible to level. A hard tennis court is being laid. In the summer and autumn months much use was made of the excellent bathing beach at Famagusta.

In spite of the difficulties, sport has flourished. H.Q. stands fifth in the District Soccer Competition and our Troop at Nicosia has finished third in the Area League. A Rugby fifteen has been formed and has played several games; we have also had occasional hockey matches.

At Christmas we had a promising concert party and a dance band, but the ravages of release have since then temporarily, at any rate, put the concert party out of action, though the male voice choir is still flourishing, and the dance band is hampered by the lack of certain vital instrumentalists.

Territorial Army

(*continued from page* 147)

Association, details of which you will find in their own notes. A very happy state of co-operation exists between us and the local Branch which is, of course, just as it should be.

Our auxiliaries are busily arranging various activities. There is talk of a swimming club and some whist drives being laid on shortly.

The Sergeants' Mess was opened last Thursday by the G.O.C. It is a combined R.A. and Signals effort, and we hope to arrange lots of social functions in the near future.

"DIDO"

No. 25 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, BLIGHMONT DRILL HALL, MILLBROOK ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON. This Squadron was formed in Southampton in May last year under the happiest auspices, embodying from the outset as it did two Officers and a number of senior N.C.O.s from the pre-war T.A., of whom several have close connections with A.A.

A mixed Squadron was new experience to some, and viewed at first with "mixed" feelings, but its advantages soon became apparent. The social activities of the Unit have been much fuller and more lively than those possible in an all-male Unit, and have, no doubt, been largely responsible for our A.T.S. establishment. The gay social round has not occupied all our time, for in spite of considerable difficulties, mainly of accommodation, we have buckled down to some serious training, and business and pleasure have been combined in a Sunday "recce" for a projected week-end camp.

As we go to Press, an A.T.S. handicraft exhibition, the first we believe of its kind, has attracted many entries of a high standard and considerable interest.

We are rapidly settling down from a motley collection of men and women in uniform, trained and untrained, "Rookie" and "Old Sweat," into an efficient Unit, and are looking forward to our first annual camp in this capacity.

"SAMPT"

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Receipt of the following publications is gratefully acknowledged:

CALLING ALL GUNNERS, January-March.

SAMBAND (Royal Norwegian Signal Training Centre), March.

R.E.M.E., April.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 20th March, 3rd and 17th April.

BORDERERS' CHRONICLE, March.

ROYAL PIONEER, March.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, March.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, March.

H.L.I. CHRONICLE, April.

The Story of 'Phantom'

(*continued from page* 131)

British and Canadian Division and every American Corps.

In addition, a complete Squadron was allotted to the Special Air Service Brigade, and Phantom Patrols dropped with Special Air Service detachments far behind the enemy lines to wireless back the vital information available to these intrepid soldiers.

By this time No. 2 Regiment was similarly organised in Italy and "Hoppy's" dream of five years earlier had come true, with Phantom cover on every front.

All this in no way affected the normal Signals Plan, and was merely imposed on the existing system of communications in order to provide the Force Commander with the vital operational information so urgently required in modern war. A Patrol consisting of a trained Staff Officer and six men under a corporal would be attached to the H.Q. of any Force for a particular task and would report direct to the Force Commander *via* Phantom S.H.Q. or R.H.Q. all urgent news of an operational nature, by-passing all the normal steps in the chain of communications.

When the war in Europe drew to a close, a 3rd Regiment of Phantom was quickly formed to go to S.E.A.C. and continue the good work there. But the atom bomb finished the war and stopped the Regiment just as it was about to fly East.

So after some consultation in high places No. 3 G.H.Q. Liaison Regiment returned to Germany in October, 1945, to serve with H.Q., B.A.O.R., and the Army of Occupation.

Phantom had always had armoured cars and worn black berets, and latterly all the non-Signals personnel were transferred to R.A.C. But since their job was almost 100 per cent. communications the Regiment became a Signals responsibility, was reduced to a Squadron, and re-named No. 3 Independent Phantom Signal Squadron in 1946.

As the Army reduced, so did Phantom, and it was cut to its present strength in 1947 and continues to serve H.Q., B.A.O.R., to this day. So the black beret, the armoured cars with their wireless sets and the white "P" on a black square, continue to mystify people just as they did in the old days at Richmond, when everyone wanted to know "What is Phantom?" Now you know.

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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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☆

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☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

WAR OFFICE CIVILIAN WIRELESS SERVICE

EX-OPERATORS, and particularly Operators Special, will be interested to learn that the War Office has a considerable number of vacancies in their Civilian Wireless Service. Essential qualifications for entry are British birth, general fitness, and ability to receive Morse at 20 words per minute.

Good experience as an Operator is an advantage, as it will enable a man to make quicker progress from Civilian Radio Operator Grade II, on entry, to Grade I, which is normally reached by examination. Operators with the following Army qualifications are exempt from the examination and may enter as Civilian Radio Operators, Grade I: Operator Special, B.1; Operator Signals, B.1; Operator Wireless, B.1; Operator W/T and Keyboard, A.1.

Pay varies according to age and grading, e.g., a C.R.O. Grade II gets 98/- per week at 21, 106/- per week at 25 years and, if still in Grade II when 33 years old, will be getting 130/- per week. C.R.O. Grade I gets 104/- per week at 21 years; 120/- per week at 25 years, and thereafter by annual increments of 5/- per week up to a maximum of 165/- per week. Charge Hands receive 10/- per week in addition to their Grade I rate of pay.

There is a liability for Foreign Service; time spent abroad in relation to time spent at home will be roughly in the ratio of one to three; foreign stations will be staffed with volunteers as far as possible.

Fuller details of accommodation, work, pay, promotion, establishment, Foreign Service and allowances may be seen in the pamphlet entitled "War Office Civilian Wireless Service"—"What you get and How you get it," a copy of which can be obtained from your H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Those interested should write to:

The Under Secretary of State,
The War Office (C.4.(a)),
Room 453, Hotel Metropole,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2,

and ask for any further information they require.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND

A recent increase in establishment allows for ten boys in the Corps Band. There are at the moment vacancies for four boys between the ages of 15—16½ years. Applicants should have a knowledge of the pianoforte or some stringed or wood-wind instrument.

Members or ex-Members of the Corps are invited to recommend suitable boys whose parents wish them to make a sound career in Military Music to:

THE BAND PRESIDENT,
H.Q. SCHOOL OF SIGNALS,
CATTERICK CAMP.

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLF SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING

All golfers are reminded that the 1948 Annual Meeting of the Royal Signals Golf Society will take place at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants, on Thursday, 26th, and Friday, 27th August. This meeting is open to all officers, Regular and otherwise, who are serving with or who have served with Royal Signals. We especially wish to bring the event to the notice of ex-officers of the Corps, many of whom, it is thought, do not realise that such a meeting is held.

Entry forms for the meeting may be had on application to the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Golf Society, Headquarters School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. Entries close on 12th August.

* * *

THE VICTORY (EX-SERVICES) CLUB

The new Victory (Ex-Services) Club at 73/79 Seymour Street, near Marble Arch, will open in the summer of 1948. The present Victory Club in Holborn, which has welcomed at least one million men, since its founding in 1907, was three times blitzed in the recent war and is far too small to meet the great needs of our ex-Service men and women.

The new premises, with about 200 beds and ample living and recreation rooms, will provide a centre where members of both sexes can obtain bedrooms and food at prices which they can afford—and a welcome always! Here will also be held re-unions of Old Comrades' Associations, meetings, entertainments, etc. It also houses our long-established and active Welfare Branch, giving advice and help in all re-settlement problems, and working in closest collaboration with other charitable organisations.

The club is democratic, and is available to ex-Service members irrespective of rank, sex, etc.

Charges for membership, accommodation and food are very reasonable. Thus membership subscription is only 10/- for one year, or £5 for life. For details re membership apply to the Secretary, Victory Club, 47 Bedford Row, W.C.1.

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

May

Pass Off Parades. It has been customary for Courses to pass out of the O.C.T.U. on Tuesdays, but with the commissioning ceremony for Course 196 taking place on Saturday, 10th April, a new precendent has been established. Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant S.T.C., took the salute, whilst the Commandant's cane was awarded to the Senior Under Officer on parade, Officer-Cadet Lawton.

When Course 197 passed out on 22nd April, the salute was taken by Colonel G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., Chief Instructor, School of Signals. The Senior Under Officer was Officer-Cadet P. J. F. Wheeler, and the Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet P. M. Dickinson.

Wedding. The wedding of Miss Wendy Worlledge, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. J. P. G. Worlledge, of Glenwilliam Castle, Co. Limerick, to Captain Aubrey Stuart Rawson, Royal Signals, of Royal Signals O.C.T.U., son of Major-General and Mrs. G. G. Rawson, took place on 20th April at Ballingarry Parish Church.

The service was conducted by the Rev. T. A. Wilkinson, of Kington, Herefordshire, the bride's cousin, assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon J. T. Waller, of Limerick, and the Rev. O'Daunt, of Adare and Ballingarry.

The bride was given away by her father, and was attended by one bridesmaid and her sister Annabel. The best man was Captain N. G. R. Halliday, Royal Signals.

Wearing a dress of white marocain with silver embroidery, the bride carried a bouquet of white iris, whilst the bridesmaid's dress was of yellow organdie and she carried a victorian posy.

The reception was held in ideal weather at Glenwilliam Castle, where the presents were displayed.

The honeymoon was spent motoring in the West of Ireland. The happy couple have our best wishes for their future happiness.

Congratulations. Congratulations to W.O.II (Q.M.S.) (Foreman of Signals) Jenkinson on his promotion to that rank.

Pentathlon. We entered a team for this annual event, which took place at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, from 19th to 24th April. The three Officer-Cadets comprising the team, together with the two reserves, trained hard and by the time the contest took place had reached a reasonable standard. Many of the competitors taking part in the contest, which took place under Olympic conditions, are already Olympic Games possibilities. Our team gained eighth place, with Officer-Cadets King, Selby and Bruce in 36th, 44th and 46th individual placings.

Garrison Miniature Rifle League. Our Miniature Rifle Team still maintains its lead of six points in the league shoot, by having won all the 15 matches fired. The team had the highest aggregate for the fourth time this season, scoring 2,970 points out of a possible of 3,200. Officer-Cadet Henry, by scoring 99 per cent., received a medal and money prize, whilst the second prize went to the Team Captain, Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., with a score of 98.9 per cent.

Mountaineering Club. The Club had three meetings during the month. On 4th April, five members under Captain N. G. R. Halliday made the journey to Almscliffe. The weather was rather cloudy, but at intervals the sun broke through to dispel some of the chill in the air. The party broke up to pick out climbs which interested them most. Bruce Jones made straight for a traverse on Low Man, which had defied him on a previous meet. On this occasion he completed the climb and, for good measure, repeated his performance. Seven climbs were attempted, and included South Chimney, South Face and Long Chimney. Of all these climbs, the South Face received the most attention. Nearly all the party managed to surmount this tricky wall, but some found the rock too greasy on a particularly delicate move. Langdale was the base for climbing activities on 10th/11th and 24th/25th April, the weather during both camps being excellent.

On the way out on 10th April, Lewis (leader), Haycock and Band were dropped off to climb Scout Crag before dark. On Sunday the main party climbed Pavey Ark (2,351 feet) in three parties each of two. Haycock and Miller climbed Little Gully. Lewis, with Second-Lieutenant Glasspool in one party and Band and Driver Moore in another party, climbed Great Gully.

The three parties then met and climbed Guins Chimney. This was found to be rather hard work and very tiring. On the way down some scree was encountered and the party were endangered by pieces of rock dislodged from above. Meanwhile the administrative party scrambled to the top of Langdale Pike by an easy route; they continued to walk and climb until they reached the top of Harrison's Pike.

Finally they scrambled to the top of Pike O'Stickle, returning *via* a large stretch of scree to Camp.

In the evening, with Lewis leading one party and Band leading a second, Middle Fell Buttress (1,500 feet) was tackled. This climb was difficult in parts and there was a fair exposure. The main object of this climb was to give the new members an introduction to the more difficult climbs. On Saturday, 24th April, Scout Crag was again successfully completed with Lewis leading Liversedge and Marsden on No. 1 Route and with Band leading Exell and Haycock along Route No. 2.

On Sunday the party set off for Bow Fell, the foot of which was reached after two hours of hard going. The toil was well rewarded by the extraordinarily clear view of the distant mountains, with the sea to the far South.

Bow Fell Buttress (350 feet, very difficult) was climbed in good time by Lewis and Jones, whilst Band, Exell and Miller tackled the Cambridge climb successfully. Lunch was taken on the top of Bow Fell in glorious sunshine and with wonderful visibility.

After lunch, parties were re-arranged to give everyone further climbing experience. Bow Fell, Cambridge and Plaque Route climbs formed the afternoon programme. When tackling Bow Fell, a sheep was found to be in difficulties on a ledge. Its rescue unhurt entailed an ingenious method of belaying.

Soccer. The Soccer season finished rather badly from the Unit's point of view, most of the leading players having gone out on release. Our teams fared quite well on the whole, the 1st XI team finishing sixth and the 2nd XI team eleventh in their respective leagues. The 1st XI also reached the final of the District League.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drew	Points
1st Team	13	6	5	2	14
2nd Team	18	8	10	0	16

Mention ought to be made of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess who, taking advantage of the weakened Unit team, challenged the team. The challenge was taken up and the game resulted in a win by 2 goals to 1 in favour of the challengers. S.S.M. Craig scored both goals for the winners, whilst Signalman McLaren scored for the Unit team.

Six-a-Side Hockey Tournament. Royal Signals O.C.T.U. won through to the final of the above tournament, which took place on Wednesday, 28th April. O.C.T.U. had a walk-over in the first round.

In the second round we played No. 3 Training Regiment and won by one goal to nil. A very fast game and full of interest for the whole twelve minutes.

The third round saw us pitting our strength against 7th Hussars. This proved to be a very tough affair, and O.C.T.U. eventually won by a short corner.

The final, against No. 1 Training Regiment, was played in a heavy downpour. We lost by three goals to one, but gave a good account of ourselves.

The following represented the O.C.T.U.: Captain Cleveley, Captain Brabham, Sergeant Winter, Officer-Cadet Ashworth, Officer-Cadet Gill, Officer-Cadet Taylor.

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

May

Since our last notes appeared in THE WIRE there have been many changes of personnel, and a decided change in the weather. The latter has been welcomed by all, particularly our agricultural department and cricket and athletics teams.

The "Method of Instruction" Team have paid us a visit and left their mark in a very pleasant way with advice and assistance of all sorts on aspects of training.

Great interest has been evinced by trainees in the various films and models provided for them. Only those directly concerned know the large amount of work entailed in producing these aids to training.

The Unit Team, captained and trained by R.S.M. Howley, did very well in the Catterick Garrison Rifle Shoot, finishing second to Royal Signals O.C.T.U., with 12 teams from the Garrison participating. We lost only three matches of a series of 15. All praise to the marksmen, and may they be second to none next season.

"The Mons-Trosities," our Unit Concert Party, most ably compered by S.Q.M.S. Matthews, gave another very enjoyable show to a packed house in the Regimental Institute. The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, thanked all performers for the very spirited entertainment and gave a special word of praise for the organisers and those who had worked so hard behind the scenes. We shall miss Corporal Harris very much when he proceeds on release shortly. He has worked exceedingly hard in bringing the show from scratch to its present high standard. Thank you, Corporal Harris, and all the very best in civil life. Some of the other artistes will be departing soon and more talent is urgently required. Don't be shy—"Q" Matthews isn't! He will give you a welcome, and guide your feet, or hands, or voice, to stardom.

No. 3 SQUADRON. Major W. C. Manning is our new O.C. We hear he will be departing for civil life in June, after 27 years' service in the Corps. We are sorry that his stay with us will so short, and wish him all luck in his new venture.

Captain N. F. Holliday and Second-Lieutenants Lewis and Swaffer have also joined us as Training Officers. A few more senior N.C.O.s have also arrived, so our Squadron feels quite strong.

The departure of Second-Lieutenant Whitmarsh on Release is a blow to our sporting activities, but we are confident that Captain Higgins will lead us to victory in the Unit Sports to be held later in May. Of these, more anon.

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

May

As the smell of printer's ink once again wafts through our lines, we cast our minds back over recent events. This month we welcomed several new faces, and one old—that of the sun. As the sheep gambol over the hills and Catterick dons its summer coat, our cricketers and athletes take sprightly to the playing fields. With one eye on our Rugby and entertainments trophies, their other is covetously turned elsewhere. We wish them every success. Also Second-Lieutenant J. Lane and his nimble-footed team, who, in the forthcoming Inter-Unit Obstacle Course competition intend to prove that *terra firma* is not the only place for them. It is to be hoped that there is no cause for alarm in the M.I. Room. Rumour has it that Spring Drills, under R.S.M. J. Harrison, M.B.E., are momentarily taking the spring out of many of those concerned.

From Yorkshire Moors to Salisbury Plain goes Junior Commander A. I. Field, A.T.S., and with her our very best wishes.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Any trainee visiting the Northern Section of the Unit's Lines during the last few weeks may well have been surprised to see all the Sergeants being drilled. With the advent of more spring

The cast of "Showtime"

drills, several members who had to be reminded of the sight of a parade ground are now all "right about turns."

On the entertainments side we ran yet another very popular and well-attended dance on 23rd April.

There have been no departures since our last notes, but we record Sergeant Billett's demob in a few days, and wish him every success in Civvy Street.

Hockey. In the Catterick District League we finished fourth, our final analysis being 22 matches played, 12 won, and 3 drawn. We should have finished even better if we had been able to field our full eleven for a greater percentage of matches. In the Northern Command Six-a-Side Hockey Cup, of which we are the holders, we narrowly lost to the O.C.T.U. by one goal to nil.

Rugby. This year's Catterick District Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition was played during April. We again added another laurel to our sports achievements by beating 14th/20th Hussars in the final, 11—3.

Cricket. Now all the cricketers in the Unit are keenly practising and we hope to avenge the defeat suffered in the final last year. At that time we had five players in the Corps team, and if first impressions convey anything we shall have a greater proportion this year.

Entertainments. The highlight of April was a variety show staged by members of No. 4 Training Regiment, which gained for us the Catterick District Variety Cup. The concert, "Showtime," was presented twice in the Regiment and once at Catterick Military Hospital, and at No. 7 Selection Regiment, where, before an audience of young recruits, Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B.E., D.S.O., presented the cup to the M.C., Corporal Oliver. Our thanks and congratulations go to members of the cast and the back-stage men who gave their time and talent in a first-class show.

Our usual Sunday dances are proving their worth, if one judges by attendances, as Shaiba N.A.A.F.I. is generaly packed to capacity. The swing section of the Band is in ever-increasing demand for the regular lunch-time concerts, when individual requests are played.

At the moment the Unit Entertainments Committee is endeavouring to plan further attractions. The main experiments are with the process of organising Unit Games Nights, Thursday Night Dances, and a Unit Rambling Club.

No. 1 SQUADRON. There have been a number of changes during the past month in No. 1 Squadron. We welcome Lieutenant A. S. Macfadyen and Second-Lieutenant H. J. Goldstein to the Squadron; also the four immigrants from No. 3 Squadron: Corporals Wally Symmonds, Bert Cumming, "Mike" Powne and Lance-Corporal "Puss" Ewens. Lance-Corporals "Pippo" Shingler and Bill Lovett have also joined the Cadre.

Congratulations to Corporals Bratley and Garbett on their promotion to Sergeant, and to Lance-Corporals Grange, Hines, Powne, Potter and Wood, who were recently busy sewing on a further chevron.

It is becoming quite a common sight to see members of the Squadron doubling smartly down to the N.A.A.F.I. in the evenings, dressed in P.T. kit, training for the forthcoming Inter-Squadron Sports. We wish them the best of luck.

No. 2 SQUADRON. On 17th April the *Golden Arrow* visted Manchester to assist in the Territorial Army Recruiting Drive. The team consisted of Second-Lieutenant Turner, Sergeant Regan, Corporal Crabtree (who, incidentally, backed the Diesel into a wall on the return journey), Lance-Corporal Boys and Section 71, who have now commenced the long journey which begins at No. 2 Depot Regiment, Ripon.

The exhibition was on the whole a great success, and communication was maintained with the Catterick Station until 24th April. The "Home" Station was superintended by Sergeant Ambridge and Lance-Corporal Findlay.

During their off-duty periods the members of the *Golden Arrow* Team did their best to paint Manchester red, and their visit will be remembered for a considerable time by the Mancunians. The team received a visit from the Commanding Officer and O.C. No. 2 Squadron during their stay.

We should like to welcome the new Training Officer, Captain C. Lucas, who has succeeded Captain H. L. H. Taylor.

It is with regret that we say farewell to three members of the Cadre: Corporal Paton, Lance-Corporals Finlay and Robinson. "Jock" Paton has obtained the overseas posting he has been wanting for some time, and reports to No. 2 Depot on 12th May. We hope that life overseas will be to his liking, and that he will not regret leaving No. 2 Squadron. Frankie Robinson and "Jock" Finlay are going to Civvy Street with 70 Group and we wish them the best of luck in their new jobs.

No. 3 SQUADRON. We welcome to the Squadron the return of Major F. A. L. Terry as O.C.; also Captain C. O. Bound, late of Germany, as our new Training Officer.

Congratulations to Corporals Archibald, Berry, Reed and Clark on their promotions to Sergeant. Also to Lance-Corporals Archer, Brooks, Emery, Oldfield, Strachan and Woodward, who have risen to Corporal.

Our good wishes are extended to Lance-Corporal Kinch, who is to be married on 3rd July.

After the C.O. had given the Regulars a talk on the advantages of holding a Forces' Preliminary Certificate, there was much talk of pen-pushing. Now many of the long service soldiers are really getting down to business by attending education classes under the supervision of our learned friends on the Cadre.

No. 4 SQUADRON. The past month has been quite eventful for us in No. 4 Squadron. We have had some new arrivals, a brace of weddings and some success in the field of sport.

We are pleased to welcome Captain R. S. Campbell and Captain R. A. Stewart, who perform the duties of Training Officer of O.R.s 1 and N.C.O.s' Wings respectively. At the time of going to press we are given to understand that Captain Campbell will be our new Administrative Officer, so not only has he our usual warm welcome but our promise of an inexhaustible supply of aspirin as well!

Also in the fold have arrived the live bodies of S.S.M. "Busty" Bates, ex-Airborne Division, India, and Sergeant Hardy, who is late of "K" Travelling Wing.

The calm of Plymouth's streets was disturbed by the tinkling of wedding bells when on 3rd April S.S.M. Wall was married at Emmanuel Church to Miss Bettina (Tina) Berry. By special request we do not make the usual joke about lots of little S.S.M.s, but we do wish them the very best of luck. Congratulations also to Lance-Corporal "Mickey" Newbury and his bride, Private Margaret Birchall, A.T.S., who were married at St. Oswald's Garrison Church on 1st May.

The Sergeants' Mess recently gained Sergeant Daniels, whose promotion to this dizzy height has him still in a not-so-flat spin. Also on the promotion list were Lance-Corporals Popham, Back, Laycock, Leech, Mason, Oliver and McNeil, who now throw away their spears.

No. 7 SELECTION REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

May

We are now submerged completely in the dizzy whirl of intakes and outputs, and from above must look like an overturned ant heap. The machine works like clockwork though and, apart from the inevitable quota of Nig Nogs who cannot and never will distinguish right from left, our standard of output is pleasingly high.

Four weeks is a depressingly short time in which to train a civvy into a passable soldier, but somehow our hard-working instructors manage it, and not only produce a good standard of drill but an excellent standard of musketry as well.

Our strenuous life is relieved, fortunately, by the flashes of humour inseparable from recruits' training, and we shall long remember the man who when sent to bring down a range flag produced the 20-ft. flag mast as well, and the other who left his squad for no apparent reason and on being violently recalled and asked why the so-and-so he hadn't about turned with the rest, smiled sweetly and said "I wondered, sergeant, what it was you were saying." We still speak gently to the C.S.M. Instructor who, during L.M.G. practice, sent a man to the range shed for a spare barrel, and, believe it or not, was solemnly presented a few minutes later with a 44-gallon oil drum.

There are two points of view on this job, as in everything else, and we have asked a recruit to produce his ideas on the situation. Here they are:

THE SERGEANT'S PRAYER

"God, please send me some soldiers," screamed the Sergeant as he watched us marching across the bleak parade ground of Catterick Camp. He watched us patiently for a few minutes, then he jumped on his hat, he tore his hair, he quivered with rage—but we still insisted on turning to the right when he wanted us to turn to the left.

Perhaps I should start from the beginning. We are a scruffy, long-haired group of individualists dressed in ill-fitting, creased uniforms—in short WE are the new intake.

On the parade ground we are indescribable (although the Sergeant has described us by many adjectives which our civilian ears had never heard before). In the dining hall we are insatiable; and in the barrack room we are noisy. In fact, we are very much like every other bunch of rookies which passes through Catterick.

First impressions are invariably wrong—so 'tis said—and sure enough our impressions of Catterick Camp have changed considerably since we arrived a few days ago when the wind was howling through every corridor and the rain was lashing the barrack room windows.

We tumbled out of lorries which brought us from the station and staggered into a great, gaunt building, which we later learned was to be our home for the next month. A tea of reasonable proportions was eaten at leisure in an enormous dining hall—then suddenly it all started. Figaro had a quiet life compared with us bewildered rookies. From all directions great masses of kit were hurled at us. We signed vast numbers of official documents, not knowing or caring very much what they were.

But throughout this chaos we were comforted by an amiable Sergeant who kept repeating gently, "Don't wurry, me lads. It don't pay to wurry in the Army." We all thought the Sergeant was a "very nice man," and that he would no doubt take "mother's place."

This fond dream did not last long, however. Next morning, or rather half way through the night, that voice which had sounded so friendly and comforting the previous evening crashed on our ears with an explosive, "Get up, you dozy unprintables."

That was only a beginning. Ever since he bared his teeth at us that morning we have no longer been "his lads," but a series of "adjective asterisks" and "unprintable blanks." We soon learned, however, that whatever he called us and however much he ranted, raved and screamed, he was still as ready to advise us and tell us "not to wurry" as he was on our first evening in the Army.

After two days of drilling and cleaning and writing home we felt we had been in the Army for years and years, but as soon as we got down to the regular routine of lessons and parades, and parades and meals, the time passed so rapidly that it seemed we were no sooner out of bed and dressed than we were undressing for bed again.

Apart from the Sergeant and his satellites, the M.O. was a gentleman whose acquaintance we made very early in our military career. As innocently as lambs going to slaughter, we filed into his room with no thought in our heads save the conviction that he was going to down-grade us and return us to civvy street. Again our illusions were quickly shattered. With a wicked gleam in his eye he thrust a hypodermic needle which seemed as long as a bayonet into each arm and passed us on to another gentleman who also jabbed us viciously and pushed us out of the room to get dressed.

In retrospect, this incident seems extremely amusing, particularly when we recall the after effects. Less than three hours after we had been "jabbed" the barrack room was strewn with groaning rookies, all cursing the Army, the sergeant, his satellites, the M.O. and everyone who had contributed to their present discomfort. We were even afraid to have a drink in case we leaked through the holes in our arms where the hypodermic had wreaked such havoc.

But that is all over — we hope — and we are gradually settling down to the Army routine. Who knows, before we leave here the Sergant's prayer may be answered. We may even succeed in turning to the right when he asks us to.

* * *

Football. No games have been lost since our new designation. We have played, in First and Second Division, seven games in all, the results being: Won 5; drawn 2.

Our toughest match was in the Second Division against No. 3 Training Regiment. Our lead in the first half of one goal was equalised after a very hard fought game, right at the end of the match.

Signalman Savage, our very good goalkeeper, has gone out on demob but has every chance of trials for First Division professional games.

Lance-Corporal Cockerton, a very good defender, has had outstanding efforts temporarily halted by injury.

Corporal Winter and Signalman Layfield are still the backbone of the forward line, scoring practically all our goals.

Our future chances have been still further improved by the arrival of Sergeant Instructor Smith, an Army player and Amateur International, who will go into our forward line.

Hockey. In spite of man-power difficulties we are putting our team back on the map, and have been most unfortunate

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Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal to Rhine Army, 1948

ON Friday, 7th May, 1948, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals and Controller Commandant of the A.T.S., arrived at Buckeburg Airfield for a five-day visit to the Rhine Army.

After lunching with the Army Commander, Her Royal Highness was shown round the twenty-position Rhine Army trunk switchboard at Bad Oeynhausen by Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, British Army of the Rhine, and Controller G. E. Baker, O.B.E., A.T.S., Senior Commander C. H. M. Jackson, O.B.E., who commands A.T.S. Signals, Germany, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Seely, O.B.E., were presented to Her Royal Highness. The party then moved on to the H.Q. Signal Office, the largest in Germany, where the Royal Corps of Signals and A.T.S. Signals work side by side to clear 2,500 messages that pass through the office daily. The Princess Royal was shown the 1,200 line automatic exchange, clearance check, tape relay system, voice frequency apparatus, and the Cipher Office and the Signals Despatch Office. Her Royal Highness showed a keen interest in the various types of equipment. Controller Baker then conducted the Princess Royal over the A.T.S. Signals Sergeants' Mess and other ranks billets.

Later in the afternoon Brigadier Rogers presented the officers of his staff to Her Royal Highness at S.X. branch. It was here that Her Royal Highness studied the map of the British Zone. She was shown by Brigadier Rogers the comparative size of the zone with England, and how Signals are deployed to meet the needs of the occupational Army, both in static and internal security duties.

On the same evening Her Royal Highness, having been entertained at dinner in the Brigadier's Mess, attended the revue, "Spring Shift," which was presented in her honour at the Mercury Theatre in Bad Oeynhausen. This theatre, which was originally constructed from a row of bombed German shops, is run mainly by No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and A.T.S. Signals, assisted by members of the Royal Army Education Corps attached to the regiment. The Mercury proudly boasts of a show a week, and has run continuously since January, 1946.

This show, and the visit of Her Royal Highness, provided a fine climax to all the work and effort that has been put into making the theatre one of the most popular and unique of its kind. Princess Mary thoroughly enjoyed the show, which was put on as a satirical revue "a la" Ambassadors Theatre, and was written by Captain G. A. Madden, M.B.E., late Royal Signals, who had unfortunately departed on release only a few weeks before the Royal visit. The Princess Royal, however, kindly consented to autograph a copy of the programme, which was despatched to Captain (Mr.!) Madden.

On Saturday morning, 8th May, Her Royal Highness took the salute at the march past of 300 auxiliaries of the A.T.S., which included a very smart contingent of the A.T.S. Signals at Bad Oeynhausen.

The Princess Royal then travelled to Herford to lunch with No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, where all officers of the Regiment were presented to her in the barracks named in her honour. She was accompanied by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals, and by Brigadier Rogers. On entering Harewood Barracks the Princess Royal inspected a guard of honour. Accompanied by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Seely, O.B.E., the party then visited the unit model room, where examples of handiwork connected with a variety of hobbies were shown to the Princess.

Later in the afternoon the Princess motored down the autobahn to the Munster area and visited No. 2 L. of C. and No. 2 Divisional Signal Regiments in the field. The units were preparing for a big Army exercise and were at the time establishing their headquarters in the concentration area. Her Royal Highness was shown the various aspects of Corps and Divisional Signal layouts in the field, and at No. 2 Divisional H.Q. she visited the operation signal office. Tea was later served under canvas. The weather was ideal, as indeed it was for the whole trip.

The Princess Royal spent the week-end touring the Hanover and Celle areas, where, among other places, she was shown the Herren Hausen (Palace of Kings) and the Old Museum at Celle.

On Monday, 10th May, 1948, Her Royal Highness arrived in Hamburg and, accompanied by Brigadier Rogers and the G.O.C. Hamburg District, Major-General G.

Above: H.R.H. The Princess Royal seen inspecting a guard of honour in the barracks of No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment at Herford

Below: The Princess Royal attending a performance of "Spring Shift," a revue written by Gerry Madden

Her Royal Highness seen here entering the Signal Office of a Field Headquarters in the No. 2 Division area

Her Royal Highness seen taking the salute at the march past of the A.T.S. Signals, Germany, and No. 1 Continental Group, A.T.S.

Surtees, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., inspected a guard of honour provided by the Signal Squadron of the 2nd Parachute Brigade outside Hamburg District headquarters. Accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., D.C.S.O. Hamburg District. Princess Mary was then shown over the signal office and saw Signals at work dealing with message and S.D.S. traffic. She was also shown an underground switchboard, where German female operators were working under the supervision of A.T.S. Signals.

From here the Royal party was conducted round A.T.S. billets by Controller Baker. Two married quarters occupied by Royal Signals other ranks married families stationed in Hamburg were also visited.

This virtually completed the Royal tour as far as Royal Signals units were concerned. A guard of honour provided jointly by No. 3 Squadron, No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment and a R.A.F. contingent was inspected by Her Royal Highness on Utersen airfield. Her Royal Highness then left Germany for England in an aircraft of the King's Flight at 1000 hours on the 13th May, 1948.

The visit was greatly appreciated by all ranks of the Corps in B.A.O.R., and especially by those who had the honour of meeting Her Royal Highness.

Home Stations

(*continued from page* 157)

to lose our last four matches this month by the odd goal in every case.

The team is improving steadily and we look forward to a strong side for the summer season.

Musketry. Both on the open and miniature ranges we are making our mark.

This month we lost to No. 2 Training Regiment by only one point, and won our match against the Ordnance Depot, Catterick, by a healthy margin.

Five members of the Regiment are possibles for the Corps Bisley Team, and we are also forming a Regimental team for the summer meeting.

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

May

On 16th April, Brigadier Gray, C.S.O., A.A. Command, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Watson, C.S.O., No. 5 A.A. Group, inspected Elvaston. Their appreciation was marked by the award of an extra sports afternoon.

A Sunday picnic was organised by Second-Lieutenant Watson. Thirty-five soldiers and auxiliaries attended and an enjoyable afternoon was spent exploring Matlock.

A party from No. 40 A.A. Signal Squadron, T.A., spent a week-end with us at Elvaston. A social was held on the Saturday and the Sunday was spent at work by the T.A. Films have continued to be shown twice a week and the fortnightly dances have also been held.

Summer (end of fuel issues) came in with a couple of freezing wet days. Gardening is going on at full speed. Trees and plants are being transferred from other Camps closing down. The Unit Cinema is taking shape under the guidance of Sergeant Baker. Annual stocktaking has passed. No long faces are to be seen.

It is with great regret that we have to record the departure of an excellent A.T.S. Officer, Junior Commander Ridler, who is leaving after four years of invaluable service with this Unit. We wish her all the best in her new command. Corporal Somers, one of her best aides, has also departed on release with as much sorrow on both sides.

Soccer. After a re-organisation, the Football Team struck winning ways, defeating Alvaston 3—0 and severely trouncing R.A.S.C., Normanton Barracks, by 9—0. Our friendly rivals at Castle Donnington have still to be beaten but our efforts are improving, for in the last two games the results have been a draw 4—4 and 4—2 in R.E.M.E.'s favour. In this much improved side, Driver Timmoney and Signalman Hill have given valuable assistance at centre-half and centre-forward positions respectively, which in the old team were never adequately filled.

Hockey. Exploring fresh fields of activity, the Men's side have taken on Celanese II Eleven and Belper Seconds with satisfactory results:

v.	Celanese II	Draw	3—3
v.	Belper II	Draw	1—1
v.	Celanese II	Won	4—2

Against Group H.Q. in a mixed game we were the winners after a hard game. Result 2—0. We are looking forward to a few more mixed games before the close of the season, for a few of our girls show great keenness.

Playing the 6th Battalion, R.A.O.C., Chilwell, the Men's side produced excellent form by winning 4—0.

Throughout these games W.O.II Pavey and Second-Lieutenant Melford have produced form which is worthy of great recognition.

LONDON DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

May

Although our strength of Signals in the past has been "weak," it is hoped that as the months go by they will become stronger, and that a steady output will be forthcoming. In the meantime, let's pass the "gen" on to C.Q.

Our Mixed Squadron is situated at Hampstead on the edge of the 'Eath, at Camp E 22, Hampstead Way, London, N.W.11.

Our Commanding Officer since 1st January, 1948, has been Major A. Hill, O.B.E., Royal Signals, late of No. 13 Corps Signals, Italy.

The Administrative Officer is Captain D. Banham, who will be remembered by ex-Wazdist types and S.C.U., New Delhi.

The Technical Training Officer is Lieutenant G. Robertson who, rumour has it, still spends considerable periods in compiling skeleton messages for his many phantom circuits (apart from Littlewoods, of course).

A new arrival to the Squadron is Lieutenant A. G. Smith, well known in the Corps Sports Circles. He already has the Squadron running round in small ones, apart from the fact that Sick Parade after "Sports Afternoon" is now the biggest ever. However, it breaks the monotony to read on the sick report, the M.O.'s remarks of genuine ligaments torn and displaced joints, instead of the usual "Bed sores, S.I.W."

The Commanding Officer A.T.S. is Junior Commander H. Brown, who has recently decided to have another go for a further three years. Subaltern Kendall-Carpenter is the Duty Signal Officer.

The Regulars of the Squadron, all of whom send their salaams to the outside world, are as follows:

R.S.M. "Marcel" Meese, beloved by all, a staunch supporter of A.Y.E.S.H.A. and a triumph for penicillin! All who have witnessed the sulphur and brimstone will realise at once that Mr. Meese has recently returned from a fire-fighting course.

S.S.M. Robson and S.S.M. Jordan, two new arrivals who still labour under the delusion that tearing about with a piece of paper and pencil pulls the khaki over our eyes. We might mention to them here and now that the word "Twist" heard so often behind the barred door of the Technical Store does not convey to us the fact that twin cable is being examined.

S.Q.M.S. Smith, N.C.O. i/c. Squadron M.T. and Workshops, and the man the spinster did not find under the bed, still thinks a trickle charger is a galloping war horse.

S.Q.M.S. "Honest John" Mulcahy, a well-known "Q" Stores pirate who now finds difficulty in holding himself up. "Never mind, John. One of these days the moths in your clothing store will clamour to be nationalised."

Sergeants Duke and Sellex, of the Training Cadre, who still keep a box of key clicks and clipped dots under the table and "make up the four" with the two S.S.M.s.

New arrivals from the sub-Continent, where the local inhabitants paint the town red with betel nut, are Corporal G. Jones, Corporal Thomas and Lance-Corporal Duff.

The main commitments of the Squadron consist of maintaining communications for London District and the training of Cadets of the J.T.C. and A.C.F., the former covering out-stations at Greenford, Feltham, Purfleet, Enfield and Footscray.

With the speeding up of the release groups our tasks have become increasingly difficult to cope with, but, up to the present, communications have not broken down.

Taking advantage of the recent weather and our spare moments (You and You!) all hands have been busy gardening and redecorating, and the camp has taken on the fashionable new look. The Officers' Mess, a former "Gunners' Retreat," now looks decidedly more respectable. There is no truth in the rumour that the Training Officer, having read recent London District Orders, is busy furnishing the Mess with a card room, knowing full well a game of cards has never been played in the Mess.

Hams. Captain D. Banham (ex-VU2DB) send 73's to all his old contacts, but regrets that as his former "set up" has apparently found its way to the loose-Wallahs' Bazaar, there is not much hope of his returning to the band. However, he requests that a watch be kept on 14040 and 7020 for GI3BO, his brother, Major "Joe" Banham, ex-VU2AK, now stationed in Northern Ireland.

"MAHNAB"

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

May

We are shortly to receive a visit from the Corps Band and intend holding our Annual Sports on the occasion of their visit. Many have been training for these sports and some good fun should result. The Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., is visiting us at the same time, so what with athletic training and polishing we have very little time to spare at present.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. R.S.M. W. Gee has decided to try his luck with queues and ration cards, and perhaps a little work as long as the latter doesn't prove too exacting, and has left us for Civvy Street. A Mess function was held on the eve of his departure, at which he ensured that all mechanisms were "well oiled." We also bade farewell last month to S.Q.M.S.s S. Bruton and G. Marsh. All three recently completed 22 years' Colour Service and go on pension. Sergeant M. Moverley, one of our younger members, was released during March and has taken up farming in Norfolk. Sergeant Durrant, R.A.E.C., who was only with the Unit for a short time, departed to Scotland en route for foreign service. The best wishes of the Mess members go with them all in their new ventures. Arrivals are numerous and we are pleased to welcome them to life at Figsbury Barracks. R.S.M. J. Woods arrived ex-India in relief of R.S.M. Gee, and after a week looking round and getting the lay-out of R.H.Q. he proceeded on 28 days' leave. R.S.M. J. H. Johnson, of War Office and "Punkie" fame, arrived, and has taken control of the Orderly Room staff. It is a long time since we had a real Orderly Room Chief and the weight of Mr. Johnson's experience is already being felt in a department which must of necessity have an experienced leader. S.S.M.

W. Lea, whose stay with us has been comparatively short, has been appointed as P.S.I. at Edinburgh University and will be leaving 'ere these notes appear in print. Meanwhile his relief has arrived in the person of S.S.M. D. A. Dickson, of pre-war Waziristan fame and latterly of Mhow. Also we have welcomed to our fold S.Q.M.S.s J. Beale, ex-B.A.O.R., and S. A. Ware, Sergeant D. K. A. Smith, on promotion to that rank, Sergeant K. B. Hunt, who recently arrived from overseas, and Sergeant M. R. Morris, R.A.E.C., who arrived in relief of Sergeant Durrant, and is the "baby" of the Mess. Finally, Sergeant French, W.R.A.C., has arrived for duty ex-R.A.S.C. employment. Sergeant Hunt established himself with the Unit Hockey Team on arrival and before the season closed. With so many ex-Indian seniors arriving we hope to go places next season with our Unit hockey team. We hope that all recently arrived members will have a lengthy and happy stay.

Congratulations. To Sergeant and Mrs. D. M. A. Smith on their marriage at Folkestone. To Sergeant-Instructor Barnett, A.P.T.C., on his recent success in the international field of sport, i.e. Weight-Lifting contests *versus* France, in London.

A.T.S. As stated in our last notes, the A.T.S. have gone forward in their sports. A team to represent the Regiment at Netball was formed by an eliminating contest being held and the final was won by R.H.Q. Figsbury Fliers, who beat the Command Troop by the overwhelming margin of 36 goals to 8, thereby qualifying for the Inter-Group Tournament to be held on 2nd June. Badminton is still going strong and Tennis, too, is in full swing. Also training for our Annual Sports Day. This latter training being voluntary, we feel that the Medical Officer would soon be out of a job and not worth being nationalised if everyone was as fit as our gang. Swimming will be starting next week all being well, and we are fortunate in having an International and Army Champion as coach—Lieutenant D. D. Crerar, Royal Signals. A further visit to London for educational purposes is being planned for 19th May and we are hoping to see films in production at Ealing Studios, while the male section of the party will be having free samples of the cup that cheers and inebriates at Watney's Brewery. In the afternoon we hope to visit the Tower of London and to wind the day up with a visit to the "Crazy Gang." We are truly sorry that Subaltern M. Bolton has been transferred from R.H.Q. to Command Troop; we shall miss her coaching and refereeing at Netball.

Soccer. Only two League games played last month: one we lost 4—2 to the side which had already won the Salisbury and District Wednesday League, and the other, the season's last game, was drawn 1—1 at home. The season over, King Willow takes command, but as several of our players will be with us next season and also our Secretary-Manager, S.S.M. Skiffins, we are already making plans as to how we shall lift the local Cups and Leagues, and a training scheme is being worked out with our neighbours, the Southern Command School of P.T. We hope to have an all-Signals Eleven in the small units garrison competition, and a combined P.T. and Signals team in the Salisbury and District Wednesday League. On last season's play we finished second in the Small Units Military League and second from bottom in the Salisbury Wednesday League.

Cricket. The Unit has not so far entered for competitive cricket. One friendly played to date resulted in our losing to our near neighbours, the Army School of Chemical Warfare by only a few runs. Our stalwarts are Lieutenant S. C. Walton, Captain M. L. Willway, Lieutenant M. B. M. Brown, Lieutenant D. D. Crerar and R.Q.M.S. Softly. We are hoping to discover some new blood as a result of nightly practice at the nets.

PORTSMOUTH, ISLE OF WIGHT AND PORTLAND TROOPS. Portland Troop is once more in the capable hands of S.Q.M.S. Burch, who is now looking very fit after a long spell in hospital, so that the machinery is now working smoothly in Bovington, Lulworth and Portland areas. Corporal Slater, late of the O.C.T.U., is now rambling riotously over rocky ranges with his ruddy complexioned band at Lulworth.

Isle of Wight Troop is now in the hands of Lance-Corporal "Jock" Hunter, late No. 3 A.G.R.A. (Field) Signal Squadron, and finding life healthy but vigorous. It has been rumoured that for the past six weeks the sea has been cooling the heat of sweated labour. Of course, in these tropical zones the sea is warmer much earlier than it is back home.

Portsmouth Troop now has a billet of its own, instead of sharing with other units, and we find ourselves much more happy that way. We have a field attached to the billet which gives enough room for half a football pitch which is fully utilised by all ranks, although the tendency within the last weeks has been towards cricket rather than football. No team has yet been formed, but we hope to do so in the near future. Having our own Messing once more is a great relief, and to help that we are blessed with good and enthusiastic cooks. May be it is because the billet used to be a Y.W.C.A. hostel that the men walk around with a dreamy, far-away look in their eyes.

A Branch of the Signals Association has now been formed and, although we have only had one preliminary meeting and then the general meeting two weeks' later (Thursday, 29th April), we have already 61 names on the books. The Committee elected was: Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel "Nat" Gould, just returned from India; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jelliffe, of the P.O.; Honorary Secretary, Mr. Challin, ex-T.M.O.; Honorary Treasurer, Captain J. L. McIlvride, Royal Signals; and members Messrs. Cooper and Gandey. Anyone interested should get in touch with Portsmouth F.S.S. Troop, Government House, Portsmouth, and we will guide them to the next meeting.

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

April

At last we are completely "unmixed," and once again a strictly martial atmosphere descends upon the camp. The girls made a fine job of things while they were here, particularly on the Messing side, and they will be missed, no doubt, in many ways, but there are of course two schools of though on "mixed" units, and on the whole I think we shall be just as happy and certainly more military without the ladies.

There's much activity in No. 3 Squadron, where Captain Hoar and his assistants have just got two very smart "booths" completed on mobile recruiting trailers for the Districts, and are now busy with the Corps exihibit for the Bath and West Show in Cardiff at the end of May. They are also giving the police a little assistance at the races in Chester this week. Sergeant Matthews is the "key" man, at his own request, I understand. The fact that he managed to back all the winners last year may have something to do with it—straight from the horse's mouth, no doubt—on a 38 set!

Congratulations to a certain senior officer now "strutting"—there's no other word for it—"strutting" about the camp with an expansive smile for all and sundry (the troops will tell you it wasn't always like this!). If you want to know the reason, be on the R.H.Q. verandah at 0845 hrs. any day and hear the latest about the activities of a young man named Robert.

There's something doing, too, at Preston and Shrewsbury. Captain West and Captain Bennett have announced engagements and are to be married quite soon. Best wishes to them both. There's certainly something in this "Spring" business.

Talking of Spring—we're having a splendid show of spring flowers in front of the Regimental and Squadron Offices. Daffodils, tulips, wallflowers, irises, etc., with peonies almost out, make a beautiful show.

Hockey. The game against the A.P.T.S. on Wednesday, 31st March, in a deluge of rain was probably the best game seen on our own pitch since we started playing.

R.S.M. "Gerry" Dawson, in goal, played his usual brilliant game, making many spectacular saves and never once looking disturbed. Sergeant Stone played left-back, thrusting the ball forward with long drives and occasionally going right forward to shoot at goal himself. R.Q.M.S. Jackson was backing him up on the right with unorthodox but sound cover moves, and the opposing forwards were continually offside. Centre-half R.S.M. Barrett seemed to be in every position on the field wherever the ball was. How these "old 'uns" get their energy is something that I cannot understand. The halves kept the forwards well supplied, and the usual bad luck in the forward line kept the score down.

Corporal Oliver didn't get many chances but when he did he slammed away hard at goal. Inside-left S.Q.M.S. Wilson put in some very fine individual work and Sergeant Beckerton, working with him, was too well covered to do much with the ball, and was unlucky with many attempts.

Lieutenant Cousens, a new member to the Unit, covered himself with glory, passing and swerving and making it look very easy. Many shots from long range were tried and it was only the keen defence work of the A.P.T.S. which kept the ball out of the net.

The only goal of the match came about half-way through the first half. A long pass from Lieutenant Cousens was intercepted by inside-right Signalman Franklin, who shot into the right-hand top corner of the net, giving the goalkeeper no chance.

Result: Signals 1, A.P.T.S. 0.

"WESTCO"

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

May

The activities of the Squadron this month are in the form of practice Drill Parades in readiness for the G.O.C.'s Annual Parade. On the combined practice parade the Squadron came up to a high standard of drill and smartness; in fact, one can notice that there are some very promising D.I.s in the making, especially in the A.T.S. contingent, where Sergeant Senior and Lance-Corporals McIvor and Cole were particularly noticeable in their efforts. No doubt there will be further parades in the near future with the coming visits of the War Minister (Mr. Shinwell) and Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery. I am sure there will be a great welcome awaiting both these celebrated personalities, especially for "Monty," as he will be visiting his old home land.

A Sandes' Home has been recently opened in the camp area and, judging by the numbers seen proceeding in that direction, has its usual popularity.

The latest craze, or I should say, novelty, at the moment has been caused by the opening of a nine-hole golf course, which extends around the football and hockey pitches. It draws quite large attendances, and seems very popular.

In the field of sport, due to the change of season, Cricket is coming into its own, but up to the moment no actual team has been formed, although in future practices we may find some talent to get up a promising eleven. The A.T.S. Hockey Team which journeyed to York to take part in the Inter-Command Tournament were unfortunate to be beaten in all their three games.

The Table Tennis Team had a good win at Finaghy, where they played N.A.A.F.I. and won 11 games to 1, Corporal Des. Lovesay being unfortunate to lose his game.

Arrivals and departures take the usual place, as we bid reluctant farewell to Second-Lieutenant Dudley George, who proceeds to Eastern Command (Eastern Command please note how fortunate they are in gaining a very talented artiste in Dudley if they are putting on any shows). And also to Second-Lieutenant Percy John, who leaves us for civil life, in which we wish him the very best of good fortune. These officers have done much to further the excellent name of the Squadron, both in sports and entertainments, and their departure leaves a gap we shall find hard to fill. Our sincere thanks and best wishes to you both. Junior Commander F. Stevenson leaves us for Eastern Command and our best wishes go with her and our thanks for all she has done for the Squadron, especially for the girls, whose welfare and interests have been her constant thought. Corporal Des. Lovesay has left us for civil life; this is another blow to our football and table tennis teams, and also to the concert party. Des. was always willing to organise or help in any game or function, and the Squadron's thanks and best wishes go with him. We extend a warm welcome to Second-Lieutenant Peden, who takes the place of Mr. George, and Junior Commander Ridler, who replaces Miss Stevenson.

Romances are still in vogue now that Spring is here. Hearty congratulations are extended to Private Marjory Chicken on becoming engaged to Corporal (now Mr.) Des. Lovesay, and Private Ivy Adams, who joins the usual "take-a-chance" by getting married.

"E.F.M."

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

British Army of the Rhine

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Hamburg

May

During April we experienced our first, and very pleasant, taste of Summer. Overnight, flowers, trees and summer sports blossomed forth. Many wistful glances were cast at our Swimming Pool which, unfortunately, is not yet ready. However, we hope it won't be long now. Meantime, sunbathing has been the order of the day for those fortunates off duty.

Our Unit Sports Officer, Major E. S. Whitaker, is busy planning "forthcoming attractions," included in which are of course cricket, lawn tennis, field sports and, perhaps, an Inter-Regimental Sports Meet with our new neighbours, No. 7 Light Infantry Battalion Parachute Brigade.

The past month has seen another Regimental shoot organised by Major Beaumont, who has recently joined us from U.K.

Yachting on the Elbe is another proposal recently raised. So far the possibility has eluded us, but it is anticipated that a yacht will soon be available.

Geographical surveys of the Kiel Canal have added to the interest of the Unit Education programme and have so far proved very instructive.

Among the many activities of the Entertainments Committee, headed at present by Second-Lieutenant F. Greenwood, has been the organisation of darts and table tennis tournaments. At darts the Unit were successful in winning the Hamburg District Cup. At table tennis the first round has yet to be played, our first opponents being No. 7 Light Infantry Battalion Parachute Brigade.

Hockey. Since the last issue of our notes the Seven-a-Side Knock-Out Competition has been finished off. The winners were Administration and "Q" Troop, who defeated M.T. and T.M. Troop by 6 goals to nil. The winning team comprised Major J. M. Glass, Major E. Whitaker, R.S.M. Couch, S.Q.M.S. Miller, Sergeant Kenny, Lance-Corporal Ponton and S.S.M. McQuade.

The Unit has only played one game, a friendly against No. 22 Heavy Workshops, R.E.M.E., at Blankanese, and were unfortunate to lose 4—3.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. On Monday evening, 3rd May, we sallied forth to the Tivoli for a skittles match plus "beer" with the Corporals' Mess, who had previously issued a challenge. We have nothing to say about the skittles as the Corporals simply romped home, winning all three legs. During the evening a challenge was accepted to play the Corporals at Hockey at a future date. On Sunday, 9th May, at 1430 hours, the game was played, and this time the decision was reversed, the Mess being winners by 6 goals to 1. We now here whispers of a game *versus* the remainder of the Unit. Are you playing in goal, Corporal Ball?

We say "Good-bye" to one of our oldest members, Sergeant "Pip" Eccles, on a Python posting to Blighty. We hope you passed your first lesson in English, "Pip." We welcome two old-timers in Sergeant Cox and Sergeant Smith, both of Sarafand fame and other places.

"MAC"

Corporals' Mess. As this goes to press the few old "lags" left in the Mess-Bar mourn the loss of still more of the Old Brigade of "characters." Our sincere best wishes go out to them all, and we who are left assure them that the best traditions of the Mess are being upheld in the spheres of entertainment and sport.

The Corporals' dances are still voted to be the ultimate acme of perfection in entertainment, and are one of the "musts." It was hoped to manage a trip to Rendesburg by boat, but to date, in spite of numerous requests, it seems doomed to failure. However, with the advent of true summer weather we may have to report yet another buccaneering trip down the Elbe. This month will see yet another change taking shape within the Unit, one that will cause sorrowful memories to previous members. The "Bounty," scene of many nights of hilarity and true comradeship, is about to be scuttled. "Blighthefully" she is left with her empty casks and her haunting memories, as the N.A.A.F.I. moves to another site within the Unit, leaving behind a whispered "Back to your oars!" Until next month, shipmates and land-lubbers, Ahoy!

"JOK"

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

May

We welcome to the Squadron Second-Lieutenant D. E. Jackson, Royal Signals, from No. 50 R.H.U.

Lieutenant W. D. Persson, Royal Signals ("Big Bill"), left us for Civvy Street during the last month; we all wish him the best of luck. He will be greatly missed by this Squadron, as he always took a very keen interest in organising sporting activities, and never missed a game. Corporal Frazer and Signalman Horton also left for better or for worse; anyway, good luck to them all.

Football. Encouraged by a 12—0 victory over No. 207 C.R.A.S.C. the other week, we thought it was high time we had a crack at bigger things, and it was with a fair amount of trepidation we challenged No. 94 Observation Regiment, R.A., one of the weaker Regimental sides. The challenge was justified, and we returned with our honour intact, having drawn 4—4. But we were not content, and on 28th April we decided to play the Royal Scots Greys, a team which was the reverse of weak, having beaten in its time most of the teams in the area.

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNALS FOOTBALL XI

Back row: Driver Irwin, Foreman of Signals Le Hardy, Corporal Perry, Lance-Corporal Carlson, Signalman Horton. Front row: Lance-Corporal Bentham, Driver N. Wood, Lance-Corporal Sullivan, Lance-Corporal Mottershead, Lance-Corporal Richardson. In uniform: Second-Lieutenant W. M. D. Persson, who has encouraged the team throughout the season

Once more the team played well, and the final score was 3—3. In fact, for the last quarter of an hour the ball was hardly out of the Greys' penalty area. As we have only 40 men available, it is not too bad. We intend to finish up the season by playing R.A.F., Luneburg, and (we hope) end it in a blaze of glory.

On the whole it has been an excellent season; it would be unfair to pick out individual members of the team for praise, because it has been as much teamwork as anything else that has got us anywhere at all.

Goal-scoring has been prolific, with Lance-Corporal Mottershead in the lead, with 34 goals at the moment to his credit.

The results in recent matches have been:—

April 3rd	*v.*	Camp H.Q., No. 4 A.G.R.A.	Won	6—2
April 8th	*v.*	Camp H.Q., No. 4 A.G.R.A.	Won	5—0
April 10th	*v.*	No. 60 Rifle Squadron, R.A.F. Regiment	Won	4—2
April 14th	*v.*	No. 207 C.R.A.S.C.	Won	12—0
April 17th	*v.*	No. 94 Observation Regiment, R.A.	Drew	4—4
April 21st	*v.*	Camp H.Q., No. 4 A.G.R.A.	Drew	4—4
April 28th	*v.*	Royal Scots Greys	Drew	3—3

Cricket. Playing the first game of the season against Camp H.Q., No. 4 A.G.R.A., on Monday, 27th April, we managed to graze home with a win by 20 runs after a grand afternoon's cricket. The weather was ideal; with tea provided on the ground it brought back memories of the cricketing days of pre-war. Camp won the toss and decided to put us in to bat. We were soon in trouble, with 2 wickets down for 6 runs. Things began to look black, but S.S.M. Nurse, with 57, and Lance-Corporal Mottershead, with 23, altered the look on the score board. We ended up by scoring 131 in 85 minutes; so we gave the fielders plenty of running about. Camp H.Q. scored freely and soon had 50 runs on the board, then S.S.M. Nurse and Driver Vincent got settled down to bowling, and got them out for 111 runs, S.S.M. Nurse taking 5 for 53 and Driver Vincent 4 for 47.

Indoor Games League. We have just completed the Indoor Games League with quite good results. Played 11, won 9, lost 2. Billiards/Snooker: Played 9, won 7, lost 2. At Table Tennis, Signalman Homer was our outstanding player, having played 45 games, winning 43—a very fine effort.

No. 2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

May

On Saturday, 8th May, the Regiment was honoured by the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. Dame Weather favoured us with a brilliant sunny day, which gave added splendour to the Guard of Honour under Sergeant Stead. On arrival at the Barracks Her Royal Highness inspected the Guard of Honour and the following Officers of the Unit were presented: Major E. H. Clarke, O.B.E., Major R. E. Crawford, Major H. W. Philpott, Major A. E. Wood, Captain J. Y. Ferguson, Captain R. A. Milligan, Captain W. W. Fawley, Captain E. J. White, Captain D. S. Horne, Captain J. W. Simpson, M.B.E., Captain G. S. Blackburn, Captain D. W. Sutherland, M.M., Captain F. Parker, Captain A. J. B. Goldie, Captain (T.O.M.) J. Pollard, Captain (T.O.M.) S. L. Martin, Lieutenant K. G. Holdway, Lieutenant T. A. Redley, Second-Lieutenant J. D. Jones, Second-Lieutenant P. E. A. Montagnon, Second-Lieutenant R. W. Truby, Second-Lieutenant M. S. Adams, Second-Lieutenant D. Irving, Second-Lieutenant G. W. Starling, Second-Lieutenant G. M. W. Jones and R.S.M. J. Featonby, Royal Signals. The Guard of Honour comprised the following: Sergeant Stead, Corporal Bryan, Signalmen Harris, Bone, Styles, Powell, Cochran, Smith, Campbell, Gray, Barrett, Morris, Nicholson and Davidson.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied on her visit by the Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E.

H.R.H. then toured the Model Club of the Regiment and examined a few of the carefully constructed model aircraft and racing cars that afford many hours of occupied leisure to the enthusiasts of the Regiment. We understand that H.R.H. tested "in flight" the seemingly very heavy though actually light balsa wood whose name is magic to the enthusiastic contructors.

H.R.H. then lunched with the Officers of the Regiment in the H.Q. Mess, and subsequently left the Barracks to visit "Exercise Unity."

On 18th April, 1948, Mrs. F. C. Seely, the wife of the Commanding Officer, was met by Officers of the Regiment at Bad Oeynhausen Station. We extend to her a most hearty welcome.

The Unit was, during two weeks of the month, extensively employed in providing line and wireless communications for "Exercise Unity." Weather was of all kinds. Rainstorms prevailed.

Headquarters Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. During the month a Farewell Dinner and Dance was given in the Mess on the departure of R.S.M. D. Herberts, S.S.M. Parker, S.S.M. Pash and their families to the U.K. We trust their memories of the Mess will always remain, and we must offer a word of praise to R.S.M. Herberts for all the hard work for getting and keeping our Mess in such good shape.

Our very best wishes go to you—Ginger, Pat and Tich. We are sure the good things will always stick in your memories.

We welcome R.S.M. J. Featonby, who joined us from No. 2 Squadron, where he has been "employed technically." One of the topics of the moment is who is going to clean up the Snowball at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club? Well, even a tenner is not to be sneezed at these days—but there is a sincere hope that it will come to the Mess, notwithstanding that familiar expression nowadays—"Show us your B.A.F.S.V."

During the month we have said "Good-bye" to Sergeants Donnelly, Pauley and Harvey, who left us for civilian life. The sports page of a certain Scottish newspaper has already given us news of the good work done by Sergeant Harvey for Stenhousemuir. Sergeant Donnelly headed for that pub of his that he is going to run, and we understand that Sergeant Pauley is left out in the cold unless he can manage to get the long awaited vacancy as a Barrow Boy. We wish them all the best of luck, however, in their life.

"CAVE CANEM"

Fencing. The B.A.O.R. Fencing Championships took place at No. 50 R.H.U., Bielefeld, on 1st and 2nd April. Although the organisers invited 14 British competitors and four members of the Belgian Corps to take part in the Foil, Sabre and Epee competitions, only seven British competitors could be found from the whole of B.A.O.R. with sufficient skill to take part. The British competitors were found by the following Regiments: Inniskilling Dragoons, 2; Royal Engineers, 1; No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, 1; Grenadier Guards, 1; A.P.T.C., 2.

Eighteen competitors took part in the Open Championship—two pools of nine for each weapon. The first four of each pool went up to the final pool to fight for the championship.

A larger contingent from the Belgian and Danish Armies were allowed to compete to make up the shortage of British competitors. Besides being outnumbered, the British element were outclassed and the final pools were made up by Belgian and Danish competitors only. Belgium emerged victors in each weapon. Although outclassed, the British competitors put up some stout fights, and many were lost only by the odd point in seven.

After the final pools for the open championships, the first five British competitors competed in Phase II of the Royal Tournament Competition. The leading two will now represent the B.A.O.R. at the forthcoming Royal Tournament in England. This Regiment's representative in Epee and Sabre was Captain G. A. E. Gavey, Royal Signals. He qualified for the final pool in Sabre, but was unfortunate in losing three of the four fights (3—4, 3—4, 3—4) and winning one (4—3). The winners of this final pool were: 1st, Royal Engineers; 2nd, Grenadier Guards.

Special praise should be given to Sergeant Smith, of the Grenadier Guards, who, despite having received a very painful wound (necessitating five stitches in his weapon arm) whilst fighting the previous day, carried on to win second place in Sabre, and will also represent B.A.O.R. at the Royal Tournament.

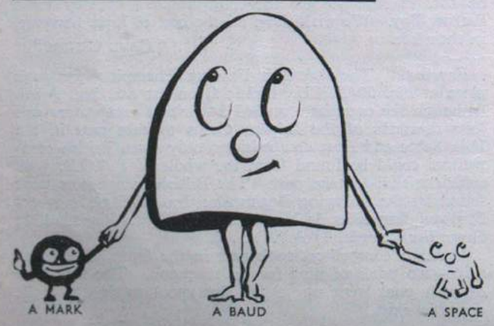
All the British competitors felt they would have done better in the Open Championships had there been previous opportunities for individual practice bouts during training. It is appreciated that one must be an enthusiast and keep up training before one can aspire to championship class, but this Regiment has the fencing equipment and the services of a very skilled Fencing Master (Herr Nettingsmeier). Mixed classes are held every Wednesday and Friday at the Y.M.C.A., Herford, from 8 p.m., and private tuition can also be arranged in Barracks for anyone interested.

Younger members of the Regiment are especially welcome at these classes, so if an early start is made it should be possible to enter more competitors at next year's tournament.

No. 1 SQUADRON, HERFORD. We shall indeed be sorry to part with Major (T.O.M.) A. C. Shenton, when he reverts to Home Establishment next month. The footballers of the Regiment will always remember the keen interest he had in their activities, and join with us in sending him best wishes and good luck wherever he may go. Congratulations to him on having obtained such an admirably suited job.

We also send best wishes to Second-Lieutenant D. O. Cullen, who has left us for, he says, "a somewhat less hectic life in the great Metropolis." He was for some time O.C. No. 62 Construction Troop and was also a Unit Games Officer.

STUDENT DOODLES—II.



Captain (T.O.M.) R. B. Newman is welcomed to the Squadron on arrival from Western Command Mixed Signal Regiment, Chester. Captain Newman has taken up duties as R.M.T.O.

A very enjoyable evening was spent by a large number of people at the No. 1 Squadron Dance. Once again we have to thank the A.T.S. Signals for so gallantly rallying to help our partner situation—at times very acute.

The football season has now virtually finished, but a good game was seen by many enthusiastic spectators on Saturday, when No. 1 Squadron beat No. 3 Squadron by one goal to nil.

It is proposed to organise a Sports Day for early June, prior to the Regimental Sports Day. It is hoped that, as last year, the sun will shine as brightly as some of our more worthy competitors.

No. 2 SQUADRON, BAD OEYNHAUSEN. This month has seen the departure of many Officers on Release, including Second-Lieutenants Pugh, Godden and Bull, and lastly, but by no means least, Subaltern "Jo" Cahill, A.T.S. Signals, one of the oldest Mess members. Good-bye "Jo," and good luck.

The usual end-of-the-month Officers' Mess Party was held on 29th April, the highlight of which occurred when certain Officers took over the duties of the Band during the interval, the result being interesting if not musical.

During the past month we have said "Good-bye and good luck" to Sergeants Ivin Wheeler, Wade Harvey, Pepper and Tidmarsh, all of whom have left us on demob.

We have lost R.S.M. Featonby and Sergeant "Taffy" Morgan, who have taken up duties at R.H.Q., Herford. We also said "Good-bye" to Sergeant Stuart, who has left for the U.K., prior to posting to the Far East.

Towards the end of the month Sergeant Trendall and Sergeant Margaret Lacroix (his future wife) left for the U.K., where they are to be married. We wish them every happiness for the future.

The dance held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 24th April proved a great success; the usual red noses were seen hanging over the bar, whilst others had the strength to shake a nifty hip, and yet others were anxiously waiting to polish off the excellent spread provided. The eats were of the best, prepared under the guidance of S.S.M. ("Busty") Kingdom.

Sergeant Les Strange was married to Johanne Pauline Elizabeth Day on 17th April in the Garrison Church of St. George, Berlin. May we wish them every happiness in their married life.

Wedding bells sounded in No. 186 T.O. Troop last month for the marriage of Signalman Sheldon to Lance-Corporal Keegan, A.T.S. Signals. The wedding took place at the R.C. Church, Bad Oeynhausen, and a reception was held in the Signals Club after the service.

"ONE OF THE RED NOSES"

No. 3 SQUADRON. Since our last appearance in these notes the Squadron has been kept busy preparing for Exercise "Unity," in which, at the moment, it is fully committed.

On Easter Sunday a most enjoyable afternoon was spent watching the Regimental Motor Cycle Trials, which was organised by a few of the D.R. N.C.O.s. Some first-class riding was witnessed and the weather for the day was glorious. There were eight hazards, namely: Rocky climb, gully, five bends, mud section, hill climb, brake test, control descent, and diversion through trees, gullies and rough. Prizes were awarded to the first four, and it is interesting to note that all four were from the same troop, i.e., No. 77 D.R. Troop. The winners were: 1st, Signalman Wright, 3 marks; 2nd, Signalman Hart, 8 marks; 3rd, Signalman Peerman, 25 marks; 4th, Signalman Foster, 31 marks.

On the way back to Barracks, the riders and course officials had a "quickie" at O.C. D.R. Group's house (Captain Hannigan) to celebrate the festive occasion. It is hoped to organise a similar event in the near future.

Exercise "Unity" has upset our training for the forthcoming athletics, but we hope to put up a good show and come out on top in the Inter-Squadron Athletics on 20th May.

"DEKAPEA"

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

April

The Troop Training within the Regiment and in conjunction with H.Q. 2nd Division, which commenced in March, came to a successful conclusion at the end of April. Day exercises and one night exercise were held, and from all accounts proved on the whole very successful. All concerned who took part have gained much knowledge and experience, which they will find of great benefit in the forthcoming Divisional and Army Exercises. The Divisional Exercise (Jordan) commences on 4th May and ends on 7th May. The Army Exercise commences on 10th May and ends on 14th May. We are hoping that the Weather Clerk will be kind and issue a fair and fine weather report for this period.

During the interim the Regiment is being visited in the field by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel in Chief, who will be accompanied by the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E.

The Aero Modelling Club is still going strong and attracting the R.A.F. "types," who are continually trying to beat the airborne record of Corporal Johnny Sutton's "King Cobra," which remained in flight for 67 seconds. A club of German model-plane enthusiasts has started in Essen, and one of their recent achievements has been to construct a miniature plane, powered by a tiny motor, and which flew non-stop from Essen to Berleburg, a distance of 112 km. This has caused a great sensation among the Sergeants, who are carrying out experiments on a jet engine for the Aero Club and has stung them to further efforts with their invention. The German Aero Club, which had heard of the Regiment's interest in this same sphere of model aircraft, has asked, through the medium of KEYNOTES, the Divisional Newspaper, to discuss and compare their work and arrange joint meetings.

Now that the fine weather has appeared the Cycling Club has once more come into the limelight, and the members are taking advantage to visit the surrounding countryside. Plans have been made whereby the members will have outings to the various places of interest and local leave centres within the Divisional area, and which no doubt will prove very popular. Membership is on the increase, and it looks as if the P.R.I. will be asked to supply more machines. These are obtainable through N.A.A.F.I. sources at a reasonable price.

The flower gardens in the Regimental Lines are now at their best and make the surroundings look very attractive. Tulips, now in full bloom, have superseded the daffodils and the crocuses, and make a gorgeous splash of various colours and a touch of home life around the Barrack Area.

The vegetable gardens, both the Regimental, which are cultivated by German personnel, and those that are cultivated and looked after by the respective Troops at H.Q., are progressing very well. The benefit of the hard work that has been put into these gardens will be reaped later on, when additional fresh vegetables will be available to implement those drawn and issued to the Cookhouse for the Men's Dining Room.

It was with great relief that we heard that Mrs. Miles, the wife of Captain ("Pop") H. S. P. Miles had been taken off the dangerously ill list. She had been very ill for some time and the Regiment's wish is that Mrs. Miles will soon be completely recovered, well, and fit once again.

This month the hand of friendship is extended to Captain and Mrs. Staerck and family, who have joined the Regiment from No. 33 Signal Squadron, Captain J. MacFarlane, and to all new arrivals who have joined the Regiment during this month.

The month of April saw the departure of Captain (Q.M.) "Chuck" Fearnley and Mrs. Fearnley to the U.K. "Chuck," however, is returning after he has had a spot of well deserved leave, and remaining until the time comes when he will be proceeding on release and leaving the Service for good. Here's wishing you the very best of luck and good fortune for the future.

Football. The Inter-Troop League, with the exception of one or two games remaining to be played, has now ended. As predicted, "L" Troop (H) Brigade have won the Championship Shield for this year, followed by "O" (A) Team in second place, third place being gained by H.Q. Team. The League was a huge sucess, and from these league games a very good Regimental side was formed which had a very good season all round.

Athletics, Swimming and Cricket have now taken the place of the grand winter game. So far, Swimming has not yet been possible in Hilden as the Pool is not yet open. Transport is laid on, however, every Wednesday afternoon for any budding swimmers who care to make the plunge in the Dusseldorf enclosed Swimming Bath.

Cricket has yet to get into its stride.

A Divisional Cricket League has been formed, which the Regiment has entered, and in which they will no doubt give a good account of themselves.

HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

May

Ex-members of the Squadron would be amazed at the alterations which have taken place within the Squadron in the last few months. Demob and leave have depleted our ranks to such an extent that Royal Signals personnel are relatively scarce in Hamburg.

Despite the difficult man-power situation we turned out a team for the local Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition.

Left to right: Signalmen Knight, Williams, Davies, Lance-Corporal Melville, Sergeant Jeffreys, Lance-Corporal Hyde, Second-Lieutenant D. N. Lindon

Lance-Corporal (Jock) Melville brings down his man. Other players, stripes (left to right) Signalman Knight, Second-Lieutenant Lindon and, just taking off, Lance-Corporal Hyde

Unfortunately we were knocked out in the first round, although it was misfortune and not the fault of the team that caused us to lose. The full-back was injured in the first five minutes of the game and in normal circumstances would have been B.L.R'd, but however in this case he gallantly endured the rest of the match. The final score was 4—3, a dropped goal to a try, the latter scored by Lance-Corporal Hyde. The photographs show the toughs in action. Second-Lieutenant Lindon made a timely entrance, being just recently posted to the Squadron, and was pulled into the team.

Hamburg District Soccer Association have organised an Inter-Service Knock-Out Cup. The Royal Signals team has been selected from players of No. 1 Special Wireless Group, Air Formation Signals and this Squadron. The team is captained by Captain John Evans, M.C., who is still with the Squadron. Others selected are Sergeant Gilchrist (No. 2 Echelon Troop), Sergeant Shelley (No. 67 Cipher Troop), Signalman Nicholls (Line Troop) and Signalman McCann (No. 2 Echelon Troop).

A bye was gained in the first round and we drew against R.E.M.E. in the second, but on 1st May at Gluckstadt, Signals were victorious with a score of three goals against their two. Captain Evans scored two of the Signals' goals. All members of the team played a fine game, with special mention for Signalman McCann, the goalkeeper. No. 1 Wireless Regiment must be applauded for the excellent way in which they played host to the members of the Squadron, both team and spectators.

Royal Signals are now in the semi-final, which will be played at Rothenbaum Chaussee on Whit-Saturday.

The "M" plan is being drawn up in the Cipher Office—for security reasons—and hopes of success are very high.

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The General Secretary,
Royal Signals Association,
88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

May

Hullo again from Berlin—this month's copy at least is ready on time. The last few weeks have brought perfect weather and shirt-sleeve order is now in force. For the benefit of energetic types, a first-class outdoor swimming pool has been opened at the Olympic Stadium, and it is expected to be even more popular than last year.

We have only three more matches to play off in the Berlin Spring Soccer League and then will hopefully turn to cricket — "hopefully" because our Soccer results are well below the usual standard.

The Table Tennis League is now over and the Squadron was placed fourth out of nine entries. This was not at all bad when the size of opposing Units is taken into account.

An inquiry has been instituted to find which member of British Troops, Berlin, "has the most service in." One put forward is a High Speed Wireless Troop "boy," Driver

Back row (left to right): Signalman Paton, Driver Wignall, Lance-Corporal Rankin, Lance-Corporal Watts, Signalman Sellors. Front row (left to right): Signalman Barfoot, Signalman Crapper, Signalman Gartside, Lance-Corporal Gladman, Signalman Wardle, Signalman Ryan

C. O'Callaghan, who has 34 years to his credit. He says he will leave us reluctantly on 31st December. On checking his personal file it was discovered that through a clerical error Driver O'Callaghan was reputed to be serving a Short Term engagement.

Our new Second-in-Command has arrived, Captain W. C. Day, also S.S.M. G. D. Rockall, and both were soon well dug in.

Marriages. We have two marriages to announce this month, that of Sergeant Bain to Ursula, and Sergeant Strange to Lisa. Sergeant Strange is an ex-member of the Squadron, but travelled back to Berlin for the ceremony. It is rumoured that the remainder of the Sergeants' Mess were relieved when the celebrations were all over, as they were beginning to feel the strain. To both couples we extend our very best wishes for the future.

A fitting way to end is to mention members who were released this period, so "Cheerio" to Corporal Haigh, Lance-Corporal Hope, Signalmen Smith, Raven and Sapper Marsh; also to S.S.M. Marks, who left us for No. 3 Signal Reporting Squadron.

"BERLIN JIMMY"

Other Overseas Stations

BETFOR SIGNALS

Trieste

April

As this is our first appearance in THE WIRE, perhaps we had better start by elucidating the abbreviation at the head of these notes. It stands for British Element Trieste Force. This is one of the three forces planned to assist the Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste. The other two forces are American and Jugoslav. Each is limited by the Italian Peace Treaty to 5,000 men.

No governor for the newly-formed territory has yet been agreed upon, so the British and American zones of the territory, which includes the city of Trieste, are still administered by Allied Military government. The British G.O.C. acts as Military Governor of these two zones.

The Jugoslavs in their zone have their own system and ideas of government which do not conform to ours; consequently there is no intercourse between the Allied and Jugoslav zones.

The Jugoslavs would dearly love to have access to the city of Trieste and to take part in its administration. The Italian Peace Treaty re-adjusted the frontiers of Jugoslavia so that the Free Territory has only about two miles of frontier with Italy; the rest of it is with Jugoslavia. The British and American zones consist of a strip of territory of an average depth of about five miles along the Northern Adriatic Coast.

One special feature of Trieste is the Bora. This is a biting cold wind reaching gale force which blows down from the mountains. This gift from Jugoslavia is one which could be dispensed with.

Betfor Signals responsibilities consist in providing communications for No. 24 Infantry Brigade and for Betfor, both within the territory and to the outside world. Wireless plays a very important part of our communications plan. The main cable route out of the territory to Austria runs through Jugoslavia. There is plenty of opportunity of liaison with all Services and with our friends of the American Signal Corps. Much business is done by the Combined Signal Board.

The C.R. Signals is Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Paterson, O.B.E., who also acts as C.S.O. Major Frank Mills and Captain Mike Watterson, late of C.S.O's Staff, C.M.F., are with the Unit; also Captain Stanley Lee, late of M.E.F., and Captain Dutch Holland, late C.M.F., and Lieutenant Ken. Uttley.

We have with us a few familiar faces, including S.S.M. "Ted" Taylor (at present enjoying a short 49-day leave in Austria), S.Q.M.S. "Bing" Byron (ex-No. 13 Corps Signals), Sergeant "Ted" Grummet (he's been here long enough to own the place), Sergeants Durrant and Swales (ex-"Rats"), Sergeant Barrell (track layer), Sergeants Bruford, Hall, White and Carter, while working in our Cipher Office we have S.S.M. "Nobby" Clarke and Sergeants Barber, Cook and Cox, all of whom emigrated from No. 13 Corps Signals.

Until recently there have been comparatively few changes in the Unit. Now we are in the process of a big turnover of men. A hearty welcome to the newcomers, and good luck to old comrades. Among old friends who have left us we send greetings to Major "Nobby" Clarke, S.S.M.s Viney and Campbell. We would like to thank the late C.S.O., C.M.F., Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., and his staff for giving us such a good start.

Looking back over the last six months (the Free Territory was formed on 15th September, 1947), the time has been fully occupied in trying to satisfy an increasing demand for more wireless communications. The linemen have been busy tidying up not only the city but outstanding bills. In the bad old days ships apparently on occasions left Trieste without removing the telephone.

Life here has not been all work. Bathing is universally popular in the summer. There has been keen rivalry for the Inter-Troop Sports Shield. In the matches played before Christmas we came out top of the Small Units' Football League.

Christmas was celebrated in the usual fashion. Our poor children's party, judging by the food consumed, the pressure on buttons and the noise level, was an outstanding success. It was hard to judge which was the greater success, Father Christmas or the Punch and Judy show in Italian.

In the summer, out of doors dances were a weekly feature. These we hope to start again soon, now the weather is improving.

At present Military Training is occupying our attention. We hope to publish more details of our activities next month.

No. 3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fayid

April

Last month passed in re-organisation for the new War Establishment, and now, with the demobilisation of Groups 69 and 70 we have settled down a good deal fewer in numbers. These are still diminishing, but everything, to use a military cliche, is under control, and we have no doubts or fears for the future. Our many activities and interests have suffered not one whit from the reduction of strength; in fact, we are striking out in new directions.

Our theatre is nearing completion, and will shortly house its first audiences. The Dramatic Society, taking advantage of a fine stage and excellent lighting apparatus, is already preparing its first play. Its opening work remains, as yet, a secret, but the committee has been in conference, and we await results with interest.

The close of the Soccer and Rugger seasons is upon us, and we can look back on a year of achievement in these fields. A full report on these activities and upon the Athletics will appear at a later date, but it is certain that we have made our name in the area.

With the return of Spring we are beginning to see our cricketers, as potential Hammonds and Huttons appear at the nets. The sun has cast off all modesty, and now beams upon us every day, while the winds which used to fling the desert in our teeth and tried to wrench our tents from the Regimental lines, have left us to recover and to re-entrench ourselves.

Hockey still claims the attention of many of our numbers, and frequent battles are fought out with our neighbours. There is to be a match between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes in the near future, and although the outcome is undecided, it is sure to be an excellent game. With the advent of warm suns and favouring breezes, there has been a renewal of interest in the Unit Sailing Club, and many disciples are to be seen at the water's edge,

learning the technicalities of handling and racing a yacht. We hope that some of these new recruits will fill the places of our experienced yachtsmen, some of whom are shortly sailing away in large vessels.

Leave is a subject which touches every true Signalman's heart, and there are many facilities for holidaymakers in this area. The Army has several leave camps in which one can lose the atmosphere of routine for seven days and can relax in comfort, while surrounded by many facilities for pleasure and recreation. Local or line-leave is discouraged as far as possible, for no one can really benefit from a holiday in the midst of an operational Unit. People are therefore advised to make use of the leave schemes organised by the Army Welfare Service, which can be enjoyed at Cyprus, where many of us stationed in the M.E. experienced all the thrills of the winter sporting activities, and at Luxor, on the Nile, where there are guides to show the visitor the ruins of Egypt's ancient civilisation. We shall have more to say on this subject when our Special Correspondent returns from the Valley of Kings.

By far the most important social event of the month has been the marriage of Miss Phyllis Croot, of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., to Major C. L. Wikner, our Operations Officer, The wedding took place at St. Martin's Church on 11th March, and the reception was held at the Sisters' Mess in Fayid. The bride and bridegroom left for their honeymoon in Cyprus, and we take this opportunity of wishing them good luck and all the joys of domestic happiness in the years that lie before them.

Our Unit Magazine has suffered a severe setback from the shortage of typists, but libel will out, and we expect to see another edition of *Ariel* on sale again very soon.

Our farewells have been said to many this month, and our welcome has been extended to several officers. In particular we are glad to have with us Major Blaker and Major Panton, whom we hope will be happy in their sojourn here.

So much, then, from Fayid, and we bid you adieu until the beginning of May.

PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

April

By the time these notes appear in print, Palestine Command Signal Regiment will have little time left to live. We who served in it think that it has been, and is, a good Regiment, and extend our thanks to those members of the Corps who have passed through as our predecessors and helped to make its name.

At present the establishment and organisation of the Regiment is changing rapidly as the evacuation of Palestine proceeds, and we are approaching the final stage of the "Haifa enclave."

These last few months have taught us a number of lessons in terms of Signals and Imperial Policing. They have shown that I.S. duties are a strain on communications even greater than battle, especially in maintenance of land lines. In many parts of the country Royal Signals took over the maintenance of civil routes since neither Jew nor Arab would venture into mixed areas or "No man's lands."

Nearly every mine which exploded—no matter whether the target was the Army, an Arab bus or a Jewish convoy—blew up the military underground cables into the bargain. Since both sides wear His Majesty's uniform if the occasion suits it, then the presence of uniformed men digging round a crater looking for cable soon after an explosion was frequently discouraged by typical measures. Cable and line parties have frequently been under small arms and mortar fire.

On almost deserted roads throughout the country, when the order would be "minimum operational traffic," some of the very few vehicles to be seen—and we confess, frequently disobeying the 35 m.p.h. speed limit of the Scout Cars—would be the familiar S.D.S. cars getting through regardless of sniping. Often they were up to six or eight hours overdue because of blown bridge or mine craters; often they had to make detours of fifty or sixty miles, but they always carried the mail through.

Besides the satisfaction of doing a constructive task, it was made easier by the cheerfulness and ready humour of every man—proving that the post-war soldier still has his heart in the right place—and one doesn't have to look far to find it.

At the time of writing there are still several weeks of work ahead of us and we are planning to give complete communication during the major moves of Formations and Units.

A last word in thanks to No. 5 Wireless Carrier Troop of No. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment, who have proved the reliability of the No. 10 sets time and time again. They have operated as isolated detachments all over the country, three of them perched on mountain tops remote from troops, N.A.A.F.I.s or any amenities. In one instance a detachment of this Troop fought off an attack for an hour, until relief arrived, killing 15 Jews with no casualties themselves. They have done an excellent job.

H.Q. AIR COMMAND, FAR EAST

Chief Air Formation Signal Officer's Branch, Singapore

As far as we know, this is probaly the first contribution to the post-war WIRE to be submitted by a Signals Staff Branch. We are not out to create a precedent, but we hope readers will be as much pleased as surprised to see us in print in the Corps Magazine.

The present staff of this Branch (rather a select few amongst the great numerical strength of H.Q. Air Command) is composed of the following Officers and Other Ranks:

Colonel T. A. R. Scott ("Tac R" to many members of the Corps) is filling the "red-band" appointment of C.A.F.S.O., assisted by Major B. R. H. Townson and Captain P. H. Manley. For convenience we also house the "B" Type Air Formation Signal Staff of Air H.Q. Malaya, which appointment is at present filled by Major J. Knowles, M.B.E.

S.S.M. J. V. Needham, newly arrived ex-U.K. (second tour!), Sergeants Sharrott and Hancock (the latter R.A.S.C. where are all the Royal Signals clerks these days?), Corporals Smith and Gage comprise the remainder of the staff. Subject to the Release Programme proceeding as estimated, several changes in staff are to be expected during 1948.

The location of Air Command, with whom we work and live, is at a place called Changi, which, as far as Singapore Island is concerned, is the local seaside resort. Amenities are good, especially for the "outdoor" types, and visits to Singapore are unnecessary except for major occasions. We are also blessed with the sight of home-country femininity provided by the W.A.A.F.

The one and only Unit under our technical control—No. 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment—is situated some seven miles from Changi. We follow the Unit keenly in the field of sport, and the C.A.F.S.O. was greatly pleased by their recent trouncing of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment in a Motor Cycle Rally held at the Air Formation Signal Camp. Considering the difference between the two Units in their respective numbers of motor cycle exponents, this was no mean achievement.

Working hours in the H.Q.s are 8 until 4.30, Wednesday and Saturday being half-days, and during these hours we dispose of a fair amount of "dak." If Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday are our busiest days, the fact that on these days appear the cryptic crosswords in the *Straits Times* is purely co-incidental.

We have our little "flaps," as do most Staff Offices at some time or the other; files disappear to re-appear after a couple of days in someone's pending tray! Recently we lost one for a couple of days. We might have blamed the civilian clerk, but as he is not allowed to handle that particular file (lots of security!) he was in the clear!

Our message writing also has improved since the following little verse, originated by George Robey (with acks) and remembered by the C.A.F.S.O., was circulated amongst the staff:

"I'm a plain spoken fellow, I say what I think.
A spade is a spade to me.
I'm terse and concise, and pithy and brief,
And straight to the point as can be."
REMEMBER GEORGE

The capitals were C.A.F.S.O.'s addition.

In Colonel Scott and Captain Manley we have two very active members of the R.A.F. Changi Yacht Club, and they have been well to the fore in recent sailing events. Colonel Scott's appointment to the Sailing Committee points to the good relations existing between the Army and R.A.F. on the Station.

For our closing paragraph we should like to extend our best wishes to all members and ex-members of the Corps wherever they may be.

"J.V.N."

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

March

As new scribe of East Africa Command Signal Squadron (late No. 1 L. of C. Signals) I must apologise for the absence of THE WIRE Notes due to the frequent changes of personnel and pressure of work, but hope to keep a steady flow of notes in the future.

The Squadron is commanded by Major A. E. Hollingshead and the Adjutant is Captain W. C. Savage—shades of "Pindi," Northcom and chisel pointed pencils.

O.C. Line Troop is Captain Tommy Atkins. O.C. Signal Office Troop is Captain H. Gilmore, of "Gilmore Special" fame; if you are still on your feet after three, don't try another. O.C. Wireless Troop is Lieutenant J. V. W. Andrews, who has found a new way of getting round atmospherics by putting up corkscrew masts. Last seen flying due south over Kenton on the end of a piece of manilla rope borrowed from M.T. Section. O.C. M.T. Troop and Sports Officer is Lieutenant P. A. Rance, who is punching up for a regular commission and has our best wishes for his success.

We welcome to our midst Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. Hodgson, who has now joined the other thirty-nine thieves in the "Q" Stores, and assumed the usual worried look.

The D.S.O.s, Second-Lieutenants Stewart and Borley, are getting a lot of practice in at form filling in the Signal Office ond should find it an asset when they take up farming again in Civvy Street.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The Mess has at present nine members, but we are losing two at the end of the week on demob—Sergeants Cushion and Morgan—

Sergeant Morgan, Sergeant Cassidy (A.E.C.), Sergeant Hughes, Sergeant Smith, S.S.M. Thomas, Civvy friend.

and take this opportunity of wishing them the best of luck in Civvy Street.

The remaining members, Warrant-Officers II W. J. Thomas and G. Ansell, S.Q.M.S. A. Dodaworth, Sergeants P. Hughes, W. H. Smith and Steadman, and to the two newcomers, Sergeants Hogg and Jeffries, who have just managed to squeeze into THE WIRE Notes, we extend the glad mitt and an easy chair.

The Mess held an outing to the Ngong Hills at the beginning of the month, which made a very educative and interesting day. On our return journey we came through the Game Reserve and had a good close-up view of giraffe, Thompson's gazelle, zebra, and impala, but unfortunately the lion must have smelt us coming and cleared off.

A social evening is held in the Mess on the first Saturday of each month and, judging by the attendance and remarks, it is a great success.

Sport. Sport at the moment is in its infancy, and we have taken some heavy defeats in the Football League. However, there is plenty of spirit in the team and no matter how heavy the defeat the lads turn out for the next game with their spirit unbroken. Special mention must be made of our goalkeeper, Sergeant "Badgy" Steadman, who doesn't have to board the goal up to keep them out.

We are handicapped by not having a hockey pitch, but hope to have one graded by the time our next WIRE Notes are written.

We had one bran mash on the football pitch, and under the difficult conditions there was quite a good show of talent. We hope to do very well later on.

No. 7 L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

East Africa

March

This is a new Unit making its first appearance in THE WIRE—in fact, it is so new that it is still suffering from birth pangs.

The Unit was formed in the Middle East in September from No. 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment, No. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and No. 18 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Major Brett sailed with the advance party in early October, and the main body followed under the Second-in-Command, Captain D. F. Willett, at the end of the month.

The Unit had been warned for rough living on arrival and found the warning was not exaggerated, but by the time the main body arrived the camp amidst the coconut palms was fairly habitable.

In case anyone should gain the impression that we live in sylvan surroundings, he should wait until he sees the imminent danger of dropping nuts and palm branches, to say the least of falling palm trees.

For some considerable time after arrival the Unit was footborne awaiting transport, and sighs of relief were heard from the line parties when they discovered that at last they could ride to work instead of walking. It is rumoured that the S.S.M. feels that now no one has enough exercise, and is going to agitate for route marches in spare time; the Second-in-Command inclines to the view that he hasn't got any anyway.

A large amount of work has been done under far from easy circumstances, and the Squadron is now assuming a unity which it lacked in the early stages.

On the welfare side we managed to obtain a projector from A.K.C., so are ensured of a film show at least six times a week.

The local coasts offer swimming, sharks, boating and sunbathing. Up to going to press there have been no serious accidents, although one sergeant managed to attract the wrath of the pilot when he rammed the *Empire Windrush* in a hired yacht. Rumour also has it that one man swam to shore from an upturned boat through shark-infested waters; the cynics state it was merely due to drinking Tusker in the sun. "Tusker," by the way, is the local brew.

On the sports side we have accomplished much, although a lot remains to be done, lack of grounds and equipment being our chief problem. However, the sports officer, Second-Lieutenant Lewis, helped by S.S.M. Godwin, has managed to produce a fighting football team capable of inspiring respect if not fear in their opponents. The most popular win has been over the R.C.M.P.

Christmas saw the production of our own follies, "The Changamwe Revue," which it is hoped to put in at the Garrison Theatre in the near future. Several of our Squadron have joined the local Theatre Club and done sterling work backstage fortified by the glass that cheers.

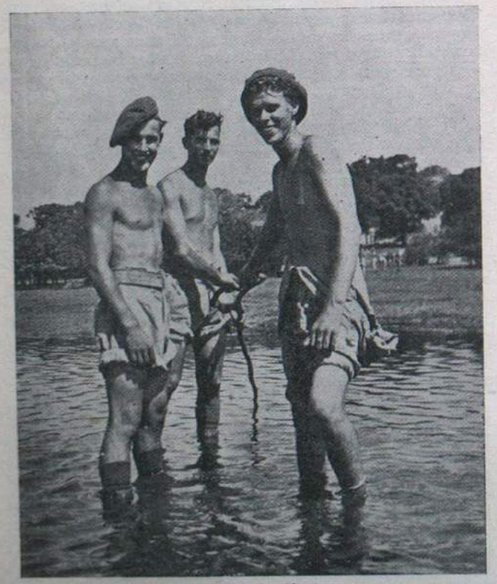
Mombasa cable

Liaison with other Units is good—particularly with the East Africa Command Signal Squadron, who provide us with facilities for leave in Nairobi with a homelike atmosphere and a welcome bar for Officers, Sergeants and O.R.s.

Other personalities with the Unit not mentioned above are Captain Redding, ex-No. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment, Lieutenants Bell and Rothwell, from No. 18 Air Formation Signal Regiment, Lieutenant Barker, and the one and only in all of East Africa—Captain (T.O.T.) G. H. Smith.

S.Q.M.S. Jimmy Pugh, of East African Signals days, is with us, capably helped by Sergeant (when I was a recruit) Sanderson. All ex-Senior Leaders from Army Signal School will be interested to know that Sergeants Horsfall, Barrett, Kerr, Flynn, Mentiply and Corporals Tonks, Craig, O'Neill and Seaford are with us, although the custom of "Bashing" has not been instituted yet.

We hope to be back again soon with more news from Darkest Africa. For the present, *Kwa heri* (Good-bye).



Mombasa cable

MAURITIUS SIGNAL TROOP

March

Contrary to the widespread belief that Mauritius is part of the British West Indies, it is, in fact, about 1,500 miles from the coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean. A British Colony, it is peopled largely by French and Creole speaking people, and is famous for the Dodo, pirates and cyclones. The Signal Troop can vouch for the third of these as a cylone blew down the main route from Vacoas to Port Louis in 1945. We are not so certain about the second, however, as, despite extensive digging, we have never unearthed so much as a doubloon.

Like most Units, we suffer these days from lack of continuity and seldom keep B.O.R.s for more than four or five months. S.Q.M.S. White and Sergeant Harris are both regulars and should be here for a year or two. The other six B.O.R.s, Sergeant Hawkins, Corporal Clarkson, Corporal Woodbridge, Lance-Corporal Plumb, Lance-Corporal Harrison and Lance-Corporal Henderson are all due for demob this year. The O.C., Captain Tomlinson, is due to leave on Python to England in July. The remainder of the Troop consists of 23 Mauritian O.R.s who have no Python trouble, being residents of the island.

WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

SIERRA LEONE AND GAMBIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. The Squadron provides line and wireless communications (military) for the two Colonies of Sierra Leone and Gambia—hence its name. Squadron H.Q. is situated in Freetown—a place that gained much undeserved notoriety from troops passing through in convoy to the Middle or Far East during the war.

Our two out-stations are at Daru, some 200 miles "up-country" from Freetown, and at Cape St. Mary in Gambia —or "The Gambia," to give the colony its correct name.

Squadron Headquarters is located in what is probably the best situated barracks on the Coast, namely Tower Hill Barracks. The camp lies on a hill which dominates the town and harbour, and affords a lovely sea view for all who live in Barracks. The two Troops at H.Q. are the F.S.S. and Signal Office Troops.

F.S.S. Troop is ably commanded by Sergeant "Jock" Hammond, formerly of "The Rock" and a Fortress cable king. The Troop has large U.G. cable commitments serving not only military Units in the Colony, but also the Royal Navy and Naval Dockyards. Anyway, "Jock" finds they cause quite enough work to keep his linemen fully occupied.

In command Signal Office Troop is Sergeant Harries, who at the time of writing is, we regret to say, seriously ill in hospital. But this in no way prevents his minions from efficiently running the A.L.S., S.D.S. and the Inter-Colony Radio/Telephone link. A feature of life here in West Africa is the lack of normal transport and the long distances worked.

To avoid heavy delays, all mail for U.K. and other Colonies has to be cleared by air *via* B.O.A.C., as no regular shipping schedule runs through the port. The denizens of the Cipher Office are Sergeants Drury and Bolleton. In Squadron H.Q., S.Q.M.S. "Tich" Metcalfe runs the "Quartermongers'" Department, and in his spare time ("What spare time," I can hear him saying) is a very keen "ham." M.T. of this Unit is nursed by Sergeant Barry, another Corps old-stager. O.C. Squadron is Captain S. B. Duke. In charge of the W./T. out-station in Gambia is Sergeant Barlow, who will be shortly returning to the rigours of life in Squadron H.Q. Cape St. Mary is a delightful spot on the coast, with lovely scenery and fine bathing, and, as the country is flat, riding is also very popular. The A.O.R.s in the Squadron are at present composed of Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigerian personnel, but very shortly it is hoped to have a purely Sierra Leone Unit.

Certainly there is no recruiting problem here.

Sport. A short time ago the Swedish Naval cruiser *Fyllia* visited Freetown on a training cruise, and a football match, British Army v. Swedish Navy, was arranged. The result was rather sad, Army being beaten 5—1, but the Squadron gained consolation from the fact that Sergeant Devenport, Royal Signals, scored the only goal for the Army team. The District Sports have just finished and all concerned are gratified to see that the Squadron has finished second in the League. Good show, chaps!

Social and Personal. Our European strength is now one Officer and 16 European O.R.s. There are two married families in site in the Squadron, namely Mrs. Duke, and Mrs. Harries and child. Both families are happy and satisfied with life in Freetown. Mrs. Harries is at presnt helping to nurse her husband, who is ill. We all hope he will soon be "out of dock" and appearing once again with family at the Juba Sections. Bathing, not elbow lifting, you old-timers. The C.S.O., Colonel McOstrich, has recently visited the Squadron, also Major Main, Second-in-at an early date. A visit is also expected from the C.O. The N.A.A.F.I. Club at Juba Beach continues to be a Command of the Regiment, and we hope to see them again popular afternoon and week-end rendezvous for those interested in anything from billiards to bathing—and back again. Any meal of the day may be had at usual N.A.A.F.I. prices and a well-stocked shop is open all day. The A.K.C. Cinema is once again functioning and is showing twice weekly. Films may be slightly vintage, but the attendances prove the shows to be extremely popular.

Owing to shortage of accommodation (yes, even here in West Africa) it is not possible to have a separate Signals Sergeants' Mess, so at present we are "munching" in with District H.Q. The arrangement works efficiently and, as the Mess is very comfortable, all is well.

Amateur Radio. Captain Duke, together with S.Q.M.S. Metcalfe, operate the only "ham" station in the Colony, call sign being ZDIBD. Frequency is 14350 kcs. for phone and 14100 c.w. So what about a QSO, you other Corps hams? Meanwhile, both join in wishing you best of 73's and lots of DX.

NORTHERN AREA SIGNAL TROOP

East Africa

March

In this the Troop's first appearance in THE WIRE, it would, perhaps, be as well to explain where we are, who we are, and what we do.

Our chief station is Nanyuki, Kenya Colony—exactly on the Equator and at the foot of Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain—17,040 feet. And we came here from nearby Gilgil, as the peacetime successor of Northern Area Signal Regiment, in August, 1946. Our only permanent detachment is at Jinja in Uganda—400 miles away. (Round the clock R/Toc on a 22 set!)

Now for who we are. Our O.C., who has been with us since April, 1947, is Captain P. D. Legge, D.C.M.; our Second-in-Command Lieutenant R. E. Howe, who's been a month longer, and who will be home 'ere this appears in print (he hopes). There are also Sergeant-Major W. A. Timbrell, late School of Signals, S.Q.M.S. M. Radcliffe, No. 2 Training Regiment, Sergeant R. S. Clark, No. 5 Training Regiment, and Sergeant P. C. Ansell, of Air Formation Signals, El Ballah; in addition we've got about a dozen other British ranks and a hundred Africans.

And what we do. We serve a formation roughly equivalent to a Brigade, with the usual fixed communications and form when necessary the skeleton of a war-time brigade

The Corps flag on the equator—with the snows of Mount Kenya in the background

Territorial Army

Sergeant-Major Timbrell (right) and Sergeant-Major Jasper.

signal Troop. Our Africans man the sets, work the Signal Office, operate the exchange, maintain the lines, and drive and maintain the vehicles—all under the supervision of one or two British N.C.O.s in each department.

In the sphere of recreation we're fairly well catered for. Although on the Equator, Nanyuki has, because of its 6,000 feet above the sea, a very temperate climate; hockey, soccer, cricket, tennis and riding are possible all the year round, though hockey and soccer are the chief of these. Poaching on the local trout streams, which are very well

African football team—with the O.C.

stocked, is perhaps more popular than it should be, and shooting with gun or camera is easily had locally in hired transport. When the cinema is not broken down we see more or less well-worn films several times a week, and the local settlers are often good friends to us all. The Second-in-Command, who is—unjustly, let it be said—alleged to spend most of his time on leave, has climbed nearby Mount Kenya, as well as Kilimanjaro's 19,400 feet, 300 miles away in Tanganyika.

This will do for an introduction; from now on we'll hope to keep you posted.

"KARANI"

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following:

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 1st, 15th May.
R.E.M.E., May.
SAMBAND (Royal Norwegian S.T.C.), April.
JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, April.
THE THISTLE, April.

No. 11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. T. Shrimton, T.D., took over command of the Regiment on its re-formation in 1947, and has his headquarters at the Drill Hall, 206, Brompton Road. Members of the Heaquarter staff include the Second-in-Command, Major C. G. Wardrop, Captain J. W. Rayner, the Adjutant, Captain (Q.M.) E. H. Mott, Junior Commander M. F. Rogers and R.S.M. D. Park.

Also at "206," parading on Thursday and Tuesday evenings respectively, are Nos. 22 and 23 Squadrons. No. 22 Squadron is commanded by Major J. W. Hyde, T.D., and No. 23 Squadron by Captain G. J. Sard.

We have a Squadron at Chatham (No. 20 Squadron commanded by Major R. W. M. Little) and another at Brentford (No. 21 Squadron, with Captain J. W. Dempster in command). Last, but not least, No. 22 Squadron has two Troops in Norwich under Captain A. D. Anger.

Here I should like to add a welcome to Pipe-Major R. Hill and his wife and family. Pipe-Major Hill, late of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has come to us as caretaker, and we are all grateful to Mrs. Hill for running the canteen so efficiently.

John Rayner has left us for a holiday in Norway. He has our best, though envious, wishes. Jimmy Pugh is standing in for him.

On 19th March the Sergeants' Mess celebrated its official opening.

On 7th April, No. 66 A.A. Brigade ran a dance in Norwich and invited our detachment there to assist. In the entrance hall they displayed teleprinters in operation, 22 Sets working on a simple net, and various other exhibits. Rumour has it that, as a result, there were several applications to join—the A.T.C.

At "206" we had an informal dance on 17th April. This was the usual quarterly "informal," but was this time run in conjunction with the London branches of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association. About 300 turned up to dance to Donald Wood's band. We are looking forward to seeing more of the Old Comrades in the near future, as further dances are being arranged with them.

"206"

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

May

It is hoped that by the third week in June we shall find the majority of our fellows holding Trade Ratings, as on 19th/20th June this Unit, in conjunction with No. 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., are holding a Trade Board at Exeter. Training and swotting for this is, of course, the keynote of the hour, and when it is all over all eyes will be set on Annual Camp to be held in July.

We welcome two new officers to the Unit, both of whom are giving their services with No. 2 Squadron, Captain E. J. Broom and Lieutenant B. C. Dromgoole; we hope their stay with us will be both beneficial to the Unit and enjoyable to themselves.

We have received early notification that the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team will be visiting us again in September; last year they were extremely well received when their show was put on by us as a help towards our recruiting drive; this year we feel sure that the Display Team will be a huge success.

The Annual Officers' Dinner was held at Taunton on 10th April, with our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Ralph Rayner, O.B.E., M.P., in the chair. It was a most successful evening and marked the first Annual Dinner since the war. We welcomed many ex-members of the Unit who arrived from all parts of the country. The party that followed the dinner at the County Hotel, Taunton, could almost be added to the battle honours of the Division! Those present included Major-General G. W. Symes, C.B., M.C., G.O.C., 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A., Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B., C.S.O., Southern Command, Colonel C. E. L. Lewin-Harris, Secretary, Somerset T. and A.F. Association, Colonel Cragie, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hatfield, Assistant Secretary, Devon T. and A.F. Association, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, C.R. Signals, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, O.C., 63rd H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Western, Major G. S. Dalton, O.C., No. 1 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Major F. Signey, O.C., No. 2 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Major L. E. O. Evans, T.D., O.C., No. 3 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Major F. West, M.M., Q.M., 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Major W. C. Burke, H.Q., S.W. District, Major R. J. Harvey, O.C., No. 15 Special Wireless Squadron, T.A., Major J. A. Taylor, Major P. C. Williams, H.Q., Southern Command, Captain J. C. Clinch, Adjutant, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Captain F. Turton, O.C., H.Q. Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Captain F. Field, No. 1 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Captain E. J. Broom, No. 2 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Captain J. N. Carleton-Stiff, No. 3 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Captain G. Thorpe, L.A.D., 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Captain J. Anns, H.Q., Southern Command, Captain H. G. S. Pinfield, M.C., Lieutenant B. C. Dromgoole, No. 2 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant H. G. Golding, No. 3 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant E. W. E. Walter.

No. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET. New recruits are marking time outside the P.S.I.'s Office at the rate of the best part of a good few each week; we can report that these enlistments are all ex-Service men, thirsty for the old Army comradeship that seemingly does not exist in the land of bowler hats. The "Jimmy Club" is well under way and our Squadron personnel and A.T.S., T.A., ranks put a lot of time in the club.

We are up to our necks in league matches, and all nights other than drill nights, we play off skittles, darts, football and .22 rifle competitions, although up to press we are not ashamed to admit that we have been licked on all our various challenges, as, they say here in "Zummerzet," "fair do's," originated from Wilfred Pickles's visit to said county.

The Officers' Dinner at Taunton [*Photo by Douglas Allen, Bridgwater.*

We are most proud to report that the Corps Band is coming to us on Friday, 14th May, and we have been most fortunate in obtaining the stage of the Odeon Cinema, Bridgwater, for this marked event; the cinema programme has been arranged so that the band plays from 1900 to 1930 hrs. The Squadron is turning up in uniform 100 per cent. muster; this performance, it is expected, will result in the enlistment of many more recruits—normal forecast.

"WILCO-NOBBY"

No. 3 SQUADRON, TORQUAY. This last month has been outstanding for the enjoyment derived from outdoor training in the lovely weather now being enjoyed at this glorious Devonshire seaside resort. One of our first evening outdoor efforts saw the hammers swinging on Hammer and Jumper Drill, to say nothing of our emulating the monkeys at climbing the pole. Of course, it wouldn't be fair competition for the monkeys if we didn't handicap ourselves—so we used the official climbers. But most of the outdoor work has been on Motor Cycle riding instruction and vehicle driving. It might seem that is a dull affair, with no accident reports submitted, but we've had our moments, and perhaps—who knows?—anything might happen before we finish—it's the "shark's" turn next, and he might make a good job of it.

We have also been firing off plenty of .22 ammunition and did think of entering for the King's Cup at Bisley this year, but have decided to have a couple of days' fun on the open range at Honiton instead. If you have any doubts at all about being bullet proof, just keep clear of Honiton on 29th May and 4th July, 'cos we shall be there changing the look of the countryside.

There's nothing to hold us these days, since we've seen the set of new Film Stars of which we form the bulk. When the Adjutant gave us a preview of the film he took at our last camp, it recalled a very pleasant week-end anyway, and we are all now waiting for Mr. Rank to come along with the contracts. We also saw a "short," entitled "Liberation of Brussels," but, confidentially, we think it would be better entitled "Kissing the Blondes."

We are pegging along towards opening an "Association" Branch in Torquay, so when you come home you'll know where to come.

"TOPPER"

51st (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

In the last week or so there have been great rejoicings and celebrations in the Regiment. We have now regained our old and hereditary title the "51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.," and the "H.D." flash once again rules the Highlands. But it is also with sorrow that we cast off our 51st/52nd Scottish title. It will always bring back many pleasant memories to us, in particular of Major D. M. B. Edwards and all those in No. 3 Squadron, Glasgow, to whom we must now say good-bye. We wish them all the very best of luck and thank them for all they have done.

At the same time as bidding farewell to No. 3 Squadron, Glasgow, we welcome into our midst a brand new No. 3 Squadron—a Squadron who are recruiting on virgin soil to the Corps at Dundee. As a result of some re-organisation in the Scottish T.A., 26th Independent Brigade Signal Squadron have become No. 3 Squadron, 51st (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. In command is Major Love, who at the end of the war was with Paiforce. To assist him he has S.S.M. Grace and S.S.M. Brooks as permanent staff. The numbers of recruits are so far small, but since moving into new and better quarters the other day hope runs high.

Exercise "Lariat" was the most outstanding event of the month in training. The Exercise was conducted by the C.S.O. at St. Andrew's on the week-end 24th/25th April. The C.O., the Adjutant, Major Edwards and Lieutenant Wotherspoon attended from the Regiment and returned full of stories of the L. of C. in Italy, and lots of other gen! The C.O. and Major Edwards, by the way, returned the best card for the golf tournament. Even if some of the golf wasn't so hot, the weather conditions were perfect.

In No. 1 Squadron we have been limbering up with a full day's exercise on Sunday, 25th April, in which some signallers from No. 275 (H) Field Regiment, R.A., also took part. They tacked on the communications for a troop of guns to our skeleton Divisional lay-out. The Exercise was very successful and we hope that the Field Regiment will join us again some time.

No. 2 Squadron have been pressing on with training and had a very pleasant Sunday afternoon's shooting out on the Greenhill Range, at which all ranks qualified successfully. Work has been going on apace for improving our canteen, but we are still looking for an Officer to join up and lead the Squadron.

We have had two very enjoyable dances this month in Aberdeen. The first on the 9th, sponsored by the Badminton Club of the Signals Association, and the second a week later, sponsored by the Sergeants' Mess. Both occasions were great gatherings. The Badminton Club chose the occasion for the presentation of their cups and prizes for their championships. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Robert Guy to Mrs. Lovie and Sergeant Lovie for ladies' and men's singles respectively, and amongst the doubles congratulations go to Mrs. Kelman. Among those whom we were very pleased to see at the Sergeants' Mess Dance were Lieutenant-Colonel Lindsay Webster, late of the R.A.M.C. and one-time Regimental Medical Officer. He was involved in many a huddle with the "old sweats." He is home on leave from the Phillipines and is expecting to take up a new appointment in South America very shortly. All ranks wish him the very best of luck.

"SCOTTY"

No. 1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Today, as I write, it is 8th May, and a very fine day, too. You may be of an enquiring turn of mind and in the articulate way so much the vogue in 1948 you may ask, "So what?"

My diaries, which I kept in my head (Oh, yeah!) from 1939 to 1948, are always full of a nostalgic interest for me. I rediscover that on 8th May, 1943, the Tunisian campaign came to an end. On that day we sat by the roadside in a Tunis suburb and watched the "Master race" streaming to our P.o.W. cages by the thousand. Then, on 8th May, 1945, I find that the war in Europe officially ended. The bombing stopped, the senseless slaughter was over, in that part of the world at any rate. Not many people remembered all that today. Certainly not the newspapers, who are so fond of digging up anniversaries far less important. Well, what of it? Just this, lady. Let your husband join the Territorial Army. Let your big son have a bash. They would like to, but are giving in to your demands that they leave it alone. I have talked to them. I know! Remember how glad you were when the war ended? Naturally you wouldn't like another one. Eh? The Territorial Army at *full* strength could and would be an insurance against such a catastrophe. Don't ask me how or why. Use your very

attractive head, dear. But I don't suppose you'll read this anyway. A pity. It all reminds me of the two very thirsty ostriches who ran 40 miles across the desert for a drink with some friends. At the end of the journey there were three ostriches with their heads buried in the sand. "Damn," said our gasping travellers. "All that way, and there's no one at home."

Now let us get back to Cateswell House, Hall Green. Our Breast Route has arrived at last, so Captain Berresford and his party will be fully occupied. The 70 feet wireless masts are still upright, and the wireless men are pretending that they never expected anything else. Actually, everything is slowly but surely working out right, and there is plenty to interest a keen tradesman. We are all set for the Annual Camp from 15th to 23rd May. I shall not be able to tell you about it in this number for a perfectly good reason, which eludes me for the moment. Something to do with the date I expect. Captain M. W. Taylor will be messing officer. We shall expect him to remember Napoleon's dictum. Kingsbury Ranges will be visited on 19th May. We will tell you about it, so don't go away. Our numbers increase steadily, though not so fast as to cause us to panic. We could do with a number of the right type of ex-Service man.

There are plenty of them in the ranks of the Signals Association. The social side of our life is not neglected. In addition to a couple of good dances nearly every month there is a very happy gathering in both the Sergeants' and Men's Messes on most Sunday evenings. We were unlucky to lose at darts in the final of the Mitchell's and Butler's Medal Tournament against No. 21 (N) Corps Troops Column, R.A.S.C., in April. We were beaten eight games to five. The success of the R.A.S.C., though by no means begrudged, was something of a surprise, as our team has been winning consistently in the T.A. League Competition. Perhaps it was stage fright. Or something. We would like to congratulate the R.A.S.C. on a good show. We shall be seeing them again one day—and then! Thanks are due to our excellent R.E.M.E. friends, No. 61 A.A. Workshop Company, Alum Rock Road, who were hosts for the evening and really made a grand job of it.

BARLEUX

No. 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Unit moves on steadily and, with the brighter evenings, more practical work outdoors is possible. We are in the process of obtaining the necessary facilities to build a 5-mile permanent line route, but the process is a lengthy business and the negotiations have their full quota of red tape to be overcome. The Unit Lines Officer in all his majesty, and the Unit jeep, has done a recce, with the result that we have a first-class project—on paper.

Our numbers have not grown much, but the keen outlook of those we have is in no way diminished. Whatever the type of training some are bound to be bored but they stick it out, and will usually admit that they have learned something. We are about to recruit A.T.S. (or should I say W.R.A.C.?) personnel; it will be interesting to see how their recruiting compares with the male component of the Unit.

New arrivals include 10 Engineering Cadets who are studying for their A.M.I.E.E. (Section "A") at a local technical institute. At the successful conclusion of the course it is understood they are bound for regular service in Royal Signals. They form a keen young band of chaps who will undoubtedly benefit a great deal by their attachment to the T.A.

Most of the Unit enjoyed a very pleasant day on Sunday, 18th April, when Purfleet ranges were visited for the "Annual Shoot." Although everyone was very much out of practice, the results were satisfactory.

Should it be of any interest to readers, the O.C.A. of the 4th, 54th and 18th Divisional Signals meets for a social evening on the first Wednesday in each month in the Men's Canteen at our Drill Hall, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11. All old members of these Units are cordially invited.

No. 23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Hello, everyone! This is the voice of the Blue-Star glamour boys, having awakened from our winter hibernation. Incidentally, the old Divisional sign has returned, and is proudly worn by our ever-increasing numbers.

We welcome to Signals, Signalman King, ex-Commando, Signalman Chaplin, ex-Royal Navy, and Signalman Cuss, ex-R.A.F., together with many ex-members of the Corps. Space does not permit further details at present. We feel that a combined operations force representative of all arms is not beyond the scope of this Regiment.

It is thought that THE WIRE is an excellent medium for introducing our members, but as this would take up rather a lot of space it is proposed that a Squadron be introduced at each publication. The necessary roll of drums as our permanent staff is presented, ably led by R.S.M. W. E. Parks, assisted by S.S.M.s Armstrong, Smith and Stevenson, Sergeants Banham, Baker, Ellis, Noble and Sampson.

The Regiment's officers turned out in force and provided two syndicates for exercise "Spearhead," held by C.S.O., Eastern Command, for T.A. Signal Regiments from 23rd-25th April. The C.S.O. expressed satisfaction with the attendance and the keenness shown. For our part we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and take this opportunity of thanking Brigadier Steward and his gallant staff for a well-organised and thoroughly enjoyable week-end. Special mention must be made of the messing; it was outstanding. The only criticism heard was that the conference room was rather stuffy, but that was due, no doubt, to the "hot air" churned out.

The Regiment is extremely proud of its very efficient Rifle Club, led by Captain Oliver. Our victims so far have been the 16th Airborne Division, the London Scottish and the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (Signals Reporting Regiment). Readers will note that even Infantry Regiments are considered fair game.

We go to camp for the last week in August at Canterbury as guests of Eastern Command Signals.

The Regiment's Table Tennis team have played six matches so far, winning five and losing one. With a little more practice the rate of wins will undoubtedly be increased.

A recent Dance held by us was a great success.

Congratulations Corner. To our blushing Adjutant, who is now the father of a bouncing son; to Signalman and Mrs. Bladon on the birth of a daughter; and last, but not least, to Major Watson, who has also been presented with a daughter.

Wedding bells rang out for Signalman King a few weeks back, and we take this opportunity of wishing the happy couple every success and all the very best. "SVEN"

Contributors are reminded that the date for submission of items for publication is the 16th of the month

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A. (KENSINGTONS)

We have had an active month one way and another. On Sunday, 18th April, we had a day out at Pirbright to fire off the Annual Rifle Classification. It was a glorious day and absolutely ideal for shooting. Practically all the Regiment were able to turn out and we had a thoroughly enpoyable time: only very few failed to qualify, but there were quite a number of marksmen. We were glad to have our Honorary Colonel, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., with us, and we hope he enjoyed the outing as much as we did.

The following week-end a number of the Officers went over to H.Q. Eastern Command at Hounslow for Exercise "Spearhead," which was most interesting. We were particularly glad to renew old friendships with numbers of other T.A. Units, some of whom we had not seen for many years.

On the week-end 8th and 9th May, the "marksmen" of the Regiment went down to Bisley to try their hand at shooting on "civilian" targets. Again we were lucky in the weather, but some of the "marksmen" found that they were "not" under the new conditions. Even so, scores were pretty good on the average.

Despite our constant practice on the open ranges, we have not been so successful on the Miniature Range. On Friday, 30th April, we had a match against the John Bolding Rifle Club at this Headquarters. These gentlemen turned up with slings and elbow rests and a formidable array of long nosed civilian rifles. They had a fairly easy shoot against us on the civilian targets, winning by 1,068 points to 1,018, although Corporal Isely, of this Regiment, got the highest score of 98 out of 100.

On Friday, 7th May, we went over to Putney for a return match against No. 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment. We were hoping to take our revenge but were again beaten, this time by 413 points to 391. However, the Regimental motto is *Quid Nobis Ardui*, and we are confident that in time we shall be a match for anybody!

On Wednesday, 12th May, the Sergeants' Mess held its official opening. The Honorary Colonel, C.O. and Officers of the Regiment were warmly entertained with various games from darts to dice. Refreshments were lavish, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The climax was a boat race which the Sergeants won by two lengths, though Sergeant Evans nearly capsized the boat when negotiating a bend and shipped a lot of liquid over the gunwales. We all look forward to future Sergeants' Mess parties.

Spring is in the air, and the Stork has again been active! Our congratulations go to Captain Downes on the birth of a daughter, Nora Martha, weighing 8½ lbs., on 5th May, and to Signalman North on the birth of a son, Herbert Edward, on 27th April. Nice work, fellows.

General Sir Colville Wemyss talking to Lieut.-Colonel Wasey at Pirbright ranges

No. 12 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

No. 26 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. READING. In the past two months this unit has carried out extensive map-reading lessons. On Sunday, 28th March, the unit went to Finchampstead Ridges to put into practice what had been learnt in the classroom. (We reached our destination on that occasion, but on our previous attempt an unfortunate minor accident curtailed our activities for the day, to the great disappointment of all concerned). Bearings were taken and marched on, and, please note, everyone found his way home.

Technical Training is in full swing. The F. and F.s and 10 Line U.C.s are standing up to it very well. A practical progress test was held this week—now we know. On to greater things.

On Sunday, 25th April, members of the unit went for a ten-mile hike, from Marlow to Maidenhead. Sandwiches were taken and thirst quenched at convenient congenial spots. The day was enjoyed by all, and we hope to increase the distance by five miles per hike on subsequent Sundays.

We hope to interest our cycling members in hiking, and also to include bicycle trips in our summer programme.

26 SIGS

No. 27 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A., PLYMOUTH. The Squadron celebrated its first birthday on 1st May, and, looking back on the past twelve months, we select the following points for mention in our first appearance in THE WIRE.

In the first few months of our recruiting drive we managed to enrol just over 25 per cent. of our male establishment, and in doing so were able to fill some senior N.C.O. vacancies from "recruits" with previous Regular and T.A. service. However, as time went on, three of our stalwarts decided to sign on the dotted line for Regular service, and are now sojourning in the "wilds" of Catterick (or, should I say, New Richmond ?). Recently we had the misfortune to lose S.Q.M.S. Byefield, Sergeant Skinner and Signalman Hatcher, a loss which was due to civilian employment difficulties. We would like to express our sincere thanks to them for the excellent services rendered in helping the Squadron to get on its feet. Great strides have also been made in recruiting the A.T.S./T.A. element, and the Squadron has been very lucky in attracting many auxiliaries with previous service in W.R.N.S., A.T.S. and W.A.A.F.

Despite accommodation difficulties we have managed to keep to our training programme throughout the year, all personnel being under instruction in the trade they selected on enlistment. The linemen have done some excellent work in wiring out the training school, and it is due to their efforts that the A.T.S. teleprinter and switchboard operators have made so much headway in practical work. At the time of going to press the linemen have commenced construction of a "Breast Route," and under the watchful eye of Sergeant P. Keys the finished job should prove the real thing. Everybody is looking forward to the Annual Camp, which is to be held at Cleave Camp, Bude, Cornwall, during the period 25th July to 8th August, when it is hoped all will be able to classify in their respective trades. The annual range course for the Squadron will be held at Tavistock on 10th July, and there is much speculation as to whether those "Dead-Eyes" who have shown their skill on our miniature range will do the same on the open. The A.T.S. personnel have also shown themselves a force to be reckoned with on the miniature range, especially Lance-Corporals Doust and Ashworth, who have topped the bill during various shoots.

In conclusion, I might mention that our accommodation difficulties should come to an end in the very near future, that is, of course, dependent upon the proposed plans being carried through.

27 SIGS

No. 106 A.A. BRIGADE (M) SIGNAL TROOP, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES. To the regular readers of THE WIRE we have made ourselves known through the medium of our Regimental Headquarters, but to those of you who have not heard of us I would like to take this opportunity of saying that, although small in numbers at present, we hope that, after the publication of these notes, we shall hear from some of the ex-members of the Corps who still have an interest in the T.A. and would like to retain their interest by joining our unit here in Kingston. We share the drill hall with several other units, the largest of which is the 565th Searchlight Regiment R.A., T.A., who run the social side of things. Being so small in numbers we have not been able up to the present time to have any social evenings of our own. Our training is going along very well, and we have a working signal office complete with teleprinter, which enables our A.T.S. to get their training done in a realistic manner. Why not come along and have a look at us one night? No. Don't worry. There is no catch, although, of course, if you would like to rejoin we will welcome you.

ONEOWESIX

NOTICE

The Royal Signals Association Buttonhole Badge or brooch type, available for A.T.S. members, 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.

Car badges, each	27s. 0d.
Corps ties	6s. 6d.

These prices include purchase tax, but are subject to alteration without notice.

Orders, with remittance, should be addressed to The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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

Benevolent Fund

Summary of Grants Disbursed

Purpose	No. of Cases	Amount £ s. d.
General assistance	57	302 18 1
Rent, rates and insurance ...	19	123 14 0
Cots and prams	24	105 18 0
Beds and bedding	7	36 0 0
Furniture	19	106 18 0
Clothing	9	41 0 0
Hospital and doctors' fees ...	29	187 5 6
Fares	5	17 12 0
Funerals	6	50 10 0
Education	1	10 0 0
Convalescence	7	41 5 0
Rehabilitation	5	67 0 0
Removals	4	32 10 0
Dentures	4	20 9 7
Spectacles and surgical appliances	3	9 15 0
Hospital comforts	1	2 0 0
Tools	1	3 0 0
Totals	201	£1,155 15 2

Analysis of Persons Assisted

Discharged or released soldiers, 100; widows or dependents of deceased soldiers, 18; families of soldiers serving in the U.K., 35; B.A.O.R., 1; M.E.L.F., 3; FARELF, 1.

Donations Received for the Fund

	£ s. d.
No. 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Mess)	1 15 0
No. 4 Armoured Division Signal Squadron	1 0 0
No. 3 A.S.S.U.	5 0 0
No. 4 Railway Telegraph Company ...	2 4 8
No. 67 Wing Signal Troop	1 1 0
Kent Coast Troop	6 3 7
East Anglian Coast Troop	10 0
No. 8 Special Wireless Section (balance of P.R.I. Account)	7 7 5
Birmingham Branch	5 5 0
J. H. Fish (to provide a holiday for a widow and child at the Memorial Club)	10 0 0
Headquarters Mess	1 7 6
Ex-Signalman P. G. Price	3 7
8th Army Signal Regiment (No. 2 Squadron)	8 6 0
4th Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (India)	23 5 4
War Office Signal Regiment	9 0 0
Malaya District Signal Regiment ...	27 18 9
S.T.C., Catterick	158 0 0
"Jimmy James"	9 8 6
Mr. P. Haswell	3 3 0
Ex-Signalman G. Welch	2 2 0
S.Q.M.S. H. G. Marsh	8 0
Mr. S. Robson	1 0 0
Mr. C. H. Webb	5 0
Corporal W. Notley	2 0
	£284 16 4

Old Comrades' Association

New members registered at Headquarters during the months of March and April, 1948:

Annual members ...	...	...	249
Life members ...	...	...	66

Information

1. Utility Furniture.

   (a) Deferred Units. Maroon Units have now been made valid, and in future all units issued will be available for immediate use.

   (b) Priority Classes. The present classes have been extended to cover couples who married before the war and are now setting up house for the first time. Parents eligible for units to buy a bed for a child who has grown out of its cot will now be able to get a small quantity of units for bedroom furniture in addition.

2. Petrol Rationing—British Civilians on Leave.

   An allowance of petrol will be granted from 1st June to British civilians on leave in this country from abroad, as well as to members of the Forces, at the rate of one-third of the allowance given last year.

3. Emigration to Commonwealth Countries.

   (a) Free or Assisted Passages. Australia and New Zealand are the only Commonwealth countries which have so far made arrangements with the United Kingdom for free or assisted passages for certain classes of emigrants from this country, and transport difficulties are severely limiting the numbers who can take advantage of these schemes.

   Under these arrangements, suitable ex-Service men and women and their dependents have the whole cost of thir passage paid for them; and assisted passages are granted to other suitable British subjects with qualifications in certain trades and professions where the Commonwealth countries have openings. The list of these varies from time to time, and inquirers are advised to get the latest information about this and all other details about emigration from the London Office of the Government concerned. (Australia House, Strand, W.C.2; New Zealand Government Offices, 415 Strand, W.C.2.)

   (b) Unassisted Passages. No assisted passages are given to Canada, South Africa or Southern Rhodesia, and intending emigrants must make their own arrangements with a shipping company and pay the full fare. Priority in obtaining a passage is sometimes given to British subjects skilled in certain industries for which workers are urgently needed in the Commonwealth country concerned. Inquirers are advised to consult the London Office of the Government concerned as to emigration requirements. (Canada House, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2; London Immigration Committee, Union of South Africa, 39 Princess Gate, S.W.7; Office of the High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia, 429 Strand, W.C.2.)

4. Employment—Women's Employment Federation.

   The number of inquiries for advice and information on careers seems to be increasing, and it may be useful to have a note of a non-profit making organisation, the Women's Employment Federation, to which such inquiries may be submitted. Its aim is to extend the opportunities of suitable employment for women and to help in making known the best way to train for and obtain work. It has an Advisory Department, which gives advice by personal consultation, letter, lectures and conferences. Organisations and individual subscribers are welcomed as members of the Federation. Fees for consultation are 5/- by interview and 2/6 by letter for people introduced by subscribing members; and for others 10/- for advice on choice of career and training and 2/6 for advice by letter on employment and 7/6 for subsequent interview if required. For members and ex-members of H.M. Forces the special fees are 2/6 (by interview or letter) for officers, and 1/- for other ranks, and for members and ex-members of the Women's Land Army, the Advisory Service is free. Interviews cannot be given without an appointment. The address is 261 Brompton Road, S.W.3.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Branch Notes

Wolverhampton

A most enjoyable Dance was held by the Branch on 26th April at Beattie's Restaurant in Wolverhampton. Over 200 enjoyed dancing to the Band of Reg Bartlam, who is an ex-Sergeant of the Corps, chiefly with No. 3 S.T.C., Huddersfield.

Members are now looking forward to a visit in May to the extensive steel works of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds at Bilston. This has been arranged by Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Chubb, the Branch President.

Sheffield and District

There was a General Meeting of this Branch on 28th April, at which several new members were enrolled, though the very energetic and hard working officials were rather disappointed at the unusually small attendance from the regulars and founders of the Branch.

By the time these Notes appear in print the first social event, the fore-runner of many such in an attractive and varied programme which the Social Committee has in hand, will have taken place; those who were able to attend will, of course, know all about it by now, and for the less fortunate ones who couldn't make it—well, they may read about it in next month's WIRE. Final details were arranged at a special meeting on 12th May.

Of course, the Committee cannot arrange the right type of event unless they know what the members — and especially the younger members—have in mind, or would enjoy. Is it a coach trip, or a cricket match, or what? Members, or prospective members (of the latter there must still be very many in the Sheffield District) are invited to lay their views before the Committee, through the very energetic and hardworking Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. J. Oliver, of 80 Holmhirst Road, Sheffield, 8, who will be delighted to accept further enrolments.

I stress energy and hard work, because a new venture of this kind takes much of both; and the best way of expressing appreciation is by support. The Branch meets every fourth Wednesday in the Ex-Services Institute, Milk Street, Sheffield, 1, at 8 p.m.

Salisbury

May

Greetings to all serving members of the Corps and to all our Association members, and we should like to take this opportunity of offering our best wishes to our not so far away neighbours, the newly-formed Portsmouth Branch.

We have been honoured this month with a visit of the Corps Band, who on 13th May supplied the dance orchestra for our dance in the Guildhall, which was a great success, and we should like to thank everyone concerned in making it such an enjoyable evening, especially Major Gray and his colleagues of Southern Command Signal Regiment for their kind co-operation.

We were honoured by the presence of the Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., Commanding Southern Command Signal Regiment, and numerous other members of the Corps and their ladies, and it is hoped that we shall be able to furnish the Editor with a photo of the evening's proceedings in the next issue of THE WIRE. Congratulations to Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., on winning the first prize in the draw (but we still think he chose the wrong one). We have now got visions of securing a building for our club premises, but as it is a far-off vision at the present we must keep it "very dark" until probably next month, otherwise I may put my foot in it.

We are gradually building up our strength and feel sure that once we get really organised with our own premises we shall be able to double our numbers. We are still waiting for all those A.T.S. members.

In conclusion might we offer our salaams to our ex-member and ex-R.S.M. S.C. Signal Regiment, "Billie Gee"; the boys at the "Dirty Donkey," alias the Black Horse, wish to be remembered to him, too.

"SARUM"

Bristol and District

Once again the month has proved most successful, the highlight being the visit of the Corps Band on Whit-Saturday. A committee was formed from representatives of No. 12 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., No. 1 Armoured Replacement Group Signal Squadron, T.A., No. 14 A.A. Brigade Signal Office Troop and our own branch to arrange suitable functions. Unfortunately, due to various difficulties, it was found impossible to have a public concert, and activities had to be limited to a dance on the Saturday evening. It was a merry affair, as my photograph shows, and despite the alternative attraction of a fair on the adjoining Common, there was an extremely good attendance. There were many Old Comrades back in uniform (those who had re-joined the local T.A. Units) and, strangely enough, members of the Royal Navy were much in evidence. The catering arrangements were very good and many episodes were re-lived and many yarns swapped over a glass of ale in the well-stocked bars. The Band, as ever, lived up to its reputation and played delightful dance music, pleasant to the ear and "just the job" for dancing. Our thanks are due to Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. G. Gambier for allowing us to use the Horfield Drill Hall (with its magnificent dancing floor), to those members of the committee who made such splendid arrangements (including our own Branch Social Secretary, Ken Brown), and, last but certainly not least, to the Corps Band. We all hope that we shall see them all again very soon.

As our monthly meetings at the "Old Duke" on the second Friday in every month become better known, so the attendance grows. At our meeting on 14th May it was decided to enter a team in the local ex-Service organisations' Skittle League. There was good support for this scheme, and we think we shall have a keen and competent team which, if they are not at the top, will not be very far down the table. Plans are well in hand for a Dinner in the winter, to be followed by a dance early in 1949. Maybe that is looking too far ahead; in the immediate future, however, our next meetings are to be held on Friday, 11th June, and Friday, 9th July.

The Branch Employment Register looks like becoming a very "good thing." We are fortunate in having Mr. J. H. Spencer among our number, and he has considerable experience of personnel management and its associated problems. He has taken over the organisation of this important piece of our work and we have every confidence that he will make it a great success.

By the way, if Bill Badcock (once of Abingdon, nr. Oxford, and late of No. 5 A.A. Divisional Signals) happens

[By courtesy of the "Western Daily Press" and "Bristol Mirror," Bristol.

The Dance at Horfield Drill Hall

to read this will he please drop a line to J. D. Righton, of 30 Theresa Avenue, Bishopston, Bristol, 7.

Once again that is the lot for this month. Cheerio, everyone, and good luck and best wishes from Bristol.

"D.P.J.H."

Birmingham

I don't mind how often I have to remind you that the last Thursday in the month brings together at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, a small gathering of this Branch. When I say small, I mean by comparison with the 892 members. Nevertheless, we had another happy crowd on Thursday, 29th April, and as usual a few newcomers arrived to join. Before the general influx there was the monthly Committee Meeting presided over by Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., now happily restored to us in good health. The Hon. Secretary, Captain R. Ironmonger, ran through the agenda and we were brought up to date with the Branch affairs. The weeding out of defaulting members proceeds slowly. One is loth to tackle this job with haste, but when members—and there are some—ignore all appeals to rally round for about two years or more one begins to get the idea that they don't care about "Signals" any more. Cases requiring assistance have happily been few. Mr. Carl Brown looks after these matters to the satisfaction of our Committee and the even greater satisfaction of the members directly concerned. The outing by char-a-banc to the Royal Tournament on 12th June is fully organised. You shall hear all about it next time. The Hon. Secretary did not tell us very much about the meeting of Branch Secretaries after all. Perhaps he didn't think it merited too much of our time. All the same, he was present there, and, if we know Ralph, said his piece unless the subject was covered by someone else. We understand that the Bristol Branch have suggested that we meet them half way one of these fine days. This sounds like a very good idea, but I am wondering how some of us will cope with it by the time we have taken the family for a holiday, paid the rates, and bought a few clothing coupons.

By the way, Mercury House, Bournemouth, which you will remember is the Royal Signals Memorial and a hotel for members and families, would be very grateful for your surplus books for their library.

If you are a Birmingham member you will no doubt be interested in the proposed annual dinner to take place at Cateswell House, Hall Green, on 2nd October. Full details will come to you from the Hon. Secretary. All he asks you to do is reply to his note, especially if you intend to be present. Stamps at 2½d. each are obtainable from H.M. Post Offices, or the firm's petty cash. Another good way is to buy ½d. stamps and save them up until you have five, though care must be taken to start saving in good time. There must be some way I can get under your skin. No—not you, old chap. The other fellow. The Entertainment Sub-Committee has been formed with the object of making the winter meetings more attractive. See last month's remarks on the subject. See next month's as well. If you have any bright ideas do please tell us about them. One last word. If you would like a copy of THE WIRE brought to you at the monthly meeting, please let me have your name and a firm order. There are already a dozen members on the list, most of whom I shall bully into becoming annual subscribers unless the Corps Magazine dies for lack of support. Anyone will show you which is me. You'll recognise me by the way I hesitate when anyone offers me a drink.

Just one other thing. No. It can wait.

"BARLEUX"

Edinburgh and District

Report on Branch Activities, 1947

Membership. 31st December, 1946: Life 43, Annual 240. 31st December, 1947: Life 42, Annual 242. Decrease: Life 1. Increase: Annual 2.

There have been many more members joining the Branch during the year than the above figures show, but there has been a considerable loss through members leaving the district, deaths and resignations.

Five cases were assisted by grants and/or loans from the Central Benevolent Fund during the year. (1) Grant of £5 for debts. (2) Grant of £10 for rent. (3) Grant of £2 to replace broken spectacles, etc. A grant was also made to this man by his former Regimental Association of £3 for debts, etc. (4) Grant of £6 to enable this man to redeem pawned clothing to take up employment. (5) To enable a disabled man to purchase a taxi, a grant of £50; a loan of £100. The amount required was £400, and the balance was made up by a Government grant of £150 under the Ministry of Labour Resettlement Scheme, and a loan of £100 from the Earl Haig Fund, Scotland.

Much interest was aroused by the announcement of vacancies in a Government Department in Edinburgh (Post Office Stores Dept.) and over fifty replies, mainly from men already in employment, were received in response to a circular. Eight of the jobs were filled by members. One applicant on another occasion was placed as a driver with a local firm. One applicant to whom I gave the name of a prospective employer failed to meet the employer and did not reply to my subsequent inquiries. Three applicants succeeded in obtaining employment by themselves, before I was able to find anything for them.

Three welfare cases, apart from those involving financial assistance, were dealt with.

Major H. Scarborough resigned from the Branch Committee on being posted to London, and H. McPeak was co-opted to fill the vacancy.

A dance, organised jointly with the Club Committee, was held on 14th February. Two other dances were held by the Club and the proceeds devoted towards the premises fund. Strenuous endeavours are still being made to secure premises for the club, which would also serve as a focal point for the Association locally. The withdrawal of the grant placed at our disposal by the Corps Committee for the purchase of premises, when the Holiday House plan was decided upon, left an embarrassing hiatus, especially as an offer was in course of being made for property at the time. But fortunately local patriotism saved the day, as an Edinburgh banker stepped into the breach and offered a loan at a very reasonable rate of interest. We were not able to obtain the premises for use as a club as the Corporation insisted that they must be used only for housing, and on our appealing to the Secretary of State for Scotland the Corporation's decision was upheld.

A donation of £100 was received from the Southern Light Opera Company. This is an amateur company which shares the profits from its annual show among local bodies; the donation was given with the proviso that the money was to be spent within Scotland, and for preference in Edinburgh and district. Members co-operated in the sale of tickets.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR "THE WIRE"

Annual subscriptions at 10/- are calculated from January to December. Back numbers can be supplied. Subscriptions for a portion of the year are calculated at the monthly rate of 1/- per copy.

SPORTS NOTES

Rugby

REVIEW OF RUGBY SEASON, 1947-48

The past season has been a very successful one for the Corps. All the Corps matches were won, and that against the Gunners by no less than 39 points to 3. On this occasion the Corps probably fielded "their best ever XV," with three Internationals in the back division. The Gunners' side was quite a good one but they found themselves quite unable to stop the brilliance of N. M. Hall and T. G. H. Jackson on the right wing, and Glynn Davies at stand-off half. In this connection, it is hoped that we shall have the services of Hall and Jackson again next year, as the former has recovered from his serious eye injury.

Glynn Davies will probably be at Cambridge, where he should prove a more than useful member of the Varsity side. Royal Signals (Catterick) also had a successful season and their record reads:

				Points	
Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
28	14	4	10	416	201

They played right through the Yorkshire Cup until the quarter-finals, when Morley defeated them in an exciting match when, however, they were without six of the regular team.

Among the teams defeated during the season were Huddersfield (twice), Durham City, St. Mary's Hospital, Headingley and Roundhay, and an Easter Tour in Wales, with odd matches in Scotland and in London, kept Rugby players fully occupied.

We sent "Sevens" to the Arborfield, Middlesex, Billingham and Huddersfield competitions. In the 5th round of the Middlesex "Sevens," St. Mary's Hospital, whom we had beaten on the previous Wednesday, narrowly defeated us and went on to play in the semi-finals at Twickenham.

Our Army representatives this year have been Captain T. G. H. Jackson (Scotland); Second-Lieutenant Glynn Davies (Wales); Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams (Lancashire); and Signalman I. S. Gloag (Yorkshire), while 16 Royal Signals (Catterick) players have been called upon to represent Northern Command.

Miniature Rifle Shooting

On Saturday, 1st May, the Royal Signals (Catterick) Rifle Shooting Team competed in an away match against a selected team representing the Leeds Rifle Association at the latter's excellent 25-yard range in the City centre. The occasion, very well organised by the Leeds Secretary, Mr. Burnell, is memorable as much for its social aspect as for the match itself, and was much enjoyed by the visiting team.

The Signals' team comprised Major H. J. Thompson (H.Q. School of Signals), Captain S. L. Gant (No. 4 Training Regiment), S.S.M. Ferguson (No. 2 Training Regiment), S.Q.M.S. Middleton and S.Q.M.S. Pearson (No. 4 Training Regiment), S.Q.M.S. Spencer (No. 2 Training Regiment), Sergeant Marshall (No. 4 Training Regiment) and Lance-Corporal Tarrant (No. 2 Training Regiment).

Although the home team eventually won by a margin of 33 points (1,542—1,509), their opponents by no means disgraced themselves and their score represents a very meritorious effort, for they were competing with Mossbergs against the vastly superior B.S.A. match rifles of the Leeds team.

Particularly worthy of mention are Major Thompson's scores of 98 and 100, for which he was awarded the prize for the highest individual score. It is to be hoped that he will be available to assist the Signals team in future matches, and hearty congratulations are due to him for this outstanding achievement.

Golf

ARMY GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, 1948. Held at the Royal St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich, commencing on 19th April.

Three Royal Signals teams took part. The two teams competing for the Inter-Unit Army Challenge Cup were No. 1 Team from Catterick and No. 2 Team from outside Catterick. They were beaten by the Royal Army Pay Corps and the Grenadier Guards respectively. In each case the opposing teams had the stronger players, though No. 2 Team put up a good fight and finished with a total of six holes down. The Inter-Unit Challenge Cup was won by the Seaforth Highlanders, who beat the Royal Army Pay Corps by 19 holes. The third team, competing for the Ordnance Challenge Cup, beat by 14 holes the Royal Army Pay Corps, who were the only other competitors, thus winning the Cup.

The teams were composed as follows:

The "Ordnance" Challenge Cup. Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, Colonel C. A. H. Chadwick, Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Lewis-Barclay.

Royal Signals No. 1 Team. Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, Major H. Worrall, Major A. L. Galloway, Captain K. W. Ramsay.

Royal Signals No. 2 Team. Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Longfield, Major E. B. Elliott, Major B. R. M. Hayles, Major H. B. de M. Hunter.

The "Generals' Cup." This Cup was played for prior to the above meeting and was won by Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, who played some extremely good golf throughout.

The Director of Signals also holds the Royal Signals Championship Cup, which he won at last year's Annual Meeting of the Royal Signals Golf Society.

Cricket

The following are this season's fixtures for Royal Signals (Catterick):

Date	Opponents	Ground
MAY 8-9	THE REST (Trial)	CATTERICK
† JUNE 4-5	ROYAL ENGINEERS	RIPON
† JUNE 8-9	R.A.O.C.	CATTERICK
† JUNE 16-17	R.A.C.	BOVINGTON
JUNE 21	MURRAYFIELD C.C.	CATTERICK
JUNE 26	YORKSHIRE GENTLEMEN	YORK
† JULY 7-8	R.E.M.E.	CATTERICK
† JULY 13-14	R.A.S.C.	ALDERSHOT
† JULY 16-17	R.A.P.C.	ALDERSHOT
JULY 31	FREE FORESTERS	CATTERICK

† *Corps representative match.*

All matches to start at 11.30 a.m. unless otherwise arranged.

Lawn Tennis

The following are this season's fixtures:

Date	Opponents	Ground
JUNE 14-19	Royal Signals Tournament	Catterick
JULY 7	R.E.	Catterick
JULY 12-17	Northern Command Tournament	Nottingham
JULY 24	R.E.	Chatham
JULY 26-31	Army Championships	Aldershot
AUGUST 18 or 25	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot

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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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☆

JULY • 1948
Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 7**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE WIRE, *your* monthly magazine, is in jeopardy !

Last year's accounts showed a loss of some £700, due largely to the ever-rising cost of printing. The magazine is now sold at 1s., which price is already very high.

If we are to exclude the obvious remedy of increasing the price of the magazine, which would defeat its own object, the only other alternative is to make THE WIRE sufficiently attractive for it to sell on its merits. Now, and for many years to come, a high proportion of the members of Royal Signals will be the National Service men, serving in the Corps for a very short time; the old days when Royal Signals was composed entirely of Regulars on a minimum of seven years with the colours are passed. We must therefore try and sell the magazine to the National Service man, and this must be done without detracting from the normal set-up of the paper, which is suitable to a long-service Regular reader. There is also the point that, as we all know to our cost, Royal Signals is very short of men, and the numbers of short-service National Service men who consider signing on for a longer engagement are very few. It is possible that this is due in some part to a dislike of the unknown, a dislike for foreign service. At the same time many members of the Corps who are older know that life abroad in Royal Signals is not at all unpleasant.

"Unit Notes" have always been the backbone of THE WIRE, but even in pre-war days these had only a limited appeal. If we are to sell this magazine we must cater for a wider public. Who, except the writer of the notes and perhaps a dozen others, can be interested in the following:

"The Sergeants' Mess consists of eight members, two of whom are leaving on demob. We wish them the best of luck in civilian life."

The same notes, however, mention an outing of the members of the same Mess to the local beauty spot, "which made a very educative and interesting day." Now a short account of that outing, and the reasons for the day to have been educative and interesting, would have been read with enjoyment by nearly everyone who reads THE WIRE.

In short, if we are to sell THE WIRE, the reading matter in it must be of general interest, with particular emphasis on the normal life of the normal member of the Corps. It would also do well to include articles grave and gay, by serving or ex-members of the Corps, who have some interesting or unusual, real or imaginary, experience to relate. Now, will Royal Signals please "GO TO IT"—see that those responsible for WIRE Notes really go out to get the material which is wanted.

There is a demand amongst the older members of the Corps, who are the backbone of regular subscribers to THE WIRE, for news of old friends. Along with your factual article let the Editor have anything you wish in this connection; allow him to abstract it and publish it in the form of an "Agony Column," or under some such heading.

Do your very best to sell THE WIRE to as wide a public as possible. We need to sell 50 per cent. more copies than we sold last year.

A Correction

We must apologise to the members of the Signals Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian School of Signals, in that our May Editorial gave the impression that the recent generous gifts of food and clothing received by Royal Signals families emanated from the wives of the officers of the Royal Canadian Signals. We are informed that this voluntary organisation comprises the wives of all ranks. We regret any misunderstanding and again tender our sincere thanks to all those to whom we are indebted for these welcome gifts.

* * *

"FAREWELL TO ARMS"

I write this on the eve of my return to civilian life, and I chose to write this tonight for one paramount reason. Tonight is the occasion of the biggest dance Catterick has ever seen, a "Five-Star Novelty Ball," presented by No. 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

A grand display of flags. Bright lights illuminate the Hipswell Gymnasium to an amazing degree. The Unit Orchestra play with their usual vigour and enthusiasm amid masses of the most wonderfully selected flowers that I have ever seen at any Catterick function.

The two old soldiers dressed in the peace-time uniform of the Royal Signals, scarlet tunic, red-plumed busby and wearing war service medals, bring back with vivid reality memories of the pre-war pageantry so characteristic of the old-time British Army.

Then General Cary, handling with obvious experience the American auction in aid of two most worthy causes (the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association and the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund), collected five guineas for a doll beautifully dressed with infinite care and patience by the wife of one of our officers.

I realised that on my return to civilian life I should lose one of the most wonderful things in existence—the comradeship of my fellow men in the British Army.

REGINALD WM. BILLETT
(ex-Sergeant, No. 4 Training Regiment).

* * *

The War Office Civilian Wireless Service offers a good prospect of a steady career to ex-operators. Fuller details are contained in a pamphlet entitled "The War Office Civilian Wireless Service—What you get and how you get it," which you may see on application to your local Signals Association Branch Secretary. Further details may be obtained from the Under-Secretary of State, The War Office (C.4a), Room 453, Metropole Buildings, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND

A recent increase in establishment allows for ten boys in the Corps Band. There are at the moment vacancies for four boys between the ages of 15–16½ years. Applicants should have a knowledge of the pianoforte or some stringed or wood-wind instrument.

Members or ex-members of the Corps are invited to recommend suitable boys whose parents wish them to make a sound career in Military Music to:

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The annual general meeting and dinner of the Line Telecomrades' Association is to be held this year at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, S.E.1, on Friday, 5th November. Details of the function are being circulated to members later by the Hon. Secretary, G. A. E. Fudge, Esq., 105 Church Lane, Kingsbury, London, N.W.9.

* * *

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Receipt of the following publications is gratefully acknowledged:

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, April and May.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, May.

THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, 29th May and 11th June.

R.E.M.E., June.

SAMBAND, June.

THE CLARION, June.

Royal Signals Annual Dinner

The annual dinner of the Royal Signals Dinner Club was held at Simpson's Restaurant, Strand, on 31st May. General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., as representative Colonel-Commandant, presided.

One hundred and forty officers attended the dinner, including as guests General Sir J. Steele, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Adjutant-General, and the following officers of the United States Army Signal Corps:— Major Glen Waterman, Major Russell A. Duke, Major John Fill, Captain F. W. Hall.

The following Signal Officers of the Dominion Army Forces also attended:—The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Brigadier S. F. Clarke, Lieutenant-Colonel D. Wishart, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Eaman; The Australian Corps of Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Roseblade, Lieutenant-Colonel K. H. Trevan, Lieutenant-Colonel D. Vincent; South African Corps of Signals, Lieutenant D. L. Reeves.

A small detachment of the Corps Band played suitable music very pleasantly.

Before proposing the toast of the guests, the representative Colonel-Commandant read the following telegrams which had been sent in reply to the customary telegrams sent on behalf of the Dinner Club:—

General Sir H. Colville Wemyss, Royal Signals Dinner, Simpson's Restaurant, Strand. "I sincerely thank you and all officers of the Royal Signals for your kind and loyal message.—George R."

Chairman, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Simpson's Restaurant, Strand, W.C.2. "My warmest thanks for your kind message which I received with great pleasure. I wish you all a very pleasant evening.—Mary."

Messages of regret for absence were received from Lieutenant-General E. A. Osborne in Scotland; Brigadier R. Chenevix Trench and Colonel P. R. Bald, in Ireland. A characteristic message from Major-General C. M. F. White and the officers, Royal Signals, Middle East Land Forces, was also read out.

In his speech the Representative Colonel-Commandant apologised for any difficulties in the accommodation, which had been arranged when the prohibition on gatherings of more than one hundred was still in force, and this explained a certain overcrowding. He gave a short summary of some of the achievements of the Corps in sport. The Corps Cricket Team had so far an unbeaten record, and their opponents had included the Royal Military Academy, the Free Foresters and the Yorkshire Gentlemen.

The Signal Training Centre Rugger XV had won the Army Cup for the first time.

The Army Cross-Country Running was won by a team from Northern Command, eight out of ten members of which were found by the Signal Training Centre. Four members of Royal Signals had got into the finals of the Army Boxing, and Corporal Murphy, Royal Signals, was a member of the British Olympic Boxing Team. Lieutenant H. B. Smith had also been entered for the Olympic Team trials. Five Royal Signals officers are appearing at the Royal Tournament this month, competing in Fencing.

He also mentioned Sir Hubert Rance, who had recently ceased to be Governor of Burma, and was now *en route* to his new task of vast importance in the West Indies. He spoke of "Our Guests," members of the United States Army Signal Corps, and mentioned that he personally would never forget the hospitality he himself had received in America in 1941. The link of friendship between the two Signal Corps must never be broken. Referring to General Steele, he mentioned that they had been together in the same directorate, that of mobilisation, in 1939. He was sure that the prestige of the Army was safe in General Steele's hands, and he knew that General Steele had a very warm regard for Royal Signals.

General Sir J. Steele, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., replying for the guests, mentioned that this was not the first time he had been invited to be the guest of Royal Signals at their annual dinner, but in 1946, having accepted the invitation, he had been transferred to his command in Austria about a week before the dinner, and had felt that it would be impolitic to return home so soon for a purely pleasurable occasion. He mentioned his association and friendship with many of the more senior officers of the Corps during the war years. He spoke for a moment of the shortage of manpower in Royal Signals and said that he fully realised that Royal Signals were unusual in the Army, in that they had invariably to be efficient, or were instantly "found out." He was sure that the wealth of experience gained by Royal Signals during the last war would be of inestimable value to enable them to carry out the very many tasks of great difficulty which fell to them in peace.

It was prudent to prepare for war; the T.A. must be more prepared and have a higher state of efficiency than ever before. He was sure that the Regular portion of Royal Signals would give the Territorial Army Royal Signals Regiments every possible encouragement. He sat down to the rather unusual remark of "T.M.O.," for which he produced the peculiar translation of "Thanks, much obliged."

General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., Director of Signals, proposed the toast of "Absent friends." He said there was no real traditional backing for the Director of Signals to make a speech at the Corps Dinner, but he had done so last year, he was doing so this year, and he wasn't at all sure whether his successor would do so next year. The prospects for his successor were gloomy! The "run-down" was going on fast and making things difficult. In-come of Regular soldiers was not keeping pace. He, General Vulliamy, had fought many arduous battles to secure, and he had been successful in securing, for Royal Signals their fair share of the order of battle of the Army of the future. We could produce a good "Order of Battle," a Signal Regiment in every formation, plus L. of C. Signals, Air Formation Signals, etc. Most importantly they would be able to continue the Army chain; but this was on paper; men count, not organisation, and we are rapidly reaching the point when there will be insufficient men to man the sanctioned establishments. Last year he had told the officers at their annual dinner that we needed men; he repeated that statement. He, General Vulliamy, was delighted to see the Territorial Army so well represented, and looking round the room he saw several Territorial Army commanding officers. There was to be a campaign in 1948 and 1949 in an endeavour to fill the cadres, and to provide a basis for the 1950 arrival of the National Service men. Regular officer reinforcements were also not coming out of the Royal Military Academy as well as we had hoped; only 12 or 14 instead of the required 20.

He mentioned that the School of Signals was now under the Director of Military Training, and not under the Director of Signals. The Signal Training Centre remained under H.Q., Northern Command. He was very sorry to announce that it might be necessary to abolish courses for other arms of the Service at the School of Signals, but although he regarded this as being serious, it was not so serious as it appeared because in other arms intercommunication is entirely by speech.

In our own arm of the Service it must be realised that the majority of Royal Signals trades could not be taught in six months.

He spoke with appreciation of the work of the Ministry of Supply in the design of new equipment.

The officers, Royal Signals, held their annual tea party at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, on 1st June, and the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, was graciously pleased to attend. She was accompanied by her Lady-in-Waiting, the Honourable Mrs. Frances-Balfour.

What is believed to be a record number of officers and their wives attended, and were presented to H.R.H. before tea.

After tea Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., presented Her Royal Highness with a bound volume of photographs taken during the recent visit of the Colonel-in-Chief to Royal Signals and A.T.S. Signal Units in Rhine Army.

"He insists that it is technically a 'fighter umbrella'"

Home Stations

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

198 Course passed off on 22nd May and Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E., C.S.O., Northern Command, took the salute. Officer-Cadet Sharpe, who also received the Commandant's Cane, was Senior Under Officer in command of the parade.

We welcome the following into the unit:

Major G. S. K. Maydon, Captain E. J. Beale, Q.M.S.I. J. Dear (A.P.T.C.), and Sergeant R. Barton. Major J. C. Garlick has our best wishes on his posting to 5 Training Regiment.

Several warning orders for postings overseas have caused quite a flutter among the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. Already we have lost Sergeant Winter on posting to No. 1 Special Communications Unit.

Congratulations to Captain V. I. Milne on the birth of a son, Duncan, on 20th May; also to Sergeant Thomson on the birth of a son, William James; also to Sergeant Gleeson on the birth of a daughter, Wendy. Captain R. M. Armstrong has our best wishes for his future happiness on the occasion of his marriage to Isabel, daughter of the Rev. J. and Mrs. Piggot, of Newton Linford Vicarage, Leicester. The wedding took place at All Saints' Church, Newton Linford, Leicester, on 29th May. We extend a hearty welcome into the Unit to Mrs. Armstrong.

Garrison Miniature Rifle Shoot. The month of May saw the end of the 1947-48 Winter League. Twenty-two matches were fired off, all of which were won by our team. By so doing the team have again repeated their success of last year, when they safely negotiated the season without losing a match.

Athletics. Training was delayed by the weather, but we managed to enter a team for every event except the pole-vault, in the first meeting of the Signals Catterick Evening League.

Our final placing, third, was most encouraging and was due in no small measure to the expert coaching and enthusiasm of Q.M.S. (I.) Dear (A.P.T.C.).

The events in which we were most successful were:—

4 x 220 yards relay.—First (Lieutenant Bamford, Cadets Taylor, Barlow and Tynan).

2 x 880 yards relay.—Second (Cadets Liddell and Ashworth).

One mile.—Second (Cadets Kerridge, Stoneham, Selby and Davies).

Medley relay.—Second (Lieutenant Bamford, Cadets Barlow, Schiff and Ashworth).

High jump.—First (Captain Williams and Cadet Band).

Hammer.—Second (Sergeant Mark and Cadet Liversedge).

At the Sports Meeting organised by 2 Training Regiment on 18th May, we entered for the one mile open medley relay and won fairly comfortably. Our team consisted of Lieutenant Bamford, Cadets Taylor, Barlow and Ashworth.

Many past members of our War-time O.C.T.U. will be interested to learn that H. E. Askew (Lancashire), one-time Captain Instructor of this Unit, is still in fine form. He won the long jump by clearing 23 feet 3¼ inches in the Inter-Counties Championship, held at the White City early in the month.

Mountaineering Club. Our Mountaineering Club had a series of very successful meetings during May. Three meets, including the Whitsun meet, were held at Langdale, in the Lake District, and one meet at Almscliffe, near Harrogate. One pleasing feature of this club's activities is that it is attracting members from the Cadre of the Unit. Six members of the Cadre attended the last meet, all of whom were enthusiastic in their appreciation of the very full and enjoyable week-end spent in the hills.

The following account of the Whitsun meet can be taken as typical of meetings held during the month. The party arrived at Langdale at about 1800 hours on Friday, 14th May. Camp chores finished, two parties set out, one to investigate the lower slopes of the Pike O'Bisco, when several short climbs and boulder problems were tackled, whilst the second party climbed Middlefell. The following day, one pair proceeded to Gimmer Crag and climbed Oliveson's route and Main Wall, both severe climbs.

The remaining members of the club made for Pavey Ark, with its grand precipice going nearly sheer down to Stickle Tarn, 700 feet below. Four of the members tackled Middlefell en route. Two routes were closen on Pavey. One, Rakes End, a very difficult chimney some 200 feet high, and the second route, Gwynn's Chimney, an interesting difficult climb with a very difficult last pitch. Lunch having been consumed on the summit of Pavey Arm, the party moved on to Gimmer Crag to link up with the first pair of climbers. The Main Wall, an exposed severe climb, was then completed, and the party returned to camp for supper.

Dow Crag was the scene of operations the next day. Three parties were organised. One party, under Cadet Jones, to take on Giant's Crawl, a spectacular difficult climb, of 400 feet. The second party, under Cadet Foulston, to climb Great Gully, a difficult climb with a very difficult first and last pitches.

Under the leadership of Cadet Band, the third party were to tackle Gordon and Craig's Route. This is scheduled as a very difficult climb. In the actual climb an alternative very severe climb was taken on the last pitch. By evening the club members were able to discuss the success of the day's activities.

Monday saw the party preparing to return to camp, though three members were not to be denied the opportunity of climbing Main Wall and the "B" route on Gimmer Crag.

And so ended a thoroughly successful week-end, during which the members were well tested, the nature of the climbs completed testifying the good all-round standard of the club.

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

June

The outstanding features of our past month's activities have been the visit of Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, M.C., for his annual Administrative Inspection and our successes in the athletic field.

The weather was unkind for the inspection, but we believe that the Brigadier was well satisfied and our extra efforts did not pass unnoticed.

This season's athletics opened with the first S.T.C. Evening League meetings on 10th May. The Regimental team put up an excellent show and enabled us to come out on top in this meeting. The most outstanding feat of the Unit team was the three-mile race, in which Lance-Corporal Field and Lance-Corporal Lawrence were the first two home. In the one-mile race, Lance-Corporal Bryant came in first with little difficulty. In the field events Signalman McGill proved himself a good all-rounder.

The next event was our own Regimental Sports, which were held on 19th May. There was keen competition between the Squadrons, resulting in victory for No. 2 Squadron. These sports not only had the normal athletic events but also some novelties. The most amusing of these was the obstacle course, the water jump and the "crawls," providing lots of laughs. In this event also, No. 2 Squadron were the victors.

This led on to the Catterick District Sports ("B" Zone). In these we were again very successful and had a large number of our competitors selected to represent the zone in the Northern Command Championships. In the latter they were qualified for the Army Championships. Among them were Lance-Corporal Moynan, who won the long jump with a jump of 20ft. 3in., and Lance-Corporal Bryant, who won the one mile in very fast time.

The Regiment won the road walk with Captain Higgins gaining third place and being first member of the team home.

Obstacle Course. The Regiment entered a team for Northern Command Inter-Unit Obstacle Course, and much hard training was rewarded by finishing a good second to No. 4 Training Regiment.

It is worthy of note that our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, has been selected as an official in the Olympic Games. More honour to the Corps.

The monthly families' tea party, held on 10th June, was originally planned to take place in the gardens of the C.O.'s residence, but the weather clerk was against this. It was accordingly held in the N.A.A.F.I., a most enjoyable tea, to the accompaniment of sweet music at the piano by Sergeant Taylor, R.A.E.C.

After tea, Mrs. Goodeve-Docker kindly presented prizes for the household hints competition to the winner, Mrs. Martin, and runners-up, Mrs. French and Mrs. Matthews. The next competition was announced as "toy-making," toys to be made of any size, design and material by any member of the family.

The children at the party then enjoyed some games. Musical chairs proved a favourite both with the children and mothers. Mickie Timson and Margaret Burke survived this fitness test to win prizes in the children's affray, and Mrs. Howley and Mrs. Beardmore the mothers' scrummage, and scrummage it was! Mrs. Lloyd, wife of Major M. A. Lloyd, a newcomer to the party, kindly assisted in judging the household hints competition.

H.Q. SQUADRON. Now that Administrative Squadron has been augmented by the M.T. Section, the designation of the Squadron has been amended to H.Q. Squadron, and to facilitate the running of the Squadron it has been split into two Troops, M.T. and Administration.

On the 13th June, H.Q. Squadron bade farewell to Major D. C. P. Hall, who has, for the past two years, been a sympathetic and understanding Welfare Officer, besides being P.R.I. His place has been taken by Captain J. D. Willey, who has moved across from the Messing Office.

H.Q. Squadron has been well represented in the S.T.C. athletics this year. Amongst the representatives, Lance-Corporal Cope upheld the name of the Squadron by winning the hop, step and jump.

The H.Q. Squadron cricket team started the season in good style by defeating a scratch team from the other Squadrons on Colburn.

The Unit gardeners are beginning to see the fruits (and vegetables) of their labours, as all round the Unit lines green shoots are beginning to appear. In particular the potato crop is doing very well, and unless we suffer from an invasion of Colorado Beetle there seems to be no reason why we should not reap a good harvest from the work put in by the Unit agricultural experts.

No. 1 SQUADRON. With sincere apologies (to all those who care) for the non-appearance of No. 1 Squadron Notes in the last two issues of THE WIRE. It is hoped that the cause will be attributed, in the main, to the departure of our former scribe, Captain P. T. C. McGee, who left the homely atmosphere of Catterick Camp to return to civvy life somewhere in the wilds of Kent. We extend a welcome to his successor, Major G. E. G. Brown.

On the King's Birthday Parade, 50 soldiers good and true represented No. 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, and (need we say it) 42 were from *The* Squadron. It is conceded, however, that the men's efforts were a reflection of credit to the Officer and N.C.O.s (who had the misfortune to belong to No. 2 Squadron). It is recorded with greatest appreciation to this body of troops that, in recognition of the splendid display and turnout, a well-earned 48-hour pass was awarded them by the Commanding Officer.

In the field of entertainment there is little to report this month, as Corporal Harris, who was the stalwart producer, playwright, playboy, etc., of the "Monstrosities," rejoined his family on a permanent posting, having passed his time (!) and A. & S.G. 71 mark. Owing to pressure of work, his able understudy, Corporal "Freddie" Worman, has been unable to get into production yet; it is rumoured that there will be something coming "out of the bag" in the near future.

A good show was put on last month, and the two one-act plays, with a good selective variety support, constituted Corporal Harris's last contribution.

A special commendation is due to the "backroom" boys for the excellent realistic scenery settings produced by them out of all kinds of rubbish and oddments.

Whilst scenery has just been mentioned, it can do no harm to mention the little bit of extra to be found in Bournemouth! A rather large board, on which has been inscribed in commendable signwriting the "Corps Badge" and "Mercury House," has been erected outside the newly-acquired "Signals Hotel." This work was executed (?) by our budding draughtsman, Sergeant Carter, under whose tender guidance the Corps draughtsmen are trained (and, incidentally, under whose *not* so tender supervision, a mass of newly-painted notices and boards appeared on the occasion of Brigadier Galwey's visit in June).

No. 2 SQUADRON. The most important thing to report this month is that No. 2 Squadron were easily winners of the Unit Athletics Shield, after a rather one-sided battle with H.Q. Squadron, who were second. The only regret of the day was that Captain Snell, our O.C., was on leave, and so could not receive the shield as he had promised the other members of the Officers' Mess.

The team as a whole was well balanced, but special mention must be made of Signalman Tipping, who won the 100 yards, 220 yards and gave the Squadron a good lead in the medley relay; also Corporal Frost, who was third to win in the short distances and ran a very fine 220 yards in the relay. Lance-Corporal Bryant ran an excellent mile, and after his showing at the White City on Whit-Monday no one was surprised when he won by a comfortable margin to make his Squadron almost certain of winning the meeting.

The other sports are having a show from the members of the Squadron. Cricket is on the upgrade and a few challenges are to be issued in the very near future. Road walking is also well represented by the Squadron, who have some of the men chosen for the Northern Command team to compete in the Army Championships later on.

No. 3 SQUADRON. Major M. A. Lloyd has joined us and taken over O.C. Squadron, vice Major W. C. Manning. We hope that Major Lloyd will stay with us and his period of duty be both enjoyable and interesting.

The Corps will soon lose a grand personality in Major W. C. Manning, who is leaving us for the civilian atmosphere. With him go our very best wishes for his future health and happiness.

Sergeant (Taffy) Morris has proceeded on a G.P.O. course at Otley. Best of luck, Taffy!

The following sections: 60, 62 and 63, have passed their course and left us for sunny climes. Good luck, lads.

Once again, much to the S.S.M.'s delight, the Squadron lines are filled to capacity with trainees.

Sport. For three years running we had won the Inter-Squadron sports and kept the shield. This time, however, we were beaten thoroughly by No. 2 Squadron, who put up a grand show. Well done, 2!

Our congratulations go out to Captain D. E. Higgins and Sergeant Williams, who were third and fourth, respectively, in the Northern Command road walk. Jolly good show, and may you do even better in the forthcoming Army Championships.

No. 7 SELECTION REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

June

The Regiment has just despatched its 1,750th man to the Training Regiments in three months. A very good indication of pressure of business.

The main impression we get from it all is that in spite of the never-ending flow of new faces, every man who arrives remains distinctly an individual with his own brand of behaviour, outlook on life and reaction to Army training and methods.

Taking them by and large we have no complaints about our recruits; they respond extremely well, and on a Squadron level during four weeks they manage to work up a tremendous enthusiam and spirit, which is nowhere more amply demonstrated than during the Inter-Squadron boxing competitions. The poor old Blood Tub lifts its roof to the storms of cheering and Inter-Squadron abuse.

Trooping season seems to be on us again and we are due to lose a number of old stagers in the near future. Sergeant Flatley and Corporal Gordon are already engaged in embarkation leave, and Lieutenant (Whiskers) Ramsbottom has departed for West Africa and his first go of prickly heat. Quite a lot of others spend a good deal of time absently fingering the "Forin" list.

Last month was considerably enlivened by a slap-up Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' dance. Held in the Gymnasium, it was a great success, and in addition to excellent service at two bars, there was also dancing. The speed and grace of one portly and highly-respected gentleman had to be seen to be believed. I bet he was naughty in the nineties!

Sport. In a very hard-fought competition, in which the result was in doubt under the last fight, No. 4 Squadron managed to defeat No. 3 Squadron in their last boxing match by 1½ points. For sheer hard fighting and guts it was the best evening we had had so far.

Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons also had a stern battle last month, and again the match was decided in the last fight, this time by No. 1 Squadron, with one point.

As an indication of the good lads who do the scrapping, we have enclosed a photograph of the previous month's winners, No. 3 Squadron.

The excessively pugnacious looking gentlemen in khaki do not actually fight, but have a collection of very tall and encouraging stories.

If we had as much luck as we have enthusiasm we should do a great deal better in our small-bore shooting. Last month saw our defeat at the hands of both 4 Training Regiment and H.Q. School of Signals. Next league match we intend to do better and have carefully hidden four Mossbergs from the wilful hands of the recruits for the purpose.

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

June

The past weeks have seen a small team of Royal Signals personnel taking on the Infantry and the Armoured Units at their own game. These boys have been fighting fit, and dead keen to prove themselves.

The reason and occasion of this has been the Northern Command Inter-Unit Obstacle Course Competition, fought out in Catterick on 13th May. Teams were entered from 2 Training Regiment, 3 Training Regiment, 4 Training Regiment and 7 Selection Regiment—all Royal Signals Units, as well as from 14th/20th Hussars and 8th Royal Tank Regiment.

The day was hot, and the men fit and keen and ready to go. A lot was at stake, for the winners of this eliminating bout are to represent Northern Command at the Royal Tournament at Olympia.

From the word "Go"—off they went, over fences, under wire, over scrambling nets, under tree-trunk ramps, always working as team yet putting full individual effort into the task on hand.

By the end of the afternoon, 4 Training Regiment had emerged triumphant, having won by a clear lead of 1 min. 26 secs.

Of this success, 4 Training Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E., had these words of congratulation and encouragement to say: "I heartily congratulate the team on their success in the Northern Command Tournament, and I feel that they will give a good account of themselves in the Royal Tournament at Olympia. I won't go so far as to say that they will win, but I wish them the very best of luck. The Regiment is going to supply a body of supporters, who will cheer their team to victory."

The winning team was as follows: Lance-Corporals Tranter, Teall, Squibb, Cavanagh, Rogers and Bossomworth, Signalmen Bowen and Barbone. Reserves: Lance-Corporal Cowell, Signalmen Kay, Jenkins, Roberts and Robertson.

The team is captained by Second-Lieutenant J. Lane and is trained by C.S.M.I. Cadwallender, of the A.P.T.C.

By the time you are reading this, we hope that the team is showing a clean pair of heels to their opponents at Olympia.

We wish them every success, and know that, whatever the result, they will show that high standard of sportsmanship for which the Royal Signals is noted.

No. 3 Squadron, No. 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals, April, 1948, winners of Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

SHOEBURYNESS F.S.S. TROOP. Apart from the now familiar heavy programme of construction and maintenance work, the main event during May was the local Garrison Tattoo and Public Days held over the Whitsun Holiday. All members of this Troop put in a great deal of work, setting up public address equipment, manning temporary switchboards and running out miles of temporary line. We are pleased to record that the weather was fine, the tattoo was a great success, Army charities benefited considerably, and Signals received a very fine compliment for their valuable assistance from Brigadier H. A. Hounsell, C.B.E., the Chairman of the Tattoo Committee.

The "regular" element of the Troop are fast leaving us for other climes, the latest to go being Sergeant M. C. Jones and Corporal "Paddy" Wallace. Both these N.C.O.s did invaluable work whilst at Shoebury, and we wish them the very best of luck and success in their new Units. We can assure those Units that they are lucky people. Sergeant Kinnear has arrived from Canterbury to replace Sergeant Jones, and we hope that he will settle down and enjoy himself.

KENT COAST TROOP. We extend a welcoming hand to Signalmen Gillan, McHarg and Irvine, who joined us from Eastern Command Signals, Canterbury.

The following left us to try their luck in "Civvy Street": Signalmen Summerell, Milner and D. V. Cox. We wish them good luck in their new venture.

One of our prominent N.C.O.s has gone off on holiday to the Signals Memorial House at Boscombe—Bournemouth, to get the "Gen" for other prospective visitors, and we feel sure he will return with a good report and wish great success to this venture on the part of the Corps.

Cricket is our main entertainment these days; we are gradually getting the team together. Demon bowler, Lance-Corporal "Joe" Rae, seems to be an advocate of body line bowling; he believes in "knock 'em out" if you can't bowl them.

For indoor entertainment we held a Darts and Tennis Table Competition, and while watching the darts one can always notice the "Beer Wallopers" double top-easy, and the stance of some of the lads is quite convincing, too; they must have been reading about the "News of the World" championships.

We congratulate Signalman Monkton on such a fine effort in the Home Counties District sports; he did well to obtain second place in the 220 and 440 yards in the heats, considering he had such a small period of time to train in.

THAMES ESTUARY AND EAST ANGLIAN COAST TROOP. There have been a few changes since our last notes, the most noticeable being Sergeant Knight, who has left us for Foreign Service. We hope that, by the time these notes appear in print he has found his sea legs, also that he will soon get his knees re-tanned.

We extend hearty congratulation to Corporal Attwater on his recent appointment; here's to the next one.

The most noted arrival this month is a son, Christopher Robert, to Mr. Joe Alston, No. 1 Squadron H.Q. clerk. Congratulations, Joe.

We welcome Second-Lieutenant George to the Troop, and also Sergeant Beckley, who has arrived from No. 1 Squadron for a short visit. Other arrivals include Drivers Payne, Foster and Roberts and Signalman Seymour.

Demob. this month was very light, claiming only two from Troop Detachments, namely, Signalman Cadwallender, from Felixstowe, and Signalman Strickland, from Sheerness. "Good luck, good fortune, and all the best in your return to 'Civvy Street.'"

No. 3 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

We extend a hearty welcome to our new C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel I. St. Q. Severin, Royal Signals, who, like his predecessor, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. McNair, Royal Signals, was previously C.S.O., B.C.O.F., Japan. Captain D. Goodman has also served in Japan, so it can be seen that the land of the setting sun has had good representation from 3 A.A. Group Signals.

We also extend a hearty welcome to the following who have recently joined our ranks: S.S.M. Lonton, Signalmen Templeman, Templeton and Gibson; also to Corporal Hooper, who has just rejoined the fold from a spell in hospital. We hope that they are settling down to their new and old surroundings.

We extend our best wishes to all these unlucky fellows who have gone out into the cold and dreary world to become civilians, namely: Lance-Corporal Mullins, Driver Fox, Signalman Thompson and Driver Marshall. Good luck to you all, and should you find life in "Civvy Street" too hard, remember we shall always be glad to have you back again.

This Squadron is commanded by Major D. L. Hyde, Royal Signals, and other officers are as shown below:—

Captain S. W. E. G. Bowser, Brigade Signal Officer, 12 A.A. Bde. Signals; Second-Lieuteant C. Hunter, Admin. Officer; Second-Lieutenant W. A. N. Ede, M.T.O. and Sports Officer; Second-Lieutenant J. Southam, 12 A.A. Bde. Signal Troop; Second-Lieutenant R. S. Temple, Lines and Catering Officer; Junior Commander M. E. Snowden, A.T.S., O.C. Signals Office Troop. Our "Q" side is looked after by S.Q.M.S. S. R. Houghton.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal "Muscles" Dixey on his promotion to the dizzy heights of a full-blown Corporal, and also to L/U/A/Lance-Corporal Smith, who has now ceased to have all those wonderful "posh" titles and is now just a P/A/Lance-Corporal.

Congratulations are also extended to our "sisters" of the A.T.S., Lance-Corporal Matthews, whose knees are now a little nearer to the ground owing to an addition of another stripe, and Private Logan on attaining her Lance stripe.

Lance-Corporal Chambers, our pay clerk, has recently attended a pay course at the R.A.P.C. Centre, Aldershot, and is to be congratulated on obtaining a "D." (We expect our accounts to all show credit balances from now on, Corporal.)

Sport. The Squadron has its nose down to the grindstone in the athletic field of sports at the moment, in preparation for the H.Q. 3 A.A. Group sports meeting that is to be held at Stenhouse Dog Track, Edinburgh, on the 20th and 21st May, 1948.

Auxiliaries of the A.T.S. Signals are also competing, and great activity and practising, in the sporting field, is going on.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

Just a few words from the Frozen North to remind ex-members of the Unit that we are still bashing on regardless, in spite of the fact that winter seems to be summer and vice versa. At the time of writing it is versa in a big way.

The only kind of vegetation that seems really to flourish in this part of the world is Warrant Officers. Officers and Signalmen have been melting away weekly in their scores, but R.S.M.s and lesser fry seem to be queueing up for entrance to our tin-hutted "Glory Hole."

During the last two months we have bid farewell to Captains Jimmy Fyffe and Tommy Foard, and they were closely followed by Lieutenants Barry Sitch and Ted Ross, all of whom are now honourable members of the "Civvies'" Union. We wish them every success in their various jobs.

Down on the sands of the Forth, where the A.T.S. mainly habitate, Junior Commander Jimmy Crowe has left us for other fields in the Service of His Majesty, whilst her place has been ably taken by Junior Commander Smith, who now reigns as Queen of the Fairies at Edinburgh Castle. It is earnestly hoped that the news that Mary Queen of Scots once slept in the Command Signal Office will not reach the inquiring ears of the Festival visitors.

Major Tom Chambers, successor to Major Tommy Stibbs, as Second-in-Command, has just returned from a spot of leave in the South (little Old England over the Border), during which he successfully supervised a further addition to his family. We offer our sincere congratulations to Major and Mrs. Chambers, who have now taken up residence in "Auld Reekie Toon." "Dof" Fairlie has likewise just returned from his much-discussed trip to some remote palace in Luxembourg, where, judging from the ciné films he has produced for our inspection, life seems to be mainly taken up with driving at reckless speeds in American cars or boozing with blonde princesses in the Moselle vineyards.

In April, most of our Officers spent a very pleasant week-end at St. Andrews on a Signals "Tewt," and now most of us have a pretty sound grounding in the geography of the Kingdom of Fife, including a visit by the Second-in-Command to the Thane of Auchtermuchty.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. I *may* be wrong, but I think this is the first time we have appeared in print, at least during my sojourn here since March of this year. So a list of present members may be the best way of introducing ourselves and possibly bring our present whereabouts to the notice somewhere of old pals. The Mess is ably presided over by

R.S.M. "Snooker King" Buchanan. Members: S.S.M. "Hi yer, Cock," McConnell, R.Q.M.S. "Get off your knees" Evans, R.Q.M.S. "Mind my Bike" Roscoe, R.Q.M.S. "Singapore Joe Stratton, S.S.M. "Got yer Works Ticket" Fraser, S.Q.M.S. "Minus Seven" Stewart, S.Q.M.S. "108" Morris, Sergeants "Pop" Strachan, "Harry" North, "Part II" Johnston, "Dave" Murray, "Eytye" King, "Moon Man" Ridgeon, "Legs" Gardiner, "Educated" Heath.

During the quarter just ended, we have had the Mess brightened up and decorated. We held a dance, which was well attended, there being present the C.O. and Mrs. Howe, Unit Officers, all the members (some with their wives), a few civilian friends, and last, but not least, the N.A.A.F.I. Manageress and staff, making altogether quite a jolly crowd. Here's hoping for a repeat performance in the near future. We also held a games tournament, at which the Warrant Officers and Sergeants challenged the Officers to a series of games—billiards, darts, dominoes, shove-ha'penny, crib, whist, and finally, a boat race. As was anticipated, the contest was a draw until the boat race came off. Owing to the inexperience of *some* of the Officers' team, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants consented to waive the rule that the event be decided in pints. We compromised on half-pints. There was some confusion over the result. Could someone have hidden a glass? So the race had to be re-rowed, run, played, quaffed, or whatever it is. Someone won this time, but don't ask who! However, as yet, again there seemed to be some doubt, a further challenge was issued and accepted by the Officers. So we hope to have another successful evening to record in next month's notes. Three snooker handicaps have also been held during the quarter, the first being won by R.S.M. Buchanan, the second by Sergeant King, and the third by S.S.M. McConnell.

Corporals' Mess. Promotions and releases have considerably changed our members. We congratulate Les Gardiner and Johnny Johnston on entering the Sergeants' Mess. To members Johnny Slee, Jim Raffan, Arthur Laine, Alan Heap and Gordon Fussell we extend our congratulations on their promotion to Corporal. We welcome into our midst Lance-Corporals Cassen, Cullen, Clarke, Leslie, West, and Cooper, and Lance-Corporal Gooding, A.T.S. Release has again taken its toll, and to Corporal Tattam, Lance-Corporals Grant, Robinson and Gwen Johnson, A.T.S., we wish all the very best in "Civvy Street." Lance-Corporal (Ham) "Jack" Cooper, late 15 A.F. Signals, wishes to contact old mates of his, especially D2IK, D2DN, D2FI and D2IW. His call sign is CM3DPS.

Sports. Cricket, athletics and table tennis have been our chief sporting events so far this season. Our first cricket match of the season was a game against one of the Edinburgh local cricket teams, Colinton M.C.C. As our team were a little "rusty," the match was lost, but by a mere 17 runs. However, we did not expect to get away so lightly. Sergeant Hoad, our opening batsman, made a fine stand and scored the bulk of the runs, but unfortunately he was caught out. Captain John Rowlands also showed signs of having handled a bat before, making a large number of the runs needed to make a recovery. The recent bad weather has hampered our engagements, but it is hoped it will break soon, so that further matches may be arranged.

The Command Athletic Meeting took place last month and the Unit entered a team for most of the track events. The day of the "heats" was one of the hottest days in June and our first fine day for three weeks. The result was that we got four runners in the finals on the following day and we came out then with Signalman Plant putting up a first-class performance to come first in the 220 yards.

Later on in June we entered the same team for a Sports Meeting with No. 3 Coastal Battery, R.A., over in Fife, and we hope to give the results of that in the next issue of THE WIRE.

A grand Table Tennis Tournament took place on Tuesday evening, 8th May, at Fairmilehead Camp, the Unit being represented against 3 A.A. Group by Captain Delahunty, Lieutenant Sitch, Sergeant Gardiner, Sergeant Johnston, Lance-Corporal Moncur, Signalman Miller and Signalman Watson. After some very tight tussles, a few pints and much ribbing, the tournament was declared a draw, the Unit winning the singles and 3 A.A. Group the doubles. A replay has been arranged on 3 A.A. Group's own ground for some evening early next month, the results of which may be published in the next edition of THE WIRE.

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

An extensive military exhibition was included in the Bath and West Show, held at Cardiff, from 26th to 29th May, and this regiment had the task of providing the Signals' exhibit.

The entrance to the booth was made most impressive by boy trumpeters standing on guard, dressed in peace-time uniform, over the bronze figure of Mercury. These trumpeters, Corporal Standen, Boys Hazel, Waters and Esson, from the Royal Signals' Display Team, were very kindly loaned to us by the S.T.C.

The demonstration of line equipment contained stripped exhibits of the 1+1 carrier and Apparatus V.F. S+D, a 40-line test frame and a 40-line F. and F. Switchboard, the latter manned by Signalmen Batha and Dutton.

Two teleprinters worked overtime under the guidance of

Entrance to the booth. Corporal Boy Standen and Boy Esson

Captain Hoar and some of the wireless sets

Signalmen Messer and Norris, and the public were enthusiastic over the invitation for them to "have a go."

An exhibit that created great interest was a working model of automatic telephone switchgear, kindly loaned by the Automatic Telephone Company. This was ably maintained and demonstrated by Signalman Robinson, an ex-employee of the firm.

Sergeant Matthews and Lance-Corporal Long were in charge of the "Playback Wire Recorder," and some very good recordings were made. These included the Marquis of Bute, President of the Bath and West Society; Mr. Shinwell, Secretary of State for War, and Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Simpson, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, to say nothing of the child of three who recited "Little Bo-Peep," and an old Eisteddfod competitor of 75 who recited a poem of her own composition. The Marquis of Bute thanked Captain "Bob" Hoar for organising the Bath and West Show! "Bob" wasn't quick enough to say he'd only organised the Signals' booth, before the speech was recorded for posterity. Some *do* have fame thrust upon them! (We have decided not to list the young female crooners who gathered around in the evenings to giggle into the microphone and make sheep's eyes at the operators.)

The *pièce de résistance* was a schematic model of the 10 Set loaned by S.R.D.E. This was operated and explained by S.S.M. Mitchell (a natty figure in his blues) and Sergeant Bonar.

Corporal Watkins stood guard in full D.R. kit over a brand new W.D. 500 c.c. B.S.A., and the final exhibit was a display of all the latest field wireless sets, including a magnificent board showing the evolution of the 88 set.

All the walls of the stand showed photographs of Signals in action, in all parts of the world in the last war, and Signalman Hamilton, of the C.S.O.'s branch, worked extremely well on the many posters and labels that were found necessary.

In the outside exhibition an A.C.V. and a T.E.V. were open and working and the intercom on the A.C.V. was sadly overworked by hordes of small boys who passed through in constant procession. Lance-Corporal Barrett, Signalmen Thompson and Driver Banks were in charge of this department.

Thanks go to Sergeant Matthews, Lance-Corporal Barrett and Signalman Thompson for their magnificent efforts in maintaining the equipment under conditions worse than any theatre of war, and, indeed, the whole team worked extremely hard to make the exhibition the complete success it undoubtedly was.

No. 4 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

It is with great pleasure that I write these first few notes of the new 4th A.A. Group Signals.

This Group was closed shortly after the war and reopened in January, 1947. After 18 months of hard work for all concerned, we are now well on our feet and the Group is running very efficiently. I understand this is the only Signal Squadron that actually "lives" with its parent A.A. Group, consequently we are under the watchful eyes of the Staff. High up in the Staff is our C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., Royal Signals C.S.O., Southern Iraq and Persia, 1945-6, and later commanding 3rd G.H.Q., Signal Regiment, Middle East). Our S.O. III is Captain E. Williams, Royal Signals, who would perhaps be remembered as O.C., 2 Company, "J" L. of C. Signals, India, and late O.C., 2 Company, Eastern Command Signals, India.

This Squadron is ably commanded by Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., Royal Signals (of Indian fame and well known throughout the Corps). Our other Officers are: Lieutenant P. Magee, Lieutenant E. F. Matthew (Communications Officer), and Junior Commander E. Nixon, A.T.S. Our "Q" side is looked after by Warrant Officer II S. E. Poole (also widely known in the Corps, ex-Waziristanites, note), and he seems a wizard at producing the right thing at the right moment, except when battledresses are for exchange.

We consist of a Headquarter Troop, Group Signal Office Troop (A.T.S.) and a Line Maintenance Troop at Warrington, and a Brigade Troop at Towyn (on the Welsh coast) commanded by Captain Jerram.

As I have previously stated, we live with Group Headquarters, and Major R. H. Farlow is O.C. Troops as well as O.C. Signals. Also, the Quartermaster Stores looks gay with the coloured flashes of R.A., R.E.M.E., R.A.E.C., R.A.S.C., and all the various Units of Group Headquarters that are attached to us for all purposes.

We had the honour of providing a Guard of Honour on 19th May, 1948, for the G.O.C., A.A. Command, Lieutenant-General Sir G. Ivan Thomas, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. All went excellently, a good show and a feather in the Royal Signals' cap. The accompanying photograph shows we are still up to the old "Depot" standard. The Guard Commander was our one and only Sergeant, Sergeant W. Hammond (of Indian hockey fame).

Guard of honour at inspection by G.O.C., A.A. Command

Our Squadron is not large enough to produce its own cricket team, but a number of the lads are playing in the Group eleven. Our badminton team has achieved great successes against the Navy and R.A.F. We have run a number of dances in the Gymnasium, and so popular has dancing become that we even have a civilian instructor to show the lads all the latest steps once a week. A good innovation in these hard times.

More about the Squadron and its working at a later date. With "all the best" to members and ex-members of our Corps. I'll say "Cheerio" till next month.

STAPOO.

NORTHERN IRELAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

During the month the Royal Signals Display Team visited Northern Ireland and gave wonderful displays of skill in unorthodox motor-cycling. They formed part of the entertainments provided for the annual Ulster Agricultural Show, which was held at Balmoral and which was voted the best show held in Northern Ireland for years.

The War Minister (Mr. Shinwell) also paid us a visit during the month, and inspected accommodation and married quarters (re Sergeant Morey, Royal Signals), some of which he approved. As usual, the weather was inclement, and in one day, according to the Press, he ruined two hats. Some people are lucky; they only get it part of the time!

Our matrimonial machinery has been at work again, and we extend congratulations to Private Thelma Glynn on her marriage to Private George Reeves, of the R.A.S.C., N.I.D. There is nothing final in the matrimonial file at the present, but there are one or two in the pending tray, more news of which we hope to publish in the near future.

The M.T. are to suffer a loss in the posting of Sergeant Aldridge to B.A.O.R. We all hope he will be as popular in his new Unit as he was in this Squadron. His skill as a hockey and cricket player will be missed; also his excuses for not giving one a truck! Corporal Richardson also leaves us for the "Land of the Palm," where he will, no doubt, receive plenty of advice on "brown knees"! Good luck to you both.

Corporal Forrester, a well-known figure to past members of the Squadron as occupier of the pay desk, is forsaking this good and secure life for the trials and tribulations of "Civvy Street." Lots of luck, Bill. This departure comes as a disappointment to a certain clerk in the Orderly Room. Never mind, Edna, it won't be for long.

We extend a warm welcome to Junior Commander Ridler, who joins us from A.A.; to Second-Lieutenant Rashbrooke, who comes from the Depot, and to all lads and lasses recently arrived.

In spite of the change of season, entertainments continue to be well attended.

The Tuesday night dance in the N.A.A.F.I., thanks to the efforts of Corporal Richardson and his boys, enables those who enjoy the light fantastic to while away a few hours, while Signalman Wright keeps the interest maintained in the whist drive, especially the knock-out, which is really becoming a serious affair, the finals now being played in deadly silence. Signals ran a very successful dance in the Gymnasium, which was attended by most of the Officers and Other Ranks. The innovation was the introduction of a girl as M.C., a role very ably filled by Sergeant (Mary) Senior, whose energy and enthusiasm was so infectious it made everybody want to dance and full of *joie de vivre*.

Sport has not had very much opportunity this month, due to the weather. There have been one or two hockey games, H.Q. Signals being well represented, of course. The Unit has been lucky in having various ex-India Unattached List members posted in.

The Miniature Golf Course is still showing plenty of support; a few of the "hard boys" are realising that golf is not such an easy game after all, and odd bodies can be seen sneaking across to the course with clubs disguised as all kinds of things. Yes, the game is certainly popular. I shouldn't be surprised if we haven't a couple of budding "Bobby Jones" in the Squadron. It is rumoured that there will be an issue of "fancy pants" from the Stores shortly. (It's O.K., "Q," it's only a rumour!)

And so, for this month—Good Stations everybody.

J.D.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

On 13th May, the Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by the C.S.O., Southern Command, Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E., visited Regimental Headquarters at Figsbury Barracks. They were met by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., Royal Signals, at the Orderly Room. The General inspected all ranks on the parade ground and watched the parade march off. All Officers serving at Figsbury Barracks were then introduced to the General outside the Orderly Room.

In a very quick tour of the barracks, the Commanding Officer showed the General the recently completed wireless station, containing a W.S. No. 63 and four W.S. No. 12 transmitters, two classes carrying out the Post-War Education Scheme, and a barrack room and sitting room as occupied by Royal Signals and A.T.S. personnel. On arriving at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, all Royal Signals and A.T.S. members were introduced to the General immediately before a photograph was taken of all Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Lunch was served in the Officers' Mess.

During the afternoon, General Vulliamy and Brigadier Scott were present at the annual Regimental sports, held on the Sports Ground of the Southern Command School of P.T., whose staff, under Major Butler, A.P.T.C., gave most valuable assistance in preparing the ground and the programme.

We were very pleased to welcome a large number of guests who had come to enjoy a pleasant afternoon in the sunshine. Among the guests were the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir John Harding, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Lady Harding, and a number of members of the Salisbury Branch of the Royal Signals' Association, including Brigadier A. C. Sykes, C.B.E., D.S.O.

The events were all keenly contested, but none more so than the Old Soldiers' race, for which there was a large number of entries. The race was open to all ranks with fifteen years' service and over. Competitors were given a yard start for every year of service over fifteen. The Director of Signals started one yard ahead of the Army Commander, but both finished equal second with Major P. C. Williams, Royal Signals, who started from scratch. The race was won by Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E., in good time. He avenged his defeat by his chief clerk, W.O.I Smith, in the previous year.

Tea was served during the afternoon on the Sports Ground. We were all very pleased to welcome Lieutenant Judd and the members of the Royal Signals Band, who played selections during the afternoon. The Band was paying its annual visit to the Regiment, which is always looked forward to with keen anticipation.

(*continued on page* 198)

Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants. Front row (seated (left to right) C.S.M. D. Rees, Major J. M. L. Drudge-Coates, S.S.M. D. A. Dickson, Major W. J. S. Gray, Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E. (C.S.O., Southern Command), R.S.M. J. Johnson, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O. (Director of Signals), Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., R.Q.M.S. Softly, Major R. G. Baker, S.S.M. J. R. Holt, Junior Commander R. V. P. Fairlie, S.S.M. A. H. Skiffins. Second row (left to right) Sergeant M. French, Captain M. L. Willway, Sergeant R. Cunningham, Captain A. T. Stevens, Sergeant E. R. Horlock, Major A. Trapmore, Junior Commander E. R. Stewart, Major F. J. Dowie, Sergeant D. M. Smith, Captain B. E. Jones, S.Q.M.S. J. Beale, Lieutenant S. C. Walton, Sergeant D. Bartlett. Back row (left to right) Sergeant J. Cairns, Captain T. A. Gardiner, Sergeant K. Hunt, Second Lieutenant M. B. M. Brown, Sergeant T. Diamond, Second Lieutenant J. N. Fells, Sergeant S. Chanty, B.E.M., Lieutenant D. D. Crearer, Sergeant A. Hudson, Sergeant F. Hamilton

Royal Signals Display 1948

TO the average person, the Royal Tournament spells Pageantry, but after the initial fanfare by the Corps Trumpeters in full dress, the Display is purely utilitarian, with the emphasis on the sturdiness and controllability of the modern motor-cycle combined with the nerve and skill of the riders.

The opening ride in figure-of-eight formation with the riders crossing in the centre at split-second intervals is only a sample of the thrills to come.

The manner in which these standard Triumph machines are made to jump over a car, through a human arch, through a paper-covered hoop, and through a wall of flame is a tribute to their strength, as is the demonstration of the "Team Taxi" when no less than sixteen members of the team hitch-hike on one machine.

The Ladder Ride
Copyright: The "Yorkshire Post" and the "Yorkshire Evening Post."

Copyright: The "Yorkshire Herald."
The Fire Jump

☆

There are various forms of trick riding, which with vaulting, repeat all the features of the old horse displays by the Riding Establishments, and indeed excel them in that they are in many cases done by two riders on the same machine instead of one. Examples of these are the double cossack riding, double "Jimmy" and wheelbarrow ride. Many of us can recall a famous music-hall turn known as Du Calion, the Loquacious Laddie on the Tottering Ladder. All his exploits are surpassed by these young riders who climb up and down ladders, facing both forwards and backwards on uncontrolled moving motor-cycles.

Two tableaux which excite admiration are those in which eight riders appear on the Ladder Machine, and the "Fan," where thirteen riders circle the arena on three machines.

Comic relief is provided by the combination which "ditches" its rider and runs away, smartly dodging those

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Combination Capers

chasing it and causing the Team Leader to make a spectacular leap for life. Leadership of this team requires the attributes of "Springheel Jack," for not only does he have to escape the attentions of the runaway combination, but also to leap over a machine with a rider. When the combination reappears with two riders, the sidecar passenger apparently goes demented and jettisons the sidecar wheel after assaulting the rider with a massive spanner.

☆

The clowns of the show are the 99 c.c. Corgi miniature motorcycles, the civilian version of the paratroop Welbike, which weave about the arena imitating the evolutions of the full-size machines and interrupting the chariot riding.

The final spectacle is the closing ride in which the sixteen riders flash round the arena in pairs and repeat the split-second crossings in the centre at increased speed, finally forming up facing the Royal Box.

It is noteworthy that only one member was in the pre-war Display Team, and only five of the remainder appeared last year.

☆

The 1948 team, under the management of Captain C. F. Jackman and trained by Second-Lieutenant R. T. Dimmock, consists of the following members, Sergeant J. Oglanby; Corporal J. Watson, Corporal F. G. Winsor; Lance-Corporals T. Webster, H. R. Smith, K. V. Gatward; Signalmen J. A. Bugby, J. C. Baker, R. C. Brittain, D. Bufton, D. V. Cole, P. H. Dyson, L. Geary, A. D. Goody, T. C. Grant, G. D. Grey, W. J. Kidd, A. G. Kidd, L. Turner, O. A. Purchase, P. H. Tait, J. Webb and G. Wood.

Copyright: The "Belfast Telegraph"
The Double Jimmy

Copyright: The "Belfast Telegraph"
The Fan

Home Stations *(continued from page 195)*

After the last event, Lieutenant-Colonel Hyde thanked Major Butler and the Staff of the Southern Command School of P.T. for their valuable assistance and congratulated the prize-winners on their successes. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Hyde. The names of the prize-winners are given below:—

100 yards Soldiers.—Driver Pearson.
60 yards A.T.S.—Private Twigg.
Putting the Weight.—R.Q.M.S. Softly.
220 yards Soldiers.—Driver Pearson.
100 yards A.T.S.—Private Daines.
60 yards three-legged race.—Sergeant Cunningham and Corporal Watson.
High Jump, Soldiers.—Signalman Dodd.
440 yards Soldiers.—Driver Pearson.
40 yards Sack Race, A.T.S.—Private Lea.
Band Race.—Lance-Corporal Hunt.
High Jump, A.T.S.—Private Daines.
Long Jump, Soldiers.—Driver Pearson.
Long Jump, A.T.S.—Private Daines.
One Mile, Soldiers.—Sergeant Cunningham.
100 yards Old Soldiers' Race.—Brigadier W. A. Scott.
Team Relay, Soldiers.—No. 1 Squadron (Signalmen Richardson, Dakin, Parker and Whiting).
Obstacle Race, Soldiers.—Driver Dakin.
Obstacle Race, A.T.S.—Private Benfield.

In the evening the Corps Dance Band played at a dance held in the Guildhall, Salisbury, organised by the Salisbury Branch of the Royal Signals' Association. The dance was well attended and a very cheerful atmosphere prevailed.

On 14th May the Director of Signals carried out a tour of inspection of F.S.S. communications on the Imber and Larkhill ranges and visited the automatic exchanges in Larkhill and Bulford. He also visited the Signal Office at Salisbury Plain District H.Q., commanded by Captain T. Gray, Royal Signals, and the Salisbury Plain F.S.S. Troop in Bulford, under the command of Captain (T.O.T.) J. Kavanagh, Royal Signals.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Since our last contribution, the Mess has indulged in various forms of entertainment; the Sunday evening socials and the recent dance proved quite successful. These dances will now be held every month, so we shall expect to see several old members drop in. Everyone can be assured of an enjoyable evening.

One of our members, Sergeant Hunt, has received his posting orders for overseas. We wish him the best of luck. Our congratulations go to R.S.M. and Mrs. Wood on the birth of a daughter.

A.T.S. As stated in the May WIRE, Auxiliaries from R.H.Q. went to London on an educational trip, which was greatly enjoyed. The places we visited were the Ealing Film Studios, Watney's Brewery and back-stage of the Winter Gardens Theatre. The stars of the show were very amusing to talk to, and showed great interest in the girls (who wouldn't, anyway?). We arrived back at camp at the witching hour of 2 able mike, very tired, but gloriously happy. May these visits continue.

The culminating match of the netball season saw R.H.Q. on top of their form playing in an Inter-Group netball match, losing the cup by one goal to Berks and Oxon Group, A.T.S. The clerk of the weather has been against our having much swimming this month, but the spirit is very willing, although the elements are weak.

A grand sports day was held in the Unit on 13th May, and our Private Daines put up a very good show by winning the high jump, long jump and the 100 yards. Our Corporal Ally (Watson) won the three-legged race with Sergeant Cunningham. In the obstacle race the betting was against the C.S.M. getting through the rubber tyre, but she sailed through like a bird (possibly an ostrich).

Cricket. A very keen interest in cricket has been shown this season and we have had no difficulty in presenting quite a strong team, captained by Lieutenant S. C. Walton.

So far, of five matches played, we have won two and lost three. A Bulford Area knock-out tournament has been organised for small units. We have entered our team and have been drawn to play No. 12 Regiment, R.E., in the first round. This match is due to be played on Wednesday, 9th June, so more of this next time, together with any further successes in this tournament.

ALDERSHOT TROOP. Those who have served in Aldershot will no doubt hear with regret that the Corps is no longer housed in Mons Barracks and the few now stationed in Aldershot are fed and accommodated by the Army Catering Corps at Blenheim Barracks.

The only link with the past is that we still retain the Old Wireless Compound for Office and Store accommodation. Ghosts of the old A.B.Y. W./T. Station linger on.

Since Sergeant MacIntosh joined us in September last year we have adopted his 5½-year-old son, Donald, as Troop mascot, and he makes himself quite prominent most Saturday mornings.

Note:—He has just recently put Mr. Hayes and Sergeant McGregor "On the Peg."

* * *

London Gazette, 10th June, 1948

O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel Reginald Charles Install, B.A., A.M.I.E.E. (10865).

M.B.E. Major (Temp.) (Q.M.) Wallace Henry Ayres (254219).

* * *

WAR OFFICE CIVILIAN WIRELESS SERVICE

The second sentence of the second paragraph of the June announcement should read "Operators with the following Army qualifications are exempt from the written part of this examination."

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND

We of Royal Signals in London are always pleased to see or hear the Band, and we were delighted that Mr. J. L. Judd, the Director of Music, was able to give us an opportunity of seeing as well as hearing.

The Band was broadcasting on 21st June in the morning, and in the evening gave a recital at Brompton Road, to which all were invited by the Chief Signal Officer, I A.A. Group.

A good time was had by all, the Regular Army and the Territorial Army being well represented.

We listened to most excellent music. We met a number of old friends. BUT there were many who would have attended had they heard of it in time.

The C.S.O. did his best: he sent out a paper with a very long list of addressees, but this certainly did not reach all.

We know Mr. Judd is a busy man. If, however, he could let THE WIRE know his movements, many more members of Royal Signals would hear about the Band.

It is true that WIRE Notes have to be in by the 16th of the month previous to publication, but a short item, entitled "Where the Band will be in August," can almost certainly be fitted in up to the first day of that month.

Now, please, we all want to see and hear the Band, so will the Band please tell us where they are to be.

". . . and 'ere, gentlemen (if I may claim your kind attention) we 'ave the Acrocephalus Streperus, or flippin' wry-necked reed-warbler . . ."

British Army of the Rhine

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Herford

June

Our first comment this month is on our new designation. Commencing 15th June, 1948, the old designation 2 Lines of Communication Signal Regiment disappeared, and we carry on with the same role in B.A.O.R. with the new designation, Headquarters British Army of the Rhine Signal Regiment, in shortened form, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. We offer thanks that there is a shortened form. For the benefit of old members of the Unit, we mention the former designations of the Unit. These were 1 H.Q. Signals, followed by 21 Army Group Signals, changing to 1 H.Q. Signals, which Unit amalgamated with 12 L. of C. Signals to form 2 L. of C. Signals. Time marches on, with its inevitable changes. When in the future years we meet ex-members of the Corps at reunions, it seems that it will be a case of knowing your Unit before you left it and what happened afterwards.

With the beginning of the summer and reversion to short sleeves, such pastimes as sun-bathing, swimming and picnics are the thing of the day.

We record our regrets concerning the very unfortunate accident in the swimming pool to Driver Wild, and sincerely hope that he may make a good recovery.

Our best wishes go with the many members of the Unit who have left us for the U.K., some to take up a well-earned Python, some to again acquire a suit of khaki drill and topee and wend their way East again, both Middle or Far.

H.Q. SERGEANTS' MESS. We welcome to our fold R.S.M. Baker, who joined us from Hamburg and whose family follow him later. Also S.S.M. Robertson, who joined us from a Leave Centre. We have lost quite a few members during the past two months. R.S.M. Herberts and family left us after a very patient wait for that passage application which seemed as if it had got lost in one of the trays of our District Headquarters. The very best wishes of the Mess go to him and his family for their future. In passing, we must offer our thanks for his untiring efforts towards the welfare of the Mess and his willingness to help in all of our functions. We hope his next Unit realise his value and their luck.

S.S.M. Pash left us with his family after a similar patient wait for the passage, but which fortunately worked its way out in the end.

CAVE CANEM.

No. 1 SQUADRON. General sporting activity was greatly reduced during May because of bad weather. Keen interest was shown by all, nevertheless, in preliminary training for the Regimental sports day. The maxim that "Practice makes perfect" was well proven when all the enthusiasts who had been living righteously and observing total abstinence were outstanding in the majority of events.

The Squadron took second place only after a deciding hurdle had been run to settle a dead heat with No. 3 Squadron.

24 Construction Troop has shown a lead in organising outings to various places. They have twice visited the speedway racing held at Hanover. A visit has also been made to Hamburg, where they were interested spectators at a British Forces Network Quiz.

The disbandment of 62 Construction Troop will mean an early finish to what was promising to be a good cricket team. A recent cricket match between 24 and 62 Construction Troops ended in a win for 24 Troop by one run, after scoring 40 runs.

Lieutenant Pearce, Swimming Officer for the Regiment and Squadron, is busily engaged in choosing a team for forthcoming swimming events. Here, again, we were handicapped by bad weather, except for the veterans, to whom weather makes little difference. There was a talk of an early morning swim in place of P.T. for a day or two when the weather was bad, but we understand that S/I Ogg preferred hot water.

No. 3 SQUADRON. During the past month the Squadron was assigned a major role on "Exercise Unity," and all ranks engaged put up a very good show. As is usual on these occasions, many were the alarums and excursions—incidents which, however, added much to the interest of the exercise, if not to the comfort of the men concerned. The art of improvisation was well utilised and many valuable lessons were learnt. Altogether the exercise was a welcome break in the normal routine of training and was enjoyed by everyone taking part. Special commendation must go to the operators who kept a certain set working throughout a night in which we experienced one of the worst thunderstorms for some considerable time, and to the poor old despatch riders, most of whom averaged 500 miles a day during the exercise.

All ranks of the Squadron extend their sincere sympathy to the Adjutant on his recent sad bereavement.

The Squadron personnel have figured prominently in the Inter-Squadron and Inter-Unit athletic meetings. A number of budding young athletes were found who did very well indeed at such short notice and with little or no training. The Inter-Squadron meeting was held on 19th May at Bad Oeynhausen. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Seely, the wife of our Commanding Officer. R.H.Q., 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons, competed, and we were successful in winning. At the end of the day we tied with No. 1 Squadron for first place, and to determine the winners, Lance-Corporal Gunnel and Captain D. K. P. Hannigan ran for 1 and 3 Squadrons, respectively, in the 110 metres hurdle. We won this event.

The following deserve special mention during the Squadron and Inter-Unit competitions and must be complimented for their efforts: Second-Lieutenant Denyer, 200, 400 and 800 metres, high jump and shot; Signalmen Dalton and Ryan, 1,500 and 5,000 metres; Signalman Thompson (now released), javelin; Second-Lieutenant Young, high jump; Lieutenant Jones, 5,000 metres; Captain Hannigan and Lance-Corporal Jelly, hop, step and jump; Sergeant Lansom, Lance-Corporal Butcher, Signalman Dunderdale and Driver Condliffe, 100, 200 and 400 metres.

The following also competed and did extremely well: Major A. E. Wood, the Squadron Commander, Signalmen Harvey, Beddow, Hanby, Copping and Maguire, Lance-Corporal James and Sergeant Edmunds. Sergeant Newman, who should have competed, was handicapped by a sprained ankle, but nevertheless, did very well in the Inter-Unit sports as a sprinter, hurdler and pole vaulter.

Mrs. Seely presents prizes at the Inter-Squadron Sports

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Hamburg

June

May has been a month of unpredictable changes for us here in Schleswig Holstein, starting with a first taste of summer and all its allied activities and running through the whole gamut of seasonal changes. Indeed it becomes almost accepted that Shirt Sleeve Order brings forth the heaviest downpour and Battledress almost a heat wave. However, for us the cricket season has really started, and although no Unit team has been selected, a game is almost constantly in progress, changes in the Unit being so frequent, new talent seems always on hand.

The Officers' Mess has during a month welcomed a number of visitors, one of whom, Major Minshell, only recently returned to U.K. Major Sugden has joined us from the Middle East in good time, it is hoped, to see through what promises to be an enjoyable summer.

Arrivals in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess during the month have been C.S.M. J. Potts, well known to all the old hands, and Sergeant Cattermole, recently promoted.

Football. The Regiment really came into the news with a conclusive victory in the final of the Hamburg District Inter-Services Football Tournament, when, combining with Hamburg District Signals, we defeated a joint R.A.M.C. and R.C.M.P. team at Victoria Stadium, Hamburg, by 4 goals to 3 after a really rousing game. The Signals, from the start, menaced the opponents' goal, though good football was displayed by both sides. Disaster almost came twenty minutes from the end, when a thunderstorm broke, developing the ground into a veritable quagmire. However, defeat was averted with the final score as above.

Unit Athletic Meeting. Prospective entrants for Hamburg District Individual Championships had a good opportunity of showing off their merits at the meeting held here recently. Competition was on an individual basis and the keen spirit of the competitors made the show a great success. Despite the condition of the track, quite good times were realised in most events, particularly in the 5,000 and 800 metre races.

HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

The 11th May, 1948, was a memorable day in the history of this Squadron. We had the honour of being visited by our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

H.R.H. arrived at Uxbridge Barracks at 0940 hours,

H.R.H. and Sergeant Wright in the Signal Office

accompanied by the G.O.C., Hamburg District, Major-General G. Surtees, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., and the Chief Signal Officer, Rhine Army, Brigadier W. H. C. Rogers, C.B.E.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, which was provided by 2 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, H.R.H. proceeded to inspect the Signal Office, where she was met by Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., D.C.S.O., Hamburg District, and the following Officers of this Squadron had the honour of being presented to H.R.H.: Major L. H. Caldicott, M.B.E., Commanding Officer; Captain J. E. Evans, M.C., Duty Signal Officer; Lieutenant R. Lochhead and Second-Lieutenant D. N. Lindon.

After inspecting the Signal Office and Switchboard Room, H.R.H. proceeded to Hohenzollernring, where she inspected two married quarters occupied by Sergeant Hawes and Lance-Corporal Burden.

Sport. HAMBURG SUB-AREA INTER-SERVICE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL. This match was played at the Victoria Sports Ground, Hamburg, on 26th May, between a combined Royal Signals team from Hamburg district and a combined team formed from the R.A.M.C., Royal Military Police and Small Units.

The Signals won the toss and very wisely chose to play with the wind at their backs. The first half was full of excitement and the score at half-time stood at Royal Signals 3, Combined Services 1. Special mention must be made of Signalman Astle, playing at outside-left, who played a wonderful game—we hear that senior football clubs have an eye on him.

After the resumption of the second half, the Signals went forward again and made the score 4—1, but then the elements had a big say—a thunderstorm broke out and the wind rose to a veritable hurricane and the rain fell in driving sheets; the Combined Services team naturally took full advantage of this and managed to breach the Signals' defence twice, each time scoring, thus with 15 minutes to go and the elements against us, anything was likely to happen. Here we must mention our goalkeeper, Signalman McCann, who played like a man inspired, and on at least three occasions saved what seemed to be certain goals; however, our lads held out, the defence rising superbly to the conditions, and when the final whistle went we had won by 4 goals to 3. The Challenge Cup now reposes in the Officers' Mess of 1 Wireless Regiment, and each member of the winning team received a small replica. The following was the Royal Signals team:—

Signalman McCann (Hamburg District Signal Squadron); Signalman Jenner (1 Wireless Regiment) and Sergeant Gilchrist (Hamburg District Signal Squadron); Signalman Lawley (1 Wireless Regiment), Sergeant Shelley (Hamburg District Signal Squadron) and Signalman Nichols (Hamburg District Signal Squadron); Signalman Astle (1 Wireless Regi-

ment), Signalman Gomm (1 Wireless Regiment), captain, Lance-Corporal Addison (Hamburg District Signal Squadron), Signalman Shuttleworth (Hamburg District Signal Squadron) and Driver Taylor (Hamburg District Signal Squadron).

The Cup was presented by Mrs. Turnbull, wife of Brigadier Turnbull 15 B.O.D.

A.T.S. SIGNALS, GERMANY

June

At the beginning of May, Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, visited B.A.O.R. and spent the afternoon of 7th May visiting the Switchboard, the Signal Office, our Sergeants' Mess, Billets, Training School and the Vegetable Gardens, finally taking tea at the 21 Club, where all our Officers were presented to her.

Saturday morning, the 8th May, was the "Showpiece." Our C.O., Senior Commander C. H. M. Jackson, M.B.E., proudly led the parade past the saluting base, where the Princess was taking the salute. The two Signal Sections were commanded by Subaltern Wynn and Subaltern Dallas, and 721 Car Company and two Companies from No. 1 Continental Group completed the picture.

The C.S.M. should be duly proud of the part she played in training us. It was whispered that the Officers even practised at 0750 hours in some secluded spot, but only the few early birds caught glimpses of a smart platoon of Junior Commanders and Subalterns saluting on the march.

Her Royal Highness also attended a special performance of "Spring Shift" at the Mercury Theatre, a revue written by Captain Gerry Madden, of S.X. branch, and photographs taken by Public Relations are full proof of the enjoyment of the Princess and her amusement at the show.

Subaltern Johnson, Subaltern Harris, Corporal Hillier, Corporal Green, Corporal Pennington-Jones, Lance-Corporal Reddy and Private Sahnow all had the honour to be presented after the performance.

A word must be said about the vegetable gardens that were visited. For weeks now Officers and Auxiliaries (plus the odd co-opted boy friend) have worked extremely hard to transform waste bits of ground at the back of the billets into seven flourishing vegetable plots, which we hope to enter for the horticulture competition later on. All kinds of vegetables are being grown and the reward of long labours is now to be seen: the potatoes are coming up, peas are ready to bloom and some venturesome gardeners are even growing cucumbers.

Sports, too, are in the news: Garrison sports were held on 26th May and Subaltern Wynn and Private Parfitt were our representatives. Private Parfitt won the 80-metre hurdle race in fine style in 16.45 secs., and she also was third in the high jump, clearing 4ft. 5in. Subaltern Wynn was fourth.

Python is depleting our numbers somewhat. Subaltern Roe, Sergeant Meredith, Sergeant Hearn, Lance-Corporal Holland and Private Weston are all returning to the U.K. to see what it's like on the "Other Side."

Company Office Staff thought it was high time they had another holiday, so Private Lefevre obliged by marrying Mr. E. Evans (C.C.G.) at the Garrison Church, Bad Oeynhausen, on 22nd May, and asked the Office Staff to support her. Romance came to a Mercury Member, Private Hoyle, who married Corporal Harding (Royal Signals), who is also a keen "Mercuryite," though they chose to keep it almost a secret until the knot was thoroughly tied. Sergeant Lacroix and Sergeant Trendall (Royal Signals) were married in England earlier in the month, and we judge from the photographs that it was a very lovely wedding. Congratulations to all these happy couples. "Married Families" Department will have a longer list for accommodation.

One item we omitted in our last report was the fact that we have a "Signals Baby." Mrs. Lynne Berwick (our ex-Subaltern Cooper, of T.P.O. Section), wife of Captain "Tony" Berwick (Royal Signals) gave birth to a son and heir—Anthony Michael Hartley Berwick—on Good Friday.

The plain clothes allowance was a temptation to Sergeant Johnson and Corporal Shopland, who have now left this Unit to join those other lucky folk in "Civvy Street." Good luck to you ex-N.C.O.s, and let's be hearing from you at some future date.

Training of S.B.O.s to T.P.O.s is now Subaltern Dallas's department, and Sergeant Mayes, who used to run the Upgrading Course for the S.B.O.s, is now a student on the T.P.O. Course in those all-too-familiar classrooms. Sergeant Black is Chief Instructor, and we are wondering how she deals with the Guardsmen if they ever get unruly in class.

At the Bad Oeynhausen gymkhana on 29th May, Signals scored another victory. Junior Commander Gavin competed in the novice jumping and came first, winning a "tidy sum." We hope to continue our successes throughout the year, and our motto should be "Though few Signals enter, they walk away with the prize."

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

On 8th May, the Regiment, whilst in the field on exercise, was honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. This was an unusual distinction, as it is seldom that a Regiment has the opportunity of welcoming a Royal visitor under informal conditions.

As Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps, the Princess Royal has a special claim to our allegiance, and she was accorded a very warm-hearted welcome on this afternoon.

It was a perfect summer day and the country was looking its best when the Royal party approached the "Harbour Area."

On arrival, Her Royal Highness was met by Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., Officer Commanding 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and Major W. B. Rowett, Second-in-Command. Accompanying Her Royal Highness was Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (Colonel Commandant of the Corps), and Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R. Escorted by the Commanding Officer, she then visited several of the operational locations, speaking to men of the Detachments at each site.

Prior to having tea, the Officers of the Regiment taking part in the Exercises were introduced.

Her Royal Highness then had tea in company with the Officers of the Regiment, and on completion the Royal visitor took her leave of her hosts and was given a rousing send-off as she left the "Harbour Area."

The end of April saw the conclusion of the Regimental and Divisional Training period, which had commenced in March, this period of training being the preparation for the Divisional and Army Exercises held during the month of May.

On 4th May the Regiment moved off to take its part in these Exercises, known respectively as Exercise "Jordan," the Divisional Exercise, and Exercise "Unity," the Army Exercise.

Exercise "Jordan" took place in the Dorsten-Borken area, which is a part of the North Rhine Plain. Included in this Exercise was a crossing of the River Lippe and the Lippe Canal. This obstacle being successfully overcome, the troops then moved out northwards and so on to the wide North Rhine Plain, when the Exercise came to a successful conclusion on 7th May.

In the period between the conclusion of Exercises "Jordan" and "Unity," a week-end rest period spent in the "Harbour Area," near Munster, gave the men and vehicles a well-earned rest from movement and the opportunity in which transport and technical equipment could be overhauled prior to the commencement of the Army Exercise which was due to commence on 10th May.

Exercise "Unity" was staged in the area north-east of Munster, and included the crossing of the Teutoburger Wald, this being quite an exacting experience for those who took part in it.

Both Exercises were, in actual fact, "Wars of Movement," and the men and vehicles were continually on the go for a large part of the time. Operational conditions were borne very well by all who took part, administration and transport being given a thorough test, and by all accounts stood the strain remarkably well. Exercise "Unity" terminated on Friday, 14th May, when tracks were made for home and the Whitsun leave period.

The Regiment extend a happy welcome to Captain and Mrs. Allan; Mrs. Wolfendale, who has now joined her husband, Captain Wolfendale, at 4 Brigade; Second-Lieutenants Holdaway, Pearce, Waterlow and Wheeler; and to all new arrivals who have joined the Regiment this month.

We said good-bye this month to Captain (Q.M.) "Chuck" Fearnley, who has joined the happy band at 15 B.O.D. Hamburg for a short spell prior to his release; Lieutenant Jewell, who has proceeded on posting to the Wiltshire Regiment, and Second-Lieutenant Barber, proceeded on release, and to all those who left the Regiment in May on release. Here's wishing you all the very best of luck in your venture in civilian life. To those who have left for U.K. prior to posting overseas, good luck, good health, and all the very best in your new stations wherever it may be.

Obituary. It is with deep regret that we have to record this month the death of Captain J. MacFarlane, Royal Signals. During a very bad thunderstorm, on the evening of 10th May, he was struck and killed by lightning. He had only joined the Regiment recently—the beginning of April—but in spite of the short time he had been with us he had proved himself an efficient, capable and very popular Officer. It was only the previous Saturday that he had the honour of being introduced to Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, during her visit to the Regiment in the Field.

The funeral of Captain J. MacFarlane took place on Friday, 14th May, at the Military Cemetery, Munster, when he was accorded full military honours, and a last and most impressive tribute was paid to his memory by the Officers and men of the Regiment and from 30 L. of C. Signal Squadron, the bearer party being formed by men of his own Troop. Among those present were Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R.; Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., Commanding 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment; Major G. G. Freemantle, Commanding 30 L. of C. Signal Squadron; together with most of the Officers of the Regiment and 30 L. of C. Signal Squadron. A high ranking Officer representing the Belgian Corps Signals was also present. After the service a Salute was fired, and Last Post and Reveille were sounded. Wreaths were finally laid at the foot of the grave and each Officer and man walked past the grave and saluted the last resting place of the man they had come to know so well.

The Officers and men of the Regiment express their deepest sympathy to his mother and to all his relatives in their sad bereavement.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Our programme over the Whitsun holiday period was a heavy one, especially in view of the fact that we did not return from Exercise "Unity" until 7 p.m. on Friday, 14th May. However, due in no small way to the pre-planning of the working committee, Armament Sergeant-Major King, R.E.M.E., Sergeant Pearce and Sergeant Thrumble, the Whit-Monday outing to Konigswinter was declared a success by all. Thanks are also due to Captain T. G. Simpson, our Supervising Officer, who, as indeed he always does, rose to the occasion with assistance in supplying transport for the Saturday evening social and the party on Whit-Monday.

The Mess was honoured during the visit of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, to the Regiment while in the Field by the presentation of three of our members to Her Royal Highness. Those presented were R.S.M. H. Griffin, Sergeant Young and Sergeant Daniels.

On Sunday, 30th May, an excellent day's entertainment was organised in the form of a trip on the Rhine, proceeding upstream from Benrath. Entertainment afloat was provided by the hired German band, who, although their music was not of the sweetest, certainly knew how to sound Reveille. With the Union Jack at the bow, and the Royal Signals flag astern, the party proceeded in fine style.

Our President, R.S.M. H. Griffin, sends his kindest regards to Captain (T.O.M.) Carpenter, of Tripoli Signals, whose message over the Ham Band through Major C. S. Kidd, Officer Commanding 3 Squadron, was gratefully received. It has been a long time since "Razani" NWF and the "Model Walkie Talkie," sir! Best of luck to you in the future years.

Football. After a very successful season, this month saw the final games in the Regimental Inter-Troop Football League. The League commenced in October last year with the object of all twelve teams playing one another on a home and away basis, and this has been achieved, despite many difficulties. Its success has been mainly due to the enthusiasm and co-operation of all troops concerned, and special thanks to Sergeant Daniels for the keen interest and hard work he has put in to ensure the success of the League.

The standard of football has been extremely high throughout the season, and this has been proved by the performances of the Regimental team, plus the fact that 6 Brigade Signal Troop have provided at least seven players for the 6 Brigade H.Q. team, which reached the final of the Divisional Inter-Unit Competition this year.

6 Brigade Signal Troop are the League champions, with a very remarkable record, of the 22 games played they were

only defeated once. "O" A team were runners-up and have put up a very creditable record. H.Q. team finished third, and towards the end of the season improved greatly but too late to make any difference to the championship table. Altogether the football season was a huge success and one of which the Regiment can well be proud.

Cricket. The summer game has commenced and the Regiment have played three games so far, the results being as follows: —

v. H.Q. 2 Infantry Division—Lost. Division H.Q. 73 for 4—Signals 72.

Top score for Signals was that of Major Wainwright, who scored 37 not out.

v. 6 (H) Brigade—Won.
6 (H) Brigade 54—Signals 58.
Bowling for Signals, Signalman Hurst, 5 for 19; Second-Lieutenant Holdaway, 4 for 15.

v. 318 Military Government—Won.
318 Military Government 83—Signals 96.
Top score for Signals, Squadron Sergeant-Major Vaughan, 43.
Bowling for Signals, Corporal Hopper, 4 for 6; Signalman Woodley, 3 for 17.
Corporal Hopper's analysis was 5 overs, 6 runs, 4 wickets.

An attractive fixture list has been arranged for the season, but unfortunately the majority of the games have to be played away from home as only one ground is available in the area.

Congratulations to Sergeant Tiffin on being chosen as a member of the Divisional cricket team for the first game of the season.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg

June

Regimental Sports. Although the morning of Saturday, 29th May, was black and threatening, the Regimental sports, which were held in the afternoon, were favoured by fine weather. The track was in surprisingly good condition and some quite good performances were returned by the winners of events.

Sergeant Lyons, R.A.E.C. (attached 2 Squadron) was undoubtedly the star of the afternoon. He won both the sprints and was a member of the relay team which competed twice in the afternoon, once in the Inter-Squadron relay and again in the open relay. S.Q.M.S. Baines was also on form, and he won the discus ,the hammer, the old soldiers' race, and was the mainstay of 2 Squadron's victorious tug-of-war team (what else could be expected with such stalwarts in their team as S.Q.M.S. Baines, Captain Bateman, "Tiny" Johnson and Captain Rooks?), but 3 Squadron, much the lighter team, put up stiff opposition even though they lacked a coach.

Signalman Healy-Hutchinson, from the Training School, won the 440 yards with a lot to spare, and was followed by Signalman McLeod (3 Squadron), a gallant second. The mile was also won by Training School personnel. Signalman Horton (1st) and Signalman Green (2nd) ran a waiting race and came in with a fast last lap to win by a good margin.

Captain Milligan (2 Squadron) completed the double in the long and high jump, and although not looking his usual immaculate self after crawling under a tarpaulin, also won the obstacle race. The ladies', boys' and girls' races drew much attention, and, judging by the number of spectators, the ladies' race was the most popular of the afternoon. It was won in a fine style by Miss Keiley, with Mrs. Kerr a good second. In the boys' race, Master Kerr was the victor, and in the girls' race, Miss Davis was first, followed by Miss Clutterbuck, who, like her father in the old soldiers' race, came a gallant second.

The only open event of the afternoon, the mile relay, provided a victory for No. 1 Armoured Car Squadron, R.A.F. Regiment. Although 2 Squadron's team was tired after assisting in other events, it did not give up hope but pressed on to the finish.

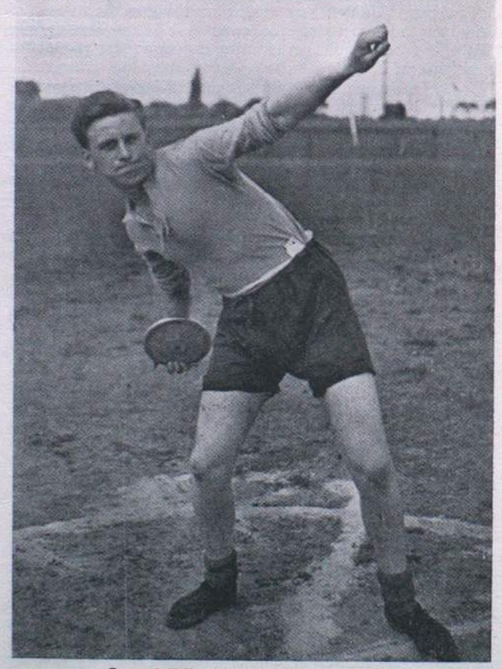
A very successful afternoon was brought to a close with a speech from the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, and the presentation of the prizes by Mrs. Sladen.

RESULTS

Event	1st	Squadron	2nd	Squadron
100 yards	Sergeant Lyons	2	Corporal Boraster	1
220 yards	Sergeant Lyons	2	Signalman Boshnell	2
440 yards	Signalman Healy-Hutchinson	2	Signalman McLeod	3
880 yards	Signalman Reid	2	Signalman Laye	2
1 Mile	Signalman Horton	2	Signalman Green	2
High Jump	Captain Milligan	2	Driver Goddard	1
Long Jump	Captain Milligan	2	Lance-Corporal Bushnell	2
Javelin	Sergeant Jefferson	2	Signalman Bowers	3
Discus	S.Q.M.S. Baines	2	Captain Bateman	2
Shot	Signalman Bower	3	Signalman Laye	2
Hammer	S.Q.M.S. Baines	2	Captain Bateman	2
Ladies' Race	Miss Keiley		Mrs. Kerr	
Boys' Race	Master Kerr		Master Ramplin	
Girls' Race	Miss Davis		Miss Clutterbuck	
Obstacle Race	Captain Milligan	2	Captain Royle	
Old Soldiers' Race	S.Q.M.S. Baines	2	Captain Clutterbuck	1
Squadron Relay	2 Squadron			
Open Relay	No. 1 Armoured Car Squadron		2 Squadron	
Tug of War	2 Squadron			

1st 2 Squadron.
2nd 1 Squadron.
3rd 3 Squadron.

No. 1 SQUADRON. The past month has seen several changes in the Squadron. We have said farewell to Lieutenant Carter, Lieutenant Jones, Lieutenant Finn, Sergeant Copeland, Sergeant Blyth and the remainder of Group 71.



Corporal McKenzie about to throw the discus

The Unit bus has proved very popular during the month, trips having been made to the Möhne See and to Bad Harzburg. We hope to have many more of these outings during the summer months.

Our summer camp has started with 31 Construction Troop moving under canvas on 28th May. Troops will continue to move into camp for a week at a time up to the end of June. Normal work is carried on from camp with two or three exercises thrown in for good measure.

We offer our congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. A. E. Bryan on the birth of a son at the 8th R.A.F. General Hospital.

Sport. On Wednesday, 5th May, the Squadron held a very successful Inter-Troop sports meeting on R.A.F. Station, Bückeburg Sports Ground. There had been a lot of rain earlier in the week, but on the day the weather was very favourable; although the track was not at its best, some quite good results were achieved. It was obvious from early on in the meeting that there was to be very keen competition between 4 Tele. Op. Troop and S.H.Q., but it was the final event that settled the issue. The final placings were as follows: 4 Tele. Op. Troop, 29 points; S.H.Q., 27 points; 112 T.E. 118 D.R., 13 points; 5 Tele. Op. Troop, 12 points; 31 Construction Troop, 11 points; 87 Wing Signal Troop, 9 points.

Best performances were by Corporal Boraster (4 T.O.T.), who scored 11 points for his Troop, as well as help them win the one-mile relay and come second in the three-mile relay; Lance-Corporal Findlay (S.H.Q.), with 9 points, who also ran in the relays, and Driver Langford (S.H.Q.) with 8 points.

Attached photographs show Lance-Corporal Trollope clearing 5ft. 6in. to win the high jump with inches to spare, and a determined look on the face of Corporal McKenzie, about to throw the discus.

The second half of the football season has again been successful for our teams. In the Wednesday Area League we finished second, No. 2 Police Wing H.Q. carrying off the title, being undefeated in 14 games.

In the Saturday League our "B" team also finished second, being pipped on the post by R.A.F. Signals.

In the final game of the season, Police H.Q. played the Rest of the League XI and won by 5 goals to 1. Four of our team, Lance-Corporal Orr, Lance-Corporal Stone, Corporal Forsyth and Lance-Corporal Leonard played in the Rest XI.

No. 2 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, SUNDERN. It is with regret that we say good-bye to 129 Tele. Ops. and 115 D.R. Troops, who were disbanded on 1st June, 1948, and we also say "Thanks" for the grand co-operation, both at work and play, which these Troops have given whilst they have been with the Squadron. The "bodies" of the Troops have been posted here, there and everywhere; to those who have left us for other Squadrons we say "Good luck and thanks once more."

Congratulations. Our congratulations are offered to Sergeant Gallivan, of 73 Wing Signal Troop, on his marriage to Dora Schmidt at the Roman Catholic Church, Gutersloh, on 5th June, 1948, and to Sergeant and Mrs. Jackson on the birth of a son in Wuppertal Hospital on 2nd May, 1948.

Sport. On 12th May the Squadron held its annual sports meeting on the Station Sports Ground in glorious summer weather. The meeting was a huge success and congratulations are extended to all those who assisted in the organisation of the sports and to those who competed in the events. Although no outstanding times were recorded, they were certainly up to a good standard, and especially Signalman Horsefall's times in the 220 and 440 yards.

Lance-Corporal Trollope wins the high jump with 5 feet 6 inches

Congratulations to the combined team of 129 Tele. Ops. and S.H.Q. on beating 73 Wing Troop in the Regimental Inter-Troop Soccer Knock-out Competition by one goal to nil. The game was played on the "Air-Strip," Sundern, on 8th May, under conditions more suited for cricket than football, and after a goal-less 90 minutes the winning goal was scored by Signalman Adey in the second half of the extra time. The presentation of medals was made by Mrs. Sladen.

TWO SQUADRON.

No. 3 SQUADRON (UETERSEN). The oncoming of what appears to be an excellent summer has not been without its troubles. The primary event that has gone to mar an otherwise pleasant picture is the catastrophe of Signalman Campion's unfortunate death. "Camp," as he was affectionately known amongst his friends, was a cheerful fellow and he was well liked with the whole Squadron, and his death has been a shock to us all. The Squadron wishes to extend its most heartfelt condolences to his parents.

Sport is the emphasised part of Squadron activities at this time. The Regimental sports day, held at Sundern, had very definite results and we were not favoured by the gods that day! That is only one pebble on the beach, though, and we are now "flapping" on the C.O.'s Cup Competition of R.A.F. Station, Uetersen, as well as fixtures with and against Hamburg District. Cricket is getting under way and swimming classes have been organised. Gliding and riding facilities are also easily available.

139 Line Troop have become an exceedingly busy little Unit, with two "B" tradesmen courses having been set up there recently. It seems also that this Troop have actually been setting the pace in sport at Fassberg.

80 Wing Signal Troop are somewhat handicapped with many of their stalwarts being demobilised and posted, causing increasing difficulty in making teams for cricket.

The Squadron welcomes Second-Lieutenant Watson and Second-Lieutenant J. F. Lund, who joined us recently from England, and wish them a happy stay with us.

JUNGLE.

What about a bound volume of "The Wire"

November 1946—December 1947?

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

June

With the coming of summer, cricket naturally assumes the first place in sporting activities. We have so far had no matches within the Squadron, due no doubt to the heavy fixture list of the combined H.Q. and Signals team, but we are at least well represented, the following members being regular players: S.S.M. Nurse, Corporal Perry, Corporal Clarke, Lance-Corporal Richardson, Driver Vincent and Driver Wood, with S.Q.M.S. Redhouse unfailingly registering the scores—if any! The first two matches of the season were lost, but the day is young, as are the hearts of our stalwarts, and we hope to give you more heartening news in the next WIRE issue.

To the further annoyance of "Midnight in Munich" fans resident in Block 15, D2GN (F. of S. Le Hardy), the Amateur Radio Station, having a licence for higher power, hopes to make further contacts. Having been off the air for two or three weeks, due to modifications, D2GN is hereby calling all old friends, hoping to hook up again soon, and to meet new DX Stations on all bands.

On 18th May, during a glorious afternoon, a trial of Field Athletics was held at the Soltau Strasse Stadium to select a representative team for 4 A.G.R.A. This Squadron yet again proved its prowess in the field of sport, and many members are now in training for almost every field event, in preparation for the 4 A.G.R.A. Athletic Championships. Every afternoon our band of Wooderson aspirants gaily trip their way along "Kartoffel" Avenue for a four-lap sprint . . . or what is it you do, fellows? Unfortunately, since training began, Signalman Homer has laid down the sword and once again pursues the more peaceful occupation of a citizen resident in "Civvy Street." We shall all miss you, "Lofty." Your dark-horse methods were forever a joyful surprise at almost every sport, both indoor and out. The very best of luck to you.

To Lance-Corporals Mottershead and Bentham, who have also left for "Civvy Street," we also say all the best of luck. We shall miss you during the next football season.

The Unit garden, which has been entered for the B.A.O.R. Horticultural Competition, is now certainly a pleasure to the eye. The joys of spring and the delights of summer all are gathered in the garden, tended by their loving master Driver Vincent, whose watchful eye is forever on the alert for garden enemy No. 1, the dreaded Colorado.

Have your personal copy of

The Wire

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Subscriptions for 1948 should be sent to

The General Secretary,

Royal Signals Association,

88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Other Overseas Stations

CYRENAICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

Benghazi

May

Reintroducing Cyrenaica Signal Regiment and Squadron to THE WIRE. The Regiment's H.Q. is situated in Benghazi and is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, who is also C.S.O. Another distinction held by the C.O. is that he is the "oldest Officer inhabitant" in the Unit—only to be rivalled by Captain F. Gormley, Staff Officer, "X" Branch. Commanding the Squadron at the moment is Major W. N. Sutcliffe, who has taken over from Major J. Stone, now the stern ruler of lines—a B.M.A. responsibility. The Adjutant (I have heard he is the eleventh since 1946) is Captain I. A. Landells, and even he is shortly to depart for No. 2 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron on promotion. The Regiment offers its congratulations. The handing-over certificate will be signed by Captain P. H. Flear, who has just arrived from Egypt. The oldest of the new arrivals is Captain R. B. Murray, from Tripoli, who, for the duration of his short stay, is O.C., W/T and Signal Office Troop. Second-Lieutenant D. G. Muir is out in the desert commanding Tobruk Signal Detachment, and we don't expect to see him again until he passes through Benghazi on release in July.

The sport of hunting for married quarters is played with great enthusiasm in the district. Our successful contestants are Major Sutcliffe, Major Stone, Captain Landells, Captain Gormley, S.S.M. Cowsill and S.Q.M.S. Ball. S.S.M. Lowe and Sergeant Wood are still on the trail.

And now about the Regiment.

Strictly speaking, we are not a Regiment, as there is only one Squadron; this is split up into the Wireless Troop, Line Troop, D.R., and "M" Troops and Squadron H.Q. Those who have been to Benghazi may be interested to know that R.H.Q. and the Signal Office are still housed in "Incis House," in Via Vittorio, which is Cyrenaica District Headquarters.

The district covers 600 miles of Mediterranean coastline from Fort Capuzzo, near the Egyptian border, to El Agheila, on the Tripoli Road, and S.D.S. drivers who travel between Benghazi and Tobruk daily, know the road well, with its potholes and peculiar contour characteristics. The rattling "Dodge" trucks are the only ones which seem to be able to negotiate successfully the dreadful road to El Agheila.

Overlooking the harbour of Benghazi is Graziani's Palace, which was very badly damaged in the Desert Campaign, and, as its name implies, was formerly the residence of Marshal Graziani. It may be of interest to some to hear that it is being rebuilt to make a town home and offices for His Highness Sir Sayidd Idris El Senussi, K.B.E., the Emir of Cyrenaica, who made his triumphant entry into Benghazi some months back. The memorial plaques, in glorious memory of the Libyan campaigns, which were fitted on the wall in front of the Palace, have been removed during the renovation of the building, and let us hope that an equally suitable location will soon be found for these remembrances of those who fell in the bitter desert fighting.

Many of the Regiment are leaving us and already we have said good-bye to our Quartermaster, Fred Lunn, and his family, who left in December, and to S.S.M. "Busty" Denehy, who returns to his family in U.K., having also finished his Python tour. The C.S.O. and C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, leaves us this year, having been with the Regiment since 1946.

Captain P. W. T. Craig (O.C., Tobruk Signal Detachment), of "1680" fame, left with 66 Group, and Captain R. W. Evans, Adjutant, left with 69 Group.

Major J. Stone, O.C. Squadron, will soon be leaving the Regiment but not the district, as he is joining the Posts and Telegraphs side of the British Military Administration of Cyrenaica. He has, amongst other ambitions, one of re-linking Egypt, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania by telephone. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

We welcome Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. Manton as Quartermaster, who joined us shortly after returning to the U.K. from the Far East. Captain I. A. Landells and family arrived from G.H.Q. just before Christmas, and the family certainly like Benghazi better than the hubbub of Fayid, with its family villages.

The difficult task of the Line Troop and the detachment to provide constant communication within the territory has, nevertheless, been an interesting one. Ends of old Italian or British underground cable are being continually unearthed, and huge lengths are often dug up after being found satisfactory on testing. They are then utilised for the all-important town communications. A Libyan lineman discovered a two-mile length of perfectly sound cable near the ancient ruins of Cyrene, and this was soon being used in another part of the territory where a length of cable was urgently needed. We believe we have the R.A.F. to thank for this, which was probably laid in 1942-43; anyway, it saved time and the expense of shipping cable out from U.K. With careful and systematic searching there is no doubt that many dollars, much time and shipping space will be saved by unearthing yet more of these precious cables.

Can you imagine yourself training scores of uneducated Libyans (Arabs and Senussi) to be first-class linemen? This, amongst other queer jobs, is the most important, and to get volunteers an advertisement in the local paper attracts literally swarms of them; they are sifted and the ones who look promising are trained with the help of three or four Libyan foremen linemen. When trained they have proved keen and loyal, and even when only learning, if they have a good foreman, they can do installation and construction jobs as well as any B.III lineman. Don't be surprised if one day a grinning Senussi pops his head round the door of your office and says he is coming to sterilise your telephone! Under the wing of the British Military Administration, the Libyans have already taken over the Agedabia Detachment, thereby releasing Royal Signals personnel from an out-of-the-way place. This is the first of many handovers we are effecting, and soon it will be the turns of Barce, Derna, Tobruk and eventually Benghazi itself.

Out-of-the-way installations such as the residence of His Highness, the Emir Sir Sayidd Idris El Senussi, K.B.E., just off the Benina road at an Old Italian gambling retreat, 10 miles or so outside Benghazi, brings one near interesting spots such as Lete (pronounced lay-tay), where there are the famous underground caves of which you may have heard.

For the wireless enthusiast, the R/T to Malta, the "63" set radio teleprinter working to Fayid, the hand-speed morse transmitters SCR 399A, SCR 188 (both American), 33 set, 53 set working to Fayid, Tobruk and Derna, Tripoli and Malta respectively provide a wealth of interest, especially when signals get through at 5/5 the many hundreds of miles on a rod aerial! The large RTTY 72ft. Rhombics at times become faulty and an emergency folded dipole gets through fine! Nine hundred miles of desert provides some peculiar static on the receiving end of the radio teleprinter.

For D.R.s the members of the gentler sex who shuffle along the roads shrouded in huge blankets, looking out of just a tiny hole to try to see where they are going, are a constant menace, and only the high degree of skill exercised by the well-trained riders prevents more serious accidents than have hitherto occurred.

Sergeants' Mess. A small but happy party who give excellent dances where wives and a few local "Savages" make such a very pleasant evening. It has recently been enlarged by S.S.M. Lowe, who, unfortunately, left us a fortnight later to go to the U.K. on a month's compassionate L.I.A.P.! Sergeant G. N. Smith has just joined us from U.K. S.Q.M.S. (A./F. of S.) A. Chisholm leaves on the next boat but hopes to be back after his release leaves to take up an appointment as Technical Officer (Grade IV) in the Posts and Telegraphs side of the British Military Administration of Cyrenaica. Sergeant K. J. Jones also departs with the next draft, and we are sure he will miss the Senussi and Libyans he has been training as linemen for many months. S.Q.M.S. R. Ball is to be congratulated on his promotion and we all know that he shares vivid nightmares with the Quartermaster! Warrant Officer George Cowsill has achieved a very responsible position as Cipher Officer and is also to be congratulated on his recent promotion from Sergeant.

The Director of Signals, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B.E., D.S.O., and Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., O.B.E., D.S.O., C.S.O., M.E.L.F., inspected a parade of the Cyrenaica Signal Regiment near Benghazi at the end of February. With the Band of the King's Dragoon Guards in attendance, the Director took the salute at the march past and afterwards congratulated all on the high standard of turnout and smartness on parade.

Sport. The Regiment won the District Football Championship at the end of the season in March after an exciting final against the gunners. Last year we were runners-up, and this latest victory was well deserved. We also had a good representative in the Command Boxing Championship, who was unfortunately beaten in the finals by only a few points.

Hockey and basket-ball are played on the hard sandy pitches and provide much pleasure on a cool afternoon.

Tennis, riding, polo, sailing and yacht racing, and swimming in the luxury of the Mediterranean, are all popular and are thoroughly enjoyed on the very hot summer days.

Amateur Radio. The first "HAM" station in Libya was opened last year, and the call-sign MD1A was allotted to Lance-Corporal "Taffy" Hughes, and MD1B to Lance-Corporal Purchase, both in Benghazi. Scores of contacts have been made with the outside world, including California. Such keenness at 3 a.m. was well rewarded.

Left to right: Captain R. W. Evans (Cyrenaica), Major-General White (C.S.O., M.E.L.F.), Lieut.-Colonel Dryland (C.S.O., Cyrenaica), Major-General Vulliamy (Director of Signals), Major Stone (Cyrenaica), Lieut-Colonel Bell (War Office)

WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

Accra

May

R.H.Q. The writer was somewhat confused regarding family life out here, and inquiries in England before embarkation only resulted in "Well—when I was out there in '09," etc., so some comments from the feminine viewpoint, written by the wife of one of the Unit's Officers, who speaks with authority as the Headmistress of our recently-opened School, are given below and may help those wives whose husbands join our happy band.

The civil disturbances have now ended. The whole affair was unexpected, but in true Signals style we provided, at extremely short notice, adequate communications from our own resources over a wide area in the Gold Coast. From the Nigeria Squadron, O.W.L.s were flown to Accra, and I should like them to know that they, too, are included in the excellent letter of thanks which the Unit received from the District Commander.

We congratulate Captain and Mrs. W. L. Heward on the birth of a daughter, Patricia Anne, at the 37 General Military Hospital, Accra, on 30th April.

Married Life in Accra. To those people who have not had the opportunity of serving in West Africa, we have to record that numerous wives and families are arriving on the Coast with almost every ship. As far as our own Regiment is concerned, we have with us Mrs. Main, wife of our Second-in-Command, Major W. J. Main, M.C.; Mrs. Heward, wife of Captain W. L. Heward; Mrs. August, wife of Captain R. G. August; Mrs. Wragg, wife of Captain F. H. Wragg; and Mrs. Chambers, wife of Captain J. Chambers; also their families.

Contrary to popular belief, the climate out here is not unbearable, in fact it is quite pleasant, and the benefits of modern science and hygiene have eliminated the dangers of disease which existed some years ago. Provided that people themselves co-operate with the medical authorities, children seem to thrive out here. Each married family is provided with quite a comfortable large airy bungalow, which can be made attractive. Considering that it is only recently that families started coming out here, the authorities have done really well in their provision for families in such a short space of time.

Complete sets of good furniture are supplied for each bungalow, so that when the housewives have provided their curtains, the houses look charming. As an alternative, families can purchase their own furniture in the shops at exceptionally low prices. After so many weary years of food rationing in U.K., shopping for food in Accra is a pleasure, as practically every kind of food is obtainable—and without the bother of ration books. The cost of living is, however, somewhat higher than in U.K.

Apart from the food situation, shopping in general is quite a joy, as the shops are well stocked with every conceivable commodity and of the best makes. From a recreational point of view, men definitely score on this point, as they not only share the tennis, swimming, surfing, golf and dancing facilities, but also have excellent opportunities for playing football, hockey and cricket. There are several cinemas in the town itself, and A.K.C. provide at least two different films per week. N.A.A.F.I. and Y.M.C.A. hold dances fairly equally; it is also possible to dance twice per week at the Accra European Club. For those especially interested in horse racing, the Accra Turf Club arrange a number of meetings during the season, which, if not up to the Ascot standard, at least prove amusing and an excellent way of decreasing the family budget. In any case, it is always worth attending for the pleasure of listening to the Gold Coast Police Band.

A social evening is held regularly each Thursday in our own Officers' Mess. Transport is one of the difficulties out here, although the problem usually sorts itself out one way or another. For the benefit of families a three-ton lorry has been converted into a families bus, which takes people into town for shopping, to the N.A.A.F.I. Store and also to the beach or swimming pool. Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Lyddon, C.O. of our Regiment, has very kindly arranged recreational transport for wives of Royal Signals personnel to facilitate their shopping expeditions to Accra, which is approximately three miles from Army quarters.

On 1st April, the Army opened a school for European children, which became a necessity in view of the number of children who are now living out here. You can therefore see that life is not really unbearable on the Gold Coast.

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON. We extend the glad hand of welcome to Major Bolam, Captain (Q.M.) Webber and Lieutenant Leatherland, all from U.K., and to Lieutenant Philp, from Nigeria Squadron.

Captain George Axson has left us for Nigeria, and the "Old Coaster," Captain (Q.M.) Pummel, left by air for U.K. The recently-arrived draft of Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s has been blooded and sent to jobs, and seem to be getting over the "red knees and skinning" process quite successfully.

Social and welfare work has been the keynote this month. Plans are in hand to start a Hobbies Centre, which will give every man the opportunity not only of learning something profitable, but which will enable those of us who had a hobby or trade in civil life the chance to be able to pursue that hobby and to keep our hands and eyes in with the various tools.

Another project is a Unit "Ham Club." Several Hams are already on the air, and for the benefit of other Corps Hams needing rare DX, here are their names, call signs and the bands where they may be found:

Captain F. Dymond, ZD4AL, 14 M/Cs.
Sergeant Sandall, ZD4AV, 14 M/Cs.
Sergeant Smith, ZD4AS, 28 M/Cs.
ZD4AT, who is Captain Devaney, R.A.S.C., is also active on 14 Megs.

It is intended that the club will have its own premises as a "Shack," and possess its own licence and call—of that, more anon, when the intention becomes an established fact.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. Since our last contribution many things have happened and many changes have occurred within the Squadron. Major Bob Batt, after a long and varied career, sailed for U.K. on demobilisation and to face the rigours of civilian life. Twenty-eight years is a long time, but we know you'll settle down in your life. Good luck from all of us. Major Don Bond assumed command of the vast territory covered by our Wireless Links and feels quite at home already, having served here pre-war. Captain P. Smith, ex-Adjutant of the Regiment, whilst on tour, managed to be posted here; what was the attraction, the green turf soccer fields or the nearby golf course?

Among the other ranks, S.S.M. Elson, "Security Wizard," left for U.K., and did "G" Branch heave a sigh of relief!—but the very high standard he set will be maintained by Sergeant Lewis, a recent arrival from Accra. Sergeant Barlow (less Sergeant Allison) has departed for Freetown, and with so much U.G. cable there, will soon get settled down. Sergeant Allison has never been the same since. We welcome from Accra Sergeants Tabberer and Bowden, both ex-boys, and also Lance-Corporal Aze..

Our communications and equipment have been considerably reorganised and 19 H.P. sets at the outstations have replaced the 52s, and soon the 43 sets used here at the present will be replaced by 53 sets, just arrived from U.K.

In spite of conditions, the new sets have behaved magnificently, and our African operators have now mastered the intricacies of the 19 H.P. exceedingly well, and as usual are always thorough. They certainly know "Rhythm Morse." Last month the Secretary of the Nigeria Government sent a very excellent word of thanks for the efficient way the Squadron maintained R/T communications between Kaduna and Lagos during the Nigeria Legislative Council Assembly; this was no mean feat, as Kaduna is 400 miles from Lagos. The Signal Office has just had a complete spring-clean. The traffic is very heavy and the standard of operating high. The lines, mostly U.G., have stood up well during the rainy weather. At the present time P. and T. have taken over most of them, but we still do a great amount of the maintenance.

If not exciting, the Troops find life here an extremely enjoyable one, and facilities for amusement are quite numerous. The beaches are always an attraction; surfing and swimming, and, of course, getting a tan that a Hollywood belle would envy. Movies are plentiful, and golf is on the doorstep. Apart from the sea, the outstations live the same comfortable life; in addition they have great delight in bargaining with the Hausa traders. Our African Troops all live out of camp, in the native villages, so we are having no feeding or accommodation problem, and having their wives and children with them, are extremely happy.

The Squadron is well up to strength and the number of applications for re-enlistment grows from day to day, besides the great number of boys who wish to enlist. This includes all tribes, notably the Ibo, Yoruba and Hausa—there are certainly no recruiting difficulties.

Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Lyddon, paid us a visit and inspected all outstations, and saw every man in the Squadron, and we are now reaping the benefits of his advice and ideas. An inspection of this Colony takes approximately one month, or even more, and the methods of reaching the detachments varies from aircraft to train and car. His visit was much appreciated by all ranks, and all hope to see him again in the very near future.

SIERRA LEONE AND GAMBIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. During April we were visited by Lieutenant-Colonel Lyddon, our C.O., from Accra, and who has now left us for Regimental H.Q. on the Gold Coast. Apart from this, little of note happened during the month.

The monsoon is about due to break and already sunny days are giving way to the increasing onslaught of more "Manchester-like" weather. Which might please farmers and ducks, but certainly not Linemen P/L and Despatch Riders!

H.M.S. Nigeria is due into port at time of writing and various sporting fixtures have been made—Army v. Royal Navy. The Squadron is well represented, especially on the football field. Good luck, Army!

We deeply regret the sad death of Sergeant Woodward, who passed away on 5th May, 1948. He was our Radio Mechanic i/c TX, and was extremely popular with all ranks and all Units. His presence on the sports field will be missed by all who knew him as a footballer and hockey player. The sincere sympathy of the Unit is accorded to Sergeant Woodward's next of kin.

Sergeant J. Hammond is still in the B.M.H., but making a splendid recovery. Since our last notes we have regretfully bid adieu to Sergeant Richards, Corporal Vaughan and Sergeant Drury, who prefer to don the "Gent's natty suiting." Can't understand some people. Fancy wanting, I say again, wanting, to leave Freetown for the austerity life and utility suits that is merry England today! A hearty welcome to S.S.M. Crouch, S.Q.M.S. Brown and Corporals Bruce and Mann, who reinforce us from Accra.

Amateur Radio. ZDIBD is still Ham banding and awaiting Q.S.O.s from other Corps Hams. We work on 14 and 7 Megs, chaps, so "eyes down and look in."

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moascar

April

1st April has seen the amalgamation into "Egypt Command Signal Regiment" of the two previous Units.

"2 Egypt" forms the nucleus of the new Unit, which is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Hardy (Adjutant Captain J. Hall), and consists of No. 1 Squadron (Moascar), commanded by Major A. W. C. Partridge, No. 2 Squadron (Fayid), commanded by Major G. D. Meiklejohn, No. 3 Squadron (Qassassin)—which is the old No. 2 Squadron of 2 Egypt—still with Major G. Smith in command, and finally, No. 4 Squadron (Port Said), under Major B. A. Beattie.

So once more Egypt Command Signal Regiment covers the Canal Zone—and a lot of sand beside.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Purser, who commanded "1 Egypt," has now taken over his new duties as G.I., C.S.O. Branch, H.Q., B.T.E.

With the sudden swelling of a Unit into twice its original size come many difficulties which are rapidly sorting themselves out. A hearty welcome is extended to all newcomers and we sincerely hope they will enjoy their stay.

R.H.Q. AND No. 1 SQUADRON. The winter season in Soccer has been generally successful, R.H.Q. No. 1 Squadron team finishing top of the Garrison League.

The Rugger team has had a lot of bad luck, but enthusiasm still runs extremely high, and the Unit has been well represented in District games by Signalman Armstrong.

The hockey team fought their way to the semi-finals, but unfortunately lost against the 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment. Everyone is sorry to see the last of Captain "Jack" Angel, who is probably still hitting a hockey ball somewhere in U.K.

No. 2 SQUADRON. The new Fayid Exchange opened on 20th March—quite a day in the lives of Nos. 5 and 150 T.E. Troops, not to mention a large number of personnel of the Squadron.

The C.S.O., Brigadier H. Bartlett, said that he wanted to see the Exchange opened in a "flash," but it was presumed he did not mean this literally. Admittedly during the first few minutes of operation there was a blaze of lights from the calling lamps, but this soon disappeared once the jumpers in the old Exchange were disconnected.

The switchboard has 22 positions and has 160 junctions and 600 subscribers. It is operating successfully, although it is felt others may disagree with this statement. However, it is hoped this and a few teething troubles will soon disappear and we can get down to it.

On 1st April our R.H.Q. disbanded and we struck off the "1" from Egypt Command Signal Regiment but retained our original Squadron designation of "2."

THE STORY OF THE MANX

Our attention has been drawn to a new book, *The Story of the Manx*, by G. S. Davison. The book contains the story of all the Amateur and Manx Grand Prix Races from the first of the series in 1923 onwards. Much of the information is published for the first time, a particularly useful chapter being that which describes the T.T. Course in detail.

G. S. Davison is the author of other books on Motorcycle Racing, *The Story of the T.T.* being well known.

The fact that he is also, or rather was, an Officer of Royal Signals, T.A., has nothing to do with this note. *The Story of the Manx* is a jolly good book, and is available from the Editor of *The T.T. Special*, 106 Bristol Road, Birmingham, 5, price 9/-.

The Worm's Eye View of a T.M.O.

The Last Durbar

by **CAPTAIN L. N. LLOYD,** *late Royal Signals*

THE war was over, and the Viceroy, H.E. Field Marshal Viscount Wavell, had consented to hold a Provincial Durbar in recognition of the war effort of the Rawalpindi Division. Mr. Churchill was still Prime Minister, and none of us anticipated that the march of events would make this the Punjab's last Viceregal Durbar.

I had been away at Agra for a week, selecting obsolete and surplus signal stores, so that the first that I knew of the projected Durbar was on the morning following my return when, on answering the telephone, I had my ear blistered by a furious query from the Brigade Major as to whether the public address equipment had been installed in Topi Park, and if not, why not ?

Knowing the ways of the Gilded Staff, I wisely temporised, and assured him that the equipment was *en route*. I then sought enlightenment from my Commanding Officer. I was informed that a V.I.P. was visiting Rawalpindi in five days' time and that the equipment was to be installed in a shamiana in Topi Park as soon as the floor was levelled and a concrete dais built, and before the floor coverings were laid.

Anyone familiar with Rawalpindi will realise that there is no building in either the city or the cantonment large enough to hold 1,600 durbaris, and for the occasion a shamiana or tented pavilion 120 yards long and 70 broad was erected in a glade in Topi Park to the south of Flagstaff House.

I installed my equipment with two microphones on the dais and eight loudspeakers ranged round the walls. I was offered a supply circuit from the temporary distribution board installed by the local electric company, but preferred to install a small petrol-driven generator behind a ridge 100 yards away.

The whole of the floor was covered with coir matting, and over this at the top end of the hall and on the dais itself were spread magnificent carpets. Two gilded state chairs from Government House, Lahore, were placed on the dais for Their Excellencies.

It was fortunate that I had installed two microphones, for on returning for the final test after the carpets had been laid, we found that one of the cables had developed a fault.

At the final rehearsal it was found that Area Headquarters had no one available who knew how to roll and break a flag, so the services of the Regimental Havildar Major of my unit were demanded. Strolling over to find out how he was getting on, I found that all that Area had been able to supply in the way of a halyard for the flagstaff was a length of D.III cable ! My store supplied the necessary cordage. (An efficient T.M.O. needs to have as large and varied reserve stock as the Q.M.)

The big event was scheduled for 5 p.m. on the 15th October, 1945, but we had to be there from 2.30 onwards to play over gramophone music for the delectation of the durbaris. Distrusting the musical taste of our " jawans," I had refrained from borrowing vernacular records from the I.O.R.s' Welfare, and confined my repertoire to Gilbert and Sullivan, waltzes and marches.

Meanwhile a colourful scene was being enacted as the durbaris, representing the four Districts of the Division, Rawalpindi, Attock, Mianwali and Jhelum, filed into their places. The civilians among them, predominently Muslims, were wearing long black coats, some of them edged with gold embroidery, over baggy white linen trousers and with the starched ends of their muslin pagriss, fantailed out into an upstanding " shamla." Most of the military durbaris were in khaki; scattered among them were many gleams of colour where retired Indian officers were to be seen in all the glitter of pre-war full dress. These glimpses of scarlet, blue and gold were a welcome touch of colour in what might otherwise have been a somewhat drab assembly.

Outside a guard of honour was drawn up, consisting of a Company of the 2nd Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers. As the Viceroy was the King's personal representative, he was entitled in India to the same honours as His Majesty, and as the only British Battalions who had Colours with them were those Regulars who had been in India before the war, this Battalion, stationed at Ranchi in Orissa, 1,600 miles away, had to send its Company with the King's Colour a long journey to attend the function.

After inspecting the guard of honour, the Viceroy entered the Durbar Hall, accompanied by Lady Wavell, the Governor of the Punjab and Lady Glancy, the Prime Minister of the Punjab and other Provincial Ministers, and the Commander, North-Western Army, and proceeded to the dais. After the Viceregal party were seated, the Commissioner of the Division, Cuthbert King, Esq., C.I.E., asked permission to present a number of prominent residents of the Division, including at least one former Provincial Premier and a number of Indian soldiers of all ranks who had distinguished themselves in the war, including one V.C. When the presentations were finished, the Commissioner read a speech in Urdu describing the war effort of the Division, and the facts he quoted amply justified the Punjab's pride in its unofficial title, " The Sword Arm of India."

After the Commissioner's speech, the Viceregal Party passed down the central aisle, shaking hands with all the durbaris in the front rows, while Lady Wavell and Lady Glancy passed to the side to greet the women war workers. On returning to the dais, Lord Wavell made a speech in English, congratulating the Division and the Punjab generally on their war effort, and calling upon all Indians to work together for the well-being of their country. In the course of his speech he remarked: " When I first came to Rawalpindi, 38 years ago, I was a young subaltern stationed at Sialkot, and I decided that Rawalpindi was a place to be avoided, the home of Brass-Hats, and here I am, back again, a Brass-Hat myself ! "

An Urdu translation of the Viceroy's speech having been read by the Deputy Commissioner, the Durbar was declared closed, and the Viceregal Party left at 7 p.m.

So ended a day long to be remembered by all who were present, who dispersed to their homes well content with the honour paid to them, but all unknowing that history had been made and that the Punjab had seen its last Viceregal Durbar.

Territorial Army

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A. (KENSINGTONS)

Trade tests have been to the fore this month as we wish to get ourselves set up for annual camp in July. On Saturday and Sunday 29th and 30th May, Captain Sandys, Adjutant of 44 Divisional Signal Regiment, very kindly came and supervised tests of Operators, Clerks and Radio Mechanics. The following week-end a large number of Drivers went up to Mill Hill to No. 10 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., where they were tested for Driver Mechanics' ratings. In both tests there were only a couple of failures. So we feel that our winter training has achieved its object.

With trade tests behind us, we are now concentrating on training by sub-units and hope to have a pre-camp try-out on the week-end 26th and 27th June down at Bisley.

Saturday evening, 12th June, we had an all ranks social evening. The committee had put in some good work and we all had a most enjoyable evening. This is now becoming a monthly event and is very popular with all ranks.

On Monday, 24th May, the entrance of Captain Maunsell, our Adjutant, with a beaming face, announced the arrival of another member to his family. He was doubly pleased as his hopes had been fulfilled with a bonny bouncing girl, Penelope Judith.

No. 23 (INDEPENDENT) ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

The Squadron has recently transferred its activities from Liverpool to Chester, and now occupies part of a small hutted camp at Lache Park Avenue.

In consequence of our move, we have lost some of the old members, and we wish them luck in their new Units. The two remaining with us—the Devonside brothers—are very keen D.R.s, and even a 50-mile return trip to drills does not deter them.

O.C. Squadron is Major K. Maxwell Brown, and the P.S.I.s are Warrant Officer II J. B. France and Sergeant H. Crossley—both well known in Waziristan circles before the war. Unfortunately we have to leave behind Sergeant H. Whitehouse, who was one of the original P.S.I.s when this Unit was formed a year ago, and we wish him all the best with 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

As the Squadron is literally starting from scratch again, we have quite a number of vacancies for ex-Signals N.C.O.s, who can be given their old ranks back whilst these vacancies remain.

Our first venture in this new location will be to share a recruiting stand with other local T.A. Signal Units at the Cheshire Agricultural Show on 14/15th July next.

We should like to express our thanks for the hospitality shown us by 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., during our stay at Signal House, and look forward to meeting them at camp in July.

FROGGIE.

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT (T.A.), EASTLEIGH. On 12th May, after extensive building alterations and redecoration, the Leigh Road Drill Hall was formally reopened by the Mayor of Eastleigh. The occasion was marked by a grand dance, to which some 350 people were invited and nearly 500 attended.

Owing to the excessive numbers, there was not enough seats to go round, and at times one felt as though the evening had become a colossal game of musical chairs. However, nobody seem to mind, and those who were wearied by the dancing and standing had only to fight their way into the bar. There were no seats there, either, but neither was there room to fall down, and there was plenty of beer.

Introducing the Mayor, the Officer Commanding first expressed his pleasure at the big turn-out. Major Finney then drew gasps of approval with a vivid description of the amenities to be provided at our annual camp in July. The audience were simply stunned, and apparently still are, for none has since come forward to join up.

The Mayor, Alderman H. A. Quilley, J.P., C.C., traced the history of the Drill Hall since it was built, and was delighted to see what a bright and cheerful place it had now become. Very sportingly, for the hall provides the only serious rival to his own Town Hall, he wished us all success in the future, and hoped the young men of Eastleigh would rally round this new and go-ahead Unit.

As usual, the Corps Dance Band was in excellent form and did much to make people forget their tired feet. The hall, with its fresh, and still wet, coats of white and green paint, was well set off by the floral decorations, tastefully arranged by Miss Freddie Spearpoint. In short, the evening was a great social success, if nothing else. At least we are now well known, and perhaps the tide will turn. Like Sergeant Wheldon, seated before his dusty stack of enrolment forms, we must watch and pray.

Next month, perhaps, we shall talk about work.

ASSULIKET.

26 ENGINEER GROUP SIGNAL TROOP, T.A., THE HUTMENTS, STRATFORD ROAD, SALISBURY. Everything happens to us; we've changed our name and we've changed our address, the new ones are as above. We are highly delighted with our new accommodation, three huts and a Nissen, as opposed to one room in someone else's Drill Hall.

Recruiting has been very slow, but one more joined us on the first drill night in our new quarters. Welcome to Signalman Sydney Baskott, late Southern Command Signals.

Training has been difficult, as so many of our numbers are working shifts in their civilian jobs. We plan to have an evening on Burcombe Ranges on 4th June, and already we have had one practice shoot.

We hope that those who could not get up to the Drill Hall to visit us will come and see us in our new home; we will be able to offer them a game of darts and maybe a bar will have been organised by then.

Congratulations to our Second-in-Command, Lieutenant Bob Stock, on the birth of a daughter; he has two sons as well.

Farewell to Corporal Birchley, who has had to leave us on taking up a Post Office appointment in Taunton. We hope to see him at camp in July, as he is now with 91 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, part of our parent Regiment.

What a camp it should be, and so far all but one is able to go.

No. 1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our Annual Camp for which we worked hard and planned with fingers crossed is over and fast receding into the land of happy memories. From the afternoon of 15th May to midday on the 23rd there wasn't a dull moment. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., addressed the troops on the first parade and told them what was expected. His expectations were realised to the full. We have a good bunch of fellows here and no passengers. Perhaps it seems a little unusual to hold Annual Camp on one's own ground instead of migrating to some distant field with a load of canvas. Nevertheless, the work carried out at this Camp at Cateswell House was very necessary and will prove to be of the greatest value in our future activities. No time was lost in travelling and by mid-afternoon on Saturday, 15th May, work was in full swing. During the week the following jobs were completed: Breast route erected, Underground cable laid, Signal Office, Telephone Exchanges, Teleprinter and Wireless Rooms fitted up. Corporal Dennis and six energetic men from Pocklington carried out a real blitz on the whole area. They removed weeds, constructed paths and cleared the accumulated scrap of the war years with great gusto and a wheelbarrow. We are therefore well advanced in our preparations for the training "set-up" against the day when the National Servicemen arrive.

The Camp routine was the old familiar one complete with Orderly Buffs. One rather missed running round the tents in bare feet at reveille but on this occasion we were able to accommodate everyone in the house or huts.

Crack of dawn was fixed at 0645 hours. From 0700 to 0715 Lieutenant A. E. Rogers pushed officers and men around as P.T. officer. Even Bob Barlow turned out once. His creaking muscles thereafter kept him awake at night and most of the day. (I'll say it first.)

Musketry at Kingsbury Ranges took place on Wednesday, 19th May, and produced some devastating remarks about the aperture sight on the No. 4 rifle as compared with the old V backsight to which many of us had become accustomed. Searching for the correct target through the hole lost many valuable seconds in the rapid practice. Tips from experts are welcomed. Highest scores were made by: Officers, Major J. F. Timings, M.B.E.; other ranks (T.A.) Signalman H. King.

These expert gunmen received silver cups from the Commanding Officer on the Dispersal parade. An even higher scorer was S.S.M. N. Jones (P.S.I.). The introduction of a wooden spoon must not be overlooked. Alas, many of us need no incentive to qualify for this coveted trophy.

After the shooting, a Wireless and Line communication scheme sent us along some of those lovely roads in the Whitacre-Fillongley-Meriden district in perfect weather.

The C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E., paid us a visit on Thursday, 20th. He was agreeably impressed with all he saw and noted particularly the genuine enthusiasm of all members of the unit.

The C.S.O. was accompanied on his tour of inspection by Colonel P. H. Keeling, M.C., our Honorary Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Masterson, D.L., Secretary Warwickshire T. and A.F. Association.

Our hopes of good messing were realised. Captain M. W. Taylor with the wizard support of Sergeant-Major Head, A.C.C., produced a succession of meals that would have done credit to a Torquay Hotel. Than which there is no greater praise. Betsy, a handsome Alsatian, attended with Signalman Cronin and entered wholeheartedly into camp life. Her enthusiasm extended to the morning P.T. with unfortunate results for Captain J. W. Swinnerton's running shorts. The Unit was "At Home" on Saturday afternoon,

THE OFFICERS

Front row (left to right): Captain T. A. Baynes, Major E. R. Price, Colonel P. H. Keeling, M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E., Major J. F. Timings, M.B.E., Captain (Q.M.) R. F. Barlow. Back row (left to right): Captain J. W. Swinnerton, Lieutenant G. Cutler, Captain M. W. Taylor, Captain P. R. Hoskins, Captain B. H. Berresford

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Major Price and wireless fans demonstrate mast-erection in miniature

Some of the M.T. types

22nd May and many people availed themselves of the opportunity to find out what the Signals do. A number of old friends, ex-Signals types, looked in and several found that their "joining resistance" was weakening a little. We may see them in battle dress again yet.

Signalman Sheldon was M.C. at the Regimental Dance in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening. It was to be expected that a gathering of old sweats like this would produce a little "gripping." Tales of Dunkirk, Algiers, Cassino, Burma and especially India gained a little with each telling but when the Quartermaster declared that during a storm in the Indian Ocean, the captain of the ship, having climbed half way up an enormous wave decided to turn round and go down again, the resulting raspberries would have filled a large basket.

The last day of Camp was Sunday, 23rd May. A short service was held in the Drill Hall, after which stores were returned and kits packed. The C.O. took the final parade and congratulated the Regiment on a good show.

Much credit for the success of our first camp must go to Captain T. W. Baynes, Adjutant, and his permanent staff. Modesty forbids mention of the activities of the Quartermaster. Or does it? It rained all day on Sunday and we dispersed in a downpour. Nobody cared. It had been a very interesting and enjoyable eight days.

Stop Press: Granted Provisional Rank of Corporal, Signalmen J. R. Sheldon and H. King, 31/5/48. Appointed Lance-Corporal, Signalman P. H. Vane, 31/5/48.

BARLEUX

COMPILATION OF "WIRE" CONTRIBUTIONS

While we expect to find amongst our future contributors many who are acquainted with the layout requirements of copy, we hope that lack of experience will not deter others from submitting material for publication. The following suggestions are therefore published as a guide to would-be correspondents: —

1. Show name of Unit, full address and date of writing, at the head of Notes.
2. Write Sports Notes on separate sheets and not interspersed among other items.
3. Type all Notes with an open space between the lines. This allows room for editing the copy and facilitates the printer's work.
4. When Notes are duplicated, the top (and most legible) set should be forwarded for use. Faint and blurred sheets often have to be retyped in fairness to the compositor.
5. Use simple language and write concisely. Involved and incomprehensible sentences should be avoided.
6. Be careful in the spelling of names, whether of persons or places—particularly if they are of foreign origin.
7. Avoid all unnecessary use of quotation signs (" ") and other punctuation marks.
8. Set out Sporting details in a methodical manner.
9. The use of *nom de plumes* is permissible, but all contributions should be endorsed with the full number, rank and name of the contributor, not necessarily for publication, but as an indication of good faith only.
10. No notice is taken of anonymous contributions. Contributions should be endorsed preferably by an officer of the Unit.
11. *"Copy" should be despatched in time to reach the Editor by the 16th of the month. "Copy" received after that date will normally be held over for insertion in the following month's publication.*
12. Photographic illustrations, cartoons and humorous sketches are particularly desirable, but as block-making is a highly technical process, the following points should be strictly observed: —

(a) Photographs for reproduction should be clear in every detail, free from heavy shadows, and adaptable for enlargement or reduction as circumstances necessitate.
(b) Prints only are required—not negatives—and indifferent pictures should not be submitted.
(c) Avoid the use of clips or pins for fastening photographs to contributions. The resultant mutilation frequently renders the picture unfit for blockmaking purposes.
(d) Diagrams, cartoons and sketches must be drawn in Indian ink on good quality paper.
(e) Coloured ink drawings cannot be utilised.
(f) All "lettering," "captions," etc., should be printed legibly, and in proportion to the size of the drawing.

13. In order to obtain uniformity of style throughout the magazine, all abbreviations should be studiously avoided, and when reference is made to dates, correspondents should place the figure before the month, and spell the latter out in full.

It would greatly facilitate the work of this office, and the printing staff, if contributors would very kindly note the above hints when preparing Notes for publication.

51st (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Early in May the Adjutant and Quartermaster made a trip to Barry to attend a conference about our annual camp. We are to be at Barry from 17th to 24th July. If the choice of venue had been left to us we could have chosen a much more salubrious spot. However, I have no doubt that Dundee holds many attractions.

Two very welcome visitors to R.H.Q. have been Captain (Q.M.) "Tich" Kilford and Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford, from 60 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A. No. 3 Squadron was under 60 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., when they were 26 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.

On the week-end 15th/16th May, Major D. M. B. Edwards and the Adjutant, Captain D. H. Freeland, attended exercise "Thunder" at Gleneagles. The exercise was run by the Divisional Commander and was a great gathering of more than 100 T.A. officers of the Division. Training included a very interesting lecture on "Modern Developments," by Professor F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., F.R.S., Deputy Scientific Adviser to the Army Council, and an address by Major-General R. K. Arbuthnot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Chief of Staff, Scottish Command. The reports brought back by the Adjutant on the "amenities" of Gleneagles, in particular liquid refreshment, made us all very envious.

The highlight of the whole month was exercise "Kickoff." This was our own Officers' week-end exercise, held on 22nd/23rd May at the Tor-na-Coille Hotel, Banchory. Among those who attended the exercise were Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., T.D., Hon. Colonel, the C.O., the Adjutant, Major A. H. Reid, Captains C. E. Smith, M.B.E., G. D. G. Mackinnon, J. B. Stewart and J. D. Hillman, Lieutenants J. M. Wotherspoon, J. K. Lamb and J. M. Moonie. The Divisional Command was represented by Major Stevenson, S.O., Royal Signals Highland District. We very much missed the C.S.O., who was unable to attend at the last minute owing to illness. We have since heard that he has made a rapid recovery. The exercise covered many problems of a Divisional Signal Regiment, and during the long light of Saturday evening we managed to fit in a golf competition. We all consider that the Adjutant's handicap should be considerably lowered. On the "short twelfth" he did a magnificent "in off" from an adjacent roof, to be down in two! The competition was won by Major Stevenson and the Adjutant. The Hon. Colonel and the C.O. presented prizes. The exercise will be remembered as our first Officers' week-end exercise since 1939, and we only wish that more of those who had been with us then were with us now.

Since last going to press we have been joined by Gordon B. Kirkland at No. 3 Squadron (Dundee). During the war he was commissioned from 150 O.C.T.U. Royal Signals, after which he served in Paiforce and G.H.Q., M.E.F., before being released in 1946. He is a very welcome additional to the Squadron and we trust he will spend many happy years with us.

In Stirling, as in Aberdeen, No. 2 Squadron have been recruiting slowly but surely and have now formed a very creditable nucleus for future training. The men's canteen is ever increasing in popularity and tea and buns seem to be the order of the day. Since last month we have got our Sergeants' Mess going again and the old place is certainly looking very smart.

Our foundation has now been firmly re-set by the arrival of a portrait of His Majesty the King, which he has been graciously pleased to sign for us. We are very grateful to His Majesty for this kind gesture and trust that we shall always be worthy of it.

SCOTTY.

Some of the officers who attended Exercise Kickoff. Left to right: Second-Lieutenant J. M. Moonie, M.M., Captain Charles Smith, M.B.E., Captain (Q.M.) Jack Hillman, Major H. E. B. Reid, T.D., Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant Kenneth Lamb, Captain J. B. Stewart and Captain Gordon MacKinnon

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

R.H.O. AND H.Q. SQUADRON. The following letter was forwarded to Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command:

Dear Brigadier,—This is to say how delighted all Officers and Other Ranks of this Unit were to read in the paper of your appointment as Director of Signals, with effect from next December, and to ask you to accept my congratulations on behalf of all the Unit on that appointment:

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

W. F. B. NOTT,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Signals,

C. R. Signals, 43 (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A.

The West of England really had its largest T.A. function on 14th May, when the Territorial Army Officers' Ball was held in Taunton.

Left to right: Captain F. Turton, Royal Signals, Miss J. Jucker, Major R. Harvey, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, C. R. Signals, Mrs. R. Harvey, Captain J. Anns, Royal Signals, Major P. C. Williams, Royal Signals, Mrs. P. C. Williams

No. 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment in camp

Over 400 guests attended, including Admiral of the Fleet Sir James Somerville, G.C.B., G.B.E., D.S.O., Lord Lieutenant of Somerset.

The Dance Band of Royal Corps of Signals played during the evening.

Parties were brought by Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E., C.S.O., Southern Command, Brigadier Ralph Rayner, O.B.E., M.P., Hon. Colonel, 43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, C. R. Signals, 43 (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A.

No. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER, DEVON. We in this Squadron are most fortunate in having quite a good club (and I understand improvements are about to be carried out) and we have passer many pleasant hours at our full-size billiard table. Thanks to our Officers and P.S.I., and good co-operation with our Devon Territorial Association, the welfare of this Unit has been given the highest priority wherever possible.

The Squadron is going to put in a special effort in connection with our annual camp at Fremington on 24th July. Seeing so much is at stake where recruiting is concerned, we are hoping this will be the best camp ever, and we hope the lads will spread the news so that we may increase our Unit strength at least twofold.

Training is in full swing and several of our O.W.L.s have attended up to as much as five nights a week in preparation for the Trade Test Board being held here on 19th June.

Our objective on Sunday, 30th May, was the Range at Starcross (a delightful little spot nearby), and the results were, I understand, "most encouraging." Given a helping hand from our instructors, R.S.M. Bainbridge, R.S.M. Hayes and C.S.M. Taylor, we were encouraged to "Have a go." Here are the final scores:—Officers: Jointly first, Major G. S. Dalton (O.C.) and Major (Q.M.) F. F. West, M.M., with the score of 82 points. Other ranks: First, Lance-Corporal Roberts, 78 points; second, Sergeant Pauley, 77 points, H.P.S. in each case 85.

The winner of the Officers' Competition was again our O.C., Major G. S. Dalton, with a possible score, and Signalman Vince won the Other Ranks' Competition, also with a possible.

"If only the rest of 'em could shoot like us operators"!

No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

We have just completed 15 days in camp at Langham, Norfolk. About 180 men and A.T.S. were under canvas in weather which varied from brilliant sunshine to continuous heavy rain and howling gales.

After a bright start, the weather really did its worst for the remainder of the first week! Marquees housing the A.T.S. developed leaks, and personnel spent much of their spare time moving their goods and chattels from the wet spots in which they were situated into fresh dry spots, which very soon became wet spots! The crowning catastrophe, however, was when the Orderly Room marquee blew down. (This, curiously enough, was considered to be very funny by certain low elements among the Squadron Officers!)

Personnel soon became hardened, however, and by the end of the first week would not have been unduly shaken had a hurricane appeared around the corner.

The main effort on the training side was concentrated on individual training, and, in spite of many difficulties, large numbers of personnel succeeded in passing their trade tests before the end of camp.

Social activities were easily organised as large stores of latent talent were found among the Squadron personnel, who produced finally a very entertaining concert on a most imposing stage made of materials as to whose origin no questions were asked.

Generally speaking, the camp has been a great success, and it has been most interesting to see Squadron personnel from Newcastle (36), Leeds (37), Rotherham (38), Nottingham (39) and Birmingham (40) mixing together with a will under very difficult conditions.

The morale of the whole Unit has been excellent. Next year it is hoped that a very much larger number of personnel will be attending the camp, and, to this end, it is also hoped that the Regiment will be receiving a large number of recruits in the months following.

OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

Have you heard of MOSHI? ? ? ?

Read all about it in the August number!

Beach Signals D-Day Anniversary

ON the Continental Departures indicator at Victoria Station, London, was a notice on 6th June, 1948. It read:

Gateway to the Continent
Train Ferry
Through Sleeping Car Service
Weather Report:—
1800 hours, light S.W. wind, slight sea
Fine; clear visibility

A few of those who remembered a very different "6th June"—and a very different weather report and accommodation—met once again in the Captain's Cabin, Haymarket, to bind, grip, yarn and reminisce for an hour or two. Everyone was pleased to see everyone else and although officers and sergeants outnumbered men, not a harsh word was spoken.

Captain J. D. Banning-Lover was unfortunately called away very early in the evening, but Major T. Martin and Captain Geoff Lugg were there to greet Jimmy Curtis, "Tiny" Batchelor, Arthur Rainbow, Joe Lowes, "Q" Barton, Frank Rigby and "Pip" Reed.

Probably the best tale of the evening came from "Q" Barton, who swore with a dangerous glint in his eye that he'd had to pay for a lost jack-knife when demobbed.

Everyone seemed to have news of some absent "Beach" Signaller, those who'd married, some who'd produced children, some who'd climbed high in their particular callings and some who had not. We heard of one who'd sunk his "all" in a quarry business and, due to controls and lack of essential materials, had gone "bust," and how he, with his bare hands, was wresting a living for his family from the soil in the nature of a smallholding. We were very proud as we heard the story and chins went up a shade higher.

We talked, too, of the days preceding D-Day, of the concentration camps encircled with wreaths of barbed wire, and of those long hours of waiting. It was very amusing to recall the Commander's jeep driver, who with his 22 set mounted, started to reverse down the steep slope from the "hard" to the bowels of the landing ship; how he suddenly, in panic, plunged his foot on the accelerator and tore down the slope at terrific speed, missed the ramp and landed in six feet of water. All seemed to remember the moment as the L.C.A. touched down, of jumping into the "drink," and of the icy cold knife cut under the armpits as eyes fixed on the rendezvous of the third breakwater. Those crowded hours of the first few days when food and sleep were completely forgotten. Of line parties who went out to lay lateral lines to flank units only to find the intervening villages, woods and strong points in enemy hands. Of the 22 set operators who, single-handed, worked their sets for 48 and 56 hours at a stretch, whilst their reliefs were digging, laying and repairing lines or manning machine guns. Of old so and so, who when he was relieved went to sleep for 15 hours and no one could wake him. Of those desperate nights as soon as the R.A.F. had returned to the U.K. when "Jerry" flew up and down the beaches bombing and machine gunning, and of the crack German infantry who pressed so hard in an endeavour to regain a foothold on those hard-won beaches. We thought, too, of the officer who, for want of a better device and lack of time, drove a 15 cwt. lorry hell for leather up and down a minefield with the mines bursting in his train, to clear an area for his transport.

Time just flew, questions "arrowed" across with lightning

(*continued on page 218*)

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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

During the month of May, 1948, 81 appeals were dealt with, the expenditure amounting to £508 1s. 6d.

Benevolent Fund

Donations Received for the Fund

	£	s.	d.
Army Signal School, Middle East ...	168	0	4
30 Corps District Signals and 14 A.F.S. (disbanded)	761	3	10
11 A.F.S. (67 Wing Signal Troop) ...	1	0	0
15 A.F.S. (disbanded)	140	0	0
Guards Divisional Signal Regiment (disbanded)	607	6	4
No. 1 Training Regiment (W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess)	1	3	8
Eastern Command Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	2	14	0
West Africa Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	20	18	0
Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Troop		12	6
Royal Signals Corps Fund	130	17	0
Mr. T. W. Forse		11	0
Mr. L. J. Jennings		6	0
Total receipts	£1,834	12	8

Summary of Grants Disbursed

Purpose	No. of Cases	Amount £	s.	d.
General assistance	26	127	3	0
Rent, rates and insurance ...	3	27	10	0
Cots and prams	14	78	10	0
Beds and bedding	5	35	0	0
Furniture	4	21	10	0
Clothing	5	22	0	0
Hospital and doctors' fees ...	9	58	2	6
Convalescence	6	37	1	0
Surgical appliance	1	10	0	0
Fares	2	3	15	0
Dentures	1	20	0	0
Rehabilitation	3	47	10	0
Funeral	1	10	0	0
Removal	1	10	0	0
Totals	81	£508	1	6

Analysis

Discharged or released soldiers, 63; families of soldiers serving in U.K., 8; B.A.O.R., 3; M.E.L.F., 2; East Africa, 1. Widows of deceased soldiers, 4.

Old Comrades' Association

New members registered through this Headquarters during the month of May, 1948:

Life	27
Annual	92

Branch Notes

Birmingham

I dare not risk leaving these notes until after the branch outing to Olympia on 12th June because something is sure to interfere with my last-minute effort. Something always does. When we met at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, on Thursday, 27th May, which, you will be astonished to learn, was the last Thursday in the month, I was intrigued by a little clique of large gentlemen in one corner of the room. Some of them were large in a vertical sense but quite a few were large in most directions, chiefly left to right. One, even larger, proved to be Mr. Harry Poole, who, surrounded by friends, was living again those bad old days of 1914 when motor cyclists were decked out in corporals' chevrons on the day they enlisted. One wonders what would happen to a 1914 Douglas twin if Mr. Harry Poole sat on one today. We sincerely hope that Harry will not be content with just one visit to our monthly gathering. The last Thursday in the month, remember. We are always glad to see old friends. The ruder we are the more we love 'em.

I made some notes at the committee meeting but of course I have lost them. However, all goes well and the branch is ticking over nicely. We really think the Bristol Branch have got something in their proposal to drink a noggin at an arranged half-way house. It is something to be dealt with before the summer is over. If there is to be a summer. We mustn't expect one every year. It is a pity I can't tell you about the trip to the Royal Tournament today, but if someone will use his camera on the journey there maybe a picture for you next time. Several cases of refreshment will be taken on board at never mind where, and haversack rations will be consumed somewhere along the route. Long fair periods have been arranged for, also dinner on the return journey. This is going to be a good day out. Are you sorry you are not coming? You'll let me know on 13th June? Perhaps you are right. We will see. A few more subscribers to THE WIRE have been found from the branch but we want more yet if the magazine is to survive. Perhaps it needs a roving reporter in addition to the news gathered by special correspondents. We don't get enough good poetry, do we? Shall I say my piece?

Ten little puppy dogs straining on a line,
Ten dogs can pull a sledge. Canine?

See what I mean? It makes you wonder how THE WIRE lives at all.

Uncle Ralph: Listen, "Barleux." This doesn't have anything to do with the Birmingham Branch.

Me: No, you're right. Let's get back to Broad Street. Very soon we shall be making plans for the annual dinner, due to take place at Cateswell House Drill Hall on 2nd October. Keep this date open and look out for further information.

Did I ever tell you about Hank's visit to American Headquarters in Algiers and what befell him there? Remind me to forget about this. Hank might be a WIRE reader, anyway. There were several other things I had intended to talk about but these must be held over for the following reasons:—(a), (b) and (c). There was also a (d). It was cancelled at the eleventh hour. What a small world.

Portsmouth

The Portsmouth Branch of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association, which came into being on 29th May, 1948, under the direction of Major G. Gould, Royal Signals, has made a start which augurs well for the future.

After such a short life, the Association made its first parade and appearance in public on no less an occasion than the unveiling of a memorial plaque at Southsea by Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery on the fourth anniversary of D-Day.

Messrs. Moore, Butt, Scott, Gordon and Millington at the Association parade on D-day anniversary, 1948

Portsmouth Branch of the Royal Signals O.C.A. was ably represented by Messrs. Moore, Butt, Scott, Gorden and Millington. The first-named had the honour of bearing the Association standard on this initial occasion.

All three Services were represented at the ceremony, together with representatives of the various Old Comrades' Associations and contingents from the services of our American and French Allies.

The parade of Old Comrades, notably strengthened by a number of Old Contemptibles, made a colourful party with the individual standards borne by the different branches.

Field Marshal Montgomery honoured the Old Comrades by passing along their ranks at the end of the ceremony and by exchanging a few words with individuals as he did so.

The occasion ended with a march past of the Regular units, thus ending a notable day.

A hearty and warm welcome is extended to all ex-Royal Signals personnel who wish to join the local branch. Enquiries should be addressed to Captain W. Challen, 31a Cedar Grove, Copnor; alternatively, turn up at 8 p.m. on the first or third Thursday of any month at the R.E. Old Sergeants' Mess, Mildam Barracks, Portsmouth.

BARLEUX

Bristol

The past month has been fairly quiet as far as branch activities go, apart from our normal monthly meeting, which once again attracted a goodly number of members despite what must have been strong counter-attractions, considering the very fine weather prevailing.

The Committee have been very busy behind the scenes, however, and final arrangements are now complete for the annual outing and the annual dinner. As I have previously mentioned in these notes, we had hoped to combine an outing with Birmingham Branch, but this was found to be impracticable this year; nevertheless, the Bristol Branch will be off to Symonds Yat on 10th July, and we are promised a fresh salmon tea at Mitcheldean. It sounds very attractive! The annual dinner is fixed for 13th November at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, and, despite the name of the hotel, is to be strictly

informal. Various arrangements have made it possible to fix an extremely low charge for members and we are assured of good food, good drink and good company at what appears to be a very nominal charge. I shall be mentioning more about the dinner in the months to come.

The skittling fraternity have also been busy and are now going into strict training for the winter season. The home alley is at the "Old Crown," Broad Weir, Bristol, and I trust that I shall have plenty of home and away victories to report in the coming months.

The ranks of the Committee have once again been reduced by the departure of Mr. E. G. J. Stephens. He has followed Mr. B. E. Barr to Cornwall and we are very sorry to see him go. However, we wish him all the best of luck in his new venture.

I will end this month's short notes with a reminder that the next meetings will be held on 9th July and 13th August (notice the lack of superstition in the branch!). All the best from Bristol until next month.

D. P. J. H.

Scarborough

Scarborough Branch annual general meeting and dinner were held at the Salisbury Hotel on 1st June. The address of welcome was made by Captain N. Hunt, Royal Signals, and presidential address by Major F. Mansfield, Royal Signals. The dinner and meeting were followed by a social evening. The wine flowed freely and it was with great regret that the evening came to a close. A grand time was had by all.

Election of the branch committee for the year 1948-49 resulted as follows:—Chairman, Captain N. Hunt, Royal Signals; vice-chairman, Mr. J. Newman; secretary, Mr. F. J. Kelly; assistant secretary, Mr. W. Carter; treasurer, Mr. C. Ginders; members, Mr. Groves (Employment Officer), Mr. E. Whittaker (Welfare), Mr. McDonald (Entertainments), Mr. Cooper and Mr. Maylin.

The committee are meeting weekly and an ambitious programme of social events has been arranged.

Congratulations are tendered to Mr. and Mrs. W. Carter (Walter, lead me to the altar) on the commencement of their journey in double harness, also to Mr. and Mrs. G. Picton, a new arrival (Lineman or Teleprinter Op. (A.T.S.), George?). And to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, a son (A.C.C. vacancy required, Nellie?).

Teddy Whittaker, of this branch, would like to contact 3053538 Sergeant McLaughlin, ex-"J" Section, Egypt Signals. Write Teddy at Durham Street, Scarborough.

R.Q.M.S. Reece, on holiday in Scarborough, very bronzed and looking fit, would like to contact ex-members, London District Signals, particularly Bill Bailey. Write Secretary, Leeds Branch, O.C.A.

Beach Signals—D-Day Anniversary

(*continued from page 216*)

rapidity, there was so much to remember, memories just flooded down in those few precious hours we enjoyed in our remembering.

Hopes were expressed that a larger reunion could perhaps be arranged for next year, with perhaps an interim meeting later in the year. Geoff Lugg again kindly undertook the duties of corresponding member. His address is:—Captain G. N. Lugg, Rowley Cottage, Ilford, Bath.

Although 6th June comes and goes so quickly and is soon forgotten, friendships such as were found in "Beach Signals" are not so easily set aside, as we drank a toast to "Absent comrades."

SPORTS NOTES

Hockey

For the second successive season the Corps XI has completed its fixture list without a defeat. Followers of hockey, when considering the opposition met and the high standard of play involved, will realise that this has been no mean accomplishment. Of the 9 matches played, 7 were won and 2 drawn.

The outstanding feature of the season's games has been the fine team spirit which developed from the very first game. Ably led by Major K. M. Evans, who had seven of the previous season's side available, namely Captain J. I. Parkinson, Captain R. O. Edwards, Captain N. Gordon, Lieutenant A. G. Smith, Lieutenant R. O. Cant, S.Q.M.S. A. J. Langley and Lance-Corporal W. J. Gibbons, the team developed into a powerful one which produced a high standard of hockey.

With the introduction of Cadet Officers P. E. G. Ashworth and J. P. Taylor into the side, we had some young blood for the first time, the previous season's team having been well over the 30 mark. Lieutenant Cant was moved from forward to the left back berth and quickly made this position his own, while S.Q.M.S. W. S. Morris ably filled the role of goalkeeper.

One of the most enjoyable matches of the season was that against R.M.A.S., Camberley. Youth was very much on the side of our hosts and their speed and energy, combined with some extremely clever stick work, was a pleasure to watch. However, experience was to triumph in the end, and after some 50 minutes of exciting play, when the score stood at 1—1, the Corps gained the ascendancy and scored three brilliant goals to clinch the game. A spectator's comment was that it was a pity that either side should lose a game of such high-class hockey which had proved so enjoyable to players and a large crowd of spectators alike.

Closely following the Camberley match for a pleasant game was that against the Royal Artillery, played at Woolwich. This was a hotly contested affair between two well-balanced sides, and until the last 15 minutes was anybody's game. Once again the staying power and experience of the Corps team was the deciding factor but the inside-forwards had an off day when it came to finishing off. This saved the Gunners time and again in the closing stages, and the Corps had to be satisfied with a 1—0 victory.

Two matches were played in Scotland, against Watsonians at Edinburgh, where the result was a 3—3 draw after the home side had gained a 3—1 lead, and at St. Andrews, where the University were beaten 4—1. The visits were much appreciated by the clubs concerned and the standard of hockey was such that the Scottish Hockey Association are most keen that the Corps XI should make a tour of the hockey centres of Scotland next season and thus give a fillip to the game in that country.

The season was to have wound up with a match at Catterick between the Corps XI and a Yorkshire Selected XI, but the county players had to withdraw at the last minute. R.A.C. (Catterick District) sportingly stepped into the breach and put up a good show, but, like a number of sides had done during the season, succumbed to the onslaught of the Corps in the last 15 minutes.

Some of the outstanding features of the season have been the inspiring leadership of the team captain, Major K. M. Evans, the consistent form of Captain J. I. Parkinson, Captain N. Gordon and Lance-Corporal Gibbons, the goal-producing combination of Lieutenant Smith and Captain Edwards, and

the way in which the young members of the side, Officer Cadets Ashworth and Taylor, settled down in the side. Lieutenant Smith gained international honours, being selected for Scotland in each of that country's fixtures, and Major Evans, Captain Gordon, Lieutenant Cant and Officer Cadet Ashworth gained places in the Northern Command side.

The awards of colours have been made as follows:—

Corps Colours: Major K. M. Evans, Captain J. I. Parkinson, Captain R. O. Edwards, Captain N. Gordon, Lieutenant A. G. Smith, S.Q.M.S. A. J. Langley and Lance-Corporal W. J. Gibbons.

Royal Signals, Catterick, Colours: Lieutenant R. O. Cant, Lieutenant R. Line, Officer Cadets P. E. G. Ashworth and J. P. Taylor, and S.Q.M.S. W. S. Morris.

The secretaryship of the Hockey Committee has been taken over from Lieutenant Cant by Captain F. Barton, Royal Signals O.C.T.U., Catterick Camp. Some seven members of the present Corps XI proceed overseas in the near future and if the standard of play is to be maintained and fixtures retained it is very necessary that no potential Corps players be overlooked. Trials for the coming season will take place at an early date so all who are desirous of a trial should communicate through their Regiments with the Secretary as early as possible.

Results of Corps Fixtures, 1947–48

v. Manchester University at Manchester ...	Won	3—1
v. R.A.O.C. at Feltham	Won	5—2
v. R.A.S.C. at Aldershot	Drew	0—0
v. R.A.M.C. at Crookham	Won	9—0
v. Royal Artillery at Woolwich	Won	1—0
v. R.M.A.S. at Camberley	Won	4—1
v. Watsonians at Edinburgh	Drew	3—3
v. St. Andrew's University at St. Andrews ...	Won	4—1
v. R.A.C. (Catterick District) at Catterick ...	Won	7—1

Cricket

ROYAL ENGINEERS *v.* ROYAL SIGNALS

At Ripon, 4th/5th June

The 1948 cricket season opened with a Corps match against the Royal Engineers at Ripon on 4th/5th June, which was drawn. The day was windy and the pitch slow when Royal Signals opened the innings. After a weak start, with the score at 4 for 29, Captain N. C. Porter joined Officer Cadet N. M. Hall and the score moved steadily along to 61, at which total Porter was run out.

Major K. N. Evans and Major B. R. M. Hayles then took over the partnership with Hall and raised the score to 97 before both fell to catches by the wicket-keeper, Perkins, who did well to hold the ball with a strong wind blowing across the ground. The innings closed for 122. Sharpe, who was swinging the ball well, was the most successful bowler, taking 5 wickets for 31 runs.

Royal Engineers also opened shakily against an accurate attack and were 4 for 29, their first three batsmen falling lbw to the swinging ball. Cockett and Harris finally stopped the rot and, playing carefully, raised the score to 72 before Cocket was lbw to Second-Lieutenant Squires. Harris then continued to score quickly and hit three 6's over the bowler to the short long-on boundary, but eventually fell at 124 to a good catch by N. Hall off Squires.

Captain Gomm then came on, and in a good spell of left-arm spin bowling claimed the last 3 wickets for 14 runs, and the innings closed at 131.

Royal Signals then batted on a pitch which, due to rain and wear, was playing awkwardly; they had to make every run possible against keen bowling. Captain Gomm made a steady 37 runs before being bowled by Sharpe; Hall and Porter added 27, mainly by firm drives, taking the score to 90. Lee then carried on and, batting very well, took the score to 118 before being well caught for 17. Sharpe bowled medium-paced spinners very well and was again the most successful R.E. bowler, taking 7 for 29. The innings closed for 120.

The Royal Engineers therefore required 112 runs to win and had 2½ hours in which to get them. Royal Signals opened the attack with some very accurate bowling by Captain Porter and Captain Pocock, and the opening pair were only able to score 17 runs off the first 20 overs. This put the side behind the clock, and after Captain Porter had bowled Colonel Simpson and Sears, the batsmen found that it was difficult to get runs quickly against the excellent fielding and accurate bowling. Harris had a go at Squires but was bowled by a spinning ball after making 12, and Royal Signals got right on top of the game, on a wicket which was now taking spin.

Campbell and Sharpe played carefully, looking for the loose ball to hit, but against the excellent fielding could find few gaps, and the match ended at time with the Royal Engineers having two wickets to fall and still requiring 34 runs.

Captain Porter finished with 5 wickets for 30 runs, and Second-Lieutenant Squires 3 for 13. Good bowling and keen fielding were the immediate cause of the low scoring.

ROYAL SIGNALS

First Innings

Second-Lieutenant S. Squires c Simpson b Taggart	8
Officer Cadet J. W. Hall lbw b Sharpe	2
Captain Gomm b Taggart	0
Signalman E. Stanley c Glaskin b Sharpe	8
Officer Cadet N. M. Hall not out	42
Captain N. C. Porter run out	19
Major K. M. Evans (capt.) c Perkins b Simpson	17
Major B. R. M. Hayles c Perkins b Sharpe	13
Signalman T. B. Lee b Sharpe	0
Second Lieutenant G. Davies b Sharpe	2
Captain G. D. M. Pocock c Sears b Glaskin	2
Extras	9
Total	122

Sharpe 5 for 31, Taggart 2 for 28.

ROYAL ENGINEERS

First Innings

F. W. Simpson (capt.) lbw b Porter	3
H. P. Cunningham lbw b Porter	0
L. A. Sears lbw b Pocock	2
A. G. J. Rinnell b Squires	5
J. A. Cockett lbw b Squires	25
L. L. Harris c J. Hall b Squires	53
J. M. Perkins c Davies b Gomm	21
M. J. A. Campbell c Davies b Gomm	0
G. A. Sharpe c Squires b Gomm	2
— Glaskin not out	5
K. L. Taggart b Squires	0
Extras	15
Total	131

Porter 2 for 26, Pocock 1 for 23, Squires 4 for 53, Gomm 3 for 14.

ROYAL SIGNALS

Second Innings

Second Lieutenant S. Squires c Sears b Sharpe	1
Officer Cadet J. W. Hall b Taggart	4
Captain Gomm b Sharpe	37
Signalman E. Stanley c Rinnell b Sharpe	1
Officer Cadet N. M. Hall c Harris b Sears	17
Captain N. C. Porter c Simpson b Sharpe	10
Major K. M. Evans (capt.) b Sharpe	0
Major B. R. M. Hayles b Sharpe	10
Signalman T. B. Lee c Cockett b Simpson	17
Second Lieutenant G. Davies not out	1
Captain G. D. M. Pocock c Rinnell b Sharpe	2
Extras	20
	120

Sharpe 7 for 29, Taggart 1 for 22, Sears 1 for 25, Simpson 1 for 19.

ROYAL ENGINEERS

Second Innings

F. W. Simpson (capt.) b Porter	29
H. B. Cunningham lbw b Porter	3
L. A. Sears b Porter	1
A. G. J. Rinnell st Porter	4
J. A. Cockett lbw b Squires	0
L. L. Harris b Squires	12
J. M. Perkins b Porter	2
M. J. A. Campbell b Squires	9
G. A. Sharpe not out	9
—. Glaskin not out	0
Extras	9
	78

J. L. Taggart did not bat.

Porter 5 for 30, Squires 3 for 13.

ROYAL SIGNALS *v.* R.A.O.C.

At Catterick, 9th June

Royal Signals played the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at cricket on 9th June at Catterick and won by 125 runs.

Owing to rain, the first day's play was washed out and Royal Signals batted first on a soft pitch which gave the bowlers little help. Royal Signals started badly, losing 4 wickets for 14 runs before Signalman Froggett, with a careful knock, took the shine off the ball and swung the game round

in Signals' favour. Captain Porter had, by the time Froggett was out for 20, got his eye in, and he and Major Evans proceeded to get right on top of the bowling, and by hard hitting took the score to 148 before Captain Porter was bowled for 63, trying a mighty hit. Major Evans meanwhile had hit Speight for 14 in one over and hit three 6's clean over the square leg boundary into the Richmond Road. The score had jumped to 174 for 7 when Major Evans was bowled by Milton. Signalman Lee and Second-Lieutenant G. Davies then continued to score off the tired bowlers and took the score to 220. G. Davies then drove Milton for 6 to long-on and was 32 not out when Royal Signals declared at 231 for 9, leaving the R.A.O.C. 2½ hours to get the runs.

The opening batsmen played steadily and in spite of keen fielding and an accurate attack, only one wicket fell in the first 40 minutes and it seemed that the R.A.O.C. might pull off a draw when Major Eccles, who had played a good waiting innings, was lbw to Squires, and the game turned in Royal Signals' favour. Riddy and Milton stayed for a time and then were both beaten by Captain Porter's off-spinner. Each batsman then came in to play defensive cricket, and Waller and Morley stayed for 20 minutes before Waller was bowled by Squires' leg-spinner. With anxious eyes on the clock, the last three batsmen tried to play time out, but all fell to Squires' leg-spinners, which were turning considerably on the drying pitch. Squires finally bowled the last batsman at four minutes to seven.

Captain Porter bowled 27 overs and took 6 for 42, while Second-Lieutenant Squires bowled 20 overs and took 4 for 41.

ROYAL SIGNALS		R.A.O.C.	
S. Squires lbw b Eccles	1	Major Eccles lbw b Squires	16
J. W. Hall c Jackson b Eccles	8	Speight c de Cruz b Porter	0
E. Stanley lbw b Jackson	0	Riddy b Porter	20
K. Froggett c Milton b Speight	20	Milton lbw b Porter	14
N. M. Hall b Jackson	3	Baker b Porter	7
N. C. Porter b Speight	63	Bailey c Squires b Porter	5
K. M. Evans b Milton	65	Waller b Squires	7
T. B. Lee c Jackson b Morley	15	Morley b Squires	18
G. Davies not out	32	Jackson c Evans b Squires	2
S. de Cruz lbw b Jackson	7	Captain Bruhl not out	0
G. D. M. Pocock not out	3	Major Gibson c de Cruz b Porter	1
Extras	11	Extras	7
	228		97

Jackson 3 for 34, Eccles 2 for 43, Milton 1 for 66, Speight 2 for 45, Morley 1 for 18.

Porter 6 for 42, Squires 4 for 41.

STUDENT DOODLES—III

AN EXCITED ELECTRON

MAJOR-GENERAL D. A. L. WADE, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

We are obliged to a correspondent in Malaya for a copy of *The Kris*, Malaya District Magazine, if only for news of an old friend.

Major-General Wade is well known to many of us as one of our own Senior Officers. He was until recently G.O.C., Malaya District, and on reading of the disturbed state of that country we sympathised with him on what must have been an arduous command. He is now in England.

On 7th June, however, he is reported as being present at a peaceful exhibition of military activities.

The exhibition seems to have been combined with a tattoo. There was certainly and almost inevitably a Royal Signals motorcycle display, and a picture shows the old trick of removing the sidecar wheel. S.S.M. Tompkins is the rider. Can it be the same? One of the original Display Team? Certainly the name is familiar.

Royal Signals also had a stall. We quote extracts from *The Kris*:

"Next door the Signals continued to amaze the layman with their range of wireless sets and their accompanying equipment, and with their variety of telecommunications. Here, again, it was a working system, this time two linked teleprinters, which attracted most attention. Items in this exhibit included a charging engine and control board, various types of switchboards in use, the teleprinters previously mentioned, types of phones, one of which was connected to an oscillograph which displayed sound waves of the speaker on a fluorescent screen, items of lineman's equipment, testers, W/T sets, and what is probably the most advanced wavemeter in this part of the world.

"The second half of the tattoo opened with a motorcycle display in which both British and Malayan D.R.s earned much applause for their skill in riding their motorcycles in the most unorthodox methods. Riding over a ramp through a flaming hoop; standing upright on the saddle; changing driver and pillion rider on the move; 12 on one machine—it all came so easily to the performers. Specialist items were the combination display, when amongst other tricks the sidecar passenger removed the sidecar wheel, the D.R. who climbed up and over a ladder fixed to his machine while it chugged round the arena, and, for comic relief, the bizarre figure who charged round on one of the small 'airborne' machines."

ROYAL TOURNAMENT, 1948

This was noteworthy not only on account of the work of the Royal Signals Display Team, fully reported elsewhere, but also because of the appearance of two other Royal Signals Teams in the same Tournament.

No. 4 Training Regiment had a team in the obstacle race, which was one of the excellent items given at each performance. Teams were entered from each Command, and No. 4 Training Regiment having eliminated its competitors, represented Northern Command. A race in competition was made by two selected teams at each performance.

Royal Signals Fencing Club was represented by five Officers, who competed in the Skill-at-Arms Dismounted Competition.

Major R. B. Ridley-Martin (Final Pool), Sabre.
Captain T. G. H. Jackson (Semi-final Pool), Sabre.
Second Lieutenant L. W. Prescot (Final Pool), Epée.
Captain T. G. H. Jackson (Semi-final Pool), Epée.
Captain E. J. Beale (Semi-final Pool), Epée.
Captain E. J. Beale (Quarter-final Pool), Foil.
Officer Cadet R. F. Toplis, Cadet Foil Style Prize Winner.

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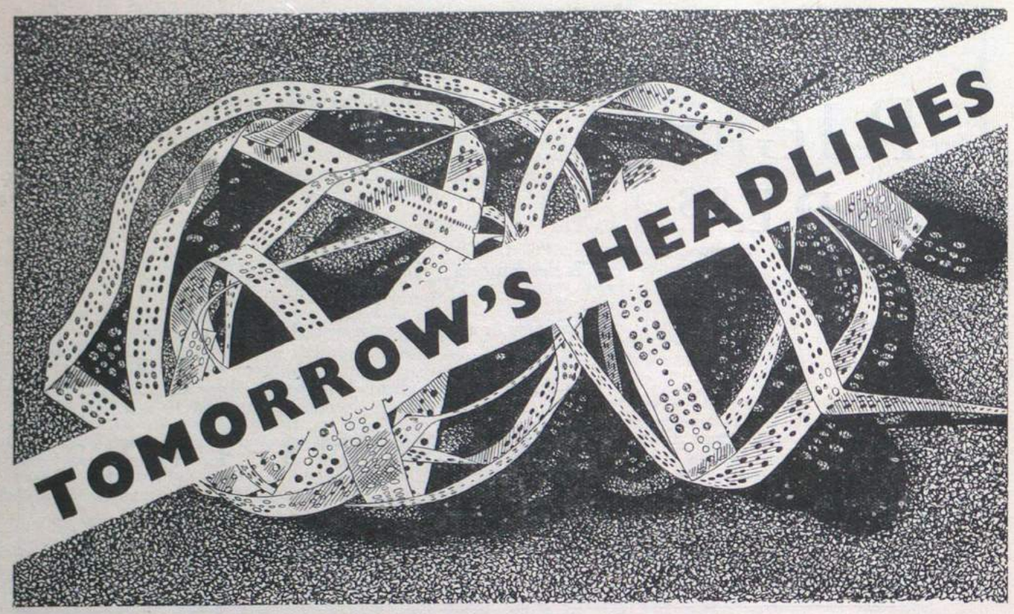

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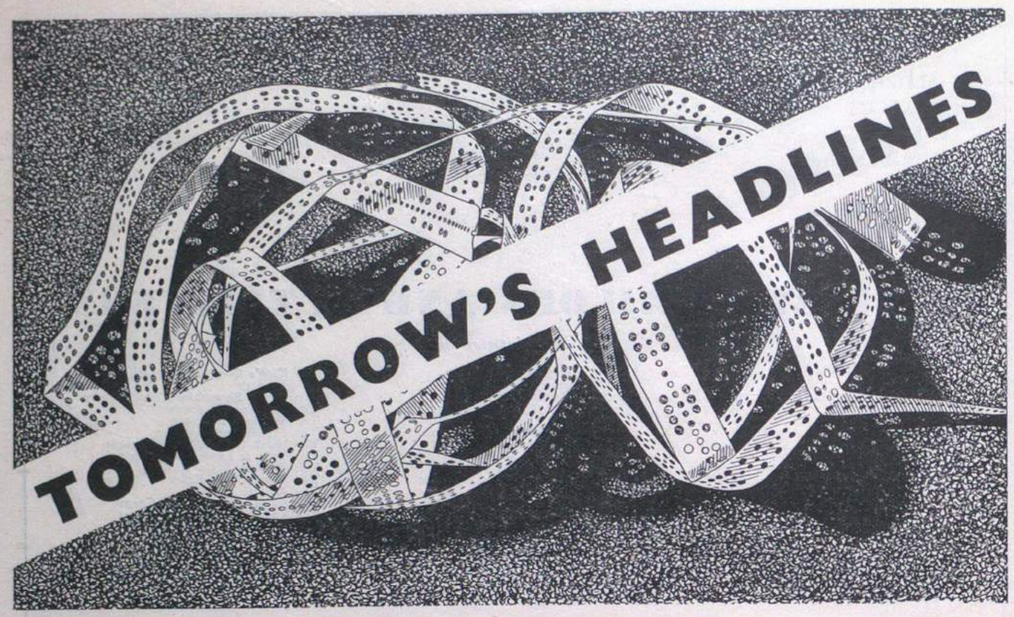

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AUGUST • 1948
Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 8**

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PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

The C.I.G.S. waves to the large crowd at the entrance to the Drill Hall
Left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D. (C.R. Signals), Councillor E. Forbes, J.P., Mayor of Stretford, C.I.G.S.

ALL ranks will wish to congratulate 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., on the Royal Signals Exhibition given by them in Manchester last April.

EAST LANCASHIRE TERRITORIAL FORCES WEEK

Royal Signals Exhibition

THE sprawling city of Manchester, focal point of industry and commerce in the North-West, was the main centre of activity during the Territorial Forces Week, staged by the Lancashire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association from 17th April to 24th April, with the object of bringing the Territorial Army to the forefront of public notice. Social, exhibitional and training events were staged throughout East Lancashire, and the Royal Signals Exhibition, organised by the 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., at the Drill Hall, Norton Street, Brook's Bar, Manchester, 16, was visited by many hundreds of Mancunians during the week.

The exhibition was declared open to the public on Saturday, 17th April, by the C.I.G.S., Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, K.G., G.C.B., D.S.O., who was accompanied by the Mayor of Stretford, Councillor E. Forbes, J.P., and the Honorary Colonel, Colonel W. S. Ashley, O.B.E., T.D. Among many others present were the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Simpson, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., the G.O.C. 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Division, T.A., Major-General V. Evelegh, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., and the C.S.O. Western Command, Brigadier W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E.

Large crowds around the Drill Hall welcomed the C.I.G.S., who after a short speech declared the exhibition open, and had a look round himself, commenting on the unique feature of the whole affair in that many fascinating items of both military and civilian telecommunication equipment were on show. Centre-piece of the military equipment was the Wireless Set No. 10, exhibition model, kindly lent by the Signals Research and Development Establishment. S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Wolfenden, ably assisted by Sergeants Scott and Harrison, had a very busy week explaining away the intriguing noises to an admiring crowd every afternoon. Close by, a Wire Recorder and Dummy Demonstration Aerials were universally popular.

☆

All types of Army Wireless Sets were on show, including the new Wireless Set No. 88 (Walkie-Talkie), attractively laid out on a wall panel by the Signals Research and Development Establishment, as well as the Wireless Set No. 49 and the Reception Set 209, both comparatively recent products. A Golden Arrow Demonstration Section from No. 4 Training Regiment, Catterick Camp, emphasised the world-wide range of Royal Signals responsibilities, while important things like telephones, teleprinters and terminal equipment were laid out and wired up for all to see.

The G.P.O. (North-West Region) packed a most attractive stand with all sorts of gadgets, including a submarine repeater, a showcase of underground cables, various types of amplifiers, and demonstrations of optical twinning in a quartz crystal, fault location by pulse reflection, and sources of radio interference. The Automatic Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., of Strowger Works, Liverpool, also arranged a most interesting array of models, demonstrating the everyday uses of some of their products. A street traffic control demonstration set fascinated the younger ones, and photo telemeting systems, a Strowger step-by-step automatic system, an electronic timing set and a rhythmatic control switch proved of outstanding interest to many people.

Another big draw in the evenings was the Unit's wireless link to the news room of the *Daily Mail* in the centre of Manchester, enabling news items to be transmitted to the Drill Hall and passed over a teleprinter link for display on a news board.

A distinguished visitor to the exhibition after the opening day was the Director of the Territorial Army, Major-General Sir E. C. Robert Mansergh, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., now Military Secretary, who said he was most impressed by what he had seen.

The Corps Band, under Lieutenant J. L. Judd, Director of Music, Royal Signals, came to Manchester for the week and gave a series of military band concerts at factories and cinemas. They also provided a dance band for the Mayor of Stretford's Charity Ball on 22nd April, and had Miss Gwen Catley as the guest artiste at a concert in the Albert Hall on 23rd April. Their help was very much appreciated, and it is hoped that they will be able to come to Manchester again before long.

To sum up, the exhibition undoubtedly did a lot to bring the T.A. to the notice of the public, and elicited many enquiries from intending recruits, many of whom, it is hoped, will make Royal Signals their choice.

---

1. General view of the Exhibition
2. The G.P.O. Exhibit
3. The Divisional Commander chats to Corporal McCormick. On the left is S.S.M. Pask (P.S.I.)
4. With "Jimmy" at the Town Hall, Stretford

   Left to right: Air Vice-Marshal W. A. Bowen-Buscarlet, C.B.E., D.F.C., Vice-Chairman, East Lancashire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, Major-General V. Evelegh, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., G.O.C., 42nd (Lancashire) Infantry Division, T.A., Councillor E. Forbes, J.P., Mayor of Stretford, Major-General Sir E. C. Robert Mansergh, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Military Secretary (then Director of the T.A.), Colonel T. Blatherwick, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., A.D.C., J.P., Chairman, East Lancashire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D., Commander, Royal Signals, Captain D. A. Bond, Adjutant
5. The C.I.G.S. speaking
6. The C.I.G.S. has a word with the men

   Left to right: Councillor E. Forbes, J.P., Mayor of Stretford, the C.I.G.S., Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D., C.R. Signals, Captain D. A. Bond, Adjutant, S.S.M. W. G. Pemberton, P.S.I., Sergeant T. McDonald, Signalman W. Webb

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No. 1 TRAINING REGIMENT

July

The Regiment still occupies Vimy, Kemmel, Loos and Somme Lines in the camp, in spite of numerous plans and counter-plans for accommodation shuffles. Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., Royal Signals, we are still leading Catterick in the sporting world. The athletic team won the Evening League meeting on 5th July by 26½ points, a clear lead over Royal Signals O.C.T.U., who got 223 points. Signalman Froggett has a place in the Corps cricket team and is doing very well.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Neilson, Signalmen Phillips and Wait on being selected for the Army water polo team to play the Otters. They have all put up a splendid performance in the Royal Signals Catterick team, which is largely composed of members of this Regiment.

As is usual month by month, we see the disappearance of old faces among the officers or N.C.O.s. Captain Brunton-Douglas has left us for Civvy Street, so has S.Q.M.S. Pat Ryan, a well-known member of the Corps.

No. 2 Squadron is commanded at the moment by Major M. S. C. Shardlow, M.B.E., Royal Signals, who is a vital and driving force behind Regimental sporting activities (who used the Chief Instructor's wood for a tennis practice alley?). Major Lamb and his half-back, Captain C. Waugh, on the training side, are still turning out line and telegraph mechanics from No. 3 Squadron and are at the moment in the throes of looking after about 200 Infantiers and Signals, the cadre for Gandale Cadet Force and J.T.C. camp.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The highlight of the past month was the annual meeting of the Old Comrades' Association. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess entertained between 60 and 70 ex-members of the Corps from Leeds, Darlington, Central Scotland and Huddersfield during the week-end 26th/27th June.

At a social in the Mess on Sunday, 27th June, many old friendships were renewed and battles from both wars fought over again.

Among the numerous Old Comrades present we were privileged to meet Colonel Roberts, the new general secretary of the Royal Signals Association. Also present were Captain ("Ginger") Adcock, now retired after 33 years' service with the Corps; Captain (Q.M.) Jones, whom many will recall as R.S.M. Jones; and Captain Widgery, both retired with over 30 years' service. Ex-Sergeant (Jack) Dendy, who was a drill instructor in the Depot Battalion between the years 1927 and 1933 was present; his son-in-law, S.S.M. Eley, is still serving with this Regiment.

Congratulations are due on two accounts this month to S.Q.M.S. (Stan) Kendrick on winning the Northern Command Road Walking Championship at Catterick on 8th June over a distance of seven miles—a clear winner by 5½ minutes. S.Q.M.S. Kendrick also entered for the Army Road Walking Championship at Aldershot on 21st June and obtained a very creditable third place.

Among recent arrivals in the Regiment we are pleased to record the presence of R.S.M. ("Badgy") Hopwood, who will be remembered by ex-members of 1st Indian Divisional Signals, 1935-36, for his capabilities as a rough-rider. Other members of the Corps will doubtless remember him as an outstanding P.T.I. in Catterick, *circa* 1931 - 32. Mr. Hopwood now enjoys fourth place in seniority of serving warrant officers of the Corps.

BOYS' SQUADRON. *Sport.* The Boileau Trophy Competition was held on 22nd May in rather unfavourable weather conditions. The individual champion was Boy F. Ashton, of "C" Wing, and the winning Wing was "D" Wing.

Our athletes were very successful in the recent Northern Command Sports, winning all the events, and Boy Seymour, particularly, is to be congratulated on winning three events—the long jump, 100 yards and 220 yards. Later he went on to the Army Championship and was fifth in the final, which was of a very high standard.

In the D'Arcy Hillyard Cricket League we have entered two teams this year, both of which have started well by winning all their outside fixtures to date.

Swimming has been a popular sport and we are hoping to reach a high standard in the sports this year.

Our P.T. display team is now well trained and is eagerly looking for suitable opportunities to display itself. Any offers anywhere within reach of Catterick ?

On the evening of 22nd May 50 boys, 10 members of the Cadre and three officers set out on a stamina test which was to serve as an elimination exercise prior to marching to the site of the summer camp. Wearing F.S.M.O. and carrying blankets, 24 hours rations and arms, they covered 35 miles, including an ascent of Fremington Edge, before returning to Catterick the next evening.

This called for a considerable effort, particularly on the part of younger boys, and the members of the party simply refused to be "eliminated."

Annual Summer Camp. This year's camp was held at Kirkby-in-Furness, Lancashire, during the first fortnight of June.

The weather was far from ideal during most of the camp, but activities included fieldcraft and map-reading exercises, fire demonstrations, battle innoculation, a route march and climb over "The Old Man of Coniston" (2,600 feet), a guard-mounting competition (won by "A" Wing) and visits to various places of interest in Barrow and Millom.

Training. Recently more than 100 boys have taken examinations for the Army 1st Class Certificate of Education, and 31 boys are taking School Certificate examinations. We are eagerly looking forward to receiving the results, and wish all the entrants good luck.

Move to Harrogate. Preparations are now being made for the move of the Squadron to join the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate in September. The future policy for Boys' Squadron is still to be finally decided, but we are hoping that we shall not lose our identity as an individual Unit of the Corps.

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regiments of the S.T.C. are, at the time of writing, labouring under what has become known as a Catterick Summer. There are two main differences between a Catterick Summer and the similar season in other parts of the globe: first, a Catterick Summer usually lasts for twelve months in the year, and, secondly, it is almost indistinguishable from the normal winter. But "Begone dull care"; numerous sports meetings have been wedged in between the showers, the fresh vegetables in the cookhouse bear fruitful witness to the work of the Unit gardeners, and the Saturday morning Regimental Parades are unimpeded by the elements.

No. 2 Training Regiment members of the Signals Catterick team defended, and won, their right to hold the Lady Clifton Robinson Trophy at Middlesbrough. Lance-Corporals Field and Bryant and Signalman Hewitt were the first three home, and Lance-Corporal Tipping won the 100 yards. Numerous local cricket matches have been played, with Lance-Corporal Dally, Signalman Stanley and Signalman Pullen doing very well indeed.

Sergeant "Nick" Carter, the WIRE representative from No. 1 Squadron, apologises for the fact that he has sent in no notes this month. Anyone who doubts that Sergeant Carter has been busily employed should see the new sign outside the Royal Signals Record Office at Reading, which, having executed, he escorted down with all due pomp and circumstance.

At Bisley, Lieutenant Greenway came first in the Signals Methuen Team, and so qualified to shoot in the Army Hundred. From there he qualified for the Army Fifty, and returned to us with the King's Bronze Medal. Congratulations, Mr. Greenway !

Tournaments nearer home have been organised in the Sergeants' Mess, and there is keen competition on the snooker, billiards, table tennis and chess tables. During June the Mess had an outing to Whitby which was enjoyed by all concerned, and members were recently entertained in the Mons Corporals' Mess. That, if even half the reports are true, was an evening which will not soon be forgotten !

The married families, too, have had a social gathering, and their tea party on 8th July was presided over by Mrs. P. G. Goodeve-Docker. There was a very good attendance indeed, and it is to be supposed that the children were all eager to see the results of the toy-making competition. This was won by Lance-Corporal Clements with a toy pram, and the runner-up was Mrs. Hopkins, who had made a doll. The usual excellent refreshments and service were provided by the N.A.A.F.I. staff of Le Cateau, and a most enjoyable afternoon was further added to by a grand draw, which gave each child a prize. This was originally made possible by Captain Snell, whose ingenuity provided three working models.

The next Families' Party is planned for September, and the competition, which is for jam-making, bottled fruits, pickles and similar good things, should ensure a good attendance.

Our Unit Concert Party, the Monstrosities, is now coming to life again and a show is expected from them in the near future.

These notes have been so long in the writing that the sun has at last managed to push through. It is therefore hoped that there will be more news of sport in our next issue.

H.Q. SQUADRON. What is it about us which makes O.C.s stay with us so short a time ? Captain Hull, having recently been away on a course, is now leaving permanently for the Great Open Spaces of civilian life. His work with the Squadron has been much appreciated, and he takes with him all our best wishes for the future. Our new O.C. is no stranger, and we welcome Captain Weedon, formerly Assistant Adjutant, to his new appointment.

Lance-Corporal Field has upheld the name of the Squadron in the field of sport, coming fourth in the three miles in the Army Championships and in the Inter-Services Athletic Championships, and Signalman Stanley has been playing cricket for the Corps and for Catterick District. Our tug-o'-war team, ably anchored by Sergeant "Busty" Thomas (of the A.C.C.), pulled its way to the right to represent the Regiment in the Catterick District Inter-Unit Championships.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Since our last notes we have welcomed the arrival of a new officer in Second-Lieutenant Ashworth. He will be an asset to the Unit in general as well as to the Squadron, as he is a Corps hockey player and also a Corps runner. We extend to him our best wishes for a happy stay in the Squadron.

During the last few days Corporals Blakemore, Brock, Snow, Hill and Leach have been seen on the square in the evenings doing their best for the Squadron on the Unit Drill Course. The drill is being supervised by the S.S.M. and the Squadron Pay Clerk, who is, by the way, Sergeant "Bomber" Harris.

Demob and pre-release courses still take heavy toll of the Cadre, and the latest member to go was Signalman Lee, of the Squadron Office, who was almost as well known as the O.C. himself. We wish him luck in his new venture.

The only sporting activity of note was the fine performance of Lance-Corporal Bryant in the Army Championships at Aldershot, where he won the mile, and so qualified to run in the A.A.A. sports at the final Olympic Trials. Signalman Tipping, of this Squadron, was also at Aldershot as the sprint entrant from Northern Command, but was unfortunately unplaced in both the 100 and 220 yards finals.

No. 3 SQUADRON. We have been dealt a hard blow through releases, as Lance-Corporal Lawrence, Lance-Corporal Shearman and Signalman Hewitt have all left us on their return to civil life. These three stalwarts have represented the Unit in the finals of the Army Cross Country Running Championship and also the Army Athletic Championship. To "these three," thanks from us all, and the best of luck ! No doubt, like the famous Joe Cottrell, you will be the subject of barrack room chatter for years to come.

Captain Holliday has only been with us a short while, yet during his stay he has become well known and much liked. Alas, he has now slipped quietly away to the School of Signals. Good luck to you from us all, sir.

During the month of June the Unit held a hurried Sports Day. Twice had we been put off by a frowning sky, and when the chance came it was swiftly taken. Yet the S.S.M. did not seem to be bothered; the certainties played their best, as usual, and the unknown quantities came into the open and let their lights shine, with the result that we were the winners of the day—by just two points !

At the Northern Command Sports Meeting of the 7th-8th June the Squadron was well to the front in the seven-mile road walk, Captain Higgins finishing third and Sergeant Williams eighth—first and second for the Regiment. Captain Higgins also finished up well in the Army Championship as Number 8.

After 28 years' continuous service, R.S.M. Jock Adams thought hard about signing on again, but (the soldier in him coming to the fore) he decided to go out and face the rigours of Civvy Street. Those who knew him wish him all the best!

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

June

The reorganising of this Regiment to cope with the increased number of trainees is still proceeding. Nos. 3 and 4 Squadrons have joined forces and moved to Aisne Lines, where they will deal with the later stages of O.W.L. training.

No. 1 Squadron, who train the O.S.T.s, are in the process of returning from Basra Lines to join No. 2 Squadron in the Sandhurst Block, where Regimental H.Q. remains. H.Q. Squadron have returned to the "Militia Huts" (locally known as the "Spider"), which have been converted to Montgomery type cubicles. They await the installation of bedside lamps to complete the picture.

With the start of general demob, the Regiment has lost two very well-known figures in Major ("Martin") Harvey, M.B.E., and Captain ("Skipper") Rowe.

Major Harvey will be well known to old and new members of the Corps, having served since 1920. During his last period of service he has been P.R.I. and Welfare Officer,

supervising the amenities of some hundreds of trainees who have passed through this Regiment.

Captain Rowe, having served for 22 years with the Corps, will be especially well known, and his "comfortable figure" will be missed in No. 3 Squadron, which he has commanded for almost a year.

We have also lost Major B. J. Milnes, who for the short time he was with us proved a very useful deputy for P.R.I. and O.C. H.Q. Squadron.

Our best wishes go with these officers for their success in Civvy Street. We may see you at the next Old Comrades' meeting !

Major R. Scrase has arrived and is taking the reins of No. 2 Squadron in his hands.

In the sports field there is a much quieter atmosphere than during the winter season, but this does not mean nothing is happening.

The cricket team have played 3 matches, won 2, lost 1, and 1 abandoned.

The S.T.C. Inter-Regiment Athletics League is keeping us on our toes to find new talent to replace losses due to Sections passing out. The Regiment were holding second place in the league, but after the last meeting, when our team was much weakened, we must have fallen back.

In the Royal Signals Officers' Lawn Tennis Competition, Major B. J. Milnes and Captain C. A. Smith entered for the doubles and won the event. Ex-India wallahs will remember "Smudger's" previous successes. He can still wield a racket, you see.

Over 400 officers and men of the Regiment recently gave blood to the National Blood Transfusion Service; this is reported as a record for any Unit.

Obituary. It is with deepest regret we record the sudden death at Catterick Military Hospital on 6th July, 1948, of 2319026 S.Q.M.S. J. H. Butterworth.

S.Q.M.S. Butterworth was an extremely popular personality in the Regiment, and one in whom his superiors could place the utmost confidence. His going is a sad loss and one which the Regiment can ill afford.

The funeral, which took place with full military honours at Hornby Church, was attended by the Commanding Officer and representatives of all ranks of the Regiment.

No. 5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Lieutenant-Colonel L. T. Shawcross, O.B.E., has just arrived from Austria to take command of the unit. We extend a hearty welcome to him and to Mrs. Shawcross.

The Unit has just moved to a new location in Barnard Castle, which is a considerable improvement on our old camp at Tholthorpe. In addition, the camp is only a few minutes' walk from the town. Barnard Castle is one of Yorkshire's beauty spots, and according to the local guide book, "it affects all classes, so that once having visited Barnard Castle they return again and again." It is also apparently "a place to dream in." Neither of these statements seems to be particularly true as far as members of this unit are concerned.

Three well-known personalities have left us this last month. Major D. S. Waldron, who joined up just after the 1914-18 war, when recruits were recruits, and who has served in most Signal Units in that time, has been demobbed. When last heard of he was trying to enter the National Health Service.

Captain C. C. Tucker is another long service type to be demobbed. He has moved no further away than Catterick Camp to live, where he is running a taxi service.

S.Q.M.S. S. C. Clay, who has had about 30 years' service, is the third. He is not leaving us, however, as he is staying on as civilian caterer in the Sergeants' Mess.

We wish them all the best of luck in civilian life.

In the world of sport, the Unit is severely handicapped by the lack of playing fields. There are none at all in the area, as the town is built on the slopes of very steep hills. The result is that our cricket and athletic teams do not get much practice and have not been able to compete successfully with better-placed Units. However, our football team was more successful last season, which found the Regiment engaged in four competitions—the Army Cup, the Northern Command and Catterick District Challenge Cups, and the Catterick District League. Three of the four trophies now adorn the Officers' Mess, and but for misfortune the Army Cup might well have been included. Early in the season 6th Battalion R.A.O.C., Chilwell, the 1946-47 Northern Command champions, put paid to our account in the Army Cup at Nottingham by the odd goal in five. This reverse was decisively avenged when we met them in the Northern Command Cup Final towards the end of the season.

Details of the various competitions are as follows:

(i) CATTERICK DISTRICT LEAGUE, DIVISION I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals F.	Goals A.	Pts.	Psn.
5 T.R. Royal Signals	22	19	2	1	98	26	39	1

(ii) CATTERICK DISTRICT CHALLENGE CUP, FINAL

5 T.R. Royal Signals 7, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 1

(iii) NORTHERN COMMAND CHALLENGE CUP

Beat: 14/20 Hussars	5—1	School of Signals	2—1
2 T.R. Royal Signals	7—1	3 T.R. Royal Signals	6—5
1 T.R. Royal Signals	5—1	6 Bn. R.A.O.C.	9—1

The most exciting game of the tournament was the semi-final, in which our opponents were old rivals, No. 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals. At half-time the score was 4—2 in their favour and with but a few miuutes left for play they led 4—3. On time we scored the equaliser.

In the opening stages of the first half of extra time, No. 3 Training Regiment again took the lead but by half-time the score was 5—5. Five minutes before the end we took the lead for the first time and the match was ours.

Personnel taking part during the season were: Major J. G. Oliver, O.B.E., Royal Signals, Sergeant R. Shorrocks, Corporal K. Bower (Army, Northern Command, Corps and Darlington F.C.), Lance-Corporal Broadbent (Bradford F.C.), Lance-Corporal R. Smith (Northern Command), Lance-Corporal J. Newton (Corps, Hartlepool F.C., Northern Command), Lance-Corporal M. Shutt, Signalman R. Jessop, Signalman L. Whelan-Ward (N.C. Amateur), Signalman R. Warhurst, Lance-Corporal W. Mitchell (Grantham United F.C.), Signalman D. Evans (Tottenham Hotspurs), Signalman T. Herberts, Corporal R. Dowdney, Signalman K. Rudge (N.C., Walsall F.C.), Signalman A. Robinson (Whitby United F.C.), Driver J. Warhurst (Sheffield United F.C.), Signalman J. Warner (Peterborough United F.C.).

On the whole, a most successful season and the first in which a Royal Signals eleven has won the Northern Command Challenge Cup.

The Signals Display Team also belongs to this Unit, though we do not see much of them as they spend their time touring the countryside.

"The motor cyclists of the Royal Corps of Signals are brilliant in the modern manner. The speed and nerve of their evolutions carried a thrill in every second." Thus spake the *Sunday Times* when commenting on the show given by the 1948 Display Team of the Royal Tournament, held at Olympia, London, during the period 10th-26th June, 1948.

The truth behind this comment will more than be upheld by those of us who witnessed those eleven exciting, thrill-packed minutes.

Misfortune dogged our ladder king when at the close of the first week he managed to trap himself between the bike and the arena wall during a practice. A trip to hospital resulted, due to a fractured foot. Not to be outdone, he arrived back again within a couple of days plus plaster and

crutches but wearing a huge grin, to don a suit of overalls and carry on working on the maintenance side. Nice work, "Duke" ! But such is the spirit of all the team and we have a good reason to feel proud of them. So Display Team, a wish to every success for the rest of your outside shows and congratulations on the best show ever at Olympia, 1948.

P.S. Can the Navy cook, too, Johnnie ?

ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

There were three pass off parades during June. Course 199 passed off on 5th June, the salute being taken by the Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Gardiner. The Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet R. F. B. Speed.

On 12th June Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Commandant School of Signals, took the salute when Course 200 passed off. Officer-Cadet J. B. Clarke received the Commandant's cane.

When Course 201 passed off the salute was taken by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant S.T.C. The Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet O. Tynan.

The following are welcomed into the unit: Captain R. P. D. Painter, Sergeants W. Hall and D. M. Shaw. The latter is attached to the unit from the R.A.E.C., and is now busily employed in guiding the unit through the torturous approaches to the coveted Forces Preliminary Certificate.

In perfect weather, the wedding of Miss Elizabeth Annesley, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. F. D. Annesley, to Captain James Sylvester-Bradley, of Royal Signals O.C.T.U., took place on 12th June at St. Martin's Church. Officers formed a guard of honour and the reception was held at the Officers' Club.

The happy couple have our best wishes for their future happiness. We extend to Mrs. Sylvester-Bradley a hearty welcome into the unit.

The final score of the Garrison Miniature Rifle Shoot, 1947-48, has been published. Our team finished top of the league with a possible of 44 points, a clear lead of 10 points ahead of the runners-up, No. 2 Training Regiment.

In the Northern Command Individual Athletic Championships, held at the Stadium on 8th-9th June, Second-Lieutenant J. H. Bamford was first in the 220 yards sprint. His time for this race was 23.4 secs. He was also runner-up in the 440 yards, whilst Second-Lieutenant P. E. Ashworth was runner-up in the 880 yards event.

The Mountaineering Club had four meets during June, all of which were held at Langdale. With the exception of the second week-end, when the weather was glorious, the month of June was far from being of the "flaming" variety. The frequent soaking that the members received speaks well for their hardiness and enthusiasm. Much useful experience was gained in climbing wet rocks. An attempt on Scafell had to be abandoned when visibility closed down to about 20 yards. The use of the compass, however, enabled the party to return safely to base.

The second round of the Catterick District and Northern Command Knock-out Cricket Competition between ourselves and No. 2 Training Regiment was played on the Marne Ground, with our team winning by 96 runs.

The match opened on 31st May and by the time stumps were drawn our side had scored 152 runs, Officer-Cadet J. Hall and Second-Lieutenant G. Davies being the two leading scorers with 65 and 32 runs respectively. Lance-Corporal Brophy, of No. 2 Training Regiment, bowled well, taking 5 wickets for 30 runs.

Owing to the weather, No. 2 Training Regiment could not bat until 7th June, when on a very wet wicket they were all out for 56 runs. Officer-Cadets Couch and J. Hall and Signalman Burns were in good bowling form, Burns taking 4 wickets for 18 runs.

Wensleydale is noted both for its scenery and its cheese. The dale takes its name from the charming village of Wensley. On 5th June we were at home to Wensley C.C. The wicket was uncertain and our visitors only managed to knock up 34 runs. The result of the match was not in doubt at all, or was it ? Our team could only reply with a total of 27 runs.

Wensleydale is now noted not only for its scenery and its cheese, but also for its devastating bowlers.

In the Royal Signals, Catterick, Officers' Tennis Tournament, held during June at the Officers' Club, the Unit was well represented by seven entries. Of these, Major G. S. K. Maydon partnered by Captain N. C. Cleveley were beaten in the doubles final by Major Mills and Captain C. A. Smith. Major Maydon won the singles final by defeating Major E. N. L. Brown.

Major Maydon has been selected to play for the Corps against the Royal Engineers, the match taking place during July.

Swimming. Swimming has been popular since April, when the local bath opened and training was given its first test of the season with a Unit Gala on Wednesday, 30th June. Technical Squadron and H.Q. Squadron combined forces against Officer Training Squadron, and enthusiasm ran high when the concluding water polo match decided that Technical Squadron and H.Q. Squadron were the winners of the gala by one point.

The results of the events were:

50 yds. Free Style.—1, Second Lieutenant Clark; 2, Captain Ashlin. 50 yds. Back Stroke.—1, Cadet Pendle; 2, S.Q.M.S. Parry. 50 yds. Breast Stroke.—1, Captain Brabham; 2, Sergeant Mark (R.E.M.E.). Plunge.—1, Cadet Barker; 2, Cadet Couch. Diving.—1, S.Q.M.S. Parry; 2, Lance-Corporal Harper. Relay.—Won by Officer Training Squadron. Water Polo.—Won by Technical and H.Q. Squadron, 3 goals to 2.

Captain Ashlin, Second-Lieutenant Edwards and Corporal Allen play regularly with the Royal Signals team in the North-Eastern Counties Water Polo League and were with the team on its recent victorious tour at Aldershot.

No. 4 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

Here is the 4th A.A. Group Signal Squadron calling again. Things are quiet once more after our series of "visits" and the Squadron has settled down to work and training.

Our linemen, a few at a time, are spending a month with the local G.P.O. engineers. They are all enjoying it and appear to be learning quite a lot of useful tips. At present the linemen present in the Squadron are out wiring up the Manchester Stadium for the 4th A.A. Group Tattoo, which is being held next week. We are sending a 3-ton lorry and trailers complete for show purposes. They both look grand and a good advertisement for Royal Signals.

We are carrying out preliminary tests with a view to opening wireless links with A.A. Command and the other A.A. Groups. We have a regular 22-set link with Brigades which is working well, the only shortage being operators (our prayer is for a few of the pre-war operator signals). We shall soon be trying out 53 Sets and hope to maintain 24-hour communication with them. This wireless communication will be a great help on our "telephoneless days." These telephoneless days are a new innovation here. They certainly make us realise that we rely too much on the telephone, though it is rather annoying to pick up the phone to hear, "Sorry, sir, telephoneless day."

Thanks to the P.R.I., the barrack rooms have had a new

coat of paint. Our " Q " and his worthy staff of painters got going, and the barrack rooms are now fit for " soldiers " to live in. The M.T. Officer, seeing all this new paint, immediately rolled up his sleeves, woke up the draughtsman and got cracking on the vehicles. If they turn out as good as the barrack rooms everyone will be satisfied.

Barrack " life " is gradually settling down to the old pre-war ideas and everybody is the better for it. P.T. on three mornings of the week, drill twice, Wednesday afternoon sports, and education one whole morning a week.

9th A.A. BRIGADE, TOWYN. This Troop has now settled down in its new home in the wilds of North Wales, in a wonderful situation right on the coast, and if ever the weather permits, plenty of bathing will be the order of the day.

The faces of the Troop keep changing owing to releases, etc., but the work goes on just the same and our new " faces " seem to settle down very quickly.

So much for 4th A.A. Group Signals for this month. More about our doings and current affairs next month. Cheerio.

STAPOO

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

August

Ex-members of this Unit will be disappointed this month at the paucity of news from the Frozen North, but such is more or less the case. It is not that an iron curtain of security has been blanketed over us; we just haven't got much to say.

Our main worry this month has been the weather. Granted that the War Office policy is that Signals south of the Border should be run by Scots, whilst north of the Border by anyone except Scots. But when one has a Manchester Adjutant it would be much appreciated by all nationalities if he would kindly leave his weather, " adapted for cotton spinning only," behind him. Over the Whitsun period we had marvellous weather, and our cricket team were just getting into their stride, but ever since then it has poured with rain and, due to lack of net practice, what few games we have played have not shown our cricketers off at their best.

We welcome Alan Leith into our midst as the new Wireless Officer at Fairmilehead, taking over from Eric Fox, who has gone to give a helping hand at the Castle. Even if we can't have Scots officers posted to our dwindling community, at least we get Englishmen with appropriate surnames !

As is usual at this time of year, our main job this month is the running of Cadet camps at Gailes in Ayrshire and at Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire. That well-known Scoutmaster Captain John Rowlands is in charge of the Signals element at these two camps and, according to the latest " setups " is putting the scholastic wonders of Scotland well and truly through their paces.

It is with regret that we say farewell to Lieutenant Douglas Taylor, who has exchanged his uniform for a demob suit, but is carrying on living in Glasgow, where he was O.C. Lowland District Signal Detachment. We wish him every success during his sojourn at the University.

There being no more reports to hand from the Unit subscribers, we now hand you over to the A.T.S. element of the Unit.

It is some time now since we have appeared in the pages of THE WIRE and many of our old friends have left the Regiment and new faces taken their places. We are pleased to welcome C.S.M. Thomas (Cipher), C.S.M. Coghlan (A.T.S.) and Sergeant Shreeve (A.T.S.) to swell the ranks of the Sergeants' Mess. By the sounds of mirth coming from the Sergeants' Mess lately, all seem to have settled down happily.

We were sorry to see Captain Foard and Second-Lieutenant Taylor pack their bags and leave for Civvy Street. We welcome back Subaltern Firbank from six weeks' attachment to Northern Command and Subaltern Ferguson from eight weeks' Signal Course at Catterick. She will now be able to put her theory to the test, as she has taken over as D.S.O. at Command.

We wonder what is on the air in Southern Ireland ! Our Quartermistress, Subaltern Parkes, has returned from leave with a brand new engagement ring on the third finger of her left hand.

In spite of a very full training programme, sport in the Unit goes ahead. Our mixed basketball on Wednesday afternoons is especially popular. A.T.S. Privates Hampshire, Munro and Speed represented the Unit at the Command Sports and Private Munro came third in the 100 yards flat race. She was also given a place in the team entered for the Command Inter-Services Sports.

A highlight of recent months at Broomfield was the marriage of Driver Bullivant and A.T.S. Private Thom. The reception was held at the N.A.A.F.I. at Broomfield Camp and the N.A.A.F.I. staff and various A.T.S. of the Unit certainly excelled themselves. Everything went with a swing, especially the impromptu solos by both A.T.S. and Royal Signals.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

HEADQUARTERS. *Honours and Awards.* All ranks were very pleased to see that Mr. R. H. Tankins, a civilian auto fitter employed in the Salisbury Plain F.S.S. Troop, figured in the King's Birthday Honours List, 1948, in which he was awarded the B.E.M. for meritorious service.

Mr. Tankins has served continuously with Royal Signals in Southern Command since January, 1942. He has been intimately connected with the installation and maintenance of automatic telephones and exchanges in the Salisbury, Larkhill, Bulford and Tidworth areas.

All ranks of the Regiment congratulate Mr. Tankins on his hard-earned and well-deserved award.

Appointments. All ranks congratulate the C.S.O., Southern Command (Brigadier W. A. Scott, C.B.E.), on being nominated as the future Director of Signals in succession to Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O. It is understood that Brigadier Scott will assume this appointment next December, when he will take with him the best wishes of all ranks in the Regiment.

Royal Tournament, 1948. The Commanding Officer arranged for some of the Regiment to visit London to see the 1948 Royal Tournament. Owing to our commitments we had to make two trips; 52 made the journey on 22nd June and 64 on Friday, 25th June. On both dates we were able to convey officers, warrant officers, sergeants, N.C.O.s and men, also all ranks of the A.T.S. from Regimental Headquarters, Command H.Q. Troop, C.S.O.'s Staff and the Bulford Troops. Oh yes, also one from Cheltenham.

The warrant officers and sergeants made quite an outing of it; altogether 31 (including wives and friends) saw the show. R.S.M. Woods and S.Q.M.S. Beale are under instruction, " How to find your way around London." Had it not been for a kindly old lady intervening at Putney they would have still been travelling. Similarly I hear the same warrant officer nearly missed the bus home—at 7 p.m. Wrong bus this time.

The weather was kind, in fact everyone seemed very happy,

(*continued on page 230*)

A FINE RECORD OF SERVICE

We have extracted the following photographs and record of service of those who must be the two oldest serving members of the Corps from the notes of the Aldershot F.S.S. Troop of the Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment. There must be few still serving who have such a record.

Temporary Lance-Sergeant G. Tibble

Present age 70 years.

Enlisted R.E.s 19th December, 1896.

Discharged to pension 6th May, 1919.

Enlisted Royal Signals (S.R.) 15th September, 1939.

Still serving. Total service to date 31 years.

Medals, Honours, etc.

B.E.M. D.C.M. Queen's South African Medal, five clasps. King's South African Medal. 1914 Star. British War Medal, 1914-18. Victory Medal, 1914-18. Defence Medal, 1939-45. War Medal, 1939-45. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Medaille Militaire. Mentioned in despatches twice.

Any challengers to beat this ?

Our second oldest soldier still serving with this Troop is:

Temporary Lance-Sergeant Mepham (Charlie)

Ex-R.S.M., Royal Signals

Present age 68 years.

Enlisted R.E.s 1899.

Discharged to pension 15th May, 1926.

Enlisted Royal Signals (S.R.) 28th September, 1939.

Still serving. Total service to date 36 years.

Medals, Honours, etc.

Queen's South Africa, 1901-2. 1914 Star. British War Medal, 1914-18. Victory Medal. Defence Medal, 1939-45. War Medal, 1939-45. Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Medaille Militaire. Mentioned in despatches twice, 1914-18 war.

Home Stations (*continued from page 228*)

and the lemonade taken at the "Half-Way House" proved to be a very stimulating beverage and some of the "birds" have beautiful voices too. "Canaries sometimes sing"—these "warbled" or "gargled," we don't know which. Only one person was seen to use a very large handkerchief; whether it was "tears of joy" or not was at first unknown. Later it turned out to be one A.T.S. private saying good-bye to another—her joining-up friend, who had spent her last day with the Troop at the Tournament before going on to Austria. Was it, Steve !

Trials and Tribulations of No. 1 Squadron. More grey hairs for the O.C. "Squadron's greatest wit." G.D. man has important letter on mechanical digger to file. Two days later O.C. has to refer to same. After long search by clerks, and mopping of O.C.'s brow, the G.D. man appears. Yes, he had filed it away, but where he cannot remember; then with a beam of delight he remembers he put it in the "Discipline" file. G.D. man explains, "I thought the digger was the guard room, so I filed the letter in the Discipline file."

ALDERSHOT F.S.S. TROOP. By the time these notes appear in print our activities in preparing telecommunications for the Olympic riding events will have ceased—we hope. To assist this small Troop we welcome Sergeant Turner and his merry "cherry-hatted" boys from 6th Airborne Divisional Signals, and Corporal Parker with his "toughs" from 146 Line Troop.

Sergeant Jimmy Emblem has just left our "Op" Troop for final release from the Forces. We wish him and Mrs. Jimmy the very best of luck in Civvy Street.

PORTSMOUTH, I.O.W. AND PORTLAND TROOPS. Since last we submitted notes, our stock of military personnel has been sadly depleted and the work has increased. With Group 72 we bade fond farewell to Lance-Corporal "Jock" Hunter, of I.O.W. fame, and Signalmen Cope, Collins and Barwick, three trusty linemen. We hope they will find the great Goddess Civilian a beneficent deity.

The Troops are leading a very quiet and respectable life, with nothing more exciting than an occasional visit to the Southsea Roller Skating Rink, where drivers have found yet more restrictions in the way of speeds.

The beauties of the I.O.W. are now enjoyed by what must be the largest Troop in Signals—"The Three Musketeers," namely Signalmen Pardoe, Hulme and Wallace.

The Portland Troop take rather a dim view of being left out of THE WIRE notes for March, but are endeavouring to capture a little limelight this time. Of course, with the present rate of demob we are rapidly dwindling almost to the point of extinction, but not quite.

We are still going ahead with the job of work in spite of minor staff difficulties, Corporal Slater ("Mind my bike") being very happy in his new capacity as i/c Lulworth Detachment, and Lance-Corporal Smith chasing cable pairs up and down Bovington Camp.

S.Q.M.S. Burch (Acting Foreman of Signals) at Troops H.Q. in the wilds of Weymouth, is thinking of going on tour with a one-man band on his return to Civvy Street, having had a lot of experience since joining the Troop carrying out the duties of F.O.S., clerk, storeman, jointer and relief driver, and even then finding time for the odd pint in the evening. The Troop are sorry to lose Lance-Corporal Rigby, who has left us for bigger things with Portsmouth Troop.

It is also rumoured that a budding romance collapsed with his departure.

A photograph taken at the dance on the 13th May at Salisbury, organised by Royal Signals, Southern Command and the Salisbury branch of the Royal Signals Association. It was unfortunately crowded out of the July issue, but is published now. Their many friends will recognise Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Director of Signals, and his successor-designate, Brigadier W. A. Scott.

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

During the month we were honoured by a visit to Derby of the Royal Signals Display Team and further honoured because our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Adams, was asked to take the salute. The show was an impressive one and must have done a great deal to help recruiting in this area.

A visit was arranged to the offices and works of the *Derby Evening Telegraph* by our Educational Staff. It was most interesting and the people who attended were most appreciative of the arrangements.

Dobson and Young, the famous broadcasters of musical appreciation, visited the unit and were very well received by an audience who had obviously attended under the impression that anything was better than gardening and who left wishing that further visits could be arranged. At present we are busily engaged in arranging R.A. displays in Leeds and Sheffield areas. A number of our male personnel have already departed for the three weeks' tour and in a few more days the A.T.S., under Staff-Sergeant Buckle, who has already experienced an English summer under canvas, will also say good-bye. We wish them a good time and no more bad weather.

The C.O. has made several journeys recently, which have caused the inevitable rumours that we are moving, and to date he has been reported to be viewing camps in all the main towns and villages from Blackpool to Catterick.

Arrivals. We extend a hearty welcome to the following: Junior Commander Stevenson, Lieutenant Barber, Second-Lieutenant Green and Second-Lieutenant Lepper.

Marriages. Congratulations to Private Jepson, who is shortly to marry an ex-member of this unit, Corporal Hare.

Sport. The soccer season closed with a final game against R.E.M.E., Castle Donnington, and ended in another defeat by 4 goals to nil.

After numerous hours at the practice nets our cricket team has had varying successes and failures, but fine performances have been achieved by Sergeant R. A. C. Drake, who heads the batting list, and some remarkably good bowling by W.O.II F. Pavey, who twice this season has taken 4 wickets for 5 runs.

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

General. The G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Frank Simpson, inspected the Signal Office in Command H.Q. and Blacon Camp on the 30th. The General and his A.D.C. and the C.S.O. all stayed to lunch in the Officers' Mess. Brigadier Bowen, the C.S.O., has most unfortunately pulled a tendon in his leg and is now only able to move about on crutches. We all wish him a very speedy recovery.

Some T.A. Units will be sharing the joys (?) of Blacon Camp with us during the next few weeks, and the first, 22 Corps Signals, from Liverpool, has arrived. From all the signs it would seem that although they may be numerically inferior, the post-war T.A. is in no way behind the pre-war T.A. in making itself at home when in camp—particularly in the evenings.

Departures. A number of the old stalwarts among the officers have now left for civilian life: Captain "Ivor" Cox, the Adjutant, *and* "Tiger" (the orderlies can now ride their bicycles in safety!), Captain Butler (Milford Haven), Captain Maxwell (Shrewsbury) and Captain West (Preston). The District Troops are now under the direct command of the S.O., Royal Signals, at District H.Q.

Sport. Major Sawers has been very busy trying to build up a cricket team in the camp. After a number of changes, he now has a reasonable number of players to call upon. Our star player, however, is still S.S.M. Dawson, P.S.I. to 62 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A.

No. 3 SQUADRON. The main activity during June has been the formation and first tour of our Mobile Demonstration Team for J.T.C. and A.C.F. camps. The demonstration consists of three technical vehicles, an A.C.V. H.P. (6 x 6), a T.E.V. (Div.) and an L.C.V. (H.P.), together with a collection of modern equipment such as wireless sets Nos. 62, 31 and 88, teleprinters and a wire recorder. The demonstration is normally set up in the open in a hollow square and the cadets pass from one stand to the next in organised parties of from 10 to 15. One of the biggest attractions is the wire recorder demonstrated by Lance-Corporal Long, who has now recorded such famous voices as those of the Secretary of State for War and the G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command.

The team has so far visited camps at Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, on 24th June, and at Stanley Park, Blackpool, on 25th June. This latter camp is extremely popular with the members of the team, but hard on their pockets.

The team is at present commanded by W.O.II R. G. Mitchell, ably assisted by 16 other ranks. Their programme during July and August will take them throughout Wales and the Midlands.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

Quite a few changes have taken place during the month; releases have continued merrily on, bringing joy to the hearts of the "group happy brigade," who zealously watch the calendar and begin to chase the pay bloke, documents clerk and various other seemingly unresponsive individuals about a month before they are due to drop their rank and become just plain "Mr." Most notable amongst our recent losses was one Corporal Jarvis, a well-known figure to ex-members of the Squadron both as a member of the football team and the cricket eleven; his support will be sadly missed; we wish him and all who went with him success in civilian life.

Several old faces have vanished from the cheerful band of the A.T.S. Private Thelma Reeves has left the toil of dealing with Part I orders to look after her husband, and Corporal Margaret Drake and Private Jean Hubbard prefer being housewives to dealing with "Pips" and "O Pips" in the Signal Office. The best of luck to them all in their new trend of life.

Corporal Holland has left us for the home of all good Cipher Operators, H.G., where he will become a Corps tradesman; we wish him success on his course and a good Unit at the end of it.

The very popular whist drives having been cancelled for the summer months, have created a gap in our entertainment programme, but a Unit dance, run during the month, was well supported and proved a great success, congratulations and thanks going to the Entertainments Officer and his voluntary staff, who made this possible by the work they put into decorating the gymnasium. Golf is still news, there being two competitions running at the present time, two-ball and four-ball. Corporal Biles, our astute pay bloke, was unlucky in the first round of the two-ball competition

in being knocked out at the last hole, but our hopes are still high regarding the winner of the four-ball competition.

The Squadron were challenged by Camp Staff H.Q. N.I.D. to a game of cricket during the month, H.Q. proving the better team by eight runs, but there will be another day, when we shall be able to field our full team.

Gone are the days when cricket was considered an "all men's" game; the A.T.S. of the Squadron are seen every night practising at the nets, and some can give quite a good account of themselves. Injuries, of which there have been plenty, don't seem to deter them in any way. Corporal McNeill placed herself at the receiving end of a ball and came off worst.

We extend a hearty greeting to all newcomers, both A.T.S. and military, who have joined us during the last month. May their stay be long and happy. A special greeting goes to Signalman Rush, clerk, a trade which was thought to have become extinct; if he is by nature, as he is by name, maybe the O.R.S. can use his hair restorer to a good purpose.

And so for the present, good station, everybody.

J.D.

* * *

Love

He seized me by my slender neck,
I could not shout nor scream,
He dragged me to his dingy room,
Where we could not be seen.
He tore aside my flimsy wrap
And gazed upon my form,
For he was tired, hot and damp,
And I was feeling warm.
His feverish lips he pressed to mine,
I gave of every drop;
He drained me of my very soul,
I could not make him stop.
He made me what I am today,
That's why you see me here,
An empty bottle thrown away
That once was full of beer.

* * *

Begone! Dull Care!

In response to numerous inquiries, we publish the following particulars of the Royal Signals Corps March Record:

The Royal Signals March, recorded by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals — Musical Director, Mr. R. R. Ricketts—on H.M.V. single-sided 10in. private record.

Obtainable from the Mess Secretary, Royal Signals H.Q. Mess, Messines Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. Price 3/6, including postage.

The Mess Secretary regrets that he is unable to provide packing material, so intending purchasers are requested to forward suitable packing material with a P.O. or cheque to the value of 3/6.

The available stock is about seventy records.

* * *

Junior Training Corps/Army Cadet Force

Readers of THE WIRE will be interested to know that there are some 300 Units of the Junior Training Corps and Army Cadet Force that have "Signal" Platoons.

The Editor will gladly publish an article by a serving member of the Corps on the work of one or other of these Signal Platoons.

British Army of the Rhine

CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER'S BRANCH

Headquarters, B.A.O.R.

In the June, 1948, copy of THE WIRE we noted what was thought to be the first post-war contribution to be submitted by a Signals Staff Branch (Chief Air Formation Officer's Branch, Singapore). To be correct, it was probably the first article, but *not* the first contribution. We of S.X. Branch H.Q., B.A.O.R. would like to submit our claim as the first contributors from the staff, which consisted of a photograph of this—not unprepossessing—branch, in the May, 1948, issue of THE WIRE.

Anyway, we don't want to "split hairs" and would like to follow the article by C.A.F.S.O.'s Branch, Singapore, with one of our own.

The clerical staff are too numerous to mention in full, but the team is ably led by W.O.II Homer, and well backed up by Sergeant Osborne. Mention must also be made of the P.A. to the C.S.O., W.O.I Partridge, who is also i/c telephone directories. Mr. Partridge, who has been here nearly two years, is leaving shortly for a new appointment in the U.K.

During the last few months we have had a few changes, both in officers and other ranks, mainly due to demob, and it is always with a sad heart (and often an aching head !) that we wave farewell at Bad Oeynhausen station to the home-going warriors who have finished their Army careers as "pen-pushers."

Notable amongst the latest to leave has been Captain Jerry Madden, M.B.E., who excelled in writing revues for the Mercury Theatre. His last one, "Spring Shift," was greatly appreciated by H.R.H. The Princess Royal during her recent visit to B.A.O.R. Captain Joe Gibson is another whose loss we consider irreplacable.

It was with regrets that we recently said "Good-bye" to our C.S.O., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., who after two years in B.A.O.R. has left to take up a fresh appointment in the U.K. We should like to wish him the very best of luck in his new job, and hope he enjoyed the little send-off his branch gave him, although we realise it was only a "spot in the ocean" compared with the send-offs he received from the remainder of Rhine Army.

We are fortunate in having Colonel A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., as our present acting C.S.O.

Whilst on the subject of personalities, mention must be made of Captain R. V. Pearce, M.B.E., who after 34 years' service left what he considered to be the finest job for any man in order to settle as a civilian in Canada. As Captain Pearce said in one of his many brilliant orations just before leaving, "It's a sad heart that beats beneath this dirty shirt," and it was with equally sad hearts that we said "Good-bye" to a fine old soldier.

S.X. Branch is still situated in the Deutsche Bank, on the corner of Kloster and Porta Strasse, and we are fortunate in having the best billets in Bad Oeynhausen, next door to the Branch. There is no lack of entertainment as there are a couple of cinemas, two theatres and quite a number of clubs. There are also ample facilities for tennis, swimming, cycling, fishing and cricket, as well as provisions to carry on numerous hobbies. The Royal Army Education Corps are most enterprising and helpful, providing several useful courses.

Recently we had a Branch cricket match, which consisted mainly of the Tels boys *versus* the S.D. side of the house. Although the match didn't prove to the spectators that we had any likely Bradmans, it did impress them with the good spirit that exists in the Branch, be it in cricket, table tennis, golf, swimming, or even work !

PERSY

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Hamburg

The passing of June has been accompanied by many "not so polite" remarks on summer weather, for this year the term "English Summer" is particularly applicable. However, fortunately for the cricketers, it has been a month of bright intervals. Although no Unit team has been formed, inter-troop games have been very frequent. So far M.T. Troop appear to hold the lead against all comers.

During the month one Unit representative, Major E. S. Whitaker, played for a B.A.O.R. eleven, opponents being teams from Hamburg District, Hanover District and Rhine Army. A very happy result of one win, one loss and a draw was achieved by the B.A.O.R. Team.

At the Hamburg District Athletics Meeting in June the Unit was represented by Lieutenants Gordon and Nottingham and Signalmen Brookstein and Tullett. Lieutenant Gordon obtained third place in the 100m. and 200m. events and Signalman Tullett second place in the 1,500m. race, both becoming eligible for entry in the forthcoming B.A.O.R. Individual Championships.

Tournaments of shooting and skittles have been the events of the month. The Officers' Mess managed to out-shoot the Sergeants on the miniature ranges though the latter achieved success in the skittling sphere by defeating the Corporals. However, as always the matter of superiority at contests remains completely fluid so champion teams rarely have long terms of success.

Swimming contests have been suggested but so far the idea has had a chilly reception. Even so the Unit swimming pool is being used though admittedly by the hardiest only.

Staff-Sergeant Thompson, our A.P.T.C. instructor, recently joined us from U.K. and is already busy preparing an inter-troop basket-ball contest, which should, we hope, be commencing very shortly.

Visitors and arrivals to the Unit have been fairly frequent of late. Here from the Middle East are Major J. A. S. Brown, M.B.E., and Captain A. C. Sugden. Demob. of course has marched away with a number of Unit stalwarts. The Officers' Mess has said farewell to Captain Grewar, R.A.M.C. and Second-Lieutenants F. C. Greenwood and A. E. Marsh. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to S.S.M. Hedley and Sergeant Cattermole, S.S.M. Hedley "donning the bowler" after a lifetime of service. Very best wishes go with them all for success in "Civvy Street" from all of us still here.

Corporals' Mess. Summer or winter come alike to the Corporals in the Unit in respect of their Dances, each one being voted even better than the last, our latest being considered by many of the older members the prize-winner of them all. Previous members of the Unit will be interested to know that such has been the success of the Dances, a larger hall had to be hired, giving more scope for festivities, which, if based on the routine formula of "The more the merrier" can always be depended upon to attain the height of enjoyment reached by those of yesteryear. Much to the disgust of remaining members of previous years and to the utter relief of others, the Corporals' Choir, of yore a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, has been disbanded and the tea interval is now become a time for well-earned relaxation!

The Sergeants accepted a challenge to a Skittles match and with usual competence managed to effect the *coup de grâce,* although it was hinted that the scorer was in league with the Unit Quartermaster, which may have accounted for this win. The result however becomes, as ever, a secondary matter, as the evening's hilarity mounts and whilst not wishing to detract from the merits of their success, we feel sure that had not our members been cornered and subjected to some of the tall tales being spun for the benefit of the younger members, the reverse would have been the tally at the end of the evening! We now await a return challenge, to which all members are determined to go suitably armed with ear-plugs.

The month has seen the departure of at least two of the "regular-game-for-anything-members," namely, Corporals Liggins and Stevens, both of whom could be relied upon to attend any function, play if need be, giving full vociferous encouragement to the team, whether it be Unit or Corporals' Mess. We wish them and all other ex-members continued "good luck" and all success in the future and meanwhile we stay to carry on the good work in which they played so helpful a part. Until next month we close by welcoming new members and reminding previous members to keep "in touch" via THE WIRE.

JOK.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

Since our last appearance in these notes, numerous changes have taken place within the Squadron. Even the old correspondent has been replaced, but in taking on my new responsibilities I hope to keep all ex-Berliners well informed of our present activities—indeed, all our comrades wherever they may be.

During the present "siege" quite an extra amount of work has befallen us, but our motto is "Through" and we shall not fail.

On 10th June the Squadron represented the Royal Signals in the B.T.B. King's Birthday Parade. Practice parades had been numerous and morning P.T. was supplemented by drill parades. But all our hard work was justly rewarded by a signal sent to us personally by the G.O.C., B.T.B. All who saw us, both officially and the casual onlooker, gave us a special word of praise. The following week brought us a special film of the parade, compiled by Public Relations and shown to us by the various A.K.C. Cinemas in Berlin. All who saw it will agree that we put up a first-class show. Keep it up, lads. Yours is the glory.

Sporting activities during the past month have been badly curtailed by the weather, but since my taking over office two cricket matches have been played, resulting in a win for the Squadron on each occasion. The features of these two games are published below:

19 June. v. 11 Hussars. Result: Berlin Signal Squadron, 172 for 9 wickets; 11th Hussars 103.

30 June. v. 50 and 56 G.C.U. Result: Berlin Signal Squadron, 59 for 8 wickets; 50 and 56 G.C.U., 54.

At the Motor Cycle Reliability Trials held in May, Signalman Davison won a special B.S.A. prize. Well done, Yorkie, and we hope you have further successes in the future.

The B.T.B. Inter-Unit Athletic Championships and the B.T.B. Individual Athletic Championships for 1948 were

held in the Olympic Stadium on 16th June and 19th June respectively. Although we were unable to enter a team in the Inter-Unit Competition, we were, however, fairly well represented in some of the individual events. They were:

Lance-Corporal Parkinson, throwing the javelin and discus.
Signalman Judges, 400, 1,500, and 5,000 metres.
Signalman Fraser, 1,500 and 5,000 metres.

Both Lance-Corporal Parkinson and Signalman Judges were unplaced in their events, but Signalman Fraser got a second in both the 1,500 metres and the 5,000 metres. I watched these events myself, and being a distance runner in my younger days, thought Signalman Fraser was very unfortunate not to carry off both events. When I interviewed him later he told me that he had been tracking the pacemakers. Well, we all make mistakes, and the Squadron say well done and wish you all better luck next time.

Football, hockey and Rugby will soon be with us again and, if we are not able to field a team for each, we are confident that the Squadron will not be lacking in talent for any representative games.

Departures and arrivals are too numerous to mention individually, but to all who have left us we wish you *bon voyage*, and to all you newcomers may your stay with us be a happy one.

Major and Mrs. Bower left us on 31st May for Civvy Street. On 29th May they were entertained to a social evening given in their honour by the warrant officers and sergeants, and a very good evening's entertainment was enjoyed by all. The very best of luck to you both from all the boys, and we hope that your clubs are proving a great success on the greens at Mere.

Major L. J. Parker arrived in time to be duly sworn in as our new C.O. at the same social evening held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and has since put in some extremely hard work. We were sorry that Mrs. Parker was not with us at that time. Several days later, however, I had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Parker and Baby Gillie to Berlin. We wish you all the very best of luck during your stay with us. What still puzzles me is Gillie's absolute dislike of S.S.M.s. Can that be due to her military upbringing?

The Wedding of "Haggis" McGillivray. Now all the boys know "Haggis," alias Maggie, or Corporal Jessamine McGillivray, of A.T.S. Company, British Troops Berlin; they know her because she has the pleasure of sending them on leave. Now Maggie surprised them all by announcing her marriage to Corporal C. E. O'Brien, of 16th Infantry, "I" Company, General Clay's Honour Guard, A.E.F., and who hails from Altoona, Pennyslvania, U.S.A.

The wedding took place in the Church of 759th General Hospital on 8th May, and quite a number of the Squadron and members of the A.T.S. were in attendance. The bride wore a dress of white Brussels lace and carried a bouquet of red roses. The bridesmaid, Corporal Beryl Griffith, of the A.T.S., wore shell pink silk and carried pink roses. Sergeant Thomas MacIlreavy, of the U.S. Army, acted as best man.

We were sorry that Mr. and Mrs. McGillivray were unable to attend, but in their absence Sergeant Cliff Glennon, of the Squadron, had the honour of giving away the bride.

After the wedding a feast was held in the 48 Club, U.S. Sector, and later the bride and bridegroom were entertained by the warrant officers and sergeants to a social and dance.

We extend a hand to Corporal and Mrs. O'Brien and wish them both a life of happiness.

On 5th June, 1948, in the Church of Scotland Chapel, Signalman A. Topen decided to take the plunge and was married to Eva Hofmann, of Berlin. Corporal Jock Milroy (since demobbed) acted as best man and the bridesmaid was Eva Kuntze, a friend of the bride.

We wish you both the very best of luck.

ROCKY

Corporal and Mrs. O'Brien and friends after the wedding reception

No. 3 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

June

Since we last appeared in THE WIRE, this Unit has undergone a complete transformation. Of all ranks of sergeant and above, there is no one who was here before at all except S.S.M. James. New personnel welcomed to this Unit are: Major G. A. Fleming, Captain R. W. Millo, Second-Lieutenant J. E. Samson, S.Q.M.S. Blaikie, S.Q.M.S. Berry, Sergeant Rhind, Sergeant Donaldson.

Our major events in recent times have been Exercise Unity, which suffered from heavy rain, and demonstrations at Wahn, Paderborn and Lübeck.

Sport. We have played three cricket matches this season, lost two and won one, and although our standard leaves much to be desired, we are making headway. Hockey has been revived and we are fortunate as the Barracks have an excellent hard hockey pitch. Swimming is another popular sport, and here again we are lucky to have a swimming pool on our doorstep.

In conclusion, we would like to extend our best wishes to Major F. G. Bolam, who is now in Accra; to Captain and Mrs. Sheridan on the birth of a son, and to wish them all the best in the Middle East; and to Captain and Mrs. H. Sumner, who have left us to take up a post at Vogelsang Training Area.

ASSUDONYM

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Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Luneburg

In last month's "Wire Notes" I gave the results of the combined H.Q. 4 A.G.R.A. and Signal Squadron cricket team's first two games of the season. Both games were lost. I also expressed the hope of brighter cricket news for this month's issue. Games played to date since those first two setbacks, I list below, confident that the winning sequence will continue.

Combined H.Q. 4 A.G.R.A. and Signal Squadron versus:

207 C.R.A.S.C. (home), won by 44 runs.
1 Oxford and Bucks (away), won by 68 runs.
R.E.s, Luneburg (home), won by 10 wickets.
School of Artillery, Munster Lager (home), won by 54 runs.
63 Coy, R.A.S.C. (away), won by 12 runs.
207 C.R.A.S.C. (away), won by innings and 20 runs.

The last game played was against 94 Observer Regiment R.A. in the 4 A.G.R.A. knock-out competition, and yet another win, by 89 runs was registered. This despite the fact that S.S.M. (Bill) Nurse, a very useful all-rounder, was away playing for Royal Signals B.A.O.R. against Hamburg District, Hannover District, and the Rhine Army Ramblers.

As a deviation from cricket, and possibly encouraged by the cold and wet wintry weather, we challenged Camp H.Q. to a soccer match recently. Yet again the result was a decisive win for our lads. After 30 minutes' play a declaration was expected, but the team played on for full time and won by nine runs—sorry—goals to two.

On Monday, July 3rd, the judges inspected the Unit garden, for the Hamburg District Horticultural Competition. A jolly fine table of produce lifted from the garden on the morning of the judging was displayed, and if the judge's complimentary remarks may be taken as a guide, we may be forgiven if we anticipate at least a complimentary award—with a stronger desire and hope of an actual prize. Mayhap by next month's issue we shall have more definite news, so here's hoping.

All members of the Squadron have been invited to write an article for THE WIRE covering most aspects of a soldier's life in B.A.O.R. A monetary reward is offered, and many members of the Squadron, paper and pencil in hand, are to be seen wandering around in a studious trancelike state, occasionally asking the nearest victim "How do you spell Euphonisms," or some such common or garden word. Personally I'm all for it, once these articles are submitted I might have the happy misfortune of being relieved of my duties of Unit scribe.

Till next month, cheerio everybody.

HANNOVER DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON,

B.A.O.R.

With the re-formation of the Squadron from 31 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron it was with some regret that the majority of the older members of that Squadron exchanged the sign of "The Golden Dagger" for the White Horse of Hannover, but now that the White Horse is rapidly making a name for itself in every circle of Army Life, especially sport, I am sure that none of us will be any the sorrier for the exchange. Many of us, especially those who campaigned with such Divisions as "The Desert Rats," the famous 51st Highland Division, 4th Indian, 9th Indian and many others have always experienced that pang of casting off the old love, but now in this transitional period, when the glory of victory is overwhelmed by the daily news, we must put these memories behind us and adapt ourselves to the youthful ideas which are beginning to pervade the modern army at the moment.

Operating with Headquarters Hannover District in the immediate vicinity of the old fashioned town of Celle in Northern Germany, the Squadron is now under the command of Major G. Walton, who succeeded Major J. Purdon, the latter being transferred to the D.C.S.O.'s Branch Headquarters Hannover District. Major Walton, whose previous command was in India with Southern Command Signals, took over the Unit at the end of May this year, and has as his junior officers, Captain Every-Brown as O.C. Training; Captain Haystead, O.C. Ops.; and Second-Lieutenants Ward, Goodley, Coulson Barnes, Hense, and Hawkins. Captain P. L. Dickson who was until recently Second-in-Command, has left the Squadron on demobilisation and we wish him all the very best of luck in civilian life.

The Unit as a whole is fully operational, but time can still be found to train the youngsters of the Squadron on Battle Courses. These are under the very capable supervision of the A.P.T.C. Staff and already 10 mile route marches and battle training have been carried out. Not without some misgivings to the unitiated! However, we are gradually getting into the way of things, many of us finding muscles where we never dreamed of.

Entertainments. Our Friday evening dances with German guests invited are proving a great success and are one of the highlights of the week's entertainments which are numerous in this area.

Sport. There is plenty of scope for every kind of sport in the District and already Signals have made a name for themselves in its many branches. Signalman Tugwell proved himself a star performer at the Headquarters Hannover District Sports, throwing the javelin 163 feet, while Signalman Boyce and Waldron excelled themselves in the 400, 800 and 3,000 metre events. Sergeant Falkingham, who unfortunately for the Squadron had to take part as a member of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess team, secured a first in the 100 metres hurdles, second in the discus and helped the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to success in the Tug-of-War event.

Now that cricket is the sport of the moment, the Squadron is finding time to practice but have no real successes to record at the moment. S.Q.M.S. Harding, our new quartermaster who recently joined us from detachment at Hameln, has proved himself a star performer as an all-rounder and is one of the star players for Headquarters Hannover District. He is also playing for Royal Signals, B.A.O.R. One of his outstanding performances as a bowler was in a recent match against Rhine Army Ramblers when he took five wickets for 57 runs.

Motor Cycle Club. The Squadron has quite a fair sized Motor Cycle Club which covers motor cycling in all its stages. At the moment interest is mainly centred around speedway racing, road racing and reliability trials. In the Speedway Club are six riders who have been building machines from scrap and, riding at the Hanomag Track at Hannover, Signalman Meacher has proved himself no mean exponent of the art of Dirt Track riding. We hope to see him putting up some very good performances in the near future.

Road Racing has also its riders and supporters, Sergeant Falkingham and Signalman McAuliffe representing the Club in the Road Races which are run at Belsen, under the watchful eye of Major "Ironmonger" Watts, the well-known T.T. rider. These two riders will be taking part in the B.A.O.R. Clubman's T.T. to be held at Belsen on the 17th and 18th July, 1948, and it is hoped that we shall be able to include reports of their successes in the next issue of WIRE Notes.

A Motor Cycle Reliability Trial was held on 10th July, 14 members of the Squadron taking part on standard

B.S.A. machines. The course, in the words of the D.C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. A. Hepper, Royal Signals, who presented the prizes, was an exceptionally hard and arduous one and thrills and spills were the order of the day. Corporal Henderson secured the prize for the best performance of the day and also made the fastest time for the course. Signalman Barrett and Signalman Meacher took second and third places respectively. The meeting proved highly interesting entertainment both for the riders and spectators alike, and at the conclusion of the trials, Lieutenant-Colonel Hepper said he hoped that he would be seeing the Squadron in action in other similar meetings in B.A.O.R.

7th INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Westphalia

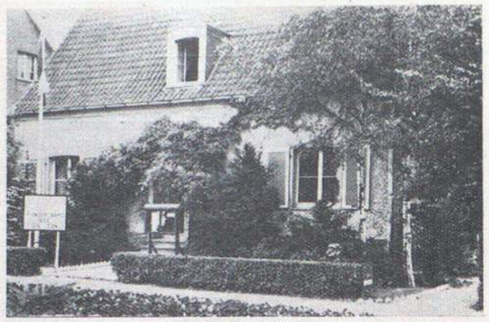
July

As someone else said, on introducing their Unit to THE WIRE, "We had better tell you first who we are, what we are and what we do."

We are at the moment the only remaining Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron in the whole of the British Army. We belong to the last of the famous Desert Rats, and our Brigade H.Q. is situated in a small town, Warendorf, some 20 miles east of Munster. We are responsible for the control of all the telephonic, telegraphic and wireless communications for a very large area indeed, stretching from Oldenburg in the north to Detmold in the south and Luneburg in the north-east. In Detmold itself, attached to the 1st Royal Tanks, we have one of our five Out-Troops, "W2" Troop. The remainder of the Out-Troops are attached to the other Regiments in the Brigade. "W3" Troop with 5th Royal Tanks at Hamm, "W1" Troop with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards at Munster, "V" Troop with the 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade at Minden, and last and most recently, the remotest of all the Out-Troops is "W4" Troop with the Royal Scots Greys at Luneburg.

Due to the fact that, as with everybody else, we have lost most of the old sweats on release, our sports record at the moment could hardly be called spectacular. However, we are still fairly well represented in the Brigade Cricket eleven, both Major T. P. Saunders (Officer Commanding) and Captain N. W. P. Pearce (Second-in-Command) being members, as well as S.S.M. E. Barnes, M.M., S.Q.M.S. F. C. Roberts and Corporal "Nobby" Clarke. "Nobby" is our shining

The "line up" prior to a recent exercise



The Squadron Office

light in the sports field as he plays soccer, hockey and cricket for the Unit.

We hope to hold a Sports Day in the near future, from which, who knows, there may emerge a star or two to brighten our dark athletic firmament!

From the less pleasant viewpoint of work we really are "up to our eyes" and frequently after having completed a shift, especially a night shift, members of the Signal Office can be seen staggering towards the Mess Hall with glazed, unwavering eyes.

We welcome a new Foreman of Signals, S.Q.M.S. Eeckelaers, who may be remembered by 2nd Division and perhaps by ex-members of Waziristan District Signals, and say good-bye and good luck to Corporals Bob Brown, Es. Rudd and Tony King, all recently demobbed. Shortly we shall be wishing good luck to Lance-Corporal "Toddy" Hunter, the originator of the artistic and poetic efforts accompanying this article. "Toddy," during the year he has been with us, has been a constant source of entertaining cartoons and "skits" and, together with Corporal Bob Brown mentioned above, has produced "Melodramadness," an amusing Unit stage production which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, including the Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. P. Harding, D.S.O.

Next month we hope to give a fuller account of ourselves, so till then—*Auf Wiedersehen.*

MEDITATION

While sitting here I meditate the while
  On all the beauteous splendour of this land;
Of all things clean and good with nothing vile;
  Of all the things created by His hand.
Refreshing breezes blowing through my hair;
  Restless stirring of the trees disturbed:
Slow waving corn and roses sweet and fair,
  And cattle moo-ing softly unperturbed.
The voice of Goodness speaks from out the wind:
  "Oh, go ye wash and clean thy tarnished soul,
Oh, tread my path and rest thy tortured mind.
  Repent thy sins, make righteousness thy goal."
Then Evil, with his babblings raised in wrath,
  Comes forth in anger from his black abode;
Comes forth towards the straight and narrow path,
  Along his wide and easy-going road.
"Thou imbecile, oh mend thy cursed ways.
  You disobeying swine!" . . . Then to my horror
Concludes his ravings with the well-known phrase:
  "O.C.'s orders, nine o'clock tomorrer!"

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

June

The month proved to be a very busy one, the outstanding event being the visit of the Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., on 8th June. This was to be his last parade in the Division, and H.Q. Signals turned out in full strength to give him a ceremonial send-off.

The parade was, in addition, a distinction for nine members of the Regiment, as on this day they were decorated by the Chief Signal Officer himself. After the parade had formed up, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., escorted the C.S.O. on his inspection, during which the C.S.O. stopped and spoke to many of the N.C.O.s and men. The decoration ceremony then took place, and to each recipient the C.S.O. spoke a few encouraging and congratulatory words.

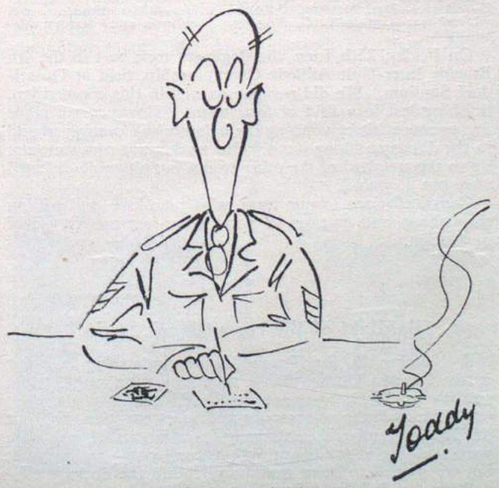
The nine members honoured on this parade and the medals they received were: Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, Captain T. G. Simpson and Sergeant H. Merrick; India Medal, R.S.M. H. Griffin and Sergeant P. Young; General Service Medal with Clasp, Palestine, S.S.M. W. Pitt, Sergeants A. Archibald, G. Berry and R. Wilson; Territorial Efficiency Medal (12 years), Sergeant F. Ray.

The parade concluded with a ceremonial march past, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., taking the salute, with the nine medal recipients standing behind him at the saluting base.

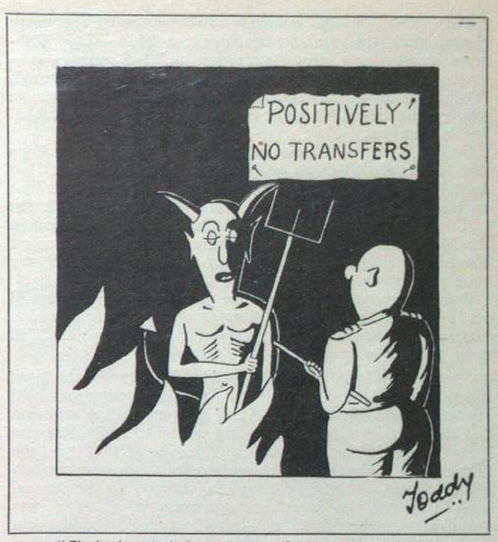
Once again you brought good weather, sir, for which many thanks. And finally, from the Regiment, here is wishing you all the very best of luck and good fortune for the future.

The Aero Modelling Club is still in full swing. Almost every night of the week the "flying" types are busy constructing the various aircraft that are built in the hope that they will fly and break the existing airborne record held by Corporal Johnny Sutton. A recent innovation for the club members is that of a small engine which can be used to power the models built, and which no doubt will be called upon to do a great amount of work.

The "Mercury Wheelers," the Regimental Cycling Club,



". . . am enclosing photo of me and my dog. I am the one on the left . . ."



"That's the way it is, mate, even if you can play a harp!"

is also proving very popular. Unfortunately, just lately the weather has not been too good for outings which had been planned for the members to visit the various places of interest within the Divisional area. However, every advantage is taken of the fine spells, and members can be seen daily in the evenings, and more so during the week-ends, leaving the barracks on their excursions to the surrounding countryside.

The flower gardens within the Regimental lines are still looking very attractive and make such a difference to the general layout with the different splashes of colour from the many varieties of flowers that are now in bloom. The hard work that has been put into the Regimental vegetable gardens, both those cultivated by German gardeners and the respective Troops, has certainly been well worth while. The gardens are looking extremely well and the produce from them is now being gathered in, and which will go a very long way to supplement the vegetables issued from R.A.S.C. sources.

This month we said good-bye to Captain H. S. P. Miles ("Pop"), who proceeded on Class "A" release. Prior to leaving B.A.O.R. for U.K. he proceeded to Hamburg to spend a week or so with Mrs. Miles who, as reported previously, has been in Hamburg Hospital for a considerable time. Our sincere wish is that Mrs. Miles will soon be well enough to join "Pop" in U.K. Captain H. S. P. Miles served in the Corps for 29 years and many of the old hands will remember him at Maresfield Park Camp, the old Depot, and the various places he served in overseas. And also as a member of the Corps Athletic Team for his running. The Regiment send to you, "Pop," and Mrs. Miles all the very best of luck and good fortune for the future.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The highlight of June was the receipt and installation of the eagerly-awaited H.M.V. radiogram on 5th June. Long had been the waiting, hoping that the rules and regulations with the attendant "red tape" would be waived, and eventually they were. It is an excellent article, full of "gadgets" as one member put it, and easy to operate. The radio section is first class, and the gram section just what a "lazy man" ordered, with automatic control for ten 10in. or 12in. records. Thanks are due to Sergeant Bill Burden, since demobbed, who started the ball rolling, and with the Commanding Officer kept it rolling until the goods were delivered.

Our social activities continue unabated, and we hope to extend them when we take over our new Mess. The radiogram is proving a strong attraction and Sergeant Yates is keeping the Mess well supplied with records obtained through Welfare channels. Sergeant Cooley (A.C.C.) is given a welcome hand and his stock of dance records is appreciated by all members.

S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Eeckelaers has left us and we hope that he has settled down comfortably in his new Unit. No doubt the arrival of Mrs. Eeckelaers in B.A.O.R. will put him on his mettle (you poor man). We welcome S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Mahon and hope for his enthusiastic co-operation in the Mess. It is amazing what these foremen can do when one gets them moving the right way. Thank you, Eecke, for your good work.

Our Entertainments Committee gave us a smashing social on Tuesday, 2nd June, an evening's entertainment which was very well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Well done, lads—a very good show.

Sport. Athletics. On Wednesday, 9th June, in brilliant sunshine, the Annual Regimental Athletic Meeting was held at the Stadium, Wuppertal. A full programme was arranged and the meeting took the form of a combined Individual and Inter-Troop Championship. Commencing at 1100 hrs., the meeting ran perfectly to schedule, thanks to the co-operation of all officials and competitors. In addition to the normal athletic events, an interesting programme of races was organised for the ladies, children, Mercury Wheelers, old soldiers, and all officers and other ranks. Prizes consisted of the Troop Shield, winners' and runners-up medals for the athletic events, and chocolate, sweets and other items for the interest events.

The meeting provided an excellent day's sport, which by all accounts was thoroughly enjoyed by all taking part and spectators alike, and was also very well planned, everything proceeding without a hitch. Credit must be given to those officials who organised the day's sport, particularly to R.S.M. H. Griffin, who certainly did put in a great deal of work to ensure the success of the meeting. Lunch was obtainable at the Stadium under the arrangements of the P.R.I. Congratulations to Captain H. S. P. Miles, who provided an excellent lunch.

"O" A Team with Inter-Troop Shield

Sergeant Daniels, "O" A Team, receiving the Inter-Troop Shield

At the conclusion of the meeting prizes were presented to the recipients by Mrs. McVittie, wife of our Commanding Officer. The Inter-Troop Shield was won by "O" A team, with "H.Q." a close second, followed by "O" B team. Mention must be made of gallant "G" Troop, who finished fourth. "G" Troop have only a small number of men to choose from, but under the able leadership and example set by Sergeant Berry, the Troop Sergeant, they certainly made their presence felt in the competition.

Results were as follows:

100 metres—Corporal Chater (L). 200 metres—Signalman Butler (A). 400 metres—Signalman Boot (G). 800 metres—Signalman Beattie (H.Q.). 1,500 metres—Second-Lieutenant Waterlow (O). 5,000 metres—Driver Clarry (A). 110 metres, hurdles—Signalman Hurst (O). Hop, step and jump—Lance-Corporal Edwards (H.Q.). Pole vault—Signalman Douglas (O); High jump—Lance-Corporal Edwards (H.Q.). Long jump—Corporal Chater (L). Discus—S.Q.M.S. Eeckelaers (H.Q.). Hammer—Sergeant Berry (G). Shot—Driver Thompson (H.Q.). Javelin—Driver Deakin (A). Ladies' race—Mrs. McVittie. Children's race—Robert Fender. Old soldiers' race—Captain T. G. Simpson. Slow cycle race—Sergeant McGuinness.

On Friday, 25th June, the Regiment took part in the 4th Brigade Inter-Unit Athletic Championship, held at Dusseldorf Stadium. We did not fare so well in this competition, finishing last in a field of four teams. However, we made our presence felt by winning the hammer and coming second in the discus and long jump. Our track event men were not up to the standard of the other teams, but although defeated were not disgraced.

Congratulations to our team, who were keen and willing throughout and put up a good show against very stiff opposition.

* * *

Highlight of the recent Dock Strike!

A Number 19 Set Truck Station, ordered to a point in the London Docks, took a very long time to get to its rendezvous.

"Well, sir," the commander said in extenuation, "I kept on stopping and asking the way from groups of men who were standing about. They were all very polite and helpful, but we seemed to drive round and round the docks."

What fun for the strikers!

Other Overseas Stations

No. 19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Singapore

May

A broadcast appeal for items of interest to assist in the compilation of these notes brought down an avalanche which, on being sorted out, fell under two main headings—Part Two Orders and "Lonely Hearts" Column. The first pile has been put into the "Laugh and tear-up" tray and the second into the 'Not too difficult" tray. In the "Baffled" tray I found last month's notes. Having read them, I put them back again and will now start afresh.

Part Two Orders. These may be briefly summarised—in fact, they will have to be.

Group 74 and all associated bods—not, unfortunately, April Pythons—are sitting on the door-step with their kits all carefully packed and rarin' to go. From that statement, all ex-members of the Regiment will know which of their old pals are still with us. To all who have gone we wish the best of luck in their new spheres but we should also like to point out that a spare tent will always be available in Elim Camp should they wish to come back.

Among the recent arrivals we are happy to welcome our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. Webb, Royal Signals, who assumed command on 1st April. He is no stranger to this part of the world as he commanded No. 4 (Indian) Air Formation Signal Regiment when they were here. A warm welcome is also extended to all new arrivals, far too numerous to mention by name, and we hope their stay will be pleasant and mutually beneficial.

Apart from individuals, there have been many changes in the Regiment of late. No. 2 Squadron was revived in December of last year to cope with the increasing communications commitments of H.Q. Air Command, Far East. No. 3 Squadron resumed its role of Airfields Squadron. No. 1 Squadron went into suspended animation when its commitments in Burma ceased on 1st January, 1948. The Detachment at Saigon also closed when its *raison d'être* (pardon my French—the Saigon influence), No. 2 Staging Post, closed early in January.

"Carola" Burling Pram. Major Griffiths

"Doushka" Airborne Lifeboat

To offset our apparently diminishing commitments, a new Detachment was formed in January to look after Sembawang Airfield, which the R.A.F. took over from the R.N.

The Yacht Club. Having at last discovered that the "mainsheet" is not used for charpoy-bashing, I consider myself fully qualified to write on this subject.

The main interest of the Regiment when off duty centres in the Yacht Club. Daily, many sun-tanned seamen scrape the bottoms of boats, paint them, step masts (technical expression meaning nothing to me), sew up sails and argue with each other. Sometimes they get the boats in the sea and sail them. A few clever lads have rigged themselves up power boats and get gloriously covered in oil on every possible occasion. I have never seen such enthusiasm for work before and, what beats me, they seem to enjoy it.

The fleet consists of six sailing boats (three privately owned) and two privately-owned power boats. These do not include two recent acquisitions, both hefty-looking power boats, which are still in the yard being overhauled and repainted prior to commissioning. One of them is being converted to sail. In addition, a small fleet of canoe-like craft dot the sea on every possible and impossible occasion.

To appreciate the enthusiasm of the club members one has to listen to the "verandah admirals" giving forth on regatta days. The criticism is fierce but sound.

The club, besides attending all local regattas and organising its own, often sets out *en masse* for an all-day outing. Then the power boats come into their own for they act as ration carriers and also assist becalmed boats on occasion. Following these outings, there are usually long discussions on

In harbour. Snipes, Airborne Lifeboat and Power Tender

tactics and a few words on the old topic—power *versus* sail. So far, no converts have been made either way but one power man seems to be slipping. I could be mistaken, but the crew in a sailing boat with that keen helmsman S.Q.M.S. Bruce looked remarkably like R.Q.M.S. Burgess.

The details of the club's successes are compiled by the Commodore, Major A. N. Griffiths.

The club has a thriving membership and eight yachts. As there are four other yacht clubs on the island, a considerable amount of racing is possible. So far this year we have achieved two firsts and two thirds in the two regattas held. We are lucky in having a considerable number of experienced mariners, amongst whom are Captains Len Nix, Bob Fisk and Archie Pagan. Len Nix is the acknowledged expert on the island, and his uncanny anticipation enables him to outwit all comers. –Major Griffiths rejoices in a Burling Pram, which is "apt" to win, but it's strange that the "crew" is always the same—Nix to that !

There are no less than 20 Class "B" helmsmen amongst the other ranks, and there is keen competition for "skippers" on regatta days.

Highlights of the club have been the invariable reliance on Major McLaren for the righting of upturned boats and the conversion to "sail" of our dour R.Q.M.S. Burgess. From time immemorial, so it would seem, the R.Q.M.S. muttered about power craft, and now he is even seen in the water after squalls, and enthusiastic about "sail" even then. Major McLaren is always sent for after a capsize. He merely leans on the yacht to right it—weight will tell. Our last—but not least—highlight is our healthy rivalry with our C.A.F.S.O., Colonel T. A. R. Scott. He is the organising genius of the R.A.F. Yacht Club, and he and our skippers show a most un-Christianlike disregard of chivalry and the "Queensberry" Rules. Yachtsmen always seem to hate one another!

We send our salaams to the Corps Club, and hope to continue our sailing on return to U.K.

The Camera Club. A quiet crowd, the camera fiends. They prefer to work in dark places. You never realise how many of them there are until the D.R.s kindly risk life and limb in a motor cycle scramble just to give them a chance to get some action pictures. Some of them may be also found lurking around the high diving board in the swimming pool, inveigling poor innocents to do some fancy dives. The crowning glory came when one captain was persuaded to walk in off the spring-board fully dressed, just to oblige a camera fiend.

Usually, however, they get together and dash off to Johore Bahru or Haw Par Villa and indulge in an orgy of snapping. Then they queue up for the dark room and run off various pictures of which I never get a copy. I'll try to get a few out of them before I send these notes off. If I don't get them, I'll give the club no more publicity, so help me.

The dark room is a well-fitted place with an electric contact printer and home-made enlarger (but efficient), which were donated by a gentleman who shall remain anonymous as the Yacht Club may not like it if they discover their Commodore is also a camera fiend. Recently the P.R.I., with the kind permission of the C.O., bought a new enlarger which has the advantage of being adaptable for use with 35 mm. films, which the other one isn't. With the growing popularity of miniature cameras, that is a considerable advantage.

Sport. This is always with us and is more than a standby. A very keen interest is taken in all games, with football as the chief attraction. Cricket and hockey have also their fair share of enthusiasts. I will leave the details to the various sports representatives and content myself with saying that the football team did very well in the Changi Cup, losing only by the odd goal in a replay of the final.

The Angling Club. I nearly forgot these people. They sit so quietly on the end of the pagah (swimming enclosure) that they are liable to be overlooked. Only when one of them catches an eel does one hear them as it snarls up his line.

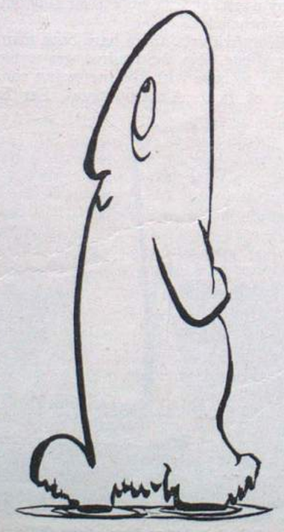
They usually catch cat-fish so I can recommend having a member of this club as a friend, for it goes down well fried for breakfast.

Otherwise, what can one say for this alleged sport ? Fishermen are born, so I'm told, and as long as they catch fish I'm all in favour of them—but their stories !

Congratulations. To Major and Mrs. A. N. Griffiths on the birth of a son, David Richard, on 17th May, 1948. This is a special occasion as young David is the first new arrival in the Regiment who did not come by ship, plane or jeep.

SPUD-CAN

STUDENT DOODLES—IV



An Earth Phantom

MALAYA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

June

R.H.Q. AND No. 1 SQUADRON. Very little has happened since our last notes were submitted, although we have been successful in delivering the so-called "griff" despite our quickly diminishing numbers. Since our last issue we have seen the departure of 72, 73 and 74 Groups, to whom we wish all the very best in re-entry to civilian life.

In spite of the losses that we have suffered, as yet there are no signs of any reinforcements.

We have begun to think that the Signals are the only people who do anything in Kuala Lumpur, for if there is something to be done the Signals do it. Operations, displays, detachments, Jap hangings, etc.—these are only a few of the many. However, although we carry all these things on our shoulders, we grin and bear it.

Our Romeos have had less "ticks" lately for things are getting better in the entertainment line. The monthly dances held in the B.O.R.s' N.A.A.F.I. are a great success. Many of the boys are forsaking the well-used "B. B. Park"; this is noticeable in the number of new faces that appear each time. Maybe they find that 50c. is easier to provide than paying 20c. for each dance.

Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Heap (late No. 4 Training Regiment) and Mrs. Heap were involved in the much-talked-of Ceylonese Riots in Kuala Lumpur. We are very happy to say that no serious harm came to them.

With Captain Pell looking out for the next boat home, we found ourselves with a new D.S.O., and this, to the surprise of many, turned out to be the R.S.M. (Mr. Bevin). At the time we thought that we should be doing a P.T. and check parade each morning when we reported for duty. We have since realised that in the R.S.M.'s case it was a form of "leading the lamb to the slaughter."

The motor cycle display team gave a very good show in the recent Kuala Lumpur Tattoo and were given a good reception by the local population.

With the departure of 74 Group we said farewell to our star football player, Signalman Mackenzie. He was the top goal-scorer this season. Our loss is Newcastle United's gain.

Sport is on the upward run, bringing the first team to the second position in "B" Division, while the second team are holding their own in "C" Division.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. This has been a very hectic month for the Mess, due to Services' Week and Tattoo. On the last Saturday of Services' Week we held a very successful dance. Among our guests were 20 petty-officers from H.M.S. Alacrity. Much to the "disgust" of the R.S.M., the bar remained open until 0130 hrs.

We held a social to bid farewell to our late G.O.C., General Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., and were greatly honoured in that he spent his last night in Malaya with members of his old Corps. "Grippers" were well to the fore on that occasion.

We welcome to the Mess newcomers in Sergeants Douglas, Trethowan, Woodvine, Hildred and Dawe (on temporary posting from G.H.Q., Signal Regiment).

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

This is our first contribution to THE WIRE for some time. We apologise for the delay, which we hope will not occur again.

We said goodbye to Major Madeley, our O.C., at the beginning of June. He returns to "Civvy Street" and we wish him the best of luck there. In his place we welcome Major Landells, who was at Benghazi before he came here. We also welcome Second-Lieutenant Whitelegge to the Squadron. He is taking over the M.T.

One Infantry division arrived here about two months ago and the Signals Officers have recently moved into our mess. We extend a hearty welcome to them and hope that they will be happy, however long they stay. There is naturally a little professional jealously, even as regards Amateur Radio Stations. Captain Carpenter mans the Tripoli Signal one, and, judging by the number of Q.S.O. cards displayed, he has a very successful time. The Americans here also have a station and they received a postcard yesterday showing contact with Germany. Good going! Still, Captain Carpenter can claim contact with South America, which is even better.

Sport. The cricket team, led by Sergeant Cantle, has had a very successful season. We are lying second in the league at the moment to B.M.A., having won seven matches and drawn one. Our latest victory was over H.Q. 2 A.G.R.A., whom we beat by eight wickets. The team work of the side is admirable and the fielding very good, considering the type of outfields we get out here.

Amongst the star players of the team are Signalman Kent, an all-rounder, and Captain Potter.

At basket ball we are not so successful, being half-way down the league, but we are champions at darts.

The Tripoli Army Athletic Championships were held on Saturday, 12th June, the heats having been run off on the previous Wednesday. The Squadron achieved some success, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Knight being first in the javelin and third in the high jump; Captain Potter second in the 120 yards hurdles; Corporal Macdonald third in the hop, step and jump, and Second-Lieutenant Whitelegge third in the three miles.

A Unit dance was held on 18th June, which was a great success, thanks chiefly to the capable arrangements of Second-Lieutenant Copland and Sergeant Cantle. Thanks are also due to all ranks who helped to decorate Malta House (where the dance was held) and get it ready.

The Tripoli Repertory Company produced "Rope," by Patrick Hamilton. It ran from 7th June to 11th June. The Unit played a very large part in the production and the play was a great success.

* * *

Royal Signals Display

Sept.	1-2	Guernsey Agricultural Show
„	6	Wimbledon Speedway
„	9	Wembley Stadium
„	11	Daimler Social Club, Coventry
„	15-18	Liverpool Tattoo

Southern Command Tour

Sept.	20	Exeter
„	21	Bridgwater
„	24	Bristol
„	25	Taunton
„	27	Barnstaple
„	29	Plymouth
„	30	Torquay
Oct.	2	Yeovil
„	4	Salisbury
„	6	Portsmouth
„	8-9	Southampton
„	13	Reading
„	15	Harringay Stadium, London
„	16	Reading Tattoo (provisional)

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moshi

May

H.Q. SOUTHERN AREA SIGNAL TROOP, Moshi. As this is the first contribution to THE WIRE I should like to give readers an idea of our position on the map. Moshi is approximately 200 miles south of Nairobi and situated in Tanganyika Territory, on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, which is 19,770 ft. above sea level. The glistening snow on its peak is a continual source of annoyance to us during the hot season.

The surrounding countryside is rather desolate and so our entertainment and sporting recreation is confined mainly to the town. Although the number of Royal Signals personnel is insufficient to allow a complete soccer or rugby team, R.E. and R.A.S.C. personnel willingly fill the gaps and matches against local teams or distant other units are usually fast and furious. We also have a hockey team which often plays against the ladies' team from Moshi. At present however, the rains are very much in evidence, thus somewhat curtailing our sport.

Congratulations to Captain Montgomery on his recent marriage.

Farewell to Captain A. W. Gay (The Buffs), who recently left us to accept a posting in Mauritius. All who have had occasion to meet Captain Gay will, I know, join with me in wishing him the very best in his new surroundings.

Tailpiece. Is the "Grippers Shield" still being hotly contested between M. and B. in the O.C.T.U. Sergeants' Mess ?

Our soccer and hockey teams have suffered a setback with the release of two star players, S.Q.M.S. MacKillop and Corporal Anderson. However, matches have continued and enthusiasm far outweighs any lack of talent. Our pitch has resumed its normal granite-like hardness after being a mere mud-patch during the rainy season.

The number of personnel is so small that it has been found necessary to amalgamate the Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes. It is yet too early to make comment, but it is prophesied that the combination will be of advantage to all concerned.

A farewell party was recently held in the Sergeants' Mess to give a good send-off to four of our members who have since left us for release. Spirits ran high, in both senses of the word, and it is rumoured that S.Q.M.S. MacKillop has decided to stick to wine gums in the future.

We extend our welcome to Captain D. F. Willett who recently joined this unit and hope that he is here to stay. Captain Willett will take over from Captain Montgomery as O.C. The latter will shortly be leaving us and joining the happy throng in Civvy Street. With the arrival of Captain Willett's wife, we imagine he should settle down comfortably in this Station.

Congratulations to S.Q.M.S. Port, firstly to his personal benefit by the fact that his wife and daughter are joining him, secondly, to the benefit of this small, isolated Military Station on his winning the Snooker Championship in Moshi. There is a strong, friendly competitive spirit between the Civvies and the Military and that "Pip" has won the championship is even more significant than the mere victory implies. We gather the odds were against him, and his faithful followers were rewarded for their confidence quite handsomely. No doubt the civilian members of the club are eagerly seeking a return match in an effort to retrieve their lost glory.

No one has yet attempted the three days' journey to the peak of Kilimanjaro, but it is intended to arrange one for a future weekend. We shall not reach the top, but it will be possible to get very close to the frozen area, as we have already got a start of 3,000 ft.

It is hoped that we shall be able to give an account of the venture in our next contribution to THE WIRE—if our fingers have thawed out by that time.

R.A.

THE SOMALILANDS AREA SIGNAL TROOP. To many old Signal members, Somalilands Area Signal Troop is a stranger. I am sure, however, that those of you who have at one time or another sojourned in Mogadiscio will have good memories of B.M.A. Signals. The Troop is in fact the re-incarnation of B.M.A. Signals, and covers all communications in the Somalilands. This entails a section of the troop being stationed at Hargeisa under Lieutenant Bott. Old Members of Mogadiscio Signals will probably remember Captain McLoughlin, an old member of Mogadiscio community who arrived back here recently to take over command of the troop.

In General.—Mogadiscio is at its worst, so we are told, at present, however despite all that "Mog." can give us in the line of "Mog Tummy," prickly heat, and of course "Mogrot," you can still find a good number of us taking an interest in swimming. Eespecially so on Sunday mornings, and I am told by Lieutenant Hancock (B.M.A. Signals) that the "Signorinas" on parade there are looking as lovely as ever, and who could be a better judge than he.

Of Hargeisa. Some of you will remember the "Tug," which has at last, with all due ceremony, gone into spate. Recent arrivals include S.Q.M.S. Blake and Sergeant Batchelor to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Apologia. I was told by Troop Members after reading the first two paras that the heading given to this last paragraph is not only correct but was called for. Be that as it may, we hope you will accept our apologies for these short scrappy notes. In the throes of formation as we are, with all its trials and tribuations, shortages and setbacks, this is the best we can do at the moment. I think we can honestly say that the shape of things to come will be much better, and who knows but the day will arrive when THE WIRE will hold up production because of the late arrival of Mog. Notes.

Off the beaten track as we are, we should be very pleased to hear from any old members of Mogadiscio Signals wherever they may be. Till next time then, we send greetings to all Signals everywhere; hoping this finds you as it leaves us.

BASHING ON

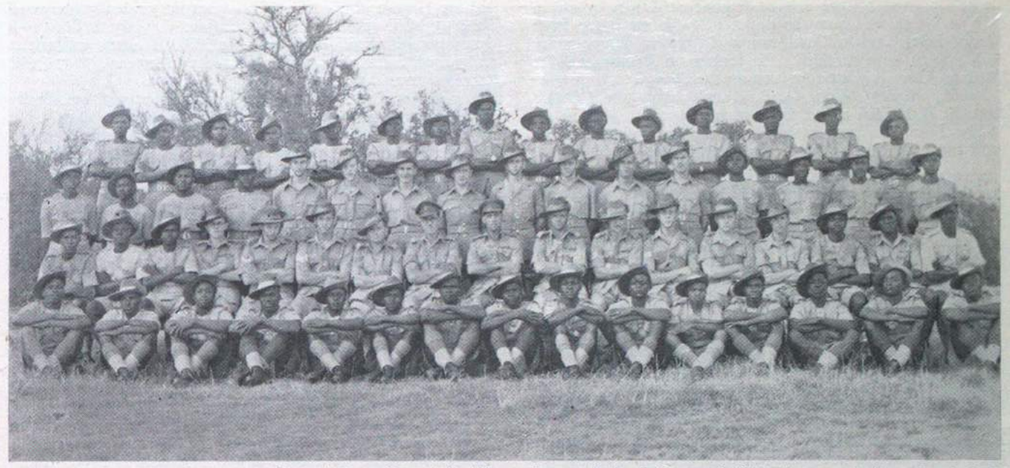
THE BRITISH SOMALILAND SIGNAL SECTION. British Somaliland Signal Section has been recently formed from the detachment here previously, and we now come under the Somalilands Signal Troop. Due to the rapid increase of commitments we are at the moment in a state of flux owing to the usual lack of personnel. Everything is rather rushed—even, we fear, these WIRE notes.

We consist of one officer, nine B.O.Rs., ten African other ranks and eleven Somalis. The Africans have mostly been here for over a year and are due to return to Kenya, their native land. It won't be long, either, before the majority of the British ranks leave here for civvy street.

We send our greetings to our ex-O.C. and Section Sergeant, Lieutenant Mountford and Sergeant Bisset, who are now resplendent in brand new demob suits. We sorely miss them on the football field. Another stalwart of our football team, Corporal Hurnell, also joined "The Big Boat" at the end of February. We wonder where he is strumming his guitar now.

Sergeant Roberts, our section sergeant will be leaving us within a week or so for the bright lights of Mogadiscio. His place here has been taken by Sergeant Whitehead who will be here for three months before leaving for Blighty's shore in July.

We hope in the future to be able to make regular and more interesting contributions to the Corps Magazine and look forward to hearing from old friends.



Officers and B.O.R.s. Second row: Lance-Corporal Glenny, Corporal N. Alderson, Sergeant P. Ansell, Sergeant R. Clark, Lieutenant R. Howe, Captain P. D. Legge, S.S.M. W. A. Timbrell, S.Q.M.S. M. Radcliffe, Corporal K. Maul, Signalman J. Marshall, Signalman R. Sissons, B.O.R.s, third row: Lance-Corporal P. Chater, Signalman G. P. Campbell, Signalman P. Damont, Lance-Corporal J. Christie, Lance-Corporal G. Spooner, Lance-Corporal P. Foot, Lance-Corporal W. Doughty, Lance-Corporal J. Adams

No. 7 (M.E.) L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON. Since our last effort at producing notes for THE WIRE, our scribe has been posted, and quite a number of the original members of the Squadron have departed on release or posting.

In addition we have moved from our old location at Changamwe Camp, which we shared with an R.E. Plant Squadron, to a camp of our own nearby. However, owing to the shortage of military accommodation in Mombasa, it is likely that we shall have to share this in the near future. The new camp is a big improvement on our old quarters and has the advantage of being near the sea, with a magnificent view of Kilindini Harbour. Arrivals and departures of troopships are watched with mixed feelings by the majority of the Squadron, especially the departures, as these usually follow mild celebrations in the N.A.A.F.I. on the previous evening.

S.S.M. Godwin, with extraordinary energy for so small a man, has organised a bathing beach with rafts, dinghies, etc., and a large number of the lads look like South Sea Islanders in their swimming trunks. Despite sharks, every one enjoys the swimming and bathing facilities of Port Reitz Bay, and we are the envy of our friends in East Africa Command Signal Squadron at Nairobi.

S.S.M. Godwin has also spent a good deal of time making the camp shipshape and in time, as work permits, we hope it will be the best military camp in Bombasa.

For the interest of old members of the Corps, especially ex-Rats, the following are serving with the Squadron: Firstly, Major H. G. Brett is our O.C. and another ex-boy, Captain F. R. Redding, is his Second-in-Command. Catterick and Malta will be interested to know that Captain G. H. Smith, our T.O.T. and Lines Officer, is in great demand for his up-to-date knowledge of the latest Signal developments, but it is believed he hankers for the hills and dales of Yorkshire, and views Kenya Colony with a jaundiced eye. We welcome to the fold Captain W. C. Bryn-Jones (late of Greece), who takes over 59 Construction Troop from Lieutenant D. Rothwell, shortly proceeding into the wilds of Mackinnon Road to take over our detachment there. Second-Lieutenants E. D. Scriven and C. B. Jameson have also recently joined us and we hope their stay, although short, will be a pleasant one.

On the last draft we were fortunate to have posted to us S.S.M. R. W. White (ex-boy) and S.S.M. Cadwell, both surplus to establishment but very welcome additions in these days of acute shortages of officers and senior N.C.O.s. "Tich" Godwin (ex-boy), R.Q.M.S. Chilcott and S.Q.M.S. Pugh complete the quota of warrant officers now on strength.

It is with great regret that we lose Captain J. W. Bell on posting to Mauritius. We are sure that his Ordnance friends in Nairobi will miss him, and it is certain we will, but we wish him all the best in his new job and congratulate him on his recent promotion.

Captain D. F. Willett has left us to take over Signals at Moshi, and we are certain he will welcome the opportunity to exercise his knowledge of Swahili on some real Africans as a change from checking African civil employees. Lots of people would like to know if he is taking his car with him, but perhaps there is a museum at Moshi which could exhibit it.

The Squadron has done quite well in the world of sport, but since leaving Changamwe Camp we have no sports field which we can call our own. The football team finished third in the last military league held, and would probably have headed the table if the team had not suffered by players being on detachment. Three of the team play regularly for the Area side, and in matches played to date the side is unbeatable, largely due to the efforts of Corporal Craig, of 21 Medium Wireless Troop.

Several games of hockey have been played, mainly against R.A.F. teams and local civilian sides, with favourable results to our side. We have several cricket enthusiasts, and with the arrival of Captain Bryn-Jones we hope to raise a side.

The writer of these notes sails for U.K. in the near future but will be returning. It is hoped that these notes will continue in his absence.

DIK-DIK

MAURITIUS SIGNAL TROOP. The cyclone season having passed, we are now settling down to cooler weather with a fair proportion of rain.

Sergeant Hawkings, Corporal Clarkson and Lance-Corporal Henderson left for U.K. on the *Ascanius* in March and Corporal Woodbridge on the *Eastern Prince* in April.

Lance-Corporal Milner arrived from East Africa by air in early April to take over the duties of radio mechanic from Woodbridge; Captain Tomlinson and Corporal Harrison are both due to leave for U.K., the former on Python and the latter on Class A release in June on the *Georgic*.

During March, Major G. B. Donald, from the C.S.O.'s Branch, visited the island for a week.

The Troop has now settled down at Headquarters Vacoas with the Line Section in the old Naval Camp.

SIGNAL WING, COMBINED SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION. By way of introducing ourselves, we are a small Unit of East Africa Command with a permanent cadre comprising four officers, 15 B.O.R.s and 66 A.O.R.s, entrusted with the task of training Africans for Signal duties.

The training of Africans in Signals will be a closed book to many, so perhaps an outline on the history of the School would be acceptable.

Before the war, two small Signal sections were in being with Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyikan Colonial Forces. One section had Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and the other in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika, and were known respectively as the Northern and Southern Brigade Signal Sections. Although called "Brigade Sections," the work was of an L. of C. nature, providing wireless communication to remote parts of the various territories not covered by civil communications.

The total British strength serving with these Sections was two officers and four other ranks seconded from Royal Signals, controlling approximately 250 African all ranks. From British reinforcements and this small nucleus were raised two complete Divisional Signals, L. of C. Units and all the other Signal etceteras of war.

Initially it was thought that the African had reached his limit in the sending and receiving of messages by Morse, but continual man-power problems made experiments in other directions imperative.

A small Signal School was opened at Kabete (near Nairobi) in 1939 and had produced, by the end of 1940, 146 operators. The School expanded and moved to Karen, about 16 miles from Nairobi, and output gradually increased and again outgrew its accommodation. In July, 1943, it was moved to Nanyuki and had over 3,000 Africans in various stages of training and produced in its peak year (1944) 1,642 trained men in a variety of Signal trades.

After the East African campaign, requirements gradually became less and less, until only 25 students were left.

In July, 1947, with the inroads of African service group releases, it became evident that a School would again become a necessity, and out of the ashes of the past the Signal Wing of the Combined School of Instruction came into being.

Although an integral part of the C.S.I., the Signal Wing is located some 25 miles from the main school. The main school is at Burguret, a few miles from Nanyuki, and the Signal Wing at Nyeri Station, about six miles from the small township of Nyeri.

What's it like? Fine. It is mostly a farming district, situated in one of the loveliest parts of Kenya, about 6,000 ft. above sea level and almost in the shadow of Mount Kenya, and although only 10° from the equator the climate is delightful.

Sports? Not for us the grandeur of stadiums, but some really honest to goodness rushing about a field with a football pursuing or being pursued by an African team, playing in bare feet, but kicking like mules (the Africans, not us!).

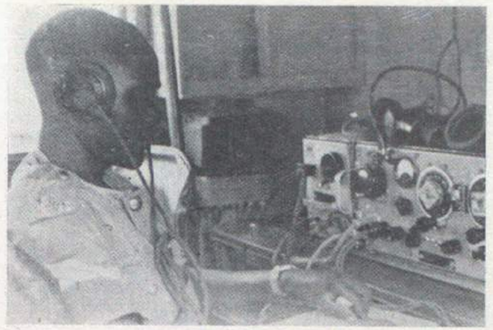
For the more staid there is golf or tennis in Nyeri township. For the Izaak Waltons there are brown and rainbow trout waiting to be coaxed on to a seemingly succulent fly. For the more adventurous, Mount Kenya waits to be climbed; in the near vicinity there is every type of game from elephant and rhino to a field mouse, and many farmers are willing to allow one to take a pot at bird or buck on their land.

Do the world know of us? Well, VQ4KTH does his best on 14 m/cs. C.W. and phone, and gets out fairly well. Any Hams looking for a sked with a VQ4? If so drop a line to VQ4KTH, Post Office, Nyeri Station, Kenya.

Anybody we know there? Well, the only officer with us at the moment is our C.O., Major J. L. Tanner, M.B.E. "Q" Sanderson sees that the stores (and us) are kept in order. Sergeant Curd looks after the innards of our transport,

NORTHERN AREA SIGNAL TROOP, NANYUKI, KENYA

Officers and O.R.s. Front row (left to right): Lance-Corporal W. Doughty, Sergeant R. S. Clark, S.Q.M.S. Radcliffe, Lieutenant Reg Howe, Captain P. D. Legge, S.S.M. W. A. Timbrell, Sergeant P. G. Ansell, Corporal K. Maul, Corporal N. Alderson. Back row (left to right): Lance-Corporal G. A. Glenny, Signalman P. G. Damont, Lance-Corporal G. Spooner, Lance-Corporal P. Foot, Lance-Corporal P. Chater, Signalman G. P. Campbell, Lance-Corporal J. Adams, Lance-Corporal J. Christie, Signalman J. Marshall, Signalman R. Sissons



Sergeant Mbela Kasema, B.E.M.

Sergeant "Hooky" Walker walks around the school looking very important and coaxes our African friends to greater efforts. Ex-Boy now Lance-Corporal Bew looks after our technical stores, and this completes our quota of Regulars.

The remainder usually have quite a lot to say for themselves, but are shy of print.

Well, that's us, and we're saying "Kwa heri" until the next time. Cheerio!

ROPAS

N.B. Why Ropas? Well just one who ruminates on pens and swords and wonders was Clive right?

NORTHERN AREA SIGNAL TROOP. Our staff have been not a little distressed lately by our attempts to repair our main trunk cable: the African casual labourer seems to have an uncanny knack of severing 14 pr. cable with one neat blow of his pick.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Danby, O.B.E., our C.S.O., visited the Troop last week. He seemed pleased with our showing when he inspected two of our detachments that were ordered out on "internal security" on the day of his visit.

The Sergeant-Major is very depressed at the moment about the postponement of his long-awaited trip up Mount Kenya, due, so he says, to the persistent issue of red tape in lieu of climbing rope.

"Q" Radcliffe and Sergeant-Major Timbrell look like becoming the two chief squatters in the area; if they rely on the "points system" they'll still be waiting for a quarter when their time for Python comes around. So now any day after duty they are to be seen roaming hopefully around all the unoccupied camps in the area—"home hunting."

Release goes on at an accelerated pace, and it is feared that most of the people shown in the photo accompanying this article will not be with us when it appears in print.

KARANI

WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

June

General. "The daily round, the common task" seems to sum up most of our activities this month, though a most pleasant and enjoyable break was afforded by the three-day Whitsun holiday. The B.N.C.O.s held a motor cycle rally, with a run to Wineba, a tiny seaside resort about 60 miles from here. The C.O. and entourage of C.S.O. staff were also last seen disappearing in that direction, loaded with what were taken to be elephant guns. Everybody appeared for work on Tuesday much refreshed by the change.

The dawn of 1st June heralded "European Day," which will in future take place on each Monday. Briefly, the idea is to get officers and B.N.C.O.s out of their offices into the open air, and to exercise them in their professions as soldiers, and to give our A.O.R.s their chance of showing their ability without supervision; in other words, the Unit, for one day each week, will be run by African soldiers aided by the minimum number of European personnel.

The first European Day was voted quite a success. We all managed to learn something, including the taste of good food, well cooked and served in the open. Some of us discovered appetites that we thought we had left behind in England.

The day started with a two-mile run-walk to the beach, 15 minutes' P.T., followed by a 20-minute swim, breakfast (this is where the appetites came in), a short demonstration of mast drill (pull them through first, next time, F. of S.!), followed by a wireless exercise "Smuggler," during which many people were surprised to discover just how much they had forgotten! Rendezvous for a resumé of the exercise, and then the joy of an ice-cold bottle of beer and cold lunch, ably supervised by Captain "Q" Webber (the Smuggler Chief), whose obvious vocation in life is proprietorship of an open-air café, judging by that lunch. Back to camp, where vehicles were unloaded, washed down and maintained, which just left us enough time for a quick shower and a change before the next item—a gramophone recital by Captain Perry. We were not, however, lulled to relaxation by the strains of Chopin or Debussy; the recital was on R/T Procedure, during which our many mistakes during the day were clarified and, we hope, rectified. So ended our first "European Day," its usefulness having been clearly demonstrated.

Our African ranks held a dance in their lines during the last week in May. We were able to see the original "jive"; whether this was natural or due to the potency of palm wine we were unable to discover. If nothing else, it was original and interesting as an insight to native entertainment for the newcomers.

Sports. Our football team played its first league game on 30th May against the School of Infantry, running out worthy winners by 2—0.

Other matches played during the month have resulted as follows:—Played 5, won 4, drawn 1.

Our Cup Final tradition is thus being carried on, for the information of the old hands of last year's finalists, now playing on real grass.

Hockey. Our hockey team has played 7, won 1, drawn 4 and lost 2.

And so, once more, we say VA until next month, when we shall once again be on the air.

* * *

Publications Received

Receipt of the following publications is gratefully acknowledged:

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, June and July.

THE ROYAL PIONEER, June.

THE BORDERERS' CHRONICLE, June.

THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, 25th June and 9th July.

R.E.M.E., July.

CALLING ALL GUNNERS, July-September.

* * *

Signals Association Buttonhole Badges (or Brooch pattern for ex-A.T.S. members) can be obtained from the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or from your Local Branch. Price 2/6. Cash with order.

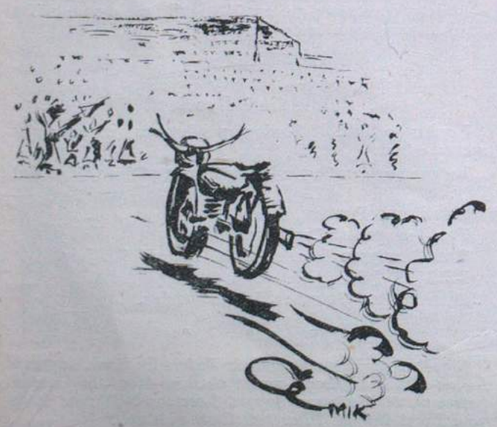
Royal Signals Display

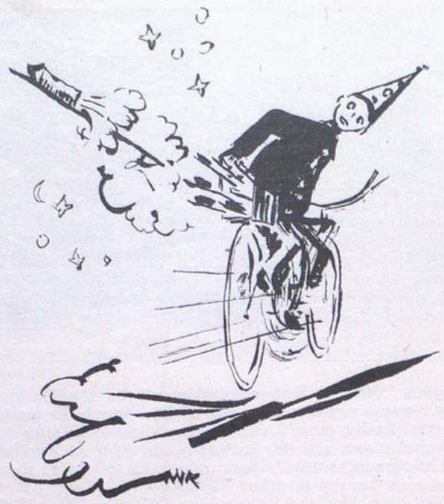
THE newspapers in June and the July issue of THE WIRE have carried much in praise of the current Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display which was at the Royal Tournament during the middle fortnight in June, and it is thought that readers of THE WIRE, both old, by which we mean those now in senior positions in the Corps, and new, by which is meant the young intake now in training, will be interested to read some account of past history of the display.

It goes back a very long time, to 1930 in fact, when many of the men taking part this year were perhaps only one year old.

It was at Catterick in 1930 when the Commandant of the Signal Training Centre, Brigadier F. A. Heymann, was asked if Royal Signals could produce something to brighten up a flower show which was to be attended by the Princess Royal, now our Colonel-in-Chief. There was no precedent; there was nothing known in those days of the capabilities of man on motor cycles in the entertainment world. A very small party of officers and men put their heads together, and after a certain amount of very cautious experiment decided that the then "issue motor cycle" be run up an inclined plane some 16 feet long and 8 inches high at the top, and thereby be said to have "jumped." All went well; the riders (of whom only one was a *bona fide* despatch rider, the remainder being just chaps who were keen on motor cycling) rode about the field in unorthodox positions and eventually, amid tremendous applause, one or more of them "jumped."

There was only one really untoward incident, when one Swindells, who was a most astonishingly good rider, although not a despatch rider, was doing a straight run the length of the field, standing on the saddle of his motor cycle. He fell off ! The motor cycle went on and travelled a very considerable distance before going quite gently through the first three rows of spectators. Everybody except the performers thought it was all part of the act, and everybody near the catastrophe was very good humoured about it, even the lady





who was damaged, and that was only to the extent of a pair of stockings and very slight bruising. In those days, the happy 1930s, silk stockings were easier come by than they are now, and in those wonderful days it was possible to despatch urgently one of the team to run into Richmond, buy a pair of silk stockings of the proper size, and present them to the victim. That we thought was that, at the end of the day, a good time had been had by all, but it was definitely the end *not to be repeated*.

However, one who was to become very famous as a producer of the Aldershot Tattoo, a Major Douglas Withers, of the Prince of Wales's Volunteers, bounced the officer who was in charge of the despatch riders at that time into putting on a show in the autumn of 1930 at a tattoo arranged by the Depot of the Prince of Wales's Volunteers at the Football Ground, Warrington. It was on his suggestion that an approach was made to the Triumph Company, which has resulted in an almost unbroken succession of the use of the Triumph Company's motor bicycles by the Royal Signals Display. It was on his suggestion, too, because it fitted in with his ideas, that the display should be dressed as Red Devils. Only some six or eight took part, and how they managed to fill a football ground will never be known.

It was by searchlight and by cunning use of the lights that the empty places, and there were far too many in that arena, were blacked out.

That year, perhaps in advance of its time, the Corps invented the first rocket-propelled push bicycle. Lance-Corporal Strugnell, then no mean performer with a motor bicycle and sidecar (he later achieved almost international fame), was dressed as a clown and sent into the arena with a petrol can filled with rockets on the carrier of a Government push bicycle. As each rocket went off in succession he pedalled madly, and between rockets he slowed down, thus creating an illusion. Fired with great success here, the first approach as to whether the motor cycle could perform on the tan at Olympia was received with less trepidation than might have been expected. The Depot Battalion's Riding School was borrowed for an afternoon and experiments were carried out. It was deemed to be possible. Negotiations were fruitful, and a ride of twelve soldiers, a few extra men, Lance-Corporal Strugnell and the sidecar, a clown or two, a bathing beauty and a surf-board, all mounted on Triumphs, turned up at the Royal Tournament in May, 1931.

Our reception was dubious in the extreme; Olympia in those days had always been sacred to the horse. "Stinking motor cycles, never !" However, tact and perseverance conquered the difficulty of getting even petrol in that vicinity. The motor bicycles were not licensed for the road, and had to be pushed by hand a considerable distance to the nearest civil petrol pump. We went on, dressed again, and for the last time as red devils. The Press, God bless 'em, were kinder than we deserved. London reads its newspapers—London liked us ! We even stole about 40 per cent. of Mr. Punch's excellent article on the Royal Tournament. Emboldened by this, we accepted a few engagements at smaller agricultural shows around Catterick, and soon found, to our cost, that where the tan at Olympia is the almost perfect surface, grass —particularly if cut very short, and wet by recent rain—was the most dangerous.

It was also a matter of concern to lengthen the show, which had been cut to 10 minutes in the Royal Tournament, into the 50 or 60 minutes demanded by the secretaries of the various shows.

The year 1932 saw the display getting into its stride, it was clearly worth while; it was backed by the authorities, the little band of "experts" were enlarged by taking over a complete squad of newly-trained despatch riders, and we went to the 1932 Royal Tournament with a full ride of 24, plus a number of extras, dressed for the first time in blue. We were welcomed as being a "show with a reputation." After an almost frantic amount of fruitless research to produce a comic motor bicycle, we achieved one which bounced as it went along. We were ever-confident and sure of ourselves. We were perhaps not quite as good as we had been the year before.

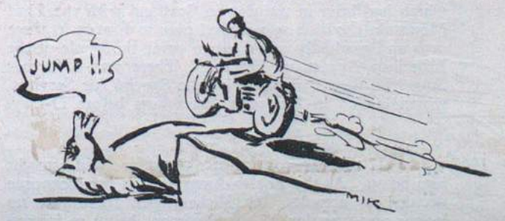
That year was the beginning of the great change that made the Royal Signals Display almost international in its fame. The horse establishment of the Depot Battalion at Catterick had always run the Riding Display around the local shows, and in 1932 the Motor Cycle Display and the Horse Display amalgamated during the August and September show season. There was a tremendous amount of preparation, carried out entirely in the evenings, training the horses to be unafraid of motor cycles when ridden in close proximity.

The smaller agricultural shows of 1932 showed possibilities of the amalgamation, and in 1933 the full combined display went to the Royal Tournament at Olympia.

The idea behind the whole thing was to show that everything that could be done on a horse could be done on a motor cycle and vice versa. We even had an elderly horse that would lie down in front of one of the jumping ramps and submit to motor cycles jumping over her.

It was that year too, if memory serves, when Royal Signals won the Army Team Jumping at the Royal Tournament against all comers, C.S.M. Young on the famous horse Baby being the leader. It was that year, too, when the riding instructors from Weedon came up and asked if they could make a very short speech, and said that with all their experience they had not thought it possible to train horses as we had done to work with motor cycles.

The years 1933, 1934 and 1935 had a combined Horse and Motor Cycle Display at the Royal Tournament, and each year we had a full season's showing at all the chief and most



important agricultural shows in the country, journeying to Belfast in Northern Ireland, to Scotland, to Wales, and even once to the Channel Islands. From the end of April to the end of September we led the life of a provincial theatrical touring company, returning to Catterick for very short intervals to rest and refit.

Nineteen thirty-six saw the end of it. With an increase of mechanisation, the Riding Establishment at Catterick was closed down in the autumn, and after a last tremendous season the Royal Signals combined Horse and Motor Cycle Display ceased to exist.

It may be imagined that all these years had proved a considerable strain on the Signal Training Centre at Catterick, and the removal of the horses provided reasonable excuse to stop all display work for a year or two, and that decision was wisely taken. It was agreed, however, that for one year more at least Royal Signals should be represented at the Royal Tournament, and the lot fell for the first and only time on a Territorial Army Signal Unit. City of London Signals, from Balham, had by then been doing a good deal of display work at week-ends around London, and had gained considerable experience and a fine reputation. The authorities of the Royal Tournament, however, were adamant. The Territorial Regiment to give the Territorial Army Display for that year in the evenings only had already been nominated. If City of London Signals wanted to appear at the Royal Tournament as a Motor Cycle Display nothing would please the Royal Tournament more, but they must perform at afternoon performances as well as evening. They did.

Bank clerks, stockbrokers, men of business, of trade, performed the astonishing feat of getting to the Tournament at Olympia in time to go on in the afternoon.

The scene in the pits outside the arena was often incredible. One or more men in civilian clothes would hurl themselves out of a taxi and, undressing as they went, rush madly to the motor cycle bay where Permanent Staff Instructors and four or five Regular Signalmen, lent by a friendly Regular Regiment, were ready to help them into uniform, start up their motor cycles for them and get them into the arena. On many occasions a man was only just in time to ride madly through the swing doors to take his place in the team after they had gone on, but in time for his own particular trick.

The Territorial Army gave a very fine display, but London felt it missed the horses.

On the other side of the picture, the Signal Training Centre at Catterick had been ordered by the War Office that under no circumstances were they to cease their activities; they were to put on a display, with or without the horses, and it was a curious coincidence that the Regular Display from Catterick were performing at the White City while the Territorial Army Display were performing at Olympia.

In 1938 the Regulars from Catterick returned to the Royal Tournament with a straight motor cycle ride, and this was given again in the last Royal Tournament before the war, 1939.

To single out individuals is usually invidious and only one or two have been mentioned in this article. It would be incomplete, however, to conclude without mention of:

Lieutenant, now Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Crawford, who, starting with the Horse Display, eventually took over the running of the Combined Display, becoming a financial wizard, a showman, and even a motor cyclist during the process.

Sergeant, then C.S.M., now Captain (T.O.M.) E. J. Angell is the doyen of the Motor Cycle Display. He started it, he invented nearly everything it did. He disliked horses but worked for and with them. He went to the City of London Signals, T.A., as a Permanent Staff Instructor in 1935. There were then five D.R.s. In 1937 there were over 50, and they had done a Royal Tournament. He has been doing it again and again since.

Territorial Army

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A. (KENSINGTONS)

The notes submitted for THE WIRE by the Signal Reporting Regiment, "The Kensington Regiment," are so brief as to be unusual. They are republished below but we take the liberty for the interest of our readers in appending a brief history of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment in its previous incarnations. It is taken from Regimental Orders for July, 1948.

HISTORICAL
THE KENSINGTONS

1908. The 13th Battalion The London Regiment, formed by the amalgamation of the 4th Middlesex V.R.C. (Kensington Rifles) and the 2nd (South Middlesex V.R.C.) Headquarters, Iverna Gardens, Kensington.

1909. The Colours were worked and put together under the direct supervision of Her Royal Highness, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, and were presented to the Battalion at Windsor by His Majesty King Edward VII on 19th June.

1913. At the express wish of His Majesty King George V, H.R.H. Princess Louise allowed her name to be borne by the Battalion.

1914. The 1st Battalion went to France, where it took part in the campaigns for the remainder of the war.

1916. The 2nd Battalion went to France but was withdrawn after four months and sent to the Near East, where it took part in the campaigns in Salonika and Palestine.

1914-18. Many battle honours were earned by both Battalions, and the casualties for the two Battalions amounted to 60 Officers, 1,130 Other Ranks killed.

1920. The Regiment was re-formed again on to a Territorial basis as an Infantry Battalion.

1928. On 21st May the Regiment formed a guard of honour for Their Majesties the King and Queen at the opening of Princess Louise's Kensington Hospital for Children.

1937. The establishment of the Infantry Division was altered so that each Division should have a Machine Gun Battalion instead of each Infantry Battalion having a Machine Gun Company. The Kensingtons were chosen for this role in the 56th (London) Division.

1939. In early 1939 the Territorial Army was doubled up and the 2nd Battalion Kensingtons was formed and reached its total strength in May.

Upon the outbreak of war both Battalions were embodied and for the first few months were employed in guarding installations of importance.

THE 1ST BATTALION

1940. The 1st Battalion went to France in April, 1940, and was serving with the 51st Highland Division in front of the Maginot Line when the German assault started. After a trek back across France, with delaying battles on the Bresle and the Somme, one half of the Battalion got away from Le Havre on 13th June, ten days after Dunkirk. Two companies were "Put in the bag" with that part of the Division that was trapped at St. Valery.

1943. In early 1943 the 1st Battalion became the first Support Battalion of the British Army. This gave the Regiment heavy mortars and 20 m.m. Oerlikon guns, in addition to the machine guns, and involved an increase in strength from 700 to 1,400. Whilst still in the process of receiving stores and men, the Battalion was warned for foreign service, and in May, 1943, left England for North Africa. In June the Battalion joined the 78th Infantry Division, and within three weeks crossed the Mediterranean and began the long saga of Sicily and Italy, which culminated in the arrival in Austria one year and eight months later.

THE 2ND BATTALION

1941. The 2nd Battalion joined the 49th Infantry Division in Iceland.

1942. The Battalion returned to England with this Division, with which it remained for the rest of the war.

1943. The Battalion was made up into a Support Battalion.

1944. The Battalion was changed back to a Machine Gun Battalion but retained one company of 4.2in. mortars.

1945. After VE-Day the Battalion moved to an occupational area in Germany.

PHANTOM

1940. Colonel Hopkinson's mission was sent to France to act in an Army-R.A.F. liaison capacity. In the "fog of war" which descended during the retreat to Dunkirk the mission was used to keep G.H.Q. in the picture about what was happening. On return to England, it was realised that this role would be an essential part of the anti-invasion force, and G.H.Q. Liaison Regiment was formed under Colonel Hopkinson and received the nickname of "Phantom."

1941. A Squadron was sent to Greece. Most of it was captured in the disaster that followed.

1942. The Eighth Army had evolved a very similar organisation, which they termed the "J" Service, and which was used from the Battle of El Alamein onwards.

First Army had a Squadron of Phantom with them when they landed in North Africa, and another was sent out to the American Army in North Africa.

When the Germans were driven out of Tunisia the various merits of the "J" Service and "Phantom" were examined and the two were amalgamated to form the "Phantom" which worked in Sicily and Italy.

1944. In England, Phantom had been organised to provide information for 21st Army Group and the Armies under its command. The "J" element was incorporated in this. As soon as the bridgehead was established in Normandy, Field-Marshal Montgomery demanded Phantom coverage of the American Armies which were then under his command. A Squadron which had been in training in Scotland with the 52nd Mountain Division was rushed over to France in three days and gradually expanded to cover the whole of the American Armies in France. There was a further Squadron which worked with the Special Air Services, which landed in France by parachute before D-Day.

POST-WAR

1947. In 1947 the Territorial Army was once again brought into being. As the British Army had in the meantime decided to abandon the Vickers gun there was no longer any question of the Regiment being re-formed as a Machine Gun or Support Battalion. It was chosen for the role of the Signal Reporting Regiment, which is "Phantom" and "J" on a reorganised basis. This is the only Regiment of this type in the new Territorial Army.

June

This month has been one of feverish activity in preparation for Annual Training Camp. We are going down to Canterbury on 10th July for a week, to be the guests of Eastern Command Signal Regiment, who are allowing us to use part of their barracks.

We had a 48 hours' exercise on the week-end 26th-27th June. We went down to Bisley on the Friday night, spent Saturday morning on lectures and the afternoon on a short exercise. Sunday's programme was much the same and we arrived back at headquarters late that evening. We were fed at Bisley by the London and Middlesex Rifle Association and found both their meals and their bar, as always, most excellent. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

There has been yet one more addition to the family. S.Q.M.S. Howard, of the permanent Cadre, is the proud father of a daughter. Our heartiest congratulations.

No. 60 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

June

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE the Regiment has undergone a change in its structure. Owing to the reorganisation of the T.A. in Scotland, the 26 (S) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (T.A.), Dundee, has become No. 3 Squadron 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), and a new Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron is to be formed in Edinburgh. No. 20 E.G.R.E. Signal Troop (T.A.) has been formed at Paisley, and we welcome to the firm Lieutenant H. E. Lang, Royal Signals (of Combined Operations fame), who has been appointed O.C.

84 A.G.R.A. (Field) Signal Squadron (T.A.) and 26 (S) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (T.A.) attended annual camp at Comrie, Perthshire, with 153 (H) Infantry Brigade from 18th to 27th June. The weather was not what was desired, but a little work and training was carried out in spite of this.

During the week, Royal Signals personnel witnessed a number of demonstrations, including Army/Air Co-operation, mine detecting, the Medium Regiment (R.A.) in action and Infantry crossing water obstacles.

On the Wednesday the camp was visited by the families and a sports meeting held in the afternoon. The star performer on the sports field was Signalman P. Kelso, of 84 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, who was placed in no fewer than seven of the field events.

On Saturday, 26th June, the camp was honoured by a visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and H.R.H. Princess Margaret, the Royal party motoring from Crieff Railway Station and arriving in camp at 1020 hours. Included in the Royal "column" was a jeep carrying a 19 set manned by S.S.M. A. Grace and linked to a 19 set in Comrie Camp. A commentary of the progress of the Royal party was received at the parade ground and was appreciated by all, as the troops were "standing easy" until Their Majesties arrived at the camp gates. H.M. the Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Black Watch, inspected the parade, which consisted of two Battalions Black Watch, one Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, two R.A. Regiments, Signals, R.E.M.E., R.A.M.C. and Provost, and she spoke to a large number of the men. Group photographs of the Royal Family were taken with the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants and O.R.s, respectively.

The Royal party received a rousing send-off when they left the camp at 1230 hours.

On 7th May, 30 Armoured Signals and 85 A.G.R.A. Signals attended a week-end camp at Dundonald with 50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and carried out exercises in traffic control with 528 Company (Infantry Brigade), R.A.S.C.

Welcome. To Mrs. A. Kerr, who has recently joined her husband, R.S.M. A. Kerr, here in Edinburgh. We sincerely hope that Mrs. Kerr will enjoy the sojourn in Scotland's capital, and that after so many years in Catterick Camp will not become "homesick" and yearn for the night life of that famous place she has come from.

To ex-S.Q.M.S. D. M. Bannerman (ex-3 Command Signals and M.E.L.F.), who has joined our 84 A.G.R.A. (Field) Signal Squadron at Kirkcaldy.

To any members or ex-members of the Corps when visiting Edinburgh to call in at our office in the Castle.

No. 11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

June

Family moves and wedding bells have resulted in several regrettable losses from our strength, but our numbers grow none the less and we have lately seen the parade state exceed a "total all ranks" of 200.

During April our G.O.C., Major-General G. W. E. Heath, O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited Regimental Headquarters and inspected No. 22 Squadron at work.

A successful Motor Cycle Trial was held in May on Hurtwood Common, Surrey. Signalmen Hawkins and Thorndyke tied for first place with 93 points each and Signalman Over ran third with 85 points. The motor cycle enthusiasts were pleased to notice the interest taken by the A.T.S., who attended in fair numbers and even took part in the arrangements for the trials.

No. 206 Brompton Road was again a scene of social activity in June when the officers enjoyed the company of the G.O.C., the Honorary Colonel, Sir John Dalton, Lady Dalton and other distinguished guests at a Mess sherry party.

Now our thoughts are mainly turned on our first Annual Training, which is to take place in Langham, Norfolk, during the second fortnight in August. Everything points to a good attendance and to an enjoyable camp.

Junior Commander Rogers is to be married this month and leaves the Regiment with our very best wishes. We welcome Junior Commander Aylen, who comes to take her place.

This is a month of farewells indeed, for Sergeant Sherratt has left us for Germany and W.O.I (R.S.M.) "Mungo" Park is about to tackle civilian life after 24 gallant years of service.

Our invitation to all Old Comrades to call in for a drink at 206 Brompton Road on any Tuesday or Thursday evening still holds good. We also invite them to make a date for Hallowe'en (30th October), when we are having a Carnival Dance and would be delighted to see them with us.

TWO-OWE-SIX

* * *

Corps Ties

We regret that the 8/6 Uncrushable pattern are at present out of stock, and that Artificial Silk Ties have had, due to an increase in makers' costs, to be increased from 6/6 to 7/-. Coupons are no longer required.

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

July

R.H.Q. AND H.Q. SQUADRON. With our Annual Camp looming large on the horizon our hopes are naturally centred around the Meteorological Office, and providing all goes well we expect to have a grand time at Fremington with the Combined Signal School.

Amongst our planned activities at camp is a fully-fledged Signal exercise covering two or three days, range firing at three separate ranges, a R.A.F. demonstration, innumerable films, bathing and two cricket matches—Officers *v.* N.C.O.s and a first-class local Derby, Somerset *v.* Devon. M.C.C. and English selectors, please note.

We hope to give a full report on our Annual Training Camp activities in our next contribution to THE WIRE.

On Sunday, 4th July, a range practice was held at Langport, one of Somerset's numerous small market towns. Our own H.Q. Squadron and No. 1 Squadron turned out in full and we invited 91 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, T.A., led by their able P.S.I., S.S.M. (Wally) Brooks, of S.L.I. fame. Being an ex-infantryman, we regret to announce that he walked away with the highest score. Incidentally one of our star performers spoilt his score by persistently firing on the wrong target. (Whodunit!)

Our next contribution will, we hope, be of much greater length; till then we close down on all links.

No. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER, DEVON. Since our last notes many activities have taken place here at Exeter, notable amongst them being the Trade Test Board, held 19th-20th June. It was pleasing to note that of the 16 members who sat for trade ratings, 11 were successful; the rest, although disappointed, are determined that the second attempt shall not be a reported failure. A further three other ranks are spending time at R.E.M.E. Workshops, Willand, in an attempt to pass their driver-mechanic's rating before camp, and by their confidence it's in the bag.

The lads here do love an open range shoot. On Sunday, 4th July, a shoot was arranged at Langport. It meant getting to the Drill Hall quite early as we had some 40 miles to travel. What a day, raining like hell, and by the time we started all were feeling uncomfortable. And what a muster, all but two of the Squadron were accounted for ! At Honiton a sleepy roadside café owner must have thought a cyclone had hit his shop, tea and biscuits being the order of the day. It was here that we had the last look at our beer wagon for quite a period, in fact the situation became so bad that we had to send out a search party in case the driver should have drunk all our coloured water. At last, amidst terrific cheering, the wagon came into view; the excitement was intense. Was it there or not ? It was now we learnt that the driver had got lost and had not, as we thought, gone on a private booze-up. There is a rumour that Corporal Ofield, the driver of the said vehicle, is now proceeding to the School of Signals, Catterick, on a map-reading course from 7th August, 1948, to 6th August, 1950. That'll learn him to muck about with our beer.

The relationship between 1st (Exeter) Battalion A.C.F. and No. 1 Squadron is most cordial, in fact quite a few challenges are floating around. On 16th July, a party is being held. Darts, crib, table tennis, billiards, snooker and no doubt skittles will be played with the keenness that is uppermost here.

Work is now in progress preparing for Annual Training Camp. Accommodation is available from 24th July to 2nd August at the Combined Signal School, Fremington, and speaking from personal experience this School is "tops." We're hoping to have some interesting notes for you to read after our return.

No. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET. We welcome into the Squadron ex-Guardsman T. A. Wookey, of the Welsh Guards, and in the near future we expect to see more boot studs than gravel stones on the Drill Hall parade cum M.T. ground.

Outstanding features of the month are as follows: Trade Test Board at Exeter, week-end 19th-20th June, and also two well-enjoyed .303 range practices at Langport open range on two consecutive Sundays.

Salaams. To R.S.M. ("Maxy") Meese, soldiering hard in London, from S.S.M. ("Nobby") Hall, ex-2nd Divisional Signals.

WILCO, NOBBY

No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

July

38 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON. The Squadron spent their first annual camp at Langham, near Holt, Norfolk, from 28th May to 12th June.

Our O.C., Captain J. Kilner, who was unable to attend, came to see the Squadron off at Westgate Station. The weather was favourable at first, but having let the Regiment settle in, deteriorated and continued to be uncongenial until the end of the first week. During the second week the weather was much better.

Most of the male personnel of the Squadron were familiar with camp life, but quite a number of the A.T.S. were having their first taste of life under canvas. On one or two occasion they just managed to get out from under the canvas in time as the wind took a hand in dismantling the camp.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, the spirit was very good. A number of football matches arranged with neighbouring Units had to be written off due to rain. The A.T.S. were in a similar plight over their hockey arrangements. A Regimental concert was given towards the end of the camp period and three of our Squadron A.T.S.—Privates Audrey Newman, Joyce Newman and Margaret Pimperton—sang.

A camp farewell party was organised by members of the Squadron on the evening before leaving camp in that memorable and historic village of Stiffkey.

Technical training at camp was particularly successful and rounded off the previous year's training on drill evenings. Several members of the Squadron passed their trade tests and are to be congratulated on their achievement.

Training included visits to gun sites at Weybourne A.A. Practice Camp during actual firing. An unusual slow motion demonstration on a 3.7 H.A.A. gun, unintentionally given by Private ———, received a round of applause. She was convinced that she'd "broken" the gun.

In the lecture rooms, midst a tangle of technical terms, many new friends were made, old acquaintances strengthened and dialectic difficulties (those Geordies) defeated.

Members of the Squadron are looking forward eagerly to future camps.

We have two recent promotions. Congratulations to Corporal Marion Scargall (ex-W.A.A.F.) and Lance-Corporal Margaret Fawley on their additional progress towards Chief Controller.

* * *

"Copy" should be despatched in time to reach the Editor by the 16th of the month.

No. 23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

June

Since our last notes an all ranks dance has been held with great success. Old members will note that Colonel Lloyd attended and looked extremely fit; quite a few bodies got down to "gripping" with him. Colonel Vigers, our Honorary Colonel, also gave us the pleasure of his company. The Rifle Club goes from success to success. In a return match, at home, the Signals Reporting Regiment (the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) were again beaten. Their next match is against the 27th London Home Guard, and various matches have been arranged against Units in the R.A.F., Royal Navy, as well as in the Army. The Regiment had a day off for a shoot on 6th June at Ash Vale Range, Aldershot. Considering that a half-gale was blowing and rain falling for most of the day, the shooting was to be commended. If any Regiment is interested in shooting against us, please contact the Adjutant. Postal matches will gladly be arranged.

This month we present the members of No. 1 Squadron, led by Captain Cocke, assisted by Lieutenants "Hobby" Burrows and "Plushy" Procter, Sergeants Kimble and Meager, Corporal Ruthven, Signalmen G. H. Anderson, G. C. Bladon, A. J. Oakley and E. F. Thomas.

The Regiment now boasts of 18 Officers and 34 O.R.s, a further two Officers and five O.R.s are trying to make up their minds. A special welcome is extended to Signalman Odell, ex-gunner, who left the Army on a Wednesday and joined us on the following Monday. Apart from personal keenness, credit must go to the persuasive tongues of Lieutenant Thorne and Sergeant Kruger.

Our sports activities have fallen off for the past few weeks, but a new venture is being undertaken, that of badminton. The necessary kit is being begged, borrowed, etc., and after some trials it is hoped that a reasonable team will be selected to take on any comers.

A mixed social evening is held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess every Friday evening with great success. Past, present and embryo members are heartily welcome. Games, with fun, of course, and usual social amenities go on.

The C.O. and Officers gave a cocktail party on 7th June. Among those present were the Director of Signals, Colonel Vigers, Lady Bowyer-Smythe, Colonel Lloyd, Colonel Howard and representatives from many T.A. Units in the London area. The evening was a great success and reflects great credit on our Mess President, Major Watson, and his able satellites, Captain Cocke, the Mess secretary, and Lieutenant Reg. Thorne, the wines member. The following members of the Permanent Staff have been posted recently: S.S.M. Armstrong, Sergeants Ellis and Baker. Our best wishes go with them to their new Units.

The Regiment completed its first line-laying operation by supplying telephone communications for the head of the river race from Mortlake to Putney. The operation was an unqualified success. Despite active service conditions in the form of small boys cutting the cable with stones, we were "through" during the whole race. Much valuable experience was gained, including the laying of D.8 cable under water.

SVEN.

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51st (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

June

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., has just spent a very interesting week in Germany on a B.A.O.R. battlefield tour. He left here on the 21st and returned on 27th June. In Germany he met the Divisional Commander, Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O.

At the beginning of the month we held a week-end camp at Arnwell Farm, just outside Aberdeen. About 65 all ranks attended the camp, including personnel from Nos. 2 and 3 Squadrons in Stirling and Dundee. The camp was a great success and very enjoyable. Many valuable lessons were learned from the exercises carried out. We are again very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Rendall for allowing us to use their farm as a comping ground and for supplying so much to augment our rations. The cooks, needless to say, did more than justice to the rations!

On the 12th and 27th, No. 1 Squadron spent two very enjoyable days out on the Blackdog ranges, and the shooting was well up to standard.

No. 3 Squadron have been to camp this month from 19th to 26th at Comrie. Unfortunately they could not come to camp with the rest of the Regiment as had been hoped. However, they came back with their tails up, having very much enjoyed themselves. The camp was "hutted," situated in ideal surroundings. Training was limited owing to the small numbers, and even when combined with 84 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, as they were, the numbers were small. However, on the last day of camp, Their Majesties the King and Queen, with H.R.H. Princess Margaret, visited the camp. The Royal party was escorted from Crieff Station by Provost D.R.s from 153 (H) Infantry Brigade and a Signals wireless jeep, which kept the Brigade Commander in the picture back in camp. On arrival in camp Their Majesties inspected all Units, including the Black Watch, of whom Her Majesty the Queen is Colonel-in-Chief. After the parade, the Officers were presented to Their Majesties in the Officers' Mess. Their Majesties then proceeded to the Sergeants' Mess, where Sergeant Crayford was presented, and to the Men's Mess. After the Royal party had been photographed with members of the Sergeants' Mess, and again with the Officers, they left the camp, on their way to Edinburgh, midst the cheers of all ranks, led by Brigadier J. A. Oliver, C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., Commander, 153 (H) Infantry Brigade. The Royal visit made a grand finale to a very enjoyable camp.

On the last week-end of the month, the Adjutant took French leave and went down to London to the 17th Indian Divisional dinner, where he met four other members of the Divisional Signal Regiment, Major Max Charlton, who was C.O., Major John Ellis, O.C., 2 Squadron, Captain Jimmy Judd, 63 Brigade Signals, and Lieutenant Jim Anderson. Needless to say, considerable quantities of alcohol were consumed!

SCOTTY.

No. 62 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

June

General. The month of July will prove to be a very busy one, for in addition to preparing camps for 88 and 96 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadrons at Blacon Camp, we are holding a Recruiting Campaign on the Chester Race Course on the 14th and 15th, the occasion of the Cheshire County Agricultural Show.

Captain "Bill" Mills can be seen complete with draughtsman's kit, doing his stuff—notice boards, posters, equipment cards and most other jobs to ensure the success of our recruiting drive. All Squadrons in the Chester area are taking part. More about this in our next issue.

Sport. With our H.Q. being staffed by only four P.S.I.s, we get no chance to partake in organised sport, but two of our members have so far done exceedingly well for other clubs.

Captain Bamber, the Adjutant, has represented Manchester inter-city team at tennis against Burnley. R.S.M. Dawson last season played in goal at hockey for Western Command Signal Regiment and Western Command H.Q. Hockey Club. He has also recently had a Command cricket trial.

Playing cricket for Western Command Signal Regiment, a fortnight ago, the R.S.M. knocked up a useful 41 and took four wickets for nine runs.

With the football season almost upon us, we are wondering whether Sergeant "Bomber" Haigh will be seen out training minus bicycle.

And so for the present, we bid all our comrades in the Corps adieu and all the very best wherever you may be.

CESTRIAN

88 A.G.R.A. (FIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. There is a definite tendency for strange faces to gather in our canteen now that it is properly functioning. As the canteen is normally the best Recruiting Sergeant, our nominal roll may grow in the near future.

Individual training is now progressing very favourably and we look like pulling one or two good tradesmen out of the bag before camp.

Congratulations to S.S.M. and Mrs. Casey on the birth of a bonny bouncing baby girl (ex-Blackdowners please note). note).

KAYDEE

94 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. The Squadron has just returned (duly sunburned) from its eight-day camp at Kirkby-in-Furness, Lancashire. The weather gods were unbelievably kind to us during those eight days, and the camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Officers, Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s and men of 42 Infantry Divisional Signals, T.A., who made us welcome as a temporary Squadron of their Unit, making us all feel very much at home. In regard to training, we all learned much from practical experience, especially our Linemen, who now spend their spare time dashing up and down telegraph poles with climbers and safety belts just to show how easy it is.

Our big day was a Unit sports meeting, when we carried off the honours. We were points even with one of the 42 Divisional Squadrons up to the final tug-of-war, which we won, our mainstay being our 17-stone anchor, Sergeant Morritt, the sight of whom disheartened our opponents from the start. During our stay in camp we were visited by the Commander, 94 A.G.R.A., T.A., and by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Woodham, T.D., Royal Signals.

Lieutenant F. Gibbons has gallantly stepped forward to fill the gap caused by the departure of Lieutenant R. H. O. Benson. Welcome, sir, and the best of luck in your struggles with the Association account. We would also like to wish both Lieutenant and Mrs. Benson all the best of luck, good health and much happiness in their future married life.

We also welcome to the fold Signalman "Sammy" Grocott, ex-R.A.O.C.

RICHIE

96 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. Events of the last month have not been very notable. We extend a very hearty welcome to two newcomers, one ex-Signals N.C.O., Corporal Stanley Dobbs, late of 82 West African Division. He will be a great asset to us for training. We also welcome Signalman Bate, ex-Infantry; he could not wait until his demob. We wish them the very best of luck and a happy stay in the Squadron. One very noticeable event—Sergeant (Beard) West, having won his bet, bought himself a razor blade, and is now just plain Sergeant West.

The Squadron is looking forward to the annual camp, which will be held in the near future. We hope to have a full complement of Officers and O.R.s.

Our Saturday night dances are a great success and the profits therefrom are a very welcome contribution to our funds. Should these profits continue, then our club room furniture will soon have the addition of a wireless set or even a radiogram.

We hope the commencement of the Soccer season will see our budding Tommy Lawtons in action.

And so from all members of this Regiment at Runcorn, in Cheshire, we bid farewell until our next contribution.

VICVE

95 A.G.R.A. (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A. We have recently held a Recruiting Drive in Newport (Mon.), which proved of great interest to the population.

So far the results have not been very encouraging, although we are now the proud possessors of five enlistments.

Our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is flourishing and very popular—here's hoping that before long our Men's Canteen will be equally as popular.

16 WIRELESS SQUADRON, T.A. Greetings to everyone on our first notes. We are just forming in Northwich and hope you will hear more of us from time to time through the medium of THE WIRE.

Our O.C. and Second-in-Command, Major "Harry" Blakemore and Major the Earl Kitchener have just returned to the fold after a course in the wilds of Catterick. Whenever any points come up, out comes the little "Blue Book"—"Now when I was in Catterick . . .!"

Our P.S.I.s are R.S.M. Folks (Ginger, Jimmy, Bob, Ray—the tag dependent upon the station), ex-China, etc., etc., etc., and Sergeant "Blondie" Whatmough, ex-India and "Civvy Street." Another Regular who crept back to the security and comradeship of the old Corps. All you see of "Blondie" is a shock of blond hair peeping out from the top of a book marked "Working Instructions—W.S. No. . . ."

We have few recruits, but we have a very keen Signal Platoon of Cadets who are being taught the mysteries of wireless and line. We should get some good material for the Corps when they "come of age." We are taking part, along with the rest of the Regiment, in a recruiting show at Chester this month and are hoping we can bring a few more recruits into the fold.

Dances are run every Saturday night in the Drill Hall and we shall be glad to see any members of the Corps who "creep" round this-a-way.

GINGER 462

No. 1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

July

A surprising number of volunteers have been joining the Regiment in recent weeks, a state of affairs which gives us much satisfaction. These men are all of the right type and will prove to be extremely useful members in the days to come. We avoid saying "in the years to come" because no one in his right senses (not, mark you, that we are claiming anything) would presume to forecast so far ahead.

This Regiment is slowly but very surely building itself up into recognisable shape. You may know some of the following who have joined us recently:—Ex-C.Q.M.S. Harry Smith, M. Driscoll, K. Mitchell, R. A. Moss, H. S. Savin, V. L. Savin, R. Worton, R. S. Worton, H. W. Toney, I. G. Hitchings. We extend to them a very hearty welcome.

One wonders whether the new coloured beret will be issued to the T.A. in the near future. Or it may be that another minor aid to recruiting will be missed. What happens to the many thousands of caps G.S., khaki, still in existence? Perhaps we shouldn't ask.

There was another trip to Kingsbury Ranges on 10th July. One more chance to master the sights on the No. 4 Rifle. The Regiment is running its own dances in the Drill Hall every Saturday in July. These are very fully attended and the Entertainment Fund is—well, never mind. We shall be denting it a little if our proposed outing to the seaside materialises.

Talking about entertainments reminds us that we should like to form our own dance band but so far no one has pleaded guilty to being a pianist or trumpeter. We asked one man if he could play the violin. He said he didn't know because he had never tried—the confident type, the sort we like. Sometimes we think of a friend of ours at Catterick who cuts hair with one hand and plays the piano with the other. Or so they say. We helped him for some years by playing drums and flute at the same time, an achievement which caused him intense jealousy. Donald Peers—you won't believe this because it is true—used to sing with us. We told him to come back when he had gained a little experience. He never returned. Perhaps it was something we said.

But we shouldn't be wasting your time like this. Let us get back to our A.Fs.G. 1198 and find something else to indent for. Here it must be recorded that Ordnance are batting very well. The goods turn up almost before the ink is dry on our date stamp. Just occasionally they say a small piece. Quite reasonable queries, such as, "Are you sure you need pliers sidecutting 8in. in Signals?" For the time being we carry on uncomplainingly and cut our cable when necessary with two large stones wielded with much force and an untiring persistence. Something has to give way—usually the stones.

But Rome wasn't built in a day and it is an ill wind that goes in one ear and is gone tomorrow. Don't you agree?

BARLEUX

Rock Climbing and Scrambling

FOR the soldier stationed in the North of England there are excellent opportunities for taking up a pastime that is exciting and calls for fitness and judgment of a high order.

What is there in this rock climbing and scrambling?

Wherever are situated hills will be found men and women who love to frequent them, who like to walk the hills and occasionally scramble away from the beaten path. For them it is a small step to take before they find themselves exploring rock and gully for its own sake. Every rock and gully, which each has its own particular problems, brings out of its explorer—unawares—a fine technique. There is a thrill in finding out one's own route just as much as there is enjoyment and real mountaineering skill in following well-worn and scheduled routes.

What does it require to enjoy that thrill and tautening of the nerves as a particular pitch on the rock or in the gully is negotiated?

Fitness and sound judgment and a fine sense of balance on minute holds.

How can these qualities be acquired?

A competent leader with rock experience can readily impart many of these attributes to a fit man who has a love of hardy camping and an enthusiasm for the hills. And what if there is no competent leader available to initiate the would-be rock climber or scrambler? Then a visit to any climbing centre should suffice.

For those stationed at Catterick, Almscliffe, near Harrogate, would be perhaps the most convenient centre, though the attractions of the Lake District and of North Wales would amply repay the time spent in travelling. At these climbing centres during any week-end will be found both men and women with an enthusiasm for the hills. There will be seen climbers whose methods could be studied; there will be competent leaders on each rope of climbers.

Competent because no club worth its name will tolerate stunting or competitive climbing. Indeed climbers resent

(*continued on page* 261)

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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

Report on the annual general meeting held at Catterick Camp, Yorks, on 27th June, 1948.

1. *Present.* Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Colonel Commandant, Chairman and Hon. Treasurer; Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Commandant, H.Q. School of Signals, Member Central Committee; Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., General Secretary.

2. The meeting was opened by Brigadier Straight, who extended a welcome to the Chairman of the Association and to all who were present. For the information of those Old Comrades who were present, Brigadier Straight explained the procedure in the reception and training of the recruit as it now existed.

3. In an address to the meeting the Chairman reported on the activities of the Association throughout the year 1947.

4. The Chairman, as Hon. Treasurer of the Association, presented the balance sheets of the undermentioned accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1947, which had been examined and passed by the Central Committee. In drawing attention to moneys invested on behalf of the Association he emphasised that funds were invested only after consideration had been given to what amount should be kept in hand available to meet the demands on the funds for welfare and other purposes.

The balance sheets were approved by the meeting.

(a) Royal Signals Benevolent Fund,

(b) Royal Signals Association General Fund.

5. Brigadier Straight then proposed the following for election or 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 E. J. Murphy, C.B.E.; Non-Regular Officer, Brigadier A. C. Willway, C.B.E.; Two Other Ranks—Proposed that the two other ranks who serve on the adjudicating sub-committee at Association Headquarters should be the two members on the Central Committee. The nominations were approved by the meeting.

6. The Chairman, in his address, announced that Brigadier Murphy was giving up the appointment of General Secretary of the Association, and that Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., had been selected to take his place. He paid tribute to Brigadier Murphy for his services to the Association. The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to the retiring General Secretary for his work, and extended their good wishes to him.

7. *Other Business.* (a) At a request for information regarding the Corps War Memorial Fund, the Chairman explained that the administration of that fund was not the responsibility of the Association but of the Royal Signals Corps Committee. He explained that the use of the fund had been given much consideration and resulted in the establishment of a Holiday House in Boscombe, Bournemouth.

(b) A suggestion that the annual general meeting should be held at some more central location, e.g. Birmingham or Leeds, was noted. It was considered that such a location would provide better travel facilities for those who wished to attend.

(c) To a suggestion that the present cost of 1s. for the Corps monthly magazine, THE WIRE should be reduced, it was stated that the present printing costs and poor circulation precluded this. It was represented at the meeting that the magazine was not sufficiently advertised in some Units. It was further represented that the magazine did not compare favourably with the *Soldier*, which had a much larger circulation.

(d) Representatives of local branches said it was desirable that at least three months' notice be given of the date selected for the annual general meeting. This would facilitate better attendance and enable early arrangements to be made for transport.

8. There being no further business, the Chairman expressed his thanks to all present for attending and closed the meeting.

ADDRESS BY MAJOR-GENERAL G. G. RAWSON, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

First of all I must thank Brigadier Straight and his staff for making it possible for us to hold our annual general meeting here at Catterick and for arranging to combine it with a meeting of Old Comrades. We are all glad to see such a good attendance of them, and give them a very hearty welcome. As you see from the agenda, I shall start the meeting by telling you something about the work of your Association during the last year, after which I shall ask you to pass the accounts. Then comes the election of certain members of the Central Committee of the coming year. There are no new rules or amendments to existing rules this year.

For those of you who are attending for the first time and who may be a bit hazy as to what the Association does, I must remind you that there are three main branches—the Old Comrades' Branch, the Welfare Branch and the Publications Branch—and I'll tell you a little about each in turn.

We have now over 40 Old Comrades' branches, nine of which have been formed since the meeting last year, including one in East Africa. These branches are well dispersed over the country, and they have held many most excellent reunions and social entertainments for their members. There is no doubt that there is a general desire amongst ex-Service men of the Corps for such opportunities of renewing friendships made during their service, and the more that past and present members of the Corps can meet together at these local gatherings the better for maintaining the *esprit de corps* which has always been such a strong feature of Signals. The work of the hon. secretaries and branch committees is very heavy and their services are all given voluntarily in their spare time, and the Corps as a whole owes them a great deal for what they have done and are doing. The main problem of many branches is to find the right sort of accommodation in the right place for their meetings. Unfortunately, the Association is not in a position to help financially in the purchase of premises and the problem has to be left in the able hands of branch committees. Some branches have been able to co-operate closely with Territorial Signal Regiments, and this is all to the good as it affords mutual aid with accommodation and recruitment for the Territorial Army in other ways.

Life membership of the Association is now 6,179, of whom some 700 registered during 1947. This sounds a lot, but we feel that considering the strength of the Corps during the war it might be larger. In addition to the life members there is the large number of annual members who join for the first time or who renew their annual subscription; this they do direct with their local branch. Another considerable part of the work of the Old Comrades' Association Branch is helping to find jobs for members of the Corps on leaving the service. Visits and letters to Headquarters on the subject have decreased in number. That is probably due to the Control of Engagement Order, by which men, after their release leave, must go to an employment exchange for a job. A good many visitors, however, come asking for advice and help of one kind or another, and employment gets all the consideration that we are able to give it. We have had very good co-operation from the Regular Forces Employment Association.

Now to turn to the Welfare Branch, with its Benevolent Fund. Since our last meeting Miss Clementi Smith has left Headquarters and Miss Measures has taken over the Welfare Branch. The Association has been very fortunate to have secured her services, and her experience and enthusiasm are proving most valuable. For the benefit of those of you who may not know how welfare cases are dealt with, I will explain. The object of the Benevolent Fund is to give financial relief in cases of poverty or distress amongst members and ex-members of the Corps and their families. Appeals are received from various sources. Many come direct from the applicant, many are put up by S.S.A.F.A. and the I.S.S.A. Help Society and the British Legion at the request of the applicant. Some come from the Army Welfare Officers and the Family Welfare Association, the Red Cross, from our own Old Comrades' Association branches and many other sources.

When an application is received direct we get a local representative to visit the home and to send us a report on the home circumstances with a recommendation as to the best way in which we can help. At headquarters we have an adjudicating committee, consisting of myself as chairman, an officer and a lady member, and two other-rank members. This committee meets every Thursday, goes through all the cases that are on hand and decides the extent to which financial help should be given. In order to avoid having too many cases for the committee to deal with and also to reduce delays to a minimum, I myself deal with the more straightforward and urgent cases on Tuesdays. You will appreciate the difficulty of assessing appeals. In many cases it is evident that if only the family had thought ahead for a month or even a week or two the difficulty would never have arisen. But of course when the appeal eventually is made, the "milk has been spilt" and the distress is there. Those who suffer hardship through no fault of their own always get sympathetic help. The bulk of appeals come from ex-Service men for what we call general assistance, that is maintenance during periods of illness and unemployment. We have many applications for help towards the purchase of prams and cots, etc., in fact it began to look as though the provision of a pram was the normal job of the Association! When such a request comes from an ex-Service man installed in civilian life, drawing a regular wage, we do not feel that it is a fair charge to the Benevolent Fund to provide for what is a normal commitment of family life. Of course, if there are extenuating circumstances, such as other unexpected and unavoidable expenses, the committee does give the case sympathetic consideration.

Cases can roughly be divided into four categories. There is the ex-Service man drawing a good wage, in steady employment, who lives only for the day, lacks foresight and initiative, puts nothing aside for a rainy day, and then when ill health or misfortune overtakes him, turns to the Association for help. The widow of a late member of the Corps with a couple of small children doing her best on a small pension, and the wife of a serving soldier, who may be serving abroad, looking after a baby or two and trying to make both ends meet on 45s. a week. And then there is the man who has carefully saved for an emergency, but one disaster after another befalls him and his family and he is forced to ask the Association for help. These cases are most worthy of help.

In dealing with all these appeals for financial help the committee keeps in mind that it is, so to speak, acting as trustees for your money, because the Benevolent Fund is made up of money subscribed by members and ex-members of the Corps, and does its best to spend the money in the way in which the Corps would wish it to be spent.

The giving of financial aid is not the whole work of the Welfare Branch. It deals with a tremendous variety of problems, queries ranging from clothes rationing and homes for children, schools, pensions, supplies of various materials and even how to obtain a special marriage licence! The staff of the Welfare Branch takes a keen interest in every case that comes to them and by writing friendly letters of sympathy and of advice, do all they can to spread the gospel that the Association is a family affair of the Corps.

We do not yet know what effect the National Insurance Act with the National Health Service will have on our cases, but it seems obvious that the larger grants for maternity cases, larger widows' pensions and retirement pensions will benefit many of those who have hitherto appealed to us for assistance. But we feel that any State-run scheme, however all-embracing it may be, cannot possibly work quickly enough to alleviate immediate and sudden distress. That is where our Benevolent Fund can fill the gap with immediate help to tide over the period until the official help comes along.

Subscriptions to the Benevolent Fund during last year have fallen considerably. This was to be expected with the disappearance of Units of the Corps. Donations from disbanded Units continued during the year and they were generous and have enabled the fund to increase the total investments to £100,000, which was the target set some three years ago. It is unlikely that much more will be received in the way of such donations. The Army Benevolent Fund approved a grant of £6,000 during last year. Such grants are not automatic, each Association must establish the need for one. Further grants will probably be forthcoming when circumstances warrant application, but the Trustees of the Army Benevolent Fund expect Associations to obtain as much support as possible within their own Corps or Regiment.

Now something about publications. There are the three main publications—*The Officers' Gazette*, *The Journal* and THE WIRE. The first two are just paying for themselves and any small profit that may be made goes into the General Fund of the Association.

THE WIRE, unfortunately, is not going well. The Editor has had a very uphill task in producing interesting numbers. It may not be generally realised that we must depend on members and ex-members of the Corps for the journalistic side of publication. We have no private journalists of our own. Circulation is poor at present and there was a loss of nearly £700 in the last year. Obviously we cannot go on running a magazine at a loss like that, but we do not want to stop publishing altogether unless it is quite clear that in the Army of today there is no demand for Service magazines. The Central Committee has therefore decided to set up a small representative committee to study the whole problem and recommend what should be done. In the meantime the Editor would welcome a drive on the part of the serving and ex-serving part of the Corps to get good copy, not only notes of Unit interest but articles on general subjects with photographs and illustrations. There are lots of good stories of interesting experiences going about if only those who took part in them could bring themselves to write them down.

In conclusion, I must let you know that Brigadier Murphy, who has been the General Secretary for the last three years, is giving up the appointment, and Colonel A. W. Roberts has been selected to take his place. Brigadier Murphy has put his heart and soul into the work and he has done a very big job, not only in the general supervision of the activities of the Association, but in the giving of help and advice in personal interviews, with the considerable number of men who call at Headquarters, and I know you will join me in giving him our thanks for all he has done and in wishing him the best of luck in the future.

* * *

Oh! Listen to the Band!

Yes! The Corps Band!

BATH: 15-28 August
HYDE PARK, LONDON: 29 August-4 September
HASTINGS: 12-18 September
EASTBOURNE: 19 September-3 October

GENERAL FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1947

1946	Liabilities	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
	Sundry Creditors :		
545	Expenses accrued	232 5 4	
	Subscriptions paid in advance :		
71	The Wire	22 3 0	
31	Officers' Gazette	— — —	
39	Quarterly Journal	50 15 0	
—	Income Tax—P.A.Y.E.	25 4 0	
—	Diaries and Christmas Cards	720 5 0	
686			1,050 12 4
	Old Comrades' Association :		
	Life Membership Account :		
2,853	Accumulated, 1928-46	6,644 2 4	
3,791	*Add :* Amount received during year	1,287 4 0	
6,644			7,931 6 4
	(*Note*—The proportion received prior to the 1st January, 1928, has been incorporated in Capital Account.)		
	Capital Account :		
2,852	Balance, 1st January, 1947	3,557 5 5	
	Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	143 7 2	
3,558			3,700 12 7
£10,888			£12,682 11 3

1946	Assets	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
	Cash :		
6,131	Lloyds Bank, Ltd.—Current Account	2,702 4 8	
17	Petty Cash in Hand	13 19 9	
6,148			2,716 4 5
	Sundry Debtors :		
	Subscriptions to The Wire and Quarterly Journal	180 0 0	
170	Advertisements in The Wire and Quarterly Journal	154 1 3	
100	Interest	— — —	
3	Benevolent Fund	1,488 5 5	
73	Officers' Central Fund	75 0 0	
—	Royal Pioneer Corps	20 1 0	
—	Sundry Loans	5 17 9	
6	Diaries and Christmas Cards	77 7 3	
—			2,000 12 8
352			
150	Loans to Branch Associations		262 9 0
	Investments at Cost :		
1,290	£1,287 3½% War Loan	1,289 14 10	
	£194 7s. 7d. 5½% New South Wales Stock, 1947-57	200 0 0	
200	£226 8s. 1d. 4% Consolidated Stock	200 0 0	
200	£682 9s. 3d. 3½% Conversion Stock	500 0 0	
500	£400 5% National Savings Certificates of 100 Units	400 0 0	
400	£400 3% Funding Stock	391 1 0	
391	£4,500 2½% Funding Loan Stock, 1956-61	4,463 4 0	
993			7,443 19 10
3,974			
	(Market Valuation of the above at 31st December, 1947, amounted to £7,863 18s. 7d.)		
	Stocks on Hand at Cost :		
5	Sports Clothing, etc.	14 16 9	
29	Car Badges	12 0 10	
21	New "Signals History"	13 19 0	
157	Association Badges	143 1 3	
212			183 17 10
	Office Furniture at Cost, *less* Depreciation :		
58	Balance, 1st January, 1947	51 19 0	
	Additions during year	31 16 0	
		83 15 0	
6	*Less :* Depreciation at 10%	8 7 6	
52			75 7 6
£10,888			£12,682 11 3

Note.—No reserve has been made in the above Balance Sheet in respect of the liability for unexpired subscriptions to the Old Comrades' Association, nor has any debit been included for subscriptions outstanding.

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.
13th May, 1948.

H. F. BAKER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1947

1946	Expenditure	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
375	To Secretary's Salary		— s. — d.
1,234	,, Clerks' Salaries		1,888 0 8
56	,, Pension—W. Butler		57 4 0
458	,, Rent, Rates, Heating and Lighting		460 10 10
11	,, Insurance		8 12 0
33	,, Telephone		53 13 9
360	,, Printing and Stationery		242 14 10
482	,, Postages and Sundry Expenses		398 11 5
114	,, Travelling Expenses		214 5 9
31	,, Audit and Accountancy Charges		52 10 0
2	,, Bank Charges		2 0 0
29	,, Repairs		24 7 0
57	,, Income Tax		56 6 4
	,, Loss on Publications :		
	The Wire :		
407	Cost of Printing	2,575 12 4	
100	*Less :* Advertising Charges	580 10 1	
307		1,995 2 3	
272	*Less :* Subscriptions	1,311 10 3	
35			683 12 0
	Officers' Gazette :		
160	Cost of Printing		— — —
97	*Less :* Subscriptions		— — —
63			
	,, Depreciation :		
6	Office Furniture		8 7 6
706	,, Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure for year		143 7 2
£4,052			£4,294 3 3

1946	Income	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
857	By Subscriptions and Donations to Old Comrades' Association		677 17 3
	,, Income from Investments :		
45	3½% War Stock	45 1 4	
10	5½% New South Wales Stock	7 7 10	
9	4% Consolidated Stock	9 1 0	
24	3½% Conversion Stock	23 17 8	
12	3% Funding Loan	12 0 0	
25	2½% Funding Stock	25 0 0	
125			122 7 10
	,, Income from Publications :		
	Quarterly Journal :		
	Subscriptions	396 15 0	
	Advertising Charges	34 0 0	
		430 15 0	
40	*Less :* Cost of Printing	276 13 10	
			154 1 2
	Officers' Gazette :		
	Subscriptions	200 11 0	
—	*Less :* Cost of Printing	188 6 11	
			12 4 1
	Signals History :		
10s.	Sales	17 14 6	
4s.	*Less :* Cost of Copies Sold	7 0 2	
—			10 14 4
	,, Sundry Income :		
8	Sale of Corps Clothing, etc.	20 3 6	
6	*Less :* Cost of Clothing Sold	17 3 3	
2			3 0 3
9	Sale of Car Badges	100 5 2	
8	*Less :* Cost of Badges Sold	88 10 8	
1			11 14 6
128	Sale of Association Badges	416 10 3	
95	*Less :* Cost of Badges Sold	299 19 5	
33			116 10 10
	Profit on Sale of Diaries		45 5 4
	Profit on Sale of Christmas Cards		19 8
	,, Proportionate amounts on account of Administration Expenses received from:		
2,844	War Benevolent Fund	2,989 8 0	
150	Officers' Central Fund	150 0 0	
2,994			3,139 8 0
£4,052			£4,294 3 3

BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1947

1946	Liabilities	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
	Accumulated Fund :		
	Balance from War Benevolent Fund, 1st January, 1947	92,224 17 0	
	Balance from Benevolent (No. 1 Account) Fund, 1st January, 1947	5,390 0 9	
		97,614 17 9	
	Add : Value of Securities transferred from India Command	1,472 10 0	
		99,087 7 9	
	Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	10,209 1 11	
97,615			109,296 9 8
	Sundry Creditors :		
73	General Fund	1,488 5 5	
20	Memorial Fund	20 1 9	
52	Accountancy Charges	84 0 0	
	Deposit—Guards Divisional Signals	50 0 0	
50			
20	Sundries	— — —	
215			1,642 7 2
£97,830			£110,938 16 10

1946	Assets	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
14,131	Cash at Bank		11,345 4 10
	Investments at Cost :		
1,500	£2,875 3% Defence Bonds	2,875 0 0	
1,795	£1,795 3% Savings Bonds, 1960-70	1,795 0 0	
9,200	£9,200 2½% National War Bonds, 1949-51	9,200 0 0	
12,650	£12,650 2½% National War Bonds, 1951-53	12,650 0 0	
31,600	£31,600 2½% National War Bonds, 1952-54	31,600 0 0	
250	£250 2½% National War Bonds, 1952-54, Post Office Issue	250 0 0	
22,883	£31,050 2½% Funding Loan, 1956-61	31,363 12 7	
840	£850 3% Funding Loan, 1959-69	839 18 11	
941	£941 15s. 1d. 3½% War Loan (including £291 15s. 1d. Nominal Value relating to the Emigrant Loan Fund)	941 4 0	
313	£300 3½% Australia Stock, 1954-59	313 1 0	
—	£6,000 3½% Australia Stock, 1956-61	6,098 6 0	
—	130 15s. Units National Savings Certificates	97 10 0	
81,972			98,023 12 6
	(Market Valuation of the above at 31st December, 1947, amounted to £97,467 7s. 8d.)		
1,723	Income Tax Recoverable		1,569 19 6
4	Sundry Debtors		— — —
£97,830			£110,938 16 10

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books of the Fund and certify same to be in accordance therewith. I have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees and Lloyds Bank, Ltd., have certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance, and that they hold for safe custody the other Securities representing the Investments.

1-5 Broad Street Place,
London, E.C.2.
18th May, 1948.

H. F. BAKER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1947

1946	Expenditure	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
9,413	To Benevolent Grants	6,643 0 0	
567	,, Comforts	— — —	
	,, Donations :		
	Regular Forces Employment Association	10 0 0	
360	Soldiers', Sailors and Airmen's Families Association	100 0 0	
100	National Association for the Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen	140 0 0	
140	Helen Pierce Fund	— — —	
15	Army Technical School	10 0 0	
1	Royal Cambridge Home	2 2 0	
2	Netley Charitable Fund	4 0 0	
2	Corps of Commissioners	5 0 0	
5			261 12 0
625			
	,, Administration Expenses :		
	Rent, Rates, Insurance, Light and Heat	397 6 11	
413	Salaries	1,637 2 8	
1,498	,, Telephone, Postages, Stationery and Printing	501 1 8	
661	General Expenses	465 5 7	
333			3,000 16 10
2,905			
	,, Accountancy Charges in respect of Audit and Accountancy work and Income Tax Repayment Claim		63 0 0
42	,, Bank Charges		14 15 4
—	,, Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure		10,209 1 11
11,652			
£25,204			£20,192 6 1

1946	Income	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£			
	By Donations :		
	Corps Units	10,748 10 1	
	Sundries	7,048 3 0	
23,115			17,796 13 1
	,, Interest from Investments, Gross :		
38	3% Defence Bonds	64 5 6	
26	3% Funding Loan	25 10 0	
583	2½% Funding Loan	776 5 0	
1,342	2½% National War Bonds	1,332 9 4	
54	3% Savings Bonds	53 17 0	
33	3½% War Stock	32 19 2	
	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1954-59	10 10 0	
10	3½% Commonwealth of Australia, 1956-61	97 10 0	
—			2,393 6 0
2,086			
3	,, Interest on Bank Deposit		2 7 0
£25,204			£20,192 6 1

My Strangest Adventure

by **Lieutenant-Colonel ALEX MONTIETH, M.B.E.**

BACK in the days of 1940, when an unbelievably small and ill-equipped smattering of Regular and Territorial soldiers were trying to make the Italians and General Martelli believe they all had the strength of ten men, there came into being a peculiar espionage traffic which, although profitable to the Bedouins who traded in it, was a source of exasperation to the sweating, beer-parched British soldier in the Western Desert.

At that time the line was what the correspondents, who lived in Shepheard's, called "fluid." That meant the Italian foremost units were anything from ten to thirty miles from the British, partially because of the possibility of both sides being annoyed by the irritating little forays which caused everyone so much inconvenience and interfered with senior officers' bridge, and also because in the desert ten miles is not far. The Bedouins—always a far-seeing race—were quick to seize upon the possibilities.

With a regularity born of complete disregard of time as a measure, an Arab camel train, perhaps of some thirty or forty beasts and drivers, would appear on the horizon on its leisurely way through the shimmering haze from the direction of the Wop territory. Around it for five miles was a fighter screen of flies, and as it came closer the insistent odour of camel and owner became more evident, as did the object of the exercise. For a suitable remuneration any disposition—usually highly incorrect—of our friends on the other side was traded in, and the camels and the flies proceeded on their unhurried way to some distant oasis and the goat-hair tents of immeasurable age.

After a few days the return visit would begin; back through the British lines would come the flies and the camels, and piercing eyes would pick out every detail of our dispositions with a clarity we could not equal even with our eight magnifiers. Occasionally we would let off a ding at one of them to the obvious displeasure of everyone concerned, and then the whole outfit would depart at a somewhat accelerated pace towards our waiting foes over the horizon. Upon their arrival, a comparable financial transaction undoubtedly took place.

The time came when we began to get a little tired of this kind of over-obvious commercialism, and we decided something must be done about it; besides, the stuff we were getting from the Arabs wasn't always accurate, and we suspected that some kind of double-crossing and backing up on the cash side was going on. It was time to establish the fact that crime doesn't pay.

Thus it was that, as I returned one day to the headquarter squadron from some menial chore at one of the outlying troops, I saw a train of some thirty or forty camels slowly making its way over the skyline in the direction of the Wops. I reported to my Colonel, and asked for permission to go and warm things up a bit. Permission granted, I collected an interpreter, as my Arabic was strictly Groppi, and a couple of troopers and lit out in my scout car, with cutlass and firelocks hanging from every limb.

Now, travelling in the desert, especially at speed, is not the sort of thing one can do unobserved; a column of sand, which makes itself evident for miles round, rises from the wheels of vehicles, and on this occasion I had the burners turned right up to get on to the tail of my Bedouin pals. I might just as well have sent them a card to say I was paying a call.

A peculiar feature of this country is that it is honeycombed with vast underground caverns, dug out by some of the finest military engineers the world has ever known, the Romans. They made these enormous desert storehouses for water when they colonised Egypt and Libya hundreds of years ago, and they are called birs, but pronounced "beers" to the everlasting exasperation of the British troops. We caught up with our camel caravan near one of these caverns.

As we drew near, a couple of pirate trucks from the adjoining Gunner unit came swooping in for the kill; that did it. After the sand had settled, and we could see more than five yards, the fly fighter screen began peeling off for the softening-up attack; the camels, in their disturbed state, began, in the various ways inhibitant to the camel, to contribute to the general unpleasantness of the party until the odours became quite intolerable. One thing was now, however, quite certain—there were camels a-plenty, but no drivers. I decided to lift hounds and make a cast.

We went sweeping out in a wide circle till we were checked at one of the huge mounds of rock and sand which lie alongside each waterhole after excavation. I turned the car over to the driver and shinned up the mound with one of the troopers; not a thing could we see except four tired Gunners wandering around in a haze of sand and flies with that weary gait peculiar to the touch-hole types, occasioned, so I am told, by a too close association with an overdose of beer and big bangs. Not a Wog was in sight.

Hurriedly I made for the neighbouring bir. Let me hasten to add that this was before the rather unpleasant Hun arrived in Africa and cluttered the place up with mines; after that, even orthodox gallivanting about after gazelle was strictly out, unless you could tame a couple of Sappers to go in front with their hazel twigs. Anyway, we got to the next cavern, and dropped a couple of empty beer bottles down the hole just as an incentive to action on the part of any possible inmates, but nothing happened; the place was to let.

I called up the watch tank on the blower, using the quaint old-world code and courtesies then in force, just in case the Wop was awake, which we knew he wouldn't be, just after lunch; but we also had a new Brigadier, known colloquially as "Blood," who took a poor view of anything not done according to the Book. I told the duty hound the Wogs had disappeared, but that we had a good bag of camels and the flies were in great form. His reply was sufficiently indecent to impress even my two troopers, who were listening-in anyway. He also said the Colonel had complained that we were making too much noise, and if we valued our necks to get the camels out of it, because they were to windward and the Old Man's bridge was suffering.

I climbed back into my Daimler, only to find my driver had swigged the last bottle of beer we had swiped off the Cherry Pickers the last time we had paid a social call. That made me very cross, and we shot back, went into a terrific side-skid to give the Gunners a parting shower of sand and our love. My trooper also gave them some very explicit instructions regarding the disposal of the camels.

What I want to know is where those Bedouins got to. There was no cover on that desert for fifty miles; we checked every bir in range, and yet we had seen men with those camels only twenty minutes before, and we got the camels. There was only twelve inches of sand and loose surface on that part of the desert, and they could not have buried in. We called the R.A.F., who could not see them, and to this day I do not know where those men went, but the traffic in espionage in its most elementary form seemed to decline from that day on.

But I was most annoyed about that bottle of beer.

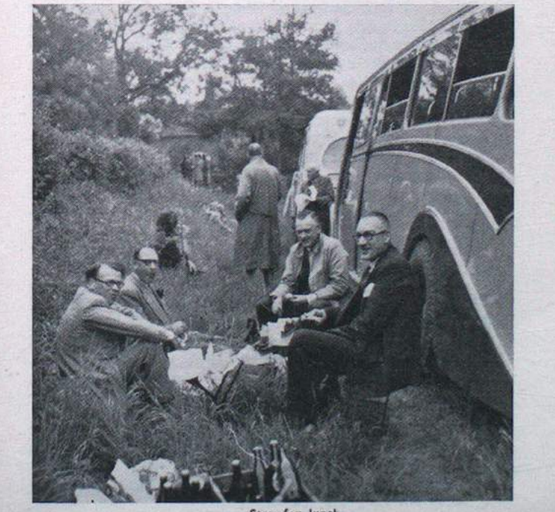
Branch Notes

Birmingham

If the driver of our particular coach hadn't overslept we might have arrived at Olympia much too early. As it was, the organisation of this remarkably enjoyable trip to the Royal Tournament on 12th June was such that we took our seats opposite the Royal Box just ten minutes before the show commenced. Three very comfortable coaches collected 110 members and friends from all parts of Birmingham and were due to rendezvous at the Avon Bridge, Warwick, at 0915 hours. The third coach arrived at 1010 hours, thus proving once more that the best-laid plans, etc., etc.

The route lay through Banbury, Bicester (stop for ice-cream), Aylesbury and Wendover. A short lunch halt in a country lane near Amersham was much appreciated. The weather was very pleasant throughout. On, on to Olympia with the knowing ones calculating that we should never reach our places before the start. With time to spare, we pulled up outside our destination and were met by Brigadier E. J. Murphy, C.B.E., and Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C. Mrs. Bernard Rowe was up from Aldershot for the occasion and had a welcome for all of us. Too late I discovered the name of the charming lady who had been sitting immediately in front of me—the daughter of an old friend of Bulford days. Not that we could have talked about 3rd Divisional Signals in the years 1925-6-7. Even I can only just remember those happy days.

This column is hardly the place for a description of the Royal Tournament. I believe the London reporters have written about it already. Not, perhaps, so well as I should have done it myself but adequately, I feel sure. What a show! The Signals Display Team must absorb just another word or two of praise and congratulation from our party. We were very proud of them. I'll think of the right words another time. Someone writing in a London daily thinks that the horse has "had it." What stuff and nonsense. The horses of the Life Guards and the Royal Horse Artillery were magnificent. It is not necessary to compare the horses with the machines. These are impatient days and one suspects that the writer realises how much easier it would be to learn to ride a motor cycle than to attain mastery of a horse.



Stop for lunch

Colonel Roberts, Captain Ironmonger and Mrs. Ironmonger

However, let us not get ourselves into an argument. Dinner was provided on the return journey at a hotel near Gerrards Cross. If the barman hadn't made me wait 20 minutes for a half-pint I might have told you how nice it was. It was at this hotel that we found Mr. and Mrs. Terry Gwyer. Terry was one of the officers of 48th Divisional Signals (our ancestor Unit) and when most of us joined the Army at Dover in 1940, Terry found himself on the wrong side and became a P.o.W. Like most of them, he had a pretty thin time but is getting over it nicely, thank you.

Birmingham was reached at about 2330 hours and the coaches went their several ways to disembark the members and friends. A first-class piece of organisation throughout, thanks to Captain Ralph Ironmonger and his assistants.

There was a marked falling off in the numbers attending the monthly meeting on Thursday, 24th June. Maybe it was the weather. The sun actually shone that day. Nevertheless, a small and cheery party assembled at the Crown Inn, Broad Street. Next month there may be twice as many. We shall always stick around and wait for you to turn up.

Have you had your holiday yet? We have heard glowing reports from members who have stayed at Mercury House, Bournemouth. You must try it sometime.

Look out for our Winter Entertainments Programme, hats off to Compton, and don't forget to fill up the coupon on page 29. What, no coupon on page 29? Tch, tch. Don't encourage us. We only get worse.

BARLEUX

Bristol

Hardly think it was summer, would you? However, the lack of fine weather has been unable to have any adverse effect on branch activities and once again we can claim to have had a very successful month.

First of all I should like to say how pleased and honoured we were when Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard, C.B.E., consented to become the first President of our branch. Brigadier Pollard is very well known throughout the Corps (he was at No. 1

S.T.C. in fairly recent days) and has seen twenty years of service in the Corps. He is now living in retirement at Axbridge, a delightful little Somerset town about 20 miles from Bristol.

You have all seen in previous notes that we intend to hold an Annual Dinner sometime around November. We thought that there might be quite a few chaps who would like to meet some of their old comrades in Bristol, and for that reason we are arranging to accommodate anyone who would care to come down (or up, as the case may be!) to Bristol for The Night. If anyone is interested will they please write to our Secretary at 47 Chester Park Road, Fishponds, Bristol. I know it's looking ahead a long time, but it would help considerably if we could obtain some idea of the numbers who will be attending. We can promise you a very good evening's entertainment !

After all my trumpeting the skittles team has let me down! They lost by 22 pints (sorry, pins) to St. James British Legion. All the same, it was a most enjoyable friendly match and our Skittles Secretary, A. H. Rogers, is arranging some more similar fixtures outside the normal league games.

The branch outing was a great success, although it was a pity that so many members had to give it a miss, due to other pressing engagements. A really grand day—I must say the scenery of Symonds Yat takes some beating—and our thanks are due to the Social Secretary for such jolly good staff work. Here's hoping for lots more the same.

Remember all the smiling faces there were in the photograph of the dance we held when the Corps Band came down ? I'll bet Brigadier Murphy is smiling just as broadly now because we, or rather 12th A.A. Signal Regiment, T.A., were able to send him £20 from the proceeds ! Stout effort !

Our next meetings will be on 13th August and 10th September. Same time, same place. Roll up, roll up and have some fun. Cheerio for now, and all the best from Bristol.

D. P. J. H.

Sheffield and District

The branch, only recently formed, is now showing great promise, and new enquiries for membership are reaching the Secretary almost daily. There are still some minor teething troubles which need to be overcome, but the goodwill of the members seems to be dealing with them as they arise.

It is, of course, difficult to arrange an evening for meeting which will not clash with other activities of the members, but the present arrangement, i.e. the fourth Wednesday in the month, seems to be as good as can be devised at present.

Now that the business end of matters is running smoothly, greater attention is to be paid to social affairs. The dance at Greystones has shown a promising profit; other projects include cricket, coach trips and musical evenings. The Secretary, Mr. G. J. Oliver, would be delighted to hear of prospective members who may not have heard of the formation of a local branch. His address is 80 Holmhirst Road, Sheffield, 8. The usual meeting place is in the Ex-Services Institute, Milk Street, Sheffield, which is admirably suited, and indeed devised, for this and similar associations. Members of the Royal Signals Association are permitted the use of the bar and other amenities on meeting nights at a purely nominal fee of 1s. per year—excellent value for the money !

Torbay

The 2nd July, 1948, will go down in the annals of history as the momentous day on which a meeting was convened to promote the establishment of a local branch of the Signals Association in the Torbay area.

It was a very successful evening indeed, assisted partly from the availability of a good deal of wallop but chiefly through the able assistance of the Hon. Secretary, Exeter branch, Mr. H. Coles, and our first elected Chairman, Major L. E. O. Evans, T.D.

We had the Corps flag flying over the front entrance, so that our fellow-signallers couldn't mistake it, and whenever I looked out of the upper window it looked as though everyone was making a beeline for *the* entrance. Having sunk a couple, the meeting was opened by Major Evans, with your humble ready with paper and pencil. It was proposed by H. Baker (yes, old Doughy Baker, of the old grey mare, Colchester, 1928) and seconded, that Mr. Coles (Exeter branch) take the chair for the opening. He gave us a very good outline of the formation of the Association, its reasons and objects, and I should think no one could have done it more ably, thanks to his obvious keenness and extremely long association with the subject. The proposal of a branch was obviously carried and was supported also by a few letters which had reached us from the few who wanted to come but couldn't make it. Our first committee consists of: Chairman, Major Evans; Vice-Chairman, Major (Q.M.) "Alfy" Bawden; Hon. Secretary, Topper Brown; Hon. Treasurer, Lieutenant H. G. Golding; and eight members, "Doughy" Baker, S. C. Gray, F. C. Burridge, S. J. Davis, S. G. Wilkes (all Regulars at one time or another), A. S. Zaple, B.E.M., and G. Ford (both full duration serving and now T.A.). The committee got together and decided to meet again in a fortnight's time in order to get down to the required details of our future activity. It looks as though we shall be already having a coach tour to North Devon on 1st August for at least some, a trip to visit the local T.A. Unit (43rd Wessex Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.) at their second annual camp since re-forming. We certainly look forward to a rosy future and hope to maintain the best traditions. We left for home at 2330 hrs. I think the beer order was just a bare dozen too many, and I did have a sweat on in case it was all left on my hands.

We are very grateful to the Exeter branch for their co-operation and active support.

TOPPER (ex 2 bar C)

Leeds and District

Once again we desire to appear in the news and so express the wishes of the masses.

It was a joyful party that set out from Gibraltar Barracks for the Annual Reunion at Catterick. Led by a worthy guide in Speight, we nearly arrived in Scotland, because although he had run every inch of Catterick, we think it must have been in the black-out.

A very pleasant day was spent by all, and our sincere thanks go to those who made the show possible, especially the members of the S.T.C. Sergeants' Mess. Some of our party cleared all expenses on your little side-show. The Leeds Branch desires to express its thanks to Major Thompson and hope that the event will grow to larger representation from other branches.

The functions are now closing down for the summer, and we hope that next winter session will receive better support. If members would only realise the time put in by the Entertainments Committee, I feel sure that their efforts would be more appreciated.

It was with regret that the Management Committee accepted the resignations of Sanderson, Middleton, G. Harrison, J. Bedford and E. Tetley from the Entertainments Committee, and the Chairman moved a vote of thanks for their past services.

Now what about some of the branch members who visit Leeds calling up at Gibraltar Barracks to see us ? You all will be welcomed.

Two of our members are very ill—Sergeant Baker and Sergeant Plunkett—and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Colonel Richardson is making steady progress and I am sure all ranks look to the day when he will once again be amongst us.

Let's try and make a special effort to increase the sale of THE WIRE because 25 copies amongst 584 members is very poor indeed.

Turn up at the meeting place whenever you can, and keep

(*continued on page* 261)

SPORTS NOTES

Water Polo

The swimming season opened in Catterick at the beginning of April this year and trials for the Royal Signals' Catterick Swimming Team commenced shortly afterwards.

The team has been competing in the North Eastern Water Polo League and so far has put up a very satisfactory performance against some of the finest clubs in the district. The present state of affairs is that we have won three games and lost three.

One of our recent activities was a trip to Aldershot where the team were accommodated at the R.A.M.C. Depot, Crookham and played a series of games in the Command Baths. Lance-Corporal Neilson and Signalman Wait played exceptionally well. Second-Lieutenant Edwards as centre half was outstanding in attack and defence and Signalman Canale moved up and down the bath at amazing speed invariably getting the ball, although his ball handling was weak. We were honoured and very pleased to have Major Glen Waterman (U.S. Signal Corps) playing for the team in the last three matches. He is an outstandingly fine swimmer and an offensive player who is an asset to any strong team. Corporal Allen on the right wing played a steady game throughout the tour and provided a number of thrills for the spectators with his powerful right arm shots straight from the surface of the water.

The results of the tour were as follows:—

Royal Signals v. R.A.F. Establishment, Farnborough, 21st June. Relay won by Royal Signals. Polo: Signals 5 (Second-Lieutenant Edwards 2, Johnson 2, Wait 1); R.A.F. 1.
Royal Signals v. R.A.M.C., 22nd June. Water polo: Royal Signals 5 (Captain Maxfield 2, Johnson 2, Wait 1); R.A.M.C. 1.
Royal Signals v. Southern Command Trial Team, 23rd June. Relay race won by Royal Signals. Water polo: Royal Signals 2 (Allen 1, Canale 1); Southern Command 9.
Royal Signals v. Aldershot District, 24th June. Relay race won by Royal Signals. Water polo: Royal Signals 5 (Major Waterman 3, Wait 1, Second-Lieutenant Edwards 2); Aldershot District 3.
Royal Signals v. 1 R.M.A., Sandhurst, 25th June. Relay race won by Royal Signals. Water polo: Royal Signals 4 (Major Waterman 1, Wait 1, Lance-Corporal Neilson 1, Allan 1); R.M.A., Sandhurst, 2.

Swimming

ROYAL SIGNALS v. S.M.E. RIPON

The swimming team, less Corporal Allen, Second-Lieutenant Edwards, Lance-Corporal Neilson, Signalmen Wait, Peacock and Phillips who were playing in the Army Trials at Aldershot swam a fixture against S.M.E. Ripon on Wednesday, 30th June, 1948. The fixture was a great success and a return one is hoped for in the near future.

The following events took place: 50 yards free style, won by S.M.E. Ripon; 50 yards breast stroke, won by Royal Signals (Signalman Green); 50 yards back stroke, won by S.M.E.; plunge, won by S.M.E.; diving, drawn Signals; 1st, Signalman Canale, 4th, Signalman Peer; team relay won by Royal Signals by 25 yards.

The water polo match then took place. The Royal Signals team had not played much together before and play was scrappy, and hampered by lack of its usual experienced defence. Signalman Johnson played well and Corporal McAvoy in goal tackled all shots at goal with great determination, in spite of a nasty blow in the face during the first half. Result: Royal Signals 2 goals, S.M.E. Ripon 3. Captain Maxfield 2.

The swimming team hopes to improve its performance during the second half of the season.

Fencing

A mention was made in the July issue of THE WIRE of the record of the members of the Royal Signals Club competing at the Royal Tournament at Olympia during June. The following notes had regrettably to be held over as they arrived too late for inclusion in the July issue of THE WIRE.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.M.A. SANDHURST

This match took place at Sandhurst on 17th June, 1948. The distinguished spectators who saw Royal Signals win by 40 points against 14, included Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.

Details are as follows:

Foil.—Royal Signals win with 5 wins, 4 defeats.
Captain E. J. Beale—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Second-Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain D. L. Hermiston—0 wins, 3 defeats.
Epée.—Royal Signals win with 6 wins, 3 defeats.
Second-Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain T. G. H. Jackson—2 wins 1 defeat.
Major R. B. Ridley-Martin—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Sabre.—Royal Signals win with 9 wins, 0 defeats.
Major R. B. Ridley-Martin—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Captain T. G. H. Jackson—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Second-Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—3 wins, 0 defeats.

Rock Climbing and Scrambling (*cont. from page* 253)

most keenly any tendency which might bring discredit upon their activities. (Remember always that a hundred feet of rock in this country is as dangerous as a thousand feet in the Alps.) There also will be seen the technique of the belay, of the fine balance on the smallest of holds.

Study their kit, talk to them; you will find them to be very friendly.

Naturally, in these days of economy, the question of outlay must be considered. What are the bare essentials necessary to equip oneself ?

Clothing: Any old kit can be worn, though windproof garments are very desirable. Boots need to be strong and pliable. They should be well studded; Army type studding will do, though Brigham climbing plates or Clinkers are more efficient. For smooth rock and boulder work, plimsol shoes with good rubber soles are ideal.

Although in the early stages when boulder scrambling a rope seems unnecessary, it is important that the climber practices rope technique in the early stages. A length of 100-200 feet is essential. Too much rope is better than not enough. For more advanced climbing a sling and Karabiner is essential.

Other items of camping kit should be gathered together as and when convenient. Needless to say, the soldier is already issued with the main essentials of camp life.

Perhaps the greatest problem of all, in these days of restricted travel facilities, lies in transport. How to get to the hills in reasonable time and, above all, when pleasantly tired after a series of good climbs, how to get back to one's Unit again. That is a problem beyond the scope of this brief introduction to the "Spirit of the Hills."

Signals Association Branch Notes (*cont. from page* 260)

the comradeship up that you alone created. The Association night is the third Friday of every month in the canteen.

Don't forget the Dinner on 12th November. Let us have your names in good time.

LEODONIS

Dundee

A local branch of the Association has been formed at Dundee and the initial signing of members has proved most successful. A few functions, including a dance and a whist drive, have been held and it is hoped that a tour of the Highlands may be arranged soon, if only to show Sassenachs S.S.M.s Brooks and Grace what a man's country looks like.

"Jock" Love wishes to be remembered to his many friends of No. 1 Depot Regiment and is wondering if Q.M. Stanley ever beat his "round the dart board" record. Perhaps Major Weeks or "Pat" could help with this information.

To the local lads overseas the following local information may bring back memories of days gone by or inspire their future dreams: "Forfar bridies and chappit tatties" as good as ever are available in restaurants, failing which the local staple diet, "fish and chips," may be had.

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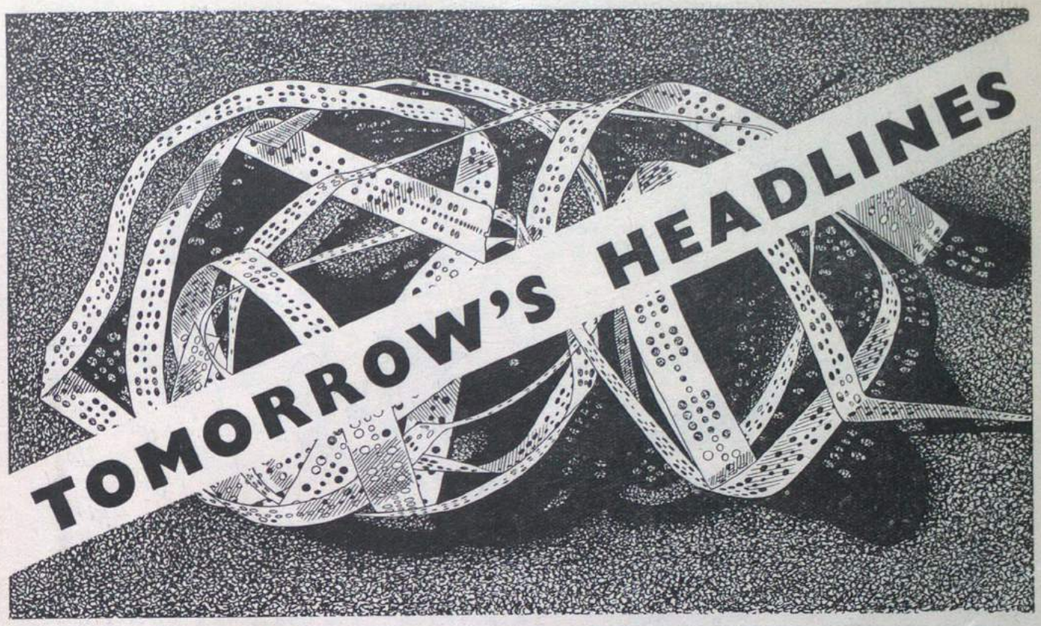

A Prime Minister speaks and Vesuvius erupts; a new oil shaft is sunk but a channel swimmer remains afloat; Home Rails are dull but tomorrow the sun may shine... Night and day, minute by minute, the central telegraph station of Cable & Wireless is receiving the news red-hot, linking the hemispheres, feeding the press, breaking the old laws of space and time.

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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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☆

SEPTEMBER • 1948
Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 9**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

12 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.
Bristol

[*By courtesy of the Editor, "The Gloucestershire Parade"*

Some personalities at Regimental H.Q. Recruiting in this Regiment is going very well. It also has Squadrons at Plymouth, Southampton, Reading and Kingston-on-Thames.

R.W.A.F.F. Mourns Colonel McOstrich

(Issued by P.R., W.A. Command)

Headquarters, West Africa Command, announces with deep regret the death of the Chief Signal Officer, West Africa Command (Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich). Colonel McOstrich, who was 48 years of age, died after a short illness at 37 (Accra) West Africa Military Hospital on the night of Monday, 26th July. He was buried with full military honours the following afternoon at the Military Section of the Ridge Cemetery, Christiansborg, Accra.

Among the mourners who followed the gun-carriage to the graveside were the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, West Africa Command (Lieutenant-General N. M. S. Irwin, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.), military representatives of all ranks, Government officials and civilian friends. The service was conducted by the Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, West Africa Command (the Rev. J. B. V. White, M.A.), and the firing party was provided by soldiers of the Gold Coast Signal Squadron, West Africa Signal Regiment.

An Irishman, Colonel McOstrich was educated at Cork Grammar School and started his Army career at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in 1920. After being commissioned into the Regular Army, he was posted to the 1st Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1921. When this Regiment was disbanded he was posted to the 1st Battalion The South Staffordshire Regiment from 1922-26, and transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in the latter year while in India.

Colonel McOstrich was taken prisoner at Singapore in February, 1942, when he was Commander, Royal Signals, 18th Divisional Signals. He was in Japanese hands until the cessation of hostilities in August, 1945. After his release he quickly regained normal health.

He was appointed, Commander, Royal Signals, No. 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment, British Army of the Rhine, in April, 1946, and succeeded Colonel C. D. Clapp, O.B.E., as Chief Signal Officer, West Africa Command, in January of this year.

Although Colonel McOstrich had only served in West Africa Command for a comparatively short time, he won the affection and respect of all, whether military or civilian, with whom he came into contact.

He leaves a widow and two children, to whom sympathy is extended in their great loss.

* * *

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 third anniversary the following messages were exchanged:

From: Major-General S. B. Akin, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army.

To: Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, Deputy Director of Signals (O.), War Office.

"Three years ago to-day our signalmen flashed to a distressed world the glorious news that Japan had capitulated and the war was over. While this surrender ended our common efforts on the fighting fronts, it did not terminate the warm spirit of comradeship or the close association between the Royal Corps of Signals and the Signal Corps of the United States Army.

"Confident that our Signal Schools will carry on this tradition and strengthen the bonds of friendship forged in battle, I salute The Royal Corps of Signals and the great Empire it represents."

From: Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, Deputy Director of Signals (O.), War Office, in the absence of 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 15th day of August, 1948, which marks the third anniversary of our joint victory over the Axis powers, I wish to extend to you and the U.S. Signal Corps the greetings of the Royal Corps of Signals. In our common adversity was bred the spirit of true comradeship and co-operation. Together we overcame the forces of darkness but the sacrifice was indeed great. In the years which have followed the rewards of victory have unmasked fresh difficulties and dangers. Together we will overcome them. As the old guard moves on let us see that the new guard can in thankfulness carry on the traditions of our two great freedom-loving peoples who together and in close harmony have twice saved the world from disaster that it may enjoy the four freedoms. To-day we of the Royal Corps of Signals offer to you, General Akin, and all ranks of the U.S. Signal Corps a special message of pride and gratitude for past fellowship and of sincere good wishes for your future success and prosperity."

13th August, 1948.

* * *

The Victory Club

It was announced in the June issue of THE WIRE that the club was moving from Holborn to its new address.

Here is the club. Its address is:

73/79 Seymour Street, Marble Arch, W.2.

The club is democratic, and is available to ex-Service members irrespective of rank, sex, etc.

Charges for membership, accommodation and food are very reasonable. Thus membership subscription is only 10/- for one year, or £5 for life. For details re membership apply to the Secretary, Victory Club.

Round the Dominions

Australia

(Extracted from the Australian Defence Newsletter, 26th July).

New Director of Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Foster, who recently returned to Australia from the United Kingdom after successfully completing the short tele-communication course at the School of Signals at Catterick, has taken over the appointment of Director of Signals and Radar Equipment at Army Headquarters, Melbourne.

Colonel L. J. Bruton, the former Director, has been appointed Chief Instructor in Signals for potential officers of the Australian Regular Army who are being drawn from the recently announced additional classes of persons eligible for appointment.

American Awards to Officers. Further American awards to Australian Army officers who were associated with the United States Forces during the war in the South-West Pacific area include: Medal of Freedom to Colonel L. J. Bruton, Director of Signals and Radar Equipment.

New Zealand

A Career in New Zealand. The New Zealand Army offers you this opportunity of an attractive career in their Regular Force.

The New Zealand Regular Force has vacancies in the R.N.Z.E.M.E. and in the R.N.Z.A.O.C. for ex-soldier tradesmen or those at present serving after their release. There are also vacancies in the Regular Force for Tradesmen Cooks who have served in the A.C.C. or who are now leaving on their release. The prospects are good for the proficient type of man who would fulfil the requirements of the New Zealand Regular Force.

Primarily single men are required, but applications from specialist tradesmen who are married will be considered.

The New Zealand Regular Forces offer good pay, together with a superannuation scheme for long service soldiers, whilst short service is compensated by gratuities payable on discharge.

Below are outlined the main details of the scheme:

Trades. Vacancies exist in the following: R.N.Z.E.M.E.—Armourers, Electricians (Vehicle and Plant), Fitters, Instrument Mechanics, Sheet Metal Workers, Coach Painters and Trimmers, Telecommunications Mechanics, Vehicle Mechanics. R.N.Z.A.O.C.—Ammunition Examiners, Storemen (Technical), Clerks (R.A.O.C.). A.C.C.—Cooks

Conditions. Tradesmen required must fulfil the following conditions: (a) To be a British subject and of British parentage; (b) to be proficient in one of the above trades; (c) to be between the ages of 21 and 40 years. Physical fitness of applicants will be required as laid down by the British Army Medical Standard prescribed for Active Service in any part of the world. Applicant may also be required to undergo trade tests.

Terms of Service. Successful applicants will be enlisted for an initial period of five years with the option, if suitable, of re-engagement for further terms up to the age of 45 years.

Conditions of Service. As laid down for the New Zealand Regular Force in respect of pay and allowances, leave, gratuity, superannuation, free initial issue of uniform and upkeep allowance.

Pay rates at present are as follows and are in New Zealand currency:

Over 21

Recruit		12/6	
	3 Star	2 Star	1 Star
Private	18/–	16/–	13/6
Lance Corporal	19/6	17/–	16/–
(Second year)	20/–	17/6	16/6
Corporal	20/6	18/6	17/6
(Over 4 years)	21/–	19/–	18/–
(Over 8 years)	21/6	19/6	18/6

Holders of Good Conduct Badges receive an additional 6d. or 1/- per day.

	Highest Skilled Tradesmen	All Other Tradesmen and Non-Tradesmen
Sergeant	23/6	21/–
(Over 4 years) ...	24/–	21/6
(Over 8 years) ...	24/6	22/–
Staff Sergeant	25/–	23/–
Warrant Officer, Cl. II	25/6	23/6
Warrant Officer, Cl. I	26/–	24/–
(Over 2 years) ...	26/6	24/6
(Over 4 years) ...	27/–	25/–

These rates are per day for a seven-day week.

It is emphasised that these rates are payable in New Zealand currency.

Applications. Personnel who wish to apply should write direct to: The Military Liaison Officer, N.Z. Military Headquarters, Halifax House, 51-55 Strand, London, W.C.2.

The envelope should be marked "Recruit." The application will give brief details of civil and/or military qualifications and trade experience, expected date of release from the Army if still serving, together with rank, name and number, and Regiment or Corps; also state whether single or married and number of children, if any.

Application form N.Z. 41, together with full details, will be sent on receipt of initial application.

* * *

The Editor acknowledges with great gratitude a series of short articles on life in B.A.O.R., collected at his request by the Chief Signal Officer.

They are of great interest and are written by signalmen, sergeants, warrant officers and wives.

Collectively they paint an admirably exact picture of life in Rhine Army. One or more will be included in each issue of THE WIRE.

Would it be too much to ask Chief Signal Officers of other theatres to do likewise?

* * *

In the course of a letter to the Editor, Lieutenant (Q.M.) C. J. Sharpe, of 9 Wallace Drive, Huyton, near Liverpool, writes as follows. He speaks of the way in which THE WIRE keeps us old ones in touch with the present organisation of the Corps—"a bit different from my day, when we had seven Divisional Telegraph Companies, 'K' Company out on the Post Office, and 'A,' 'B' and 'E' Signal Companies in the making. Good old days with our six-horse cable wagon teams, forage carts and light-spring wagons.

"On reading through the July issue, I found that there were only two names I recognised, General Sir H. C. B. Wemyss, who was O.C. No. 1 Section (4th Guards Brigade), 2nd Signal Company, R.E., and Major-General Vulliamy, whom I knew as a lieutenant.

"It may be of interest to let you know that I am now one of the 'grandfathers' of the Corps. Enlisted 18-10-00; attached 2nd Divisional Communication Company, R.E., March, 1910; transferred from Middlesex Regiment August, 1912, as sergeant; served continuously until July, 1938, retiring as Quartermaster, 54th Divisional Signals. Re-employed May, 1939, for duty as an Ordnance Officer with 4th A.A. Division and given a 'bowler hat' in February, 1942, on account of age, rising 59. March, 1942, to May, 1945, Battalion Q.M., 78th (Warrington) Battalion Home Guard.

"Thank you for your list of branches. Prescot is nearest to me, but I had already attached myself to the Liverpool branch from its inception.

"I am working as the Assistant Secretary of the Warrington Division of S.S.A.F.A. and have occasional business with the Corps Benevolent Fund."

Home Stations

6th AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

August

[These notes, received after the normal date of going to press, are included as they are so topical. A thankless task well done !—Ed.]

The 6th Airborne Division returned to England from Palestine at the end of the Mandate. The main body of 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment reached Southampton on the s.s. *Otranto* on 22nd April, 1948, and moved next day to Perham Down, near Andover.

It was in some ways a sad homecoming in view of the decision that the Division was to be broken up after a short but famous life of just over five years.

Planning began in January to reduce the Division to one Independent Parachute Brigade Group; the Signal Squadron to be formed from this Regiment. Since that date it has been the primary object of all ranks that the new Unit shall be formed on the best possible foundations of men, property and funds.

The new Independent Brigade is being formed round the 2nd Parachute Brigade Group in its present area of Schleswig, B.A.O.R.

Fowler Barracks, Perham Down, is thus the final home of 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment. It is appropriate that it is within a very short distance of "The Beacon" hill at Bulford, where the Regiment was first formed. "Beacon" has been the name of the Regimental exchange wherever located in the years between.

Work, since arrival, has consisted of returning vast quantities of stores to Ordnance Depots, releasing successive Age and Service Groups, and creating the new 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron and its 33rd Airborne Field Regiment Signal Troop.

A ceremonial parade was held on Friday, 25th June, 1948, to mark the reduction of the Regiment. The salute was taken by General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant. The Corps Band was in attendance and the full form of ceremonial was carried through in a most impressive way.

General Wemyss was received at Regimental Headquarters by a guard of honour provided by 2nd Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, and then by the General Salute from the Regiment on parade. The inspection was followed by a march past in quick time in column of troops, the advance in review order, and finally the march off of the Regiment in slow time to Auld Lang Syne.

The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle, Commanding Royal Signals, 6th Airborne Division, with, on parade:

Adjutant, Captain W. P. W. Robertson.
Commanding No. 1 Squadron, Major V. H. Martin, M.C.
Commanding No. 2 Squadron, Major R. C. Pringle.
Commanding No. 3 Squadron, Major E. W. Barrett.

It was fitting that this farewell parade, carried out before a distinguished audience of guests from Royal Signals, Airborne Forces, the District, former officers and men of Airborne Signals and the families of those serving, should afford some outward showing of the undying spirit of Airborne Signals and how much it meant to all of us.

1943 — 1948
"NORMANDY" "THE RHINE" "ARDENNES"
'SOUTH EAST ASIA" "PALESTINE"

The 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment was formed in England in May, 1943. The first members were five officers and 100 men of 1st Airborne Divisional Signals. The Brigade Signal Sections of 3rd Parachute Brigade, 6th Airlanding Brigade and 5th Parachute Brigade were formed first, in that order followed by the remainder of the Unit.

The Division took to the air as a whole, on exercises, by April, 1944.

The Regiment first saw service, with the Division, on D-Day, 1944, and fought from Normandy to the Seine. Returning to England in September, plans for a further airborne operation were delayed by the German offensive. On Christmas Eve the Division was back in France to the Ardennes, fighting until the following February.

On 24th March, 1945, the Division flew from mounting bases in U.K. for the assault crossing of the Rhine, and then fought on across Germany to the Baltic.

Shortly after VE-Day, 5th Parachute Brigade Signal Troop went with that Brigade to the Far East to operations in Java.

In September, 1945, having been joined by 2nd Parachute Brigade Signal Troop, the Regiment went to Palestine with 6th Airborne Division, and carried out two and a half years of internal security duties until the end of the Mandate.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

During the past month our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E., has had a spot of well earned leave and is now on a Land/Air Warfare Course. The R.S.M. will supply the grass for any jungle training you may have in mind, sir! During his absence, Major W. J. S. Gray officiates as C.O.

New arrivals in the Unit are too numerous to mention individually, but to each of them we extend a hearty welcome, and to the departures we bid a sad farewell, wishing them the best of luck.

The football and hockey season will soon begin and we hope to improve on last year's effort and record. With quite a number of ex-India types in the Unit we may even bag the District or possibly the Command Hockey Championship.

In the very near future, the All-Ranks' Monthly Dance may be revived. That is what the cookhouse cat told us a few days ago, so it must be true. The bloomin' animal did not tell us someone had broken into the cookhouse last week-end and stolen Corporal Teece's pastries.

Until next month—cheerio, chums.

R.H.Q. Sergeants' Mess. In the past month we have said "Bung-ho" to the following members: Sergeant Smith to the T.A., P.S.I.S., Sergeant Hunt to —?—?—, and our learned "schooly," Sergeant Marsden, to the Middle East. In addition we had with us for a few days prior to release that well-known Corps figure, Sergeant "Jimmy" Emblem, who was Section Sergeant of the Aldershot Troop. Cheerio, Jimmy; everyone in the Corps joins with us in wishing you the very best of luck, and if you are ever around our way, please call on us.

We extend the hand of welcome to Sergeant Stiles and Sergeant Harding. Can it be that the view of the camp from underneath the railway bridge inspired the classic remark "Civilisation, take it away!" You can keep it, too.

We have lost another well-known figure in the ample shape of R.S.M. "Johnny" Johnson, our Orderly Room scribe. He joined the sinister army of Black Coat Wonders, who send forms in triplicate to everyone, light their pipes with the filled-in copies, and then send another three with a sharp reminder of early returns. Good luck, Johnny.

On 29th July we had the Officers and Corporals as our guests at a Mess Social. The games tournament was a great success, but the members were soundly beaten. A challenge to a return match is hereby thrown out, for revenge is still sweet. This was R.S.M. Johnson's farewell party, and our acting C.O., Major Gray, said a few words of farewell, and old Johnny was well and truly expelled in the very small hours of the morning.

Before the next party we hope that the Q.M. will issue Sergeant "Tojo" Hamilton with a real rifle and some appropriate paper for rabbit shooting. Lieutenant Walton has now got a real fiddle (one of the many in this Unit), but is still looking for a longer finger for his act. With a little more practice and a little less hilarity, S.S.M. Dickson should qualify as a professional "waiter" at cinemas, providing he can remove the nasty smell from under his nose. It has been noted and commented on by various people that one C.S.M. and one Sergeant have been running around in circles on Figsbury Ring, getting nowhere very fast.

We are all saving up hard to make the next social a success, and we are sure that there will be a few additional morning prowlers on that occasion.

Olympic Runner—Torch Bearer. On Sunday, 1st August, Sergeant D. M. Babbage, of No. 1 Trades Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick, whilst on leave in Salisbury, had the honour of being selected to carry the Torch on its journey from Wembley to Torquay for the opening of the Yachting Regatta.

He ran from St. Thomas's Bridge on the London road, two miles north of Salisbury, to the Market Place in the centre of the city.

A.T.S., R.H.Q. We are very sorry to hear that our D.D.A.T.S., Controller B. L. Turner, is shortly to retire from the Service, and she honoured R.H.Q. with a farewell visit and inspection in 30th July. All concerned did their level best to ensure that she left the Service with an excellent last impression regarding inspections. We wish her all good fortune in civilian life, from this Regiment.

Eros has pointed his bow (but not his arrow—shades of education quizes) at our Detachment, as our Private Bond married ex-Corporal Senior, of this Regiment, recently. May she always use the correct procedure and carry out the good training of the Signals.

The R.H.Q. types have answered yet another S O S and are already busy making toys and other items for the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair. We hope this effort will be kept up well until the autumn.

Once more our H.Q. had representatives in the District Netball Team against Aldershot District, in the adequate shapes of Corporal Mischamp, Privates Benfield and Twigg. We are now spreading our sports activities still further by improving on our rounders, and the hockey bug has already bitten us, and the form displayed shows much promise for the coming season.

Jews' Mail. Will "Taff" Barrell drop Sergeant A. G. Prime, Southern Command (M.) Signal Regiment, Winterbourne Dauntsey, near Salisbury, a line when he reads this.

DIDCOT A.T.S. PERIODICAL. Privates Carr and Fairbrother loomed into the limelight when they volunteered to be part of the Entertainments Committee.

The usual dreary garrison took on a festive air, and the bunting and balloons were draped. Tables were borrowed and the manageress of the N.A.A.F.I. was kind enough to lend vases and tablecloths. The subdued males, who usually held up the walls, sidled into chairs where pretty girls were sitting, and the dances were a howling success from then on.

They got their reward when the band leader proposed three cheers, and amidst an admiring crowd they crawled away to blush in solitude.

Lance-Corporal Buck added to the fame of our beloved section when she supervised the gramophone recital at the local Youth Club. The villages look round now and say "Ah, there goes one of those Signal girls."

BICESTER A.T.S. TROOP. Bicester 260 calling; R.U. there? On Sunday, 4th July, some of our girls went to the fair seaside resort of Southsea. Well, it would have been "fair" if it hadn't rained all day! A charabanc took us down there, but what we missed on the sands we made up for on the amusements and in the Portsmouth N.A.A.F.I. Club. Some of the fairground wallahs went on the "Big Wheel" despite the rain, namely, Privates Docherty and Boyd, who were whizzed up into the dizzy heights and back again to earth once only. Imagine their surprised expressions when they were requested to alight. They indignantly demanded their money back, considering they had been done. These two lassies, of course, hail frae Bonnie Scotland.

Others arriving at the N.A.A.F.I. Club made a mad dash to get a wash and brush up. The weather played havoc with hair and make up. Having repaired the damage we sallied forth to make a conquest. First we went to the "Cubby Corner" to play records. In other words it was a "jam session." The effect was magical! Seemingly out of nowhere, the "Jolly Jack Tars" rallied round and soon Signals and sailors were chattering ten to the dozen.

When the W.V.S. manageress came to tell us that the session was all over we all groaned, but brightened considerably when we were informed that the dance was about to commence. We drifted into the ballroom to perform the usual gyrations on the deck. (We picked up the nautical slang in no time.) Who said sailors don't care?

When it was all over we made our way to the old jalopy and, as everyone had an escort, there was quite a mixture of khaki and navy blue—such a change. Tired but happy, the Bicester girls waved "Good-bye" regretfully and hoped that Southsea would be seeing them again soon.

On the journey back the bus was in an uproar, literally, and no wonder. Having persuaded Private Joan Harris to bring her accordion with her, the girls were singing at the tops of their voices. Some gave impersonations and a trio in the corner provided sound effects, i.e. electrical guitars, bagpipes, and paper and combs!

Well, plug-pushers, if any of you find yourselves in Southsea don't forget to keep up the sailors' morale, even if it does entail the heart-rending good-byes.

Cheerio, and keep smiling, from the happy plug-pushers of Bicester 260.

Have you heard of the Signals of Southern Command
Who all pull together and work hand in hand?
But tho' isolated out here in the wilds
We're happy together on bitters and milds.

May be you've heard of this far away place
Where we jump for joy if we see a new face.
We are stationed at Bicester, the best in the land—
That's what we think in Southern Command.

However, we love, and you'd all agree
That Bicester is surely the land of the free.
There's thousands of men, just a mile down the road,
Who, for hours and hours, patrol our abode.

There's many hearts broken through our idle chatter
But to us there is only one man who could matter.
Of course it's our "Jimmy"—you know who we mean
That bod. on our badge we always keep clean.

He's the pride of the Signals, we know you adore,
The motto he stands for is: swift and sure.
We don't like ourselves—much—down here so we say,
But we like ourselves more when it comes to pay day.

So if you read this tale of woe
Remember the girls of "260"—
They're the happiest crowd in the A.T.S. yet,
Any time, any day, I wager a bet.

Jagger Cup (Shooting). Congratulations to W/347174 Private Lambert (A.T.S.), who put up not only a good show but a good score as an individual 81 out of 100 and 23 out of 25, at snap shooting. In the highest individual score she finished fourth.

The team finished fifth—not bad for A.T.S. in an otherwise all male competition.

Demonstration Columns. Two columns demonstrating various types of Signal Equipment are at present touring A.C.F./J.T.C. and T.A. Camps in the South of England.

It is gratifying to note that these columns are thoroughly appreciated by all Cadet and T.A. personnel so much so that a check has to be made on the "innards" of our 53 Sets to ensure that we have not inadvertently removed a small Cadet from his fellows.

We are assisted in this good work by members of No. 6 Airborne Signal Regiment, and shall be sorry when the day comes for them to say "Good-bye."

WESTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

August

Summer lasted a whole week here by the River Dee, and we appreciated it so very much! Skies have now gone back to their familiar grey colour again and soccer is the main topic among the sportsmen.

The Demonstration Team continues its triumphal tour through North Wales; we have heard nothing but good of their activities and feel quite proud of them.

They are carrying "Jimmy" to good purpose. At the time of writing they are out in the blue, but will be with us in a few days for maintenance and a break.

They gabble enthusiastically about the diversions of Blackpool—which town has left a lasting impression it seems!

The main reason for our existence—the Signal Office—has been at high pressure for weeks now—and as we are desperately short staffed in this connection we are gratified with the good spirit which is being shown by all concerned.

We had the good fortune to win a teleprinter operator recently, which eased the pressure somewhat.

Arrivals. Not numerous, unfortunately. Twelve "bodies" joined the fold recently from Catterick; they look good Signals types. We hope they settle down quickly—there's work a-plenty! We also extended a warm welcome to Lieutenant Lister (ex-Palestine). He'll probably get torn apart in the scramble by Squadron Commanders for subalterns.

Departures. After scoring such a faultness 41 in the last cricket match amongst ourselves, Lieutenant Levett has packed his grip and gone. The very best, sir.

S.Q.M.S. Humble presses on his butt and turns resolute eyes towards Catterick.

Much weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth at the "Looney Bin" eh, Les?

Demob claims its own, insiduously month after month. Replacements aren't so rapid, however! S.Q.M.S. Brooks (Cipher) leaves us on a change posting for W.O. II Trevithick, for War Office Signals. We hope your duties are a trifle more settled, "Q." S.S.M. Trevithick already has old friends here, and is quite established.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. A very successful social was held early this month. The Mess are are very proud owners of a very interesting horse game, played with a cardboard pack and dice the size of young bricks.

An extensive "tote" was ably managed by the Education Sergeants and, with the proceedings under the fatherly eyes of R.Q.M.S. Jackson and S.S.M. Mayhew, the fun was fast and furious. Although all the invitations didn't materialise, it proved to be a very happy evening well spent.

During the recent very hot weather one of our rather more bucolic W.O. IIs was observed to sit down to lunch with a great glass of shandy. The caterer complained bitterly at such a wicked waste of orange squash, but we take this as even more evidence that Sergeant-Majors are almost human at times. Although in this particular case we are somewhat shaken!

The glad had is extended to W.O. II Trevithick, from War Office Signals.

We shall soon be saying farewell to Sergeants Johns, Shaw and Whitehead; they are trying their luck in the open world. Good hunting, chaps.

At the moment the most harassed man in camp is quite definitely Sergeant Orme. The methods by which he conjures transport out of the air are nothing short of miraculous. It is his most jealously guarded secret!

"Geordie" Bingham "vic-eddied" from the Canal Zone recently. We return his salaams. Knees getting any browner, "Geordie?" Shall be getting in touch with you soon.

It is officially denied that "R.Q." Jackson made his money as a bookie at the Chester races—although the technique is there, and not at all latent.

The "Foreman" refuses to be alluded to as a "fly round a jam pot" after the social. Well, "Fos," it was a jolly good imitation! And we must admit the young lady concerned was the victim of rather "Lothario" tactics on the part of another member!

Still, even Sergeant Whitehead was drinking lemonade, rather shamefacedly we admit—but it just shows you to what lengths these "educated" chaps will go!

Sport. Cricket Wednesdays and Saturdays is the form—but football boots are being very expectantly inspected now. Another 14 days and the great game should begin yet another season.

Soccer Officer is Lieutenant Davidson. We have the talent and look forward to another successful season.

Our athletics day is 15th September. It will be quite informal and includes the usual track events. No. 2 Squadron is experiencing difficulty in raising a team, but as we supply the Signal Office relief it is but to be expected.

It is hoped to obtain sufficient competitions for an afternoon's relaxation from normal duties. We shall be assisted in that respect by the Royal Pioneer Corps, who share Blacon Camp with us; once more they have been invited to compete.

As I send these notes off to THE WIRE the sun has chosen this moment to repent my "leaden sky" statement. What!—two summers in one year!

TOSH

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

August

The main event of the month was an "At Home" at which the personnel of H.Q., N.I.D., entertained the public of Northern Ireland in Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn. The programme was prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Conway, Royal Signals, C.S.O., N.I.D., and Commanding Officer of the Squadron, to give the general public an insight into the life of the present-day soldier, to show his work, and also the amenities which are provided for him for his leisure hours. H.Q. made preparations to entertain some 700 guests but this figure was doubled, proving the interest the general public take in the soldier of the present day.

The programme began with an inspection and March Past, the salute being taken by Lieutenant-General O. L. Roberts, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C., who afterwards congratulated the troops on their efficiency and turn out. The parade was followed with a film show, "True Glory," a film depicting the sequence of events of the invasion armies, the subsequent advance into France, and on to the Baltic.

A very able demonstration by the H.Q. Fire Squad followed. British Red Cross demonstrations in first aid and cookery demonstrations by the Army Catering Corps received quite a lot of attention from the public. There were also demonstrations by R.E.M.E., Ordnance, North Irish Horse, and Signals, who had on show various wireless sets, shocking coil, exchanges, etc., a demonstration being given on mass erection.

The music, both for parade and entertainment purposes afterwards, was provided by the band of the Royal Ulster Rifles.

The weather was exceptionally kind, which added to the success of the day.

The programme closed with a dance in the Gymnasium which was well attended both by civilians and service personnel alike, who enjoyed themselves immensely.

The Squadron has been rather quiet otherwise during the month; two dances have been run in the Gymnasium which were very successful. Postings have been at a minimum, the only one of note being one Private "Edna" Doherty, who was our very able despatch clerk in the Squadron office, who left us to join the A.T.S. Training Centre at Guildford. We have a posting-in—Private Evans—who came to us from Larkhill and is now trying to remember the "do's and don'ts" which go to make the occupant of the despatch chair a useful member of the Squadron.

The Summer Hockey League has begun, Signals being beaten in their first match by H.Q., N.I.D., the reason being that due to leave, postings and other causes great difficulty was experienced in fielding a representative eleven. The only other game on the agenda, and one which is looked forward to by a certain member of the Squadron, is the Four-Ball Golf Competition. We have great hopes of winning, six members of the Squadron competing.

And so for the present, Good Stations, everybody.

J.D.

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

August

In spite of the weather, the accent this month has been on canvas — or rather, under it. Big tents, labelled "Hot Dogs" and "Darts," and smaller (more regimental) tents ready for inspection by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff. The Junior Training Corps Camp at Gandale accounts for the smaller tents, and the Regiments of the Signal Training Centre have provided personnel to staff the camp. The men from this Unit enjoyed the change in living conditions, and have returned blooming with ruddy health after their communion with nature. Members of No. 3 Squadron, ably assisted by an M.T. Troop, gave two demonstrations at Gandale which were greatly appreciated by the Cadets and by those in charge of their training.

The larger tents are part of a gallaxy of canvas, colour and balloons which will contribute to the Catterick Fair. This Regiment is providing a "Hot Dog" stall, a "Darts" stall and a Miniature Rifle Range. These sideshows, in common with all the others, are providing amusement (and, in the case of the first-mentioned, sustenance), and taking in the cash for the Catterick District Entertainments Fund.

Another attraction at the Fair is a show by the Royal Signals Display Team, and we are pleased to have these spectacular motor cyclists attached to us for the duration of their present engagement.

By way of a "Stop Press" we have a few notes on the Unit Sports Meeting, which was held on 11th August. Some interesting events were the pole vault (won by Sergeant Blakemore with a height of 8 feet 3 inches) and the 2-mile steeplechase—complete with water jump—which resulted in a dead-heat by Signalman Smith and Signalman Toyne for the first place. In the invitation relay all the places went to the visitors, and School of Signals came in to an exciting win over Royal Signals, O.C.T.U. In the Inter-Squadron Competition No. 2 Squadron were the victors, beating the runners-up, H.Q. Squadron, by nearly 20 points.

No doubt each Squadron will submit its own view of the sports in next month's notes; so, for the moment, we will leave it that that.

With the speeding up of both demobilisation and intake, any soldier with a group number under 120 feels justified in exuding "Group Happiness" whenever in the presence of his less fortunate comrades. It is encouraging to note, however, that more and more Barrack Rooms are organising recitations of Kipling's "If" before lights out.

To the old soldiers go all our best wishes for the future, and to the recruits our hopes that they will enjoy their stay with us.

H.Q. SQUADRON. During the last month the Squadron has had quite a few changes among the Officers.

We have welcomed Major D. Mansel as P.R.I. *vice* Major D. C. P. Hall, who is now with Royal Signals Records Office. Captain A. MacKay has arrived to take the place of our M.T.O., who is leaving us for civilian life.

We are also about to bid farewell to Captain J. D. Willey, our Messing Officer, who is due to depart to South Africa as a civilian. During his stay as Messing Officer we have seen many improvements, and for these we are profoundly grateful. We wish him every success in the business world.

R.S.M. Howley has also left us during the past month, for duty with No. 5 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment at Derby; and we now hear that he is among the advance party of that Regiment in its move to Scarborough. As president for the Unit Miniature Rifle Club, Mr. Howley was instrumental in having the Unit Club affiliated to the Army Rifle Association, and he succeeded in raising the enthusiasm of the Regiment for this form of sport to a very high level. We would like to assure him that his work was not wasted, and that the Unit Rifle Club is carrying on where he left off. We all wish him the best of luck and plenty of good shooting.

This month the accent has been on Athletics, but before proceeding further with our report in this sphere we must first congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker on his selection as one of the judges at the Olympic Games. As an adjudicator on the athletic track, Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker's services are in great demand. He has been chosen as chief judge for the Catterick District Championships and will also be judging in the Unit Sports on Wednesday, 11th August.

With regard to the Unit Sports just mentioned, H.Q. Squadron is making an all-out effort to win the Inter-Squadron Trophy from the present holders (No. 2 Squadron). The Squadron possesses many potential athletes and a great deal of training has been going on in the evenings in order to ensure that the best men represent the Squadron; and that they are at their best when the time comes. Unfortunately for the Squadron one of our chief hopes, Corporal Moynan, is in hospital, and will not be able to compete. We wish him a speedy recovery.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Since our last notes our O.C., Captain Snell, has been promoted to the rank of Major. We tender our heartiest congratulations.

August Bank Holiday leave was welcomed by all ranks as a change from climbing poles and pounding typewriters, but the long faces were very much in evidence on the return of the troops from leave. At the same time the heat-wave gave place to the usual Catterick wintry blasts.

The Army Colleges are very popular of late, and we have to report that Corporals Frost and Cooper have just returned from the one at Welbeck and are full of it; both seem to have benefited from their short stay there before leaving for Civvy Street. Sergeant Leedham, from Clerks' Training, will soon be leaving us, and we wish him well in the future.

During the past month a cricket match was played against the St. Mary's Youth Club from Richmond. The result was a win for the Squadron by two runs, the scores being No. 2 Squadron 98 for 8 declared (Corporal Leach 50 not out) and the Youth Club 96 (Corporal Leach 6 wickets for 12 runs).

Yet another Sports Meeting is to be held in the Regiment, and No. 2 Squadron are strongly tipped to win again, but more of that next month.

Wishing our friends all the best, we sign off for August.

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

July

The Regiment, having now set down in Bourlon and Aisne areas, looks forward to a settled period of occupation.

In these days of National Service it has become a monthly routine affair to say "Good-bye" to so many acquaintances; so much so, that the original idea has been lost and our really well-remembered soldiers get lost amongst hosts of names which, in my opinion, are only of very limited interest. Suffice it to say "Good-bye and good luck" to all ranks who left us during July, 1948.

The S.T.C. Athletic League continues to provide healthy competition between Regiments. This Regiment's *magnum opus* is the battle with No. 2 Training Regiment to finish second in the league table. A meeting was held on 21st July and, although the weather was very stormy, arrangements made by this Regiment carried the show through all possible events. It is regretted that on this occasion we finished five points behind No. 2 Training Regiment. At the meeting held on 29th July we ended up in the fourth position. A greater effort will be made this month when we hope to regain the second position.

There are no outstanding successes at cricket to report. We do, however, keep turning out very regularly and entertaining our opponents as well as possible. There was a very thrilling finish to the match against No. 5 Training Regiment on Jutland ground, when we lost by one run.

Our hockey team has already been tried out and deserves special mention. We have two very good sides and feel quite sure they are, at least, equal to any in the district.

We are pleased to have been able to assist the "Signals Theatre" to the extent of a producer and a leading man. Congratulations to Second-Lieutenant J. Donne as the producer of Emlyn Williams' "Night Must Fall," and to Signalman Cross, who takes the part of Danny.

No. 5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Not having kept a diary of notable events during the past month, and the memory being positively allergic to extensive prodding, an accurate report of the month's activities is beyond me. Our role, namely the training of Drivers, D.M.s and D.R.s, is still being rigorously maintained. The training programme for Drivers has recently been increased from 46 to 49 periods per week, and the extra instruction received by trainees should certainly prove beneficial.

Distance from our fellow Units at Catterick and lack of training facilities here have prevented the Unit from taking part in many S.T.C. athletic meetings. We did, however, enter a team in the Catterick District "A" Zone Athletic Meeting, and, all things considered, acquitted ourselves very well. Notable achievements were Sergeant Donohue's win in the 220 yards, Sergeant Nicholson rising to the finals of the hammer throw, and S.Q.M.S. Crockett's win through to the finals of the high jump.

The Unit Thursday Night Dance has now established itself as a very firm favourite with the troops and the civilian female population alike. A lot of hard work by an enthusiastic few has transformed the cinema, no longer used as such, into what must surely be the finest little dance hall in the locality.

It is indeed worthy of note, and a matter of considerable pride to us, that Corporal J. Murphy, a recently demobbed member of the Unit, was chosen for the British Olympic Boxing Team.

The Unit entered the Northern Command Agricultural Competition, which was held recently. Not having been in occupation of this Camp very long we were definitely handicapped, but it was acknowledged that commendable work had been done with a rather vast agricultural area. An agricultural and gardening competition on a Unit level is due to be judged next month. Looking round the lines it appears that D.R. Squadron certainly intend that there should be no doubt about the result.

U.H.Q. SQUADRON. The Squadron continues to cope with everything from "Sanitation to Salvation" without visual signs of stress. As with everyone, the old bogey, A/S Groups, has taken its toll, and looks like hitting us really hard when Groups 76/77 depart. Our main trouble, of course, is replacing some of the old hands in the various offices.

Major D. S. Waldron finally packed his kit after nearly 30 years' service. All in the Squadron extend their very best wishes on his venture into civilian life. He will long be remembered by us for his enthusiastic interest in the welfare of the troops. Also on the list of notable departures is Captain F. Greaves, Adjutant, who had many years' service to his credit. In the vacated chairs are Major Garlick as P.R.I. and Captain Dowell, Adjutant.

There was a good response to the visits to Brancepeth Colliery, organised by the Unit Education Officer. All who had the opportunity to visit the mine found it of great interest. They all agreed that the little fellow who pleaded "Don't go down the mine, daddy," certainly knew something. A short account of the visit has been contributed by Sergeant Hart. It is hoped that the Education Officer will be able to arrange similar visits to other industries and institutions, because the opportunity to see the other side of the fence is most welcome and refreshing.

DRIVING SQUADRON. Main items of Driving Squadron news this month seem to be concerned with departures. Captain Tucker left the Army for civilian life, as did Captain Swann. We hope their many years to come will bring them as much happiness as did their Army careers.

A much missed figure in the Sergeants' Mess is that of cheery Sergeant-Major Ferrige, who has left for overseas once more. May he brighten the lives of the men far from home as he did for those at home.

Sports activities of the Squadron are unfortunately at a standstill due to lack of facilities, though the Squadron was mainly responsible for the provision of the Unit Medley Relay Team, which ran a gallant third in the School of Signals Sports, under the able leadership of Sergeant Donohoe, our Corps runner.

Educational Visit to Brancepeth Colliery. Members of this Unit took part in an educational visit to Brancepeth Colliery, near Bishop Auckland, on Wednesday, 21st July.

After being equipped with lamps and clad in suits of denims, the party was conducted round the mine by a deputy or foreman. They first descended to the main workings by means of a cage which is lowered by steel ropes, a fact contributing to the easing of a few anxious minds. Thence they proceeded to the coal face where instruction in the use of a pneumatic drill was provided by one of the miners, before each member of the party crawled into the minute space available to cut some coal. On hearing that each miner had to load all his own coal into the tubs provided prior to their being wheeled away, everyone did a smart about turn, on their knees, and retired in order.

Questions concerning miners' welfare, pit organisation and wages were then put forward and answered ably by various mineworkers. A good impression of the efficiency and industry of the mine was created. In fact it was very hard to drag away some of the Welsh members, as it reminded them so vividly of their own Rhondda Valley.

A very enjoyable and educative afternoon was spent by all, and visits of such calibre are in great demand.

D.R. SQUADRON. The Squadron is in fine fettle, although rather depleted in numbers. In particular we have lost S.Q.M.S. Clay, who has retired from the Corps after 31 years' service. He will be remembered by many who had the good fortune to know him during his long service. A social evening was held in his honour at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Mrs. and "Q" Clay were presented with a handsome clock by Mrs. Newton, wife of the R.S.M., from the members of the Mess. In a short address the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. T. Shawcross, paid tribute to S.Q.M.S. Clay's fine record of service. We wish Mrs. Clay and S.Q.M.S. Clay every happiness and comfort for a long and well earned retirement.

Rumour has it that in the near future a very interesting Motor-Cycle Trial will be held in this area. More about this later.

The Corps Display Team gave two very commendable performances on what may now be termed their home ground, on 4th August, in aid of the Barnard Castle Festival Week. Boxing training, which has long been taken care of by our O.C., Captain Stirk, has commenced for the coming season. We hope to turn out a team equal if not better than last year's.

The Squadron has been well represented in the Unit Cricket Team, S.S.M. Davis, Lance-Corporal Collett, Corporal Hornby and Signalman Robson turning out regularly.

We extend hearty farewells to members of the Squadron who have recently been demobbed. Including a certain type who has left a red Bugatti behind, believed to have red petrol in its tanks!

The Month's Bright Spot. The Sergeant-Major who, having lost his voice, had to take a "shouter" on parade with him.

D.M. SQUADRON. Since moving to Barnard Castle, D.M. Squadron, in keeping with the other squadrons of the Regiment, has witnessed and experienced many changes. With the steady demob flow, departures are too numerous to name, but last month we were sorry to lose Second-Lieutenant Gray, our popular training officer. Coincidence, it may be, but since his departure we haven't seen "D.M.," a black kitten which was previously on Squadron strength as a mascot. It is hoped that this is not an indication of the rigours of Civvy Street rationing. We extend a warm welcome to our new Training Officer, Captain Langwith.

Sergeant Ling, Acting S.S.I., recently caught a big boat, Tripoli bound, we believe. With him went the best wishes of the Squadron. Hope your knees are nicely brown now, Sergeant. S.Q.M.S. Harris came as a replacement, stayed long enough to have a nice big leave, then headed north on a posting to Edinburgh. The job is now in the capable hands of Sergeant "Ginger" Turner, who recently returned from the Royal Tournament, Olympia, where he assisted in the "stage-managing" of the Corps Display Team.

Our training role is soon to undergo a slight change. At present we impart the wonders of mechanics, but shortly, however, driving instructions will be added to our curriculum. Only Regular soldiers are being trained as D.M.s and they should, with these facilities, now receive more individual instruction—which is, as all who know agree, the best type of training.

The domestic and training life of the Squadron had all the appearances of having been hit by a typhoon recently. Actually it was R.S.M. Lynham passing through on the training side. I should imagine he is extremely well known throughout the Signals. He completely reorganised the training programme and then departed as quickly as he had arrived. All the chaps who made his acquaintance, pleasurably or otherwise, were unanimous in the respect they had for his fairness and almost alarming knowledge and grasp of the job.

All D.M.s will, I know, congratulate Major Thorpe on his promotion.

It was deep regret that the Squadron learned of the death of Lance-Corporal Otway-Cave in a street accident whilst he was on leave in Hastings. Although he was with the Squadron only a short while he was known throughout the Regiment as "Otto"; a very likeable person with an eminent personality and moustache to match.

Well, all you D.M.s, keep your head under the bonnet; you know what you're doing! Don't touch anything that is going.

No. 3 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

Since our last notes were submitted we have had quite a spate of work and pleasure to wade through.

The visit of Their Majesties to Edinburgh on 26th June was marked by the provision of a party of men and girls to help line Edinburgh's famous Princes Street.

We provided 15 men, very smart and well turned out, as the accompanying photograph shows, in charge of our O.C., Major D. L. Hyde.

The girls did their little bit under the care of Junior-Commander Snowden, A.T.S., and showed that a little spit and polish assistance rendered the evening before was not wasted — nor did it go unnoticed. Interested Unit bystanders noted with pride the precision of the "Present and Slope" as Their Majesties passed. The girls were only armed with glamour, but definitely a credit to Signals.

We were visited by the G.O.C.-in-Chief, A.A. Command, on 17th June and, with the aid of the usual S. and P., but no dandelions, were able to impress him with a good turnout. Another feather in Signals' cap!

Our numbers are being gradually reduced owing to the omnipresent release programmes, and since our last notes were published we have lost Second-Lieutenant Ede, Lance-Corporal Mullings, Driver Fox, Signalmen McGowan and Shepherd. We wish them all the best and hope they are not feeling too lonely too soon.

This month we lose more stalwarts in Lance-Corporal Dix (whom we just couldn't persuade to sign on, though he was groggy), Signalmen Stoddart, Chapman and Chilton. Good luck, lads, and don't forget we are always "open" to old hands.

King's Parade, 26th June, 1948

Despite the summer reductions, sales go on and on, and so does the work, interspersed with occasional night exercises under the able supervision of our i/c Administration, Second-Lieutenant Temple, assisted by Second-Lieutenant Bruce, who has recently joined us from No. 150 O.C.T.U.

During the coming month we hope to have more ambitious exercises somewhere in the Highlands.

In sport we have also left our mark and, making up in enthusiasm what they lacked in experience, newcomers to hockey have aided the Squadron team to draw 5—5 and win 4—3 against No. 12 A.A. Brigade, R.A., and others have assisted No. 12 A.A. Brigade to trounce Scotco Signals, 4—1.

We hope to get in a few more games of hockey, and possibly a few of cricket, before football claims its victims.

In No. 3 A.A. Group Sports, Signalman Cox kept the Signals name to the fore by finishing second in the javelin throwing. Second-Lieutenant Hunter was second in the 440 yards and we entered a team for the three-mile but, regrettably, the other teams were better.

The girls made a name for themselves in being selected for A.A. Command Sports at Aldershot. Privates Smallbones and Clarke, Corporal Briscoe and Sergeant Petts aided No. 3 A.A. Group to finish fourth in the final table.

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

During July the Regiment had a successful inspection by Lieutenant-General Sir Ivor Thomas, our G.O.C.-in-Chief, who was accompanied by Major-General L. K. Lockhart, and the C.S.O., No. 5 A.A. Group. We also had a visit from Brigadier Rogers, the new C.S.O., A.A. Command. We wish Brigadier Gray the best of luck in the "shiny."

The Regiment is in the throes of moving. The advance party has already reached Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, and the main body follows on 17th August. We hope that old comrades who may visit Scarborough will come up and see us.

We leave Elvaston with regret. Our beautiful gardens are no more. Royal Signals travellers who pass through Borrowash Station will be able to take a proper pride in the L.M.S. garden at that station, whither our best plants have gone. We leave behind in Elvaston some very good friends, including the Vicar, the Rev. McDuff Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Batelle, of the Post Office, Farmers Shenton and Turner, the very hospitable Mr. and Mrs. Edge, and our old opponents, Thulston United Football Club.

Private K. Crowder, A.T.S., has won three medals during the month. Two in No. 5 A.A. Group Swimming and Diving Championships, and one for second place in the A.A. Command Diving Championships. Congratulations.

The Regiment has continued to play cricket when the weather has permitted. Results were as follows: *v.* Elvaston, lost by one run; *v.* C.O.D., Derby, won by four runs; *v.* R.A.F., Elvaston, won by 11 runs; *v.* N.A.A.F.I., bad light stopped play.

Sergeant Drake is still our maestro and is consistent with bat and ball. R.Q.M.S. Pavey is head of the bowling averages.

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police witness was asked, "Is the accused married or anything?"

Finally, I like to recall the dry comment of a J.A.G. Officer who heard an accused acquitted in the teeth of the evidence, which so surprised the accused that he fainted and fell flat on his face. The J.A.G. Officer, as he collected his papers, observed to the President, "You appear to have surprised him, sir."

Laughter in Court

by **ex-J.A.G. Staff Officer**

LAUGHTER in Court is as out of place in a Court Martial as in a Civil Court of Justice. It is, however, as inevitable. The power to deprive a human being of his liberty is an awful responsibility and one which no responsible person will exercise without giving to the issues involved such serious and solemn consideration as is within his powers. Yet a little laughter in Court rarely operates to the disadvantage of the accused, for a good-tempered Court will be a patient Court and a patient Court is often merciful. "A good dinner," said a famous Lord Chancellor, "lubricates business." A little tolerant amusement lubricates a trial, and humanity itself is the true test of sanity, common sense and understanding.

In my particular J.A.G. Office we kept a Scrap Book entitled "Martial Lore" or "Backward Christian Soldiers," wherein officers of the J.A.G. Staff and some Permanent Presidents of Courts Martial were invited to record any incongruous incident which came their way. Amongst the entries I observe with interest how I gleefully recorded an extract from the Officer i/c A.T.S. to the Officer i/c J.A.G., thanking him for his lecture on Military Law. "All my officers," she wrote, "have told me that they know more about Military Law now than they did before you spoke to them."

Of the charges recorded in our note book, the simplicity of charging an escort who lost his prisoner under Section 40 as "losing by neglect" was the admiration of our department.

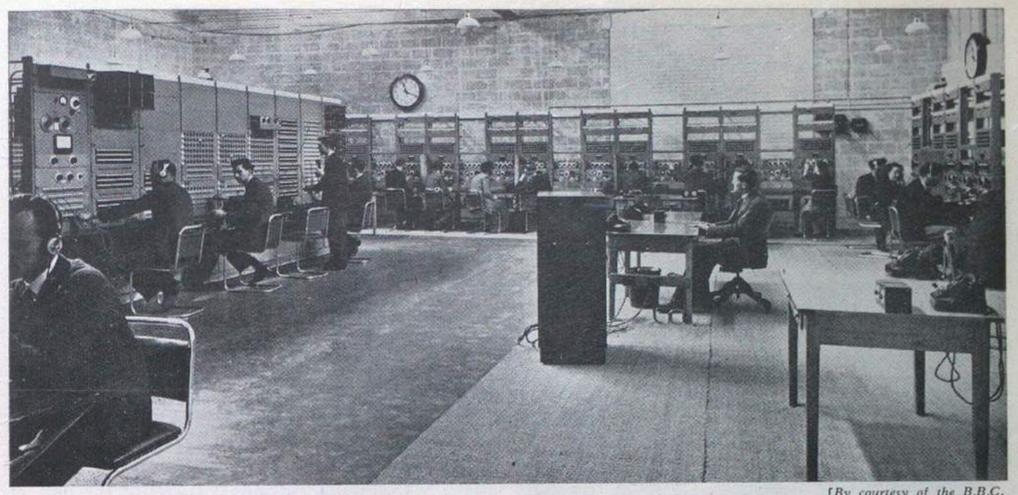
The certificate at the foot of the summary of evidence provided considerable scope for the ingenuity of the officer detailed for this duty. I find one certificate records that it was "taken down in the presence and hearing of the deceased." Another certificate, relating to incorporating the written statement of a witness in the summary, certifies that "Lieutenant —— cannot be readily procured." The formal questions addressed to the accused by the President before the trial were sometimes oddly treated. One accused was asked "if he had had sufficient opportunity for preparing his *offence*." I like, too, the accused who, when asked in the usual way, "Have you any objection to being tried by me as President, or by the officers whose names you have just heard read over," replied with obvious sincerity, "I don't want to be tried at all."

As a Territorial Army officer and a barrister, I relished the indignant expostulation of a defending officer who, asked if he was a solicitor or barrister, said, "No, sir! I am nothing of the sort, I am a professional soldier." Amongst various notes on evidence I find in the Note Book the frankly contemptuous yet legally phrased statement of an Italian prisoner of war camp guard. He described certain noises coming from an Army lorry as "consistent with the noise Italians made when they are being hit."

The choice morsels come, as one might expect, from pleas in mitigation. Said one soldier, "About three years ago, by some mischance, the lady whom I was to have married, by some mishap married a third person."

A defending officer, after referring to the death of the accused's mother and that his wife was pregnant, capped his history of misfortune saying, "The death a few weeks later of his wife's mother did nothing to lighten the load." Another defending officer made his plea seem a little broad when he said, "The accused's wife is shortly expecting another child. She is doing war work." Delicacy in cross-examination leads sometimes to embarrassment, as when a

(*continued at foot of previous column*)



[By courtesy of the B.B.C.

General view of the Central Control Room in the Broadcasting Centre at the Palace of Arts, Wembley. Line termination and switching bays on left and view of some of the 32 control positions

WORLD-WIDE BROADCASTING OF THE *Olympic Games*

by **Captain C. M. JENKINS, Royal Signals** (who recently visited the Wembley Stadium)

IN the presence of an audience of over 80,000 people, which included H.M. The Queen and several other members of the Royal Family, H.M. The King declared the XIV Olympiad open in brilliant sunshine on 29th July, 1948, in London. But news and commentaries were broadcast to millions in 60 different languages to almost every country in the world. People living near London were able to watch the track, swimming and a few other events with their television sets. Nothing was spared by the B.B.C. and the Post Office, with full Government approval, to give to the world the best broadcast facilities that our technical skill could provide. The main items of equipment, designed and manufactured by the B.B.C., cannot be priced—but it has won the admiration of many overseas radio engineers. To the ordinary listener, in any part of the world, news of sport came as a refreshing and stimulating change to the flow of international political news.

S. J. de Lotbiniere, Director of Outside Broadcasting at the B.B.C., was the man responsible for the general planning and organisation. The Post Office, as normally, provided and maintained all land lines within the U.K., and foreign commentators without their own broadcast facilities were able to use Post Office equipment, upon repayment—though land-line circuits were given free within the U.K.

The B.B.C. employs 50 transmitters to transmit the Home, Light and Third Programme. For the Home and Light Programme six have a power of 100 kilowatts and seven of more than 50 kilowatts. The remainder are of low power in areas of dense population. For the Overseas and European transmissions there are 31 short-wave transmitters installed in three transmitting stations. Fifteen are capable of 100 kilowatts output and seven others are each capable of 100 kilowatts when single channel operation is used, or 50 kilowatt in double-channel operation. For the European Service a transmitter capable of 800 kilowatts is available for use on the medium or long wave band.

Single 17-kilowatt vision transmitter and single 3-kilowatt sound transmitter provide the only Television Service for London and some parts of the South of England. Frequencies for all transmissions, for those who are interested, can be found in the current issue of the RADIO TIMES or LONDON CALLING, official publications of the B.B.C.

The nerve centre, the Central Control Room, for the broadcasting of the Olympic Games was at the Palace of Arts, Wembley. In all there were 36 positions for the direct supervision of "live" or "recorded" broadcasts from the Stadium, Pool, or Fencing Arena. Other microphone positions were:

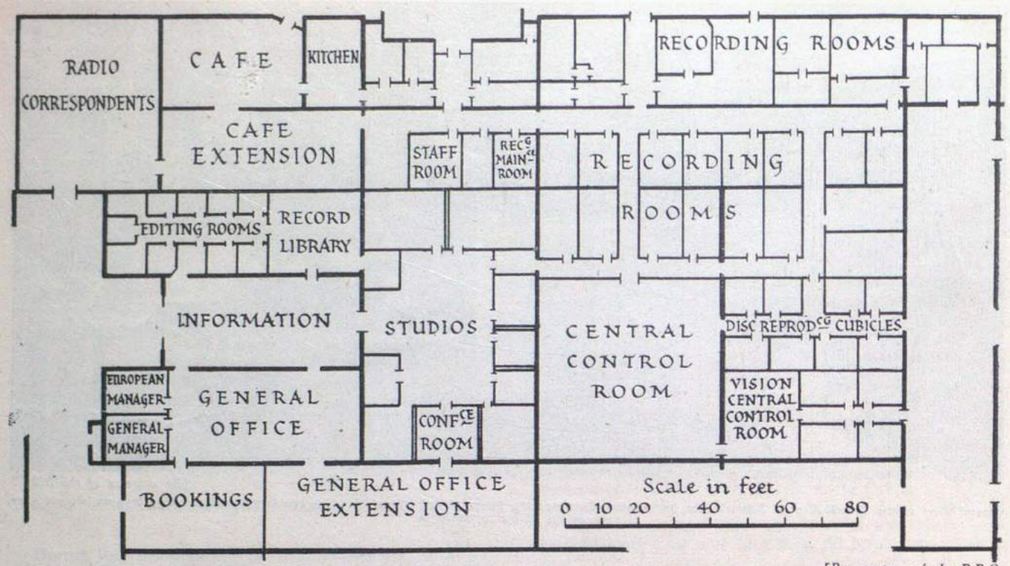
Wembley Stadium: 15 commentators boxes; 17 open micophones for effects and other requirements.

Empire Pool: 16 positions for commentaries and effects.

Marathon, Wembley Park, four positions; Harringay, four; Herne Hill, six; Henley, six; Windsor Great Park, six; Empress Hall, Earls Court, four; London Football Grounds, 21; London Hockey Grounds, six.

The B.B.C. normally prefer to give direct broadcasts from the scene where the event is taking place. But this is not always possible and often the best results, from the listener's point of view, are not obtained. Therefore, many of the commentaries were recorded on the spot at the actual Broadcasting Centre in the Palace of Arts, Wembley, and transmitted on world-wide short wave bands at the first suitable opportunity.

In addition to recording facilities, eight studios were available fitted out on the same scale as at the B.B.C.'s own Broadcasting House. There was also one television studio.



[*By courtesy of the B.B.C.*

Diagram of Palace of Arts, Wembley, taken over by the BBC for the period of the Olympic Games as "nerve-centre" of world broadcasting arrangements

All recordings were made on 12-inch discs using four Presto Static, four Presto Transportable and 12 B.B.C. Type C equipments. As most people know, their reproduction in speech quality is remarkably good, and from the programme producer's standpoint very simple to handle—physically and editorially. Wire recorders are not used by the B.B.C. except in an emergency, as the reproduction is inferior.

A word of praise about the B.B.C.'s own staff of commentators, programme planners and public relations personnel who worked long hours with the technicians. Their work was indispensable, and they set a high standard for the Finnish broadcasting team who will take up the "Broadcasting Torch" in 1952.

The accompanying plan of the B.B.C. Broadcasting Centre at the Palace of Art is of interest. Every amenity was provided for the visiting journalist or commentator, including a first-rate café service, large room for writing, with each table fitted with "listening" sets, and an Olympic Games Information Bureau all in the same building.

Bertrand Stewart Essay

Captain Bertrand Stewart, an officer of the Cavalry Division, who was killed in the Battle of the Aisne in 1914, left a sum of money for the purpose of starting an essay competition to "increase the efficiency of the British Army as a fighting force."

Captain Stewart was not a regular soldier, but had seen active service in the South African War. In 1911 he was imprisoned by the Germans on a trumped-up charge of espionage and, on his release two years later, was able to furnish Ministers of the British Government with vital evidence about the Germans' preparations for war. He also learned a great deal about German military methods and was the author of the Active Service Pocket Book, which proved invaluable to many officers training Kitchener's Army and was the ancestor of the modern Field Service Pocket Book.

So much for the man—now for his bequest. Captain Stewart had a great love for the Army, which was based on the interests and needs of the serving soldier. His bequest enables not only Army men of all ranks, but men of all Services to make their views known to the Army as a whole.

The subject which has been set for the Prize Essay for 1949 is the following:

"In the past our Service leaders have been trained from an early age to develop a robust mentality. They have been encouraged to 'live dangerously,' both on and off duty. The object was to teach them to grasp rapidly the essentials of a problem, and thus to make quick decisions. Imperial policing and the more dangerous sports assisted in this. How should this training be obtained under present-day conditions?"

The competition is open to all who are serving, or have served in the Forces of the British Commonwealth or Empire.

Entries must not exceed 10,000 words in length, and must be typewritten and submitted in quadruplicate to the Editor of the ARMY QUARTERLY, Little New Street, London, E.C.4, by 24th June, 1949.

The authorship of the essays must be strictly anonymous. Each competitor must adopt a motto and enclose with his essay a sealed envelope with his motto typewritten on the outside and his name and address inside.

The title and page of any published or unpublished work, to which reference is made in any essay or from which extracts are taken, must be quoted.

Judges are appointed from the three Services and their decision will be final. They will announce the result of the competition in October, 1949, and the winning essay will be published in the ARMY QUARTERLY.

The prize for 1949 will be £80 and the judges are empowered to distribute it or withhold it altogether, according to the standard of the entries submitted.

THE TEAM THAT WON THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE LEAGUE, 1948

One might have been your son

Over 65% of the boys and girls in The Royal Alexandra and Albert School served in H.M. Forces. One of these youngsters might have been your child. Help us to clothe, feed and educate them so they may take their rightful place in the world.

Write to the Secretary for particulars of how you can help or send a contribution NOW.

ROYAL ALEXANDRA and ALBERT SCHOOL

34b LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C.4

Chairman: JAMES V. RANK, Esq. *Secretary:* E. A. CORNER, A.C.I.S

Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Signals Visits B.A.O.R.

GENERAL SIR H. COLVILLE B. WEMYSS, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited Royal Signals in B.A.O.R. during July and, although he stayed only a few days, he completed a very full programme and met numerous officers, men and their wives stationed here in Germany.

On arrival at The Hook, the General met Captain Prendergast, of The Hook Signal Troop, and had breakfast at his house—one of the few British prefabs to be erected in Holland. The normal leave train took him to Bad Oeynhausen, where he was met by the C.S.O., Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E.

On Saturday morning the General was off to a flying start inspecting the Rhine Army Signal Office and the Telephone Exchange. In the Telephone Exchange he saw the sad sight of German girls training to take over from our A.T.S. switchboard operators. As can be imagined, most of the H.Q. Staff do not welcome the change; we have become so used to their cheerful manner in putting over, "Sorry, all my lines are engaged," "I'm sorry, your extension is not entitled to priority one calls," or "I'll call you back"—and they generally do. But needs must, and they have to be replaced.

A visit to the A.T.S. Training School and then on to Herford and H.Q., B.A.O.R., Signal Regiment. The D.R. sergeants combined with the Military Police to make an imposing escort, which suitably impressed the local German populace, with flags and wailing siren. An extremely smart Guard of Honour turned out for the General's inspection. Then a chat with the Warrant Officers, Sergeants and many wives in their Mess. From the Sergeants' to the Officers' Mess was but a short walk, and here were introduced the

General Wemyss with O.C., H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the Signal Office, Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine

Officers and wives of the Regiment. An early lunch and away.

At Celle in the afternoon, the Troops and Squadrons of Hanover and Hamburg Districts had combined for a social. All ranks and families were invited and it was quite a cheery company that foregathered at the Riverside Club for tea. General Wemyss managed to get round to each table and have a few words with everyone. A pleasant afternoon, the weather was kind, and there was ample opportunity of renewing old acquaintances. A certain amount of "gripping" took place, as you can well imagine. The only disappointed man was the D.R. with the beautifully polished motor-cycle who was to have escorted the General to the club, but was unfortunately prevented, as the Military Police took his place. To him we must say hard luck, but hope that he enjoyed the excellent tea. Bidding adieu to Celle the party returned to Bad Oeynhausen for the evening. A small cocktail party at the 21 Club, to meet the Officers and their wives of S.X. Branch, was next. The Chief and the M.G.A., with their wives, honoured us by attending.

The Mercury Theatre supplied the entertainment for the evening, and the cast of the show, "Duet for Two Hands," were to be congratulated for their really polished perform-

General Wemyss with Subaltern Carlyle, A.T.S., switchboard officer at Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine

ance. A comfortable little theatre with a friendly atmosphere. it is soon to put on its centenary show—but of that, more anon!

Coffee with the wives and families of No. 3 Air Support Signal Unit was a good start for Sunday morning, after which followed a visit to Air H.Q., B.A.F.O., where he was met by the C.A.F.S.O., Colonel R. W. Morgan, and shown over the Signal installations. A short tour of the H.Q. and then on to No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, where the General looked around one or two of the barrack blocks and was introduced to a number of men from outlying troops and detachments. Being a warm day, a visit to the Sergeants' Mess was a welcome break for lunch, with the officers of the Regiment. It was fortunate that the General's son, who is in the Rifle Brigade, had been transferred to Minden the day before, and was able to come over and have a short while with his father at Bückeburg.

After lunch we once more entered the cars and started the long trip down the autobahn to No. 2 British Infantry Division Signal Regiment, stopping at the Windmill for tea. The Windmill, a Y.M.C.A. canteen, is well known throughout B.A.O.R. for the quality of its doughnuts, and its visitors' book contains the names of many celebrities—from actresses to the Minister for War—all of whom have

General Wemyss with the C.S.O. in the S.D.S. office at Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine

tried the doughnuts and pronounced them good value.

Monday saw the party inspecting the regimental area at Hilden, visiting the library and hobbies room and opening a new floor in the barracks, which the R.E.s have finished converting into two- and three-man rooms. In the hobbies section we met the Education Corps Sergeant, who has organised a very active model aircraft club; the club has recently been in the news when the magazine, *Soldier*, published an article on their activities.

The barracks are in ideal surroundings, each block being separated by lawns and flower beds, and the whole surrounded by young fir woods. The Regimental garden produces most of the fresh vegetables and came high in the recent B.A.O.R. Gardens Competition.

An afternoon touring and meeting some of the troops on detachment. At No. 19 Field Regiment, R.A., we were met by a well turned out Guard of Honour, with trumpeter to sound the General Salute. After meeting the troop and chatting to several of the men, General Wemyss looked over some of the accommodation allotted to the troop by the Gunners, and here again little was found wanting. Although the surrounding town had been badly damaged the barracks were well repaired, with lawns and flower beds replacing the heavy statues and stone decorations of the German troops.

A visit to one of the Brigade Troops proved amusing, although somewhat discomforting to the troop officer. The General and his party were making the rounds in the usual fashion, chatting to the men of the Unit and seeing the various sides of the Unit activities, when suddenly, for reasons unknown, the party was ushered into a portion of the barracks which was certainly not included in the tour programme. With an agonised look on his face, and almost choked by the dust, the troop officer did some quick thinking and we were whisked away into realms more suited to the eye of an inspecting General. One hears of such instances but rarely has the opportunity of being present on such an occasion. An amused smile on the face of the Colonel Commandant, who obviously realised the momentary difficulties, and the day was saved. One shudders to think of the fate of the troop sergeant the following day.

Tuesday, and the last day of the tour, was spent at the barracks in Hilden, when the General saw some of the recent recruits from England; he was impressed by the smartness of their drill and the interest they were taking in their driver training.

A quick trip through the Ruhr towns to Krefeld, where the General caught the Medloc train to The Hook. The Representative Colonel Commandant's tour was at an end—his stay with us in B.A.O.R. was a short one, but we hope a pleasant one. We are very grateful to him for sparing us a few days, knowing what a busy man he is.

E.J.B.

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

July

With alarming rapidity we have passed from day after day of continual rain to day after day of glorious sunshine, and it certainly has developed into a definite heat wave, the temperature at times having reached 90 degrees. Consequently, the swimming pool has now come into high favour and every advantage is being taken of it.

This month the Regiment received its first draft of National Service men consisting of three radio mechanics and 28 drivers i/c. Of the 28, three were posted forthwith to the Gunner Troops, nine to Brigade Troops, and the remainder to undergo a Training Course at H.Q. Training has already commenced and a comprehensive syllabus drawn up for a period of nine months, when by this time it is hoped that the trainees will be fit, ready to pass out as fully fledged Drivers i/c. Sergeant Yates, the Regimental Drill Instructor, is in charge of the squad for the drill and discipline side of the course, the M.T. side of the course being in the hands of Corporals Hurman and Barnes, Lance-Corporal Jefferey and Driver Mackay. These young men have settled down to their training very well and are proving to be exceptionally keen and greatly interested in everything they are taught, which is a great help to the instructors.

Visit of Colonel Commandant. On Monday, 26th July, we were visited by General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals. He was accompanied by Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Rhine Army.

The General, who remained with the Regiment for two days, visited the Barrack Block, Cookhouse, Men's Dining Room, Jimmy's Club, garages, workshops and the Hobbies' Room at H.Q. Hilden, and expressed appreciation of everything he saw.

He also visited "E" and "J" Troops. The General inspected the Trainee Squad of National Service men during their drill period, and spoke to each man in turn.

The P.R.I. has organised trips to Baldeney See and Mohne See over the August Bank Holiday, which should prove very popular. Baldeney See, which is about an hour's run from Hilden, is a small rest centre which includes an O.R.s' Clubhouse, built near the lake and caters for swimming and boating. Mohne See is a larger type of rest centre and has the same facilities for swimming and boating. A very enjoyable time can be had at both Centres, the only charge for short leave that has to be paid is the train fare.

During August the P.R.I. has organised a series of two-day trips on the Rhine. These trips are certainly a very good form of entertainment, pleasure, and of great interest.

On Saturday, 22nd July, the Divisional Motor Cycle Reliability Trials were held. The course, which commenced and ended at the Hockey Ground in Hilden, was 31 miles long and consisted of initial inspection, flexibility trial, then on to the course proper, which included ten observed sections, and back to the final inspection on the hockey ground. H.Q. entered two teams, one from "D" Troop and one from L.A.D. R.E.M.E. attached to the Regiment.

The team event was won by the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, with "D" Troop team, consisting of Sergeant Worboys and Lance-Corporals Hill and Brown, gaining second place.

The individual winner was Lance-Corporal Hill, "D" Troop, who only lost a total of 21 points. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Hill on this success and the members of the team who gained second place.

This month the Divisional Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show was held at Dortmund, the Regiment entering exhibits in various classes, being successful in three of the classes, gaining a first, second and third award.

The Unit Horticultural Officer, Captain A. Juniper, must be feeling proud of the successes gained, and congratulations to the gardeners who have put in so much hard work which gained these awards.

Arrivals and Departures. The Regiment extend a happy welcome to Major Paris, who has taken over O.C. No. 1 Squadron, Captain E. Smith, D.C.M., who was, for a short time in the Administration Office but who has now taken over No. 5 Brigade Signal Troop, Captain P. Macdonald, who has now taken over from Captain E. Smith, D.C.M., in the Administration Office, and Second-Lieutenant Insley, R.A.E.C., the Regimental Education Officer, and to all new arrivals who have joined the Regiment this month.

We said "Good-bye" this month to Major and Mrs. F. Wainwright, who have moved to H.Q. B.A.O.R., C.S.O. Branch, Captain J. Pascoe, Australian Signals, who has been attached to the Regiment for the last year and is now on his way back to Australia, Second-Lieutenants Tripp and Portch, who proceeded on release, and to all those who have left the Regiment this month either on release or posting, here's wishing you all the very best of good luck wherever you may be.

Strength Increase. Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. K. J. A. Adlam on the birth of a son and heir (Salisbury papers please copy).

Sergeant Daniels

R.S.M. Griffin

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. On Tuesday, 8th June, we were honoured by a visit from Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Rhine Army, who, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., said farewell to us in the good old style over a "pint of the best." This was a fitting climax to the Medal Presentation Parade on which eight Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s were presented with their respective decorations.

Sergeant Danny Jones shook us all by taking the plunge into the turmoil of matrimony. Well done, Danny, and the very best of luck to Mrs. Jones and self. May all your troubles be little ones.

This month saw the departure of Sergeants Nock and McGuinness, who received their marching orders to U.K. Some people have all the luck. We hope that they will find a comfortable billet in their new Unit. Good luck, chaps.

We are planning a grand opening night for a "house warmer" in our new Mess, and once again we are keeping our fingers crossed in the hope that the Garrison Engineer, Hilden, will have the Mess ready in the very near future.

It is hoped to submit for our monthly WIRE Notes a short column of Mess personalities with photographs, and we are hoping that a few old friends will take note and make a similar effort in order that old acquaintances can be renewed.

Mess Personalities, July, 1948. (1) Regimental Sergeant-Major H. Griffin being presented with the India Medal and Clasp by Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O. Rhine Army. (2) Sergeant Daniels being presented to H.R.H. The Princess Royal on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. to the Regiment while on Exercises in May.

Swimming. On Friday, 1st June, in brilliant sunshine and ideal weather for such an event, the Regimental Inter-Troop Swimming Meeting was held in No. 2 Division Swimming Pool, Hilden.

Heats were swum off during the morning and the finals took place throughout the afternoon, the meeting running well to time thanks to the good work put in by all the officials and competitors. Competition was very keen throughout and the supporting of the various Troops gave full encouragement to their representatives. The meeting came to an end with "J" Troop, H.Q. 4th Infantry Brigade, as the winners of the Inter-Troop Shield, followed by "O" Troop and H.Q. Troop in second and third place respectively.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mrs. McVittie, wife of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., kindly presented the Inter-Troop Shield to the winners and medals to the individuals and runners-up in each event.

The 4th Infantry Brigade Swimming Meeting was held at the Dusseldorf Swimming Pool during June, for which the Regiment entered. The Regimental team did very well, gaining second place, the winners of the Brigade Shield being the 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment.

On 6th July the Divisional Swimming Championships were held in the Dusseldorf Swimming Pool. Once again the Regimental team did very well, gaining third place.

In both the Brigade and Divisional Swimming Meetings the team acquitted itself very well and were awarded for their fine efforts by being presented with medals for both winners and runners-up in the events in which they were successful.

Congratulations to the team for their fine efforts, and the team spirit which was high at all times during the competitions.

Cricket. Since the last notes on the summer game were published, the Regiment has played three more games, the results being as follows:

In the second round, Divisional Knock-Out Competition (this being the most important game played this month) we met and defeated No. 10 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, the score being: No. 10 Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., 80; 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment, 81 for 4. Signals thus won by six wickets—a very good performance. Top scorers for the Regiment were Lance-Corporal Maloney 55 not out, Squadron Sergeant-Major Vaughan 13. Bowling for the Regiment: Sergeant Tiffin, 4 for 26; Driver Hill, 4 for 0. Driver Hill, who recently joined the Regiment, bowled very well indeed and, with the right training, should make his mark in good class cricket later on. He is a natural left arm slow bowler with a very fine action.

The other fixtures were *versus*: 1st Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. Scores: 1st. Y. and L. Regiment, 140; Signals, 89. Top scorers for the Regiment were Corporal Hopper, 26; Squadron Sergeant-Major Vaughan, 20. *Versus* 19th Field Regiment, R.A. Scores: 19th F.R., R.A., 138; Signals, 89. Top scorer for the Regiment was Signalman Hurst, 38. Bowling for the Regiment, Lance-Corporal Maloney, 4 for 11.

Unfortunately, the bad spell of weather we have had has curtailed the fixtures, but now the fine weather has appeared we are hoping to play a few more games before the soccer season commences.

Congratulations to the following for being chosen to play for Signals B.A.O.R. cricket team: Major F. Wainwright, Squadron Sergeant-Major Vaughan, Sergeant Tiffin; also to Squadron Sergeant-Major Vaughan, Sergeant Tiffin and Lance-Corporal Maloney on being chosen to play for the Divisional team.

No. 16 PARACHUTE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

June

It would be as well to begin this our first contribution with a brief history of the Squadron's doings since it left Palestine.

Captain A. H. Carter became O.C. of the Unit when the advance party reached Perham Down in February, 1947, and soon after the arrival of the main party the Troop was redesignated as a Squadron. When at the end of May Captain Carter proceeded on release, Major G. Proudman arrived home from Palestine, to take over with Lieutenant B. R. Crook as Second-in-Command and Sergeant Creed, Sergeant Woolgar, Corporal Madley and Corporal B. Morgan as the foundation of the Unit.

From then until September the whole Squadron had a very busy time training for the full scale airborne exercise, "Longstop," which took place on the Plain before Field Marshal Lord Montgomery and a large number of distinguished visitors. Throughout the exercise communications, in the hands of the Squadron, were well maintained.

During a Signal exercise, "Wilco I," one of the two aircraft allotted to the Squadron developed a fault. The port engine cut out at about 200 feet and, in order to gain altitude to make a safe landing, the pilot gave the order to jettison all equipment. This consisted of two kitbag loads containing several wireless stations and some line instruments. A good night was had by all in trying to recover power packs, batteries, sets and telephones which had been distributed over the length and breadth of Salisbury Plain.

With the winter training programme under way we said "Good-bye" to Lieutenant Crook, who went on release, and welcomed in his place as Second-in-Command Captain K. E. P. Andrews.

In February the move to Schleswig-Holstein took place and, although on arrival in Germany the Squadron was well below strength, some new reinforcements soon arrived. We were also immediately joined by a static increment to take over most of our static commitments and became what is now known as the Schleswig Signal Troop. With them we welcomed Captain A. H. J. Dent and Second-Lieutenant Charlton, both formerly of No. 32 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron. The two elements—airborne and static—soon settled down and communication in the area ran smoothly.

A programme of intensive individual training of both a technical and general military nature began in April. Route marching figures in the curriculum with astonishing and sometimes painful regularity, and we are now in the throes of synthetic training in readiness for drops over the D.Z. at Rendsburg.

Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal to H.Q., Hamburg District. In May our Colonel-in-Chief The Princess Royal spent several days touring Signal Units in the B.A.O.R., and on the occasion of her visit to H.Q. Hamburg District the Squadron had the honour to provide the Guard of Honour. This was commanded by the O.C., Major G. Proudman, and presented a most creditable appearance which appeared to impress Her Royal Highness and the many spectators most favourably.

Sport. In the sports world we have had less time and opportunity than we should like, but we have shown the rest of the Brigade H.Q. that we can play football with the best. We have been fortunate in having Lance-Corporal Wright (one time Rhine Army goalkeeper) and such other good players as Driver Taylor and Lance-Corporal Haughton.

We have several keen hockey players and, though we say it ourselves, are more often than not the backbone of the Brigade H.Q. team. Captain Andrews and Sergeant Creed perform as backs, Corporal Gray as a dashing centre-forward, Lance-Corporal Ross as left wing, and Signalman Moxon as right-half; the latter's enthusiasm knows no bounds, with the result that the referee's whistle is in constant use. Sailing, swimming and athletics also feature in our activities but, due mainly to lack of time, we have not been able to take part in any competitive activities except athletics, and in that only as part of the Brigade H.Q. team. We have a few outstanding performers in the athletics field, notably Lance-Corporal Foord, who is a miler, and Corporal Carr, who complains that 1,500 metres is not a long enough distance for him. Signalman Clements

is a promising high jumper and should with tuition and training become quite a star.

The D.R.s and aspiring trials riders provided the local population with a good deal of amusement during their training for the Hamburg District Trials. The trials took place on 29th May at Geestacht, near Hamburg. During and before the trials the weather had done its worst and the course was a real test of riding ability. Two of the hazards were insurmountable and several of the others defeated the efforts of all but a very competent few. Lance-Corporal Boothroyd did exceptionally well and his position of fourth as an individual belies his abilities. The team was placed fourth in 24 teams from the whole of Hamburg District. The winners were the 10th Hussars and No. 9 Airborne Anti-Tank Battery first equal, with another Anti-Tank Battery team third.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle, C.R. Signals, 6th Airborne Division, visited the Unit from 22nd to 24th May. No doubt we shall see some of the Regiment here shortly as this Squadron is to be reorganised within the new Independent Parachute Brigade.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

Since our last notes appeared in THE WIRE many changes have taken place within the Squadron. Many old faces have left us for Civvy Street—far too many, in fact, to mention each one individually, but if you've given Mr. Editor your home address and you are receiving a monthly copy of your Corps Magazine, here's wishing all ex-Berliners the very best of luck. New arrivals have been few, and we extend to them a warm hand and sincerely hope that their stay with us will be a pleasant one.

The weather, too, has decided on a change, and the heat has been terrific. Nevertheless, the change was a welcome one, particularly to the swimmers and the athletic types. The Berlin Olympic Stadium has certainly been working to its full capacity.

Our Unit Garden is now beginning to produce the fruits of some very hard work. We were rather late in procuring a plot of land and not until the last week in April were we able to make progress. In consequence, we have had to forget about broad beans, shallots, onions and the early crop of potatoes, but we have done pretty well with runner and French beans. The main crop of potatoes looks good and the brassica family should be paying good dividends in the near future.

Our tomato crop is one that we are extremely proud of, and already the cookhouse has produced some excellent meals of fresh garden produce which, in Berlin nowadays, is an absolute luxury.

In our next issue we hope to give you a few snaps of the garden and vegetables that we have produced.

These past two weeks have found our O.C. and many of the technical types busily involved in building an R/T School for the purpose of training certain officers of B.T.B. on both procedure and the practical side of radio telephony.

The School opened on 9th August with a class of 12 students from the various Units in Berlin. On 10th August we were visited by the Deputy Commander, B.T.B., whilst the students were under instruction, and he was very pleased indeed with all he saw.

Sport. Our Cricket Team has met with varying success during the past month, and their record for that period reads as follows: Played 6, won 4, lost 2, drawn 0.

Rumours—No. 1. That "Paddy" Daly and "Curly" Brewer are attending the Swimming Bath at the ungodly hour of 5.30 a.m. daily. Is it because the water is tepid at that time, or is the attraction something much warmer?

Rumour No. 2. That a certain member of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is regularly attending a fortune teller. What does the future hold, Jimmy? Personally, I never have believed in "*The Gypsy.*"

In last month's issue we recorded the marriage of Corporal "Maggie" O'Brien, A.T.S. "Maggie" has since been fortunate enough to procure some well earned leave in the U.K. At the time of this script going to press she will be spending some happy moments in the Scottish Highlands, together with her husband. How the Squadron envy you—we can't even have a long week-end. Her vacant desk in the office is now occupied by Corporal Joan Oddy. We hope your stay will be a happy one, Joan.

More next month.

ROCKY

No. 30 INDEPENDENT L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

"I wandered lonely as a cloud"—*Wordsworth.*

A small lone white cloud, wafted by a leisurely breeze, drifts slowly into the soft haze of a summer's afternoon. So, No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron (the last L. of C. Signal Squadron in B.A.O.R.) will shortly be tagged with that inanimate word "Disbanded," and pass into the annals of the past. To those of us who saw its birth in November, 1946, and who felt its youthful tremors as it blossomed into maturity from the sub-Units of No. 1 Corps District Signal Regiment, the parting of the ways will be heartfelt. We hope in next month's notes (our last) to step back into the past, and remind ourselves, and our readers, of the "what has beens."

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Page, who were visited by a *rara avis* on 20th June. It's a boy!

We welcome the appearance at Squadron H.Q. of our new Orderly Room Sergeant Russell. As he is gifted with "doubtless" powers of organisation, the Orderly Room Staff expect to see the paper flying shortly (in the correct direction, of course), and so the pending trays "too hot to handle" have been "handled" (or man-handled, as the case may be). A fitting tribute to one so thoroughly imbued with the right "spirit."

Sport. Our cricket team have been doing very well recently, winning five matches before falling to No. 25 British Military Hospital on 11th August in an "away" match. Although a defeat, it was not without its exciting moments. After being five wickets down for only twice as many runs, S.S.M. Maskery and Private "Sailor to you" Jack Mitchell (A.C.C. attached) knocked up 57 runs. A surprising stand considering the "couldn't care less" attitude of "Sailor" whilst at the wicket. Every time the ball came pitching towards him, he "had a bash." A lucky, humorous, but nevertheless inspiring innings.

All out for 69, we presented no difficulties to our R.A.M.C. opponents, who won with the appreciable margin of six wickets.

Our cricket stalwarts now yearn for that return engagement.

Leave Centres. The men are making full use of the Continental Leave Centres, the mountain lore of the Harz drawing many an admiring visitor.

However, there must be some other attraction of a more secretive nature in "them thar hills" for, when one of the returning vagabonds was asked to voice his appreciation, a large uncalled for but "meaning" grin spread over his face and he would not commit himself. Was it the air, the swimming, horse riding, dancing, climbing, or the unfading picture of an A.T.S. which loomed up in his unconfiding mind? His thoughts were left unsaid for others to investigate in their sojourns in Bad Harzburg.

DORTMUND. Our contribution to THE WIRE this month is in the nature of *Auf Wiedersehen,* as we shall shortly be taking our leave of Dortmund to sally forth to pastures new, though in a somewhat scattered manner. This is one occasion when there will be genuine regrets in having to leave a station which has afforded so much in the way of amenities and ideal Signal Office "set up."

We regret that Sergeant Newsham is still confined to bed in No. 6 British General Hospital, where he is recovering from pneumonia and does not expect to be released for about another three weeks. His many friends will be pleased to see him once more back in harness.

And so, for the present, cheerio and best wishes to you all from Munster and Dortmund.

7th INDEPENDENT ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Westphalia

We promised last month that we should have something to say about a Sports Day which we were to hold. It was, more correctly, a "potted" sports day, and it went down very well.

The day commenced at 1400 hours with the heats of

Major and Mrs. T. P. Saunders in conversation with Major and Mrs. F. Swainson near the control vehicle

the track events, in which Lance-Corporal "Tich" Dewhurst made some of the best times. He won the 100 yards, with Signalman Liddle a close second. Liddle won the 220, while the 440 was taken by Signalman Ward, of "W2" Troop, in 65 seconds.

Lance-Corporal Sedgley surprised everyone by turning out to be a jumper (no reference to lines equipment, although he is a lineman) by winning the high jump and the 110 yards hurdles.

"V" Troop from Minden took the prize for the 4 x 110 yards relay in 53.5; in fact, "V" Troop did very well. Liddle is a member of that Troop, as is Lance-Corporal Larcombe (long jump, 18 feet ½ inch) and Signalman Snead, who just succeeded in beating Corporal Butler, of M.T., in the O.R.s obstacle. I think that Corporal Butler was beaten by the bottle of beer which constituted one of the obstacles!

"W" Troop's Corporal Clarke put the shot 36 feet 8 inches and threw the hammer 59 feet 1 inch to win both events. One or two hopefuls were boasting about how they would win the tug-of-war, but Corporal "Busty" Brindley stood "W" Troop in good stead as anchor—they couldn't budge him.

Last obstacle in the obstacle race

The day was graced by the presence of the ladies of the Unit, who had three races—a blindfold race won by Mrs. Crocker; a spoon and potato race won by Mrs. Ashbridge, and the ladies' and husbands' three-legged race, which went to Corporal Butler and Mrs. Ashbridge.

The O.R.s spoon and spud winner again featured Corporal Butler, under extremely suspicious circumstances!

We welcomed Major Swainson from Hanover District, and Major Freemantle from No. 30 L. of C. Regiment, as visitors, who also entered as competitors in the Officers' and Senior N.C.O.s novelty race, in which the participants were deluded into thinking that they also had a bottle of beer as an obstacle, only to discover to their chagrin that the liquid was water.

All honours must go to the Catholic Women's Institutes and N.A.A.F.I. for catering, and but for the extremely hard work of the organising committee, headed by S.S.M. Barnes and the direction of Q.M.S. (I.) Jackson, the whole thing would not have been possible.

The last was the funniest event of the day—a pillow fight over a water tank with the contestants sitting on a greasy pole. Unfortunately we have no pictorial record of it.

When everyone had gathered round, Mrs. Saunders distributed the prizes and presented the track winners with their medals.

All that remains to say was that we had perfect weather, and that at 1900 hours everyone made for home tired but happy.

The "heavy end" of the winning tug-of-war team

HANNOVER DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON.

July

It is with some regret that we learn that our contribution for the July issue of THE WIRE arrived too late for inclusion, but we sincerely hope that the same fate will not befall this month's effort.

One of the main items of interest during the past month was the visit of General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. The Squadron was "at home" to other Signal Units in the area so that General Wemyss could meet as many regular serving Signals as possible. There were representatives from No. 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, No. 31 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron and No. 4 A.G.R.A. Signal Regiment. Among the officers and wives present were Brigadier A. E. Morrison, C.S.O., Rhine Army, Lieutenant-Colonel Milner, D.C.S.O., Hamburg District, and Mrs. Milner, Lieutenant-Colonel Pipe-Wolferston, O.C. No. 1 Special Wireless Regiment, and Mrs. Pipe-Wolferston, Major G. Walton, O.C. Hanover District Signal Squadron, Major Caldicott, O.C. Hamburg District Signal Squadron, Captain and Mrs. F. Williams, D.C.S.O.'s Branch, Hanover District, Captain and Mrs. Purdon, D.C.S.O.'s Branch, Hanover District, Captain and Mrs. Pearce, No. 7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, and Captain Vernon, No. 4 A.G.R.A. Signal Regiment. During the course of the afternoon General Wemyss chatted with the officers and their wives, finally being introduced to each man present, many of whom had served under him throughout the campaign in Europe. An excellent tea was provided by the N.A.A.F.I. and, despite the warmness of the very summery afternoon, a most enjoyable time was had by all.

At the moment the Squadron is undergoing rigorous Battle Training under the watchful eye of the A.P.T.C. Staff, and emerging fitter and wiser, although tired, from it. "Operation Plain Fare," or "The Berlin Lift," is also widely talked about in the Squadron at the time of writing, four of our Despatch Riders, Lance-Corporal Fookes, Signalmen Reeves, King and Lawrence, being attached to the R.A.S.C. at Wunstorf Aerodrome for the purpose of convoy organisation. They are playing a very essential part in this tremendous scheme for the relief of Berlin, as is also the Signal Office here, which is handling a terrific amount of traffic dealing with the operation, and all are to be complimented on keeping things running smoothly and to schedule.

The August Bank Holiday festivities included the Hanover District Horse Show, which attracted entrants from the whole of B.A.O.R., and some excellent jumping and horsemanship were to be witnessed. A Hunt Ball followed the show and, held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Headquarters, Hanover District, proved a huge success. Sergeant Falkingham, our acting M.T.O., carried out the duties of M.C. and is to be congratulated on helping to make the ball a success. The Squadron was wholly responsible for the lay-out of the amplification for the horse show and the ball, and everything went off without a hitch. Again a feather in our cap.

Shooting. Competing in the No. 31 Independent Infantry Brigade Rifle Meeting, Captain A. G. Haystead, our Chief D.S.O., was placed 10th with a score of 82 out of a possible 120 points in the Brigade Championship. In the Officers' Individual Championship he was placed 5th. Second-Lieutenant Goodley, O.C. No. 140 T.E. Troop, was placed 12th in the latter competition. Sergeant "Archie" Murdoch, shooting in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Individual Championship, was placed 12th.

In the Falling Plate Competition our team managed to reach the semi-finals, and have been selected to take part in the B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting to be held in August. We wish them "Good shooting" and the best of luck.

Sport. Our basket-ball team, competing in the Headquarters Hanover District Competition, have proved themselves past masters of the game, and piled up points to make them easy winners, much to the chagrin of the Sergeants' Mess team, who considered themselves the champions. Signalman Bartlett has been the main points scorer throughout the competition and is selected to play in the Headquarters Hanover District Team in the B.A.O.R. Basket-Ball Competition.

Motor-Cycle Racing. At Belsen, in the B.A.O.R. Clubmen's Trophy Motor-Cycle Meeting, held on 10th July, Sergeant Falkingham and Signalman McAuliffe had some bad luck in their respective classes. Riding Matchless 350 c.c. machines which they built from scrap, they both rode into place positions in the heats, but failed to reach the finals. Signalman McAuliffe is going out on Release very soon, and we take this opportunity of wishing him the best of luck in civilian life.

Riding at Hanomag Speedway on August Bank Holiday, Signalman Meacher secured first place in the Novices' Race. Signalman Keenan took a bad spill early in the meeting and was unable to ride again. The Hanomag track is one of the finest dirt tracks in B.A.O.R. and has produced some first-class riders who are now riding for speedway clubs in U.K.

Arrivals and Departures. Under the above heading we must record the movements of S.S.M. "Uncle Jack" Mudge, who came and went just like that. Formerly with No. 11 Air Formation Signals in Celle, S.S.M. Mudge took over his duties here long enough to hold one check parade and attend one of our well-known dances before being re-posted to the U.K. We take this chance of wishing him all the best in his new job.

To Sergeant Bernard Scoffin, recently arrived from U.K., we extend our hand and hope his wife will soon join us.

Promotions. To swell our numbers in the Sergeants' Mess —Sergeants Reese and Hayes.

To Corporals Seabright and Candy we tender our congratulations on their second step up the ladder of fame.

To our new Lance-Corporals, too numerous to mention here, we wish the best of luck. I do believe there is still some truth in the story of the baton and the haversack.

JOHNNY

STUDENT DOODLES—V.

Surge Impedance

HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

As Britain's future depends upon its youth, we must first of all this month congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. D. MacRae on the birth of a baby daughter, Mhairi.

From the arrivals we go to the departures. Captain Bell, the Second-in-Command, leaves for the backwoods of Chelsea in the middle of August and will be resuming his civilian role of "artist," complete with corduroys and flowing beard. Following in his wake—in fact the day after—will be Second-Lieutenant V. T. G. Priest, who also goes on release.

Arrivals and Departures. Recently posted from the Squadron to H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, is R.S.M. Baker. He had been with the Squadron for a long time and we were all very sorry to lose him. Posted in his place arrived S.S.M. Marks, who, it is hoped, will have as pleasant a stay in Hamburg as Frank Baker undoubtedly had.

Sergeant Lonergan has joined us from his attached Troop to the R.B. He is to take over the Troop when Sergeant Hawes and family leave for U.K. and Civvy Street.

Sergeant Nutton joined us from No. 2 L. of C., now H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. S.Q.M.S. Follows has left us to go to Munster Lager, and we are shortly to lose Sergeants Wright and Hawes.

Among the lads who have recently been demobbed are Ron Rice, "Taffy" Knight and Colin Martin, and in the near future "Mike" Hyde, Bert Nichols, Eric Dadswell, Jock's McAllister and McLennan, Evans and Hampshire. What we'll do now the "old lads" are leaving us, we dare not think.

The departures of 75, 76 and 77 Groups are going to cause great gaps in the ranks of tradesmen.

Putlos Meeting. The Annual Putlos Shoot was held at the end of July—that is the Hamburg District Rifle Competition. The various members of the Squadron who attended the shoot were Second-Lieutenant's Priest and Watson, S.Q.M.S. "Darky" Follows, Sergeants Mitchell and Flanagan, Signalmen Goodyer and Russell. None of the team were brilliant shots, but we did put in an appearance and we didn't come bottom. We had a wonderful time. The weather was not typically English, the food likewise, and the swimming facilities definitely excelled Southend-on-Sea. The rumour that there are whales in the Baltic later turned out to be "Darky" Follows indulging in a rather unusual type of trudgeon stroke—which he later informed us was one of the few things he picked from the Chili Crackers of East Africa. It was unfortunate that, owing to the unavoidable absence of certain competitors, the Officer's team and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' team both had to be cancelled. In the Unit Team Match, the Signals were 4th out of five. In the individual shooting, although we did not win any prizes, the performances were good, and showed that the Signals can hold their own against the Infantry and other Corps. In the plates competition we were beaten by the eventual runners-up in a keen match.

With perfect weather, and fine bathing and a comfortable camp, it was a pleasant few days which will long be remembered by all who took part.

Operation "Plainfare." The Line Troop have been very busy of late. Operation "Plainfare" provided us with some "operational" work. No, it wasn't "multi-airlines," but crossing the Elbe to and from the work site did prove rather hazardous at times. These Sunderlands will land anywhere.

Sport. Captain Evans plays regularly for Hamburg Sub-Area and produces wickets for incredibly few runs.

Signalman Hill still chases round cinder tracks with increasing success. He is already considering becoming a professional speedway rider.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

REGIMENTAL H.Q., BUCKEBURG. *Visit of the Colonel Commandant*. On Sunday, 25th July, the Regiment was honoured by a visit by General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant of the Corps. The visit was of an informal nature and a number of Officers and men of the Regiment were introduced to the General.

After inspecting the ground floor of "D" Block, General Wemyss met a representative section of Other Ranks from outlying stations. Next he visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants of the Regiment in the Sergeants' Mess, and finally met the Officers, having lunch with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, in the R.A.F. Officers' Mess.

The Colonel Commandant was accompanied by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E., and C.A.F.S.O. Colonel R. W. Morgan, O.B.E.

Obituary. The Regiment's deepest sympathies go to S.S.M. and Mrs. Broadhead on the death of their six months' old son on 27th July, 1948.

Congratulations. Congratulations to the following on their promotions: Sergeant Marriot, Corporal Pilgrim, Lance-Corporal Ferguson, Lance-Corporal Rogers and Lance-Corporal Ives.

Cricket. During the past three months the Regimental Cricket Team, under the very able leadership of Captain (Q.M.) A. J. Carpenter, has had quite a successful season in spite of the fact that constant alterations have had to be made in the composition of the team, owing to some of our players being demobbed and posted. Matches have been played against the following: "A" Sergeants' Mess, B.A.F.O. (home), Drawn; No. 61 Rifle Squadron, R.A.F. Regiment, Won; C.A.F.S.O. Staff, Won; 8th R.A.F. General Hospital, Drawn; R.A.F., Gutersloh, Lost; R.A.G., Buckeburg, Lost; 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, Won; "A" Sergeants' Mess, B.A.F.O. (away), Lost; No. 61 Rifle Squadron, R.A.F. Regiment, Won; 8th R.A.F. General Hospital, Won; Air Formation Signal Regiment, Sundern, Won.

The most notable performance was against the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade, at Minden, who had in their team four Hanover District players, one of whom later represented the M.C.C. during their B.A.O.R. tour. Batting first, the Rifle Brigade were dismissed for 45, being unable to cope with the formidable pace bowling of Lance-Corporal Stone and Signalman Bentley. Our opening batsmen, Captain Carpenter and Signalman Toase, found no difficulty in scoring the runs required without being separated.

An amusing incident occurred during the match at Sundern, when Signalman Toase, to the great amusement of the spectators and to his own considerable embarrassment, rent his trousers asunder whilst stopping a hard drive down the wicket off his own bowling. In spite of this misfortune, Signalman Toase valiantly carried on to take three wickets at low cost.

Congratulations to Captain Carpenter and Lance-Corporal Stone for being chosen to play for the Corps Cricket Team in B.A.O.R.

The following represented the team on most occasions: Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Sladen, Captain A. J. Carpenter, Second-Lieutenant Hunt, Sergeant Pitt, Corporal Nicholson, Lance-Corporals Stone and Brown, Signalmen Toase, Bentley, Raper, Davies.

The cricket season is not yet ended. We hope to see several successful matches before the football season arrives.

No. 1 SQUADRON, BUCKEBURG. A certain stir was caused here in Buckeburg by the arrival of the Combined H.Q. for the Berlin Airlift, and, of course, the Construction Troop was called out to install the phones for the R.A.F. element. The quaint old schloss selected for the H.Q.

became alive with linemen secreting cables in amongst the ivy and verandahs. Nobody, however, fell in the moat, none of the sacred fish therein was touched, and the phones were installed; so, despite loss of sleep, the Construction Troop is well content.

The woods in the area of Buckeburg are filled with a new type of animal these days. This is a very good cross between a D.R. and a wall of death rider. Certain members of No. 118 D.R. Troop seem to live on petrol and oil However, all this practice is paying great dividends, as has been borne out again by results. After our success in No. 31 Independent Infantry Brigade and Norwegian Brigade Trials, our men did very well at the scramble held by the B.A.O.R. School of Artillery, Munsterlager.

In the 500 c.c. class, Signalman Rose took first place, Signalman Thomas second, and Signalman Cooke third. This race was hotly contested between Rose and Thomas until the clutch on Thomas's cycle slipped and he hit a tree on a hair-pin bend. Despite the handicap of the time, Thomas, who had slight concussion, carried on to come in a very gallant second.

The 350 c.c. class competition saw Lance-Corporal Pullinger come in second and in the open event Sergeant Kealy lifted second prize and Signalman Rose third.

It was a long run to Munsterlager for the six competitors, but every one said it was well worth while, even though they left at 0700 hours on a Sunday morning. In view of the results the D.R.s have put up, I should say that their prospects in any future competitions are very good indeed.

August

No. 2 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, SUNDERN.

The Squadron has diminished greatly during the past two months and is now but a shadow of its former self, due in the main to demobilisation among the Other Ranks. However, despite the shortage of manpower there is still plenty of work to do and everyone is pulling his weight, and the work is slowly but surely getting done. During the past month a Driving School has been thrust upon the Squadron to run, and the first course of learner drivers has commenced. To carry out this project it has been necessary to "borrow" instructors and vehicles from other Squadrons —thanks Nos. 1 and 3 Squadrons for your co-operation.

Congratulations to A.S.M. and Mrs. Rampling on the birth of a bonny bouncing son, Bryan Alfred Owen, at the No. 8 British General Hospital on 27th July, 1948. Both mother and son are doing fine.

The Regimental Athletic Team, under the very able guidance of Captain Bateman, is busy training for the B.A.F.O. Sports, and it is anticipated that quite a number of successes will come our way.

Departures are too numerous to mention by name, and we wish all who have left the Squadron the very best of luck in their new spheres.

TWO SQUADRON

No. 3 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT
Minden

Since our last notes appeared a new face has come to the Unit. It is that of Captain W. H. Butler, R.A., who is now officially posted as our Administration Officer. A lot of wrangling with the War Establishment Committees was needed to produce this result (a very gratifying one for one officer in particular!).

Work, as usual with A.S.S.U., has proceeded at a tremendous pace. In the past four weeks nine vehicles have been completely stripped and rebuilt inside; the chaps did all the carpentering themselves. Various colour schemes, ranging from bright pink to sky-blue, have been tried, and the result is a somewhat confusing but definitely pleasing effect, which has increased the brightness of the vehicle interiors many times. Every man now takes off his boots before entering his vehicle. Many A.L.O.s have even failed to recognise our vehicles—shame on them!

Captain Millo, our Second-in-Command, has just returned from a somewhat protracted stay in Klagenfurt in the British Zone of Austria. He insists that he was working from eight at morning until eight at night! He came back full of praise for the Austrian scenery; rumour has it that he yodels in his bath!

The Unit at present holds the upper hand in the Barrack Hockey Competition. We beat No. 14 Field Survey Squadron 6—1 in a thrilling if rather one-sided duel. We then played C.I., R.E.M.E., and were one goal down inside a minute of the bully-off. Not a promising start. At half-time we had pulled the score to two goals each, and after a gruelling second half emerged the victors by 4 goals to 3. Our success was chiefly due to our comparatively young average age, and consequently better stamina.

We have recently instituted swimming tests in the Barrack Pool, and so far 15 people have qualified by doing their four lengths; it's about time some more people passed out!

Old members of the A.S.S.U. "Ham" Club will be interested to learn that the Radio Room has been moved to the top floor of the block, to avoid undue disturbance in the small hours of the morning. Corporal Smith, late of Air Formation Signals, is now Ham-in-Chief; his call sign, for those who are interested, is D2JI, and he works on the 20 metre band.

The Unit has recently acquired a full size billiard table, and a special room has been set aside for it. Reservation is by booking, and the whole system works very well. Our small billiard table is now sadly neglected.

Football is already in full swing! We have rejoined the Z.E.C.O. League, and hope to wipe all before us—we can try, at least.

Not so early risers might possibly see S.S.M. James, closely followed by Lieutenant Samson, riding in the "morning." An exhilarating occupation, apparently only rivalled (according to Captain Millo) by a swim in the Austrian lakes before breakfast.

Finally, we extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future to Corporal D. Walsh and his bride, who were married at Dortmund Garrison Church on 24th July, 1948.

ASSUDONYM

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON
Luneburg

August

Despite a rather protracted spell of watery weather we have managed to take full advantage of every bright period, and the cricket season has advanced most successfully without any serious interruptions to No. 4 A.G.R.A. fixture list. The Combined H.Q. and Signal Squadron team has suffered no further defeat since the first two games of the season—those no doubt were teething troubles—and I shall list below the victories recorded since last month's publication. A match in each qualifying round was no deterrent, and the combined team won the final of No. 4 A.G.R.A. Knock-Out Competition after a jolly fine, hard fought match. Congratulations to you all, and if the team is to participate in the B.A.O.R. Championships you should certainly travel far.

S.S.M. "Bill" Nurse has continued to play for Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., and had a very good game against No. 2 Division at Hilden on Saturday, 24th July, taking 3 wickets for 5 runs, and adding 20 runs to the Signals' total score. Royal Signals won comfortably by 100 odd runs.

No. 4 A.G.R.A. results to date: Saturday, 17th July, *versus* No. 94 Observation Regiment, R.A., won by 59 runs. Wednesday, 21st July, *versus* P.O.W. Camp, won by 119 runs. Saturday, 31st July, *versus* No. 15 Medium Regiment, R.A., won by 19 runs. Wednesday, 4th August, *versus* No. 1036 C.R.S., won by 5 wickets.

The hard and honest efforts of the Unit gardeners, Lance-Corporal Rook and Driver Vincent, resulted in the winning of the second prize in the Hamburg District Horticultural Competition. Major J. R. G. Walker, Royal Signals, the Commanding Officer, also collected a further honour for the Unit by winning second prize for the families' gardens in the same competition. Your efforts are encouraging and inspiring, sir, and it is expected that by direct consequence local competition will be more appreciable next year.

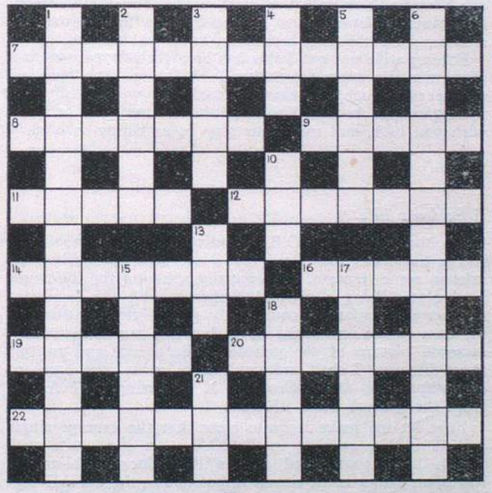
A well-earned respite was enjoyed by most members of the Squadron over the Bank Holiday period, and most families and quite a number of the lads took full advantage of the glorious warm spell on the riverside at Barum and at Hunsdorf.

To the numerous recent arrivals in the Squadron I should like to extend the hand of welcome, with the usual but none the less sincere rider—may your stay be long and pleasant.

Departures to the land of peace and plenty during the past month have been rather more numerous than the arrivals. Departures are always a sorry and sad event with me, if only for the reason that the present rate of demob I shall shortly have no operators left! But I'm sure the whole of the Squadron wish you all the very best of good wishes for the future in Civvy Street. Good luck to you all.

So, until next month, Cheerio everybody.

Crossword Puzzle No. 1



ACROSS

7. Frequency could be.
8. Could cut both ways.
9. Beef and display of brawn.
11. The strand.
12. Joint 3, 4.
14. Could be confused with a chorus—NOT crooners.
16. Room for good fishing.
19. A memory of E & M days.
20. Called upon to open the door.
22. Does he speak Double Dutch?

DOWN

1. Incorporeal female 8, 5.
2. A power much discussed.
3. The Olympic Torch was —.
4. Gunfire.
5. Blanco is not.
6. Migrant 3, 4, 6.
10. Phonetic animal.
13. A stratum.
15. A metal container.
17. Receptacle.
18. How many — to a shilling?
21. Animal equipped with Radar.

Royal Signals Band

A recent increase in establishment allows for ten boys in the Corps Band. There are at the moment vacancies for four boys between the ages of 15–16½ years. Applicants should have a knowledge of the pianoforte or some stringed or wood-wind instrument.

Members or ex-members of the Corps are invited to recommend suitable boys whose parents wish them to make a sound career in Military Music to:

THE BAND PRESIDENT,
H.Q. SCHOOL OF SIGNALS,
CATTERICK CAMP.

Notes on Life in B.A.O.R.

Life in Germany for the Family

AS anywhere, life is what you make it, but out here in Germany I think it applies even more. We have not been in occupation very long and there are still many rough edges to be worn down. If you are coming out here, you will be welcome and you will enjoy the life. You can make it a very happy stay, but do not expect too much, otherwise you will be disappointed. I hope these few notes will be of some use.

You will first want to know all about the shopping facilities. Well, there is only one shop at which you can do your general shopping—this is the N.A.A.F.I. Families' Shop. Here you buy cigarettes, sweets and all your other household requirements. It is the Families' Shop that you haunt most of the time, for although there are many German shops there is very little in them which can be bought. There is no doubt that the Families' Shop does a good job in looking after the needs of the families, their supplies ranging from baby foods to collar studs. They aim to try and meet all your needs, and very nearly do it, too. Here a word of warning is required; it is not often possible for this shop to supply immediately some particular item which they do not keep regularly in stock. It means, therefore, that you either have to order it or you get friends in the U.K. to send it out for you. Take, for example, clothing; all the sizes cannot be stocked and you might be unlucky as regards your size. It is therefore wise to get one of your friends or relatives in U.K. to be able to send you out any of your odd requirements; it is usually quicker in the long run.

So much for the N.A.A.F.I. What about the local shops. The answer to this one is that most of the articles in the German shops are on points. There is absolutely no question of buying foodstuffs from German sources. We are, at the moment, seeing the result of the introduction of the new Mark; there is obviously more in the shops than can be bought quite legally but the prices are rather high. Perhaps when the new Mark gets into circulation good and proper we might see some difference.

Previous to the introduction of the new Mark, it was practically impossible to buy a useful article in a German shop without becoming a criminal in the eyes of the law.

Getting to and from the N.A.A.F.I. shop is usually a delicate matter for the local Transport Officer, but where you are situated some distance from the shop you will find a bus service is available. Not everywhere are the quarters centrally placed; it is therefore a matter of luck whether you will be able to pop into the shop twice a day or twice a week.

As for the cost of living—well, it is high—but really not that much unless you intend to have a spending orgy. At first sight the goods in the N.A.A.F.I. do astonish, but after a time you get used to, and learn to do without, some of the items of luxury.

The quarters are good; style is, of course, dependent on where you are located. You might get a flat or a whole house. It is a matter of opinion which is the better. Most of the houses do not lend themselves to easy cleaning, but it is possible to get a maid at a reasonable cost. You will find that the furniture is modern and that everything is supplied (if in stock). There might be a shortage of carpets, but usually the floors are well painted and lend themselves to polishing.

Cooking will either be done on a gas stove or coal fire. The coal fire is not usually of the range type, but of similar design to the normal gas stove, and functions very well. The heating of the house will either be central or by slow combustion stoves. A geyser is supplied for the bathroom.

Your rations are delivered to the door. These rations are, of course, the same as the troops get; they are good but there is a certain amount of monotony about them. It is very wise to cultivate a garden so that you can provide some alternatives to the vegetables and to supplement the rations—every little helps in adding variety to the meals.

Outside amenities are few. There are pictures—possibly two different shows a week; a theatre which gives a two-day show once a week; and then there is, of course, the local Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, or the N.A.A.F.I.-run Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club. At the Mess you have the usual open nights, and normally a dance once a month. As for the Club, well here you can get a reasonable meal and a good variety of drinks.

If you are lucky enough to get a car from your Unit on repayment, you will be able to add to your enjoyment and get further afield and see a bit of the country.

For those concerned with leave, there are many leave centres from which to choose, both seaside and country, and even one in the Austrian Alps if you are so inclined. All these centres have reasonable charges and offer excellent attention and amenities. You can spend up to 28 days at one time at these leave centres.

For those who are coming out here for the first time, you may find the relations with the Germans peculiar—and at times will wonder who actually is doing the occupying. We must attribute this to the quiet way in which we do our business. You will find most of the Germans are helpful. Much is being done by the families to improve the relations; the children, especially, know no barriers.

For my wife and child this has been their first experience of family life away from the U.K. There have been no regrets and much experience gained. We will be off back to England in August. To those on their way out here, we wish you luck, and may your stay be as happy as ours.

SNOWIE

* * *

A Soldier's Life

A soldier's life in B.A.O.R. is totally different from a soldier's life in the U.K., the Far or the Near East. Similarities do exist in some respects, but generally speaking the difference is absolute. Being a married Sergeant, with my family at my Service station, I could only give a true account of my own sphere and social circle, but one can form a fairly accurate picture of the private soldier's life, and in this short discourse I shall endeavour to offer my own opinions of comparisons and differences of soldiering in B.A.O.R. from the general point of view.

First let me make it quite clear that the average single private soldier serving in B.A.O.R. can live quite well within his income, and save a little for his bi-annual leaves, an achievement almost impossible in the U.K. Everything is comparatively cheap, and opportunities for heavy spending few and far between. Welfare for the Forces has probably reached its peak of perfection, which peak I feel sure practically every soldier would agree is of a very high standard; it could hardly be bettered. Sport is plentiful and, of course, of a healthy nature. Work is not hard, tedious or boring; its object, of course, is to keep—and in cases make—the soldier efficient and occupied. Privilege leave to the U.K. consists of two nineteen-day periods, granted every six months—a generous dosage.

The short leave organisation in B.A.O.R. must surely be the elite of its kind in the whole world. A period of five days is available between privilege leaves, to all, making a total of ten days in two periods yearly. The leave centres themselves—there are many of them—were previously high-class holiday resorts or spas; have been chosen thoughtfully and with care; are fully equipped with every convenience and local sporting facility, and are ideal for the man desirous of a change of scene and a rest. A really first-class short term holiday is always available, without cost to the serving man, and any soldier who fails to take full advantage of a short leave at a recognised leave centre deserves no holiday at all.

So much for the quick, general picture of the credit column of service in B.A.O.R., distant but distinct. Now I should like to take you for a peep into the average daily life of the soldier. Our own Squadron is completely self-contained. Offices, accommodation, baths, workshops, stores, kitchen, dining room, canteen and shop—all are within the one barrack block, and all are of an excellent nature. The men's rooms are clean, reasonably fully furnished and not overcrowded. The soldier rises, washes, shaves, dresses and cleans up in general, and wends his way to a really lovely dining room where his breakfast is served to him by a German waitress. A jolly good breakfast at that. Rations have been of a higher scale than those in the U.K., but we are due for a cut with effect from August to make the two scales more comparable. The usual morning's work is in two periods with canteen break between. The dinner and leisure period extends from 12.45 to 2 o'clock, and afternoon working hours 2 till 4.30. Wednesday afternoon is always devoted to recreational training, with Saturday afternoon and the whole of Sunday free. After tea the soldier is free to go almost where he will. He may go to the local cinema or the theatre, both Army Welfare organisations; he may go to his own canteen, to the Garrison Club and canteen, or he may even visit his German girl friend in her own home. He may fish, ride, walk or swim, very much the same as the soldier at home, with possibly a wider field of choice. He may even pursue some course of study at the local Forces study centre—a language, art, music and a wide range of courses are always available—and I believe a high percentage of chaps avail themselves of the opportunities presented.

Publications Received

Receipt of the following publications is gratefully acknowledged:

THE THISTLE, July.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, July.

R.E.M.E., August.

JOURNAL OF THE R.A.S.C., August.

THE CLARION, August.

CATTERICK EXPRESS, 23rd July, 6th and 20th August.

2nd Guards Brigade

As the WIRE goes to press the Guards Brigade Signal Squadron is leaving England for Malaya.

All ranks Royal Signals will wish Major P. G. Curry and his men all success.

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Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

A Memory of Thailand

The Royal Technical Corps

TO appreciate this article you must imagine yourself in prison camp conditions under the Japanese in Thailand. You are in Chunkai Camp, which is a hospital base roughly 400 miles north of Bankok. Here are Allied prisoners of nationalities ranging from American to British, Colonial, Dutch and Asiatic Dutch, in all states of health and fitness.

There has been no news of the outside world, except by the most remarkable means—the canary and the bore-hole—for two years.

When a scrap of information does filter into the Camp, just think of the effect on this motley crowd. A mothers' meeting or a Parliamentay debate is but poor comparison.

News is dissected, chewed, enlarged and distorted, all under the noses of Japanese sentries wandering through the huts, and around the jobs on which prisoners are working.

Such was the state of affairs when the news of the birth of R.E.M.E. reached us.

The text, when it finally reached us, stated very clearly that the R.E., Royal Signals and R.A.O.C. had combined to form the Royal Technical Corps. We knew this was correct because a man travelling from Four Group at Tarso, on sacks of rice in a barge, had overhead a Church of England padre talking to a well-dressed Thai.

Representatives of each Corps took an extremely poor view of this, for each considered his own branch as the most efficient in the Service.

However, we decided that we must have some recognition in the rest of the fighting Services. Consequently a badge was devised. It was drawn by Corporal Porter, Royal Signals, a draughtsman, ex-9th Indian Divisional Signals.

Noteworthy points are: The wreath and garter of the R.E. The R.A.O.C. gun being carried by Royal Signals, and, as usual, spiked by his staff. An important point of heraldry has been observed—the cannon balls are too large for the gun.

PUBLIC SERVICES

by **Lieutenant-Colonel ALEX MONTIETH, M.B.E.**

FOLLOWING those days when the late-lamented Mr. Rommel and his Deutche Afrika Korps began their final exit from the Libyan wastes, the L. of C. tentacles of the Royal Signals started once more to push out and rebuild their lines to service the advancing Eighth Army.

It was not long before they reached a small oasis, near the coast and astride a little railway halt on the track running up to Mersa Matruh. Here there soon appeared a Company Headquarters, and to run it there came "Busty."

Now "Busty" had been in the Army, man and boy, since somewhere about the Battle of Waterloo. During his long and distinguished career of hitherto undetected crime he had done the usual turn of "quartermongering," and we all know that means acquiring an ability to extract the maximum amount of comfort and leisure from any situation which may present itself.

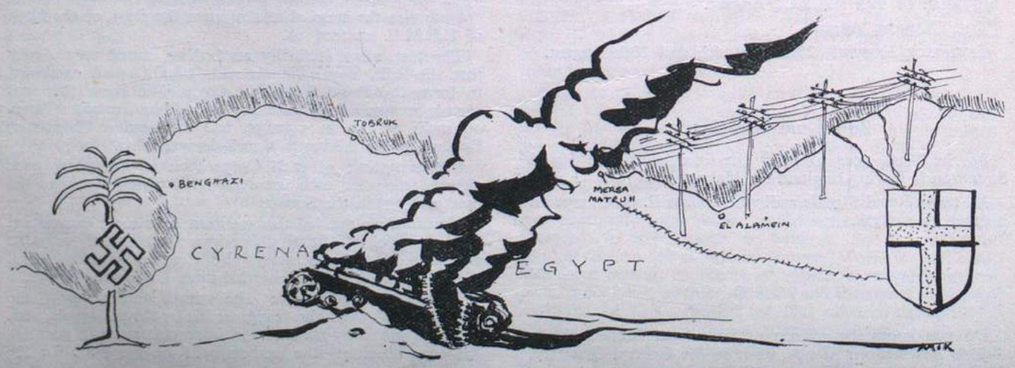
I am not going to suggest that the amenities, or the inhabitants, of this particular oasis were quite what anyone could have called ideal. There was the usual hotch-potch of Wogs, brewed-up tanks, and flies, as well as a re-fuelling point where a continuous stream of R.A.S.C. drivers made the air around blue with profanities for twenty-four hours round the clock. The rest was "Busty's," and from the start we knew there would be trouble. It wasn't a simple question of flies or heat, for after three years in the desert we had all got used to that, but it was just a general all-round untidiness, and something had got to be done about it. It was obvious from the way "Busty's hackles went up that something was going to be done at once.

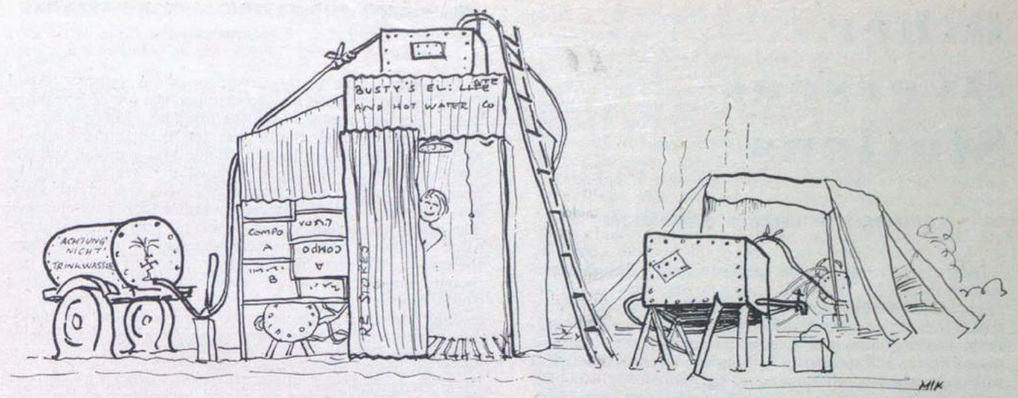
We never found out who first thought of the idea, but probably an idle scrap of conversation in the little tented Mess down in the Wadi prompted "Busty" to dream up the initial plan. Perhaps it sprang from some common-or-garden suggestion about the usual business of trying to get a bath, or from someone griping about how confoundedly difficult it was to keep trucks going in and out to Alexandria, ostensibly for rations, while the boys bathed on the little sandy beach just short of Alamein. But whatever caused it, it had the desired effect upon "Busty," and thus the idea of the Western Desert Electric Light and Hot Water Company came into being.

Now this particular oasis was primarily a stronghold of Signals, and the main job of the Corps of Signals in wartime is to see that Senior Officers and Sergeant Majors have sufficient radios to listen to the B.B.C. or any other place they may fancy; to do that needs millions of batteries, because invariably Sergeant Majors leave their radios on until the batteries run right down, and Senior Officers do exactly the same. Thus every Signal Officer worth his name devises some suitable method of charging up batteries far in excess of normal requirements, and "Busty" determined that he would, he could, and he should do something to introduce a system which would not only charge all the batteries, but would also run the lighting system and let him get some sleep all in one fell swoop. To his eternal credit he did it.

A few days later, very early in the morning, we heard a terrible groaning and clanking well south into the Desert. As the noise grew nearer we could see the Quartermaster truck towing a very second-hand Hun water cart, about a four hundred gallon job, mounted on two very flat tyres, attached to what had once been a trailer. "Well," I thought, "there can't be as many mines out there as we thought," and went off to sleep again. When everybody finally woke up the water cart was firmly in position alongside a shiny new tin shed, which had a large galvanised tank on the roof.

No one quite understood why this tin hut had been built, but after long acquaintance with Quartermasters, with their passion for private offices and piles of paper, no questions were asked. Now, however, there appeared alongside the hut another small lean-to shed, and under it bodies were installing a captured German two-cylinder water-cooled engine, which looked as though it had been part of





a mobile pumping outfit. "Well, well," I thought, "a water-cooled job out here in the Desert! 'Busty's' softening after too long in the sun." However, the engine went in, and then they connected up the water hoses to a fifty-gallon petrol tank to act as a cooling radiator. After that they tied a tremendous generator on to the drive shaft and led a cable from it into the charging hut, which was only a few yards away.

"Busty" had mounted the cooling drum on a wooden trestle, and we now saw that a tap had been fitted in the base. The next move was to fix a ladder on the side of the hut, and run a length of hose from the small hand pump on the water trailer barrel over into the hole on top of the cooling tank.

It was now obvious that we had misjudged the purpose of the tin hut, and so a curious stream of sightseers began to peer in through the open door. We saw, instead of an office, a bare room with a slatted wood flooring, and in the roof a device closely resembling a large rose such as you find on garden watering cans, made out of an old petrol tin. From the ceiling there dangled a long length of cord, which disappeared through a hole near the rose. It was all very curious.

The following morning we woke to hear the steady "putt-putt" of the little Auto-Union engine under the lean-to, and, sure enough, the maintenance boys were in their hut, charging every battery they could lay their hands on, which was something they hadn't been able to do for months. As soon as breakfast was over "Busty" sprang his bombshell: "Any of you young scallywags want a hot shower?" A hot shower in the Desert—heavens! We counted ourselves lucky to be able to clean our teeth. The answer came back as one man.

"All right," said "Busty," "we can manage four of you after breakfast, and four at night. Mid-day the men get a go at it. The first four can go over to my office and the Sergeant will show you the drill."

"Busty" should have been the C.I.G.S., or at least the Chairman of one of the Big Banks—his detail work was as good as his overall planning, for when we got to the office, the Sergeant gave each of us a small ticket. "Now, gentlemen," he said, "if you will give this ticket to the N.C.O. on duty in the charging shed, he will give you a five-gallon can. Draw off five gallons of hot water from the cooling tank, and fill her up again by pumping in five gallons from the trailer. Climb up the ladder and fill the tank on the roof of the shed with your hot water, and you will find another hand pump up there, which you can use to draw more cold water from the trailer to get the right temperature you like for your shower. When you are ready, stand under the rose and pull the rope. That will open the valve, and you can have a shower as good as you'd get at the Ritz!"

Well, it worked. From that day on we had all the batteries we needed, a shower every other day, and the fame of "Busty's" Electric Light and Hot Water Company passed slowly into the legends of the Desert Army.

The Editor will be most grateful for short stories or articles of general interest

It is YOUR magazine and YOU should contribute to it

Other Overseas Stations

CYRENAICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

Most units in the Middle East are rapidly changing into staging camps for the U.K., owing to the speed of release of Age and Service Groups, and the Regiment is no exception. In addition, we are still suffering the burdens of minimum working strengths, failing generators, advanced line commitments and wonderful bathing conditions, all designed to hamper the smooth running of the Unit.

We have now instilled in the District a great enthusiasm for signals and a certain amount of signals sense, not only confined to message priorities. Constantly criticising our line projects, the staff have now resorted to photographing our P.L. routes. It would appear from the photographs that not all our routes are supported by poles; rumour has it that the Sergeants' Mess used the poles during the cold winter.

Our Unit has been increased considerably of late with the attachment of three Line Troops—No. 10 T.E. Troop, commanded by Captain P. F. C. R. Locke, No. 15 Construction Troop and No. 3 Construction Troop, commanded respectively by Second-Lieutenants Taylor and Sutton. All our line labour is directed into the conversion of a first-class luxury Mediterranean hotel, L'Albergo Berenice, into the new District H.Q., the old one shortly being let out for married quarters. The Berenice, overlooking Benghazi Harbour, was very severely damaged during the Western Desert campaign and it certainly appears a gigantic project, this reconstruction, which, incidentally, has to be completed by 1st August. The Regiment is installing a 200-line F. and F. board, and a spaciously set out Signal Office with teleprinter and wireless receiver rooms. The office is being placed in the basement—presumably the old wine cellar.

August will indeed be a month of maddening activity—new Signal Office, new receiver sites. Now we are told that we are shortly to have a new Commanding Officer. Our present C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, will be leaving for the U.K. on Python. Whilst we are unpacking 53 and 63 sets, line and wireless stores, the C.O. will be packing his kit. Also leaving us, but on release, are Captain R. B. Murray, after his short stay of two months with the Regiment, and Second-Lieutenant D. G. Muir, who has never really been "with us" whilst commanding the Tobruk Signal Detachment some 300 miles away. Captain P. H. Flear came to us with the reputation as an Adjutant—no mention of his cricketing powers. Oh! sad omission. He has captained the Regiment's cricket team and we are now feared in the District as a cricketing Unit. We hope to stand the cup next to our football cup.

Cups are definitely our premium. Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland presented the cups at our Unit Sports Meeting—the one for the Victor Ludorum and Major Stone's Challenge Cup for the winning Troop. Major Sutcliffe was the expert organiser of the sports, which were held on a piece of waste ground by the Squadron H.Q. Everything was against the sports, from the R.E.s who said the ground wasn't fit to the Signal Office relief who said, "But we're on duty." Undaunted, the O.C. Squadron carried on; a first-class, exciting afternoon was the result.

The work of reconstruction still continues in Benghazi and we are working very hard towards its completion. Our only plea is for War Office to send us some replacements.

No. 19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Singapore

August

Departures. Due to the departure of the verbose "Spud Can" for Pocklington and points west, the job of compiling these notes was passed down the line like a hot potato.

The event of the month was the belated departure of Major Griffiths, Major Bishop, Major McLaren and Captain "Archie" Pagan. Having threatened to leave us for many months, farewell parties were no longer treated seriously, but still provided the necessary excuse for a celebration. The piano will certainly miss "Bish's" heavy-handed treatment—it always had to be heavy-handed to be heard above the mêlée. We were all extremely sorry to see them go, though, secretly, one or two people will now slumber during siesta periods undisturbel by the vicious hammering of packing cases, desperate calls for more nails and the blush-raising profanities that always accompany the mangling of thumb nails.

Move. There was a mixed reception to the news that we should be finally leaving the placid backwaters of Pasir Ris for the salubrious metropolis of Changi. It will be hard to leave this little beauty spot, but for convenience and general efficiency the change-over is essential.

Band. The pandemonium that has been raging for some weeks now in the recreation room has blossomed forth into a five-piece swingtette. I am informed by the highest authority that they are "pretty solid." If Lieutenant Kemp will curb his obvious leaning towards "The Hot Club de France" (he has already broken two violin strings—much to the P.R.I.'s disgust), the band will make its debut very shortly.

Motor Cycle Trials. Our suicide squad were once again successful in their match against G.H.Q. Signals. The pouring rain made our already treacherous course almost impossible. The ten hazards were tackled gallantly by both teams, but personal triumphs by Lance-Corporal Sutherland and Sergeant Heptinstall as the best individuals, coupled with the superiority of our new G3/L.s, proved too much for G.H.Q. The Challenge Shield then, still remains in Elim Camp. The smooth organisation was once again due to our old faithful, R.S.M. Milne, M.B.E.

August Bank Holiday the camp held "Open House," and, as part of the entertainment, we saw some of the most spectacular riding in our own Beginners Trials. The feat of persuading a 500 c.c. B.S.A. around the circuit is praiseworthy in itself, and Signalman Holmes and S.Q.M.S. Hobday, who contrived to fall off the least number of times, thoroughly deserved the splendid trophies kindly provided by Lieutenant-Colonel Webb. In the afternoon the exhibition match in the 350 c.c. class made the course look too easy, but in spite of this the winner, Lance-Corporal Sutherland, who nurses his machine so meticulously over the slightest bump, with Signalman Sproat as runner-up, won the applause of the crowd and the trophies generously given by R.S.M. Milne and Sergeant Hulse, who were once more the "back room boys" of the show.

As a fitting climax to a very enjoyable day, Mrs. Webb kindly presented the prizes.

Swimming. A very small team, representing the Regiment at the R.A.F. Swimming Gala at Changi, acquitted itself remarkably well. Lance-Corporal Webb won the 50 yards free style, with Gunner Rutherford second, and won the 100 yards free style, this time with Lance-Corporal Goodwin in second place. The Regiment had four of the six finalists in the diving and, once more, Lance-Corporal Webb finished first, equal with a member of the R.A.F. In the deciding dive, however, he tried too hard, and was placed second. Finally, this Regiment won the Inter-Unit 200-yard medley relay, and the team came away with arms full of prizes.

PALESTINE COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

[These notes, received after the normal date of going to press, are included as they are so topical. A thankless task well done !—Ed.]

These notes are written on 27th July, 1948, the final day of disbandment of the Regiment.

On 30th June the last detachment left Haifa with the last remaining troops, and disembarked at Port Said on 1st July. The Unit had been running down in personnel and stores over a period of three months, and with the arrival of the Haifa detachment, the complete disbandment was able to be implemented.

Unit strength today is almost literally a man and a dog. Those who were bitten by Trixie at Sarafand may regret that she was not disbanded also.

We are most grateful to No. 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment for their help and friendliness during this month of disbandment since they accommodated the Regiment in their own camp and gave every assistance to us. It was the finishing touch to a co-operation which had already existed for several months as Troops of No. 1 L. of C. had been more or less permanently attached to Palestine Command helping us in line maintenance and WS 10 links.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., left ten days ago for a well-deserved leave before taking over an appointment at the War Office. We wish him every success.

The last Regiment Part 1 Order is reproduced in the hope that members of the Unit who have been posted or released during these last weeks may see it.

Issue No. 996 27th July, 1948

Disbandment of the Regiment

On this occasion of the disbandment of the Regiment I wish to pass on to all ranks my appreciation of their efforts and their loyalty in carrying out their respective duties, often in very trying circumstances, in Palestine.

Those who served in the Regiment can have the satisfaction of knowing that they contributed in no small measure to the provision of communications in Palestine and thus assisted in the maintenance of law and order, discharging their duties impartially in the best traditions of the British Army.

My good wishes for your future, whether in the Service or in civilian life, go with every one of you.

POSTS AND TELECOMS DEPT., B.M.A.

Eritrea

July

From our H.Q. in Asmara, 8,000 feet above sea level, in this our first appearance in The Wire, we extend our greetings to each and every Signal Unit wherever it may be. We, especially the older hands, are pleased to see the old magazine still going strong, and promise to furnish a not too uninteresting contribution, circumstances permitting, of course, month by month.

Who we are? Well, that's rather difficult to explain, as W.O. and C.A.B. don't appear to be quite certain on that issue. However, our official title as a British Military Administration Signal Unit is Telecomns. Section, Posts and Telecomns. Dept., B.M.A., Eritrea, but as far as you fellows are concerned we'll let you off with Army Signal Section, Eritrea—so much easier to remember in case anyone wants to.

What we do? Pardon our blushes! To cut a long story short, we are responsible for all internal line communications in Eritrea which consist of 9,000 miles of trunk route wire, 1,400 miles/pairs of overhead and underground cables, a 1,200-line auto exchange, eight 90-line PABXs, sixteen 21-line PABXs, and sixteen semi-auto and manual exchanges ranging from 10 to 180 lines, all of which serve a total of 2,200 subscribers. In addition we have a line telegraph circuit to Khartoum, and in the near future we hope to have a direct speech circuit when the installation of our carrier equipment is completed. We have also wireless links with Addis Ababa, Assab, Khartoum and Mogadishu. Last but not least is our local S.D.S. who, apart from causing many a female heart to flutter as they dash around in their nattiest of natty shorts, do a grand job of work. Our staff comprises three Officers, 32 B.O.R.s, 133 Italians and 95 Eritreans, the majority of the latter being unskilled labour. It will be seen, therefore—as our Administration Officer-cum-Adjutant-cum-Signalmaster, Captain "Les" Hobley, would say—that we are not overblessed with a preponderance of manpower, and can be justly proud of maintaining communications with approximately half the original number of British and Italian staff, half the original M.T. establishment, and a severe petrol rationing system.

Our skipper, Major Don "Blast their blinking eyes" Farmer, who apart from being Secretary to the B.M.A. Tennis Club, a member of the committees of the Polo Club, Officers' Club, Kennel, Old Comrades', Waifs and Strays', and many other clubs—the producer of two very excellent plays—still manages to steer the Unit on its far from placid course, and does it remarkably well, too ("No, thank you, sir—an extra stripe wouldn't help much; y'see I'm still paid by the G.P.O.").

Captain "Bill" Howard, ex-Kohatite, 1936-39, is O.C. Telephones and Telegraphs Section, ably assisted by W.O. II "Fairy" Fairclough. The ciphers are in the hands of Sergeant "It's a shame to tell a lie" Robertson. The remaining two members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are Sergeant "Old Iron" Champion who, in addition to his duties as Signal Office Superintendent, manages to edit our own Unit "rag," The Cable, and our Quartermaster-cum-Camp Nurse-cum-M.T. Bod, the one and only Sergeant "Bill" Waller.

Sport. With such a small Unit as ours (only 32 B.O.R.s) and with relief work to contend with, sport presents us with many difficult problems. However, where we lack in numbers we excel in keenness, and practically every day "Bods" may be seen punting a football around or putting in a spot of practice at the cricket nets which have been erected in the camp. Within the Unit we have excellent facilities for football, cricket, tennis and most indoor games, including billiards, table tennis and darts. All these facilities are well used but, of course, the No. 1 sport is soccer. Out here we have no sporting seasons, and soccer is played all the year round (weather permitting) on stony pitches that never see a blade of grass until the rainy season is well under way . . . and then it's often a game of "hunt the ball" in a mass of greenery. Despite our handicaps of man shortage and shift work, we managed to maintain a soccer team in the Eritrea District League, which was recently concluded. Unfortunately, at the conclusion we found ourselves next to the bottom in the league table with only six points, having played nine matches, winning two, drawing one and losing six. Nevertheless, we had some satisfaction when we noted the team below us was the C.R.M.P. with their solitary point.

Entertainments. On the entertainments side we hold whist drives. These take place fortnightly and are attended by a reasonable percentage of the British population, both military and civil. We also intend, in the near future, to run outings to places of interest in this territory. The first of these is scheduled for Sunday, 25th July, when the party will visit a monastery which stands on the summit of Mount Bizen, about 20 kilos outside Asmara. Another, we hope, will be a 15 kilo trip to Lake Belsea, which is reputed to be one of the beauty spots of Eritrea.

Finally, for those of you who are anticipating a spot of leave and who are within striking distance of Asmara, we advise a visit to this town. It's one of the best leave centres in the Middle East and we don't think you'll be disappointed.

WEST AFRICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

Obituary. It is with very deep regret that we have to record the death of our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich, from typhus. He was buried with full military honours, an escort and firing party being provided by the Regiment. The pall-bearers were fellow Staff Officers from H.Q. West Africa Command.

Colonel McOstrich was extremely popular, both in military and civilian circles, and his death will be felt as a personal loss not only to the Corps, but to all who have been privileged to serve under him in various theatres, both during and after the war. The sincere sympathy of all ranks is extended to Mrs. McOstrich and family.

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON. A week-end Signal exercise, held from 23rd to 25th July, with detachments at various "key points" in our area, was thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks taking part. Haversack rations, not to ration scale, plus local purchase, has resulted in an all-round increase in the weight of the Squadron. No new arrivals this month, but the course of the *Empire Bure* is being most carefully plotted by all due for R.H.E. Several stalwarts are due, but we will not record their names until they wave us "Good-bye" from the blunt end of the ship.

Sport. Our social activities seem to be "Nil Return" this month, but in the cricket field we have more than held our own. We congratulate Corporal Janaway, who has knocked up some very useful scores this season. Results:

v. 37 Military Hospital. Won. W.A.S.R. 169 for 7 dec. Janaway 102 not out). Military Hospital 37.
v. H.Q. W.A.C. Match drawn.
v. 1 G.C.R. Won by 8 runs.
v. H.Q., W.A.C. Draw. H.Q., W.A.C. 127 for 7, W.A.S.R. 121 for 7 (Janaway 83).
W.A.S.R. 153 (Janaway 53).
v. 37 Military Hospital. Draw. 37 Military Hospital 50 for 4,
v. District Pay. Match drawn.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON. The weather is still cool with us here and, in consequence, the British ranks are begetting a cream and roses complexion instead of *mepacrine jaune.*

We would wish for some explanation as to exactly what our O.C. F.S.S. Troop means when he says he and his lads have "plenty of connections" down town. His lines may be extensive, but not that extensive.

Sergeant Yard, our stores wrangler, met with an unfortunate accident when his motor cycle failed to emerge on the far side of a pothole. He is now in hospital with a broken finger and his arm in a plaster cast semi-salute position. He is quite cheerful, however, and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

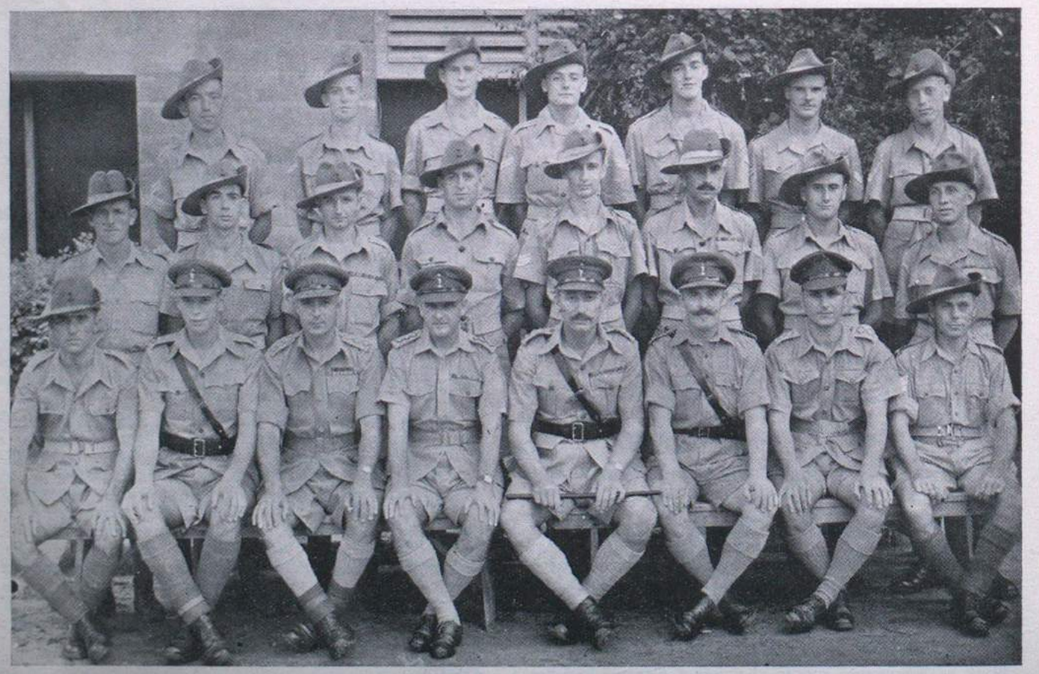
We congratulate Sergeant McGrath and his wife on the birth of a baby. Baby is used advisedly, as his cable said girl, and his wife's letter says it's a boy. Boy or girl, he christened it in the traditional manner.

Departures. We bade farewell to Sergeant Orchard, who has left us for R.E.M.E. Command Workshops. Definitely a "friend at Court." We wish him all success in his new sphere.

Sport. Our light is undoubtedly dim this month. Things have been quiet but our one important match in an A.O.R. Football Knock-Out Competition against Pay and Records resulted in a defeat of 2—0. It seems we've been so careless as to post our best footballers on detachment and shall have to rebuild a team to keep up our reputation.

We are at present building a basket ball ground, and from the number of enthusiasts we should have some quite good games on its completion.

The Officers have built a badminton court behind the Officers' Mess, but as the wind is pretty fierce at this season it is temporarily out of action, especially as the cook complains of shuttlecocks floating into his custard pie while his back is turned.



Nigeria Signal Squadron — Officers and B.O.Rs.

However, we have a great variety of sport in the Squadron and hope to achieve some success in future, as all ranks are very keen.

Life of a Nigerian Soldier in Signals, by Sergeant F. Ade, Fajuyi. "A Nigerian soldier in Signals" must of necessity be on the posted strength of Nigeria Signal Squadron, which is part and parcel of West Africa Signal Regiment with headquarters in Accra.

Nigeria Signal Squadron has out-stations in Abeokuta, Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu and Zaria.

Nigeria, with a population of over 25,000,000 people with different ways of living, and the speed of civilisation can be roughly judged by which town Europeans first visited. The Nigerian soldier, therefore, consists of sons of peasant farmers up in the interior of Bauchi Plateau, the cannibals of the Eastern Ibo tribe, the cacao farmers of the Western Yoruba Nation and the average civilised Lagos Colony. That is why we find people with different languages, culture and intelligence in the Army.

The Army has done a lot of good to the Nigerian soldier and to the country as a whole. It has helped to improve the condition of many who are definitely better off to-day in the British Army. One other thing is that the Army has helped to unify the various tribes of Nigeria together by making them live under the same condition. To-day you can see the Ibo man sit side by side with the Hausa or Yoruba man on a jug of palm wine, chatting, of course, in pidgin English.

Above I have tried to tell how different people with different culture were being united together in the Army under the same condition; I will now tell you the living condition of a Nigerian soldier in Signals.

He speaks a little English, does guards or other duties twice a week, goes to C.O.'s parade once a week, has soldierly bearing and good turnout; he smokes a little and swears fluently when offended, and he drinks a lot of palm wine.

If there be any soldier in Nigerian Signals who is non-smoking, non-drinking, and who cannot even speak "He be fine too much," "Wha be you" or "I go catch um one time," then he is not average.

The Nigerian soldier in Signals is very well better off in the Army, as I will prove later.

He sleeps out of barracks with his wife and family, draws lodging and ration allowances. He has his pay well looked after and gets every possible assistance to this end. He goes on 28 days' leave once a year and does not need to complain at all before this is arranged for him—free travel warrants—costing the Army approximately £8 for a return journey. He gets recreational transport and his games and sports organised for him. He plays also on League matches.

Apart from the high morals for which Nigerian Signals is well noted, for he is encouraged to keep his body clean and to be physically fit.

To-day the Nigerian soldier sends and receives messages in morse code, operates on a switchboard efficiently and has excellent despatch riders, who are smart-looking with blue and white arm bands to match, signifying that he belongs to the *Certa Cito* Corps of the British Army.

What the Nigerian Signals soldier wants now is to keep the banner flying higher and remain a pride to his British Officers and N.C.O.s.

And so to bed!

Contributors are reminded that the date for submission of items for publication is the 16th of the month

SIERRA LEONE AND GAMBIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

July

Since our last contribution, little of note has happened here in the "White man's grave" except a visit from our outgoing G.O.C.-in-Chief, General Irwin, and an informal one by his successor, General Nicholson, of No. 2 British Division fame. What ho, Burma! General Nicholson was very pleased to meet Sergeant "Signal Office" Barlow, who had served under the General in S.E.A.C. From what he said during his lightning visit here, General Nicholson has a very high regard for the Corps, and we know that the Regiment and this Squadron will not cause him to lessen his regard in any way.

The weather has now definitely taken a turn for the worse with the advent of the monsoon. Suppose the ducks will be happy until October; certainly not our hard-pressed F.S.S. Troop, who now sally forth to their duties with their battle cry, "Get water-logged!" Yes, present climatic conditions in Freetown make it hard for them to decide where submarine cable ends and U.G. begins.

The Gambia W/T Station has now closed and all stores and personnel have returned to Squadron H.Q. This leaves us with only the wireless link to Command in Accra and the local one to Daru, 200 miles up country. The 19 Sets certainly do a wizard job there.

The Squadron is trade-training its own recruits, who must be literate before being allowed to enlist. The first three months of their Army life is spent at the Depot Company in Daru where they, amongst recruits from all other arms of the Service, learn to identify the dangerous end of a rifle and to stamp feet (bare) on a parade ground so as to cause a maximum of noise.

Having undergone their basic military training they return to Freetown where trade training begins under Unit arrangements, the Signals element being supervised by Sergeant K. Hill, late of Gambia W/T Detachment. Theory is taught along with practical which is gained from experience on actual "live" jobs.

There is no lack of recruits in the Colony; the trouble arises in finding those that are literate and have a "bit of malum." However, the Squadron A.O.R.s are now all Sierra Leonians, which is certainly more satisfactory than having Gold Coast and Nigerians serving out of their respective Colonies.

Sport. Wet weather has curtailed sport generally (except the indoor type!) but our A.O.R.s did manage to do quite well in the District Cross-Country run which is an annual event. The course was 5½ miles and extremely stiff. Those of you who have seen Freetown will understand why. It doesn't need a Pythagorus to prove that to run horizontally is easier than to run vertically.

Hockey is still a favourite but is now played in swimming trunks. Why bother to go to the beach?

We are now getting ready for the District Boxing Tournament. In the last one the Squadron fought the best Unit average, and we mean to do it again.

Social and Personal. R.H.E. and A.J.A.X. have taken toll of our European strength, Sergeant Bollotton, Sergeant Harries and wife and child, and Corporals Taylor and Greaves having walked up the gang-plank.

We are now awaiting for the wives of S.S.M. Crouch and S.Q.M.S. Brown to reinforce our depleted families' strength. The Sergeant-Major and Quarter-bloke can most afternoons be seen wandering around the town looking at frying pans, carpets and curtaining materials with a speculative eye.

The A.K.C. cinema is with us again but firing on one projector only, but now, with the advent of a brand new air conditioned cinema in Freetown, the matter is not so serious. And, any way, one can always try to achieve nirvana by contemplating one's navel while the reels are being

changed. Dances are now more frequent and are well attended by one and all.

The Army School has recently opened, but that doesn't directly concern your Freetown correspondent—yet!

Amateur Radio. C.Q., all Corps hams. What about a QSO on 14.350 Megacycles. ZDIBD is the call—so get cracking. We've already worked ZD2RDY (Tich) in Lagos and ZD4AT in Accra. Also contacts with U.S. Navy and Army Signals, Hungarian Army Signals and the Red Army of the U.S.S.R. The latter QSO ended rather abruptly from Moscow. Did the Ogpu knock on the door? Has anyone got a 14 Meg band-spread coil for an HRO which they want to sell? No fancy prices, by request. Or could swop for an AR. 88—of course, with your permission, Colonel Lyddon, sir!

73's es DX, chaps, and may your shack never get water-logged.

No. 2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Cyprus

July

Since the publication of the last Unit Notes, this Unit has lost a number of old faces by Python or release. Major J. A. S. Brown, Captain F. A. Davidson and S.S.M. Ebbage have left for pastures fresh, while many younger soldiers willingly returned to Civvy Street are probably by now thinking in an austerity England that the old Nissen-hutted camp, and even certain irksome duties, were not so bad as they seemed in the old days.

Meanwhile we have to welcome a host of new faces, some for only a few months, others for a full tour. Among the latter are Major J. E. V. Rice, Major P. H. B. Brown, Captain (T.O.M.) "Dick" Shilton, Captain P. M. McDonald, Captain J. R. Sutton, Lieutenant T. W. Dwyer, S.S.M. L. W. Purvis, W.O. II (Foreman of Signals) D. Crofts, S.Q.M.S. J. Craig, S.Q.M.S. J. M. Philpott, S.Q.M.S. J. H. Roake and Corporal (now Sergeant) F. Shrimpton. Although the majority of people around us have Age and Service Groups up to 128, we are collecting an increasing number—now 64—of Regular and short-Service folk.

The principal event of the last few months has been the visit of Brigadier W. A. Scott, O.B.E., who talked to us on the future, immediate and distant, of the Unit and the camp.

The amenities in the camp have greatly improved. The new temporary N.A.A.F.I. canteen has been a great asset, and is much used and appreciated. The hard tennis court is finished and is in constant use. The Unit now has its own film projector; films are being shown out of doors three or four times a week to good audiences. Practically all the huts have been whitewashed. It has been a much milder summer than last so far; so life has been much more bearable.

Although it has not yet been possible to lay out a proper sports ground there has been plenty of sports activity. No. 2 Squadron won the Island Company Knock-Out Football Cup after an exciting final with No. 695 Company, R.A.S.C.

Now that summer is with us there has been much cricket and some hockey, as well as the tennis. A couple of small knock-out tennis tournaments have taken place; the last of them was won by Lieutenant-Colonel Du Cros and Captain Bremner. Cricket is played on most non-working afternoons; the Unit has a promising cricket team, which has played other Units with varying success. Both the cricket and the hockey are played on a rough pitch just outside the camp.

Much spare time is spent bathing on the Famagusta beach, probably the best bathing beach in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Petrol shortage has sadly limited welfare trips to places of interest, most of them being further away than the restrictions will allow.

The number of married families is slowly increasing; at the moment there are nine, but several more are expected shortly.

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

No. 1 SQUADRON. Major H. D. Bould has recently taken over the Squadron from Major A. W. C. Partridge, who has moved over to Regimental H.Q. We extend a hearty welcome to our new O.C. and wish him luck.

We keep losing and gaining personnel far too numerous to mention. "Pop" Ryder is still with us, of course; still trying to get his weight down.

Sport. We are still keeping the flag flying, although the Sports Officer is always moaning that the young 'uns are not keen enough.

Cricket is in full swing. We have played and won three games in the Inter-Squadron League and, incidentally, we have thoroughly enjoyed these games.

The main cricket attraction to date was the match between Royal Signals (Egypt) *versus* Egyptian C.C. This was "super" and a very high standard of cricket was witnessed. The Corps lost by the narrow margin of only five runs.

Hockey has just commenced again and we hope to have a good season. We have several new players and are anxious to see them in action.

No. 2 SQUADRON. With the hot weather now in full swing, all eyes of the Squadron are directed to the cool waters of the Great Bitter Lake. Unfortunately the dark-skinned gentlemen are still persisting in their playful attempts to remove our cables, so that the Squadron linemen are not managing to get that seaside tan before going home.

The Sailing Club has been started again under the leadership of Second-Lieutenant Gill. Our *Certa Cito* is receiving a badly needed overhaul and, with the limited resources at our disposal, a fair amount of progress has been achieved. It is hoped that within a short time the club will be self-supporting and provide plenty of entertainment to the Squadron enthusiasts.

Captain T. H. Luscombe and family sailed for U.K. on 29th June. We wish him all success for the future, wherever he may go.

The new arrivals in the Squadron include Sergeant Moore from U.K. and Sergeant Darby from Palestine. The latter is eagerly awaiting his release under A/S Group 74, as are a number of others. S.S.M. Knight has boldly taken the plunge and signed on for a further year—it is said that he is unable to face the horrors of civilian life.

No. 3 SQUADRON. QASSASIN. On 15th June our O.C., Major G. H. Smith, left us for Civvy Street. With him went "Good luck and happy landing" from all ranks. Put your uniform in moth-balls, Major. Captain V. C. Honor has taken over the Squadron meantime. In common with all other Units, demob is the main topic of conversation. Rumours are thick and heavy and every new arrival is asked his A. and Service Group long before his kit is off the lorry. Most trades are D.O.V.'d but so far nobody has had to do three months.

Swimming. Swimming is now in full swing and our local pool, "The Durant," is in great demand. Our list of non-swimmers has been greatly reduced by the weekly instruction given by the A.P.T.C. instructors.

Cricket. Our cricket eleven, under the able coaching of Lance-Corporal Lord, manage an average of two games a week. An Inter-Squadron League has started but so far we haven't had a win. Regimental H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron have both thrashed us, but we hope for a victory against No. 4 Squadron on 15th July.

Tennis. A Squadron Knock-Out was organised last month; this proved quite a success, and the betting was in favour of Lance-Corporal Small (last year's winner). However, in the finals, Sergeant Barker proved himself the better player, winning by two straight sets, 8—6 and 6—2. Third prize went to Signalman Forey.

Hockey. A local league is being run throughout the summer months. To date three games have been played.

v.	H.Q. C.C.D.	Won	4—2
v.	No. 3109 P.O.W. Company	Lost	0—5
v.	H.Q. C.C.D. (return match)	Drew	1 1

TEL-EL-KEBIR. It seems strange that we are almost in the land where our alphabet was invented, but I am sure (and all will say, "Hear, hear") that the letters D.O.V. should have been missed out completely. Local bets are being taken as to when the shores of U.K. will be seen by our 73 Groupers, and anxious eyes are looking down the road from T.E.K. to Squadron at Qassasin to see if 74 and 75 Group reliefs are in sight.

Now that summer is here the old "Tekites" can well imagine what it is like. Mosquito nets encircle us once more at night, cold water is something of a legend, and fly swatting is about the only exercise our arms get. The latest howler comes from my clerk who produced, on being asked for last month's WIRE Notes, the complete inventory of 70-lb. C.U. and 150-lb. G.I. used during May.

Our lads in the M.T. are on the job again, especially the new Driver Mechanic (No. 114 Group), who tried to adjust the rocker arms on a Ford V8 engine, and the No. 70 Group V.M. who has been D.O.V.'d so long that when adjusting tappets always gets his beard caught in the "prop" shaft. I'm sure all at T.E.K. are sorry to see Captain Wood leave. He had been with the Detachment about a year and within that time had become very well known and liked amongst the men. He is still with the Regiment, but now down at Suez. However, we wish him all the very best in his work down there and extend to him the invitation to "come up and see us sometime." Here we say "Hullo" to our new O.C., Captain Hazelwood, and hope that his stay with us at T.E.K. will be a memorable one. Our "notables" who left and who now will be ardent civvies include Corporal Sibert, Signalman Broom and ex-sprinter Signalman Smith. Hope you are settled in jobs, lads.

Sport. We have left football and hockey behind and are now busy playing our cricket matches off. Once a week we cross our fingers and hope that our three-tonner will get us down to Lake Timsah for the spot of bathing. It also gives us a chance to see if ships are still plying their way between here and U.K. Our table tennis honours (for we won the T.E.K. League Competition and the Canal Central Championship) have caught up with us, and our team has been challenged again. Look to the laurels. men. So with that and the old song on our lips ("Sand in our Shoes") Cheerio from T.E.K.

No. 4 SQUADRON. Arrivals and departures have been fairly brisk during the month and, in spite of the "Hullo-Good-bye" routine of things these days, normal commit-

(*continued on page* 300)

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY, 1949

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A COUPLE SPEND A *happy fortnight* AT MERCURY HOUSE

THOSE of you who read the announcement in the March issue of THE WIRE relating to the opening of Mercury House, Bournemouth, will doubtless have wondered at the time what sort of place it would prove to be. Some of you may well have decided that a holiday should be as far removed as possible from matters military for obvious reasons. Others may have just as naturally shrunk from risking something new until its reputation had been established.

I must confess that these arguments and doubts, and others, too, occurred to my wife and myself both before and after we had taken the irrevocable step of booking a room for two weeks. We even discussed on the journey down, while motoring through the New Forest, what we should do if, on arrival, we discovered the place to be unsuitable or uncomfortable.

We have now completed our stay. We have so thoroughly enjoyed ourselves that it seems to us that others might like a short account of Mercury House and the facilities it affords.

In the first place it will be appreciated that there is no space here for a description of Bournemouth as a watering place or of Hampshire as a touring ground. Suffice it so say that whether you want an energetic type of holiday or merely a lazy time by the sea you could hardly choose a more suitable place. All sports are catered for in the vicinity, while the sands, promenades, chines and cliffs provide plenty of space for children and those who wish to drowse in the sun. Bournemouth gets plenty of sun, and even in winter is much warmer than most parts of England. Mercury House keeps open all through the year, and for anyone convalescing during the drab winter months in the north there is little doubt that a visit to Bournemouth would accelerate recovery.

And now as to Mercury House itself. It is a red-brick substantially built house of some 15 rooms, situated in a quiet road within three minutes' walk of the sea. It is managed, very efficiently, by Major Dunningham—a retired officer of the Corps—and his wife. It is not too much to say that the sole object of both is to make their guests comfortable and happy. There are, in vivid contrast to many other establishments I could name, no irritating catch-penny "extras" and restrictions.

Two happy groups at Mercury House

Bedrooms are light and airy and have hot and cold water. The beds are comfortable, and the house is well kept. Hot baths are available morning and evening.

The lounge is comfortably furnished. There is a growing library of books for all tastes. French windows open on to a small but well kept terrace and garden. At the rear of the house there are garages for six cars. If you take your car with you it is as well to mention this when booking.

The lounge

The dining room is bright and cheery. Meals are served promptly. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that one can set on'es watch by the dinner gong! This, incidentally, is the only faint resemblance to military routine at Mercury House; and we found it an excellent feature, for nothing is more annoying to find that meals are late and excursions planned for the afternoon or evening have in consequence to be abandoned. On their part the management like guests to be prompt for meals, as this assists in the smooth running of the establishment. Breakfast, lunch, tea and supper are provided. The cuisine is excellent and varied. Mercury House is definitely not a place where you can tell the day of the week by the menu! Quality and quantity of food are both good; we have paid twice as much on other occasions and not fared so well. Mrs. Dunningham and her cook are to be congratulated on their success on the catering side. Incidentally, an excellent sandwich pack is available if required by those making day excursions.

The company is varied. On our first week it was quite a family affair, as there were four young children. There were no children during the second week, but most of the guests were young couples. According to inclination, you may mix and combine ideas for excursions or pursue your independent ways. There is no "regimentation" or compulsion in this. Mercury House guests usually get invitations to attend the weekly dance at the hotel next door, and on the first and third Fridays of the month the Local Signals Association meets in a hostelry in the town. These meetings are worth attending, as one is very likely to contact an old comrade or someone who knew the place where "so and so" happened, or where "such and such" action took place. In any event the company is jovial, and excuses for "filling them up again" are not lacking. Some people have very long memories: I was recognised by a man who could not possibly have seen me since a Christmas Eve party to French village children at Dainville, France. in 1939!

The sea bathing is excellent and there is also an enclosed bath about a mile from the house. Those interested in sailing will find Lymington and Christchurch attractive. At the former I took a launch to inspect *Certa* and *Cito*, the two craft owned by the Royal Signals Sailing Association. *Certa*—a beamy converted fishing boat—is, I am told by the local watermen, a very seaworthy cutter of some 10 tons. *Cito*—an entirely different craft—is a racy looking job which will no doubt give a good account of herself in local racing.

If you are a golfer, take your clubs—there are three courses within a few miles of the house.

No one who has an interest in the sea and shipping should miss the opportunity of a trip to Southampton, which may be made by coach or by sea. Ships I saw there were the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth. Other trips worth taking are to Weymouth, Poole Harbour, Swanage, and to the Isle of Wight.

A. SCARBOROUGH

EDITOR'S NOTE. Bookings are now invited from ex-members and serving members of the Corps for holidays or leave periods during the autumn and winter months. This should give the serving soldier and his family a chance of a good holiday at very reasonable rates. Reduced tariffs will be quoted on application to the Manager, Mercury House, 14 Florence Road, Boscombe, Hants. (Telephone: Boscombe 86).

A corner of the dining room

Territorial Army

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

August

REGIMENTAL H.Q. & H.Q. SQUADRON. As with all T.A. Units the highlight of the year is the Annual Training Camp, and No. 43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., was of course no exception to the rule. Our camp was held at the Combined Signal School, Fremington, for the period 24th July to 31st July, and authority was also obtained to hold a week-end camp directly following; this enabled us to carry on over the August Bank Holiday week-end.

Before carrying on to a more detailed summary of our Annual Camp we wish to record our thanks to the Combined Signal School for doing so much to make our stay with them such a huge success, and in particular to Major Salter, Captain McLellan, Captain Sykes and R.S.M. Locke.

Our first day in camp was spent in getting settled in; this was by no means a long job, as the arrangements for this were without doubt excellent and each man soon found his allotted space which was to be his home for 10 days.

Sunday, 25th July, was spent firstly on maintenance of vehicles after their dash the previous day in three directions from Torquay, Exeter and Taunton, all converging around about the same time on Fremington. Later in the morning the Other Ranks were treated to an Officers' Demonstration; it was rather bad luck that the J. Arthur Rank organisation did not send a representative along, as the general impression was that amongst the Officers were some budding heart-throb film stars, particularly the "Officer with hat." There was, of course, the serious side to this demonstration, and this was of definite help towards the scheme which took place later in the week. Sunday afternoon was spent in a cut-throat and gory cricket match between the Officers and Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s; this ended in a win for the Officers ('Nuff said).

Trade training was the order of the day for Monday, and in the evening films were shown for any interested.

The R.A.F. gave an excellent demonstration on Army/R.A.F. co-operation on 27th July. After this the Unit fired its Annual Range Course on three separate ranges, one of which radar would have assisted in locating.

Tuesday evening the Officers were invited to the Sergeants' Mess and little need be said re this, as naturally it turned out to be the usual Sergeants' Mess "stag party." Before leaving this, mention must be made of Sergeant "Jock" Graham, a typical Radio Mechanic, who would, we have no doubt, be very much at home at the London Palladium.

Wednesday morning was spent by the whole Unit in preparation for our two-day scheme, the afternoon being allotted to cricket and swimming.

Thursday and Friday found the whole Unit away from Camp on its Exercise. The Squadrons have dealt fully with this, so no more need be said.

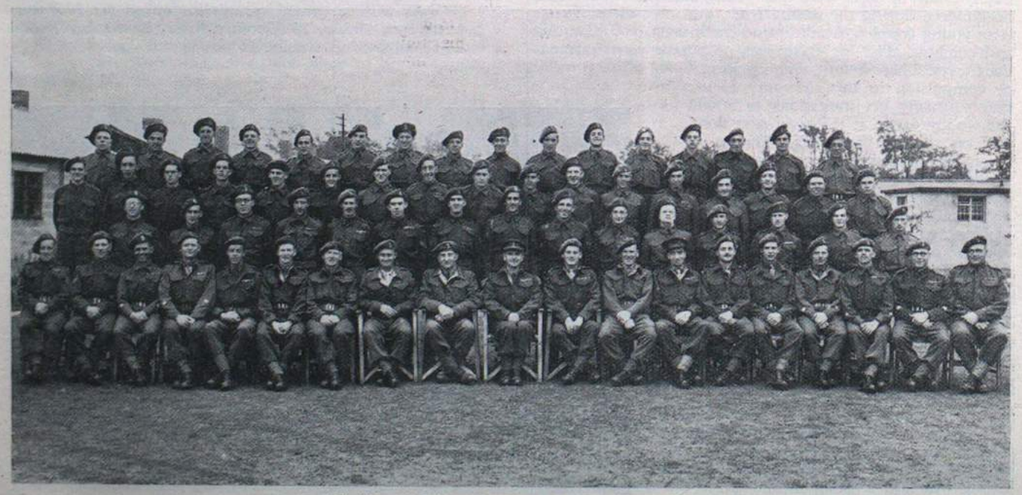
The principal happening on Saturday, 31st July, was the visit of the G.O.C., 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A., and the C.S.O., Southern Command.

The sports which were held on Sunday have also been reported fully by the Squadrons.

Up to and including Sunday the Clerk of the Weather—or is it the Government?—had been very kind, but on Monday when we returned it seemed that the whole world was in flood. Noah was called upon but of no avail, so we all had to brave the monsoon and return to our respective Squadrons in torrential rain.

To sum up, it has been agreed by all that our first annual camp was a huge success.

No. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER, DEVON. Hello again; how are you. The party here at No. 1 Squadron last month was an evening of great excitement; the many events which were played off had some very close finishes. At midnight when we finally broke up no one was very interested in results, but only in whether the remaining barrel would stand the strain of an extra pint. Just for the record, this Squadron came out on top, but I greatly fear that after



43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment at camp

[*Courtesy Daily Graphic*

The Officers, 43rd Divisional Signals

the "board meeting" all our dart players will be given free transfers.

Camp. Hell was let loose at Fremington, 24th July-2nd August, when the Signals went to Annual Training Camp. (In case anyone thinks that war is noisy, let them spend a week with our Regiment; they have my word for it war is as peaceful as heaven in comparison.) Quickly settling down, the Squadron invaded Barnstaple and "wine flowed like water." Before reveille on Sunday two of our braves were having cold showers. The two cricket matches, Officers *v.* Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, and Officers and Warrant Officers *v.* Other Ranks, were both won by the Officers. In the latter game the final scores were Officers 95 for 5, and Other Ranks 94 for 5. Both these matches were played with the true spirit of sportsmanship.

The highlight of the week's training was—"Scheme." Being an all-night exercise, "crash down" came at 11 and the P.S.I.s thought they were on a good thing by finding a haycart. Unfortunately it was dark when beds were laid down. Peace reigned, but not for long. Suddenly a yell and, on investigation, it was found that the haycart had overbalanced and in a most unsightly bundle at the bottom were the "sleeping beauties." The night was eventually spent in an upright position, but on the whole everyone had a fair night's sleep and were fit to carry on in the morning.

The Sports Meeting held on the Sunday proved an excellent day for this Squadron. A bus party of friends and relatives arrived about 1330 hours and, after light refreshments, watched the keen competition between Squadrons. The Sports Cup holds the place of honour at Priory Drill Hall. After winning it quite comfortably, unfortunately in a special challenge run our runner was indisposed and, although our second string ran well, the strain of the afternoon was too much. But we are still confident we can win when and where we please.

We are having a week-end at R.A.F. Station, Chivenor, later this month, when we are hoping to take the air. I will let you know more of this next month.

Club. The club here at Exeter is coming along quite well and by the end of this month a Committee of Signals personnel and O.C.A. members should be formed and getting into action. I am confident when this club is in action it will be one of the finest in the south-west and a pleasing place for any Signals, old or new.

Display. Next month the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team are visiting Exeter and if their show is anything like last year's effort we are again in for an excellent evening's entertainment.

Pen Pals. We shall be pleased to receive any correspondence from Royal Signals, past or present—so send your letters to Priory Drill Hall, Friars, Exeter, and on the outside of the envelope please write boldy "Pen Pal." I'll guarantee a reply to all who write, and we hope to make this contact a lasting friendship and a mutual help in Service matters.

To each and all of you who read and follow our Notes—we'll be seeing you again next month; all the best.

No. 3 SQUADRON, TORQUAY, DEVON. Torquay—fair land of sunshine, where beauty and splendour and grandeur entwine; also the scene of the international yacht racing for the XIV Olympiad—and the home station of No. 3 Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

August the second was scheduled far and wide as the day on which the Olympic torch arrived in Torquay, but second to this great event, and far from least, was the homecoming of the Squadron from its annual training at Fremington, North Devon.

"And a grand time was had by all" is a normal setting, but in this case a very inadequate one. We certainly had a grand time from start to finish and the weather was exceptionally kind to us. We started off from the local Drill Hall with the help (?) of borrowed transport.

What transport! We did have fun, but without the best vehicle mechanic in the Unit we should have left the three-tonner behind. The lads quickly reintroduced themselves to Barnstaple (we were in that neighbourhood last year), to say nothing of the village girls. "O, luv, where is they sting in the four-mile hike home after saying 'Goodnight'", a frequent occurrence for some of our happy band. We were very well housed and fed in the Combined School of Operations, and our thanks go out to all of that gang who played their part so well in making our holiday so enjoyable. (Salaams to R.S.M. Locke and R.Q.M.S. Page.)

Monday saw us off to a grand start in training, off at nine with haversack rations and (for some) a nice long tow home at midnight. It has been found that hair stands on end for an exceptionally long time. A bombing display on Tuesday followed by a day on the ranges in one of the hottest days of the year, tended to turn us a deep tanned colour which I previously thought only came from several years in India's sunny clime. Next came preparation for the Unit Scheme (and sports). My transfer fee has not yet been disclosed but it must be at least half a crown; they always seem to win when I play for them, anyway. "Nobby" Hall did his stuff chasing the cricket ball all over the field, but we won in spite of him. A two-day scheme followed and

[*Courtesy Daily Graphic*

On parade

its success surprised everyone; things went so smoothly, even our fun. The "Q" Staff did their stuff and produced a very enjoyable meal just before we settled down for the night, and shortly afterwards there was that famous cry "Who's going out?" What a war!

With the able assistance of Sergeant-Major "Buck" Taylor, I proceeded to wipe out all the opposition on the dart board of the village local. 'Twas too easy—no standard whatever. What a shame to take the beer. But being sober men of the world, "Buck" and I returned to our "bivvi" early, and thereby hangs a tale:

In our front line position at Divisional H.Q. a bed was found by two, in a haycart stacked with new mown hay, under the azure blue (no, not the b——y sky, a corrugated shed). Anyway, in the dry. Amazing that no one else had seen the place, but there—who cares—we did. At half-past twelve there came a rush. A jeep with lights full on raced through the farm and to a halt did screech. With no idea of life at all, came hurtling from the jeep four fire-spitting fiends to vent their wroth on those whose virtuous life took them to bed early, in the bed *they* thought they had booked! Ha, ha, ha. "Tara" and "Tiffi" made the best of a bad job and settled down on the ground, having had their chances spoilt by the sprinting efforts of Sergeant Graham, who claimed the spare "bunk." After about three hours on the "busy," the fourth body arrived—none other than our O.R.S., and he says to all and sundry "Well, I'm only a small bloke and I'm sure there's room for me up there." Without more ado, up he comes—or perhaps it is "that's where down he goes." Because, sure enough, no sooner did he come up than both he and "Jock" went down, and "Buck" and I went further up. What a life! Anyway, we stayed there even with the cart standing up on end, and I'm sure the Editor would't let me repeat the linguistic efforts of either or both "Jock" and our O.R.S. Every time the O.R.S. rolled over on my feet he got a kick in the ear. He got up for good about five *ack emma*.

This Squadron has its own Houdini—a man who lies down and lets a three-tonner drive over his feet, then gets up and carries on with the job. No names, no "Corners." We also have a D.R. called Cross who has ambitions to join the Royal Signals D.R. Display Team. I should now say "Once upon a time had ambitions," because having tried a back somersault whilst on a D.R. exercise he landed on his bonce and finished up in Barnstaple Infirmary kissing the nurses good-night. It's amazing that our "Chev" came home again with "Froggy" Royce at the wheel; it's doubtful if any other member of the male sex could drive through hedges with such sang froid.

Some of our families and local Old Comrades came up on a bus outing to our Sports Day, a memorable affair with bags of grub and fun. They saw Recruit Drake win the high jump for the Squadron, and he has no regrets whatever in deciding to come to our camp and entertain us with his running and jumping, even though it did entail his withdrawal from the Olympic Games. It was only natural that the Warrant Officers and Sergeants won the tug-of-war events so easily, with an anchor called Churchill and with me pulling. We were lucky enough to be able to show our visitors around the Keyes Museum, a well laid-out souvenir piece of the School.

I cannot close without mention of our two gallant Old Comrades, "Q" Bawden and "Zack" Baker; they created an exciting finish to the Old Comrades' 100 yards sprint, sharing the honours with a dead heat and returning a time of nine seconds—it might have been nine minutes. Who cares!

TOPPER

Other Overseas Stations (*continued from page* 295)

ments continued to be met, plus the unplanned extras that crop up so unfailingly.

KANTARA. To many, Kantara Detachment will convey little, but to some it will recall the welcome break in a tedious rail journey between Haifa and Cairo, or *vice versa*. To those it must be said, with a tinge of regret, that no longer do hordes of thirsty warriors rush from the trains yelling lustily for "char" and "wads," or what have you.

Space being valuable, I'll say "Cheerio" now, with best wishes to all serving and ex-Serving readers of our magazine from Kantara East.

Jews' Mail. Major B. A. Beattie would like to hear from any ex-member of 1st Commando Brigade Signal Troop.

Sport. The great summer game is as popular as ever. The Inter-Detachment Six-a-Side Competition is proving very popular and produces some good cricket. Inter-Squadron cricket, *see* Unit Notes. El Ballah Detachment successfully carried off the A.C.C. Base Depot basket-ball competition. An Inter-Tent basket-ball competition has been started; also individual darts, table tennis and tennis competitions.

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT, T.A. (KENSINGTONS)

August

Camp this year was a great success and we wished we could have stayed on for another week. We arrived at Canterbury on 10th July and were the guests of Eastern Command Signal Regiment. We should like to thank Lieutenant-Colonel Barker and all ranks in the Regiment for the way in which they arranged everything for us. It was largely due to them that the whole week ran so smoothly.

We certainly got through a lot of work. Sunday and Monday were devoted to training by trades and to preparation for Tuesday's exercise. The M.T. Department, under Captain Downes, was a hive of industry. There were two operator classes, one learning the 53 Set kindly lent, complete with instructor, by the Guards Independent Brigade Signal Squadron; the others,, not so experienced, doing a bit of key bashing and 52 Set instruction.

Tuesday we went out into the country for a day. H.Q. set up a Signal Office and Operations Room on a cliff near Herne Bay and four patrols went to North Foreland and South Foreland, Folkestone, and inland near Maidstone. This was a C.W. and Cipher Exercise, and a staff battle was fought over maps well known to those who fought in the Reichwald Forest. We were very glad to welcome both the C.S.O. Eastern Command and C.S.O. London District, who visited our H.Q.

Wednesday, we devoted the morning to maintenance and post mortems, and took the afternoon off for recreation.

Thursday another battle was fought—this time in the fields of France. We did not proceed so far afield, but sent a listening patrol to a position at Fordwick, and they kept check on some mythical armoured formations fighting a battle on R/T. The information thus gleaned was passed over to H.Q., who were in barracks.

Friday morning was devoted to maintenance and post mortems, and the afternoon to a photograph, here reproduced, and pay.

Saturday we packed up and went home.

But not the least enjoyable part of camp were the off-duty periods. Unfortunately the weather was bad and we were only able to scrape in two cricket matches. The first was on Sunday evening, when the Officers beat the Rest by one wicket. The Rest demanded their revenge on Friday but this time the Officers had an easy victory. It was a pity we did not have a chance to pick a representative team and play someone else.

Most evenings were devoted to various parties. The Officers' Mess had guest nights on Monday and Thursday,

The Kensingtons at camp

to the first of which they were happy to welcome Brigadier Steward, Lieutenant-Colonel Barker, the Second-in-Command and Adjutant of Eastern Command Signal Regiment. Some further guests came on Thursday.

All three Squadrons had a party in the town on various evenings, and the Fleur de Lys and Seven Stars provided excellent accommodation, food and drink. Needless to say, a number of other pubs also were explored by small parties of Kensingtons, as also were the important ancient buildings of Canterbury, notably the Cathedral.

* * *

Impression of the first lecture received by a Machine Gun Officer on being inviegled into the Signal Reporting Regiment, T.A.

"This," said Sergeant Hatton, "is a 52 Set." He paused dramatically, and patted the monster affectionately. "Any questions?"

The only thing I wanted to ask at that moment was how I could hand in my resignation. But speech fused abruptly as, with jaundiced eye, I surveyed the cold impassionate array of knobs, panels and wires. I shuddered. It was all too reminiscent of the diabolical contraptions used by mad scientists to bring Boris Karloff to life.

"Now, you switch it on here," continued the Sergeant, giving a good imitation of a conjuror pulling dried eggs out of a hat. Immediately the monster sprang into life, and fixed me with a beady red eye which glowed with hypnotic intensity. Panic completed a series of short circuits up and down my spine.

"Any chance of it blowing up?" I asked nervously.

"No, sir," beamed my mentor. "Unless . . . " Suddenly his brow darkened most ominously. "Unless . . . well, we'll come on to that later." This postponement of my doom was not reassuring. I trembled in anxious anticipation. The water on my knee splashed away, completely out of control.

"Going from right to left," went on the good fellow remorselessly, "here we have the place for the aerial."

"If I may digress for a moment, Sergeant," interrupted the Second-in-Command, "that in simple language is just the location of the base for the erection of the antenna for radiation purposes."

"What's radiation?" said I, recalling Frisby Dyke in I.T.M.A.

Here the Adjutant seized his chance. "Well, you know when you throw a stone into pond," he said, butting in with his favourite simile, "there are ripples set up." A gleam of understanding cautiously pushed aside the curtains of my eyes. "Well, they go out in ever widening circles, and that's . . . "

"Quite unnecessary," interspersed the Second-in-Command with remarkable timing. "Carry on, Sergeant."

The Sergeant carried on gallantly with knowledgeable references to audio-frequencies, modulations, atmospherics, power units, megacycles, heterodynes and all the rest of the 57 varieties. He poked and prodded all the monster's gadgets like a nationalised doctor examining a hypochondriac. Finally he straightened up in triumph and bawled, "Any questions?"

I struggled desperately to switch on the power of expression from my mains. I didn't want to appear too stupefied.

"What's this thing here?" I croaked, pointing with commendable enthusiasm.

"That," said the Sergeant coldly, having completely mistaken the alignment of my finger, "happens to be the C.O."

When it comes to being a success in the Signals, that undoubtedly prejudiced my being a signal success.

BRIAN V. C. HARPUR

No. 62 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

July

As predicted in our notes of last month, we have seen a very busy and strenuous period. Our exhibition on the Race Course at Chester was attended by many people, who found Signal equipment very interesting. The most popular item was the wire recorder—small children and grown-ups could not resist the desire to hear their own voices.

The weather was not very kind to us but all the staff enjoyed the work, showing off the latest equipment to all and sundry.

No exhibition or show can prove successful without the brain, enthusiasm and hard work of the personnel responsible. This applies particularly to our esteemed Quartermaster, Captain Mills, who put his whole heart and soul into the job, both technically and manually. The P.S.I.s who took part in the show are to be congratulated on an excellent job of work. Early in the morning the day before the show, all P.S.I.s who could drive were ferrying equipment to the Race Course from H.Q. and Squadrons, others were unloading, erecting the stand and working hard generally. By 3.30 p.m. the exhibition was almost ready, but work continued until 9 p.m., when Sergeants Goldthorpe and Cornthwaite took

over the night watch. Wednesday morning saw all the staff hard at the job of preparing the stand for view by the public, and as the first contingent of people made their way round the Roodee we were ready to put all we knew into the effort of describing the latest and most up-to-date methods of communication in the Army. Once more our thanks and congratulations to all the P.S.I.s who worked so hard, devotedly and with the grand spirit that exists in our Corps. Well done, chaps. A word of praise for Sergeant ("Abdul") Goldthorpe, who brought in the crowds by way of the P.A. equipment; his "Voice of the Army" speech over the mike was a masterpiece. His well-conducted tours of the stand to parties of eight, nine and ten people at a time were also a fine example of his capabilities. In point of fact one gentleman remarked that this versatile N.C.O. would sell ice-cream to Eskimos.

Our thanks go to O.C., Western Command Signal Regiment for the loan of equipment and personnel who helped to make our show a success.

T.A. Annual Camps. No. 96 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, from Runcorn, came to Blacon Camp for their annual training. The Chief Signal Officer visited us and gave the boys a chat on Army organisation and the Corps in general. To the delight of the T.A. personnel, the C.S.O. asked them how a camp at Blackpool would suit. The Commanding Officer welcomed them and gave a short talk on the history of the Corps.

The eight days in camp were enjoyed by all ranks; periods were spent visiting the Signal Office at Western Command H.Q., a G.P.O. switchboard at Wrexham, and a half-day on the firing range, where some dark horses were unearthed. A day scheme was the highlight of the camp. This was conducted around the lovely countryside of Parkgate.

All the boys were of the opinion that eight days in camp was insufficient; most of them wanted to stay a month. Their spirit and keenness was a pleasure to the Permanent Staff, and as the pioneers of the new Territorial Army, we hope they will continue to enjoy every moment in the Regiment and to instil into others who join that same spirit and keen, willing way in which they set about the job. To conclude this epistle on No. 96 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, let us unfold the fact that the R.S.M. was heartily congratulated by all on his tea-making during the day scheme.

No. 88 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron are the next to visit us, and once again the venue is Blacon Camp. We are looking forward to seeing them and hope that the weather will be kind. A very interesting programme has been arranged, and to Major Mayne and his boys we say, "Here's hoping you enjoy your camp as much as No. 96 Squadron did."

Another month has passed, the weather has changed, brows are being mopped every few minutes. The old familiar cry of "Char up" is resounding through these four walls, so we bid adieu to all our comrades in the Regiment and the Corps.

CESTRIAN

No. 63 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Annual Camp, 1948. From 10th to 18th July our little commonwealth has been united at camp, and what an object lesson we could have provided for U.N.O. had it thought to send along a few observers. Our recipe was daringly simple: take a modicum of A.S.S.U., three pinches of A.G.R.A., a sprinkling of Special Wireless and Engineering Cadets, add a soupçon of A.R.G. and Engineering GP. Mix well and allow to simmer until it has reached an even consistency. Then garnish with Regular Army Parachutists, V.I.S.T.R.E., Sappers, and A.C.C. Finally, flavour with a trumpeter from the Boys' Brigade, and an amateur Foreman of Signals. The result will be Haxland Camp, a rich and fruity morsel that will live long in the memory of all concerned.

The site was an old war-time Mixed A.A. Camp about a mile inland from the Solent. We had beds, baths, wooden floors, a canteen, a concert hall and modern plumbing. To the old soldiers it was an eye-opener; to the youngsters we trust it was not misleading. They may not always find such accommodation in the Army.

Let me state here and now that it was mainly to two things that we owe the success of the camp—first, to the foresight of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, Royal Signals, in obtaining—only he knows how, Regular Army assistance; second, to the work done by those assistants. Apart from his Signal training, all the T.A. soldier had to do was to take his turn at night picquet (which included potato peeling!) and keep himself and his barrack room tidy.

Very wisely, the C.O. explained the position to the Regulars previous to our arrival. They responded almost to a man, and to our eternal gratitude. Thus relieved of domestic duties, we were able to get down to the real purpose of camp, Signal training. Off duty, we all mucked-in together and were indistinguishable, which is as it should be. One day these chaps will form the bulk of the T.A., and we feel distinctly happy about it.

With the exception of No. 10 A.S.S.U., who by virtue of their special work, and by mutual agreement, trained separately, all Units joined together for individual and collective training.

The first two and a half days were spent in trade training, the results of which were tested in two Signal Exercises on the Thursday and Friday. The basic tactical lay-out was first demonstrated on the C.O.'s pet table model in the Information Tent. This ensured that every man knew the overall situation and the full implications of his job. Intelligent interest thus blossomed to keenness and a striving for efficiency, with most creditable results. The assistance of four detachments from V.I.S.T.R.E. was absolutely invaluable.

No. 10 A.S.S.U. were fortunate in having to assist them four Regular Army Tentacles from the R.A.F. Central Fighter and Bomber Establishment. Perhaps Captain Nicholas Warren's proudest moment was on the Thursday when he installed a VHF Set in a R.A.F. Anson aircraft and, much to the amazement of our junior service, it worked perfectly. As a result the Squadron had the thrill of seeing its previous training being put to practical use. A close support demand was transmitted from "Brigade" to "Army," "vetted," passed on to Beaulieu Airfield, and the Anson took off (filled with eager recruits). The Tentacle at

[*Courtesy Daily Graphic*
A spell off from the rigours of summer camp. Brigadier Scott entertains a party aboard the Royal Signals yacht "Certa"

[*Courtesy Daily Graphic*
A party prepare for a lesson in airborne map-reading

"Brigade" then became an Air Contact Team, Captain Fitzimons, R.E. (our attached A.L.O.) acting as R.A.F. Controller, and the Anson was directed by him on to the target. After several successful bombing runs (dummy, of course) the plane made off to let the occupants see their homes in Winchester, Eastleigh and Southampton, from the air.

Tribute must also be paid to the kindness of the School of Land/Air Warfare, Old Sarum, who showed No. 10 A.S.S.U. over their demonstration hangars on the Wednesday morning, after which they organised a first-class demonstration by our latest fighter-bombers over West Down Ranges.

I seem to have written much about No. 10 A.S.S.U., partly because I belong to that Unit, and partly because the highlights of its training are easier to describe, but the fact remains that every T.A. soldier left camp richer in learning and in experience.

"Jack" had no chance of being a dull boy at this camp. Apart from the nightly camp cinema, we had yachting on the Corps yacht, "Certa," aerial map-reading instruction daily in a R.A.F. Anson from Beaulieu, swimming for the hardy (I nearly said "foolhardy"), two victorious cricket matches on the magnificent ground of a nearby Naval Shore Station, a side-splitting concert to which each Unit contributed one or more items, and, finally, a tabloid sports and dance.

The last two items were to be our big "At Home," and, despite the shocking weather, a large crowd of relatives and friends turned up. Ten teams took part in the tabloid sports, one from each Unit, including Regulars, plus two Territorial Army A.T.S. teams from Southampton. The girls put up a plucky show in the appalling conditions, but the eventual winners were the Engineering Cadets. In this, as in everything else they did, the Cadets put up a superlative performance. They will indeed be an asset to the Corps when they are commissioned. Many of them were happy to renew acquaintaince with Major Finney, who, prior to joining No. 10 A.S.S.U., had interviewed them when he was serving in A.G. 22 at the War Office.

The dance, to our own improvised band, on the Saturday night was a great success, and further cemented the bonds between the Regular and Territorial Armies. I refer especially to the Parachutists and the A.T.S.

There was no lack of publicity. There seemed to be a constant stream of red tabs in and out of the camp. It is worthy of note that not a single bucket of whitewash was necessary to produce a pleased smile on the faces of our visiting V.I.P.s A *Daily Graphic* photographer was there, and did us proud. Then, for three days, we entertained a film unit which spent its time in taking shots of us from every possible, and unexpected, angle. Later in the year we hope to see familiar faces in the film of T.A. life which they are making for general release.

Already I seem to have exceeded my share of space, yet there are so many things I should like to record: the horrified cook who mistook a portly pyjama-clad officer for a pink elephant; the Orderly Sergeant who blew our final reveille at 0400 hours by mistake; the Tentacle which (from the map) sited itself near a pub, only to find it was a super-luxury hotel; the C.O.'s charger breaking a tap in the cookhouse. Memory goes on and on, sometimes rueful, most humorous, never dull. Shall we sum it up in the immortal words of Captain John Wheeler, "I was with you, Charlie boy."

ASSULIKET

No. 49 (W.R. & M.) ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

August

After a very late start last year owing to our Drill Hall having been used as a detention barracks during the war, we finally kicked off in November with a recruiting "At Home." The necessary lubrication at 6d. per pint was in good supply, together with lots of free sandwiches, and the whole show was a great success.

Officers who have joined us so far are as follows: Honorary Colonel, Colonel W. F. Jackson, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. McLaren, M.B.E., Second-in-Command, Major C. H. Tilston, M.B.E., Major N. R. Bigland, Major G. I. Bray, M.B.E., Major V. H. Woodrow, Captain J. A. H. Bray, Captain J. L. D. Davies, and our worthy M.O. is Major J. M. Lees, R.A.M.C. Officers of the P.S. are Captain A. R. Brooke, Adjutant, and Captain E. Beverley, Quartermaster.

Our P.S.I.s are R.S.M. S. W. French, who has just left us for posting overseas, and we welcome R.S.M. R. J. Green, from Northern Command (M.) Signal Regiment, in his place. S.S.M. J. Done, who is still singing as well as ever, is our Lines Instructor, Sergeant R. Graveling is in charge of wireless training, and our Driver/Mechanic is Driver J. Woodhouse.

Many old faces have rolled up again, including R.Q.M.S. "Alf" Heminway, Sergeant F. Redman, of D.R. fame, Sergeant J. Williams, Sergeant W. A. Pickles, Sergeant J. W. Batchelor, Sergeant G. W. McGee, Sergeant J. E. Buck, Sergeant S. Spencer, Sergeant J. Feeley, and many more good types. Our O.R. strength stands now at 55, but we are still hoping to reach the 100 mark before long.

After some delay we eventually got our Sergeants' Mess and Men's Canteen functioning, and now they are both

A happy group of linemen at camp. Left to right: Sergeant Spencer, Sergeant J. E. Buck, S.S.M. J. Done, Sergeant G. W. McGee

flourishing concerns. We run them as clubs and all the Leeds Royal Signals Old Comrades are members. We are much indebted to them for the assistance they have given us in getting us on our feet again.

Our Annual Camp was held at Great Cowden Camp, near Hornsea, on 18th-25th July. All our Officers and 47 O.R.s attended. We were under canvas and very lucky with the weather, and even luckier still in having No. 6 Royal Tank Regiment to look after us in camp. This they did very well, and spared no effort to help us in every possible way. Much hard work (and elbow lifting) was put in and the week ended with exercise "Jumbo" (remember 8th Indian Division?) which was attended by Brigadier C. Childs, O.B.E., C.S.O. Northern Command. It was a pity that the newly-invented cable layer, designed with much care and thought to baffle the C.S.O., should fall to pieces just as it passed him, on its first trial.

We returned to Leeds on Sunday, 25th July, to find a free and easy concert laid on for us by our thoughtful and hard-working Signals' Association Entertainments Committee. After the ride from camp in the dry dusty weather many parched throats were relieved enough to be able to recount the happenings of the last eight days, much to the frowns and muttered threats of the wives present. Things were not improved when at least three Sergeants' wives heard for the first time that marriage allowance was also issued in the T.A. Why do some people always talk about the wrong thing?

We have closed down for training during August and start again the first week in September. Now we have broken the ice we will do our best to contribute monthly.

No. 1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

August

Progress continues. Men are rallying round again. There are still many of the "old boys" whom we should like to see joining, but if they won't come we shall have to struggle along without them. There is now a great deal to interest all trades and there is no need for a T.A. recruit here to worry that he might spend unnecessary hours forming threes and marking time, especially if he is ex-Service. It doesn't take long to find out whether or not a man can fall in on parade and look as though he belonged to the team. It is to be hoped that our present members will maintain their present standard of smartness when the National Service men arrive. They will set the newcomers a good example. We have an idea that it will be necessary in some cases. We thought of writing a paragraph about soldiers we have seen in New Street, but what's the use? When we remember the seven days' C.B. we had just for having one hand in our pocket we could scream. Those, of course, were the bad old days when soldiers wore their hats on their heads. Quaint idea. Let us turn to our social diary. The wedding of Sergeant P. A. Hands to Miss Kathleen Mousley, for instance. This very pleasant event took place at the Oratory, Hagley Road, Birmingham, on 17th July. Most of our permanent staff attended, especially at the reception. An excellent way to spend the day, believe us.

We are no experts at describing dresses, but beyond all argument the bride and her bridesmaids made a lovely picture. We admired Sergeant Hands's skilful handling of the bride's magnificent train once or twice. Long life and much happiness to them both. Before leaving our Part II Orders Department let us record something a little more advanced. On 16th June last John Sidney, son of S.S.M. and Mrs. W. Hade, was born into this interesting world and promptly announced his hearty disapproval thereat.

S.S.M. and Mrs. Norman Jones, not to be outdone, introduced on 29th June Martyn Roy Jones, whose vocal accomplishments are at present unknown to us. He resides in County Durham but they say if you listen very carefully . . . . May all good fortune attend these new arrivals.

Hard work on the part of Corporal Sheldon and his Dance Committee has resulted in some very successful shows in the Drill Hall. August is declared the "close" season, but we shall be back again with some good entertainment in September. We are already beginning to think about central heating, stoves, piping and the rest of it. Which probably proves something or other, if we could only think what.

BARLEUX

No. 13 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

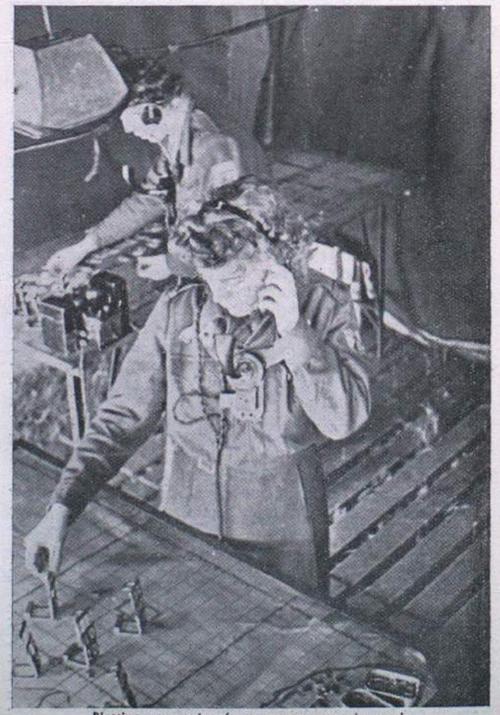
August

It is a long time since we reported ourselves in THE WIRE, but then it is a long time since the writer has been so near the bottom of his "in" tray. If fact, if the permanent staff was larger it would be most heartening to see the way the T.A. has perked up and got into its stride!

We now have over 200 in the Regiment, nearly all of whom attended Annual Camp at Stobs from 17th July to 24th. Stobs Camp is just south of Hawick, in Roxburghshire.

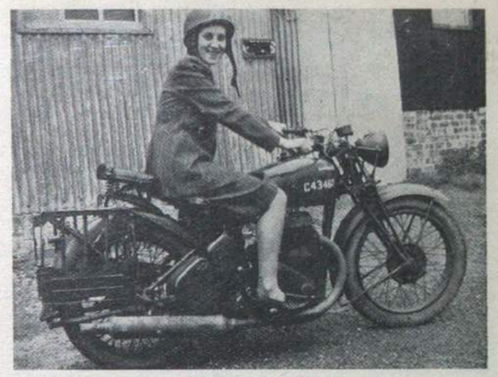
To say that the camp was a success is to say nothing. There were five Units in camp, of which we were the only Royal Signals Regiment, and we led the others in smartness, training, vivacity and charm (having a preponderance of A.T.S.). The great height of our flag-staff above all the others gave the right impression.

The weather was not too good, but once the troops had replaced the sheep in the huts we were all quite comfortable, and enjoyment progressed with the camp. On the first day there were one or two complaints about the food, next day none, and the day after complaints came again—this time that there was not enough of it!



Plotting enemy aircraft at super-super-sonic speeds

Some of the Sergeants. Standing: Sergeant Balgarnie, Staff-Sergeant Bissett, W.O.II Hogarth, W.O.II Hendry, Sergeant Hogarth. Sitting: Sergeant Morrison, Sergeant Brown, a K.D.G. Sergeant



Staff-Sergeant Bissett
(or "What the Army is coming to")

Besides intensive training from 0830 to 1645 hours (and to 1830 hours on some days) we found time to play off the Unit sports, run two dances, a camp concert, and to spend two evenings and a lot of money in Hawick, and one ramble over the hills. We recommend all Units to buy a good book of songs with music—cost about 2s. 6d. Have 20 of the best known songs and one or two of the lesser known ones copied out on the duplicator, and then have a sing-song. The enjoyment is out of all proportion to the work involved, and there is always a pianist and someone else who can conduct and compére the concert and teach the new songs. After almost every drill night our song-sheets are called for, and the troops get down to it for half an hour in the canteen before going home.

Well, camp drew to a close all too soon, and people started asking the Adjutant to wangle another week. However, they have been promised two weeks next year, which is a good thing.

On Thursday we had a Unit Exercise on a most ambitious scale, and practised plotting enemy aircraft at super-super-sonic speeds—the "Teller" not being sure of the scale of his map. Lessons learnt having been discussed on Friday morning, we devoted the afternoon and evening to playing off the Annual Regimental Sports (won with great *éclat* by No. 29 Squadron, Glasgow), a visitors' tea party, prize-giving, and a really good concert in which every Unit in the camp took part. It being the last night, most of us were very tired, and all the officers went early to bed at about 0200 hours, but the sergeants stayed up, we are told, a little later. All they had to do when getting up in the morning was to walk from the bar to their breakfast.

Our thanks are due to so many people who helped to make the camp a success, but especially to Brigadier L. H. Harris, C.B.E., who inspected the Unit and gave us a very good "chit," and then stayed to enjoy the tea party and present the prizes on Friday. And also to all the other Units in camp, every one of which helped us out with transport or in other ways when we could not help ourselves.

The only other item of news is that No. 32 A.A. (M.) Signal Squadron, T.A., is moving from Blairgowrie, less one troop which will stay in Perth, to Edinburgh, where they will be welcomed into this Drill Hall with Regimental H.Q. and No. 31 Squadron. Long may they stay! We hope that all those officers and other ranks who have been waiting for a vacancy in a Royal Signals Regiment in Edinburgh will read this and flock to join. Our address is: The Drill Hall, Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh, 3.

No. 14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

August

The Regiment was formed in May, 1947, and is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Behn, O.B.E., T.D., with Captain D. Beatt as Adjutant, Captain (Q.M.) J. Birchall, and Junior Commander E. S. Millner. The Unit consists of R.H.Q., No. 33 Squadron at Liverpool; No. 34 Squadron, Manchester; and No. 41 Squadron, Cardiff.

The permanent staff consists of the following: R.S.M. L. W. H. Crouch, S.S.M. R. Otterson, S.Q.M.S. R. Halford, Sergeant R. Brown at R.H.Q.; Sergeants Kendrick and Hulme at Manchester; S.S.M. Reardon and Sergeant Breeze at Cardiff.

Recruiting started slowly, but this has since made steady progress, especially with the A.T.S. personnel.

For the past few months many difficulties were encountered owing to the lack of stores and training accommodation, but these are gradually being surmounted. Our main problem at present is lack of male personnel, so if any Regular is about to be demobbed and lives in Liverpool, Manchester or Cardiff, look us up; you will be more than welcome.

We have had several week-end camps, which put us on the right lines for our Annual Camp which was held at Towyn, North Wales, from 11th-18th July. Most of the personnel were unfamiliar with the role of an A.A. Unit and useful experience was gained by all who took part in an exercise arranged by the C.O.

Besides being an excellent opportunity for collective training, the camp provided means of boosting *esprit de corps* among the personnel of the Unit, and "off duty" we managed to fix up some lively entertainment in the "locals," where we were made to feel thoroughly at home.

The whole success of the camp can be judged by the remarks of all concerned: "Roll on the next camp," and that in spite of all the rain we had.

Now we hope to get down to hard training and trade-testing before the next camp, with plenty of dances and other diversions mingled in.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The Mess was opened on 1st June. Since then we have held several dances and darts matches which were a success.

Throughout the coming winter months we hope to extend

the social side of life. The bar is ably supported by the members and led by the R.Q.M.S. Next month we hope to give you more detail of the Mess members and their activities.

GRIEVE NOMORE

No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

July

July was a busy month for No. 38 A.A. (M.) Signal Squadron. On Thursday, 22nd July, the West Riding Borough Police Rifle Team, which has already won fame in local shooting matches, came to try their hand against No. 38 Squadron. The Miniature Range was packed and the Police tried several "aids to firing" in the way of elbow pads plus a complicated arrangement of leather straps to steady aim. In spite of a "possible" (five bulls) by one portly police constable, the Squadron Team narrowed the margin to one point. The final shoot of Sergeant Douglas was excellent, but Signals lost by one point. Afterwards a jovial evening was spent in the canteen. It was discovered that one police constable had been a D.A.P.M. during the war and was now content to pound the beat.

Our monthly social evening was a huge success. Subaltern Fieldhouse arranged a buffet and dance, to which the R.A. and Cadets were invited. Corporal M. Scargall was congratulated on her 25th birthday by O.C. Squadron, and her health drunk in some very good port.

Quite the biggest affair is our first week-end camp. A scheme has been arranged to give the A.T.S. some idea of Signals in an operational role. A dance is to be held in the camp, music being supplied by the Ukrainians in an adjacent camp.

And so to bedde!

51st (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

July

Aberdeen had the pleasure of the company of Second-Lieutenant Dimmock with the Royal Signals D.R. Display Team for the third week of July. They did two displays at the Royal Northern Agricultural Show which were a great success and left the Aberdonians dumbfounded. The proof of their success was shown on the following evening when the Team did a special display as part of this Regiment's "At Home" to the general public. A vast audience of enthusiasts assembled up at Hazlehead as our guests. Considerable interest was shown in various demonstrations provided by the Regiment, especially all the contraptions and functions of the "C.V. Gang." A Line Party under Corporal Mathieson provided the inevitable spontaneous humour of the evening. A Lineman—who shall be nameless—failed to connect the hammer with the jumper on his first almighty swing, and broke the hammer! A little bit of alcoholic refreshment was called for and the route was completed without further ado. These demonstrations were followed by the D.R. Display, on which I will not elaborate as there have been many excellent reports on their stunts already. And on this evening they must have been in their element, for the show was excellent and I have never seen a more appreciative Aberdeen audience. The Salute was taken by the C.S.O. Scottish Command, which was the signal for the Regiment to return post haste to the canteen, where the remainder of the evening was rounded off in style. Incidentally, the effect of the Display Team's "Blues" on the Scottish lassies was very marked! We trust that No. 1 Dress will not be long now.

On Saturday, 17th July, the Regiment went to camp at Barry, near Dundee. We departed from our various Drill Halls by M.T. on a lovely sunny morning, and everyone had high hopes of the weather remaining fine for the week, but, of course, that sort of thing doesn't happen at Barry!

In camp were many of our old friends, including 4th/7th Gordons, Liverpool Scottish, 5th/6th H.L.I., 6th Cameronians and 154th Field Ambulance. It was a great gathering of the clans, and we spent a very pleasant week under canvas. All and sundry did their early morning P.T., even though the effects of the night before might have been rather drastic. On training, we spent most of the time in the neighbouring countryside doing signal exercises. These exercises culminated in a final one in which many of the Brigade Staff Officers and Regimental Officers took part.

Sports were rather disappointing because the weather forbade them. They were scheduled to take place on Wednesday afternoon, but it was pouring with rain when the two bus loads of families from Aberdeen and the one from Stirling arrived in camp. However, the N.A.A.F.I. produced a good tea which cleared the air considerably, but not enough to allow the Massed Bands to play Retreat. This was most disappointing, as many of the kiddies had been looking forward to it for a long time. Perhaps the weather will be kinder next year.

51st (H) Divisional Signal Regiment at camp

In the Officers' Mess we had our own party in our ante room on the Wednesday evening, at which we had many of our old Officers present. The Sergeants' Mess seem to have had a party in their ante room almost every evening, but their main one was a great success, practically every N.C.O. in camp was there, and the piping and singing went on into the night with great gusto.

Alas, eight days was far too short, and hardly had we arrived in camp than we were going home again. We had all hoped to spend more time in Dundee, but perhaps it was well that we couldn't, for to quote my batman, "It's a —— awful walk back at four o'clock in the morning."

We struck camp and returned to our Drill Halls rather wearily on 24th July, having worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and looking forward to a good night's rest.

Comings and Goings. We regret the departure of Sergeant Panther to the Depot pending a release course, although he seemed pleased enough about it. In his place we welcome Sergeant Beckley, whose number makes me want to hide—Catterick, '31, seems a bit before my time. Another newcomer is Signalman Davies, who decided that the Army was *the* place. He has taken over the M.T. of the Unit. What a headache!

Salaams. Sergeant "Pip" Morris, ex-No. 3 Training Regiment, calling Sergeant Owen Mackay—somewhere in India or thereabout: Congratulations on your wedding. Be good now.

SCOTTY

No. 11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

These notes come from Langham, North Norfolk, where we are already half way through our first post-war camp.

The week past has been one of heavy rain and high wind, but in spite of these adversities and the added bother of leaky tentage, our spirits are right on the top. Our lads and lassies settled in to camp life remarkably quickly, and with them lies the credit for our having made a great success out of not the best of circumstances.

Last week Lieutenant H. Ll. Daniel took the D.R.s for a run to Chester, where they were received as kings and given two nights' royal hospitality by the Western Command Signal Regiment. From Chester they set out on a run which took them around Mount Snowdon (where Lieutenant Daniel bought picture postcards for the C.O. and Adjutant!)

Some of our number were obliged to leave after a week's stay. Amongst these regrettable early departures was Major J. W. Hyde, who on the morning of his leaving was awakened from his slumber in good time by Signalman Dewar playing a rousing tune on his bagpipes outside his O.C.'s tent.

At the Tabloid Sports Meeting we watched the fleet feet of our A.T.S. and saw the Warrant Officers and Sergeants pull a successful tug-of-war against the Officers.

No. 22 Squadron won the Netball Championship after a close and well-fought match with No. 21 Squadron.

This week we are looking forward to our first visit by the new C.S.O., A.A. Command, Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E. This visit will be particularly welcome to some of the older members of the Regiment who remember the Brigadier when he was Adjutant to the pre-war Unit.

TWO-O-SIX

Corps Ties

We regret that the 8/6 Uncrushable pattern are at present out of stock, and that Artificial Silk Ties have had, due to an increase in makers' costs, to be increased from 6/6 to 7/-. Coupons are no longer required.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Branch Notes

Chester

It should not be imagined that the absence of notes from this Branch during recent months has been due to lack of activity. On the contrary, membership continues to rise and the arrival of Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Bramham, ex-7th Indian Divisional Signals, has now brought the Branch membership to 175. This represents an increase of over 100 during the past year or so, and we have set ourselves a target of 200 by the end of 1948.

The Annual Dinner was held during December last and we were pleased to welcome Brigadier E. J. Murphy and our Branch President, Brigadier W. O. Bowen, C.S.O. Western Command. The dance which followed certainly recaptured the spirit of gay abandon of Service days, due in no small measure to the energy of the M.C., Keith West. The approach of his bearded visage was sufficient to drive any slackers on to the dance floor.

At the Annual General Meeting the following committee was elected for 1948: Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Colin Jackson; Secretary, Mr. Dick Ryan; Assistant Secretary, Captain R. D. Hardy; Treasurer, Captain C. Shepherd; Social, Mr. Sidney Pointon.

The social programme has been a very full one and Sid Pointon and his merry men seem to conjure up at least one event each month. Having successfully arranged and carried through the Branch family summer outing to Southport on 1st August, we now turn our attentions to the means by which we can repay our friends of the Liverpool Branch for the grand show a bus load of our members attended at Signal House, Score Lane, on 17th July.

We feel that these meetings with other Branches should be encouraged, and we hope to be sending out invitations in the near future. With more than a sprinkling of members in Wrexham, eleven miles away, we recently set off in force to meet them at a hot-pot social specially arranged at the Talbot Hotel, Wrexham. A very enjoyable evening followed.

Chester has always been a centre of Royal Signals activities and we would welcome a visit from any ex-Signals or serving members passing through on the first Thursday of each month at the Cross Foxes Hotel, Chester. Through the generosity of the landlord, Mr. Harry Williams, ex-Wireless Sergeant of Western Command Signals, we have our own room, and the liquid refreshment is quite wholesome.

Bristol

August

A large shop in the busy part of Bristol has for some time been exhibiting a sign which reads "Great Summer Sale." Obviously the notice was printed some time ago and, before exhibition of the sign, the management graciously crossed out the inoperative word, "Summer." However, I gather from the daily papers that other parts of the country are suffering from the same lack of seasonable weather (and I CAN read despite the fact that I was only a —— —— Lineman!).

Unfortunately this month's meeting has proved a source of embarrassment to the writer of these notes—or "your correspondent," I suppose I should call myself. I know it's very bad journalism to mix the first and third person singular as I am doing, but you see I am still dithering. I had hoped to keep it all quiet, but somehow the news that I had recently been married leaked out and I had to pay for it at the bar of the "Old Duke"! I won't say any

more about it except that the Corps was well represented in the person of the best man, who acquitted himself in true Signals style, despite the two-man "old comrades'" reunion we had the night before!

Now back to business. I must mention the names of our Social Secretary (Mr. Ken Brown) and our Skittles Secretary (Mr. Rogers). They are really doing terrific work. On the social side all arrangements are now complete for our first Annual Dinner on 13th November. We do hope that some of our good friends who are members of other branches will turn up and see us on that night. Free accommodation has been arranged for any who can come, and any further details can be obtained from our Hon. Secretary (Stan Wallen) at 47 Chester Park Road, Fishponds, Bristol. There are no stipulations as to dress—other than it should be decent! Entertainments are all "laid on"—and we hope that individual members will be able to add to the "bill."

The skittles team are having another friendly at Congresbury, near Bristol, on 30th August which promises to be a rollicking show, and we only hope our Chairman can do the same as he did last time (at least I think we ought to hope, but I know nothing about skittles and I can't remember whether he cleared nine pins with three balls or three pins with nine balls). Anyway, who cares—I don't suppose he'll know after a couple of hours at the opponents' alley, the "Red Cow."

I'll let you know more about the Dinner in my September notes—but in the meantime to all those who live in the district or are visiting at any time, our next meetings will be on 10th September and 8th October. So roll up and enjoy yourselves over a pint. The chaps from Bath are incredible in the way that they turn up so regularly—I think that they must enjoy themselves! All for this month.

All the best and cheerio from Bristol.

D.P.J.H.

Birmingham

I've got a taxi waiting outside for me, so I can only spare you a few minutes this month. To combat a growing feeling of frustration, a marked disinclination to work and an attack of sun starvation, I find it necessary to spend two weeks and a lot of pennies at the seaside.

Uncle Ralph: Nobody cares. Get on with it.

Since writing to you last we have all enjoyed a few bursts of sunshine, but now that we have returned to the English national dress, i.e. goloshes and mackintosh, we may take our normal dim view of everything. Or rather, you may. I think everything is fine. We have nearly a thousand members of the Birmingham Branch scattered about the Midlands and at least twenty of them—or perhaps twenty-five—came to the monthly meeting on 29th July. You will be sorry to hear that we had one of the jolliest evenings ever. The Hon. Secretary proposes to send out his Winter Programme in the near future. There will possibly be a reminder about subscriptions. This will not apply to you, of course. No good WIRE reader neglects his subscription.

Uncle Ralph: Why you—

Me: Shut up. They'll believe anything.

As I was saying, after this the Hon. Secretary will feel justified in going ahead with his pruning of members "missing, believed married." The implication being what you think it is. I can never understand why members don't bring their wives along to our meetings. I have, of course, been told that wives as a rule do not "hold" with it, whatever that might mean. We were glad to see Mr. and Mrs. Bert Harding looking well and cheerful after their holiday at Mercury House. You may not know that Bert has had serious operations that would have flattened out most people. Courage and determination, plus the assistance of Mrs. "Bert," keep him with us.

The latest information with regard to the Annual Dinner is that it will be held at Cateswell House on 2nd October and will cost you 6/- per head. In strict confidence, it will be well worth that.

Captain F. G. Davies is working out some schemes for your winter amusement. One of these will be the Armistice Ball at Cateswell House on 12th November. If you remember last year's grand show you will not wish to be left out. Your attendance at the monthly meetings on the last Thursday in the month will be much appreciated by your many friends. The Crown Hotel, Broad Street. Remember?

Honk, honk. O.K. I'm coming.

BARLEUX

Sheffield and District

The July meeting of this Branch held, as usual, on the fourth Wednesday, was rather sparsely attended; many members were away for "Sheffield Week," the equivalent of the Lancashire "Wakes." However, about 25 members turned out in spite of the sweltering heat, which no doubt was why the bar did such a good trade in "shandy."

Coming down to more serious matters, the chief item, after the formal business had been disposed of, was to decide on the type and nature of the social evenings which it is clear are being eagerly expected. Loan of amplifier and loudspeaker equipment has been promised for music; and Major Stone, our worthy Chairman, and his good lady (who did valiant service in connection with the Greystones Dance earlier in the year, and whom we were delighted to welcome as a guest) are hot on the trail of a venue which sounds very attractive; our energetic Hon. Secretary has undertaken to smooth the way for any licences which may be desirable for the success of the events, and several other offers of assistance have been received.

For the rest, the Secretary, Mr. G. J. Oliver, of 80 Holmhirst Road, Sheffield, 8, will be glad to hear of any members of the Corps living in the district who may be due for release shortly, and from any ex-members who may, perhaps, be unaware that there is now a Branch of the Association in Sheffield.

United Model Engineers

Any interested in working models of anything from a ship, both sail and power, boilers and marine steam engines, railway engines, carriage trucks, to aeroplanes, will be very well advised to communicate with Mr. O. S. D. Wills, late Royal Signals, at 13a Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hants. (Telephone: Fresham 91).

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Royal Signals Association,
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SPORTS NOTES

HAMBURG DISTRICT *v.* ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.)

This game was played at Hamburg on Saturday, 3rd July, on one of the very few turf wickets in the British Zone of Germany. The outfield was really good, but the wicket was natural and had too much grass on it. Hamburg District won the toss and batted on a wicket made soft by recent heavy rain. Scoring was very slow, and but for a last wicket stand of 38 runs the total would have been reasonably small. Captain Carpenter bowled really well to take 8 wickets for 65 runs. The wicket suited his slow left-hand bowling, and nearly all the batsmen were troubled by him.

The wicket had dried out considerably under a strong wind and bright sun when Royal Signals batted, and it was most unpleasant to bat on. Hamburg District won easily by 72 runs.

HAMBURG DISTRICT		ROYAL SIGNALS	
Major Don c Roberts b Carpenter	14	Captain A. J. Carpenter c Oxby b Howes	8
Captain White b Carpenter	15	S.Q.M.S. Roberts c Edwards b White	2
Major Edmeades c Roberts b Carpenter	10	Major F. A. Wainwright b Howes	8
Captain Duncan c Saunders b Carpenter	28	S.S.M. Vaughan lbw b Howes	4
Lieutenant Taggart b Carpenter	9	S.S.M. Nurse b White	7
Captain Harley c Roberts b Carpenter	8	Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders c Taggart b White	0
Lieutenant Spurway b Carpenter	9	Sergeant Overington c Taggart b White	0
Private Oxby c Roberts b Nurse	3	Lance-Corporal Stone c Taggart b Howes	15
Lieutenant Reed c and b Nurse	0	Sergeant Tiffin b White	0
Major Edwards not out	34	Major T. P. Saunders c Howes b Reed	5
Sergeant Howes c Nurse b Carpenter	4	Major E. S. Whitaker not out	15
Extras	2		
Total	136	Total	64

HANNOVER DISTRICT *v.* ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.)

This game was played at Celle on Sunday, 4th July. Hannover District, having won the toss, put the Corps side in to bat on a good Dutch wicket. Scoring was slow, chiefly because of the long grass in the outfield, which reduced the value of scoring strokes unless the ball was hit in the air. The total of 107 would have been worth about 150 had the outfield been good.

The game had to be abandoned as a draw soon after 5 o'clock owing to heavy rain when Hannover District had made 63 for 4 wickets.

ROYAL SIGNALS		HANNOVER DISTRICT	
Major P. T. S. Brown b McGill	12	Major Tresawna run out	4
Captain A. J. Carpenter st Forbes b McGill	3	Lieutenant Carter not out	47
Major F. A. Wainwright b Rankin	13	Major Nation c Tiffin b Stone	5
Major T. P. Saunders b Readman	14	Lieutenant Forbes b Carpenter	3
Sergeant Overington b McGill	2	Captain Stewart run out	3
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders c Forbes b Tresawna	20	S.Q.M.S. Harding not out	1
Major E. S. Whitaker b Tresawna	2		
Lance-Corporal Stone c McGill b Readman	13		
S.S.M. Nurse b Grave b McGill	15		
Sergeant Tiffin not out	0		
S.Q.M.S. Roberts b Readman	4		
Extras	9		
Total	107	Total (for 4 wkts.)	63

RHINE ARMY RAMBLERS *v.* ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.)

This game was played at Bad Oeynhausen on Monday, 5th July. Royal Signals lost the toss for the third successive day, and the Ramblers batted on a good Dutch wicket with a good outfield. The first wicket put on 77 runs, but thereafter wickets fell regularly and the side was out for 145. Captain Carpenter and S.Q.M.S. Harding both bowled well to take 5 wickets for 63 and 5 for 57 respectively.

S.S.M. Nurse, who opened the Corps innings, batted aggressively for his 48 runs, and was unfortunate to be run out by a piece of very good fielding. It looked, at one time, as if rain might come and possibly cause the game to be abandoned, but there was a slight shower only, and the Corps won by 4 wickets.

RHINE ARMY RAMBLERS		ROYAL SIGNALS	
Major Hillman c sub b Carpenter	32	Major P. T. S. Brown lbw b Bayley	7
Captain Howard-Dobson b Harding	38	S.S.M. Nurse run out	48
Captain Voller hit wkt. b Harding	1	Major F. A. Wainwright b Alder	25
Private Dyas c and b Carpenter	7	Major T. P. Saunders c Pettit b Easter	12
Lieutenant-Colonel Easter c Saunders b Carpenter	33	Captain A. J. Carpenter c Mc-Connel b Alder	0
Major Pettit lbw b Carpenter	14	Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders not out	26
Major Vaisey b Harding	0	S.Q.M.S. Harding b Easter	10
Lieutenant-Colonel McConnel c Nurse b Harding	6	Major E. S. Whitaker not out	6
C.S.M. Alder c Harding b Carpenter	0		
Lance-Corporal Bayley not out	0		
R.S.M. Pitt b Harding	1		
Extras	16	Extras	14
Total	148	Total	148

2nd BRITISH INFANTRY DIVISION *v.* ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.)

The final Corps game was played at Hilden on Saturday, 24th July. Royal Signals won the toss for the first time in this series of games and batted first on a slow matting on turf wicket. The outfield was very slow from recent heavy rain and morning dew, and our batsmen found it difficult to get the ball away. In spite of a good innings by Major Schofield, 8 wickets were down for 103 runs, but the last two wickets added 50 runs, which produced the useful total of 158, thanks largely to a useful innings of 30 not out made by S.Q.M.S. Harding. Most of the Corps batsmen were deceived by the pace of the wicket, which was considerably slower than anything they had played on recently.

The 2nd Division innings started badly for them; the first 3 wickets fell for 6 runs, and at the tea interval the score was 25 for 5. The total finally reached 60. S.Q.M.S. Harding bowled very well to take 5 wickets for 34 runs. The wicket had dried sufficiently to enable him to get some life from it with his medium-fast delivery. Lance-Corporal Stone took 2 wickets for 10 and S.S.M. Nurse finished off the innings by taking 3 wickets for 5 runs with slow leg breaks.

ROYAL SIGNALS		2nd BRITISH INFANTRY DIV.	
Major P. T. S. Brown lbw b Grant	9	Captain Davison b Stone	3
S.S.M. Nurse b Grant	20	Corporal Elvin c Maloney b Stone	1
Major F. A. Wainwright c Elvin b Grant	4	Captain Porter b Harding	1
Major S. Schofield b Letchforth	43	Second-Lieutenant Welsh b Harding	6
Lieutenant A. B. Roderick c Skudder b Killick	16	Lieutenant Whitehead c Roberts b Harding	2
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders b Letchforth	3	R.S.M. Letchforth b Nurse	9
Lance-Corporal Maloney b Killick	1	Sergeant Killick b Harding	20
S.Q.M.S. Harding not out	30	Captain Wallace b Harding	2
Major T. P. Saunders c Vaughan b Letchforth	0	S.S.M. Vaughan b Nurse	5
Lance-Corporal Stone lbw b Letchforth	6	Captain Grant b Nurse	0
S.Q.M.S. Roberts b Killick	12	Private Skudder not out	0
Extras	14	Extras	12
Total	158	Total	60

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your copy of

The Wire?

Burma Memories

THE Editor is obliged for the following "Jottings" from an old member of "S" Indian L. of C. Signals.

A large number of readers of THE WIRE served in Burma during the war and many of the personalities mentioned are well known.

* * *

"S" (Indian) L. of C. Signals was engaged in a forward L. of C. role in the Burma theatre for over three years. There was never a time during this period when the Unit was not involved in some high pressure task or other, and as officers and men, both British and Indian, were rarely changed, it was a somewhat protacted strain upon them. It is of interest that apart from the establishment of systems in Chittagong, Akyab, Ramree Island, and Rangoon, the construction sections erected over 9,000 line miles of copper wire in the Arakan area alone. The strain of continuous effort under trying conditions was very largely countered by a grand sense of humour which always seemed to prevail. When in difficulty there was often a humorous side to it, someone's leg to be pulled. One great contributor to the brighter side was Captain Bill Reader through the medium of his pen, as most of his satirical effort was directed towards higher authority it was of very popular appeal within the Unit! Higher authority, too, found much to delight them, particularly on the S.O. II and S.O. III levels. Although the events and persons providing the material for Captain Reader's work were somewhat local in interest, it is felt that WIRE readers, too, might derive some entertainment from it.

Transportation difficulties encountered during the building of a new four pair carrier alignment for 76 miles along the Mayu River from Buthidaung to Akyab inspired the following:

THE ADMIRAL AND THE ALLIGATORS
A SONG OF THE SEA

Heave the mainbrace overboard!
  Belay the starboard tack!
Midshipman Jarman, up aloft,
  Until I call you back!
    Stirring days and stirring ways
In the good ship "Incubator,"
  When Admiral Hoblyn put to sea
To catch an alligator.

So here's my tale, you seamen all,
Belay me, it's a spanker,
I'll tell you all that did befall
  When Hoblyn weighed his anchor.

He cleared the port of Chittagong,
  His ship stood out to sea,
He sang a song as he sailed along,
  "A sailor's life for me."

The look-out cried "Man overboard,
  There's someone in the pani!"
Sharpe, the Bosun, looked and roared:
  "Avast! It's Mansukhani."

"Shiver me timbers," Hoblyn roared,
  "We'll come and get him later,
Can't stop now, or I don't see how
  I'll catch my alligator.

"For what is that upon the right
  (or starboard) heaving into sight?
I think I see the enemy
  Whom we have come to fight.

"Reef the mizzen mainmast up,
  Marlinespike the orlop,
Send for Franklin, my first mate,
  And clear away the foretop,

    Pipe all hands,
    The Goodwin Sands
    Are hard upon our lee,
    And dead ahead,
    As I think I said,
    Two alligators. See!"

Hoblyn caught 'em,
Hoblyn brought 'em
Back to port in Chittagong,
Where the alligators mated,
  As all alligators can.
And today he's much elated,
  There are five in Arakan!

* * *

One of the next major difficulties to be encountered was the establishing of communication by the use of VHF between Akyab and Ramree Islands, and possibly Ramree to Taungup on the mainland beyond. A group of islands, The Borungas, intervened between Akyab and Ramree and it was therefore very necessary to get up as high as possible on Ramree. The spot chosen by the D.C.S.O. had never before been trodden by the foot of man, hence the:

[To explain, there was no road along the alignment and all stores and personnel had to be moved and distributed by river. River craft was at a premium as most of what existed had moved forward for operations against the Burma mainland south of Akyab. Anything that floated was invaluable. The D.C.S.O. Arakan, Colonel J. M. C. Hoblyn, had heard that a few new "animals" had arrived in that part of the world, small landing craft dubbed "alligators." With typical energy he went after them. Franklin, Jarman, Sharpe and Mansukhani were members of his staff].

POTTED PANTOMIME

THE BABES IN THE WOOD
or
DECIBELS IN DISTRESS

Cast in order of appearance:

HOBGOBLIN ... ... J. M. C. Hoblyn (D.C.S.O., Arakan), by kind permission of Tom Henry.
DEMON KING ... G. St. J. Martin (D.C.S.O., A.L.F.S.E.A., L. of C.), by kind permission of R. H. R. Steward.
MYERS ... ... Myers (O.C., 2 Company), usually acted without permission!
PRINCESS DECIBEL } Attached from Advanced Lines
FAIRY MEGHOM } Course.

SCENE I. A Tropical Island. In the background, a Hill. Enter HOBGOBLIN, a dainty Sprite.

HOB.: Well, here I am, and still alive,
  Although I flew my own L5.
  Now listen, and I'll tell you what
  Has brought me to this lonely spot.
  Right on the top of that high hill
  I'll put a wireless set, I will.
  The experts say it can't be done.
  I'll prove it can; we'll have great fun.
  Up beside the set you'll see
  A teleprinter, 7B.
  I'll keep a private aeroplane
  For going up and down again,
  And ten bridge meggers in a row
  Just to please the C.S.O.
  But what, you ask, is all this for,
  And will it help win the war?
  That I haven't thought about.
  We'll have to see how things turn out.
    Thunder and lightning. Enter the DEMON KING.
  What's all this? By gum, it's Geoff.
  But why the racket? I'm not deaf.

DEM.: Good morning, all. How are you, Jim?
  Tell Myers to take us for a swim.

CURTAIN

SCENE II. A Jungle. Enter the PRINCESS DECIBEL, attended by Gnohmes.

DEC.: At last my Prince has set me free.
  The good Hobgoblin, that is he
  Who cut the line and let me out
  While Demon King was not about.
Atmospherics. Enter the DEMON KING, brandishing a test set.

DEM.: At last I've caught you. Come with me.
  I'll put you back in Channel Three.
Sound of a Misfiring Jeep. Enter HOBGOBLIN, brandishing a towel.

HOB.: Oh no you don't, black-hearted knave,
  This damsel I have come to save.
  'Tis all a part of my great plan,
  Like green hats and the Caravan.
  Princess Decibel shall not
  Go back to that accursed spot;
  And, though you want her in your line,
  Charged particles shall be in mine.
Flourish of ringing tone. Enter the FAIRY MEGOHM, borne upon a Carrier Wave.

MEG.: Now, now, you boys, what's all the fuss?
  No one cares a tinker's cuss
  If Decibels are in or out,
  So what's the ruddy row about?

DEM.: But, Megg, we must have Decibels
  In every carrier line, or else
  We can't get any testing done
  (See my Instruction Number One),
  And, if Units test no more,
  How shall we win the Paper War?

HOB.: All that's too technical for me,
  I like things that I can see,
  But things like this are not amusing—
  In fact, I find them most confusing—
  And ever since they let Frank go
  There's no one I can ask but Joe,
  And he's not here—but never mind,
  The Princess shall not be confined.

MEG.: I think you both might very well
  Forget about La Decibelle,
  So let the luscious creature be,
  And come and have a swim with me.

CURTAIN

SCENE III. The Sea Shore. Enter, dancing, the FAIRY MEGOHM, HOBGOBLIN and the DEMON KING, with a SHOWER OF HEAVENLY BODDIES.

ALL (Sing): The Princess now is far away,
  We'll deal with her another day.
  The Demon's happy, so is Jim.
  We'll have a most refreshing swim,
  And then pursue Hobgoblin's schemes
  For putting sets where no one dreams
  A set will ever go, but still
  We'll get it there;
  We hope we will!

CURTAIN

* * *

The creation of the D.C.S.O. Alfsea (for L. of C.) organisation, under Brigadier Geoffrey St. J. Martin, for forward control of L. of C. projects clashed a little with the D.C.S.O. Alfsea appointment held by Brigadier Geoffrey Bell, and Captain Reader could not resist the following:

THE SONG OF THE HEAVENLY TWINS
BEING
A DISCOVERY OF CERTAIN MYSTERIES
HITHERTO OBSCURE

I'm Geoff and he's Geoffery; our christian name
To your utter confusion is one and the same.
We delight in bewilderment: all of you know
That a Brig.'s never less than a full C.S.O.,
So, to puzzle our public, with unholy glee
Before C.S.O. we have added a D.
  You don't know what it's there for,
  And neither do we!
But that's not the end of our riotous jest,
  No, no,
  By no means.
Let us tell you the rest:
We've arranged for ourselves that our nomenclature
Shall be truly delightful vague and obscure,
So while one of us calls himself "for L. of C.,"
T'other's "Alfsea for Alfsea"; no doubt you can see
What the meaning of this is!
  You can't?
  Nor can we!
Now go with the blessing of Geoffery and me
(He's "Alfsea for Alfsea" and I'm "L. of C.");
You're well in the picture, or should be by now,
Of the long and the short of these matters—
  And how!

* * *

About half-way through the campaign some Officers' headgear changed from a bush hat to a kind of green floppy linen hat. The following was a tilt at those four members of the Unit so adorned:

A CLASSIC ODE UPON
THE REWARD OF VICTORY

Sound forth the trumpets! Let the voice of fame,
Rewards of virtue and great deeds proclaim.
Bring forth, bring forth the conquering heroes' car,
Anoint the plugs—today they travel far—
And, through the plaudits of th' admiring throng,
The proud triumphal progress urge along.
And now, behold, the lords of war advance,
With haughty grace and lightning charged glance,
Each to his due reward, with beat of drum,
McCormack, Foster, Myers and Tapson come.
And what shall be the guerdon, what the meed,
Of these so mighty both in word and deed?
  It's easy enough to answer that—
  Each of 'em gets a floppy 'at!

* * *

To conclude the Signal side of the article, a dissertation on the origin of D 8 Cable is appended:

CABLE

No Signalman is unfamiliar with Cable, Electric, D Mk. VIII. Recent historical research has thrown much light upon the origin of this material, and a few remarks upon it may not be out of place.

The earlier battles of the British Army could not, it will be remembered, be successfully fought without large quantities of Line, red, thin, though occasionally Tape, red, thick, was issued in lieu. All the uses of this Line, red, thin, have not yet been satisfactorily explained; it has, however, been established that it was used, among other things, for keeping up the Army's charpoys. The latter use is especially significant, for it led directly to the introduction of D 8 Cable. The intensification of warfare towards the end of the nineteenth century naturally led to an intensification of Charpoy Drill, and it was found that the old and trusted Thin Red Line was no longer strong enough to stand up to the strain of modern battle.

After much debate, therefore, and not without earnest heart searching amongst the great ones at the War Office, Line, red, thin, was finally deleted from the pages of the V.A.O.S. A ceremonial parade was held to mark the occasion, during which the Commander-in-Chief of the day (Sir Wolesley Topey), performed a solid hour's drill upon a charpoy laden with the traditional material, and then, to the universal regret of the Army, the ancient and well-loved lacing of their charpoys disappeared into oblivion.

The new material, however, not only stood the test of time, but even obtained a hold upon the affections of the British soldier unmatched by its predecessor. Its uses were numberless. It tied up pet dogs, it supported the Signalman's

trousers, it repaired his motor-cycles, it provided aerials for his amenities wireless sets; in fact, without it, the life of the Royal Corps of Signals might never have become what it is to-day.

Of late years, a tendency has arisen for D 8 Cable to be used for tying telephones together; it diverts attention from the original and primary use of the product, which was—and should remain—the encouragement and facilitation of Charpoy Drill.

* * *

Our writer was by no means insular, as the following directive will proclaim:

To:	UNRESTRICTED
H.Q. 14th Army,	No. SFA/M&D/1000000001.
H.Q. L. of C. Command,	H.Q.,
Ceylon Army Command	ALFSEA,
(with insufficient copies for all Units).	South East Asia Command. 1st April, 1944.

Subject: LIFE—HOW TO MAKE DIFFICULT

1. This H.Q. views with grave disquiet the fact that life is rapidly becoming too easy for C.O.s of active Units, who occupy themselves almost exclusively with warlike activities to the serious detriment of the proper performance of their paper work. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the Army's paramount duty is to prepare itself for a return to peace-time conditions, under which alone is true soldiering possible. In order to achieve this end, and to foster a growth of peace-time spirit, a vast increase is necessary in the flow of paper between H.Q.s and Units in the field.

2. A new branch of the General Staff has therefore been authorised, to be known as G.S. (Complications), with the following organisation:

H.Q. ALFSEA — A Complicator-in-Chief (Major-General), who, in order to be confused with the Commander-in-Chief, will be known as the C.-in-C.

H.Q.s Armies, Commands, a Chief Complicating Officer (Brigadier) as C.C.O., will be readily confused with the Chief Cipher Officer.

H.Q.s Corps, L. of C. Areas, a Deputy Chief Complicating Officer (D.C.C.O.) (Colonel), to be assisted by: G.S.O.1 (Complications); G.S.O.2; G.S.O.3 (Complications, Ramifications); G.S.O.3 (Complications, Altercations); G.S.O.3 (Complications, Pacifications).

The Complications Branch Staff at higher formations will, of course, be disproportionately greater.

3. The Complicator-in-Chief's Branch will issue C.-in-C.'s Complicated Instructions to All Arms and Services. Complicated Instructions will be so worded as to be incomprehensible at first reading, thus promoting an almost unlimited increase in unnecessary correspondence. They will invariably be framed by officers not belonging to the arm or service to which they apply; accordingly, R.I.A.S.C. officers will complicate all Signal matters, Signal officers will be chosen to exasperate the Infantry, and so on throughout the Army. Combined Complications with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force will be directed by an officer of the Women's Land Army, and joint Allied undertakings will be under the misdirection of the Inspector-General of A.T.S. Underclothing. Every effort will be made to inculcate into all ranks a spirit of "paper-mindedness," and purely destructive activities, such as attacking the Japanese Army, will be limited to the minimum necessary for producing the maximum number of returns.

4. To sum up, the purpose of the Branch will be:

(a) To illustrate the principle that time spent on returns is seldom wasted.
(b) To show that the pen is mightier than the sword.
(c) To ensure that the usual channels never dry up.

Sd./ XXXXXX Major-General
(Complicator-in-Chief).

RJC

THOUGHTS
UPON A LARGE HEAD-QUARTERS

Me and you
Think this H.Q.
Is one big laff.
Not so the Staff
Who work all day
To earn their pay
To spend at night
On getting tight.
And thus the laff
Ain't on the Staff
Of this H.Q.—
But me and you!

I sometimes think
The streams of ink
Which daily flow from here
Would do much more
To win the war
If they were streams of beer!

(To be continued)

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The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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☆

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☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE SIGNALMAN

READERS of THE WIRE who served in India will be interested to hear that the Indian Signal Corps are to commence publication of a journal on similar lines to THE WIRE, although it is probable that at first at least they will not be able to manage a monthly edition.

The following telegram was sent to the Honorary Secretary, Indian Signals Publication Committee:—

"Message for inaugural number of THE SIGNALMAN. THE WIRE welcomes information that its old traditions as a publication widely read by Signalmen while serving with the Indian Signal Corps before and since the last Great War is to be continued in the Dominion of India by a publication called THE SIGNALMAN. Very many of all ranks now serving in Royal Signals have the liveliest recollections of generally very happy periods of service with the Indian Signal Corps in Peace and in War. Those who have served with the Indian Signal Corps are unstinted in their admiration for the Indian Signalman of all ranks. A copy of THE WIRE will be posted regularly to the Editor of THE SIGNALMAN. It is hoped THE SIGNALMAN will reciprocate with the permission to reprint extracts and extract news therefrom. Signed, Editor, THE WIRE."

and in reply, a message, the text of which follows, was received:—

"Many thanks for the message which will be included in the first issue of THE SIGNALMAN. A copy of THE SIGNALMAN will be forwarded to Editor THE WIRE."

It is understood that THE SIGNALMAN is to commence publication early in 1949, and an effort will be made to extract from its pages any information which will be of interest to readers of THE WIRE.

* * *

The Band of Royal Signals in Hyde Park

For a week at the end of August and the beginning of September the Corps Band was playing in Hyde Park, and opportunity was taken to go and see how Mr. J. L. Judd and his men were getting on. It was a dull rather windy afternoon, and there were perhaps only some two hundred people listening, but the band reported a very great concourse of people had heard them on the Sunday afternoon and that the evening performances played to nearly capacity on the week-days. Despite notification of the dates in THE WIRE, it is astonishing that few members of the Royal Signals go to listen to the band, or if they do they fail to make their presence known.

As always, the band were in excellent form and their playing was on this particular occasion very much appreciated by all who heard them.

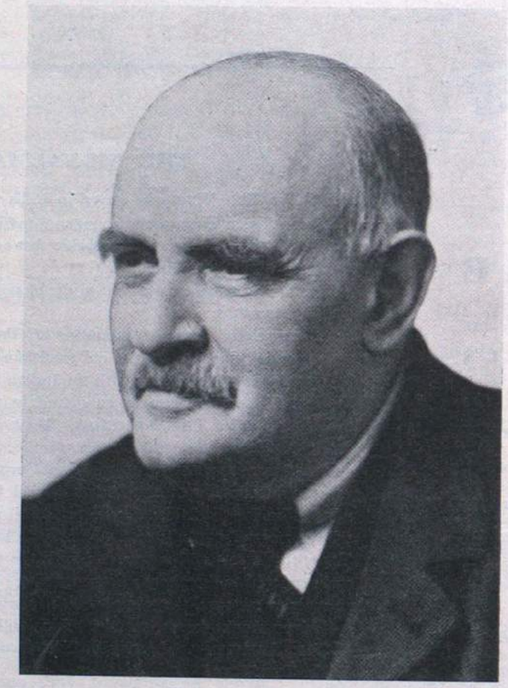
A

Colonel J. Waley Cohen

C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D.

ON 12th July, 1948, by the very sudden death of Colonel J. Waley Cohen (affectionately known to many of his Army friends as "Koko"), the Corps lost one of its original and one of its keenest members. At the end of his war service in 1945 he had held a Commission for over 50 years, and he wore more than a dozen medal ribbons.

Born in 1874 and educated at Clifton and Merton College, Oxford, Waley Cohen joined the Queen's Westminster Rifle Volunteers in 1893. He was at once attracted to signalling and on the outbreak of the South African War he volunteered for service with the City of London Imperial Volunteers, in which he initially served as a signal officer. Later he became Brigade Signalling Officer (then the current title) of 21st Infantry Brigade. He was mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps.



From 1902 until 1914 Waley Cohen remained on the active list of the Queen's Westminster Rifles although for the greater part of that time he was seconded for duty as Brigade Signalling Officer of the 4th London Infantry Brigade (the famous Grey Brigade). He left that job on becoming Second-in-Command of the Q.W.R. in 1913.

He went to France with the 1st Battalion as Second-in-Command in November, 1914, and remained as such until late in 1915 when he went to the 18th Infantry Brigade as Brigade Signalling Officer; from then until the end of the war he continued to serve with R.E. Signals, and in 1916 he was awarded the D.S.O. for his work in the second battle of the Somme. In 1918, in preparation for the 1919 offensive, he was given 200 men and sent to the South of France to provide signal communications for the R.A.F. It is interesting to note that this was the beginning of Air Formation Signals. His knowledge of the French and his ability with their language was probably the reason for his subsequent appointment as C.S.O. in Paris. In this capacity he was entirely responsible in 1919 for the communications of the Peace Conference at Versailles and, after keeping all lines clear for the announcement, he personally transmitted the messages informing King George V and other important addressees that the Peace Treaty had been signed. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

Later in 1919 he went to the Air Ministry to advise on the provision of signals for the Royal Air Force, and at this time he was made a C.M.G. In 1921 he became the D.C.S.O., London District, and he played a prominent part in the formation and training of the Royal Corps of Signals units in the re-raised Territorial Army. The organisation of communications during the General Strike in 1926 necessitated a long period of whole time service. In 1926 he was appointed C.B.E.

In 1928 he was made Honorary Colonel of the 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals, T.A., and he held this appointment until 1934. He was then given the Honorary Colonelcy of the Lines of Communication Signals, S.R., which he held until his death. He took an active part in the training of both these units and he supported all their various activities.

During the early part of 1939 the War Office approached Colonel Waley Cohen no fewer than three times to ascertain whether he would be willing to serve in a Staff or Signals capacity if war was declared. As he had served in 1938 on a committee in connection with the air defence of London he refused all offers of other jobs outside the Corps when war was declared. Unfortunately he was 65½ years of age in September, 1939, and after some time he was reluctantly resigned to the fact that he was considered over age for a Staff or Signals appointment. In 1940, therefore, he undertook to become the Army Welfare Officer for Bedfordshire. After a short time he became the Command Welfare Officer at Eastern Command, and he held this appointment until the end of the war. Latterly his responsibilities were increased by the absorption of South Eastern Command by Eastern Command. Many regimental officers who served in Eastern Command during the recent war will have reason to remember with gratitude the Colonel and his welfare activities; it is said that no Royal Signals Unit or the smallest sub-Unit in Signals was ever refused welfare assistance in Eastern Command. In fact, there were occasions when Royal Signals Units with enterprising officers stationed outside the boundaries of Eastern Command received rewards for their enterprise!

He was devoted to the Corps until his death and he took a jealous pride in all its activities. His reminiscences included stories of subalterns (most of whom are now General Officers) and their ability to learn morse under his instruction. Although the Corps was his main and lifelong interest he somehow found time for many other activities: a member of the London Stock Exchange since 1895, a liveryman of the Drapers' Company, a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, a life member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Royal Horticultural Society.

In the late 1920s Waley Cohen went to Australia for the first time. He made an extensive tour and became so enamoured of the country and its people that he bought a farm in Western Australia. He returned on several occasions for long periods and only later developments in his life altered his plan finally to settle there. As a result of this visit he became interested in the Fairbridge Farm School's emigration scheme and he remained an active worker on its behalf until shortly before his death.

For a layman he had what must be the almost unique experience of being a member of three solar eclipse expeditions. He went first to a total solar eclipse visible in 1926 at Benkoelen in Sumatra. He went as an extra observer enabling an additional instrument to be operated, and he secured successful spectra of the flash spectrum. He also helped in the general work of the eclipse camp at Fort Marlborough, which was an old British fort handed over to the Dutch when the British and Dutch settlements in Sumatra and Malabar were exchanged. He enjoyed the eclipse experience thoroughly and he volunteered to help on two subsequent occasions. In Siam, for an eclipse in 1929, he made some preliminary explorations for a suitable site for a camp while on his way back from Australia. Later at the camp at Pattani his military experience and wide connections in the outside world were of great assistance in many matters of organisation and administration, and his presence enabled an extra instrument to be set up. Similarly he took an active part in preparing to observe an eclipse in 1932 at Memphrimagog in Canada. His wholehearted support of the many aspects of the expeditions and the work he undertook on his own initiative on behalf of them and the individual members were typical examples of his approach to his many activities.

As a hobby, perhaps connected in some way with his Signal training, he made a study of Bradshaw's British Railway Guide and the history of the railways of Britain. His knowledge was so complete that no man under his command or in his employ could unjustifiably make the railways an excuse for unpunctuality.

He was a charitable and simple man. He was generous with his time and money, often to the exclusion of his own personal comfort and convenience, giving assistance wherever he thought a case deserved it.

During the early part of the 1939-45 war Mrs. Waley Cohen and he devoted the major part of their house in Bedford for use as a hostel for Women's Services. One thousand six hundred and seventy-five girls were given beds during this period.

All people who knew the Colonel had a great affection and respect for him, his enormous capacity for work and his driving power. He was the most generous hearted of men and when he gave a tongue-lashing (as he sometimes did) it did not disguise the essential kindness of his nature. A life spent in the service of others will be a lasting memory and inspiration to all who came in contact with him.

* * *

2nd GUARDS BRIGADE GOES TO MALAYA

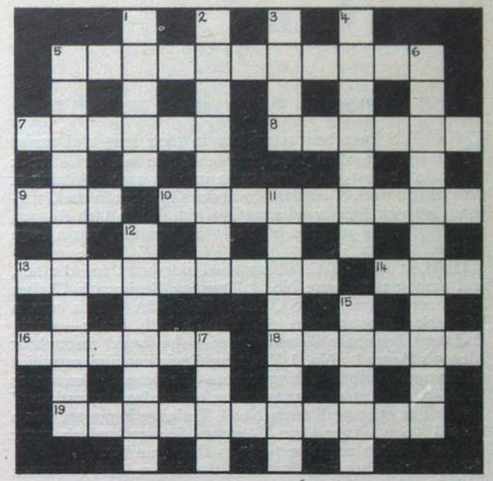
On Saturday, 4th September, a large number of Londoners witnessed their march to Waterloo Station and the departure of two Battalions of the Guards.

With an almost direct contrast in lack of ceremony and with practically no one to see them off, the Guards Brigade Signal Squadron slipped out of Pirbright Camp *en route* to Southampton to embark in H.M.T. *Empire Trooper*.

They had mobilised at Canterbury with the help of Eastern Command Signal Regiment and on the fifth day of mobilisation had moved to Pirbright. There, after embarkation leave, they assembled, completed their packing and preparation.

Crossword No. 2

composed by J. Riley



ACROSS

5. Half the Walkie Talkie.
7. My friend consumed.
8. The gun loses its head and tail.
9. Hardly a writing desk.
10. Often called for in canteen. 4, 5.
13. Our Lady.
14. Tennis term.
16. Seen on the line.
18. Song of —.
19. The Sapper becomes docile.

DOWN

1. Turnabout in spelling. Turnabout in action.
2. Small planet.
3. Taking the —.
4. Two to every boat race.
5. An essential component of radio.
6. Wireless waves do.
11. Meditate.
12. Highest ecclesiastical rank.
15. A means to an end.
17. Often climbed or obtained in battle.

Solution to Crossword No. 1

	B		A		B		T		I		C	
C	O	N	T	R	O	V	E	R	S	I	A	L
	D		O		R		A		S		N	
D	I	A	M	O	N	D		B	U	L	L	Y
	L		I		E		D		E		I	
B	E	A	C	H		L	O	W	D	I	V	E
	S				B		G				E	
O	S	C	I	N	E	S		C	A	N	A	L
	W		C		D		M		S		B	
P	O	L	E	S		R	I	C	H	A	R	D
	M		B		B		T		P		O	
L	A	T	I	N	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N
	N		N		T		S		T		D	

Home Stations

The Army ran a Fun Fair

SIGNALS have had many jobs in their long and varied history, but when the Army ran a fun fair at Catterick Camp in August the Corps came into its own. Aiming at providing a week of entertainment for all troops in the Garrison, Catterick Fair lasted a week—from 9th to 14th August, and despite the vagaries of Yorkshire weather, was a huge success.

Units in the S.T.C. all supplied sideshows for the fair, and among these were No. 1 Training Regiment's Chelsea Pensioner (played by S.Q.M.S. Kendrick). This was a laughable demonstration of drill in bath chairs—which, doddered Pensioner Kendrick, are to be issued throughout Monty's Army ! No. 1 Training Regiment also mystified fair crowds with a talking robot—affectionately known as Eros—which displayed an uncanny knowledge of questioners' ages. The other stall from No. 1 Training Regiment was a special "Send Your Own Telegram Service," which many visitors used to send greetings to their families.

No. 2 Training Regiment kept the masses from starvation with hot dogs—fried sausage and bun sandwiches—and in addition ran a rifle gallery to test the accuracy of customers' shooting.

Pony rides and a mammoth slide were handled by No. 3 Training Regiment, and No. 4 Training Regiment boasted an old time "Try Your Strength" machine, which proved very popular. No. 5 Training Regiment used a jeep and some ingenious wiring to arrange a "Driving Test." When the controls were operated, the driver had a given time to apply his brakes to avoid hitting an imaginary obstacle.

The newest Regiment in the S.T.C.—No. 7 Selection Regiment—supplied a gaily decorated stall, which combined an Aunt Sally with the popular "Roll a Penny," seen at many civilian fairs. Pride and joy of the show was Fanny Adams —a beautiful pin-up painted on a mirror, which suffered in the high winds later in the week.

National Service Officer Training Wing, School of Signals —formerly Royal Signals O.C.T.U.—specialised in darts, with a new angle. Cigarettes were prizes, and the stall was crowded during the week with unhappy smokers.

School of Signals thought up a novel way to sell beer at a profit and constructed an ingenious windmill, on which customers backed the colour they fancied. H.Q., School of Signals Publications Branch brought their photographer along and as the official fair photographer did a roaring trade in snapshot souvenirs of the fair.

Signals Theatre were well to the fore, and produced a typical old time melodrama, "The Squire's Revenge," which was written and produced by R.T.O. Cary. Nightly shows filled the theatre tent, and an amusing adjunct was the comic band which toured the fairground to bring the crowds in.

Many visitors agreed that the fair was a great improvement on the previous year's event, and Signals contributed in no small way to its success.

(The Editor has since heard that the fair showed a profit of over £600.)

* * *

Signals Association Badges

Signals Association Buttonhole Badges (or Brooch pattern for ex-A.T.S. members) can be obtained from the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or from your Local Branch. Price 2/6. Cash with order.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Salisbury

August

XIV Olympiad. The Commanding Officer has received a bronze medallion from the President of the Committee for Equestrian Events in the XIV Olympiad in recognition of the telecommunications provided by personnel of the Aldershot F.S.S. Troop, assisted by 146 Line Troop and linemen loaned from 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment for the Equestrian Events held at Aldershot in August, 1948. It is proposed to have this medallion suitably mounted and retained as a treasured trophy in the Officers' Mess at Figsbury Barracks. The medallion bears tribute to the hard work and long hours put in by the linemen before and during the Equestrian Events.

Annual Inspection. On 24th August, 1948, the Annual Administrative Inspection of Figsbury Barracks was carried out by Colonel Mc. M. Keane, C.B.E., Commander 26 Engineer Group, T.A. He was accompanied by Chief Commander C. W. Hull, O.B.E. (A.D.A.T.S., H.Q., Salisbury Plain District), and Major E. H. N. Smith, M.C., R.E. (Brigade Major 26 Engineer Group, T.A.).

Colonel Keane inspected all available personnel on parade and then carried out a tour of the barracks. He expressed his appreciation of the standard of the sitting-rooms and of the A.T.S. accommodation generally. The Inspecting Officer and his assistant had lunch in the Officers' Mess and carried on with the inspection in the afternoon. Chief Commander Hull did the detailed inspection of the A.T.S. accommodation, kits and documents. Major Smith inspected the Q.M. stores and M.T. in detail.

Promotions. All Ranks congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. H. Beattie, Royal Signals, O.C. Aldershot F.S.S. Troop, on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.), w.e.f. 2/7/46. He started his Army career as an enlisted boy in the Royal Engineers in April, 1909, when he was under 16 years of age.

His steady promotion through the ranks of the Army from boy to Lieutenant-Colonel should make very interesting reading for all National Service men and all regular or prospective regular soldiers. The record provides an excellent incentive to all those who propose to make a career in the Army, and is one of which Lieutenant-Colonel Beattie has every reason to be proud: Attested Boy, Royal Engineers, 20/4/09; posted to ranks as Sapper on attaining 18 years, 20/10/11; Unpaid Lance-Corporal, 1/4/13; Paid Lance-Corporal, 1/4/13; Acting Sergeant, 15/7/15; Acting C.Q.M.S., 4/9/16; transferred to Royal Signals as Lance-Sergeant, 1/5/20; Acting Sergeant, 19/6/20; Sergeant, 12/3/21; C.Q.M.S. (F. of S.), 23/9/22; Q.M.S. (F. of S.), 20/7/23; W.O.I (R.S.M.), 21/11/29; appointed Lieutenant (I.P.C.), 1/4/36; Captain (I.P.C.), 1/4/42; Major (I.P.C.), 1/7/46; Major (T.O.T.), 26/2/46; Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.), 2/7/46.

Things We Would Like to Know. How did Major Gray acquire the "Old Rectory" as an Officer's Quarter? Can he advise brother Officers whose feet are now sore? Who was the Senior N.C.O. pointing out the North Star to an angelic A.T.S.? This study of the heavenly bodies became all moonshine when somebody switched on the light!

Corrigenda. An error was made in the August issue of THE WIRE, Vol. 2 series, No. 8, page 230. It was stated that Mr. R. H. Tankins, B.E.M., had been employed with Royal Signals, Southern Command, since January, 1942. This should have read 1922. Prior to being employed at Bulford in January, 1922, he was employed on the Command W/T Station from 1920 until joining the Salisbury Plain Troop.

Sergeants' Mess, R.H.Q. Since going to press in August we have had several changes in our midst. In the shape of arrivals, we welcome Sergeant MacGuinness, from B.A.O.R., Sergeant Harding from M.E.L.F., Sergeant Stiles from T.A., Brighton, and S.S.M. Sweeney, of Airborne fame.

We congratulate our late "Schooley," Sergeant Halliwell, on getting his long-awaited posting to the Southern Command School of Drama. We have wired to Sir Lawrence to look to his laurels, as the wonderful speech from "Hamlet," "Tubby or not tubby," given by Sergeant Halliwell, on our last social evening, was a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

We presented the usual christening cup to Shirley Elizabeth, daughter of R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Softly, born on 22nd August. Very many congratulations.

In the way of entertainment, we were very pleased to have the members of the Amesbury Police Force as our guests on a social evening on 27th-28th August. A grand evening was had by all, and the conviviality was so rife that one sergeant was observed to be showing his toughness by letting one S.S.M. stub out cigarette ends on his fingers and literally not turning a hair.

The Sergeants' Mess are battling their way in the hockey field, and with so many ex-India wallahs we boast a very fine team, but up to date we have not been able to beat the rest of the Unit as we have drawn 3—3 twice.

Table tennis is very prominent in our indoor sports, and we are holding a pukka match agin the Officers on 7th September, coupled with a snooker knockout. We are also hoping to have a badminton match when our prowess is more obvious than at present.

It has also been observed of late that the blackberrying season has brought lots more frequenters to the hunting grounds of the Rings. What will we do when the blackberries are finished? Pick anything that is in season!

We hear that the Orderly Room Sergeant, Sergeant Pricky Prime, has been school hunting for his young daughter. Why not put her to the tender mercies of our notable schooley, Sergeant Grant, Pricky? We feel that both parties would benefit.

PORTSMOUTH, I.O.W. AND PORTLAND F.S.S. TROOPS. For these notes, Portsmouth and I.O.W. Troops are being combined. We needed the total 12 men for the recovery of a submarine cable across Southampton Water. The job is finished and now all that is left is the groans of the muscle-bound bodies!

"Life on the ocean," by Pork Chop. "Wot a life! I join the Army to keep my two feet on the good old terra firma, as some foreign bloke calls it, and what happens? They sends us on the briny—a jolly sight more than the Portsmouth Navy! Not in big luxury ships or anything respectable like that, but in an old barge which some Thames bargee had long since dumped on the scrap heap.

"The first day was alright. We set off bright and early full of the joys of 'spring' in the submarine cable lighter *Britannic* from Portsmouth. We wended our way slowly to Calshot, on Southampton Water, where the job had to be done. Well, the grapnel was thrown over and we started to drag. All day we went up and down in the four dimensions, sometimes all at once, searching for this cable where it was to be on the maps, but we did not get a bite. There we were lying on the deck all day, just like being on the sands at Blackpool without sand. This submarine cable business was a real 'cinch'—that's what we thought!

"Then, dragging where the cable was not supposed to be, according to the chart, we got it and all the joys of spring and all the other seasons disappeared, like the beer from the troops' canteen on pay night. Within half-an-hour we looked like very muddy versions of Old King Neptune that had been tarred and feathered and smelled like something that the sea had thrown out when finished with and left on the beach in the sun for a couple of months.

"'Waterloo Road' Monkhouse was leading songster in the hold with the flaking party, while the 'I.O.W. Chindits,' Wallace and Hulme, along with Messrs. Moore, Boucher and Hall ably guided this writhing monster from the sea until it reached the bowels of the barge.

"All feeding arrangements were in the hands of Sergeant 'Paddy' Fitzpatrick who rather rocked the boat a bit one day by slinging up cold kippers and fatty pork pie for dinner! I ask you, 'When the wind's a-blowing and it's murky overhead,' that is not the best diet, is it? Still, we stuck it well and, doing just twice as much 'slave' labour as any other section in this man's Army, finished up bronzed, tired but thoroughly fit."

Who said the present generation could not work hard? The men in these Troops have proved that when necessary they can work as hard as old-timers.

Major G. Wray, M.M., was the technical boss and Captain J. L. McIlvride was chief whip wielder for the slave gang. In fact, after 12 hours' drumming the 20 odd tons of cable on the dockside they tell me he lost his voice for three days because of too much verbal encouragement. Still, that gave most of us a break, anyway, so why complain?

ALDERSHOT F.S.S. TROOP. We are relaxing after three months of hustle and bustle on the preparations for telecommunications for the various Equestrian Events of the XIV Olympiad. Our efforts appear to have been well worth while judging by the many pats on the back and the "Well done, Signals" from all sources. We take this opportunity of thanking all those of the 6th Airborne Divisional Signals and 146 Line Troop who assisted in making these shows such a success.

We publish herewith the history to date of our third oldest soldier:—No. 2306082 Signalmart (Local C.S.M.) Brown, J. Born August, 1886, present age 62. Enlisted R.E.s as a boy 1902. Served with "K" Telegraph Company from 1904-1914. Discharged to pension June, 1925. Re-enlisted in Royal Signals (S.R.), September, 1939, still serving. Total service to date, 32 years. Medals, M.B.E., 1914 Star, British War 1918, Victory, Defence 1939-1945, General Service 1939-1945, and Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Mentioned in despatches, 1914-1918 War. John Brown has probably the proud distinction of being the only serving member of the old "K" Telegraph Company.

C.S.M. J. Brown

PORTLAND TROOP. With the exodus of Group 76 we are now thoroughly depleted, and in fact the Civilian Staff outnumber the Military Personnel by one. The civilians are, by the way, in case anyone should remember them: Messrs. Groves, Butcher and Watts (operators), Kinson (ex Gibraltar and Malta, electrician fitter) and Bartlett (lineman), all ex-Signals.

We are pleased to see Sergeant Slater become a member of the Sergeants' Mess at last and hope that he will remain with us for some time to come.

The Troop had a surprise visit from ex-Sergeant Jones (with the Troop for four years during the war), who is on holiday here. This resulted in a minor reunion of ex-wartime members of the Troop, when a good time was had.

R.H.Q. A.T.S. On 24th August, 1948, we had our Annual Administrative Inspection, which was carried out (on the A.T.S. side) by our A.D.A.T.S. from Salisbury Plain District, Chief Commander C. W. Hull, O.B.E. All auxiliaries are to be congratulated on the fine show that was put up in every respect.

The Military Personnel of this Unit and the A.T.S. are getting together at last, and it is a very usual thing to see the fellows and girls tripping the light fantastic in the N.A.A.F.I. every Monday and Wednesday night, also enjoying various spontaneous turns given by members. May these "get-togethers" continue.

As stated in the last issue, toy-making for the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair is still going strong, and some very weird and wonderful efforts have been produced.

We congratulate Subaltern Roe on her promotion to Junior Commander, although we are very sorry she has been posted to Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment as a result. Our loss is certainly their gain. We are are also sorry that our Orderly Room corporal, Corporal Newman, has decided to go in for recruiting, also our famous military documents clerk, Private Daines, is being cross-posted to London. We shall miss them both very much, both from the Orderly Room and from our social and sports life.

In the sports section of our community life we are still battling on with hockey, tennis, badminton and rounders. We received our *coup de grâce* in rounders, when Command Headquarters Signal Troop, Wilton, knocked us out of the knockout tournament. Congratulations, and here's to our next meeting at net ball.

ALDERSHOT DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP A.T.S. In the past month we have extended a hand of welcome to Subaltern D. C. Harris, our new D.S.O., who has recently returned from H.Q. B.A.O.R., and has taken charge of the A.T.S. Signals here in Aldershot, though, of course, our O.C. Troop is still Captain Judge.

Some weeks ago we regretfully bade farewell to Subaltern V. Leach, who is now serving in Germany. We send her our very best wishes and wish her luck in her new Unit.

Romance has been blooming in the Troop this summer and we wish every happiness to Sergeant Hopton (née Kidner) who was married to Sergeant Desmond Hopton, of the Royal Army Dental Corps on 17th July, the bridesmaid being our Private Pat Stone. Mrs. Hopton has now taken up her duties as a housewife.

We also wish happiness for the future to Sergeant Doris Roe (née Woollard), who was married on 1st August to Sergeant Frederick Roe, of the Paratroop Regiment. Sergeant Doris Roe has been on Aldershot Military Exchange for the past five years (surely a record for the A.T.S.?) and risen from private to sergeant. It is with many regrets that we see her leave for a posting to the T.A. in Wanstead. She is hoping to join her husband in Austria next year.

What is the glamour about the Parachute Regiment? It must be those red berets. Private Joyce Hawkins (née Southard) was married to Private Hawkins, of the Parachute Regiment, on 21st August. We wish them both the best of luck.

We have recently welcomed two new N.C.O.s from Didcot, namely, Corporal Eileen Edward-Jones, known to us as "Paddy," and Lance-Corporal Dorothy Fairbrother.

The Troop have enjoyed many games of net ball in the past months against "B" Company A.T.S. and our "rivals," the G.P.O. switchboard operators from Aldershot Exchange. Most recent of these matches was played on 25th August versus "B" Company, who won with 21 goals to 18. We hope to play them at table tennis on 1st September, and four of us will be competing in the Individual Aldershot District Tournament on 6th September.

We certainly do not lack entertainment in Aldershot, as the town itself boasts five cinemas, one music hall and a theatre which has an excellent repertory company. In the past few weeks they have put on such plays as Somerset Maugham's "Jane," Patrick Hamilton's "Rope," this week "Tony Draws a Horse," and next week Gordon Harker as guest artiste in his old part in "Saloon Bar."

On 26th August Subaltern Harris took eight of us to witness the Passing-out Parade of the new A.T.S. recruits at the Training Centre in Guildford, with the Band of the Parachute Regiment playing for them (those red berets again!). It only lasted 30 minutes but was an impressive sight.

THE STRANGER

A stranger, alone in a strange town, am I;
Stark, leafless trees against an unfriendly sky,
And a chill wind moaning down the empty street
Proclaim my loneliness. No more do I meet
Kind, friendly faces, answering smiles,
For these are long unending miles
Away. There are only my footsteps on the cobbled way,
Beneath the sky's unquiet clouded grey.
The black crouched shadow of the city wall
Rises from the dark; sounds of the church bells fall
On the cold damp air; from the castle's high rampart
The moon strikes sullen gleams from the moat's black heart.
Alone am I; these rows of barred and bolted doors,
These people passing without a pause,
Intent on their own affairs, and hurrying home,
Make me feel my loneliness. No welcome
Is here. The clock tower looms forbidding against a stormy sky.
A stranger, alone in a strange town, am I.

DIDCOT DETACHMENT A.T.S. Congratulations to Lance-Corporals Fairbrother and Kelsall on their promotions. We wish them luck.

Didcot Depot Sports. This was definitely the event of the month and, in spite of the fact that it had been raining for a week, it cleared up as the great day dawned and everyone looked forward with great anticipation to the coming proceedings. Although the Signals did not take part in any of the sports, they were a great help on the side-shows and stalls. Corporal Hanlon was in charge of "Try your luck" stall, and many others were flogging or selling fancy paper hats and balloons and, needless to say, the whole thing was a great success.

Entertainments. From the show at the latest dance, which most of the Section attended, I would say that the Entertainments Committee were definitely suffering from lack of support. Lance-Corporal Fairbrother seems to have been their mainstay, but unfortunately she was posted on promotion.

Last, but not least, we had a visit from "Monty"; no, not the Field Marshal Montgomery—Private Monty Gilbert, an ex-Didcot Wallah now serving with B.A.O.R. Her very attractive beret caused a great deal of comment, and the Civilians as well as the Military agree that the latter look much smarter on the A.T.S.

COMMAND H.Q. A.T.S. TROOP.

KEEP YOUR TEMPER

There's nothing that can make a day
More full of pain or discontent
Than when you let your temper fray,
And say harsh things you never meant.

Though disappointments come along,
In things both great and small,
Others may be in the wrong,
But bad temper never helps at all.

By you it's soon forgotten, yet,
If you have hurt them, other folk
Will find it harder to forget
Those foolish, hasty words you spoke.

Although you may apologise,
That does not always make amends;
You'll teach yourself, if you are wise,
To keep your temper and your friends.

BICESTER A.T.S. TROOP.

You see Signals Girls where e'er you may go,
But none so cheery as at Bicester 260.
You never see them without a bright smile,
Singing and joking with you all the while.
And when they're out walking their troubles they hide,
As briskly they walk with what you call pride.
They are proud of the stars they wear on their dress,
And without their Jimmy they'd be in a mess.
By him you distinguish the Signal Corps,
He has probably been through many a war,
And when you see him upon their chest,
He is always shining and looking his best.
So if you happen to come our way,
You can be sure you'll enjoy your stay,
And if you want things done pretty snappy,
We will do our best to make you happy.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY AT WIMBLEDON STADIUM

IT is perhaps not generally known that Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., is Director of Welfare of the Army Cadet Force.

The giving of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display before the dirt track riding at Wimbledon Stadium was an occasion of which he took advantage to organise a collection in aid of the welfare funds of the Army Cadet Force Association. The collection was taken by members of No. 2 County of London Cadet Battalion, which being affiliated to No. 23 (S.) Corps Signals at Fulham House, is one of the few, if not the only Cadet Battalion, who wear the uniform of Royal Signals.

As it was a hot night the display team were in shirt sleeves, and looked very smart with white shirts over their normal blue breeches and boots. They gave a most admirable display, including several individual items which had not been seen by the writer before.

The 1948 team seem to have got backward riding to a finer art than in any previous year. Certainly their control of the Triumph Tiger impressed even the most hardened speedway fans.

General Nalder informs us that the sum realised for the Welfare Fund of the Army Cadet Force Association was £92.

Duffle Bag

by **Peter Matthews**

WITH the hall full to capacity, the lights go down and another session of "Duffie Bag" is on the air. The Artie Shaw Orchestra is playing the opening bars of the theme tune, "The Glider," and the compere announces that this is another programme of records played at your request.

No, this is not a broadcasting studio, but the Music Room of No. 4 Training Regiment's Education Centre. Alternate Tuesdays, the boys and girls from Shaiba Lines gather here to listen to their favourite bands and music being played. The idea is to follow the lines of a radio programme to a high degree, complete with a very able assistant changing the records, while the compere introduces each request over the microphone. Not for No. 4 Training Regiment is there the normal "name the record and put it on" technique, but rather the smooth confident friendliness of the professional "disc-jockey."

The idea was the brain-child of Sergeants Pat Foster and Brian Chambers, and was started almost two years ago. The original was, of course, the popular American Forces Network feature that went on the air each night to play the request tunes of the troops stationed in Germany during the war.

More than a hundred requests are received by the producer each week, and these come from the troops at No. 4 Training Regiment as well as the trainees at A.T.S. Signal Training Wing. Of these requests, about twenty are played at each session, making up the 90-minute programme. They are a selection from many tastes—one moment it's Tommy Dorsey, while the next it may be Thomas Beecham. It might be a Bach Toccata followed by Phil Harris introducing his Dark Town Poker Club. The programme caters for all of its "fans," and there is no laid-down policy, except that a good cross section of the music requested is played at each session.

A.T.S. Private Moira Desmond, of Glasgow, hadn't been long in Catterick, but she thought that this was a "good idea, and I shall certainly try to get here for every programme." Similar was the opinion of Margaret Boyle, from Shrewsbury: "I think that this is an original and entertaining way of putting on a record programme, although I do think it is inclined to be rather crowded," said Private Boyle.

Producer-compere Pat Foster was of the opinion that this was only a start of something bigger and better. "We do try to give the people the sort of music that they want to hear, instead of a set programme chosen by the organiser," he said. "We select, from the hundred or so requests, what we think is a fairly representative programme," he went on, "and publish the list a few days prior to the session. Then they know whether their request is going to be played at that programme, and along they come to hear it. If they aren't so lucky they still come along, because every programme is bound to have some of their favourites in it."

On the question of supplies of records, Sergeant Foster revealed that there was a system of exchange and loan in Catterick among the swing fans and such.

Requests that are not in the Unit's record library are borrowed from a loyal supporter, or from another Unit, for the occasion. "We are not often stumped for a recording," said Foster.

For the initiative of these two N.C.O.s there is the reward that they are giving pleasure to a great number of people each week. This is a first-class way of giving them the music that they want to hear, whether it is classical, swing, opera, Dixie-land, or just the usual dance tune of the day.

As the programme came to an end with the Glenn Miller Orchestra playing "Slumber Song," we left Duffle Bag, with its "Studio A" atmosphere, until the next programme in a fortnight's time.

THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

After a regrettable absence from THE WIRE, we cannot hope to comment on so many past events, arrivals and departures. However, we could not have chosen a more eventful month for our re-entry. The annual sports meeting, with Colonel G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., as Chief Field Judge, was an extremely successful affair on which a great deal of enthusiasm was expended with excellent results.

The keener athletes had been practising in the evenings and many a muscle softened in the lecture room had cried in agony at this harsh treatment. The big day was unbelievably bright (yes, we are still in Catterick!). There were three teams—M.T., Signals and Administrative Wings. No records were set up or even approached, but a good showing in times and distances proved that we have the talent. Outstanding performances were the Three Miles, won by Sergeant Mudge for the second year in succession (that will show the youngsters, George) and Captain Holifield's 440 Yards and 880 Yards wins. There is not space to tell of the long fought duel in the High Jump, how the A.T.S. turned out to take their share in making the day a success, or of the catering arrangements and the vast quantities of food consumed. Mention must, however, be made of the Old Soldiers' Race. After a great deal of haggling about Boys' Service counting or not, we saw combined centuries of service jostling for a handicap start. Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., took off his jacket and joined Colonel G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., the Chief Instructor, but, in spite of the Brigadier's big start, Major (T.O.M.) King broke the tape with Captain (Q.M.) Brandon, Sergeant Carr and the Chief Instructor hot on his heels.

The outcome of the afternoon's sport was a draw between Signals Wing and the M.T. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Power, and lastly the Challenge Cup was received jointly by the two team captains.

At the No. 2 Training Regiment Sports we entered a team for the Open Medley, and our success in this race was due to Captain A. Holifield, M.C., who, running the final 880 yards, gained 80 yards on his leading opponent to make a brilliant win for the School.

Reorganisation. There is a complete reorganisation in the School. The future Wings will be:—

Royal Signals Wing: Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. I. E. Mozley, Royal Signals, incorporating the former Signals and Tactics Wing. The Wing includes a Workshop Troop.

All Arms Wing: Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Stuart-Usher, Royal Signals, replacing the former Regimental Wing.

National Service Officers' Training Wing: Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Gardiner, Royal Signals, incorporating the former O.C.T.U. This Wing includes an M.T. Squadron which will provide transport for the whole of the School of Signals.

Demonstration. A detachment under the command of Captain H. D. Chappell, and accompanied by S.Q.M.S. Banham, went to Camberley to demonstrate modern vehicles and equipment to the Officer-Cadets. The photograph shows part of the detachment with the vehicles and number 10 sets.

Inspections. The Unit was inspected by General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. He was accompanied by Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C.

Catterick Fair. The Fair was held from the 9th of August to the 14th. Q.M.S. Pettifer and Sergeant Jenkins ran a roulette type stall with bottles of beer and cider as prizes. Another School of Signals show was a children's jeep ride, which was well patronised.

Sergeants' Mess. It is with genuine regret that we bid S.S.M. "Doughy" Baker goodbye as he leaves us for Civvy Street. S.S.M. Baker, although a member of the Royal Artillery, is known to thousands of the Corps as an enthusiastic Mess member and organiser of functions, and has been in the School for more years than we can trace. The Mess is presenting him with a clock and the members are giving an appropriate tankard. The best of luck, "Doughy."

A number of outings have been organised by Sergeant Clarke. The trips were to Whitley Bay and were enjoyed by everybody, but it was always a losing fight against the weather.

We heard recently of an N.C.O. who, walking past a sentry box, found the sentry curled asleep like a little rosebud. He roused this 13-week soldier and was informed "Something hit me, sir!" to which the biting reply came "Oh, and I suppose that it leaned your rifle against the wall, too!"

"JAYNO"

The Cadre of No. 2 Squadron, No. 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals

No. 7 SELECTION REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

Five thousand ex-civilians have passed through our hands up to date and we can shortly look forward to the day when all the recruits in the Corps were taught their stuff in our own A.B.T.U. We sometimes heave a sigh and wonder where they all come from and if the population can possibly contain such swarms of 18-year-olds. Some people must have had plenty of time on their hands in the late twenties!

You can sometimes find a faint spark in our eyes, though, and we keep our weekly dances at Newbiggin Hall well up to standard.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are indefatigable in dishing out hospitality, and have just concluded another gala dance in the Gym attended by half Catterick Garrison, and made whoopee.

These indispensable flashes of humour still abound, praise be, and the latest still has us chuckling. Some of our barrack rooms are long and narrow and have a door at each end. On the latest input day a harassed Troop N.C.O. led his new Troop of civvies into one of these rooms to dump their suitcases and then led them off to draw kit. When they came back they entered by the other door and were told to change.

One bright lad shouldered his kit and, muttering something about going to his room, went out, wandered solemnly down the passage, turned into the same room via the other door, sat down on the same bed he had just vacated, and with a pleased smile proceeded to change. Exit N.C.O. via the roof!

Incidentally, did you know that it is possible to fire a Bren from the left shoulder using the right eye, and put a burst into the number above the target? We assure you it can be done.

On Friday, 6th August, the ladies of the Regiment assembled to say farewell to Mrs. Straight, who has always had a close association with us and who will be leaving with the Brigadier next month. She will be much missed as she has been so kind to many of us.

On Wednesday, 11th August, we held our Regimental Sports. The weather, which for weeks past had been the usual "Catterick Special," relented, and although the sun retired behind the clouds, the day was very pleasant. Considering that some of the trainees taking part in the sports had only five days' service, the enthusiasm and sportsmanship of the participants was outstanding. A lot of hard work had been put in by the organisers and officials, and when Mrs. Beeton, the C.O.'s wife, presented the prizes a good day had been spent by both athletes and spectators.

The highlight of the afternoon was when the R.S.M., in a vain endeavour to emulate Barney Ewell, did about six somersaults instead of completing the course in the Old Soldiers' Race. This event, incidentally, was won by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton, and the family completed the double when his little daughter, Maureen, won the Under Sevens' Race at a terrific turn of speed.

The full results of the meeting are as follows:

100 yards.—Winner, Lance-Corporal Drinkwater (2 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Watson (3 Squadron).
220 yards.—Winner, Lance-Corporal Drinkwater (2 Squadron); runner-up, Corporal Oakes (3 Squadron).
440 yards.—Winner, Signalman Guggenheim (1 Squadron); runner-up, Corporal Oakes (3 Squadron).
880 yards.—Winner, Lance-Corporal Bottomley (2 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Thompson (2 Squadron).
1 mile.—Winner, Signalman P. Smith (2 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Yule (1 Squadron).
3 miles.—Winner, Signalman Yule (1 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Hay (1 Squadron).
7 mile walk.—Winner, Lance-Corporal Latham (1 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Hardy (2 Squadron).
High jump.—Winner, Lance-Corporal Andrews (3 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Hodges (1 Squadron).
Long jump.—Winner, Signalman Turnpenny (2 Squadron); runner-up, Lance-Corporal Bean (2 Squadron).
Hop, step and jump.—Winner, Signalman Turnpenny (2 Squadron); runner-up, Second Lieutenant Williams (1 Squadron).
Shot put.—Winner, Sergeant Barnes (1 Squadron); runner-up, Second Lieutenant Williams (1 Squadron).

(*continued at foot of col. 2, page 326*)

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Blacon Camp, Chester

September

General. As must be the case in Signals Units all over England at this time of the year, the main topic is Battle Efficiency Tests. These dread words chill the hearts of our brave lads; orders are scanned anxiously to discover the next unwilling victims.

The part of the programme that seems to cause most aversion is the swimming test, encumbered with helmets steel, rifle, boots and ammunition, is nobody's idea of a dip. The evil must be undergone however, and indeed a goodly portion of the Unit have completed the six official tests (and many unofficial ones, too, so I have been informed!)

The more philosophical members of the Regiment look upon it as an afternoon's "ramble," which, after all, is all it is to a fit man.

Arrivals. We have to report the gathering to the fold of S.S.M. Causey, from Austria, and Sergeant Pemberton, who joins us from 42 Infantry Divisional Signals (T.A.) where he was in the capacity of P.S.I. We hope their sojourn with us will be a happy one. Reinforcements have been literally pouring in lately, and the Orderly Room staff are thinking seriously of opening business on Platform 4 on Chester Central.

Departures. Demob has claimed, amongst other lesser lights, one Sergeant Johns, the Sergeants' Mess caterer for longer than most of us care to remember. We feel sure he will find Civvy Street strange, but he would leave us. Demobilisation is claiming, too, quite a goodly few of the stalwarts. Our soccer team, when it finally recovers from its birth pangs, will have the newest of new looks, to name only one aspect of our life affected.

The gaps are being filled, but inadequately. We must, like our forefathers, "Wait and see."

TOMMY TUCKER

Hockey. The Unit hockey team started the season in a blaze of glory, after a trial match which was played on our new pitch. A team was picked which should go a long way in the Army Cup.

Our first victims were the R.A.F. at Hawarden on the evening of 26th August, the result being:—

Signals 9 *v.* R.A.F. 1

The game commenced at 1845 hrs. with hard pressing on both sides. The breakaway came after 15 minutes when the inside-left, Sergeant Essay, crashed the ball into the net to give us the first goal. Then followed a skirmish in the centre of the field, and Corporal Barrett got his stick to a long drive, S.S.M. Mayhew hooked the ball, passed the back and drove hard into the net, our second goal, 18 minutes' play.

The next two minutes' play was controlled very ably by the umpire with much whistle blowing, then out shot F. of S. Galloway so quickly that he fell over himself, but managed to pass across the field to S.S.M. Mayhew who passed on to Sergeant Essay. A quick strike from Sergeant Essay gave us our third goal after 20 minutes. Then followed a rush from the R.A.F., but they were foiled by some tricky work when the Barrett brothers met them at the half-way line. A forward pass to S.S.M. Mayhew, who flew through the defence so quickly that the backs made no attempt at defence, as they could see that the position was hopeless. Goal number four, 23 minutes of play. Five minutes later, Major Sawers appeared from nowhere, swung a pass across the goalmouth, but a bit too far forward for Sergeant Essay to reach. The ball was cleared, but returned almost immediately and put into the net by Sergeant Essay, making our fifth goal after 28 minutes' play. Play until half-time continued to be fast and furious, but no further goals were scored in this half.

The second half started with play fluctuating, Signals having a slight advantage, and our sixth goal coming from S.S.M. Mayhew after seven minutes' play. A smashing shot from the R.A.F. forward was kicked well clear by Scott. The R.A.F. pushed repeatedly, each shot being saved by the goalkeeper. Then came a stinging shot by the R.A.F. centre-forward, which Scott never saw. This was their first goal after 15 minutes of the second half. After 23 minutes of play came a pass from S.S.M. Mayhew. Signalman Palmer stepped up and drove the shot into the net and no one saw it go (30 minutes' play). Palmer again scored to make the eighth goal. Four minutes later S.S.M. Mayhew had the goalkeeper on the ground and just touched the ball into the net. This was the Signal's ninth goal.

At all times during the game the Barrett brothers and Corporal Cray were predominant, and every member of the team at some time did something brilliant.

L.A.J.

MID-WEST DISTRICT SIGNALS. Greetings from Shrewsbury and apologies for the long absence of notes. Your new scribe promises notes every month w.e.f. date.

Goings-on. Our organisation has changed slightly and we now have Major F. P. Johnson to command the detachment. Major Johnson is by no means a stranger to us as he has been, and still is, S.O.II Signals at District. Captain (T.O.M.) Eric Marchant, better known as the "White Ant," now runs the F.S.S. Troop in place of Captain (T.O.T.) Tom Bennett who left us for Milford Haven some months ago. Captain A. L. Maxwell got himself "Y" listed way back in May and now Lieutenant Fred Oakes carries the can for all that Mid-West District Signal Troop does. We were sorry to lose R.S.M. McLaven who left recently for the School of Signals; we wish him all the best. Recent arrivals include Sergeant J. P. Kelly, of 6th Airborne Divisional Signals renown. He has filled the vacancy of Troop Sergeant. As Lines Sergeant we have Sergeant Johnny Johnston (ex 5th Division). Corporal Taffy Egerton pounds the Troop typewriter and Corporal Tim Healey looks after the Troop transport. Lance-Corporal Gardner is one of those chaps who found Civvy Street too dull; he now keeps the Signal Office at District on its toes. Lance-Corporal Nadin helps him out as a switchboard supervisor. Lance-Corporal Mennell recently took over the small detachment at Nesscliffe when Lance-Corporal Wheatley took a smart turn to the right with Group 76.

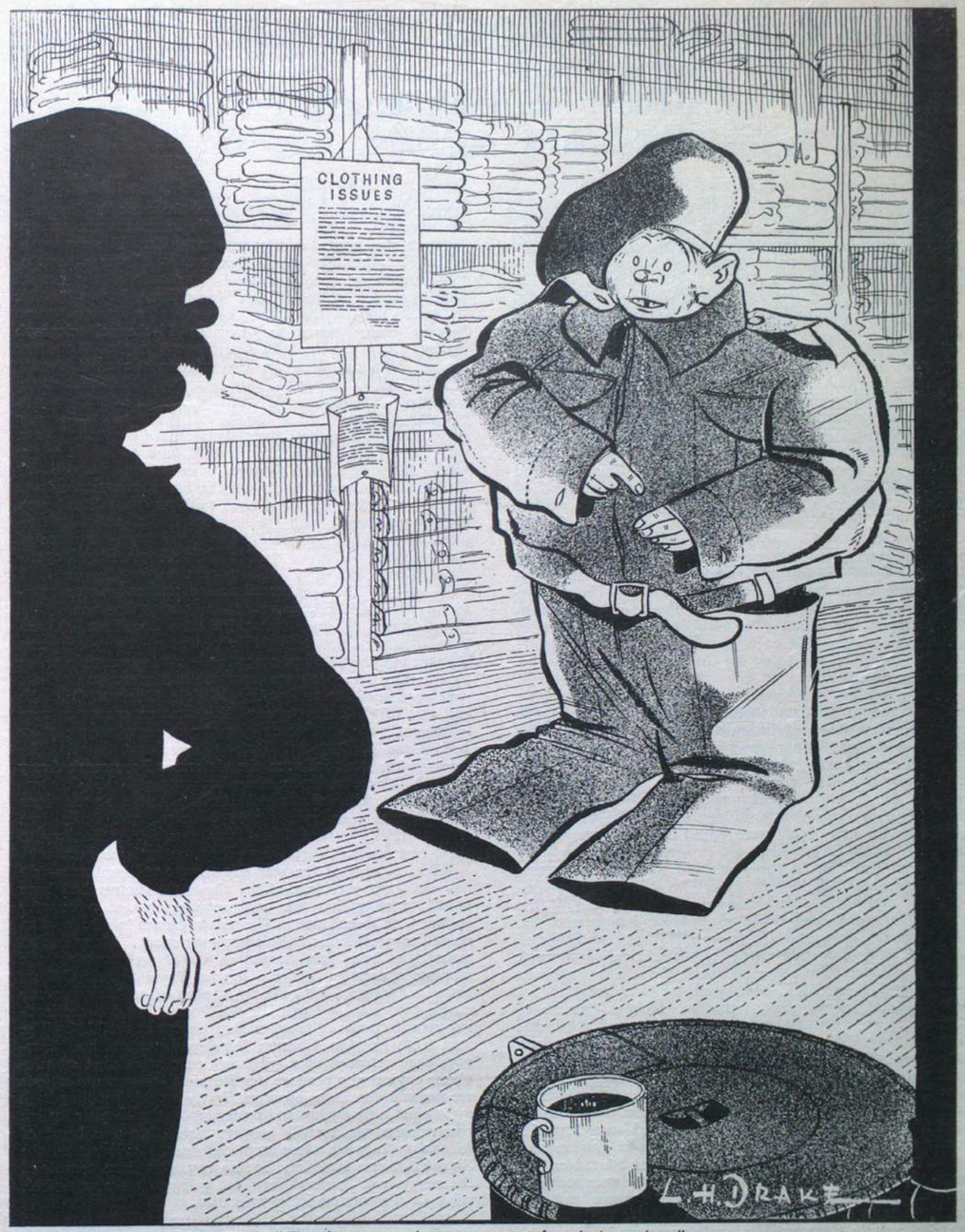
Moves. No, not yet, but we hope to get into Copthorne Barracks "any day" now. Meanwhile, we are content to stay in Mount Camp and make rude faces at any potential squatters.

Physical Jerks. The old P.T.C. assault course was rudely shaken recently when the lads eagerly(?) completed the annual physical efficiency tests. Who said "Roll on next year"?

Cadets. Of the 300 A.C.F./J.T.C. Signal Platoons in the country we have 44 of them to look after. Second-Lieutenant Mel Powell, ably assisted by Sergeants Taffy Ireland and Bill Corfield, spend most of their time visiting them. The standards vary from the "near brilliant" to the "not so hot." By giving extra instruction to the latter we hope to bring them up to scratch. Some of these Platoons are fortunate in having as Signal Officers ex Royal Signals Officers. One of these is Shrewsbury School J.T.C. who had Captain Kenchew up to a few weeks ago. Needless to say they come under the "near brilliant" class. At least 12 of the Platoons have 12 set stations and work regular R/T schedules. The procedure at first tended to be "hammish," but constant monitoring by us has put them on the "straight and narrow." Howlers by the Cadets are inevitable and we hope to reproduce one every month.

Cadet Howler No. 1. Instructor: "What is your name?" Cadet: "Smith, sir." Instructor: "Initials?" Cadet: "B, sir." Instructor: "B for Baker?" Cadet: "No, Brian, sir."

Agony Column. Vine to all ex 5th Indian Divisional Signals. J.P. to 6th Airborne Divisional Signals and 5th Indian Divisional Signals.



"The sleeves are about a quarter of an inch too long"

Trunk Development Scheme (India)

AN ACCOUNT OF WAR-TIME EXPANSION OF INDIA'S TRUNK TELEPHONE NETWORK

IN September, 1939, the outbreak of war found India's telephonic communications in a comparatively undeveloped condition. Commerce was centred around several large cities, communication between which was adequately provided for by the Postal and Telegraph Services. The business public was satisfied with a question asked today and an answer received next week. The occasion seldom, if ever, arose when a business man demanded a conversation with his partner on the other side of this vast country. In any case, what trunk circuits existed could be counted on the fingers of one hand and were of doubtful efficiency.

Within a short space of time it became evident that the inland communications were totally inadequate for a country under the threat of invasion and which was to be used as a base in the war against the Japanese. In 1942, Hitler's hordes were approaching the gates of the Caucassus and Japan was making strides towards the Eastern Borders of India. The British Army was moving into the country. The Indian Army was growing at a prodigious rate. Camps, arsenals and supply dumps were springing up overnight in every part of the country. The R.A.F. was moving in. The Royal Navy was extending its bases. From all sides came a growing demand for quicker and better communications. G.H.Q. turned to the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate; they required a telephone network to cover the whole of India to be built up on the basic layout already in existence. The Army and the Civil Authorities then drew up their plans.

It was decided that telephone equipment of a type that had been used in England should be imported. This equipment provided three simultaneous conversations on the same pair of wires, and in a country where the length of a telephone line can easily exceed a thousand miles the complete utilisation of every wire in this way is of paramount importance. These are known as "Carrier" systems. The equipment was available from factories in the U.K., and soon after the first orders were placed the first systems were on their way. Then came another snag. This type of equipment was new to the Posts and Telegraphs Department and they had no staff trained to install or to maintain it. Again the Army stepped in. The ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals were combed for engineers of the British Post Office, and a number of Officers were loaned to the P. and T. to take charge of the scheme. But trunk circuits between towns are useless without a switchboard at each end. German U-boats were taking a heavy toll of shipping and it was obvious that as much as possible of the equipment required must be manufactured in India. The Bombay Telephone Workshops were therefore given the task of producing the hundreds of modern switchboards that were required. Thousands of miles of telephone wire was ordered in America and other allied countries. Steel works in India began the production of the thousands of steel telephone poles which were to be erected—wooden poles being unable to stand up to the ravages of climate and white ants. The Public Works Department started on the construction of scores of new buildings which were to house the new equipment. At intervals of between one and two hundred miles along the main routes repeater stations were built to contain the amplifiers made necessary by the enormous distances to be covered. So the blueprint for the new telephone network was complete and the work had begun.

Concurrent with these telephonic requirements the Services also needed a telegraph network. The system of telegraphic communications finally adopted was a copy of that already in operation on a large scale in the British Isles developed by the British Post Office. It was possible to utilise one of the three channels of a carrier system between major towns to carry an 18-channel telegraph system. This provided 18 simultaneous duplex teleprinter circuits in addition to the two telephone circuits already existing—all on the same pair of wires. This 18-channel equipment was beyond the scope of production of factories in India, and again the P. and T. had no trained staff. The Royal Corps of Signals therefore took the equipment as it came on to the docks from the U.K. and rushed it to the vital centres of communication, where it was installed by D.T.N. sections and ready for the first carrier systems to open. A telecommunications engineer who had been directly concerned with the development of a similar network in the U.K. was brought to India from the office of the Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office Engineering Department to plan and supervise this work.

In spite of the number of skilled and experienced personnel who had been poured without stint into the Trunk Development Scheme, difficulties were enormous. Questions of design and availability of the necessary materials brought innumerable headaches to the men responsible. One by one the difficulties were overcome and operators in Delhi were soon speaking to Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Columbo and dozens of other stations. Teleprinter operators were typing messages that were appearing on paper on the other side of the country even as they were being typed. The construction work followed the victorious Fourteenth Army far into Burma and gave them constant and reliable communications with rear bases. For the first time telephone lines spanned the wild jungle country from India into Burma. For the first time it was possible for Bombay to speak over the vast distance to Rangoon by land lines.

With the end of the war the scheme still unfortunately was far from complete. Only the main centres had been linked together, but the vital requirements of a country at war had been met. The work carries on to a plan revised to provide for India's post-war needs. Many Indian technicians have been trained to install and maintain the intricate apparatus. All the original Royal Signals Officers have been demobilised and have returned to their pre-war civil employment with the British Post Office and the leading manufacturers of telephone equipment in the U.K. The men from London, Chester, Burnley, Liverpool and Glasgow have returned, not with any new knowledge of telephone engineering practice, for Britain's telecommunications are probably the most advanced in the world, but they have established a friendship and understanding with their Indian counterparts which will help to strengthen the bond of fellowship between these two countries. Now that the Signals Officers have left, Indian engineers have completed the network of trunk lines which will prove of inestimable value in the coming industrialisation of this great country. These lines, built for the demands of war, will become main arteries in a peaceful India newly-born from the ways of the past to the wonders of the age of modern science.

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING WING

formerly

Royal Signals O.C.T.U.

August

There were three pass off parades during July. Course 202 passed off on 2nd July, the salute being taken by Colonel C. M. McLachlan, O.B.E., President of No. 2 W.O.S.B., the Commandant's Cane being awarded to Officer-Cadet Stonham.

On 9th July, Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C., Commandant, School of Signals, took the salute when Course 203/4 passed off. Officer-Cadet Taylor received the Commandant's Cane.

When Course 205 passed off, the salute was taken by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant, S.T.C., the Commandant's Cane being awarded to Officer-Cadet Blake. The month has seen many changes take place in the Unit, which is now in the process of taking on a new identity whilst retaining its old role. One result of these changes has been most noticeable among the officers of the Unit, where the departures have greatly exceeded the arrivals. We welcome into the Unit Major P. H. P. Hobson, D.S.O., and Second-Lieutenant A. McInnes. Major Hobson has fitted into a long serial of changes in the Unit, the ultimate result being that he now commands the Officer Training Squadron. Mr. McInnes is a brand new type, one of our own make, and has gone, together with Captain N. G. R. Halliday, to reinforce the M.T. Troop.

Major J. D. Elliott has left us for London District Signals, his place as Chief Instructor having been filled by Major J. H. St. G. Hamersley. Major H. Worral, by assuming the combined appointment of P.R.I. and O.C. H.Q. Squadron, has freed Major Cornish. The latter has left us to take a lot of overdue leave prior to going to the Far East.

Captain (T.O.M.) G. V. McDowall has left us for the B.A.O.R., whilst Captain A. McKay has gone to start off the soccer season for No. 2 Training Regiment. Long before these notes appear in print, Captain L. P. Clayton will have arrived out in Singapore, having flown out there via the V.I.P. route.

July has been a memorable month in other respects. In Catterick the month managed to provide both the hottest and coldest days of the year; it also saw a cup returned to the Unit for the second year in succession. On 10th July, Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., received from the District Commander the Garrison Miniature Rifle League Championship Cup and medals. We congratulate both the team and its captain on their well-deserved victory.

The Mountaineering Club held three meetings during the month, the first two taking place in Borrowdale whilst the remaining meet was held at Langdale.

The Borrowdale meeting, held on 3rd-4th July, due to rain and cloud, was more of an endurance test than is usually experienced. After walking and climbing for about three miles in heavy rain up some thousands of feet, Great Gable was reached. This outing being in the nature of a reconnaissance, the Gable was explored more than climbed. Kern Knotts Wall and Great Chimney were amongst the famous climbs deferred for a drier day.

Whilst two members climbed an unidentified route, the remaining members went on to the Needle, which proved to be one of the most interesting that the Club has done. Severe and difficult approaches were tackled, with Second-Lieutenants Band and Jones running a shuttle service with the rest of the Club up and down the various pitches.

The return to camp was carried out by direct compass march over Great Gable and Windy Gap. Driving rain limited visibility to only a few feet.

The second meeting at Borrowdale, held on 17th-18th July, took place under better weather conditions and proved the value of the earlier reconnaissance.

The Langdale meeting was noteworthy in that Ravens Crag was climbed in rubbers, the first by any of our members.

Sport. On 24th July the Basic O.C.T.U. Wing, Aldershot, were at home to this Unit on the occasion of the Inter-O.C.T.U. Sports Meeting.

Some 62 officers and cadets made the journey by road in two hired coaches.

Basket ball. Royal Signals O.C.T.U. v. Basic O.C.T.U.

Result: Basic O.C.T.U. 10 pts., Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 14 pts.

Although the Signals team had put in quite an amount of practice and deemed themselves reasonably fit, it was with some apprehension that they gazed at the large Gym confronting them. The playing area seemed twice as large as the area the team were used to.

The game was played on the "no substitute" basis and for the first few minutes the game was scrappy, with poor and inaccurate passing on both sides. Both teams settled down fairly quickly and the first goal came to Signals from Officer-Cadet Dunn. Signals then dominated the game and it was not until they had amassed a lead of 6 pts. that Basic scored a penalty goal.

At half-time Signals had a lead of 7 pts., but in the second half Basic rallied strongly and brought their score to within 2 pts. of Signals. This spurred Signals on to greater efforts and they scored again. Victory was made certain by a goal for Signals in the last three seconds.

The increased playing area certainly took its toll, and both teams showed signs of wear and tear after such a strenuous game. Outstanding scorer for Signals was Dunn, who netted four times.

Athletics. The highlight of the month was the visit to Aldershot, where we were entertained by the Arms Wing of the Mons Officer-Cadet School. The events took place on Saturday, 24th July, in a temperature that was almost oppressively hot. In the athletics our team was narrowly beaten by 4 pts. Our best performances were: Second-Lieutenant Band, who cleared 5 ft. 4 in. to win the high jump; Officer-Cadet Lawrence, who won the shot with a putt of 33 ft. 1½ in.; Second-Lieutenants Tobin, H. Q. Davies, Stonham and Kerridge, who filled the first four places in the one mile team race; and the medley relay team, consisting of Second-Lieutenant Taylor, Officer-Cadets Gray, Gloag and Tait, who won comfortably in 3 mins. 56 secs. Cadets Tait and Henderson ran very well as a team to gain first and third places in the 880 yards.

The final scores were: Arms Wing 67 pts., Royal Signals O.C.T.U. 63 pts.

In the Signals Catterick Evening League meeting, held on 29th July, we managed to gain second place. As each competitor is only allowed to take part in one event, this result reflects great credit on the keenness of the team. Our outstanding successes were in the 440 yards and the high jump, in both of which we gained first and second places. The team is now tuning up for the Unit Championships, which promises to be an interesting battle.

Shooting. Results v. Basic O.C.T.U. Teams of four competed as follows: 100 yards grouping, 200 yards application, 200 yards snap, 500 yards application.

It was a close and interesting match. We took the lead at the first practice by 6 pts. This was reduced to a lead of 4 pts. in the second and a lead of 2 pts. in the third practice. In the fourth practice, however, we were overhauled, to be beaten by 3 pts.—253 to 256.

After considerable evening practices on the open ranges, it was disappointing that the team did not fire to form.

Team: Second-Lieutenant Mereweather, Second-Lieutenant Hudson, Officer-Cadet Hyder, Officer-Cadet Thomson; reserve, Second-Lieutenant Williams.

Cricket. The match was played in fine summer weather, and after winning the toss Signals sent Basic O.C.T.U. in to bat.

Wickets fell in rapid succession, and at lunch the score was 51 for 8. On resuming, Basic O.C.T.U.'s innings closed for 72.

Second-Lieutenant J. W. Hall and Officer-Cadet Briggs opened the Signals innings, but Briggs was bowled in the second over. Second-Lieutenant G. Davies then proceeded to flog the bowling to all parts of the compass. The total was reached for the loss of only two wickets, Second-Lieutenant Davis making an excellent 52 not out. Signals final score was 93 for 2 wickets.

* * *

A later contribution

On 4th August, 1948, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. became a Wing of the School of Signals and was renamed the National Service Officer Training Wing. At the same time, the M.T. Troops of the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. and the old School of Signals were combined to form the M.T. Squadron of the School of Signals and placed under command of the National Service Officer Training Wing. The reorganisation of the two M.T. Troops into a Squadron, with the function of providing M.T. for the Headquarters and three wings of the School of Signals was a major change. The redesignation of the O.C.T.U. as a Wing of the School has altered neither our responsibilities nor traditions and our relevant position vis a vis the headquarters of the School of Signals is almost the same as before.

Royal Signals O.C.T.U. was raised in October, 1939. In those days it was known as 152 O.C.T.U. The first Commanding Officer was Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. von S. Thorne, O.B.E., Royal Signals. Early in 1943 it was renamed 150 O.C.T.U., Royal Signals. The Commandant at that time was Colonel W. H. M. Dent, M.B.E. This title was retained until early 1946, when under command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. S. Culloch, O.B.E., Royal Signals, it became the Royal Signals O.C.T.U.

Throughout these years the O.C.T.U. has trained Officer-Cadets for emergency commissions in Royal Signals. The course has averaged 24 weeks and the cadets were commissioned at the end of the course. During the summer of 1948 it was decided that the commissioning of all emergency, now called National Service Officers, should be standardised throughout the Army. Thus Officer-Cadets for all arms undergo two periods of cadet training, a primary or basic period of six weeks, followed by an advanced period with an Arms bias of 10 weeks. As far as Signals Cadets are concerned, the primary period is carried out at Mons Officer Cadets School, Aldershot, and the advanced phase with the National Service Officer Training Wing School of Signals. At the end of the advanced phase, successful candidates are commissioned and after a week's leave return to complete the remaining twelve weeks of their training as young Officers. At the moment, therefore, the length of the course is 22 weeks.

Since raising, 214 courses have entered the O.C.T.U. and 4,700 Officer-Cadets have been commissioned. Numbers have fluctuated, the peak being in 1942, when there were 800 cadets under training. Since then the numbers have dropped steadily, to 300 in 1946, and now, in August, 1948, to about 110, of which 50 are Cadets and 60 are young Officers.

The recent changes, however, have had no effect on the spirit and traditions of the Unit, which remain as high as ever. On the other hand, there is some doubt about our battle cry on the field of sport. At the Garrison Inter-Unit team championships, the old cry of "OCTU" persisted, and will doubtless continue to do so. When the announcer referred to the National Service Officer Training Wing he was met with shouts of derision. We feel that any corruption of our new title might either savour of a trades union or perhaps be indicative more of an impending attack of "flu" rather than an encouragement to the players.

Royal Signals O.C.T.U. Reunion Dinner. The above reunion will take place in London on Saturday, 30th October.

Tea at the Waldorf Hotel at 1530, when ladies are invited. Dinner at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C.2.

Will all officers who served with or passed through the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. and who are desirous of attending, please contact Major K. D. Anderson, 6 Woburn Terrace, Tavistock, Devon.

There were three commissioning parades during the month.

206/7 Course passed off on 6th August. On this occasion the salute was taken by General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Comdt. The Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet Havers, the S.S.M. on parade being Officer-Cadet Biggart. When 208 Course passed off, on 20th August, the salute was taken by Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant, S.T.C. Officer-Cadet Henderson received the Commandant's cane, while Officer-Cadet Lawrence acted as S.S.M. for the parade.

Colonel G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., Chief Instructor, School of Signals, took the salute when 209 Course passed off, on 27th August. On this occasion the Commandant's cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet Miller, who also acted as S.S.M. for the parade.

All ranks tender to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Gardiner, their congratulations on the birth at Catterick on 17th August, of his second son, John Roger.

The Mountaineering Club members were fortunate in being able to hold five meetings during the month. All meetings were held at Langdale, in the Lake District. These visits now take the form of an O.C.T.U. reunion, as on each occasion old members have been met and have taken part in the various climbing expeditions. The club continues to attract new members, the limiting factor being the shortage of leaders. These are, however, coming along so that there is no danger of the club having to cease its activities.

The athletic season ended with the Catterick District Inter-Unit Team Championship meeting, which was held on 16th-18th August.

Our team was a small one, but was well trained, under the watchful eyes of Major Hobson, Commanding the Officer Training Squadron; Captain Brabham, the Athletics Officer; Second-Lieutenant Bamford and Q.M.S.(I) Dear, A.P.T.C.

We had a great fight with 1 Training Regiment for the first place, but in the end their numbers told and we had to give them best by 116 points to 98. They were worthy winners for the second year in succession and put up a first-class performance all round.

Of the 16 events on the programme, we were represented in the finals of 15 and were placed in the first three of 11 events, winning the 4 x 220 yards, 4 x 440 yards, the medley relay and the high jump.

During the week ending 8th August, an enjoyable sports fixture between ourselves and the Cadet Training Squadron, R.E., was fought out at Ripon. The fixture included cricket, basket ball, tennis and shooting. The competition, which was keen throughout, resulted in a win for us. The only event to be won by the Sappers was the basket ball.

Our thanks to our Sapper hosts for an enjoyable week-end.

(*continued from page 321*)

Discus.—Winner, Corporal Brown (2 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Cruickshank (3 Squadron).
Javelin.—Winner, Lance-Corporal Crabtree (1 Squadron); runner-up, Corporal Smith (3 Squadron).
Pole vault.—Winner, Signalman Cruickshank (3 Squadron); runner-up, Signalman Frith (4 Squadron).
Hammer.—Winner, Corporal Brown (2 Squadron); runner-up, Lance-Corporal Foster (1 Squadron).
Tug-o'-war.—Winner, 1 Squadron; runner-up, 4 Squadron.
Mile medley.—Winner, 2 Squadron; runner-up, 1 Squadron.
Winners.—1 Squadron, 119½ points.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Edinburgh

September

Apologies to our regular readers for our non-appearance in last month's issue of THE WIRE, but unfortunately our scribe departed at short notice on what has been rudely called an "Educational (M) Health and Beauty Course," on the slopes of Ben Macdhui. Said scribe is now back in circulation, less the backs of his ankles, so once more "Greeetin's, fellow SCOTCO's, Past, Present or Future." At the moment we are in the midst of Ye Musicale Festivale which, in the words of a well-known "G.D. Bod," is just a lot of hot air about nothing worth heating. However, it does appear to mean that suitable technically qualified officers find themselves in charge of telephones at the display of Highland Dancing and Piping on the Castle Esplanade. This is a sight well worth seeing and worth one shilling to the Edinburgh Corporation *if* you are not in charge of a telephone. This month we bade farewell to Second-Lieutenants Colin Graham and Trevor Magdalino, those rare birds of a feather that used to roost in O.C. 1 Squadron's office. We welcome to our midst Captain Jock Geddes, the laird of Auchtertool and neighbour of that other wild man in the Unit, the laird of Auchtermuchty. Captain Geddes is taking over the onerous duties of Adjutant *vice* Captain Delahunty, who is preparing to evacuate himself any day now on demob. The picket at the entrance of the Unit lines has been warned that on no account must he allow any Carter Paterson removal lorries to enter the camp which bear chits signed by said Captain. We have had an addition to the commissioned ranks of the fair sex at "Chez Broomfield" in the form of Junior Commander Roe. We all wish her a long and happy stay in the fold; at any rate she has certainly brought some good weather with her from the Sunny South. The Entertainments Committee, now in the capable hands of Sergeant Matthews and Corporal Creedon, can report two successful bus trips and several dances to their credit. Much relief has been expressed by the Fairmilehead "Smooth Men" at the committee's ban on the Ukrainian P.O.W. band and the resulting reinstatement of the Tim Wright super "Hot-Shots." One gathers, however, that the P.R.I. is inclined to think otherwise, in view of the fact that a pint of beer was the reward for services rendered by the former, but only one of the items on the "Overheads" list by the latter. Bus trips were run to Dunbar, North Berwick, Callander, Crieff and Loch Earn, so those participating in them can now give an honest opinion when asked to confirm that they are serving in God's own country. To conclude these general notes, mention must be made of W.O.I Buchanan's gallant expedition to the foot of the Pentland Hills to put half the Unit through their annual range course. Enthusiasm was terrific but results were not what they might have been with more practice. The rumour that the supervising officers were given danger money when the sanitary squad was firing is now definitely confirmed as being incorrect. It was the butt party that demanded danger money when Captain Fairlie started to shoot them up with his ".45."

Sergeants' Mess. The Sergeants' Mess proceeds on its own benign, cool, calm and collected way. "Flaps" may be on—bods may rush feverishly in all directions armed with weird items such as sickles, whitewash brushes and whatnots, but where reigns peace and quiet—the Sergeants' Mess. A peace broken only by the gentle clicking of snooker balls and soft voices saying "They don't mind if they do." What is there about a Sergeants' Mess that gives it this air of superiority to mere "Flaps"? Your guess is as good as mine. I did think of a lovely solution with "years and years" of experience plastered all over, but since a mysterious draught is swinging the lamps, I desisted. However, to business. A very successful dance was held on the 26th August, and a proverbial time was had by one and all. It was the most enjoyable we have had for some time. You know the kind, when guests ask half-way through the evening "When are you having another?" We trust it is an indication as to how the winter festivities which we have in view will go.

We welcome W.O.II Hourigan, S.S.M. Thomas, S.Q.M.S.s Nicholl, Harris, Larner, Dale, Sergeants Matthews, Tyler and Newton, plus Sergeant Brown, R.A.E.C., and we hope their stay with us will be a pleasant one. The air of this "Stern and Wild" land doesn't agree with some peopie, as a certain number of them have packed their bags and headed south, namely R.S.M. Barraclough, W.O.IIs McConnell, Haughney, Leverston-Allen and Sergeants North, Ridgeon, Heath and Miller (A.T.S.). May their search for better weather be blessed; personally "I hae ma doots." The members of the Mess spent an enjoyable day's outing to St. Andrews last month with their families and friends. Sergeant (Pop) Strachan was seen on the 19th hole playing Henry Cotton. We offer our congratulations to S.S.M. Fraser and S.Q.M.S. Morris on being awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Also a special handshake to the former who had the rare honour of having his daughter christened at St. Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle, by the Governor's Chaplain.

Corporals' Mess. We extend a hearty welcome to our new members of the Mess—Lance-Corporals Lawrence, Gill, Bradley and Bartlett. We also offer our congratulations to the last three named on their promotion. We bade farewell to Corporals Lawler and (Joe) Telford (A.T.S.) on posting, and Lance-Corporals Gledhill and Leslie on release. Our best wishes go with them all. During the last month the Entertainments Committee have got "cracking" with a bus trip to Loch Lomond, Loch Earn and Callander, on 11th August. We combined with the 2 Squadron Corporals' Mess and together thoroughly enjoyed a long day's outing in the Highlands. It is hoped to arrange another in the near future. In the first week of August we ran a Mess Table Tennis and Darts Tournament, followed up with an "At Home" to Broomfield Corporals' Mess for a games and social evening. The highlight of the evening was an "Eightsome Reel" in which all present participated. What we lacked in experience we certainly made up in enthusiasm and noise. Music for a sing-song afterwards was provided by Lance-Corporal Betty Frost on the piano.

There was great excitement in the Mess on the evening of the 8th September when Corporal Johnny Slee espied a rat (four-legged) stalking him. In the ensuing chase (after the rat) numerous chairs were upended and Lance-Corporal Sheila Gooding showed great aggression with the broom before the unwelcome visitor was despatched to the land of its fathers. In signing off we send our best wishes to all ex-members of the Mess and wish them happy hunting.

Sports. With the close of the cricket season and the opening of the rugger/hockey/soccer seasons we have taken stock of ourselves from the sport point of view. The summer cricket programme was unfortunately most unsuccessful in the way of victories, but very enjoyable in other respects. We intend this winter to recapture again our reputation as sporting giants. A General Sports Committee, under the chairmanship of Major Gregory, has been launched, well secretaried by Mr. J. T. Davidson, our indefatigable F.S.S. Clerk (he has been with us since 1919—that's a year *not* a time). A most ambitious programme has been prepared. To implement this, we claim to have a Unit of considerable sporting talent.

Football. We have entered the Edinburgh and District Mid-Week League (under control of the S.F.A.) and in our first two matches scored two resounding victories:—

v. Penicuik	6—2
v. Waverley Wednesday	14—0

Hockey. The Regimental side is considered to be a "crack" one, and is due to play the Command Side (last

year's hockey champions) in the opening match on 16th September. An All-A.T.S. side is scheduled to play an Edinburgh (Ladies') side in the very near future, and challenge has been issued to the Royal Artillery to turn out a mixed side against us.

Rugby. Not having fielded a side last games season it is heartening to be able to say that we have sufficient enthusiasts to form a Regimental XV which, under the captaincy of Captain Rowlands, is due to take the field against the Royal Scots on 13th September.

Basket Ball. S.Q.M.S. Larner, our F. of S., in addition to being our trainer, has been given the honour of leading the basket ball field. We have joined the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Basket Ball Association, but have not as yet played any league matches. Major Gregory, previously mentioned, is attending a basket ball course (not in Delhi), when he will become all "basket ball conscious."

Net Ball. The A.T.S. component of the Regiment are very keen to get cracking on this game. It remains to the committee to find suitable opponents.

Table Tennis. We have rejoined the Local Edinburgh League and have high hopes of improving on our good 1946 position, which was third.

It will be of interest to readers to note that we have asked for an invitation to visit Catterick to play the School side at hockey and probably football. Our team skippers, R.Q.M.S. Roscoe and S.Q.M.S. Stewart, are very confident of the outcome of these two matches. We would be happy to extend hospitality and accommodation to any Corps team in the above games who care to visit Scotland. It would be appreciated if advance notification of any visit, and details of any special arrangements required, would be despatched to the Sports Officer, Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, Fairmilehead Camp, Edinburgh 9, in sufficient time.

* * *

I BASH A SPUD

In Civvy Street I thought it grand
To give the wife a helping hand,
And peel a humble spud or two
When I had nothing else to do.

But in the Army I have found
That every foot of English ground
Does harbour in its fragrant mud
A mighty leather-coated spud.

So after sunset oft I sit
To part potatoes from their grit,
Peeling, scraping, digging eyes,
While all around me parings rise.

Thus on I toil without a pause,
Each blister blessed for victory's cause,
Till from the monstrous muddy heap
Naught but my blood-shot blinkers peep.

Although the last potato done
The battle yet is not half won—
To pander to the cookhouse needs
I start upon a ton of swedes.

Now this obnoxious soggy game
Is known by a high-sounding name,
The euphemistic appellation . . .
Vegetable preparation.

The thought has just occurred to me,
With which all soldiers will agree,
That cannibals are not barbarians
Compared with cursed vegetarians.

G. J. WOODHAM

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Annual Sports Day was held at Canterbury on 29th July, the Royal Signals Band playing during the afternoon. Among our many guests we were happy to welcome our C.S.O., Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.

The weather was exceedingly hot, and may have accounted for the enthusiasm shown in the Communications Race, since in this event a pint of beer had to be drunk by the competitors before delivering their message. It was noted how the Adjutant held an easy lead to the beer table, and surprised everybody by delivering the message correctly! Major MacGregor was well to the fore (exactly 39 yards!) at the start of the Old Soldiers' Race, and finished a good second to S.Q.M.S. Manson. Lack of space prevents the giving of full results, but the Guards Brigade Signal Squadron must be congratulated on winning the whole competition.

Thanks are due to the T.M. Troop and all the others who worked so hard to make the day a success, and we must also thank Mrs. Barker for giving away the prizes.

The Royal Signals Band played at the Regimental Dance which was well attended and a grand success.

We have enjoyed having the T.A. staying with us, and not only have we struck up many new friendships, but we have also met many old friends. At cricket we have so far managed to take all the laurels from the T.A., but there is still time for them to knock spots off us!

R.H.Q. SQUADRON. Our Squadron has only just been formed, and covers many weird and wonderful activities from juggling with the books to weeding the gardens! Juggler-in-Chief is Captain R. D. Smith, with Second-Lieutenant B. E. Stratford as his "assistant-in-juggling"; we welcome both of them to Canterbury. From time to time we hear such strange words as P.R.I., Imprest and Barrack Damages floating out of their office, and we are still wondering what it's all about. We eagerly await further developments!

SHOEBURYNESS F.S.S. TROOP. This Troop, virtually the "back-room boys" of the Regiment, although sadly depleted, has carried out a very heavy construction programme for the Ministry of Supply's important Experimental Establishment here.

Those of you who know this area will know that most of the work has to be done on the lonely marsh — like islands in the Thames and Crouch Estuaries. Even on the most summerlike days there is a keen wind, and work in the coming winter will probably be good training for anyone thinking of taking up arctic exploration.

Apart from these activities, members of the Troop have continued their good work of installing and manning P.A. equipment for the many Army and Old Comrades' charitable fêtes held in the excellent Garrison grounds.

Sport. The weather has not been kind to cricketers, but two matches have been completed, both lost unfortunately. We hope to get many more games in during August, and IF our bowlers come off we stand a very good chance of registering one victory. At least we have one Australian-born member of the team, and if we can only procure a green cap for him we will probably frighten our opponents out.

S.Q.M.S. Manson, who must be well known to many WIRE readers, will again assist Maldon Town in their Essex Junior Cup battles, and he assures us that they will win the Essex Cup this year. Last year they reached the final, and that was without his help.

No. 2 SQUADRON. This month there has been great activity by the Squadron in providing communications for the Olympic Games. Captain Gibson and his thirty operators have been mixing with the elite at Wembley, manning teleprinters and switchboards at the Stadium and at the main Olympic centres. Lieutenant Owen was seen tearing his hair when someone cut his cables in Windsor Great Park, but otherwise the large network covering the Olympic Road Cycle Race went without a hitch. We have borrowed operators from far and wide, and only now are they able to return to their own domains. During their spell off duty most of them were able to watch the games, so we hope they enjoyed their stay in the sunny(?) south.

We must congratulate Lieutenant Bayton on his recent marriage, and wish the newlyweds many happy and prosperous years to come.

INDEPENDENT GUARDS BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON. The few months that we have been formed have been spent in hard training, and we can now claim to be a coherent Unit. Major P. G. Curry commands the Squadron, with Lieutenant J. Massey as Second-in-Command. S.S.M. Godfrey has now settled down to an extensive study of the drill manual.

Every week during the past two months we have performed exercise "Southdown" for the Territorial Army, and we now know all the glories of the garden country, including the interference of harvesting machines on the sets in the L.C.V.s! Parties of cherry pickers have unofficially helped local fruit farmers (and themselves, we gather!), and they are quite prepared to give cherries a miss for another year.

Finally, we should like to thank our parent Unit for all their help in launching us as a Squadron, and for the first-class Sports Day that was recently organised.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (MIXED) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Lisburn

September

This month has seen the Unit outing come and go, leaving behind the usual happy memories. The outing, which was arranged by Major G. F. Bayliss, M.B.E., M.C., consisted of a bus run to Portrush, the route taken covering some of the finest scenery in the British Isles, along the Antrim coast and the Glens of Antrim. Dinner was served in Portrush at the "Trocadero." Afterwards, everyone was free to enjoy the town until 2130 hrs., which was the time for reassembly and return to Lisburn.

The outing was in two phases to ensure that everyone would be able to take advantage of the occasion, the cost for the individual was 2/6, the remainder being borne by the Unit. Both trips were an unequalled success, due largely to the fact that both dates chosen provided sunshine for everyone.

Arrivals and departures have been at a minimum, but a well-known figure of the Unit has left for the Depot, prior to a sojourn overseas—Captain Dundee. Our best wishes go with him. Another departure has been Junior Commander Ridler, A.T.S., who has left us for duty with the T.A. on promotion to Senior Commander. Congratulations, Madam.

A hearty welcome is extended to Subaltern Nash who is waiting to form her own T.A. Unit, and is now performing the duties of O.C. Auxiliaries; also C.S.M. Black, who comes to replace Sergeant Senior. We wish them both a long and happy stay.

Entertainments have been good during the month, mostly comprising dances, which have been held in the gymnasium. They have been well supported on all occasions and thoroughly enjoyable. The A.T.S. celebrated the tenth anniversary of their formation with a dance at H.Q., N.I.D. The programme was well put together, and the duties of M.C. were efficiently carried out by Sergeant Senior (Signals, A.T.S.). The highlight of the evening was the cutting of the cake by the youngest member of the A.T.S. in Northern Ireland—Private Weldon—a girl whose family has been connected with the A.T.S. since its inauguration. Private Weldon also has a brother serving in Royal Signals.

Congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Eddie Morey on the birth of a daughter—the same weight as a rifle! Good show, Eddie!

And so, for the present good stations, everybody.

J.D.

State Opening of Parliament by H.M. The King

14th September, 1948

BECAUSE the majority of Regiments of the Brigade of Guards are on foreign service, and no doubt because the session of Parliament opening today is only to be a short one, and that a new session of Parliament is to be opened with full pageantry in October, the streets of London were not lined by troops for the drive of their Majesties to and from Westminster.

Possibly for this reason, and possibly because it is only, as described by a London policeman, a "petty" session, the crowds to witness the Royal drive were not as great as usual. It was a grey London day when their Majesties started from Buckingham Palace, but the sun came out and shone brilliantly just as they entered Whitehall, passing through the Horse Guards Arch. This unusual route was welcome to the men and girls of London District (M) Signal Squadron, who, from the windows of the Telephone Exchange and the Signal Office, had an unusually close view of the procession.

The Sovereigns' escort escorting their Majesties in the Irish State Coach slowed to a very slow trot to go through the archway at the Horse Guards, and their Majesties were well seen by all.

Quickening its pace down Whitehall, the procession reached the Houses of Parliament and we heard the first gun of the Royal Salute fired a little earlier than we had expected.

It was at this precise moment that the work of Royal Signals and the G.P.O. Engineering Department had its "moment." Some days before, telephones had been installed at the top and at the bottom of the Victoria Tower of the Houses of Parliament and at the gun position occupied by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in St. James's Park. The telephone circuit from the Victoria Tower to St. James's Park was reinforced against unforeseen emergency by a wireless circuit with an 88 set each end. All went according to plan. As the procession approached the Houses of Parliament an observer in a window at the top of the Victoria Tower gave the order "Ready." On the arrival of the Irish State Coach at the door of the Houses of Parliament an Officer of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, gave the order to fire, and the first gun of the salute answered from St. James's Park.

The unexpected shortness of the King's speech took everyone by surprise, and windows were not manned when a very few minutes after the saluting battery had finished firing, the leading files of the escort clattered through the Horse Guards Arch on the return journey.

The crowd outside quickly dispersed. The routine of the telephone switchboard and the Signal Office went on.

Contributors are reminded that the date for submission of items for publication is the 16th of the month

HE SAID

"You just come up on the point of your skate"

SINCE returning from leave, many comments have been passed with regard to my appearance. I admit that such comments are not uncalled for. In addition to sundry abrasions adorning my features, my whole body is a mass of bruises from head to foot, and I limp badly.

To dispel any rumours of vulgar pub brawls, and of husbands coming home suddenly, I will now record how these injuries were sustained. This record will also serve as a warning to any half-wits who entertain the utterly foolish idea of learning to ice skate.

Most of the pubs being shut, I was rather at a loose end one evening. My sister (20 years, red head, 5 ft. 2 in., 7 st. 8 lb., no bloke—all enquiries, "Jon," c/o H.Q., Schleswig Holstein Sub-Area) came rushing in from her daily toil and advised me to get cracking. After further enquiries I ascertained that she had arranged for me to accompany her, and satellites, to the local ice skating rink. I pointed out that I had never before been nearer to a pair of ice skates than watching Sonja Henie on the films, and even in that case my interest was not usually concentrated on her feet. My sister brushed this slight disadvantage away as being of no consequence, and despite vehement protestations, I found myself, one hour later, at the rink.

After lashing out 2s. 6d. entrance fee (12s. 6d. with sister and co.) and a further 1s. 6d. for the hire of skates, I found myself seated on a long form with many other unfortunates all engaged in lacing up their skating boots. They all showed great impatience at this valuable waste of skating time, and their haste caused me to debate for some minutes on the folly of mankind in general. I must admit that at that time I had no serious premonition of oncoming disaster. I was apprehensive, yes, but the old sub-conscious gave me no warning of the untold misery and suffering that was to be my lot before the expiration of my leave. If anyone had been able to tell me at that time that in a very few days I would be practically a physical wreck, and would shy like a nervous nag at even the sight of a pair of ice skates, I might have listened to them and packed off home. There wasn't a clairvoyant in sight, however, so to the ice I went.

My sister and cronies were waiting for me at an opening in the barrier which led to the ice. A smile of knowing, joyful anticipation adorned their fair features, as they stood aside and courteously motioned me towards the rink. I politely declined their offer, and murmuring something about "noting the condition of the ice," I leaned against the barrier, lit a cigarette, and watched the skaters with what I fondly imagined to be an air of amused tolerance.

Hitherto, I had always imagined ice skating to be a pastime which called for intense concentration and severe physical exertion. I was shaken rigid, therefore, to observe the extreme nonchalance with which the skaters waltzed round the rink. They skated with linked arms, hands behind their backs, hands in pockets; they skated in every attitude except the one of bent body and swinging arms which I had pictured. They also chatted conventionally on their way round.

Now I am a very firm believer in the method of learning by watching. I learned to drive a car this way, also to dance and play the piano. I have inherited this admirable trait from my Uncle Percy, who has spent most of his life learning by watching. The success of his method can be judged by his position in the world today. After four years in the Army, during which time he was employed as a mess waiter in a Drill Sergeants' Training School, he is now universally acclaimed as the world's foremost authority on the habits and behaviour of backward and imbecilic children.

Bearing this in mind, therefore, I studied the skaters closely. After a very short time I came to the conclusion that there was nothing to it. Even children of some eight or nine years were quite proficient. "It was just a matter of confidence," I reasoned. Full of courage at this thought, and stung to action by the many uncomplimentary remarks emanating from the general direction of my sister, I threw away my cigarette and stalked stiffly towards the barrier opening. Many more acquaintances had gathered round my sister by now, and all stood waiting for the fun. I was forcibly reminded of a flock of ghouls waiting for the kill, but affecting to ignore them, I drew a deep breath and flung myself on to the ice.

For the first few breathtaking seconds I was conscious of nothing but a sensation of speed, and then happened a contingency that I had somehow overlooked. My skates, instead of remaining upright as they should have done, suddenly turned inwards. This gave me a curiously bow-legged appearance, and in this manner I shot at some considerable speed across the rink. I had nearly traversed the ice when the thought occurred to me that I should, some time in the very near future, like to stop. With this laudable object in mind, I tentatively lifted one skate. This proved fatal. I lost what little balance I had, and in a split second was twisting and turning in a wild endeavour to keep upright. Just as I was about to give up the ghost, a heaven-sent opportunity occurred in the form of a figure, going at a fantastic rate, just passing me. With a speed born of desperation I crutched frantically at his flying coat-tails, and with just that little support managed to regain my balance and slide gratefully to the barrier, where I hung on for dear life.

I was then aware of some commotion behind me, and turning, witnessed a most amazing exhibition of skating. The fellow whose coat-tails I had momentarily clutched was going through all the antics of a man in the throes of a particularly malignant epileptic fit. I lit a cigarette and watched, fascinated.

He tore round and round in small circles, first going forward and then backward, one moment his right skate was pointing skywards, and then his left. His arms were going like flails, and anyone coming within range was immediately bowled over like a ninepin. His face was a study. A look of shocked surprise clashed with one of agonised apprehension.

"One Leg Dis!"

Altogether it was a sterling performance, but it soon became obvious that he was fighting a losing battle against the law of gravity. His struggles to regain equilibrium gradually became less frenzied, his frightening swoops were carrying him ever nearer to the ice, and suddenly the end came. His right leg shot towards the roof, his arms spread wide as if in supplication, and with one last despairing cry he hit the ice with a soul-shattering thump.

Following events were even more startling. A couple skating arm in arm tripped over him and went down, three more followed, and in less time than it takes to tell the ice was one mass of struggling, yelling figures. It was a most entertaining sight, but some uncanny instinct warned me that the bloke at the bottom of the screaming mass of humanity would take a dim view of the proceedings, and once order was restored would in all probability wreak his vengeance on me. Close attention to his dervish dance had acquainted me with his athletic prowess, and I realised that my thanks for the use of his coat-tails would not be taken in the right spirit. I took one last gratifying look at the ever-increasing heap of bodies, and crept quietly home.

My sister came in later that night, and being of a peculiarly vindictive nature, at once regaled the whole family with the humiliating story. I had previously determined that wild horses wouldn't drag me within touching distance of an ice rink again, but so well did my sister tell her tale, and so well did she direct the scorn of the family towards me, that I lost my head and was stung to retaliation. Before I was quite aware of what I had said, I had sworn to ice skate as well as anyone before I returned off leave. As soon as the words were out of my mouth I regretted them, but it was too late. My sister was transported into realms of unholy glee, and called upon the whole family to witness my rash statement. In a very short time I was condemned irrevocably to ice skate with some degree of proficiency before the week was out. There was also another matter that weighed heavily on the future, and as soon as the storm died down I enquired tactfully as to the condition of the fellow who had unfortunately collided with me and whether or not he used the rink regularly. This brought forth another stream of unkind remarks from my sister, together with the information that "they had taken him to hospital."

I went to bed that night with an easier mind.

Now I possess a very proud and obstinate nature, and having once said that I would ice skate, ice skate I would. The next night, therefore, I was at the rink. I went in with my coat collar turned up, and fortunately nobody recognised me. That night was without any untoward incident and so was every successive night. I was due to leave home on the Friday, and by the preceding Wednesday I could skate. Nothing classy, mind you, but I could skate. I still wasn't satisfied, however. There was just one thing I had to do. I expect there is a technical term for it, but I don't know it. I will simply call it the "reverse." This involves skating forward at some speed, and then coming up on the point of one skate, swinging half-way round, and then resume progress backwards. I watched this manœuvre performed by various skaters dozens of times, and closely questioned them as to its execution. "It's quite simple, quite simple," they said. "You just come up on the point of your skate, swing your body to the right—and there you are." Despite all this advice, I just couldn't bring myself to do it. I worked the movements out in my mind hundreds of times. I practised at home, minus skates, I had it all off pat, but when I got on the ice I hadn't the nerve to try it. Wednesday night came and went, and I still hadn't attempted it. I was resolved, however, that it would be done that night. My sister and her inevitable cronies would be at the rink to judge whether I had fulfilled my vow, and I would show them how simple this ice skating business was.

On reaching the rink that night, I was still in confident mood. With an air of bored nonchalance I stalked past my unimpressed sister and skated on to the ice. I went once round the rink without mishap, and on observing the close attention of the watchers, decided that now was the time for my *pièce de résistance*. From prolonged watching of the experts, I knew that the manœuvre had to be executed at speed. I therefore put my all into a sprint that surprised me more than anyone else. There was a clear patch of ice ahead, and I knew that it was now or never. I tensed myself, and then came up on the point of my skate and swung my body to the right. . . .

The rink's First Aid Post was very comfortably appointed. I lay at my ease on a soft couch, while a nurse and two St. John men bound my lacerated legs, and stuck bits of plaster in various places. The manager of the rink joined us after a few minutes, and politely assisted me in the removal of my skates. He enquired tactfully whether I was likely to be coming back for another attempt, and heaved a heartfelt sigh of relief on learning that I was going back off leave next morning. He explained very apologetically that he had the good name of his rink to think of, and as yet he hadn't had a death on his hands. Did I understand? I understood, and painfully hobbled home.

The next morning I dragged the shattered body to Liverpool Street, and began the long voyage back.

I arrived back in Plön on Monday night, and found a very great friend of mine waiting for me in the billet. He nodded sympathetically at my appearance, and made vague insinuations about "husbands being demobbed." I consigned him to the place where all sergeants and above will ultimately go, and enquired if there was anything new. At this he showed great excitement, and informed me of his great good fortune in securing a bargain off a "friend of his." He further informed me that for the sake of our beautiful friendship I, for the sum of 35s., could also obtain a pair. I explained that I would be only too delighted to lay out 35s., if he wouldn't mind telling me what there was a pair of. For answer he unwrapped a bulky parcel, and drew forth a pair of glittering ice skates. . . .

I am sorry now for what happened, as we were friends for a very long time. It has played on my mind ever since. It worries me now, so I think perhaps I will finish this article as it's two o'clock, and I understand that visitors are allowed between three and four at 94 British General, Hamburg.

"JON"

REVERIE

I like to think of Adjutants in agony;
  I love to study Colonels when in pain;
Distressed or laboured breathing by an Acting Corporal
    teething
  Brings me happiness that always will remain.
But acidities that lock the joints of Sergeants
  And torture Drill Instructors I prefer,
Though a human nature lover, when they threaten to
    recover
  In my dream I give the order, "As you were!"

I like to dwell on Officers Commanding
  By rheumatism swollen at the knees,
Of "Lieuts" with molars aching and of Quartermasters
    shaking
  From embarrassing abdominal disease.
I would line them up and test their imperfections
  With the kind of drill I recently began,
Then I'd say with manner breezy, "Gentlemen, you may
    stand easy" . . .
  But I'd add with satisfaction, "IF YOU CAN!"

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

August

As reported in last month's notes, the Regiment had its first intake of National Service men for training as Drivers I.C.

At the end of the six weeks' training programme, the sixteen trainees who had remained at H.Q. were then given a driving test by the Warrant Officer in charge of the L.A.D., R.E.M.E., A.S.M. King, the test lasting for two days. Of the fourteen who were tested (the other two trainees being in hospital) eleven passed. A good percentage. The three who failed to pass their driving test and the two who rejoined the Course from hospital are having another week of intensive M.T. training, when it is hoped they will also pass their driving test under the capable supervision of the A.S.M. On Saturday, the day following the completion of the driving test, the Course were passed out at drill by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., who was pleased by the manner in which they carried out both foot and arms drill. Sergeant Yates must take full credit for this as he has put in a great amount of work to ensure the success of the Course on the drill and discipline side. The M.T. side of the Course, consisting of driving, maintenance and lectures, was very well carried out by Corporal Hurman and other M.T. Instructors, and the progress made by the trainees is proof that they themselves were a good course and very keen to learn. During the last week the trainees, under the supervision of the M.T. Instructors, had a two days' training drive within the Divisional area and passed through Wuppertal, Hagen, Dortmund, Recklinghausen, Duisberg, Dusseldorf, then back to Hilden. Night driving was practised on the one night of the drive to give the trainees an idea of night driving in this country. This drive also taught them how to look after themselves, as they had their own cooking and feeding arrangements to make. By all accounts it was a highly successful venture which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and which also proved instructive.

"Yes. Dog Troop speaking!"

The flower gardens in the Regimental Lines are still looking very nice and the contrast in colours very noticeable which, with the lawn, make the surroundings very attractive and add a touch of home life around the Barrack area.

The vegetable gardens have produced a very nice variety of vegetables, these being issued to the Cookhouse for the men's dining room to supplement those drawn from R.A.S.C. sources. The difference that these additional vegetables make to the daily menu is very noticeable. The meals in the men's dining room are really first-class, well served and of a good variety. This is due to the hard work put in by the Cook-Sergeant, Sergeant Cooley, A.C.C., and his staff, which I am assured is appreciated by those dining at H.Q.

Arrivals and Departures. The Regiment extend a happy welcome to all new arrivals who have joined Divisional Signals this month, and hope that your stay will prove to be a long and happy one.

This month we said "Good-bye" to Major and Mrs. Rowett and family, who have now gone to No. 16 Parachute Brigade; Captain Ben Robins proceeded on Class "A" Release, and Captain Laurie Hawes, Intelligence Corps, who has proceeded to U.K. prior to posting to sunnier climes.

To all those who have left to proceed on release, here's wishing you all the very best of luck in your venture in civilian life. To all those who have been posted to U.K. prior to posting overseas, good luck, cheerio, and all the very best in your new station wherever it may be.

Troop Curiosities. Herewith reproduced is a sketch by Sergeant Aitkenhead, R.A.E.C., of the dog in the Despatch Rider Troop answering the phone the normal way it is always answered, "Yes, DOG Troop speaking!"

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. We have seen quite a few changes of faces since our last publication. Sergeants McGuinness, Tiffin, Nock and Young have reverted to the Home Establishment. Mrs. Nock was fortunately able to accompany her husband, always a welcome fact to man and wife, for separations — no matter how short — are never popular.

Good luck to you all, and we hope you find a happy berth!

A welcome is extended to Sergeants Mears, Davies and Miller. Sergeant Miller was promoted to Mess status. Hearty congratulations; "Dusty" will be a useful addition to the Mess, not to mention the boost to the "family establishment." Sergeant Thrumble has left us to "continue on" in Farelf. Good luck, "Thrum," and here's hoping you find the excitement for which you crave.

Who said the age of "old pensioners" was a thing of the past. S.Q.M.S. Ken Bailey knows the answer—"22 years on the dotted line." Well done, Ken, and do please use your influence!

We have played two games of hockey against the Rest of H.Q. Hilden, and emerged victors each time. Corporal Slavin is now raising a stronger eleven and our organiser, F. of S. Mahon, is standing by for the challenge. Past members will no doubt be interested to learn that R.Q.M.S. Grant and Sergeant Ledger are still a driving force on the field of play.

The civilian contractors, under the direction of the Garrison Engineer, are busy renovating our new Mess to be, prior to occupation. Much work is required to bring the building up to scratch, and we are hopeful that the work will soon be completed. Plans for the re-laying and improving the new Mess grounds were settled some time ago. The material is slowly coming to hand under the "get what you can" tactics of our P.M.C., S.S.M. Vaughan. A.S.M. King has designed the Mess sign, which is a real work of art. However, more anon.

Mess Personalities. A.S.M. King, R.E.M.E., the Warrant

Officer in charge of our L.A.D., better known as "Tiffy," is a member of some three years' standing and has always taken a keen interest in Mess activities. Here you see "Tiffy" preparing breakfast on a week-end shooting trip at Mohne See. Unfortunately the "wild boar" were not at home, but "Tiffy" is too old a campaigner at this shooting game to let a little thing like that damp his ardour. It is a good thing you took the unexpired portion, "Tiffy."

Herewith reproduced are snaps of the Mess Outing on the Rhine which was held on Whit Sunday and reported in previous notes. The trip extended from Benrath, a place quite near the H.Q., to Koenigswinter, and return.

Football. The winter game is just about to commence again, and already a few matches have been played by Troops.

The Regimental Inter-Troop League is due to commence this season on 15th September and will, I am sure, prove to be as attractive and as useful as last season when, due to the keen competition between Troops, a really good Regimental side was formed.

Cricket. The summer game has now come to a close, but the month of August proved to be quite a good one.

On 18th August the Regiment played the 10th Hussars in the third round of the Divisional Cricket Competition, the game being played on the Divisional Ground at Hilden. The Hussars had a strong team out, won the toss and decided to bat. Success soon came to our bowling when Lance-Corporal Maloney bowled one of the opening pair for a "duck." After S.S.M. Vaughan had taken a wicket, Signalman Hurst was brought on and in his first two overs took three wickets. The Hussars were eventually dismissed for a total of 43 runs.

When the Regimental side went in, Lance-Corporal Maloney was out l.b.w. the first ball of the over. However, Corporal Hopper and Captain Smith, D.C.M., collected 22 runs before being separated, when S.S.M. Vaughan joined Captain Smith, D.C.M. Captain Smith was brilliantly caught and was succeeded by Captain Adlam, when they took the score to that of the Hussars before being parted. Major Paris joined Captain Adlam, who was bowled with the score still at 43 for 5. Major Paris, facing the bowling, scored the winning hit, and we were through to the semi-final of the competition.

F. of S. Eckelaers, S.Q.M.S. Reece, S.S.M. Vaughan, Sergeants Pearce and Archibald with a party of guests

Going aboard at Bad Honnef, near Koenigswinter

The Regiment was drawn against the 42nd Field Regiment, R.A., in the semi-final, the game being played at Hilden, and which was drawn. The match was re-played the following Saturday on the R.A. ground and, due to very good bowling by Lance-Corporal Maloney (3 for 24) and Signalman Hurst (4 for 22), the Field Regiment were dismissed for a total of 62 runs.

When Signals commenced batting we were soon in trouble, the wickets of Captain Smith, D.C.M., Corporal Hopper and S.S.M. Vaughan falling very quickly. Captain Simpson joined Lance-Corporal Maloney, who was playing a fine innings, and between them took the score to 33 before Captain Simpson, in attempting to hook a ball to leg, mistimed, and was caught very easily.

Wickets were falling very cheaply and at the tea interval the score was not at all impressive. On the resumption Lance-Corporal Maloney was given out l.b.w. after scoring 18, and the remaining batsmen were soon out—the final score being 50 runs.

The Field Regiment's fielding was very good indeed, seven of the Signals' team being caught, and it was their good fielding that mainly brought about our defeat.

(*continued at foot of col.* 1, *page* 334)

Driver I.C. J. O'Callaghan

Berlin Signal Squadron

We feel sure that many readers of THE WIRE, visitors to Berlin, have met or heard of Driver O'Callaghan. There are not many of his service and experience still with us.

Present age, 50 years.

Enlisted August, 1914, in the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

Discharged March, 1915 (under age).

Re-enlisted April, 1915 in R.I.R.

Wounded and captured at St. Quentin, France, 1918 (21st March, 1918). P.O.W. nine months.

Returned and placed on reserve March, 1919.

July, 1919, rejoined R.A.S.C. as a driver.

Transferred to Royal Signals as a driver in 1925 and still serving.

Medals, Honours, etc.

British War Medal, 1914-18.

Victory Medal.

N.W.F., India, 1921-24.

1939-45 Star.

France and Germany Star.

Defence Medal.

1939-45 War Medal.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Total service, 34 years.

(*continued from page* 333)

This was the last game of the season and the record of games played reads: Played 13, won 7, lost 4, drawn 2.

Highest scorers of the season: Lance-Corporal Maloney 65, S.S.M. Vaughan 43, Major F. Wainwright 37 not out.

Bowling analysis: Signalman Hill, 20 overs, 14 runs, 8 wickets; Lance-Corporal Maloney, 50 overs, 75 runs, 15 wickets; Signalman Hurst, 54 overs, 150 runs, 22 wickets.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

September

The month passed has been a very trying time for most of us and it is with a sigh of slight relief that we read our current newspapers.

The airlift link between Berlin and the British Zone has been much publicised, but little has been heard of the invisible "communications" bridge which has been maintained by the Squadron, the "back-room boys of the H.Q.," as one wit aptly described us recently.

With the various means at our disposal we have, for 24 hours a day, kept the traffic flowing as evenly and speedily as possible despite power cuts and other reminders of our position behind the "curtain"—including dehydrated potatoes.

With our fingers crossed we are happy to report that, so far, no international incidents can be attributed to any slips on our part, even though sets have smoked as a result of the "red-hot" stuff passing through them.

When our O.C. goes into a "huddle" with Major Toombs, the SX chief at local H.Q., some of us, remembering them at 1 Corps in the past, wonder when the "Ashtray" exercises are going to finish.

Even though flaps and nocturnal adventures have been the order of the day (and night), life, in some respects, has gone on normally. For instance, we were able to rustle up a photographer to produce a portrait of Paddy O'Callaghan in an effort to challenge the fine record of service reported in last month's WIRE. What an example soldiers of such standing set for the first of our National Service men just arriving.

When the Camp Commandant retires very shortly, Paddy will have the honour of being the oldest soldier in Berlin. At 50 years of age he is still a proficient Driver i/c and in his spare time performs the duties of postman and armourer. We hope to see his excellent record produced on another page of this issue.

We have watched, too, the normality of nature as our Unit garden has progressed under the watchful eye and green fingers of the S.S.M. and his "volunteers." In between periods of watching the Sunderlands, Yorks and Dakotas passing overhead, we have seen the tomatoes produce what must be an abnormal harvest of fruit, which, together with other produce, has gone into the Garrison "kitty" to help out on the dehydrated veg. which circumstances demand being issued. Does anyone know how to dehydrate beer?

Departures from the Squadron are still too numerous to mention individually, and our loss is the Ministry of Labour's gain.

Signals on patrol with the Brandenburger Tor in the background

Signals on patrol

However, quite a number of the boys are deciding to make the Army their career, and our figures to date are reasonably high. It has been rumoured that our O.C. is seriously contemplating a transfer to his recruiting office at home—he feels he may better himself financially that way.

The new arrivals are settling down to some real hard work and are already chatting to each other on the air. I sincerely hope they will enjoy their stay in Berlin.

We rounded off the cricket season with a convincing win against a German XI. Played on the Maifield Ground at the Olympic Stadium on 25th August in uncertain weather, the visitors won the toss and elected to bat. They were soon in trouble and had lost six wickets for the paltry total of 34 runs, but the seventh wicket stand took the score to 97 before the partnership was broken. They were eventually all out for 127 runs. After tea, our innings was opened by Lance-Corporal Fifield and Driver Wignall, but we were soon in trouble when Fifield was caught with only one run on the score board. Runs came fairly frequently after this setback, and, with the score at 128 for four wickets, stumps were drawn. The bowling of Major L. J. Parker (three for 22) and Lance-Corporal Watts (four for 28) is worthy of special praise. Mention must be made, too, of the fine batting of Sergeant Richardson and Sergeant Liley who both carried their bats after scoring 39 and 34 respectively, and Driver Wignall, one of our few all-rounders, made a very useful 28.

With the cricket gear on the shelf until next season, the football and hockey gear is now getting the cobwebs knocked off it.

Unfortunately we are unable to raise our own hockey team but are proud of the fact that we have four members of the Squadron in the H.Q. B.T.B. representative side.

Football, as usual, draws the most interest, and, after a couple of trial matches, we have built up a very useful team.

On 8th September we played Camp H.Q. and gave them a good licking to the tune of eight goals to one. In spite of the huge score many opportunities were missed and we should have won by a much greater margin. Driver Wignall's constructive play at inside-left was excellent and, although he did not find the net, credit must go to him for making the openings for most of the goals. Signalman Barfoot, too, was very impressive at centre-forward and scored five of the goals, and Corporal Preston, playing at centre-half, had a very good game indeed. With a few more games together we hope to produce a really good team.

On Saturday, 21st August, at the Garrison Church, Berlin, Signalman Turner was married to Gisela Holz. The bride wore a dress of white crepe with veil and carried a bouquet of red roses.

Lance-Corporal Fifield acted as best man and the bride was given away by her brother.

After the wedding a reception was held at the bride's home and was well attended by members of the Squadron.

We wish Signalman and Mrs. Turner all the happiness in the world.

We welcome the return of S.Q.M.S. Jimmy Gould to the Mess after a short spell in "dock." Rumours have it that he has been relieved of a chain and anchor! Did the gypsy forecast this one?

More next month.

"ROCKY"

How we are helping to beat the "blockade"

Signalman Turner and his bride

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1949

On page 358 will be found a special announcement giving full details regarding size, style, price, etc. The diary contains many pages of useful and interesting information, including coloured road maps of the British Isles. Order your copy NOW.

A REPORT BY CAPTAIN R. E. ROOKS, ROYAL SIGNALS

A Journey to Istres and Return

THE object of the visit was to recover a number of items of stores held surplus at 103 Staging Post, Istres, France. In addition, the Squadron had orders to recover similar items from 137 Staging Post, Bordeaux.

The route followed was as follows:—Gütersloh, Cologne, Aachen, Maastricht, Hasselt, Louvin, Brussels, Tournai, Lille, Arras, Peronne, La Fere, Laon to Avignon, Orgon, Salon, Miramas, Istres. On the return journey this route was followed to Laon, from thence to La Fere, St. Quentin, Cambrai, Douai, Lille, Tournai, Mons, Charleroi, Namur, Hasselt, Maastricht, and so on as before.

On 22nd June we were on our way to Istres at 0730 hrs. promptly, crossing the frontier at Aachen at 1500 hrs. (Central European Time, 1400 hrs. Belgian Time). Here we ran into a very heavy storm. Our route took us to Liege, but on arrival at the Dutch-Belgian frontier I was informed that, as British subjects of the Armed Forces, we would have to cross into Belgium at a village named Bildershaan, between Maastricht and Hasselt. We crossed at this point at 1530 hrs. (new time). At 1600 hrs. we ran into another heavy rainstorm, which did not stop until we reached Brussels at 2000 hrs. These two storms had reduced our speed to about 15 m.p.h. As the weather was still uncertain, I concluded that there would be no point in continuing, so I contacted the Belgian Air Force H.Q., now occupying the barracks vacated by the R.A.F. Delegation to Brussels, who agreed to put us up for the night.

I called reveille at 0600 hrs. next morning. We had breakfast and were ready to move off at 0745 hrs. As Brussels is a large town without signposts, we had slight difficulty in finding our way out. To avoid accidents and to keep the convoy in one piece we travelled at about 5 m.p.h., to the disgust and infuriation of the local inhabitants, if the number of horns sounded and the glances we received were any indication. However, we pressed on and, with the help of a taxicab driver, we finally ploughed our way out of Brussels on the road to Mons at about 0900 hrs.

Our intention was to cross the Belgian-French frontier at a point between Mons in Belgium and Maubeuge in France. On arrival here we were informed by the Customs Officers that we could not cross the frontier at this point but would have to go to Hertain, between Tournai and Lille. We crossed at this point at 1230 hrs. Lille is another large city where no signposts for Douai could be seen. A Frenchman, noting our indecision, cycled two miles out of his way to put us on the road to Arras. He explained that the Lille-Douai road was u/s. We took his advice and made for Arras. We arrived at a point about 20 miles from Rheims at 2100 hrs., cooked our evening meal and bedded down under the lorries on what appeared to be a disused car park.

At 0430 hrs., 24th June, I called reveille, and, daily maintenance and refuelling completed, we were off at 0630 hrs., camping at 2230 hrs. in a field about 15 miles from Macon. We were on our way at 0400 hrs. next morning. My intention was to get through Lyons before the daily traffic was out.

Lyons is a large city of 1,000,000 inhabitants and again no signposts. Here again we floundered round until we came to a police station. I explained our predicament in my best French. A French policeman was thereupon put in the first vehicle and he conducted us through Lyons on the road to Marseilles. We halted about 10 miles from Lyons for a clean up, breakfast and refuelling and maintenance, and at 0900 hrs. were ready to move off. We finally arrived at our destination at 1900 hrs., Friday, 25th June, without incident.

On arrival at Istres I learned that the Signal Officer, Flight-Lieutenant Munn, R.A.F., was on U.K. leave and would not be back until the following Tuesday. All vehicles were off-loaded, cleaned and checked. The date for our return journey was left open, but all stores were assembled ready for loading. After meeting the Signal Officer the time and date for return was set for 0730 hrs. Friday, 2nd July, 1948.

I decided to take a little more time for our return journey for two reasons. Firstly, we should have to travel more slowly as we were loaded. Secondly, I had no relief driver for Signalman Stanyon. The convoy made Lyons by 1900 hrs., and we stopped for the night at 1930 hrs. in a field. Here I might say we had a stroke of luck. At our mid-day halt we were approached by a very pretty French girl smoking a pipe. She asked if we were going through Lyons and explained that she was hitch-hiking to Lyons. I asked if she knew Lyons well. Yes, she lived there. I suggested that in return for a lift to Lyons she should put us on to the Macon road. She agreed to this and we were through Lyons in 20 minutes.

The convoy was on the road at 0745 hrs. next morning, 3rd July, 1948, stopping at 2130 hrs. for the night by the road. On the next day I decided to change our route slightly. Our French friend of Lille had told us that the Lille-Douai road was u/s. Whilst accepting his advice on the downward journey, I argued that two large adjacent towns are bound to have a road connecting them. We found the deviation and stopped near an old disused R.A.F. building for our last brew-up for the night. Time was now 1730 hrs. and it was raining.

The convoy crossed the frontier into Belgium at 1900 hrs. and pressed on in the pouring rain. Here again I decided on a minor deviation. Instead of entering Brussels I decided time would be saved, although greater mileage would be covered, by circumventing the capital.

It was still raining heavily when we entered a village the other side of Mons at 2215 hrs. It was too dark to see the name. I stopped the convoy on a bare patch just as we entered and had all the lorries pulled off the road. Everyone was comfortably settled and I was clearing a small space in the back of the first lorry for myself. I noticed a Belgian policeman hovering around. To identify ourselves, I approached the policeman and explained that the drivers had been driving since 0730 hrs. and would it be possible for the convoy of one British Officer and four British Other Ranks to rest on this plot? As he was unable to speak English and we could not speak Flemish, we addressed him in German. The policeman immediately adopted a most hostile attitude and enquired if we were German P.O.W.s. We again informed him that we were British personnel and repeated the request. He agreed we could rest here for the night and left.

I returned to my rather uncomfortable bed, which did not quite dodge the leaks in the tarpaulin, draped around and over Tele F.s, repeaters and coils for BB1.1., for an uncomfortable night. At about 2230 hrs. I was on the point of dropping off when I was disturbed by cars stopping and bodies poking around the vehicles. Still raining, of course. An English-speaking voice asked me if I was in charge of the convoy and demanded the custody of all Germans. Further, he would like to see my papers.

Putting my boots on, I discovered that I had placed the right boot directly under a leak. Suppressing an inclination to say a few unkind words, I smiled as graciously as I could at 2345 hrs. in the rain and said I would be very glad to oblige the Monsieur. Another uncomfortable half an hour was spent in the rain inspecting the vehicles, their loads and the drivers, comfortably asleep—damn them—in the front. Being small, the drivers could spend quite a comfortable night in the front. Papers were checked while one of the policemen was unloading his Sten. On turning round I discovered there was one policeman behind me pointing a revolver at the small of my back. The head of the party satisfied himself that I was a British Officer, but wanted to know where the ?? Germans were. Very patiently I explained that my party consisted of myself, four British soldiers, three lorries and the loads contained therein. After another search around the convoy they decided I had no German P.O.W.s on board and left.

We were up again at 0600 hrs. (still raining!) and on the road. At 0630 hrs. we stopped, cooked breakfast, had a wash and brush up, refuelled and were on our way again at 0800 hrs. It stopped raining at 0930 hrs. The frontier into Holland was crossed at 1630 hrs., into Germany at Aachen at 1730 hrs. In Aachen it began to rain heavily. We were through Cologne and on the Autobahn at 2100 hrs., and pressed on to get past the deviation in Düsseldorf. At 0015 hrs. we stopped on the Autobahn for a final brew-up. A conference was held and everyone voted to press on without stopping for Gütersloh, which we entered at 0400 hrs. Tuesday, 6th July, 1948.

Mileage for the journey was:—

Outward journey	1,040 miles
Return journey	998 miles
Total ...	2,038 miles

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg

Regimental Headquarters and No. 1 Squadron are stationed at Bückeburg.

Our main pre-occupation during the last weeks has been "Operation Plane Fare." Later in these notes you will find a short article by a Signalman who is taking a part in the Operation. The air lift of food to Berlin has been sufficiently written up in the National Press, and all will be aware of what is taking place. A very heavy increase in air traffic and the provision of new airfields has thrown a considerable strain on the resources of this Regiment. All ranks have been working really hard.

No. 2 Squadron is stationed at Sundern. During the last few weeks they have been shooting on the range and, although the results were not up to Bisley standard, they were not too bad when one considers that the majority of fellows have had very little experience in firing rifles and Stens.

It is with regret that we have to announce the closing of the Squadron's Sergeants' Mess with effect from 31st August owing, in the main, to the big shortage of members. On the 21st August a grand social evening was held in the Mess and we had the pleasure of the company of the O.C. Squadron, Major Jarvis, and his wife, and the Officers of the Squadron and their wives. The party went with a swing, helped by a four-piece band from the Training School. A very good time was had by all, although judging by the weary looks on faces in the early hours of Sunday morning, one wonders what is the definition of a good time as applied to social functions. On the Tuesday following, members of the Mess held a dinner in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, Gütersloh, and after dinner returned to the Mess to finish the evening, and once again a good time was had, helped greatly by the "Crosby"-like swooning-sorry crooning of our school man, Sergeant Lyons.

An athletic team from the Squadron was sent to represent the Regiment in the B.A.F.O. Athletic Championships held at R.A.F. Station, Utersen, on 17th and 18th August. Despite the lack of training, the team put up a very creditable performance and is to be congratulated on it. Captain Milligan and Signalman Healy-Hutchinson were particularly successful in obtaining second and third places in the Long Jump and 440 Yards respectively. They will be competing for B.A.F.O. in an athletic meeting with the C.C.G. at Hanover on 4th September. Other finalists were S.Q.M.S. Bain, Sergeant Wrench, Sergeant Lyons, Signalmen Mullen, Reid, Noble, Fairbairn and Steer.

OPERATION PLANE-FARE

Since No. 80 W.S.T. were last heard of in THE WIRE they have tasted quite a bit of operational work.

First came operation "Knicker," the supplying of B.T.B. and C.C.G. personnel with food. Here they provided the nerve centre of the operation. Then came operation "Plane-Fare," supplying the British section of Berlin with food, where at first the Troop provided the main communication of A.A.T.O. Then, as this organisation expanded, Wunstorf Airfield became too small and reorganisation became necessary. First to leave was H.Q., who went to Buckeburg and came under the care of No. 1 Squadron, 11th A.F.S.R.; then the Daks, they went to Fassburg and were tended by No. 139 Line Troop.

During all this the airfield underwent drastic changes, so rapid that at times it was unable to keep check. Communications were wanted here, there and everywhere, operations rooms, check points, new cables, all had to be installed. To accommodate W.A.A.F. tele-ops. in more pleasant surroundings a suggestion was even made to move the station telephone exchange!

When this operation started it was accompanied by rain and more rain, making working and living conditions almost unbearable. The average working day was 16 hours, when men returned to their quarters tired, muddy and wet, only to share a room which normally holds three with six or seven others. Beds were unheard of for some and they had to be content with the floor.

At the start of the operation the Troop was supplemented by a detachment of 2nd L. of C. Signal Regiment, but with the move of A.A.T.O. this detachment left.

To accommodate all the communications required it was necessary to replace the station switchboard with a larger one, a job that provided excess worry but which was undertaken and completed in record time. Also there was new navigational aids installed, new camps wired. Our present commitments jumped from comfortable working to something four times as great.

Great responsibility rested on the linemen, who were ably helped out by the operators, both T.S.B.O. and O.K.L., who laid aside their white collar jobs and really dug in and had their faces and hands dirtied (even the troop draughtsmen, who exchanged pencils for pliers). The spirit of comradeship and of mucking in was excellent. Our drivers kept their vehicles on the road by sheer determination.

For night work there were always ample volunteers. This may be because supper which was served at about 0130 hrs. was the best meal of the day.

"A" TRADES TRAINING SCHOOL

Sundern

August

Having joined the Army and due to being posted to the Royal Signals, I found myself on draft for the B.A.O.R. where I understood I was to be trained. After a few days of travelling and time spent in transit I eventually arrived at the R.A.F. Station, Sundern, which is located about 50 miles south-east of Osnabrück, where I found the "A" Trades Training School, and I shall now try to give the reader a small picture of the life as I found it.

The routine of the day is as follows: Reveille is at 0630 hrs., breakfast until 0730 hrs., and we are on parade at 0755 hrs. Having been dismissed we then proceed to the class-room to undergo the tortures of a.c. theory or whatever subject we have reached in our course. The first break is at 0930 hrs. when trainees—myself included—depart *en masse* to the nearby hostelry, suitably named "The Signals' Inn," and refreshed by wads and char we are ready to return to the class-room for further instruction until 1230 hrs. The afternoon work occupies our time from 1330 hrs. until 1630 hrs., which is of course followed by tea.

The two half days in the week occur on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The former is usually taken up with organised sports and activities, such as athletics on the very aptly named "Wembley Stadium" on the camp, football on the "Airstrip," cross-country running, or possibly a swim in the open-air swimming pool located a few yards from the gates of the camp, the latter, of course, only when the weather permits. Certain personnel seem to be desirous of throwing themselves around the German skies in flimsy contraptions which take the form of gliders, and for them several well organised clubs are available.

The course itself is as interesting as one can make it, aided naturally by the enthusiasm of our instructors. It consists of approximately eight weeks of common theory and then the split between Radio and Line personnel comes into effect, bringing with it a friendly rivalry which occasionally could lead to unpleasantness were it not for the proximity in which we work. In the evenings ample facilities are provided for further sport, and often necessary study. The station has its own cinema, large N.A.A.F.I. canteen, educational and part-time study facilities, such as German classes, leather work classes, and a play-reading circle. Apart from these activities, one finds that time is very short, particularly on Friday evenings when great preparations are always in progress, in view of the fact weekly tests and a Barrack Room inspection fall on Saturday (much loathed) mornings, but as usual the time passes very quickly and the afternoon has arrived, the clamour for week-end passes at the School Office is at its height, and all are desirous of rather going away for the week-end to a leave centre or obtaining as early a lunch as possible so that we may have as long a time as possible for ourselves, and so, as always, the week-end passes with its few hours of laziness—the peacefulness of the walk in the park, the quiet serenity of the Saturday afternoon cricket match reminding us so much of life at home; the Sunday services in the Station Church and, finally, the quiet read before lights out. And so the week has passed, and the dreaded Monday morning looms in view—a new class-room, a new subject and, possibly, a fresh instructor. New faces arrive as old ones disappear, until one is faced with the reality that one's turn is next to go on posting. One looks back upon the time spent, both pleasant and unpleasant, the trip to the opera, digging fatigues, quiet walks in the country, and on the whole one realises how pleasant it all has been, and as one leaves the camp for the last time, looking back upon the road stretching from the Guardroom to the School Blocks whose home it has been for the last four months, one realises that it is a place remaining always in one's memory as the part of one's Army career where training was undertaken.

S.S.

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If not—

Do it NOW!

A Form is supplied with this issue

It was with considerable apprehension and regret that I left the Wireless Troop at H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment to become one of the instructors at the "A" Trades Training School, but I must admit that as soon as I had arrived I felt quite at home. The School is under the administration of No. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment and it is located in the R.A.F. Camp, Sundern. The hours of duty which are common to most instructors are, of course, the same as the trainees', with the addition of time to be spent in marking and setting the examinations. It is extremely fortunate for us that the School is located in such admirable buildings, for the lecture rooms and workshops provide very genial surroundings in which to instruct—the rooms are light and airy and acoustics are good. It is the policy of the School that an instructor has one or more fixed subjects to instruct, there being one set of Line instructors and the other for Radio. As for myself, I am with the former group.

When the School was in its early stages we had only about 60 trainees under instruction, but in the last months it has risen to nearly 180, and when the individual courses split up into the Line and Radio Sections—having been guided together through the depths of common theory and common equipment—the instructors found themselves with very little spare time, as the ravages of demobilisation were constantly threatening to reduce our already small numbers. However, in what little time we have had available, the instructors have formed a fairly active Amateur Radio Club, and at the moment have four transmitters in operation operated by our F.O.S., Sergeant John Beale, Sergeant Collins, Corporal Edwards and myself. Our chief worry is not so much a lack of contacts over the air but rather frequent reports of broadcast channel interference within the camp boundary, and for this reason the majority of our operating is carried out as with most "hams" in the early hours of the morning.

As I write this article the leaves are already beginning to turn on the trees outside the office window, and to think that within a few months this School will no longer be seems hard to realise. For in the short space of time many friends have been made amongst ourselves, our R.A.F. hosts and those passing through the School, but I for one think in common with many others that we will all look back with satisfaction and happy memories upon "The School" in which, one might say, we worked, lived, and had our interests.

To those who have passed through the School, those here now, and all who have visited us we send you our greetings and best wishes for the coming festive season and the New Year.

LIEUTENANT N. S. LILLEY.

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Hamburg

August

It seemed the sun would never shine when July was heralded in. Indeed the storm was almost tropical in its intensity. However, the latter part of the month brought forth a compensating tropical sun. The swimming pool then, of course, became the hub of the Unit, and even the most ardent non-swimmers were found receiving instructions from our very energetic P.T. Staff.

During the month we have said farewell to one of the veritable founders of the Regiment—Major J. McD. Glass—who left for a course in U.K. We all wish him the very best of luck and hope it will not be long before we see him back here in B.A.O.R. again.

Success to some degree came to the Unit garden enthusiasts when the Regiment obtained third place in the B.A.O.R. Barrack Gardens Competition. Special mention must be made of Sergeant W. Webster, whose constant enthusiasm has really kept things *growing*, and of Corporal A. Bull, whose individual garden received warranted praise. The horticulture team of Second-Lieutenant R. W. Webster and Sergeant W. Webster, having rested on their laurels, are now praying for the sun to ripen the very prolific but oh! so green tomatoes.

Cricket. Our cricket team played its first game in July against C.C.G. Play was of quite a high standard. The weakness of our batting was ably compensated for by the devastating effect of our bowlers, Sergeant Ellis, Signalman Gomm and Driver Critcher, on the C.C.G. team, who were narrowly defeated by 12 runs. In the second match, however, the C.C.G. really had their revenge, defeating our team by 50 runs. The deciding game, due to be played next month, is therefore likely to be keenly contested.

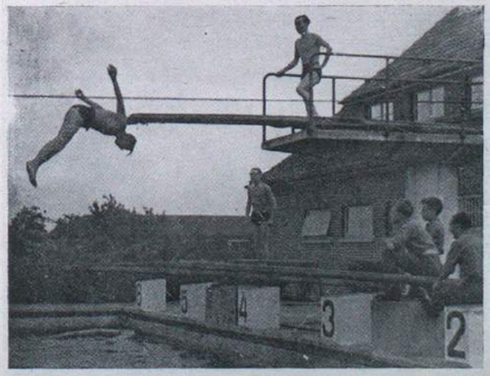
Hockey has been confined to frequent Inter-Troop games which even so have been of a high standard.

A Unit team is now ready to take the field against all comers.

In Basket Ball there has been terrific Inter-Troop competition and from the talent displayed in the games so far it should not be difficult to produce quite a creditable team for area competitions.

The Sergeants' Mess and Officers' Mess have been regular contestants in tennis, shooting and table tennis tournaments.

August generally was a disappointing month, most outdoor activities being restricted by an almost continual downpour. However, a number of the Unit's regular engagements carried on, among these being basket ball, shooting, tombola, Unit dances and, of course, the Unit cinema.



Departures recently have, unfortunately, been as frequent as arrivals.

Second-Lieutenant R. W. Webster and Staff-Sergeant Lile left us for Civvy Street, whilst postings to other units have caused the departure of Captain C. F. Vinn and Staff-Sergeant Bosanquet-Bryant. On the brighter side, however, R.Q.M.S. Stratton recently became the very proud father of a daughter, born on the 7th July, who was christened on Sunday, 29th August, 1948, and named Elisabeth Gillian, in the Unit Chapel. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stratton.

Recently there has been a spate of music in the Unit. Did someone say "corny music"? I trust not, for Staff-Sergeant Thompson and Sergeant Sharples would insist that their very excellent ensemble was in true Western style. Indeed, its success has spurred greater efforts from the hopefuls intending to form a Unit dance band. At the moment the result of their efforts is rather more individualistic than combined but at least it's loud.

Football. The football season started for us with a home match against 15 B.O.D. The match, played in excellent weather, started off in fine style, but it was soon evident that the Ordnance team was superior due to their combined team work. However, they had to fight hard for their success, final score being 3—1. With a little more practice the Unit team should carry on in fine style and great hopes are held for the ensuing matches in Hamburg District League, the first place of which was so narrowly missed last season by the Unit team.

Basket Ball. An inter-Troop basket ball league is now in full swing. Games take place every evening and competition grows steadily more keen. With such frequent practice it is hoped that a formidable Unit team will be formed for inter-Unit activities.

Similarly, in hockey, inter-Troop games are very frequent. Indeed, it is not unusual to see football, hockey and basket ball games in progress each evening.

A.T.S. SIGNALS, GERMANY

Since our last news bulletin appeared in THE WIRE, we have suffered large losses amongst our officers. Sad farewells have been said to Subaltern M. E. Roe, who we now hear is a D.S.O. at Salisbury; Subaltern D. C. Harris, of B.F.N. and Mercury fame, who is at present at home attempting to spin out her Python leave to rather unusual lengths; and Subaltern Mary Wynn, last heard of at the Hook of Holland, having lost all her luggage *en route*. We offer our sincere congratulations to Lieutenant J. Morton, who has persuaded

Subaltern Wynn that marriage is a better career than the A.T.S., and we wish them both every happiness.

To compensate us for our losses, Subaltern " Pip " Carlisle has arrived on the scene and spends her time dashing madly around Bad Oeynhausen trying to find A.T.S. who can run the 100 yards in less than 14 seconds. As she has only found one volunteer we can only assume that this is due to the number of second helpings consumed in the cookhouse, although it is rumoured that the N.A.A.F.I. at Bad Oeynhausen would go bankrupt if A.T.S. Signals moved out.

Whilst on the subject of sport, we offer congratulations to all members of our rounders team, who came second in the Inter-Group Rounders Rally held at Herford on 10th July.

We have noticed recently frantic activity amongst A.T.S. in the gardens. This no doubt is due to the fact that the gardening competition is soon to be held and the lucky winners will supplement their weekly earnings with Savings Certificates. This no doubt explains why all the officers and sergeants are gardening so enthusiastically.

Three of our sergeants, namely Sergeant Shead, Sergeant Edens and Sergeant Hodgson, recently lashed out and went on an organised trip down the Rhine. They reported rather late for duty the following Monday afternoon and the reason they gave for this was that the train went the wrong way. We feel that even sergeants should be able to think up a better excuse than this, especially the Orderly Room Sergeant, who should know all the answers by this time.

Wedding bells have again been ringing in the Unit, this time for Lance-Corporal Scott (now Mrs. Russell), Private Lefevre (now Mrs. Evans), and Private Cooper (who married Signalman Osborne, demobbed from No. 2 L. of C. Signals Regiment). In conclusion we extend our best wishes to Subaltern H. Evans, who returned from leave wearing a diamond ring on the third finger of the left hand. As Subaltern Evans is the present Quartermaster, we feel this is the right time for any Auxiliary who has lost her kit to approach her.

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON

September

Since the last issue of THE WIRE, the Unit sporting activities have switched rather abruptly from the somewhat leisurely cricket to the more strenuous games of football and hockey. To date, hockey predominates. Bat and pads have disappeared and football boots and hockey sticks have once again been taken out of heavy preservation.

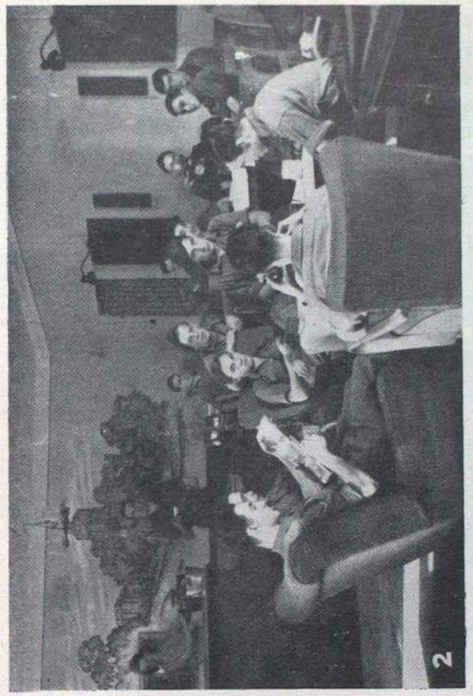
After a most successful cricketing season, which included the winning of the No. 4 A.G.R.A. area knock-out competition, the team was unfortunately beaten by 2nd Echelon in the semi-final of the District Tournament. It was a jolly good game, providing a very fine standard of cricket, and no doubt the better team won, but it was none the less rather a sorry ending to such a promising start.

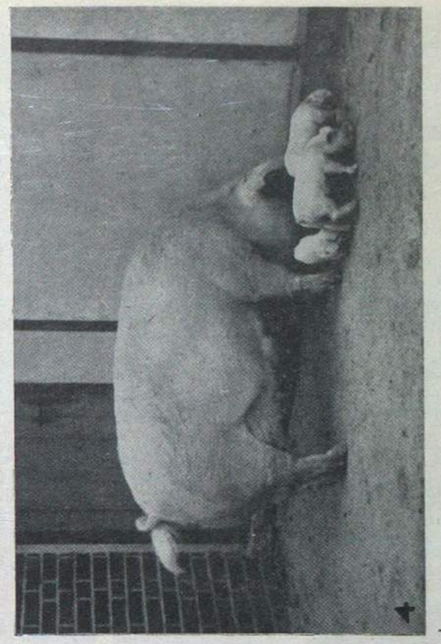
Demob has no respect for sport, and most of our better footballers have long since departed. Despite this setback, the Squadron are committed to the " B " League of the Luneburg District, and the combined H.Q. and Signals to the " A " League. Our new lads are young and keen, and I'm sure they will uphold the traditions of the 4th Armoured Brigade Signals football team of last winter. This year we might even beat the R.A.F. Regiment stationed at the Luneburg Airfield, whilst last year we could only hold them to a draw!

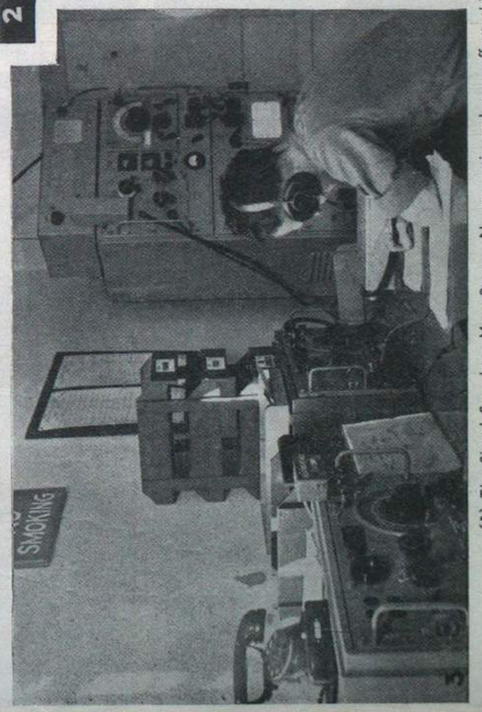
To the latest arrivals to the Squadron we extend a very hearty welcome. With every respect to your age and service groups, we do hope that your stay will be long, as it will most certainly be pleasant. To those departed to the luxuries of civil life in the U.K. we say " Cheerio chaps, thanks for coming."

Last month I promised a photograph or two of the Unit at work or play, or both. This month I'm in the happy position of being able to oblige with what should prove some very interesting pictures—with the Editor's approval and co-operation.

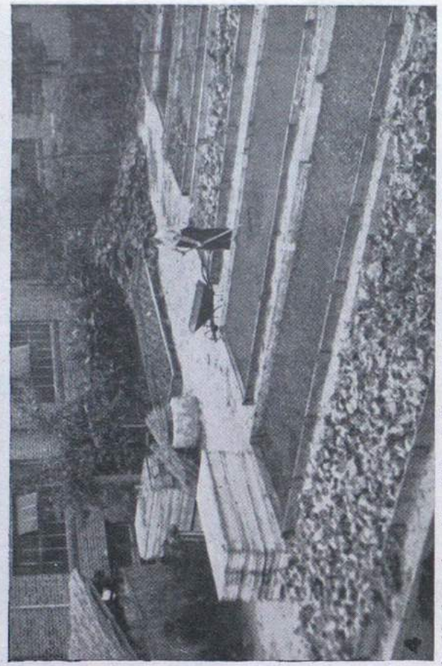
The combined H.Q. and Signals cricket team, after a very successful cricketing season. How success radiates happiness!

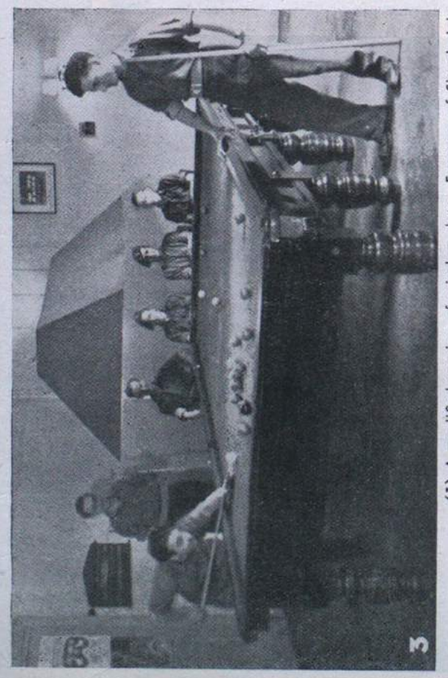






(1) The Signal Squadron Mess Room. No mess tin and mug effort this!
(2) Relaxing in the Squadron " Mercury Club " for mid-morning break.
(3) Signalman Thomas doing a " stag " in the wireless room.
(4) Four other very good reasons. A corner of the Squadron piggery. The old sow with three new arrivals, T.O.S. for one purpose only.





(1) A modified version of wireless duty. Foreman of Signals John Le Hardy, and aspiring "Ham," Corporal Hardwick, calling DX 20 on the Unit Amateur Radio Station D2GN.

(2) The most popular corner of the Squadron canteen, the "Sinkit Inn" with a few of the usuals doing elbow exercises.

(3) Another corner of the "Mercury Club." A Squadron snooker tournament in progress.

(4) A view of part of the Unit's garden nursery. One of the reasons for the very high standard of messing that this Squadron enjoys.

OLYMPIC GAMES COMMUNICATIONS

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Assistance by Royal Signals—July 15 to August 14, 1948

THE following is a precis of an official report rendered by O.C. Eastern Command Signal Regiment, and although the Olympic Games are rather past history, this brief account is published because of its general interest.

The commitment given to the Regiment in the communications of the Olympic Games consisted of two distinct parts: Teleprinter and telephone operating at the Olympic Stadium and Housing Centres in London and telephone communications for reporting the road cycle race in Windsor Great Park.

Teleprinters and Telephone Operating at Olympic Centres

The total employed on this work numbered 20 teleprinter operators and eight telephone switchboard operators. These came from all Commands in the United Kingdom.

The main centre for the teleprinter network was in the Civic Hall, which is adjacent to Wembley Stadium. There the teleprinter switchboard was located and a "bank" of seven other teleprinters was available for one-to-one working to cater for administrative traffic including the draws for heats. This communication, of necessity, stimulated an Army Signal Office. During practice before the commencement of the games, civilians were trained to act as checks and clerks, and time was devoted to training the civilian staff and military operators in the required procedure.

There were two systems:

"*B*" *Broadcast*. The following were the stations on the "B" Broadcast: The Editor in the Civic Hall, the B.B.C., the Press Office, and the sending point for this broadcast, the Arena Manager's Box, which was right by the running track in Wembley Stadium. The purpose of this broadcast was to clear to the a/m stations the results of events taking place in Wembley Stadium. From the Press Office these results were circulated to Press reporters.

"*A*" *Broadcast*. The purpose of the "A" Broadcast was to circulate to all concerned the results of events which were taking place in arenas other than Wembley Stadium (e.g., swimming, fencing, basket ball, wrestling, boxing, shooting, etc., events).

The results were first edited on receipt by the Editor and passed by hand to the sending point for this broadcast, which was in the Civic Hall. Stations on this Broadcast were the Press Office, Arena Manager's Box, Scoreboard, B.B.C., Empress Hall, 37 Upper Brook Street (Olympic H.Q.), Richmond Park, Uxbridge and West Drayton Competitors' Centres and Henley (at a later date Empress Hall was removed from this broadcast so that the circuit could be used for incoming results from Empress Hall).

Again—as in the "B" Broadcast—these results were duplicated in the Press Office and distributed to members of the Press. This presented an interesting feature in that the teleprinters in the Press Office had loaded type-heads which cut stencils direct instead of printing on ordinary teleprinter paper. These stencils were then placed on electric duplicators and the requisite number of copies of both "A" and "B" Broadcasts (400 in each case) run off.

General. Of the Teleprinter Stations mentioned above, Royal Signals and A.T.S. Signals manned the following: Communications Centre (Civic Hall), Wembley; Arena Manager's Box, Wembley Stadium; Scoreboard, Wembley Stadium; Empress Hall, Earl's Court; 37 Upper Brook Street and Richmond Park Competitors' Centre.

R.A.F. Operators manned Uxbridge and West Drayton Competitors' Centres and Henley.

Telephone Switchboards. Royal Signals personnel manned two telephone switchboards, one at Richmond Park Competitors' Centre and the other at Empress Hall, Earl's Court. A 24-hour service was provided at both these exchanges. The Richmond Park Exchange consisted of two 10+50 boards and five operators (two military and three A.T.S.) were employed there. At Empress Hall the board was a 5+20, employing three military operators.

The Richmond Park Switchboard was especially busy and peak periods took place at most unusual times outside the usual business hours of 0900-1700 hrs. Here, too, there was the added problem of the many foreign tongues in which subscribers requested calls. The supervisor's job was a completely full-time one requiring much patience and tact.

The Road Cycle Race at Windsor Great Park

All the men involved in this came from Eastern Command Signal Regiment. Second-Lieutenant E. N. J. Owen was in charge of the installation.

The circuit around Windsor Great Park is approximately eight miles. Eight telephone points were required at approximately one-mile intervals round the circuit. From these telephone points the progress of the race was reported back to a "Control Centre," which was located at the "Start and Finish" point. Information passed back to Control was in the form of phongrams, the information being written down on message pads at "Control." Two separate systems were provided, viz.:

System "A," Race Reporting. Telephones at alternate points 1, 3, 5 and 7 were connected to No. 1 Control Operateor's head and breast set, while telephones at the remaining points 2, 4, 6 and 8 were connected to No. 2 Control Operator's head and breast set.

Since the approximate speed of the cyclists was 24 m.p.h., the time taken for one circuit was approximately 20 minutes. Thus each Control Operator received incoming reports at the rate of one every five minutes. Such reports had to be short and to the point. The Operators for this system were provided by the National Cyclists' Union. Lectures and notes on procedure were given to them at rehearsals which were held in the fortnight previous to the event.

System "B," Admin. Messages. At each of the eight outstations a second telephone was located. These were wired to an exchange which also had extensions to the "Control Centre." Over this system were passed more "long-winded" admin. messages, reports of incidents, etc., for which there was insufficient time on the "A" or operational system. From the switchboard, lines were also provided to the first aid tent

(*continued on page* 346)

Other Overseas Stations

CYRENAICA SIGNAL REGIMENT

July

In our June notes we mentioned the move of District Headquarters and the consequent Signal switchover required by 2nd August. There was a great race against time owing to the late arrival of stores, but by night and day shifts and cramming a week's work into Bank Holiday Monday, the line projects were completed. It was a case of the war-time tempo and great credit is due to the attached Troops, No. 10 Terminal Equipment and No. 3 Construction of 1st L. of C. Signal Regiment, No. 15 Construction of 4th Independent A.F. Signal Squadron, and our own Libyanisation Troop, who all worked magnificently. Everything, as expected, did not go smoothly, and on 31st July the Commanding Officer decided that a 50 pr. cable would have to be laid for a distance of one mile. This was started on 1st August, and the cable was through in just over 12 hours. It was done by roping in everyone to help in the laying, and whilst nearly all Benghazi were idling Bank Holiday away on the beaches, Royal Engineers, Mauritian Pioneers, Arab Linemen and every available man of the Unit toiled away. Even the Adjutant was seen running around with a tape measure wondering what to do with it! To the Officer in Charge of the projects, Captain Locke, the attached Troop Commanders, and all the Line tradesmen, it was also a competition to see who could last the longest without sleep.

With a further 200 line board to operate the personnel situation has become acute, but local civilian operators are being trained and they are filling the gap. Infinite patience is needed to train them.

The last U.K. bound ship took many of our men away, including two bowlers from the Regimental cricket team, which has been so ably led by our Adjutant, Captain Flear, with the result that our run of successes came to a halt after eight games. Each new draft is quickly screened, but to date no bowlers have arrived. Although we have deferment within the Regiment, O2E will not defer cricketers! Sport within the Regiment though is not just confined to a Regimental team, as there are numerous evening matches between the Troops. Sea bathing here is now perfect.

We welcome this month Second-Lieutenant D. H. Ford, who has been sent off to command the Tobruk Detachment, as Second-Lieutenant D. G. Muir left us on release. Captain Murray, O.C. Signal Office and Wireless Troop, has also left, and for the present the Troop is without an officer. Another new arrival was S.Q.M.S. Reece, a Foreman of Signals, to fill a vacancy which was thought to be a permanent one.

The main social activity of the Regiment is still the Sergeants' Mess fortnightly dance, and our Sergeants' Mess photograph shown was taken on the dance floor by the band dais.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

It has been quite a considerable time since the activities of the Squadron featured in THE WIRE and in the meantime a great deal has happened. Owing to the recent acceleration in the release scheme, the majority of personnel in the Unit have been replaced by new arrivals and now very few of the older faces remain. We take this opportunity of wishing Captain C. J. Terry every success in his new role as a civilian; his services towards the Unit will always be remembered by those who knew him. However, we have found an excellent replacement in our new T.O.T., Captain C. H. G. Allen, who arrived here from Scottish Command Signal Regiment. Since his arrival he has proved himself to be a keen cricketer and sportsman. In addition, we welcome S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Fothergill and all newcomers to the Unit. We also extend our best wishes to Sergeant Smith, Lance-Corporal Brady and Signalman Clark, of 74 Group, and also to Lance-Corporal Burgess, Signalman Brown and Lance-Corporal Cartwright, of 75 and 76 Groups, respectively, who left the Unit for Class "A" release during the last month or so.

Back row (left to right): Sergeant Moffitt, Sergeant Holness, Sergeant W. L. Smith, Sergeant H. Martin, Sergeant R. Howard, Sergeant Davis, Sergeant G. N. Smith, Sergeant Melvin, Sergeant Baker. Front row (left to right): S.Q.M.S. Reece (F. of S.), Captain P. H. Flear, S.S.M. Cowsill, Lieut.-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, S.S.M. Lowe, S.Q.M.S. Wood, S.Q.M.S. Ball, Sergeant Winfield

Cricket. With the completion of the cricket league, the Squadron team must be feeling justly proud of themselves in finishing runners-up to the G.E.C.

The team, under the captaincy of Lance-Corporal Wensley, are now eagerly awaiting the knockout competition, where they are hoping to go one better. Well done, lads, keep it up. Congratulations to our captain on being chosen to play for the Combined Services Cricket Team.

Football. Although the game does not come into full swing until the beginning of October, practice matches are now being played in preparation for the coming season. Our first trial game was played on Wednesday, the 18th August, when it was noticed that we shall be able to field an eleven which I am sure will carry the Royal Signals of Gibraltar to the head of the league table.

It must be pointed out that, in as far as sports are concerned, No. 20 Wireless Troop form part of the Royal Signals, Gibraltar.

The Garrison Rowing Club is now open again, where there are excellent facilities for tennis, rowing and swimming. The club is well patronised by members of this Unit.

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

No. 1 SQUADRON. This month saw the introduction in the Unit of the 40 minutes drill per man per week scheme, as announced in a Middle East General Order. The Order lays down that every man should do a period of 40 minutes' drill every week. The scheme in this Squadron was speedily and efficiently put into operation, and is now running smoothly, with drill parades on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays of each week.

Major Bould, whose arrival in the Unit was recorded in our last month's report, has now settled down comfortably as O.C. of No. 1 Squadron. As usual, this month was not without its "quota" of arrivals and departures. Amongst the arrivals we had several new Sergeants posted in — Sergeants O'Sullivan and Clements being two of them. We regret that D.O.V. is still the order but there has been a little headway made recently. Sergeant Digweed went with 73 Group, and with 74 we said farewell to Sergeants Ogle and Burgess. The latter will be missed not only in the Squadron and Signal Office, but also on the cricket field, where he has put up many a fine performance, and was also a regular player in the Signals' team.

Hockey. As usual, there were a number of sporting events to claim our attention this month. July saw the commencement of the Garrison Hot Weather Hockey League. Our hockey team started off the season well with a win by one goal to nil over the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The second match on the 13th was followed up with another victory—this time over Moascar Casuals, also by a goal to nil. To sum up the start of the season we can say that the hockey team has got off to a good and encouraging start, and we can look forward to even better results in the month of August. The results of games played to date are:

		Pts.
12th July *v.* Royal Irish Fusiliers	Won 1—0	2
13th July *v.* Moascar Casuals	Won 1—0	4
16th July *v.* 41st Brigade, R.A.	Lost 1—3	4

The next match is on 29th July against No. 4 Air Formation Signals. We hope to be able to record another win after this match.

Cricket. To commence our report of the cricket this month it is only fitting that we should begin with appreciation of two of our players who have now left us to return to Civvy Street. They are Sergeant Burgess (whose departure has already been mentioned) and Lance-Corporal Bryant. Both were well-known to us all, Sergeant Burgess for his batting and Lance-Corporal Bryant for his very successful, and for his opponents very destructive, handling of the ball. Bryant, playing in his last match against R.A.S.C. (Egypt), finished his cricket in Egypt in a very fitting manner indeed. He finished the game with a match analysis of 11 wickets for 25 runs. No one contributed more to enable the Signals to win the match by the easy margin of eight wickets.

To both Burgess and Bryant we extend our hearty congratulations for the success they have achieved both for themselves and the Signals team, and we wish them *bon voyage* and the very best of luck in Civvy Street.

The Inter-Squadron Cricket League ran as normal, the results of matches played during the last month being:

23rd June, No. 1 beat No. 4; 30th June, R.H.Q. beat No. 3; 1st July, No. 1 beat No. 2; 7th July, R.H.Q. beat No. 4; 14th July, No. 1 beat R.H.Q.

No. 2 SQUADRON. The month of July has seen a host of changes in the Squadron. Release (what release?) has made many a gap in our ranks, but these are being filled by ex-U.K. and ex-Palestine postings. Lieutenants Price and Cansfield, Second-Lieutenants Fowle and Towler (Suez Detachment) and Sergeants Wells, Huggins and Price have all left for demob. We wish them luck in civilian life.

Cricket. The Squadron cricket team, ably captained by Sergeant Wells, has had a good month. Seven games played, six won and one drawn. Other games: Officers and Sergeants *v.* The Rest, and Squadron *v.* Suez Detachment, have been entertaining and played in a fine spirit.

Yachting. The Yachting Club is being steadily reorganised. The Club possesses two yachts and one launch. Many an enjoyable hour has been spent on the Great Bitter Lakes.

Basket-Ball. A Basket-Ball League has been formed and the champions of the moment are the Officers' team. (When it means less inspections we don't mind losing a match).

Dance. The Canteen is being redecorated in preparation for a dance to be held early in August. Amongst all this sport and entertainment both the Squadron and Suez Detachment are working hard restoring stolen cable and locating faults; whoever it was who suggested asking the Egyptians for their maps to show us where one of our cables was buried had the right idea.

No. 3 SQUADRON. During the month we have lost Second-Lieutenants Johnson and Marston, our D.S.O. and Lines Officer respectively, on demob. Second-Lieutenant Taunton has now taken over lines and the Signal Office Troop is in the capable hands of Sergeant Barker. We also lost Sergeant McMurray and an assorted bunch of blokes, including three of our O.K.L.s who laid claim to being the best operators in the Middle East. That is their story, and they are sticking to it! D.O.V. is still causing many a furrowed brow, although the position seems to have improved slightly lately.

Swimming. In local sports, the main interest has been centred around the Garrison Swimming Gala. We only managed to gain a second place in the 220 yards. It looked as if we were going to win the relay race, but unfortunately the team was disqualified.

Cricket. The Garrison Cricket League was started up recently and so far we have managed to hold our own.

TEL-EL-KEBIR. During the month we said "Goodbye" to Second-Lieutenant Mathers and "Hello" to Second-Lieutenant Redfearn. Mr. Mathers left on demob; with him go our very best wishes and good luck. During the last few weeks the Detachment has been busy on the

interior decoration of the Jimmy Club. Most of the off time has been spent in there, swishing paint over the walls and each other. The paint sprayer, which was borrowed for the job, proved to be very effective, and it was remarkable how quickly it could cover a man from head to foot in a glorious deluge of paint. We are extremely keen to get the club going, and can now say that at last it is nearing completion.

Rugby. We have recently sallied forth in strength to the rugger field. The chaps have developed a great interest in the game and though most are novices at the noble sport they certainly make up in enthusiasm what they possibly lack in skill. One could hardly call a July afternoon at "T.E.K." the ideal weather for Rugby; however, the amount of energy expended disproves the allegations that this is only a winter game.

Table Tennis. A table tennis assembly has been fitted in the Jimmy Club, and evenings are spent in chasing and breaking the elusive celluloid balls. After a series of hard-fought elimination contests, the Detachment has now picked two teams. The first team has an away fixture at Tahag at the beginning of next week, for which it is practising with great alacrity.

Swimming. The Garrison swimming pool, as is only to be expected, has been very crowded. So much so that it is said that when all the swimmers eventually come out of the water there is only about an inch left at the deep end. With the mosquitos preparing for conquest, and the flies continuing their harassing activities, we must now once again say "Cheerio" from T.E.K.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

NORTHERN AREA SIGNAL TROOP. Mount Kenya still guards this particular portion of the Equator with the help of Northern Area Signal Troop, and the Equator appears to like it mighty fine.

The Troop has been busy indeed of late, the events of the past month including a King's Birthday Parade, and inspection by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., C.S.O., M.E.L.F., and our annual contribution to the Field Firing Demonstration. In addition extra Signal commitments concerning the removal of our "unwilling guests" who have shown a very persistent desire to return to their own strife-torn land. The most popular comment on this departure from the Troop has been "Kwaheri," and many of them!

Sergeant-Major Timbrell and S.Q.M.S. Radcliffe are due to arrive back from Mombasa with their families, and the Troop extends a warm welcome and hopes that their "unaccommodated" stay in this fair land will be a happy one despite the "points" system.

Our latest arrivals from Blighty include Second-Lieutenant E. P. Clague-Quine and S.Q.M.S. Brown, both of whom have already settled down and accepted their share of the Troop's problems and commitments.

A combined Signals and H.Q. Football Team has been busy these last few weeks and has met with fair success on the field, despite heavy rains which has made play rather heavy going. The Troop's tennis court is nearing completion, thanks to the good work done by Sergeant-Major Timbrell, who is one of the many keen players in the Unit.

At this juncture then we finish our news-letter until the next time—Kwaheri.

KARANI

SOUTHERN AREA SIGNAL TROOP. Since we last sent off notes for THE WIRE there have been some changes in personnel. Corporals "Dusty" Millar and "Bruce" Woodcock have departed for Civvy Street, and we all wish them the very best of luck.

Our one and only cipher king, Lance-Corporal Astles, has returned to Nairobi, and we welcome Corporal Read, who has arrived to replace him.

This Unit has a large area to cover, going far south into Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, which, unfortunately, means that we have little chance of seeing personnel out with detachments, either at Zomba (Lance-Corporal Robson and Lance-Corporal Rand) or Lusaka (Lance-Corporal Burrows), but we know that they are carrying on the good work.

Up to the present no one has attempted to tackle the mountain of Kilimanjaro, but everyone seems keen to "have a go"; at least, that's what they say. With the approach of the hot season, it is expected that someone will, in the near future, make the climb to the snow-capped peak. We hope to have more news on this subject in a later contribution.

The football team, although still in its infancy, is steadily improving, due mainly to the enthusiasm and keenness of the whole Troop. The release of Corporal Woodcock was a big blow to the team, but we are now recovering, slowly but surely. So far, we have only played four games, and, although the results are not flattering, they are not to our discredit.

It is hoped in the near future that our photographers will be able to develop their own negatives. The surrounding country lends itself to good photography, although we could wish for a little more sun.

For the present, the Signals at Moshi say "Jambo" (Greetings) to all our comrades in Signals, until the next time.

Olympic Games Communications (*cont. from page 342*)

and police station. Indeed, this system provided an ideal reporting arrangement for the policemen who patrolled the circuit.

Public Address Lines. Two separate lines were also provided from Control, one to Breakheart Hill and the other to Long Walk. Over these circuits were passed information for public address to spectators in these areas.

Line Laying and Building. The Line Laying was begun on 22nd July, 1948. All lines were laid (but not built) and the switchboard and telephones installed in time for the first rehearsal on Sunday, 1st August, 1948. The remainder of the time until the event itself on the 13th August, 1948, was devoted to building the lines and making them safe. There was one peculiarity in this work, in that in no case were nails allowed to be hammered into trees, nor was any wood-cutting whatsoever permitted. To overcome the former difficulty, battens were made on to which bobbins were nailed. The battens were then tied round tree trunks and branches with spun yarn.

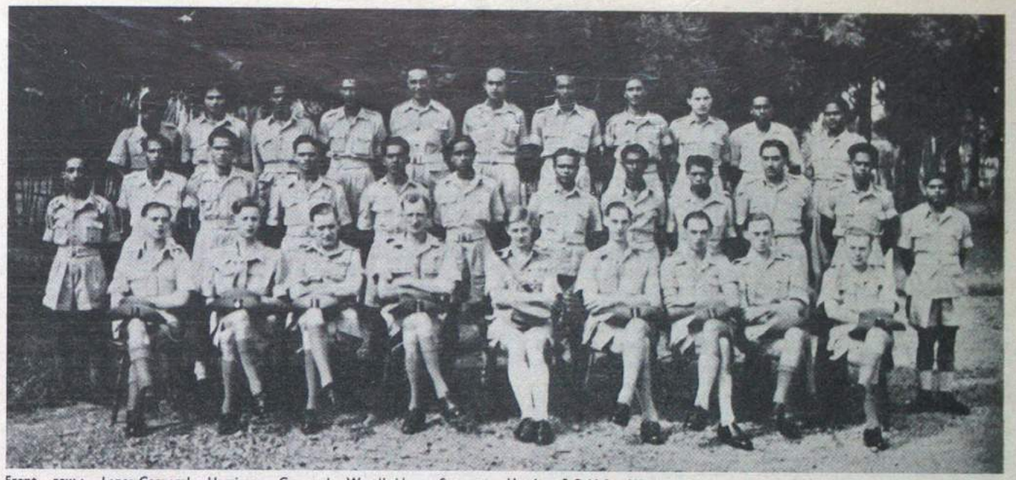
The total amount of cable used was three miles of 7-pr. I.R.V. and 30 miles of D8 twisted.

A second rehearsal was held on the 8th August, 1948, and everything proved satisfactory from the Signals point of view.

The event itself took place on Friday, 13th August, 1948. Again everything was in readiness. There was no hitch and no breakdown. The N.C.U. Operators on their part did an excellent job. The necessary information reached the two Controls in a steady flow and there were no bottlenecks.

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh honoured the "Signal Centre" with his presence and showed considerable interest in the communications system, requesting its description in detail.

Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.



Front row: Lance-Corporal Harrison, Corporal Woodbridge, Sergeant Harris, S.Q.M.S. White, Captain Tomlinson, Sergeant Hawkins, Corporal Clarkson, Lance-Corporal Plumb, Lance-Corporal Henderson

MAURITIUS SIGNAL TROOP

The last month has seen quite a lot of changes in Mauritius Signal Troop. Captain Tomlinson and Corporal Harrison have now left us via *Empire Ken* for U.K. on Python and release respectively. The new O.C., Captain Bell, S.Q.M.S. Caunter and Signalman Beattie arrived by Skyways Lancaster after a very pleasant trip from Nairobi at the beginning of June. They are now settled down very well, although they at first seemed disappointed that they were not met at the airport Plaisance by a crowd of hula hula girls in grass skirts.

Things have been very quiet lately and, except for recent spells of heavy rain everything has been very pleasant. Actually the rain was very welcome for, because of recent drought, the power for the transmitter was being cut and the generators were running continuously.

Signals will be represented in the forthcoming Inter-Unit Rifle Meeting. Captain Bell has been elected captain of the H.Q. Mombasa side, of which Corporal Milner is also a member.

Corporal Plumb had hoped to embark for U.K. on the "Ashcan," but fortunately (for us) did not do so. At present, as Lines N.C.O., he is concentrating on closing down most of the present installations at Fort George, due to the disbandment of the Coast Battery R.A. With the increased establishment of four linemen, work is also proceeding on taking down the old V.I.R. route.

Congratulations to Corporal Milner and Lance-Corporal Beattie on their recent promotions.

S.Q.M.S. A. R. White would like to get in touch with S.S.M. L. W. Purvis, late No. 5 Trades Training Regiment.

Oh! To be demobbed

Oh! To get back in again

POST-WAR *operations* IN BATAVIA

We were engaged in post-war operations in Java and this little story is intended to describe one of these incidents in which, as usual, Signals played a very important part. Personalities have been disguised but otherwise the tale has in no way been embroidered.

By January, 1946, the area of Batavia and its modern port, Tanjong Priok, was under control of the Allied Forces and we were free to devote our leisure to peaceful pursuits without much danger of any violent interruption.

It was customary on Sundays, provided duty allowed, to spend the day in congenial company, lounging in the sun, bathing in the warm sea and partaking at frequent intervals of various liquid and other refreshments. The snag was, however, that the bathing beach at Tanjong Priok was contaminated with refuse and oil from the ships lying out in the roads and it was therefore necessary to go farther afield to find suitable lidos. These abounded on small islands laying about 10 miles north of Batavia.

On a particular Sunday we were a party of five girls and three men. "How very unbalanced" you may say. Perhaps so, but it should be understood that at that time in Batavia European women outnumbered European men by about 20 to one owing to the release of Dutch women from internment camps, so perhaps the odds were not excessive. Besides, it should be emphasised that the objects of the exercise were only to picnic and to bathe. As it happened, we achieved the former and only narrowly missed achieving the latter.

It is unnecessary to introduce all the party. Of the girls, who were of various Allied women's services, Jennifer, Brenda and Anita play a part in the story. They were dressed in bright summer frocks except Anita, who concealed the briefest of bathing costumes under the gayest of beach pyjamas. This latter was to prove an important point. Of the men, Harry had "acquired" a boat and had organised the party. He also brought his Indian batman.

We forgathered at the port of Old Batavia at about 1100 hrs. and were introduced to the boat and its Indonesian crew of three. Neither the boat nor crew were impressive. The former was about 20 feet long, with a decked-in forecastle and a roofed-in cabin which occupied about two-thirds of the length of the boat and was open at the stern. A naked six-cylinder petrol engine adorned the centre of the cabin floor. The steering wheel and controls were forward in the cabin on the starboard side. Dirt was as much in evidence as paint was not.

We boarded the craft and settled down to enjoy a pleasant trip over to the islands. Harry took the wheel, Anita sat on the roof, Brenda and I perched on the stern and the remainder spread themselves about in the cabin.

To reach the sea we had to cover about one mile of narrow canal, past fishing villages and fishing boats tied up to the bank. The tide was coming in and the boat could hardly make headway. Further, a strong intermittent north-westerly wind made steering difficult, and Harry rammed the right bank twice before we reached open water. Jenifer, who was older and wiser than most of us, several times during our erratic progress down the canal, suggested that we should be more prudent to turn back as at that rate we should never reach the islands. The remainder, however, were keen to go on and so we did.

On reaching the sea we found it choppy. The north-westerly wind was whipping up the sea quite smartly, and the waves looked very formidable from the deck of our small vessel. Further, the motion of the boat was very unpleasant as we headed into them. It was not long before the Indian batman was miserably sea-sick and his example was quickly followed by the three Indonesians. These four lay prostrate on the floor of the cabin and ceased to take any apparent interest in the immediate future.

By about 1230 hrs. we had got some three miles off shore. The wind and the sea had not abated, but the power of our engine had. It was with the greatest difficulty that Harry kept the bows into the waves, and our hopes of a speedy and uneventful passage were diminished by the minor explosions and other sounds of protestation which now came from the engine. However, in spite of unfavourable comments from our fellow passengers, Brenda and I kept our spirits up by singing so-called popular songs from our perch in the stern. Jennifer, always the realist, enquired if we were, in fact, as cheerful as we sounded. Her obvious anxiety made us consider more practical things. So we turned our attention to sandwiches and fruit and Batavian lager instead.

It was about then that the engine gave a final tortured splutter and became silent. Harry, the engineer as well as coxswain of the party, left his now useless wheel to tinker with the engine, whilst the boat lay and rolled in the trough of the waves. We began to regret the food and drink that we had so recently consumed.

The next hour was unpleasant, to put it mildly. We three men wrestled with the hot and oily engine to no avail. The fault was traced to the ignition system; a faulty coil was suspected, but nothing we could do would revive any sign of enthusiasm in the engine. The only result of our labours was that the motion and the smell of the engine had their inevitable effect upon us and we gave up the struggle in favour of fresh air on deck.

We now had time to appreciate the situation. We were broken down three miles off a rocky coast. We were being driven by wind and waves, possibly also by tide and current, towards the shore. It was therefore likely that we should reach land by the evening; it was also equally possible that we should be wrecked by rocks off the shore, or fall into the hands of unfriendly Indonesians if we did reach dry land. Neither prospect was very pleasant.

Apart from the ships lying in the roads of Tanjong Priok some three miles to the east, we could see no sign of another vessel on the sea. There appeared to be no immediate source of assistance. We could but wait and hope.

We drifted thus until about 1600 hrs. By this time it seemed that we were being driven nearer and nearer to Tanjong Priok as the ships were looming up larger on the skyline and H.M.S. *Norfolk* stood out well from the rest. It might be that we could attract her attention and get help. We looked around for means of signalling.

There was no mast nor means of improvising one. There were no torches, nor would they have been any use in the bright afternoon sunshine with the sun behind us. There were no rockets or fireworks. I had a .300 U.S. carbine, but that appeared to be of little value, until a thought suddenly struck me.

It will be remembered how Anita was dressed. During the hot afternoon she had discarded her beach pyjamas and lay sun-bathing on the cabin roof. It was the sight of her pyjamas which gave me the idea. They were light and bright. They might make a flag if I had a pole, and the only available pole was the carbine. The legs of the pyjama trousers were tied to the barrel and I held the flag aloft by the butt. It blew out encouragingly in the wind.

It was many years since I had suffered going through the "alphabet" on the Square of the School of Signals at Catterick. I never thought that flag signalling would be of any practical value, but youth is ever blind. Anyway, the chance of putting my training into practice now presented itself.

By now the ships off Tanjong Priok had become larger and looked to the landsman's eye to be very close. They seemed to be well within visual signalling distance. Accordingly I braced myself on the heaving deck and started flapping out "S—O—S" at what soon became monotonous regularity. But either we could not be seen or, blasphemous thought, the Senior Service was not only silent but sleeping. We got no answer after about an hour of what became very tiring effort.

We had about resigned ourselves to the situation when fresh hope appeared in the shape of a puff of smoke on the western horizon. (It should be remembered that from our low vantage point the horizon was not far off.) In what seemed a very short space of time a Dutch minesweeper came into view and passed to the westwards about a mile away on its way to Tanjong Priok. The flag-waving was renewed with greater intensity, but the Dutchman ignored us and was soon heading away from us towards the harbour.

Our opinion of the Navy in general and the Allied Navies in N.E.I. in particular had reached a very low level when suddenly we saw the minesweeper swing round through 180 degrees and head back towards us. She was soon alongside and proceeded to take us in tow. Our troubles appeared to be over.

By this time the Indonesian crew had come to life and they secured our end of the tow line as best they could to such portions of the deck as seemed appropriate in the absence of stanchions. Their efforts were not very successful because, when the minesweeper took the strain, the whole vessel heeled over at a dangerous angle and we nearly had our bathe after all. At this stage we decided to board the minesweeper and leave the Indonesian crew to manage the boat without our further assistance.

The fortunes of the day remained cloudy until the end. As we disembarked at Tanjong Priok, Jennifer put her foot down between two rotten boards on the quay and bruised and lacerated her leg. Perhaps it would have been better if we had taken her advice and abandoned the trip at the outset.

Territorial Army

No. 62 H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

THE FIRS, UPTON LANE, CHESTER. 'Twas on 7th August, 1948, that I opened my eyes and looked through the bedroom window. Had I fallen asleep like Rip Van Winkle, slept for ages and ages, and woke up in some distant year with winter at its worst? I pinched myself to make sure it was really me and that I had only gone to bed the night before. I must have done, for I met a lazy, almost insolent stare from my Golden Cocker puppy, which seemed to say "Are you getting up to-day, or to-morrow?" Getting out of bed I slowly dressed, still wondering why the weather should be like this in the month of August—then I moved, and moved quickly, for I suddenly realised that it was the 7th of August, a day of days, for the boys were going to camp—their first first Annual Training Camp since the Terriers were reorganised in 1947.

I met the small detachment from No. 16 Wireless Signal Squadron outside the Drill Hall. There they were, brand new kit bags and looking very smart and clean in battle-dress, shining boots, and eager to "get cracking." I drove in silence from Northwich to Blacon Camp, near Chester, and marvelled that most of these Terriers had not lost the spirit of companionship that service life had taught them. Then I thought of those who had joined for the first time in their lives, and hoped they, too, would find that same spirit and find that a week in camp with a full and interesting programme would pave the way for their new life in our Territorial Army.

They soon settled down, performing the tasks of making their room comfortable, doing odd jobs with a keenness that spoke well for the coming week. Later in the day we were joined by a small detachment from No. 50 Air Formation Signals, under the leadership of S.S.M. Higgins. The next day the main party of No. 88 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron arrived, with Captain Shufflebottom and S.S.M. Casey. The main topics of the week in camp were, in the first instance, the greeting given to the Squadrons by the C.S.O., Brigadier W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E. Much amusement was caused when the C.S.O. told the boys the tale of the man who made complaints to the Orderly Officer because he had to eat large slices of thick bacon for breakfast every morning.

The day scheme was the other main topic. Old man weather was rather kind and the scheme passed off successfully. May I add here that it took two Captains, the R.S.M. two S.S.M.s and two Sergeants to cook 12 sausages and make two dixies of tea.

Friday morning dawned bright and much speculation was given to the results of the forthcoming day on the Range. The venue was Sealand Ranges and, with the necessary ingredients for morning brew, we set off with the R.S.M. escorting the convoy in the best of Corps Despatch Rider methods. All the Terriers fired the course, and showed great promise.

And so the last of our Squadrons have attended this year's Annual Camp. All the Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men thoroughly enjoyed the camps and with thanks to Officer Commanding Western Command Signal Regiment, to all the P.S.I.s who made the training a success, and to all who took part in the general theme of the first T.A. camps in 1948, we say farewell to annual training until 1949.

ARMY CADET FORCE CAMP. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. F. Woodham, T.D., the R.S.M. and S.S.M. Lea visited the Royal Signals Cadets in camp at Morecambe, Lancs., on 17th August, where they were met by Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Yould, the C.O. of the Cadets. Some very keen youngsters are members of this Royal Signals Cadet Unit, and they find the work of communications in the Army a very interesting subject. I hope from time to time to publish notes on the Cadets, for it is from some of these youngsters in Royal Signals Cadet Units that the new Corps will arise.

CESTRIAN

No. 10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT, T.A.
Eastleigh

August

After the excitement of camp, we have now settled down to our more usual way of life again. Holidays have been the order of the day for most members, and attendances on most evenings have consequently been small. Despite this, however, and the unfortunate delay in the arrival of our civilian Foreman of Signals designate, we have pushed on with the checking and installation of our technical equipment, which is now nearing completion. Plans have also

been agreed with the T.A. Association for converting an ex-U.S. Army wash-house into a fine battery charging shop and workshop, but we are still worried how we are going to shift the rectifier, which British Railways silently dumped one day in the Drill Hall when the permanent staff were out, and which we have been quite unable to move since.

Sergeant Kearns, our veteran T.A. member, has made a number of very successful sorties to Command R.E.M.E. Workshops, as a result of which several of our vehicles are now worthy of exhibition at a motor show. We had previously heard rumours that his favourite expression when confronted with any M.T. problem was "Get it painted"; we are now quite certain of this.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Captain Charles Payne at the end of last month, when he left to take up a post as Principal of a Post Office Engineering Training School in West Africa. We gather that he is no newcomer to those parts, and he goes with our best wishes for the future.

ASSULIKET MINOR

2nd COUNTY OF LONDON CADET BATTALION (ROYAL SIGNALS)

The annual inspection of the Battalion was made this year by Major D. J. Warde-Aldam, Coldstream Guards. The Unit obtained a good report and the Inspecting Officer commented on the spirit of keenness which was apparent in all ranks. After the inspection was over the Unit was busily engaged in preparing for the annual summer camp, to be held from 7th to 14th August at Swingate Camp, near Dover, and situated on one of the highest sites in the neighbourhood, adjacent to the radar beacons. During the first night a gale started which developed and grew to be one of the most severe ever experienced in August on that part of the coast. By 7 o'clock on Sunday morning it was clear that so much damage had been done that it would not be possible to repair it quickly. A message was telephoned by the remaining line to the B.B.C. so that other Units who were due to arrive on Sunday could be warned not to make the journey. Many, however, were already on their way and could not be stopped, and these were housed in Dover Castle. For those already in camp it was thought that they should be sent home, and arrangements to do this were put in hand. In spite of the conditions, however, the Cadets, who had been given a good breakfast, were in good spirits and did not want to go home. The proposal, therefore, was reconsidered and it was decided to try and find alternative accommodation. Using all the resources of the Eastern Command in the area, the Cadets were moved later on Sunday to a pleasantly situated hutted camp at St. Martin's Plain, Shorncliffe, Folkestone. The weather conditions and loss of much equipment did not stop the Army Catering Corps giving the Cadets good and regular meals throughout the Sunday.

On Monday, the Units which had been diverted by the Sunday broadcast moved into the St. Martin's Plain Camp. During the week the Cadets made a boat trip to the French coast and saw the Dunkirk beaches. Another day the camp was honoured by a visit from the Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Shinwell, M.P., who saw the Cadets carrying out their training. Demonstrations were given by all branches of the Army and the demonstration by Royal Signals interested our Cadets so much that it was arranged that they should have an extra visit to the demonstration when they could spend the whole time operating the wireless and other equipment. The Cadets were taken for a trip on two armoured signal vehicles used for Command Headquarters and kept in touch with the Cadets in camp and in the other vehicle by wireless. One of the most popular pieces of equipment was the voice recorder used for recording messages and playing these back. Many unscripted recordings were made and played back and a lot of hidden talent was found.

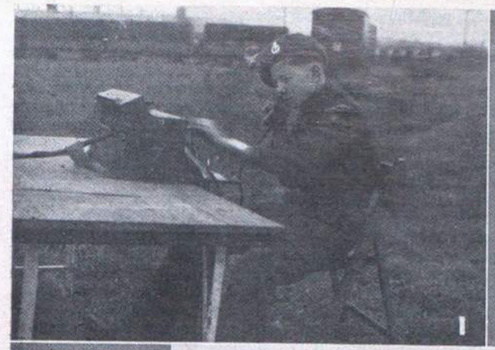
Before leaving camp, a potted sports meeting was held in which all Cadets of the Unit took place. A team under Corporal Spears was the winner with Corporal Mumford's team as runners-up. Prizes were contributed by the Officers of the Battalion.

On 6th September the Royal Signals display team gave a demonstration at Wimbledon Speedway in aid of the National A.C.F. Welfare Fund. Cadets of this Battalion collected during the demonstration and were congratulated by Major-General Nalder, the Organising Secretary for the County of London, for the hard work they did in collecting £92 odd for the benefit of the fund.

The Battalion is now looking forward eagerly to an active programme during the winter season. On Saturday, 13th November, an attractive boxing tournament has been arranged to take place at Fulham House in aid of the Battalion Welfare Fund. Tickets may be obtained from the Adjutant.

Royal Signals demonstration at the annual summer camp

The Camp Cookhouse



(1) A Cadet tries his hand on a 10-line U.C. switchboard (2) Cadets with voice recording apparatus

(3) Cadets with wireless sets

(4) Cadets climbing on one of the new armoured vehicles (5) Boat trip to Dunkirk

No. 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Despite the absence of notes, the Unit has been very active with all aspects of training—range firing, week-end camps and, of course, annual camp.

We have been encouraged by a few good calibre recruits, both Officers and Other Ranks, and Junior Commander Riley (who recently joined us) is getting together a very keen batch of A.T.S. Our new members include Major Reggie Weaire, Lieutenant "Tiny" Crook, Lieutenant Peter Sprenger, Lieutenant George Wright and Sergeant Furmedge.

Our week-end camps under Squadron arrangements have been most useful and gave us a lead on what to arrange for our main camp. No. 1 Squadron put up some lines in Epping Forest for future use, and Nos. 2 and 3 Squadrons utilised the Drill Hall for their respective activities.

Range firing at Rainham showed good results as well as providing a most enjoyable outing.

A party of over 60 left Wanstead for our eight days camp at the Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury, early on the morning of Saturday, 7th August. The rail party arrived in time for a mid-day meal and the road parties during the afternoon. They were welcomed by the advance party under Major George Perry, our Q.M., who, in his usual energetic manner, had organised things efficiently to overcome many obvious difficulties. Eastern Command Signals, our hosts, were very strained to accommodate both ourselves and No. 61 H.Q. Signal Regiment, who were sharing camp with us. They were excellent hosts, and if they couldn't offer us a home from home, they did their best, and with our own goodwill were able to keep us from grumbling too much during the eight days we spent with them. The Officers were in tents and the remainder were in barrack rooms—a little bleak and cheerless without the usual pin-ups, but quite clean.

We shared our various Messes with "61" and, although we found Army rations a not too good substitute for the home variety, it is doubtful if anyone lost weight.

Our training was carried out under Squadron arrangements, and consisted of as much practical and theoretical work as could be crowded into the time available. The exception was Exercise "Southdown," in which we endeavoured to solve all the problems set by the C.S.O. Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Lilley, infused us with his enthusiasm and the 24-hour scheme was fully completed and, we felt, very successfully. We were rather proud in that the umpires gave us to understand that it had not previously been finished. It included a difficult night march.

We were very ably assisted on the Exercise by personnel of Independent Guards Brigade Signal Squadron, a fine batch of fellows and first-class tradesmen. Little did we know that they would be called on so quickly to do "a little job" in Malaya!

The social side was not overlooked and a trip to Margate was arranged, while many places of local interest were visited. A cricket match against Eastern Command Signals saw us beaten by 74 runs to 45. It was good fun, though, the only casualty being the Adjutant, who, in endeavouring to escape being run out first ball, slid face down in the mud to the detriment of a perfectly good pair of flannels. We almost gained an unexpected success in an unusual field of operations. Our "nature-boy type" only just failed in the final of a personality contest at Dreamland—he does get about now he has a motor cycle!" (accompanied by the appropriate signature tune of course!)

The Officers' Mess Guest Night, held jointly with "61," proved a great success, and although we rather feel that the modern T.A. Officer does not altogether approve the antics of the pre-war member, a good meal was followed by the expected frivolity without any major casualty—unless, of course, one can consider the head of the O.C. No. 1 Squadron disappearing through a closed window as being of sufficient importance to merit mention.

The journey home on the 14th was completed without incident. We agreed that it had been a good camp, much had been learned, and we had got to know each other much better.

The Unit was officially closed from then until 2nd September, but a demonstration of working equipment was arranged for 28th August, in conjunction with Wanstead and Woodford Road Safety Week.

This function was entirely successful and has attracted at least seven recruits to date.

The Regiment will again be on show during the local Battle of Britain Week celebrations. These demonstrations are serving as effective curtain-raisers for the forthcoming National effort, during which we shall all be actively engaged.

OFFICERS OF 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, TERRITORIAL ARMY

Front row (left to right): Captain W. H. Lamb, Major R. F. A. Weaire, Major L. H. Gentry, T.D., Lieut.-Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D., Major (Q.M.) G. Perry, M.B.E., Major L. R. James, Captain D. L. Pounds. Back row (left to right): Lieutenant H. E. Collins, Lieutenant R. A. Chell, Lieutenant J. H. Mansfield, Lieutenant A. C. G. Tucker, Lieutenant A. A. J. Bacon, Captain L. D. Hammerson, Lieutenant G. K. Wright, Lieutenant P. H. Sprenger, Lieutenant A. G. Crook

13 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A.

Edinburgh

August

It is a long time since we reported ourselves in THE WIRE, but then it is a long time since the writer has been so near the bottom of his "In" tray. In fact, if the Permanent Staff was larger it would be most heartening to see the way the T.A. has perked up and got into its stride!

We now have over two hundred in the Regiment, nearly all of whom attended annual camp at Stobs from 17th July to 24th. Stobs Camp is just south of Hawick, in Roxburghshire.

To say that the camp was a success is to say nothing. There were five units in camp, of which we were the only Royal Signals Regiment, and we led the others in smartness, training, vivacity and charm (having a preponderance of A.T.S.!). The great height of our flagstaff above all the others gave the right impression.

The weather was not too good, but once the troops had replaced the sheep in the huts we were all quite comfortable, and enjoyment progressed with the camp. On the first day there were one or two complaints about the food, next day none, and the day after complaints came again—this time that there was not enough of it!

Besides intensive training from 0830 to 1645 (and to 1830 on some days) we found time to play off the Unit sports, run two dances, a camp concert, and to spend two evenings and a lot of money in Hawick, and one rambling over the hills. We recommend all Units to buy a good book of songs with music (cost about 2s. 6d.). Have twenty of the best-known songs and one or two of the less-known ones copied out on the duplicator, and then have a sing-song. The enjoyment is out of all proportion to the work involved, and there is always a pianist and someone else who can conduct and compère the concert and teach the new songs. After almost every drill night our song sheets were called for, and the troops got down to it for half an hour in the canteen before going home.

Well, camp drew to a close all too soon, and people started asking the Adjutant to wangle another week. However, they have been promised two weeks next year, which is a good thing.

On Thursday we had a Unit exercise on a most ambitious scale, and practised plotting enemy aircraft at super-supersonic speeds—the "Teller" not being sure of the scale of his map. Lessons learnt having been discussed on Friday morning, we devoted the afternoon and evening to playing off the annual Regimental sports (won with great éclat by 29 Squadron, Glasgow), a visitors' tea party, prize-giving, and a really good concert in which every Unit in the camp took part. It being the last night, most of us were very tired, and all the officers went early to bed at about 0200 hrs., but the sergeants stayed up, we are told, a little later. All they had to do when getting up in the morning was to walk from the bar to their breakfast.

Our thanks are due to so many people who helped to make the camp a success, but especially to Brigadier L. H. Harris, C.B.E., who inspected the Unit and gave us a very good "chit," and then stayed to enjoy the tea party and present the prizes on Friday. And also to all the other Units in camp, every one of which helped us out with transport or in other ways when we could not help ourselves.

The only other item of news is that 32 A.A. (M.) Signal Squadron, T.A., is moving from Blairgowrie, less one troop which will stay in Perth, to Edinburgh, where they will be welcomed into this Drill Hall with R.H.Q. and 31 Squadron. Long may they stay! We hope that all those officers and other ranks who have been waiting for a vacancy in a Royal Signals Regiment in Edinburgh will read this and flock to join. Our address is:

The Drill Hall, Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh 3.

No. 14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, TA.

August

Since the last time of writing, the Unit has performed an interesting and, we hope, a useful piece of work at the Altcar Rifle Range in connection with motor cycle racing held in aid of Army charities. Our job was the provision of line communications for controlling the races. Six hundred pounds were realised for charity and the Regiment received a special letter of thanks from the Army Committee running the show.

Keen interest was shown by members of the unit, especially amongst the A.T.S., both in manning the telephones and also in laying the lines. We are performing a similar role at the Liverpool Tattoo, to be held on the Grand National Race Course on the 16th, 17th and 18th September, 1948. Training is now settling down to a new season and we are glad to report a new advance in our recruiting figures. There are, however, many vacancies in all trades, especially as linemen; any ex-members of the Corps will be welcome here at Woolton, 34 Squadron in Manchester, or 41 Squadron in Cardiff.

Sergeants' Mess Notes. As was mentioned in our last contribution, the Sergeants' Mess took over their spacious, not to say luxurious quarters on the 1st June, and it is whispered that the reason for the R.S.M.'s many visits during the building of the Mess was to ensure that the bar was constructed at the right height to accommodate his elbow. The dart board is the next most important piece of furniture, and the R.S.M. and the R.Q.M.S. challenge all comers. It is hinted that their skill at this noble game is only excelled by that skill they displayed when propping up the bar.

We suffered a sad loss, to the extent of £12, due to the activities of light-fingered gentlemen who found a temporary answer to the cigarette shortage by ripping a hole in the wall and absconding with the stock.

The Unit and the Sergeants' Mess hope to extend the scope of their social activities in the coming months, of which more will be told from time to time.

GRIEVE NOMORE

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT T.A. (THE KENSINGTON REGIMENT)

Hammersmith Road

September

The highlight of the last month was the Regimental Rifle Meeting at Pirbright on the weekend of 28-29th August. The Regiment went down on the Saturday afternoon to fire off the remainder of those who had not previously passed their year's classification. The night was spent in the Guards Depot, Pirbright, though the bar at the London and Middlesex Rifle Association, Bisley, was very full of "phantom" for a long time.

On the Sunday we held various competitions. Sergeant Isely was the winner of the Marksman's Cup, and H.Q. Squadron won the Squadron Team Cup, and the Officers the Inter-Rank Team Cup. We also ran two pool bulls, of which Lance-Corporal Booth won the accumulator and netted 12/6. Nice shooting.

In the afternoon the O.C.A. arrived in force. They held their own competition, which was won by Major "Rocky" Knoght, veteran of First World War and Q.M. of the 2nd Battalion in the last war. General Sir H. Colville Wemyss, the Honorary Colonel, came down also during the afternoon to see the fun and to give away the prizes after tea.

We have nothing further to add except our thanks to the Air Ministry Roof for arranging their weather forecast to be optimistic and correct on both days.

Apart from shooting, we have been busy with trade train-

ing on Wednesday evenings and, in particular, sorting out the vagaries of two new 53 sets which arrived at the end of August.

We are glad to welcome to the permanent staff of the Unit Sergeant Farmer. He has come to replace S.Q.M.S. Howard who left us during the month.

Among the many new members of the Territorial Army we welcome Sergeant Greaves (A.C.C.), who has come to fill the vacancy of Sergeant Cook. Ex-Corps members who have joined us in the last couple of weeks are Signalman McIntosh (ex 5 and 9 Air Formation Signals), Signalman Churchill (ex 1 Divisional Signals) and Signalman Clark (ex B.A.O.R.).

No. 1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

September

The arrival of two 3-ton wireless lorries gives yet another lift to the already keen interest shown by all our members. We are now hoping to provide the Line Construction boys with a 3-tonner and trailer all to themselves. The Regiment grows slowly but none the less surely. Recruits R. D. Hancox and C. D. Mason are the latest arrivals. Signalman I. G. A. Hitchings, who only joined us in August, has found a job in London. We are sorry to lose him, but perhaps 51st L. of C. Signals, T.A., will give him a welcome.

A recent visitor to Cateswell House was Mr. J. E. White, one-time C.S.M., whom I last saw in Jubbulpore about 1932. He sends his salaams to all friends and announces his intention to settle in Birmingham, at least for a time. There is no accounting for taste.

Why is it that so few people are interested enough to buy a copy of THE WIRE nowadays? Is it because there is little to attract the majority? Or can it be that men who are in the Army for a short time simply don't care what happens to old George or Bill Smith after they leave? The original old Signals are always keen to get hold of a copy. The general lay-out of THE WIRE is much about the same as it ever was, so what is the trouble. Is there some new way of presenting things that we haven't heard about? We still like to see a little Part II stuff with a few names that might make news for someone. New correspondents to THE WIRE almost certainly look at past notes and attempt to produce something just like all the others. Yes, I know. We are all guilty. Perhaps we should try starting an argument about something, like the correspondence columns in the dailies. You may remember how I crossed swords on paper with the N.A.A.F.I. in 1934. It didn't get me anywhere except on the Commanding Officer's carpet, but the fatigue party who used to clean up the canteen at 7 a.m. daily found themselves out of a job from then on. You may ask "What has all this to do with No. 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.?" The answer is "Nothing, pal." Tipping the old green trilby over one eye, I add viciously "So what?"

You have been reading it, haven't you?

BARLEUX

MEN—
An A.T.S.'-Eye View

MEN are what women marry. They have two feet, two hands, and sometimes two wives, but never more than one idea at a time.

Like Turkish cigarettes, they are all made of the same material; the only difference is that some men are a little better disguised than others.

Generally speaking, they may be divided into two classes—husbands and bachelors. An eligible bachelor is a mass of obstinacy entirely surrounded by suspicion. Husbands are of three varieties—prizes, surprises, and consolation prizes.

Making a husband out of a man is one of the highest plastic arts known to civilisation. It requires science, sculpture, common sense, Faith, Hope, and Charity. Especially Charity.

It is a psychological marvel that a soft, fluffy, tender, violet-scented thing like a woman should enjoy kissing a big, awkward, stubbly-chinned, tobacco- and bay rum-scented thing like a man.

If you flatter a man it frightens him to death, and if you don't flatter him it bores him to death. If you permit him to make love to you he gets tired of you in the end, and if you don't he gets tired of you in the beginning.

If you agree with him in everything you soon cease to interest him; if you argue with him you soon cease to charm him. If you believe all he tells you he thinks you are a fool, and if you don't he thinks you are a cynic.

If you wear gay colours, rouge, and a startling hat, he hesitates to take you out. If you wear a little brown beret and a tailored suit he takes you out and spends the evening staring at the woman in gay colours, rouge, and a startling hat.

If you join him in the gaieties of life and approve of his smoking and drinking, he swears you are driving him to the devil, and if you don't he vows you are too snobbish and nice.

If you are the clinging vine type he doubts whether you have any brains, and if you are modern and advanced he doubts whether you have a heart.

If you are silly he longs for a bright person, and if you are brilliant and intellectual he longs for a playmate.

A man is just a worm. He comes along, wriggling about for a while—and finally some chicken gets him.

ANON

Burma Memories

Some satirical reminiscences of "S" Indian L. of C. Signals which appeared in September are concluded.

Ordnance, too, although always trying, were often not adequate, and could not hope to escape comment:

ORDNANCE EXPLAIN

Three handsome Staff Officers stood in a row
And said to the public: We'd like you to know
That we're ADOS
and DADOS
and Staff Captain (O).
Our purpose in life is to give you, quite free,
Whatever you want (we're obliging, we three).
Perhaps you want cats to kill off your rats,
Or perhaps your M.T. doesn't go.
Perhaps for the winter you'd like some boots gum,
And no doubt you want gallons and gallons of rum.
(If you do, don't come near us, we won't have you nigh;
We're teetotallers—rum is a Rice Corps supply.)
We'll send you an answer, and then you will see
That we've had it (you've had it), and all we can say
Is that stocks have run out and the stores are N.A.
Whatever is needed for winning the war
Was, will be, or should be contained in our store,
But whatever it is, it's never there NOW
Though we're trying to get it—we're trying—and how
So the answer at present (we're sorry) is NO.
Signed ADOS
and DADOS
and Staff Captain (O).

A Sports Day in France, 1940

(Extracted from the History of Second Air Formation Signals)

THE month of March, 1940, was spent in settling down. The new rider, Air Marshal Barrett, A.O.C.-in-C. of British Air Forces in France, was getting firmly into the saddle and testing his mount. Possibly he thought that handling "Panther" (the code name for the Advanced Air Striking Force, which we served) might be a task as difficult as that of the young lady of Riga who, as we all know, was "taken for a ride" by a tiger.

Conferences and exercises sought out and put right any hitherto undetected weaknesses, and behind the operational units the administrative services tightened every nut and adjusted every control. And on the 13th, for the special benefit of Signals, a special test was staged by old Dame Nature, who might have had reasons for thinking we were getting over-confident.

As a matter of fact, we had recently been rather "throwing a chest" collectively. There are two pitfalls in the path of a Signal Unit: one is to become over technical and thus unsoldierly, as a result of continuous indoor office routine; the other (never a serious danger at Rheims) is the inferiority complex that may overcome the non-fighter in the presence of "real soldiers." The R.A.F. have a similar problem among non-flying personnel.

To avoid either pitfall, we developed *esprit de corps* as a fine art. The Officers' Mess in Boulevarde de la Paix was the focus of this spirit. Everything was done to make it both "regimental" and attractive. We had the advantage of a large house, suitably furnished, to start; and we maintained civilised standards as far as possible. Even if war is hell, as General Sherman said, there is no need to lay on additional discomforts just to annoy.

Our greatest pride was in the two Royal portraits that hung in the anteroom; one of His Majesty in Service dress, signed and dated 1940; the other, also signed, of the Colonel-in-Chief.

Luncheon and tea were, naturally, informal meals; the former was often followed by coffee in our not unattractive garden, over which Major Young presided as head gardener (when not commanding No. 1 Company), and which he had embellished with flowers whose seeds had been sent from home. The garden was also brightened by a running stream, and a concreted pond in which our goldfish led a precarious life, due to too much attention and mistaken kindness.

Dinner was a punctual and more formal meal at which—on guest nights—officers appeared in "blues." This kit, and our pewter mugs—every one engraved with the Corps badge and the name of the officer—gave our guest nights a cachet that was possibly unique in France. They certainly gave our officers, and—by a very rapid reaction—all ranks, a collective self-confidence that was to prove a solid foundation of morale in the more strenuous days to come.

As a final demonstration that we could play as well as work, and to celebrate the passing of a particular bitter winter, we arranged to hold a Sports Meeting on the 15th.

The famous R.A.F. Central Band was in France and would be playing in Paris about that date; why not grasp the opportunity?

So the date was fixed, a good programme was arranged, and Regimental funds were tapped to provide some worthy prizes.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief (Brigadier R. Chenevix Trench) had promised to come from G.H.Q. at Arras to present the prizes; so invitations were sent out to a wide circle.

We omitted to mention that there would be a buffet, with the deliberate intention of not attracting a crowd of people more interested in gin than gymnastics—but those who accepted were unlikely to die of thirst as we were able to get our champagne at the very reasonable rate of about two bob a bottle.

A perfect ground was available at the Parc Pommery, and the only disappointment was the refusal of Equipment Staff to lend us a couple of large marquees—on the unexpected grounds that these were required for the war!

Still, it looked like being a good show, when Nature took a hand by producing, two days before the Sports Day, a gale of appalling violence and particular malevolence.

Miles of P.T.T. poles crashed to ruin, carrying with them nearly all the trunk circuits in the neighbourhood: trees fell everywhere, blocking roads and smashing lines; and in the Signal Office "was tumult and affright."

All hands were required for immediate repair work: should we cancel the sports? Should we hell!

Major Rau (commanding No. 2 Construction Company) rose, as usual, to the difficulties and undertook—with strange oaths—to restore all essential lines in the 48 hours available. It looked an impossible task, even for eight Line and Construction Sections: but our shorter home-made poles had stood up better than the old and overloaded poles of the P.T.T., and our lines were easier to reach.

Wherefore, by working through every minute of daylight, Major Rau made good his undertaking: and the last of his detachments arrived on the sports ground ten minutes before the start of the programme—tired and rather dirty, but full of the pride of achievement which is the only justifiable pride.

There were two good results from this storm. The absence of telephone facilities threw a tremendous strain on our already fully-employed D.R.s; so we obtained the services of all the motor cyclists in the A.A.S.F. (R.A.F., R.E. or R.A.S.C.) and thus established a principle of central control where previously there had been a big waste of effort due to each "service" running its own system.

The second result was even better, for we realised that no enemy bombing could possibly do as much damage as that storm. We were therefore confident that our repair organisation could compete with the worst efforts of the German Air Force. Communications would be maintained.

The day of the sports dawned—and either Administration had achieved the feat of getting the Clerk of the Weather "taken on strength" of Air Formation Signals or else he was trying to apologise for his previous behaviour: it was a perfect day.

Over the ground flew three flags—the Corps colours, the ensign of the R.A.F., and the Tricolor. The R.A.F. Band was in its best form, and the two "enclosures" had their marquees after all. Not being inclined to look a gift horse in the mouth, the C.O. made no inquiries as to where they had come from—but O.C. No. 3 Company had rather the air of one who does good by stealth, like Robin Hood.

Visitors included a gratifying proportion of French officers, including our old friend the Divisional Commander from Mourmelon, and several representatives of French Transmissions.

Naturally it was impossible to get in all the men from outstations, but there were several hundred on the ground.

There are few more pleasant functions than a good Regimental Sports Meeting, though it provides little new to describe: the traditional programme, with Inter-Company competition, and Officers *v.* Sergeants, has its own special charm. Possibly the only novelty was an airline-building competition between the various Sections of No. 2 Company—rather a busman's holiday for the competitors, but at

least an opportunity for their work to receive public recognition.

The only untoward incident was at the close, when the R.S.M. (who is by virtue of his office debarred from making any error at any time) announced the prize-winners in the true stentorian manner. The Visitors' Race had been won, appropriately enough, by a Pilot Officer of the R.A.F. Him the R.S.M. announced as "Petty Officer." It is on record that that evening the Sergeant of the Guard reported to the R.S.M. in the words "Come aboard, sir, with the Starboard Watch."

I forget how many sat down to supper in the Mess that night, but they included several representatives of First Air Formation Signals from the B.E.F. and, I think, some of L. of C. Signals from Le Mans: so it was a happy party.

F.S.M.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Branch Notes

Bristol and District

The point this month is where to start? It seems that with the departure of summer (that must have been the day before our last meeting but one!) and the start of the darker evenings, the Association becomes more and more active. But first of all I think I should give the big news of the month—and that is about the proposed Bath Branch.

As many of you probably know, the Bristol district covers quite a large area and, of course, includes Bath, from which ancient and rather beautiful city we draw quite a few members. I must say that those members have given us tremendous support during the last year. They were represented on the Committee by our good friend, Mr. Hedger (Air Formation Signals, S.E.A.C.). Friend Hedger has been scouting around and has found an eminently suitable base from which to launch the new branch in the Old Crown Hotel, New Orchard Street, Bath, and it is proposed to hold the first meeting on Thursday, 28th October, 1948. The landlord is ex-Signals and Hedger admits that, as negotiations were carried on during the lunch hour over the odd noggin, and as the said negotiations were on a most cordial basis, he has completely forgotten the name of mine host! However, there you are, and we hope to see a very good gathering of all those ex-Signals types that live within reasonable distance of the Old Crown at 1900 hrs. on the 28th October.

The skittles enthusiasts have deluged me with news this month. Their final friendly of the "close season," so to speak, was played against Congresbury British Legion. The skipper attributes our trouncing to the fact that local custom decrees that the game must be played with rubber balls, and is equally strict on the rule that these balls must not bounce when in play! That's as may be, but the main thing was that we all had a most enjoyable evening, returning tired but happy and filled with good spirits at approximately 1.30 a.m. (no such thing as 2359hrs. in the O.C.A.!). "Chippy" Parslow carried off the honours for the Signals with a masterly display. The first league match was played against the Royal Marines O.C.A. on 16th September, but unfortunately the results have not come to hand yet. The next matches are on 23rd September and on 2nd October against the Royal Engineers O.C.A. and the Wiltshire Regiment O.C.A. respectively. The Royal Engineers' match will be played on the home alley at the Old Crown, Broad Wier, Bristol, so look in if you are down that way and give the team a cheer.

We have had to say goodbye to another committee stalwart —this time Mr. J. H. Spencer, who has been looking after our employment register. Unfortunately he has found pressure of business too much for him, and as he has to spend long periods away from Bristol, he has, with regret, been forced to resign. It was with equal regret that his resignation was accepted. But we understand he has interests in Wolverhampton, so look out for him up that way.

We are all looking forward to the visit of the display team to the local speedway on 24th September. The team have received some very good publicity and, in the words of the track manager, "these Army boys certainly know their stuff." I hope to be able to give an eye witness account of the display next month—and maybe a picture!

So don't forget, chaps. Here's a list of the forthcoming engagements just to jog your memories:—28th October, meeting at Bath (see above); 12th November, monthly meeting at the Old Duke; 13th November, annual dinner, and we are hoping to see quite a lot of visitors there. I gave you all the details last month.

That's the lot. Cheerio, and do look us up some time.

D.P.J.H.

Birmingham

September

Major Frank Braine occupied the chair in the absence on holiday of Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., at the August meeting on the 26th. Well, we all need a break at least once a year. Perhaps most of our members were on holiday on the last Thursday in August. Certainly the company was small, but composed of the usual ardent supporters. We enjoy that couple of hours together. You would, too. At least three members have confessed that they forgot about it being the last Thursday in the month. They remembered on Friday morning. Bad show, chaps. Mr. "Bill" Langham—or should I say S.Q.M.S.?—nearly came, but probably didn't even know what day it was. One doesn't on leave, though you would think that Bill would be quite used to leave by now. Or is that rude?

Before we forget. Our Hon. Secretary, Captain R. H. Ironmonger has moved to 303 Highfield Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28—so put that in your notebook in case you would like to apply for tickets to the Annual Armistice Dance to be held at Cateswell House on 12th November. This is the last chance we shall have to advise you about it. Never will five shillings be put to better use. It is a long time since we saw Captain H. S. ("Bill") Nokes up this way from Crediton, but perhaps he will try and make an effort for 12th November again this year. Mr. E. H. Pickering would like news of Mr. Dick Newbury. He is not the only one. Open the gate, Richard. Is it a fact that the Signals' Re-union is not to be revived? And who has decided this dreadful thing? But of course one can begin to see the endless snags with things as they are today. Accommodation nil. Not enough food or beer. Petrol negligible. Can you see the youngsters gaping at the venerable old gentlemen in their Corps ties. The V.O.G.s glaring back but agreeing that perhaps the youngsters are not so bad after all. If ever the re-union is revived there will certainly be a terrific crowd. One doesn't need a Gallup poll to find that out. A popular pastime at our meetings is the exhibition of old photographs. Mr. Tom Liggins, who never misses a meeting despite the fact that he is blind, produced a most interesting collection going back to 1910 or thereabouts. Someone will bring along his Indian Mutiny snaps before long. Someone always does, but we would like to see them all the same.

There isn't much more news from Birmingham though, of course, we could go on and make some up for you. Jolly good stuff, too, as Captain Chris Chapman would tell you. Which reminds us. He wants to know where Captain Charles Field is hiding and whether "M" Section have been told about the war finishing. With which rather unkind note we may as well "stand down."

BARLEUX

CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION DANCE

A good gathering of O.C.A. members, with their wives and friends, assembled in Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham Park, for the first dance of the 1948 winter season. The Royal Signals Band provided the dance orchestra and a very good time was had by all.

One of the difficulties of this type of party is, of course, that the bulk of the O.C.A. members spend much more time in the bar gripping than dancing. It is only natural. The sight of an old friend perhaps not seen for months or years cannot be suitably celebrated by a brief handshake. One wants to hear all about him, or rather to tell him all about oneself, and, as both have the same idea, both talk at once. The situation, however, is invariably saved by the arrival of a third party who recognises one or possibly both of the previous contestants and the chattering reunion from being a private fight becomes a general mêlée.

City of London Signals O.C.A. are holding their annual general meeting on Thursday, 21st October, 1948, at 7.30 p.m., at Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham Park.

This is a notice to all members of the Association to come along on that night. It is also an invitation to those who served in the City of London Signals to come, meet, enjoy and join the Association.

SPORTS NOTES

Lawn Tennis

The 1948 lawn tennis season opened with an Officers' tournament, held at Catterick Camp, from the results of which it was hoped to select the best possible team to represent the Corps. The singles event in this tournament was won by Major G. S. K. Maydon, School of Signals, and the doubles by Major B. J. Milnes and Captain C. A. Smith, both of 3 Training Regiment.

Two Corps matches were held in August, one against the R.A.S.C. at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, which was lost by six games to three and the other against the Royal Engineers at Chatham which the Corps won by seven games to two.

The Royal Signals team consisted of: Lieutenant-Colonel P. O. J. Nicholson, School of Signals; Major G. S. K. Maydon, School of Signals; Major M. S. C. Shardlow, No. 1 Training Regiment; Major P. Watts, War Office; Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Mountford, Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment; Captain J. MacLean, Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment; Captain D. L. Hermiston, R.M.A., Sandhurst.

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Royal Signals Golf Society

Annual Meeting, 1948

The meeting was held at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on 26th and 27th August, and was attended by 43 officers of all ranks.

The first day's play consisted of two 18-hole rounds for (a) the Royal Signals Championship Cup (best gross score) and (b) the Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup (best net score). Both cups were won by Captain D. L. Swallow, whose gross scores were 78 and 84, the standard scratch score of the course being 74. Second-Lieutenant I. A. S. Biggart returned gross scores of 76 and 86 to equal Captain Swallow, but not being a regular officer he was ineligible for the championship cup.

Tension was relaxed on the second day for the bogey competitions. The bogey singles were won for the third time in succession by Brigadier Thursby-Pelham, who this year was playing on his home course. The foursomes were won fairly easily by Major Rhys Few and Second-Lieutenant Biggart who finished one hole up on bogey. The next best score was three down.

Captain Swallow impressed the spectators on the morning of the second day by driving to the green at the 259-yard first hole. His previous day's form did not last long, however, and he finished well down on bogey.

Detailed results are as follow:—

(a) *Championship Challenge Cup.* (Open to regular officers only.)
Winner Captain D. L. Swallow, 78+84=162
Runner-up Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, 83+85=168

(b) *Handicap Challenge Cup.*
Winner Captain D. L. Swallow, 72+78=150
Runner-up Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, 75+77=152

(c) *Bogey Singles Challenge Cup.*
Winner Brigadier C. K. Thursby-Pelham, 2 up.
Runner-up Second-Lieutenant I. A. S. Biggart, 1 up.

(d) *Bogey Foursomes Challenge Cup.*
Winners Major C. Rhys Few and Second-Lieutenant I. A. S. Biggart, 1 up.
Runners-up Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Lewis-Barclay and Major J. B. Melhuish, 3 down.

The meeting was much enjoyed by all. The weather was perfect. The course was in very good condition with true greens and the rough not too thick. The hungry and thirsty golfers found good refreshment in the Club House. Caddies were in short supply, but the R.A.M.C. Depot very kindly helped out by lending 12 soldiers who acted as bag carriers.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Vulliamy.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis-Barclay was presented with a silver inkstand in recognition of his having won the Royal Signals Championship Cup nine times out of a possible 19.

The following points were raised at the general meeting:—

(a) A golf meeting run on the same lines as the annual meeting will be held in the North of England in April, 1949, and before the Army meeting. Competitors could be accommodated in Catterick and the play would be either on the Catterick Garrison course or, if petrol permitted, on a nearby course.

The question of prizes for this meeting was not finally settled, but it was agreed that the four cups mentioned above would continue to be played for annually.

Details of this meeting will be published in the January edition of THE WIRE and will be circulated to all who took part in this year's meeting.

(b) Next year's annual meeting will be held in the last fortnight of August at either Sandy Lodge or Moor Park Golf Club. These clubs are near to the railway station and within easy reach of London.

(c) Brigadier Straight, the president of the Royal Signals Golf Society, will hand over on his retirement to Brigadier Galwey.

(d) A new honorary secretary will be required to replace Captain K. W. Ramsay, who is shortly leaving the Army to go to Theological College. A replacement will be found from Catterick.

What the Wives think of

Life in B.A.O.R.

On a cold, bitter morning in January, 1947, I arrived at the great German port, Cuxhaven. It was the first time I had travelled so far away from my quiet Irish hometown, and I shivered—not from cold but from excitement. All my worldly goods were locked inside the two small bags that lay near my feet. The blue labels on each showed Herford my destination, and, in spite of my few possessions and the terrible cold, I felt gay and happy.

By nightfall my husband and I were dining in our new home—our first since we were married. My lovely home was all I had ever longed for, and I was proud to be its mistress.

As the days and months passed by I had made many friends and found several new interests. The Colonel and P.R.I. decided that six wives would get together and organise a Families Committee. I was one of the six elected, and pleased with the honour as it was my first experience of Social Welfare. We agreed to hold a General Meeting once a month in the N.A.A.F.I. Reading Room. At first few wives attended, and our Quartermaster, Ration Sergeant, N.A.A.F.I. Representative and General Executive looked very shy and embarrassed in our presence. Now most wives do attend; our male hosts are less shy and embarrassed, and even on a few occasions they have handed around our tea and cakes whilst we wives have got our heads together for a jolly natter. Then there are the Regimental dances (at the P.R.I. expense) and the weekly whist drives, which are definitely worth the bob a time. Good tea (piping hot) and nice cakes during the interval, plus a good old chat with the players, and let me tell you that most of the men who attend can tell a yarn fit to equal any of the many I myself have heard back in the Emerald Isle. And, too, we can go to the Unit cinema and the Mercury, known throughout B.A.O.R. for its wonderful plays and variety shows and very talented company of Regimental personnel. It was here that H.R.H. The Princess Royal spent a very enjoyable evening on her recent visit to the B.A.O.R. During the day, when our menfolk are at work, and all our household chores have been attended to, we can stroll along to our Families' Shop—a place where queues are rare, a place where some nice articles can be bought by the lucky housewife who has some Bafsv to spend.

Even though my purse is often empty, I am nevertheless happy and contented with my life out here. I have a comfortable little home, a kind and loving husband, and three good meals each day.

Yes, indeed, I shall be sorry when I leave Herford and my friends—very, very sorry indeed.

DONLEVI

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A Junior N.C.O.'s Wife

We are the wives of two Junior N.C.O.s in the Royal Signals, serving in B.A.O.R. Through the medium of THE WIRE we should like to express our views of conditions out here in Married Quarters in B.A.O.R.

The Quarters, house divided into two flats, are very good. Each flat consists of a bedroom, sitting room, kitchen with a small scullery, and a bathroom. The furniture, which is provided, is also very good both in quality and quantity. But items like carpets, curtains and mats are very scarce, and the ones we have at present are in a very poor condition but we realise that items such as these are in short supply. Linen and all necessary household requirements are also provided.

The cooking facilities contained in the bottom flat include an electric cooker and a coal stove. The top flat possesses only a coal stove, which in summer months cannot be lit as there is too much heat. Therefore the electric cooker has to be shared. But we can use the coal stove this summer.

The food supply is on the whole quite good, but there is little variety. The scale of rations is on the same level as England, so it can be seen that there isn't a lot. Although the scale is the same we do not hesitate to say that the cost is not; in fact, it is very much higher.

The cost of living here is altogether very high. After rations, rent, fuel and light are paid for, very little is left. As there are three children between the two families, aged seven months, eighteen months and three years, it is quite a struggle to keep them clothed. The main source of supply of these goods is from the N.A.A.F.I. Married Families' Shop. Although the shop has quite an extensive range of goods they are very expensive and, as we are wives of Junior N.C.O.s, we simply cannot afford the goods, except the bare necessities.

As far as Entertainment is concerned, it is practically non-existent. There is a cinema on the Camp which shows two films per week. There is other entertainment, but not in the immediate area. To visit this entertainment, transport has to be arranged and paid for. There again our funds don't cover the expense, but they would hardly do so in England, either.

Social activities also do not appear to cover O.R.s families. Of course, there are such things as Tennis Clubs, Horse Riding Clubs, and Gliding Clubs. But once again the price of taking advantage of these clubs is beyond our means. If it wasn't for the fact that we prefer to be with our husbands, coupled with the desire to have a home of our own, which is not possible in England, we would rather be back in England.

The high cost of living seems to be the main drawback, and if this could be cut down to suit O.R.s' pockets it is our opinion that married men would be well advised to sign on a regular engagement.

TWO WIVES

A Warrant Officer's Wife

Having arrived on the second boat which docked at the Hook of Holland on 6th August, 1946, I think I have been in Germany long enough to give a few of my impressions.

When we first arrived everything was, as the Army called it, "laid on." Quarters were ready, rations, coal, etc., had been delivered; in fact, there was nothing to do but unpack the baggage. The quarters and rations were good and everyone was very helpful. My husband, being a Warrant Officer, I found social life very pleasant; there always seemed to be something on, if not in one of the numerous Sergeants' Messes, then in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club, an excellent club run by N.A.A.F.I. in the centre of the town. It was at that time possible to entertain in our home; many of the A.T.S. girls attached to the Unit would drop down for tea and, as the quarters were grouped in one area, we were a very happy community. Unfortunately, after eighteen months my husband's Unit was disbanded and, of course, we were posted. On arrival in our new Unit we found that no quarters were available, so we had to live in a Married Families' Hostel until some could be found. This is one of the big snags in B.A.O.R. On posting you may have to wait some weeks in the old station until accommodation is available. Quarters also vary, some are good and some bad, but the same rent has to be paid; that is, for my husband's rank, in winter £1 17s. 3d. per week and in summer £1 11s. 8d. This is a point which causes a lot of dissatisfaction when you consider that furniture, etc., is included and you find the quarter you are supposed to take over, besides possibly having been left filthy by the last tenants, has about one carpet, and broken windows boarded up with plywood—but it is worth it to have one's own home, which one might not have in U.K.

Rations are being cut to the U.K. scale, but although they are delivered to the door it's a case of take what you are given, and no variety; you can't choose what you would like for supper as it's issued to a set scale the same as the men's rations.

R.S.M.'s WIFE

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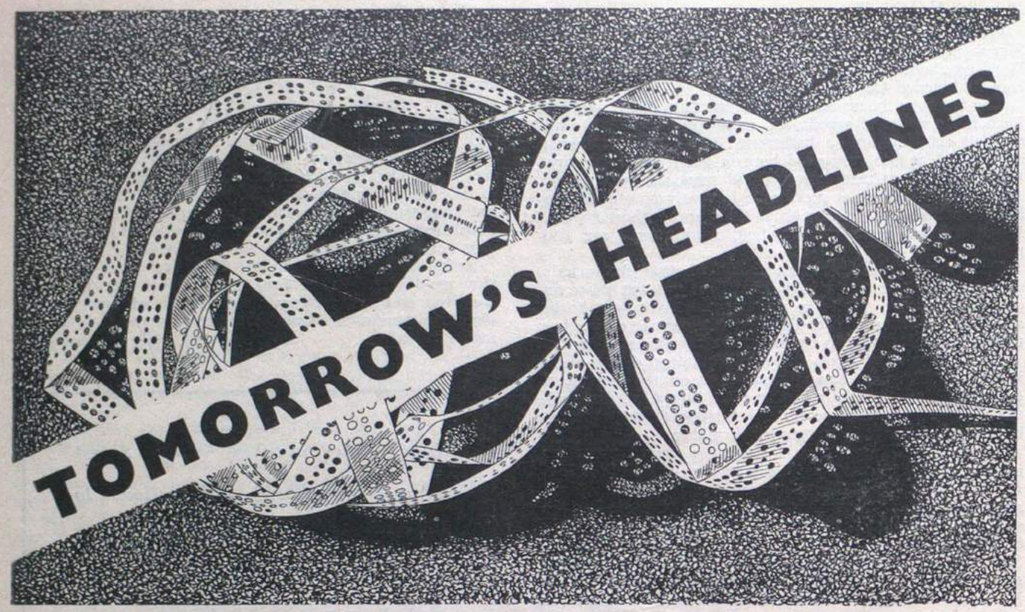

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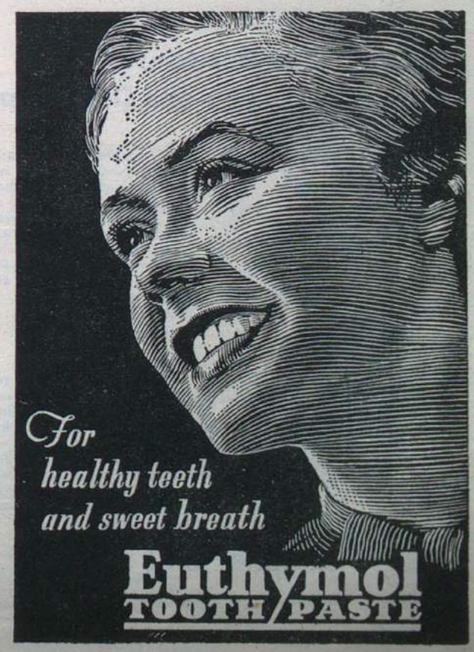

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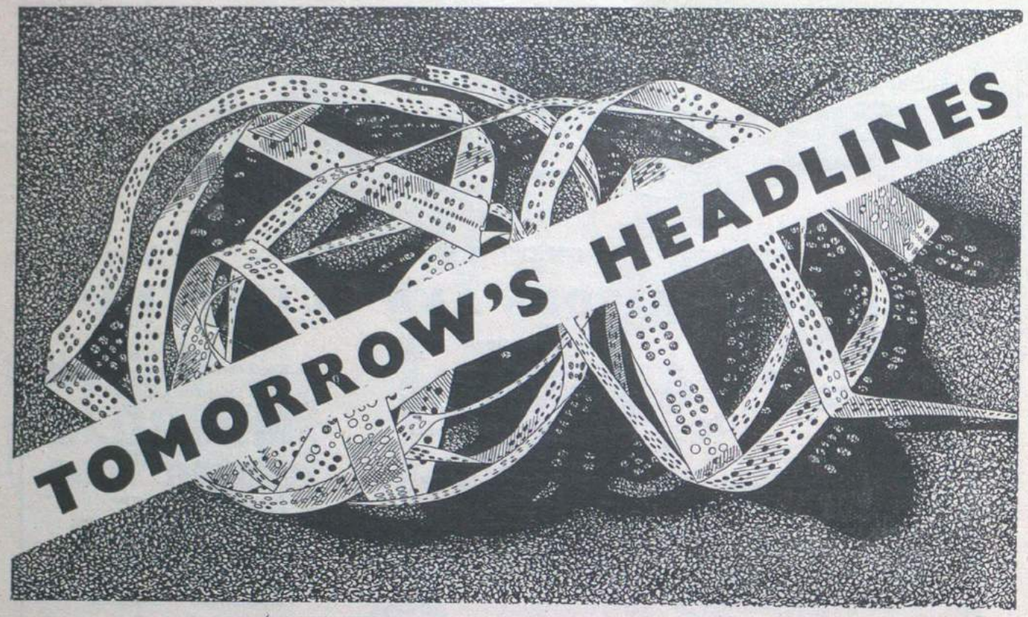

A Prime Minister speaks and Vesuvius erupts; a new oil shaft is sunk but a channel swimmer remains afloat; Home Rails are dull but tomorrow the sun may shine... Night and day, minute by minute, the central telegraph station of Cable & Wireless is receiving the news red-hot, linking the hemispheres, feeding the press, breaking the old laws of space and time.

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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.
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☆

NOVEMBER • 1948
Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 11**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

[Photograph through the courtesy of *Catterick Express*

MAJOR-GENERAL C. H. H. VULLIAMY, C.B., D.S.O., inspecting the Boys' Squadron Royal Signals, 9th September, 1948.

The Boys' Squadron Royal Signals, after 23 years at the S.T.C., has ceased, and become part of No. 4 Army Apprentices' School at Harrogate. It is a great loss to Royal Signals. Ex-boys have always been an ornament to the Corps and many have risen to high rank.

It is a sorrowful photograph for all of us as General Vulliamy vacates his appointment as Director of Signals in December.

Effect of Radio Development

by **Captain C. M. JENKINS,** *Royal Signals*

"GOOD morning, Dr. Crippen, I am Inspector Dew, of Scotland Yard. I have a warrant for your arrest."

This simple conversation took place on 31st July, 1910, on board the liner s.s. *Montrose* as she lay off Quebec. The capture of Crippen was significant in the legal world and aroused public interest. But at the same time it marked the first occasion in history that any police force had used the facilities of radio to bring a criminal within reach of arrest.. Since then this remarkable discovery by the Marchese Marconi has been interwoven into the pattern of every communication system which calls for the rapid transmission of information. In war or peace, nationally or internationally, radio is now accepted as an inseparable part of man's human existence.

Scotland Yard is controlled by a Commissioner (Sir Harold Scott, K.C.B.), who is assisted by four Assistant Commissioners who deal with administration, traffic, crime and organisation. Communications are dealt with by the latter, the principal officer being a Superintendent with the title "Officer i/c Communications." The Yard is responsible for three main things:—

1. Crime detection.
2. Control of the Metropolitan Police.
3. Special duties for the State.

Few detective stories have been written without mention of the "Yard." The competition between the mythical amateur sleuth and the hard-working police inspector, when an enterprising author arranges for the thief or murderer to be caught by the thickness of a woman's hair, has created for many a romantic appeal. But in reality this is a fallacy, unless you consider many hours of dull routine checking up on things like a laundry mark of a Mr. "X" as exciting or glamorous. However, it is in connection with crime detection and prevention that the communication system plays an important part.

The Metropolitan Police is responsible for about 700 square miles of Greater London or anywhere within a radius of 15 miles from Charing Cross. The safety of over eight million people lies in their hands. Thousands of roads and streets

have to be policed. Property of incalculable wealth has to be protected. Nearly 40 miles of the River Thames has to be watched. For all this, the overall manpower allowed is about 20,000 and the Force in fact is still well below this figure. With such an immense task, the maximum possible use has to be made of all the latest devices in the various branches of scientific development. It is true men and women are being murdered in London today and property is being stolen, but the same applies to New York, Paris, Bombay or Montreal. The fight against crime is being fought each day with relentless vigour; and with justification, Scotland Yard claim that human life and property are better protected than in any other capital in the world.

Without doubt, improved communications have helped considerably. Whitehall 1212 and 999 are probably the two best-known telephone numbers in the London Directory, and have paved the way for between 700 and 800 arrests a month. The former is a manually-operated switchboard, with 1,200 internal extensions. Exchange lines and private wires coming into the exchange total 200. The operators, who are all female operators, have special training in the handling of all calls, so that the outside subscriber can be quickly put on to the correct department with the minimum amount of delay. The switchboard was installed and is maintained by the Post Office. Day-time shift consists of two supervisors and 20 girls, with four or five men on at night; latter are G.P.O. operators. The "999" exchange is quite different and is independent of the main "1212" exchange. Calls are received by experienced policemen in the "Information Room," the nerve centre of the whole system. When you enter the "Information Room" it is very much like many you would have found in the R.A.F. or Army during the last war. Two "Room" photos appear in these pages. Coloured counters looking more like draughtsmen—each representing one police patrol car or launch—are sprinkled on the various tables covering a certain part of the Metropolitan area. Patrol cars are normally driven by uniformed police, but they may be cars of the Flying Squad on roving commissions or "Q" cars, i.e. disguised as some other form

of vehicle. Each type of car or launch is allotted a special coloured counter, is numbered, and is plotted with care and accuracy. All cars and launches are tuned to the same frequency of 80 megacycles per second and maintain continuous watch. The quality of "speech" on this large net is very good, consistent and reliable. Transmission is from a single 100 watt frequency modulated transmitter, remotely controlled from the "Information Room." Receiving aerials at the main station are fed into a normal superhet receiver. The microphone normally used for broadcasts is a uni-directional moving coil type, with the call sign M2GW.

Let us now consider the radio equipment in one of the cars. The set has been specially designed by G.E.C. to communicate with main or control station from anywhere in the M.P. area within a frequency band of 80 megacycles per second. It is housed at the back of the car (i.e. in the boot), operates off the car batteries and has an output of about 10 watts. The crew have no responsibility for maintenance or fault-finding; if trouble develops then the whole equipment is changed for a serviceable one. Transmitter-receiver control is neatly installed as part of the dashboard, with three grades of volume control—in traffic, on the move, and whilst stationary. (Photograph opposite illustrates the layout on the dashboard.) A single 4ft. antenna is attached to the centre of the roof, in preference to the side of the windscreen, to eliminate screening.

In contrast to Service signalling, the Metropolitan Police have no security problem. Each man is trained to be on the "air" for the shortest possible time and to speak distinctly. Messages rarely run to more than 20 or 30 words (or groups) as the rapid transmission of a few chosen words is the fundamental requirement. A copy of every message received is recorded and logged. Specimen of the form used is given opposite and is of interest when compared with our own Army Message Form.

To illustrate how the "Information Room" operates, here are two examples taken from the records:

1. At 11.23 p.m. on 29th May, 1948, a message was received from South Norwood Police Station reporting the loss of a motor car.
   To all cars by 11.24 p.m.
   At 11.27 p.m. the crew of T.A.G. Car "1L" arrested a man in possession of the stolen vehicle at Dunheved Close, Croydon.
2. At 5.1 a.m. on 24th May, 1948, an emergency call was received from Temple Bar Exchange reporting that a man was making a number of false calls for Police and Ambulance from a telephone kiosk at Victoria Embankment, near Charing Cross. The information was sent by R/T to Area Wireless Car "6G." The crew of the Thames launch patrolling in the vicinity of Victoria Embankment also heard the message. They put a man ashore who arrested the offender whilst he was still in conversation with the operator at the Temple Bar Exchange. He was taken to Bow Street Police Station and charged.

Without radio these arrests might not have been made. Useful as radio is, the teleprinter and the telephone handle most of the police information in the Metropolitan area. For this, the teleprinter network embraces 97 police stations and the private wire system connects 183 police stations and 726 telephone boxes and posts. The installation and maintenance of all equipment is done by the G.P.O. The teleprinters are operated, however, by policemen. As crime is sometimes international, it is desirable that Scotland Yard have wireless contact with America and the main European countries. The traffic handled can be easily transmitted by manual operation. The main station is at Paris, with "outstations" in the following countries:—Great Britain, U.S.A., Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Belgium.

The Yard are using at present a 600 watts transmitter, of their own construction and design, with a Marconi RG34

INFORMATION ROOM

19[illegible]

Call Signs	Prefix	Serial
	Recvd. /Sent by	Time

RESULTS or REMARKS

Incoming Serial	Outgoing Serials
T.O. Serial	Stolen Car Serial

Other Messages

In				
In				
Out				
Out				

receiver. Test calls are made at 0700, 1500 and 1900 hours daily on authorised frequencies between 4,000 and 6,000 kilocycles per second.

What of the future? Is there a role for television or mechanical signalling? For the answers much depends upon the trend of technical development and the requirements of the police. The outcome will be of interest to many.

(Note 1. All photographs are reproduced by kind permission of the Commissioner of Scotland Yard and are exclusive to THE WIRE. Permission to reproduce these photographs elsewhere may be granted on payment to the Commissioner, New Scotland Yard, Whitehall, S.W.1.)

(Note 2. If anyone would like to read about the non-communication side of the Yard, he should acquire Richard Harrison's "Whitehall 1212"—The Story of the Police of London—which has just been published by Messrs. Jarrolds, Ltd.)

* * *

REUNIONS

S.T.C. (B) MHOW

The second annual reunion dinner of the Cadre of S.T.C. (B) Mhow will be held in February, 1949, at Victoria Hotel, S.W.1. All interested should write to Mr. J. W. Ludgate, 4 Ronelean Road, Tolworth, Surrey, or ring Elmbridge 7883.

CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS O.C.A.

The reunion will be held at Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, Clapham Park, London, S.W.12, on Saturday, 20th November, 1948, at 7.30 p.m.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY, 1949

Have you ordered your copy yet? The diary contains many pages of useful and interesting information, including coloured road maps of the British Isles. Order your copy NOW.

CORRESPONDENCE

Major F. V. Merchant, Roseleigh Cottage, Madeira Road, Ventnor, I.W., writes on 27th September:—

The reading of extracts of Lieutenant C. J. Sharpe's letter in September's WIRE brought on an attack of nostalgia in me. Do I identify the Lieutenant (Q.M.) correctly with the C.S.M. C. J. Sharpe, a member of the Old Comrades' Sub-Committee about 1920? If so, he has belonged to the Signals Association about as long as I have, my date of entry being 12th January, 1919, and my card number being 290.

Yes, times have changed. My service in Telegraphs and Signals antedates Sharpe's a little, for I enjoyed (?) cable carts (the whole load of a cable wagon being carried on two wheels) with faulty winding gear and no brakes; and my service with the G.P.O. was on the strength of the 2nd Division, Telegraph Battalion, R.E. Campaign stars were not issued for Aldershot, The Plain, nor Ireland, although many a night out (on manœuvres, of course) were spent thereat, when the motor vehicle was unknown, and more soles than seats were worn out.

Where does the old soldier go when he finally receives his bowler hat? I've often wondered. I keep in touch with several, personally, ranking from Major-Generals to Sappers, and am always pleased to receive their letters and to hear of them. I live at the seaside and in summer time have calls from those who happen to be spending holidays in the neighbourhood. Quite recently one old comrade dropped in whom I had not seen since 1910, and he came from Limerick, Eire. Another came from Cambridgeshire to report in person after a separation of about 28 years. We recognised each other all right. I'm always glad to see them and drag up the past. The older one gets the more, I think, he wants to keep in touch with his old friends, now, alas, rapidly diminishing in numbers. That page of Charlie Mepham and George Tibble (August's WIRE) was very interesting to me. I served with them both many years ago—but they still soldier on, while I (finally, I wonder?) "ceased to be employed" in November, 1945.

Some little time ago a note was put in THE WIRE inviting any old comrades who soldiered with me in Limerick between 1907 and 1914 to drop me a line. I still want to hear from them, and if any of them happen to be hereabouts I'd like to see them. I've a pleasant shady garden in which they can sit and where they will not be importuned by beach photographers or ice-cream vendors; and if anybody will loan me a "flag, distinguishing, telegraph," or a Signals Association flag, I'll keep it flying during the summer months so that they will know where to find me.

I agree with Sharpe that THE WIRE is doing a good service—better than the serving soldier knows. Those Branch Notes mean much to a retired comrade who occasionally recognises the name of an old-time friend. A pity the locations of the Home Units are not always given, though.

[Nearly always now.—ED.]

* * *

REGIMENTAL STAMP CLUBS

We hear from No. 2 Wireless Regiment, Royal Signals, Cyprus, M.E.L.F. 3, that they have started a Stamp Club and have produced a very admirable idea of exchanging the stamps of Cyprus either in complete sets, used or unused, or in individual stamps for the stamps of other countries.

The Regiment also undertakes to provide unused sets of Cyprus stamps on a straight payment basis, i.e. face value plus a small charge not exceeding 5 per cent. for postage, paper, etc.

We commend this to other Regiments stationed in countries which produce their own stamps.

The idea might well be extended to Royal Signals Regiments of the Forces of the various Dominions.

Dominion journals please copy.

Mercury House Bournemouth

The Royal Signals War Memorial, Mercury House, will be open throughout the winter. Guests will be taken at the reduced charge of **£3 10s.** a week, with even lower terms for longer periods.

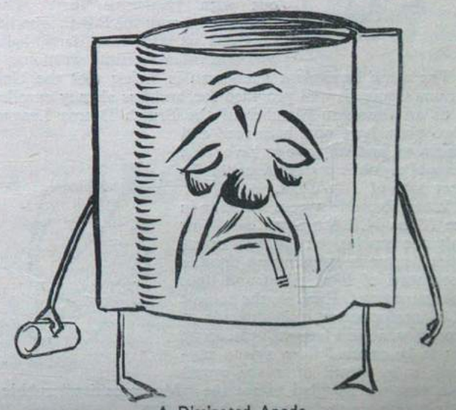
Bournemouth in the winter, and at these low charges, offers a fine holiday for the serving soldier.

Special arrangements are being made for guests over Christmas week. Charges will be **£5 10s.** for the week, or **£1** a day.

STUDENT DOODLES

We have been inundated with letters from infuriated correspondents because there was no "Student Doodle" in the October WIRE. We only have one left which we were saving for the December number.

We are now able to print No. 6 as Major M. R. J. Fletcher has promised us some more. We thank him very much.



A Dissipated Anode

Home Stations

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Owing to a technical hitch in our despatch—a hitch explainable but not excusable—our notes for last month did not reach the Editor in time for publication. To anyone who noticed their absence, and particularly to those who may have cared, we tender our sincere apologies.

All hopes of warm weather, even in the form of a Summer, Indian, Old Soldiers, for the appreciation of, have been abandoned. Pointed remarks about frostbite float through barrack room windows into the night air, and similar remarks, equally pointed but mildly modified, may be heard even from the A.T.S. blocks (or so we are told). The Unit is "digging in" and generally making preparations for a Winter, Catterick, Eskimos, for the use of.

Trials for the winter games started in earnest last month, and Wednesday afternoons find at least 90 per cent. of the Unit distributed over local soccer, hockey and Rugby fields, and the surrounding countryside (walkers and runners). Most of the Unit teams have now been selected, and with Second-Lieutenant Ashworth playing hockey for the Corps, and S.Q.M.S. Andrews and Signalman McLean playing in the Corps Association football team, we also have our representatives further afield.

Within the Regiment there is keen competition in evening games between the Squadrons, and No. 2 Squadron have also an Inter-Section Football Ladder, which is the centre of much interest and enthusiasm.

After sunset the field of battle shifts to the Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes, where the Indoor Games Tournaments are now fought out with vociferous fury. Our thanks are due to the P.R.I., who has provided us with new darts, balls, bats and other essential weapons.

The same benevolent gentleman is seeing that the Unit Drama Group is well provided for, and has already enrolled it as an Associate Member of the British Drama League. Two plays have now been read and discussed, and we hope to have some news of a public performance for the next issue of THE WIRE.

When someone sweeps the stage in the Mons N.A.A.F.I. we can draw only one conclusion: the "Monstrosities" must be brewing up another pot-pourri of local talent and light entertainment. Even in the middle of a performance it is difficult to predict what will happen next, so we beg to be excused from saying anything more (until after the event) than that we are glad to see the "Monstrosities" rubbing their eyes after their summer hibernation.

Other evening attractions are the Handicrafts Group, evening classes in preparation for the Forces' Preliminary Examination, and regular weekly film shows at the Unit Cinema.

The D.C.R.E.'s branch has been busy in the Unit Lines, and the new surfaces to all the main roads make all forms of transport an easier business than before. The reopening of the Mons cookhouse was a long-awaited occasion, and all the trouble that was taken with it was well worth while. The newly-painted interior and the geographical murals (more notable for their colourful brilliance than their topographical accuracy) considerably brighten the messing outlook.

Le Cateau cookhouse is now undergoing renovation and redecoration, and we look forward to the time when both cookhouses will be in use again.

The Draughtsmen's Training School has transferred from No. 1 Squadron to No. 2 Squadron.

Last month's Married Families' Tea Party was held, as usual, in Le Cateau N.A.A.F.I. The Preserves Competition was judged by Captain Kingston, the District Catering Adviser, and won by Mrs. Hopkins, with Mrs. Ferguson in second place. The prizes were presented by Mrs. P. G. Goodeve-Docker. The next Families' Party will take place on Thursday, 14th October, and the current competition, that for knitting (with one class for adults and another for the children) is causing many fair hands to be fully occupied in the leisure moments.

A new arrival in the Regiment is Major A. H. D. Llewellyn, who is now in command of No. 2 Squadron. We hope that his stay with us will be long and pleasant. We also welcome S.Q.M.S. Andrews, from the Airborne Signals, whose prowess on the football field has already been mentioned.

Although most valedictions are temporarily suspended, a few members of the Orderly Room staff managed to slip away before the deferment of release became effective. Among them were Corporals Ted Jenkins, Derek Garwood and Jack Reed, and they take with them all our best wishes for the future. Mr. W. Wrightson, our movements clerk, has also left us, and his place is taken by Mr. J. Stainer, who has just completed 34 years' service with R.E. Signals and the Royal Signals.

It is with the deepest regret that the Commanding Officer announces the death of Signalman Ivor Pulfer (22018262). He had been in the Army since 18th March, 1948, and served with 2nd Training Regiment since 29th April. During that period he had earned the esteem of his comrades and was well liked by all ranks for his cheerfulness and pleasant manner. He died very suddenly in the Unit Lines on the morning of Wednesday, 25th August, 1948.

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT

August and September

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we have to record, for the third month in succession, that the Regiment remains stationary, doing exactly similar work, in occupation of Bourlon and Aisne lines; though this halcyon state of affairs is soon to be interrupted, and we shall be calling ourselves, unofficially, No. 3 Training and Transit Regiment.

The Regiment being divided, and the parts separated by a mile, gives opportunity for yet another type of competition, the first of which was an Inter-Lines Boxing Competition, in which Aisne Lines defeated Bourlon Lines.

It was a fine evening's entertainment and patronised to the full capacity of the Regiment's gymnasium. S.I. Gourley, of the A.P.T.C., has high hopes of getting a few dates in the boxing world for many of the promising young amateurs. The cup, medals and prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise, and it was clear that a good time had been had by all—even the losers receiving a well-earned reward.

Our athletic season has been, we feel, very successful, and in the final meeting of the S.T.C. athletic season has been, we feel, very successful. We in the first place, with No. 1 Training Regiment literally hard on our heels and No. 2 Training Regiment third.

Perhaps our most interesting athletic event was the Inter-Squadron meeting on 30th August, when almost the whole of the Regiment turned out at the Stadium ground to make it a gala day. The cup went to No. 4 Squadron, though the other Squadrons were very close behind, and the lead changed more than once during the meeting.

Comedy as well as skill was provided, especially at the pole vault pit, when one stalwart from No. 1 Squadron persisted in charging through the set-up without letting of his pole, though in all fairness it must be recorded that he changed his approach after breaking the crossbar in two.

Altogether it was a really good day out, and the N.A.A.F.I. attended with spacious marquees and excellent teas. Mrs. Wise very kindly presented the cup, medals and prizes at the end of the day.

Turning to cricket, we can only record a "fifty-fifty" season, though it was nicely rounded off with two wins. Given better weather and more experienced players, we still intend to give No. 4 Training Regiment a rattling good game when we take the field next season.

All of which brings us to soccer, and our efforts of last season have set us a very high standard to achieve. We are entered for the Army Cup and have teams in both divisions of the Catterick District League. Already we have found several good players, and with the combined efforts of the committee, manager, trainer, spotters, Old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all, we hope to have glowing reports to make in the future.

Our results to date have been:

Division I

v. 14/20th King's Own Hussars ...	Won	4—1
v. 7th Queen's Own Hussars	Won	4—2
v. No. 4 Training Regt., Royal Signals	Drawn	1—1

Division II

v. 1 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E.	Lost	2—4
v. 7 Company, R.A.M.C.	Won	4—3
v. C.S.D., Catterick Camp	Lost	0—3

We have drawn a bye in the first round of the Army Challenge Cup. It is expected that the Regiment will be well represented when Signals, Catterick District, meet Trimdon Grange in the qualifying round of the Amateur Cup on 9th October.

Pushing in the organ stops, and with memories of our 60—nil defeats of last season, we turn to rugger, and are pleased to note that our first match of the season, against the National Service Officers Training Wing, resulted in a good match, the score of which (lost by 0—11) belied the closeness of the struggle. We certainly have the makings of a good steady team this season which may yet avenge those defeats of last winter.

In these days, when so much interest is centred on activities in the air, it is encouraging to see the great enthusiasm of the Model Aero Club. Its membership is not confined solely to this Regiment, and its activities range from the building of solid scale models to the construction and flying of gliders. The main interest at present is the construction of a twin-engined aircraft which is to be radio controlled. During most week-ends a party of enthusiasts make a trip to Croft Airfield, where by arrangement with the Darlington Aero Club they are able to experiment in flying the models constructed in the Club's back room.

These notes would be incomplete without mention of the families' tea party, a meeting which takes place each month, except when an outing has been arranged instead, in the Regimental N.A.A.F.I. The parties are arranged by Mrs. Wise and attended by the wives and families of the Regiment, and no doubt provide occasion for much good gossip. We must remember to get some WIRE notes from one of the ladies for our next issue.

A marriage has been arranged and, by the time these notes are published, will have taken place between Captain A. E. S. Jackson, M.B.E., Royal Signals, and Subaltern M. Butler, A.T.S., both of this Regiment. "Jacko" is already well known to many old and new members of the Corps, and "Micky" must be known to quite a number. We wish them both the very best of luck.

Congratulations also to Captain and Mrs. W. Dermit on the birth of their daughter Susan.

Major N. de la P. Tate, Major Harris and Captain Barnes have all left us, the former for Ceylon and the latter for Shrivenham and Cambridge respectively. We wish them all the very best of luck.

We welcome in turn Majors Mellor, MacDonnel and Ray, Captains McKay, McLaren, Sullivan and Wragg, and Second-Lieutenants Langworthy, Priestley and Watson (the last three hot from R.M.A., Sandhurst).

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. During August we entertained the Corporals' Clubs of Aisne and Bourlon to two pleasant evenings' games. The latter we managed to defeat without much difficulty, but the Aisne Corporals' Club turned the tables. There must be something in the air at Aisne, for they seem to triumph at everything.

We also held two successful social evenings, that of 12th September being particularly so. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of a remarkably good comedian—it is his civilian occupation—whose impressions of Winston Churchill and Rob Wilton went down very well.

Other guests for an evening's games were the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 14/20th King's Own Hussars, whom we just beat, though judging from the bar stocks the next morning it must have been a hectic struggle.

The entrance hall and bar have taken on a brighter appearance as a result of the work put in by the members. A week ago the place was a mass of ladders, paint pots, distemper brushes and other paraphernalia, but now everything is spick and span again and the smell of new paint has disappeared. Sergeant Thatcher is given full marks for his colour scheme.

To all "in-comings" and "outgoings" we extend the usual glad mit and good wishes, especially to S.S.M. Burdes, who, to use his own expression, has received "just another posting"—but this time to civilian life after 24 years' service. From every aspect we have lost an old and valued member. On the eve of his departure he was presented with a handsome clock, suitably inscribed.

Since most of the incomings are of the "old sweat" variety, they usually mean "grips" all round of the "Do you remember old so-and-so?" species.

Congratulations to S.Q.M.S. Holt on being selected to represent the Corps at hockey.

Lost and Found Department. W.O.II "Taffy" L'Homme recently indulged in a game of rugger and lost his floating rib. No reward will be paid to the finder.

W.O.II MacPherson, late of this Mess, lost a piece of porcelain of a type only issued to officers and married quarters. We are pleased to report that this has now been found, with blushes all round.

Notes from Aisne Lines. The Aisne suburb is still flourishing, although the faces change as frequently as ever. Since

the last notes "T" Troop has left us, and we wish them all success, wherever fate may lead them.

There have been few recent changes amongst the senior N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers. S.S.M. Goldsmith, M.M., has left for an appointment with the T.A., and S.S.M. Haydon has returned after an unpleasant but successful operation, remarking that at least the operation has made him give up smoking. He recommends such drastic action as the only hope for the victims of Madame Nicotine.

S.Q.M.S.s Burge and Statham and Sergeants Skirving and Brewster remain our firm corner stones.

The office is at the moment in the hands of Corporal Richardson, who never fails to reply to any problem, "I was a bandsman for 17 years, you see sir," this remark always being preceded by the now famous cough which on first hearing can so easily be mistaken for a grunt.

The Squadron has had success in the Regimental games, winning both the boxing and the athletics cups. The athletics team assembled in Aisne Lines after their efforts and performed the age old custom of "passing the cup." Our victorious tug-of-war team took part in the ceremony, and it was only with great difficulty that the cup was wrenched from the hands of these experienced quenchless stalwarts, led by the firmly-rooted Sergeants Hunt and Porter. The short ceremony was very popular and we are now looking forward to the next opportunity to repeat the performance.

The energies of the Squadron have also been devoted to the perfection of "fire drill," and one is never safe from the effects of the irresistible temptation of the hydrants on S.Q.M.S. Burge and his merry lads.

The Catterick weather is getting much colder and, as usual, our winter seems to be arriving sooner than in most parts of Great Britain. Consequently we have put our bats and pads away and have donned shirts and boots, while the football mathematicians have started their weekly correspondence with the pools.

That's all for this month, and next month we hope to be able to tell you of more successes on the football field and of at least one member of the Squadron who is richer by £20,000.

No. 5 TRAINING REGIMENT
Barnard Castle

September

The first week of driving training now takes place at our old location, the 'drome at Tholthorpe. The scheme serves a double purpose. The ex-bomber airfield, with its vast runways, is ideally suited for first week drivers, there being practically nothing to hit. The Troop on first week of training go out as a more or less independent detachment and thus affords the men a good opportunity of sampling life with a detachment, and all its attendant ups and downs, at an early stage of their service.

The junior N.C.O.s have staked their claim on the social ladder at long last. They made their debut with the first Corporals' Dance on 8th September and made a great success of it. It is good to see encouragement given to such a venture and it is hoped that the junior N.C.O.s will make the most of the opportunity and turn their monthly dances into social events of note.

The business of running Unit D. and D. Courses for junior and potential N.C.O.s has been tackled with great determination. A standard programme has been mapped out and it should greatly benefit those attending the course. The course recently completed passed off with a ceremonial parade on 18th September, under R.S.M. Thompson. Their turn-out and bearing was certainly a credit to the instructors.

U.H.Q. SQUADRON. The Squadron has now taken over the responsibility of dealing with the N.S. intakes from Driving Squadron, and with it was transferred a harassed look from S.S.M. Driving to S.S.M. H.Q.

The sedentary workers are proving that they can at least hold their own in the field of sport. At present we are second in the Inter-Squadron Football League, but expect to amend that to read first on the next sports afternoon. The Inter-Squadron Table Tennis Competition has been running for two weeks now and so far we have literally cake-walked with the honours. Although we haven't done so well with Miniature Range Shooting, we proudly claim to have the only corporal in captivity who can score nine without even using the sights.

DRIVING SQUADRON. Major Morrison, M.B.E., our new Chief Training Officer, has effected considerable changes in the training belt. Training Wings are disbanded and Troop Officers now press heavily on. Who knows, we may even obtain that 100 per cent. pass off (at the first attempt).

Captain "Paddy" Walsh is teaching the latest batch of trainees the "rudiments" at Tholthorpe Airfield. (Can't you get by without your rabbit pie!)

We cordially welcome Lieutenant Mootham, who is on a Maintenance Course at present, and R.S.M. Carr, who is helping to keep the wheels turning at Tholthorpe. May their stay be long and pleasant.

We are indeed a sporting Squadron these days. "A" and "B" soccer teams are striving mightily in the Unit League. We confidently look forward to the "A" team finishing well up with the leaders. S.Q.M.S. Delicate still plays a mighty game for the Officers' and Sergeants' soccer team. "A" and "B" shooting teams carried the honours on the miniature range against D.R. and U.H.Q. Squadron. Keep it up, drivers.

Departures have been nipped in the bud for a few months, except for the odd string-puller at least. Before these notes go to press Second-Lieutenant McDonald will have left us on a Class "B," to pick up where he left off at the 'varsity.

Congratulations to Sergeant "Nobby" and Mrs. Clarke on the birth of a daughter.

D.R. SQUADRON. This month has been one of feverish activity for the Squadron horticulturists. Much back-breaking work has gone into making the gardens in the Squadron area a pleasure for the eye to see. Even the Squadron Office verandah had its quota of flora in hanging flower pots. (What did Babylon have that we haven't?)

We have reaped the just reward of our labours, however, completing the hat trick by winning Classes "A," "B" and "C," thus obtaining the Inter-Squadron Trophy.

Well done the diggers!

Now that the nights are drawing in and there is a nip in the air, the topic among sportsmen in the Squadron is soccer. Under the expert guidance of R.S.M. Thompson, the Squadron team has been going from strength to strength, and by beating the Officers' and Sergeants' team by 3—0 we now top the Inter-Squadron League.

The number one sport in the Squadron is, however, boxing. Our O.C., Captain Stirk, the Unit Boxing Officer, has been supervising training all along, and hopes to turn out a team equal if not better than last year's.

Our last WIRE scribe and Training Officer, Second-Lieutenant Newsome, went out with lucky "76," and his place has been filled by Second-Lieutenant Belchier, from Driving Squadron. We extend a warm welcome to him and also to S.Q.M.S. Howard, who has taken over from S.Q.M.S. Clay, retired after 31 years' service.

The talk at the moment is about the forthcoming trial which is being organised by Captain Stirk. There are so many canine pets around, however, that one often wonders if it will be a motor cycle or a sheepdog trial!

The Corps Display Team will be returning to its fold in the near future after its usual highly successful tour. The winter close season will see Second-Lieutenant Dimmock training new blood for next year's team. But these are the *only* people we want to see doing "Double Jimmy's" on the saddle.

Sognal Singsters No. 1

(With apologies to the *Tatler*)

A feathered vertebrate of eagle eye and dun-coloured plumage splashed with scarlet.

CEE-ESO BIRD—OR RED-HEADED CHASER

(*Ismylinethru—the certathecito*)

Adult Male: General colour greenish-brown, awe-inspiringly crested with a band of scarlet feathers and having two prominent scarlet patches on either breastbone. Beak large, slightly hooked, and of coarse texture, enabling it to probe into the kernel of hard nuts and "bukshee" stores hoarded by the Q-em bird. Mandibles square and prominent; body feathers, undercovers long and downy, outer covers neat and well preened; shanks long, and in the older birds often leathery up to the knees.

Habits: The Red-headed Chaser is a bird of uncertain temper, especially during the early hours of the morning. Unless its every whim is gratified it will gyrate in small circles uttering harsh cries of "Notgoodenuf—Notgoodenuf—Whosetoblame." If caught off duty it behaves in a friendly fashion and emits fatherly noises.

Habitats: Usually nests in large bare rooms; walls of nest feathered with highly-coloured scraps of paper often regurgitated by the Gee-Wun Bird. When angered, covers great distances at high speed, turning up in unexpected places, often to the consternation of lesser birds.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
Catterick

ROYAL SIGNALS WING. It is perhaps unfortunate that our first appearance in Unit Notes should coincide with a time when both social and sporting activities are at a minimum. We hope to correct this in future editions.

There must be many past members of the cadre who are interested in the new organisation of the Wing. It would take more space than the Editor can spare to do justice to the subject, nor is there space to mention the names of the new and enlarged cadre.

The Wing is now a self-contained Unit with an Adjutant, Q.M. and C.I. of its own. H.Q. Squadron handles the administration of the Unit and is similar to the old Admin. Wing. Instruction is handled by five Groups, which correspond roughly to Squadrons though they are very much smaller. Each is commanded by a Major Instructor and all the officers are classified as Instructors.

Instruction in basic theory is handled by Basics Group. Line Equipment and Wireless Equipment Groups take over the responsibilities of EI and EII in so far as equipment and specialised techniques are concerned. Tactics Group is the direct heir of the former Tactics Wing and has virtually the same responsibilities. The fifth Group is called the Lines, Workshops and M.T. Group, and handles instruction in line construction, workshops and M.T. for the Young Officers and F. of S. Courses.

The first of the new series of Regular Y.O. Courses has now joined us from Sandhurst and we extend to them a hearty welcome.

Sergeants' Mess. Past members of the Mess will be intrigued to learn that we now have a band of the dance variety. It consists of Sergeant Len Colley (piano), Q.M.S. Les Pettifer (bass), S.S.M. Ron Ashford (clarinet) and Sergeant Bill Durrant (drums). The band—sorry, orchestra—has performed at all the recent functions with great success. There is, however, another side to the story. At a Mess meeting soon after the start of this great enterprise one member was most concerned about the dry state of the band and pressed hard for a larger beer allowance for them. Imagine our surprise to see this same gent playing in the band the following week. No names, of course, but he plays a large instrument with strings.

These Training Aids people are really making the most amazing things. "Jock" Shields has designed a bomb that drops to a point 100ft. from the ground and hovers. From the inside comes a loudspeaker, through which is played a record of Frank Sinatra. A crowd immediately gathers round to listen and when there are sufficient in the crowd the bomb drops and kills the lot of them.

Owing to the split in the Mess caused by the departure of All Arms Wing, some of the furnishings have been given to them to help them start life. However, they have invited us to a house warming so we may get them back again.

Hockey. The season opened with a game on 8th September against No. 3 Training Regiment, which we won 3—1. The game was very even and No. 3 Training Regiment were unlucky to lose. Since then we have not been so lucky, having played three further matches and lost the lot (17th September, *v.* No. 2 Training Regiment, 2—3; 21st September, *v.* No. 1 Training Regiment, 2—4; 6th October, *v.* R.A.F., 1—7).

Football. Two games have been played, the first against the National Service Officers' Training Wing, which we won 14—0, and the second against No. 1 Training Regiment, which we won 5—0. In the latter match we fielded a complete new forward line and, considering the appalling weather conditions, the result was very creditable. Q.M.S.I. Moores and Sergeant Martin were outstanding. The former was recently selected to play for Northern Command.

An Inter-Group Football League has been started and a league table will be included in future editions of these notes.

OFFICER TRAINING WING. As related in last month's notes, and for the benefit of readers who may have missed reading them, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. became a Wing of the School of Signals on 4th August, 1948, and was renamed the National Service Officer Training Wing. It is hoped that all old friends will remember us under this new name and that they will not imagine that we have packed our kit and departed.

There were two Pass Off Parades during the month. Course 210/11 passed off on 9th September, the salute being taken by Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Catterick District. The Commanding Officer's Cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet Woolf.

Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals, took the salute when Course 212 passed off on 25th September. On this occasion the Commanding Officer's Cane was awarded to Officer-Cadet Finch.

Lieutenant F. D. Williams has our best wishes for his future happiness on the occasion of his marriage to Patricia Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Devine, of Beckenham, Kent. The wedding took place at the Church of St. Edmund, Beckenham, on 27th September.

We extend a hearty welcome to the following on joining the Unit. R.S.M. Wyers, who takes over from R.S.M. Bennett on completion of his tour. It is rumoured that R.S.M. Bennett is bound for the T.A., where no doubt there will be an increase in ceremonial parades. To S.Q.M.S. E. J. Brown, who once more occupies his old seat in the Orderly Room; and to Staff-Sergeant Peters (R.E.M.E.) and Sergeants Boddington, Blampied and C. R. Williams.

We have said "Au revoir" this month to Major W. J. Cornish, who is now once more on his way overseas, this time to the Far East; to Captain J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley, who has left us for Corpus Christi College; and to our oldest member, S.S.M. Boxall, who at long last has departed to civilian life. We wish them all the very best of luck.

Just enough hockey has been played during the close season to enable players to keep in touch with the game. A six-a-side tournament was held successfully despite all attempts by the weather to damp our spirits. However, after several postponements the Officers' Mess team won the trophy. With the opening of the hockey season we are in a position to field two teams, one of which has the appearance of being formidable. There are high hopes that one or two will be chosen for the Corps side. The first eleven opened the season with a very creditable performance. Visiting Barnard Castle, where they were entertained by 7th Queen's Own Hussars, they gained a valuable point with a depleted team on a pitch that more than favoured the home side. In their second match, at home, they beat No. 7 Selection Regiment 2 goals to 1 after a fast game.

The rugger XV is being knocked into shape and have every hope of keeping up their excellent record. Several well known personalities are with us at present, including Second-Lieutenant "Nim" Hall (England), his brother, Second-Lieutenant J. Hall (Northern Command and Corps), Second-Lieutenant I. Gloag (Army), and Second-Lieutenants Taylor, Shenten and Wood (all Corps). All these are representing the Corps against R.M.A., Sandhurst, on 6th October. Unfortunately, not all will remain with us for the whole season, but they will give us a valuable start.

Our shooting team, ably led by Captain D. S. A. Hutley, G.M., has been unbeaten in the District during the last two years, and has been practising with determination to maintain its record for a third year. We wish them every success.

That energetic body the Mountaineering Club, in spite of the optimistic remarks in the last issue, have received a heavy blow. Their trips to the climbing area have been curtailed on account of what we will politely call a "technical hitch" over transport. We await eagerly the next move by this group of energetic enthusiasts.

Our weakest point this season is the soccer XI, who have been badly hit by releases during the summer.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Edinburgh

October

During the first week-end in October the wives of the officers of the Unit decided that the international situation called for desperate action, so having given their husbands a generous issue of buckets and spades, they sent them off in their "horseless carriages" to Elie, Fife, the Riviera of Scotland, to plan an invasion of the Kingdom, which had been overrun by those beastly Ruritanians. It goes without saying that the Ruritanians "copped" it in no mean way and so honour and domestic peace was saved. The visible pleasure on the face of our new Adjutant, Captain Geddes, was something worth paying to see when he was told he could become a member of the Directing Staff of a S.E.W.T., which was to take place *above* sea level. (For the uninformed, Captain Geddes was in 52 (L) Division.)

The entertainments department has been providing mostly cinema shows this month as we are saving all our dancing energy for the visit at the end of the month of the Corps Band to Edinburgh, when there will be a light musical concert in the Music Rooms and a dance in the Freemasons' Hall, George Street. However, after much good staff work on the part of Signalman Arcus, we are once more the proud possessors of a Unit Dance Band. Its progress is excellent and it is hoped that it will form the mainstay of the proposed Unit concerts this winter.

Although not officially classified under entertainments, some mention should be made of the fact that all the males of Fairmilehead and Broomfield have fired their annual range course at Dreghorn. The result can best be summarised as: Weather conditions, fair; average scores, fair; casualties (human) nil, (animal) one flock of terrified sheep.

A.T.S. It was with great regret that we said "Good-bye" this month to Senior Commander F. Murphy. She has taken down her "Jimmy" and gone to the G.D. Group as Group Commander, resident at the New Carlton Hotel. We shall no doubt be seeing quite a lot of her though, as she is still in our area.

To Junior Commander L. Bowler falls the difficult task of fulfilling the appointment of Senior A.T.S. Officer.

By her side is the ever-helpful Sergeant Shreeve, nobly tackling the job of Orderly Room Sergeant, *vice* our Scottish Sergeant MacColl, who was demobbed about three weeks ago.

The call of the East has lured Subaltern Ferguson, who is now on her way to Singapore, and upon her arrival there she will probably be welcomed by Corporal Davidson, who was N.C.O. i/c switchboard at Command H.Q., and Private Gerrard, a clerk from Fairmilehead, who sailed a week beforehand.

We have lost quite a few of our members because of overseas postings—Corporal Hughes to Middle East and Private Birch to B.T.A. The A.T.S. drivers, too, have departed from our midst, and we miss them very much.

New arrivals in the Unit are Junior Commander J. Goullet from the War Office, Second-Subaltern Ackeroyd from O.C.T.U., Windsor, and Sergeant Wooding recently returned from Singapore.

Hockey trials have been attended by several of our Auxiliaries, and C.S.M. Coghlan, as Sports Officer, also plays a very nifty game. We hope to get a few places in the Command team.

Two weddings have featured in our Unit: Lance-Corporal Allen married to Mr. Notman, of Davidsons Mains; Lance-Corporal Briggs, A.T.S., married Lance-Corporal Wilson, Royal Signals, before the latter departed overseas. We wish both couples every happiness in the future. Private Cuthill is transferring to Provost in the near future—a Red Cap in exchange for a cook's kerchief.

Sergeant Aitchison still runs around and keeps the camp at Broomfield looking spick and span, and Sergeant Scott has our education at heart.

One great loss in the camp was our N.A.A.F.I. manageress, Miss Kavanagh. Many will remember her kindness to us at Broomfield, and we wish her luck in her new task in Germany.

Sports Notes. Our sporting endeavours have been crowned with partial success. It is far too early in the hockey-soccer-Rugby season to predict our fortunes in the Command Championships but we may with all modesty claim to have a healthy chance. (It is authoritatively reported from sporting circles that Major Gregory's only concern is the heavy insurance liability of all the additional trophies.) However, there is to be no slackening of the reins—"Bash on."

Football. We have played six games in the Mid-Week League, and clocked a goal average of 37 for, 6 against, without losing a single game. Thanks to the valiant efforts of our Second-in-Command, the splendid new Corps colours have been widely publicised. A multitude of other fixtures against civilian and Service sides have been arranged for the future. We look forward to the opening of the Mid-Week Cup and the Command Championships. All football enthusiasts have had the opportunity of a bash, in inter-Squadron and scratch games. With such personalities as S.Q.M.S. Stewart (captain), Sergeants Gardiner and Brown, Corporal Nicklin, Lance-Corporal Cullen, to mention only a few, our prospects are indeed rosy. Now, no posting order, please !

Hockey. Cup fixtures are not out yet, so we occupy ourselves testing the mettle of opponents to be. The first eleven has been doing very well indeed. From five major fixtures we hit up a very high average which was spoilt by a single unfortunate draw. The second eleven has put in a lot of hard work under the watchful eye of R.Q.M.S. Roscoe (captain, first eleven).

The A.T.S. (our girls) haven't settled down to hockey this season. Of the two opening fixtures, one was upset by weather and the other by—eh, R.M.P.s ? The M stands for menace. In spite of many difficulties, our new A.T.S. Subaltern, Miss I. Ackeroyd, and "cheerful" C.S.M. Coghlan are really getting down to brass tacks. The A.T.S. are in on the American Tournament, due to take place on the 16th. Many spectators are due to attend, to "study form" we are told. Mixed hockey and netball is now under way.

Did somebody say something about transport ?

Rugger. Ask Captain John Rowlands (captain)—he knows! What was it, sir, four or six stitches? The Royal Scots have beaten us up pretty badly but we are happy to be able to field a side this season. It's the spirit that counts!

The skipper has no easy task ahead of him getting us ready for the Command Cup but he's up to it, and the side is quite determined to have a go. We shall have more to say next month.

Basketball. We've got the rules right and the use of a gym on Tuesdays. It's not easy getting there but our F. of S. has a way with him. The Eastern District League is now under way and we take off with plenty of confidence. There is no reason why we should not do as well in a much more modest sphere—as No. 4 T.T. Regiment. We are told by a representative of the Regiment who happened to be present at the Northern Command finals that No. 4 T.T. produced as fine a crowd of chaps as they were players—they won hands down, and a jolly good show too.

Table Tennis. The Johnson Trials were conducted with great ceremony, and after thoroughly coaching the selected few the said O.R.S. led his side to meet the challenge of St. John's, of Portobello (at home), on 7th October. We lost, but only just, 5—9. The league has a long way to go yet and having got the feel of an outside club, the next game ought to be tackled with greater caution. There are a few quite smooth players around.

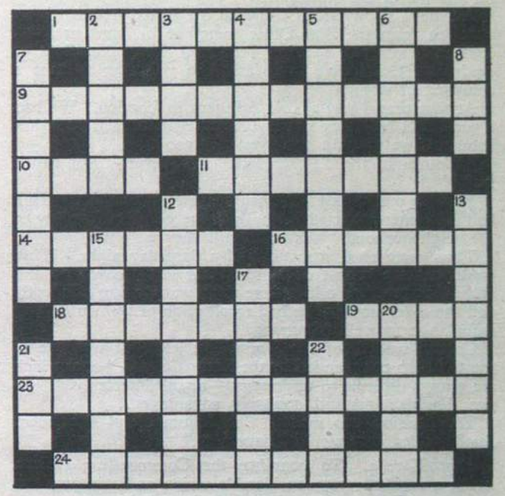
Netball. No advance so far. To press, all games have been within the family circle. Invitations have been pushed out and we hope to see the girls doing their stuff in next month's magazine. Masters, of Broomfield, holds very definite views on the capabilities of the Regimental side. Good luck, anyway, we're with you.

School of Signals Visit. Subject to £ s. d., the Regimental hockey, mixed hockey, soccer, netball, basketball and table tennis sides—thirty odd "bods" in all—hope to visit Catterick in one fell swoop. This is scheduled to take place week-end 12th-14th November. We are no further than the planning stage yet, though the voluntary subscription box is in circulation. S.S.M. Cooper would simply hate you to pop in the odd half-dollar.

General. The sporting aspect of Regimental life in Scotco would not be anything like complete without a reference to our Mr. D. (for Davidson), known here in Signals Circulars for the past 20 years or so as the F.S.S. Watch Dog. T.O.T.s come and go, but Mr. D. cracks on for ever.

Crossword Puzzle No. 3

Composed by J. Riley



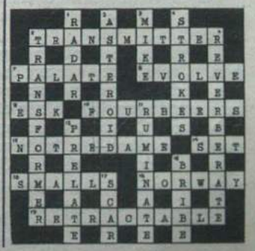
ACROSS

1. Are the Russians? (11).
9. Having, as in double flowers, the stamens converted into petals (13).
10. Tidy (4).
11. Could be of cutlery (7).
14. Many years ago you may have been referred to as a — (6).
16. Found in a type of ring (6).
18. The late C.I.G.S. said nothing about a — (7).
19. Not easy (4).
23. How long will it last? (3 and 10).
24. Is Mr. Wilson a — (11).

DOWN

2. The home of the "char wallah" (5).
3. Said to be the ally and helper of both Gods and men (4).
4. Often gives trouble on a route march (6).
5. It varies in every one of us (8).
6. To do with astronomy (7).
7. A recruit is accused of — (7).
8. The cause of many a flap (3).
12. My mind is sometimes referred to as a — (8).
13. Almost mythological in the forces (7).
15. To do with rifle drill (7).
17. A word used by the O.C. as a preliminary to jankers (6).
20. There was one in old Olympia (5).
21. Could be referred to as Forces sweethearts (3).
22. It is no more (4).

Solution to Crossword No. 2



Notes on the

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE

GLANCING at the columns of a contemporary paper, I am reminded that the A.T.S. were ten years old on 8th September, 1948. But this is misleading. As the Auxiliary Territorial Service, yes, correct; date and year 1938. But in fact what is now known as "An AT," "Those —— ATS" or just "ATS" were with us long before September of that year under another name. What was it? I cannot for the life of me remember.

All that I know is that I opened the all too frequent large envelope from the War Office sometime in April or May, 1938, and saw that selected Territorial Army Battalions or equivalent Units were to be asked to volunteer to raise a company of women.

At that time I was a T.A. Adjutant in London. We had a good drill hall, very nearly 100 per cent. of men on establishment; we thought ourselves very good.

"Women in the T.A.? Hell! No, never! But half a mo'!"

You see our weekly Regimental dances in the Drill Hall had all winter attracted the bulk of the youth and beauty of the neighbourhood. Very nice girls they were too.

There were rival attractions of a Saturday night. If we could enlist a couple of hundred our rivals could go and chase themselves. Besides there was a war coming off shortly and the older amongst us had recollection of women driving ambulances as well as nursing.

Careful reading of the War Office letter—it was one of those "I am commanded by the Army Council" ones which are always difficult to understand—revealed certain difficulties, disadvantages and, strangely, advantages.

The decision was made. The Adjutant and Permanent Staff decided they would "have a go."

First Hurdle. To convince the Commanding Officer. Being a man of very considerable vision and wisdom, this proved easier than expected, and also to our later great consolation, a promise to go and see Lady Trenchard (the first head of the new service) that very day.

The result was the immediate promise and very speedy production of one of the nicest officers we had ever met. She was very young, she was very lovely and she was extraordinarily capable.

Second Hurdle. Overall numbers were limited to about 80, far fewer than we desired but enough for a start.

Trades were confined to clerks—obviously a boon—canteen workers, cooks, orderlies, cleaners; these latter appeared not so good.

The whole object of the Regiment was to produce Signalmen. Cooks were necessary but there was no shortage. Canteen workers, cleaners, storekeepers; no place for these and we wanted something better of our girls than that. So the first Signal Company came into being. We decided that we would take them in as canteen workers, and what have you, but we would train them as Signalmen.

Third Hurdle. To catch your girl. That turned out to be easier than was expected. The first thing to do was to spread the news of the formation of the new Company; the second was to make entry as difficult as possible. By the time we had turned away the bulk of the early applicants there was a queue half-way down the stairs. That was where the second quality of our young officer was so useful. She heartily agreed that personal appearance was one of the chief qualities. And in her selection she "made it so," as the Navy say. By the time we went to camp, but that is a long way off, we had as gallant a bunch of lovelies as could be wished for.

Fourth Hurdle. The unofficial meaning of "Certa cito" in polite language is "Get going—do something—do it quick." But how? There were no Army Forms. There were no rules or regulations. Now long experience proves that to do something not in the correct format is to store up trouble. We were still at peace. Great effort produced one copy of the attestation form. Greater effort by the unwilling Permanent Staff (they hadn't seen the quality of the recruits then) produced the necessary copies. The good looking and capable were sifted, attested and welcomed.

There was great competition to drill the girls. Their own officer, whose only experience was three days on the square at Duke of York's H.Q., had the merit of knowing her own limitations.

All trades except clerks were straightway enjoined to learn the Morse Code, and learn it quick. All were talked to about signals and signalling. All appeared to like it.

From the point of view of a hard-working Adjutant things were approaching the ideal. Adjutants, T.A., are by their

Major-General R. T. O. Cary, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., inspecting at Catterick a parade of the Auxiliary Territorial Service to mark the tenth anniversary of the formation of the A.T.S.

nature night workers. We were running three drill nights a week at that time, and the joy of being able to ring the Corporal Clerk in her London office and ask her to detail a girl for that evening was great.

Sure enough, apparently pausing not for tea or supper, a really competent stenographer used to appear in the office on her way home and the whole of the toil was taken out of a couple of days' letter writing in one swift hour of dictation. Then to go about one's normal business of a drill night, confident that two or three hours afterwards the typescript would be in one's tray perfectly executed.

This keenness to do voluntary work—there was no question of pay or even travelling money—extended to all of them.

Fifth Hurdle. Some bright lad said, "Let's take 'em to camp." Impossible. It's never been done before. They aren't even enlisted yet. They have no uniform. We can't have 50 or 60 girls in camp with 400 men. They won't want to go. They can't be paid. It's obviously quite absurd. They came. In the manner of their younger sisters during the ensuing ten years, they proved that where the A.T.S. are concerned, the only incentive is a job to be done.

The girls in fact heard about it. Would we guarantee them a real live job in Signals in camp. We would? Right. "We are coming, all 60 of us."

Difficulties over accommodation? We indented for a few extra tents. Difficulties over uniform? They would have liked to be in uniform, but there were none, so they came in their ordinary clothes. No pay? "Well, that can't be helped."

They came. The clerks made the work of the office unbelievably easy. They helped in the mess tent. They manned the Camp Signal Office.

Now in our camp the Camp Signal Office had many functions. As its name implies, it was the static Signal Office in camp. But more, Brigade Signals, Artillery Signals, or even the whole Divisional Signals used the Camp Signal Office as their Higher Formation.

We gave them a Sergeant O.W.L. to show them how. After three days the girls thought they could manage on their own.

They were in fact not only a great asset, by the end of camp they had become indispensable.

We were a little apprehensive about the normal visit of inspection of our Divisional Commander. But he was a very good Divisional Commander, and the girls, bless 'em, were not only obviously busy and capable but they were also very pretty girls. We need not have feared. He was in fact very complimentary.

These were small beginnings. Mark you, camp was in August, 1938; before the official announcement of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service came on 8th September, 1938.

And where have we gone from there? A long, long way.

By their discipline and steadiness they have set an example on innumerable ceremonial parades. The writer on VE-Day was commanding 1,800 men and girls somewhere in England. The men, six strong Companies, all young soldiers, arrived first on the parade ground. Then came the seventh Company—the "Damats." As they marched on to take their place the other six Companies were standing easy. Believe it or not, as the A.T.S. came on, they started clapping. Spontaneous, and those were not Signal A.T.S. They were the cooks and orderlies attached to Signals.

They have adorned every cookhouse and mess room they have had care of. In fair weather or foul, in good accommodation or bad, they have done their stuff. But it's only when the weather and accommodation are both impossible that the AT really becomes a "DamAT." Give me a pre-war galvanised iron garage converted into cookhouse and mess room. Give me eight inches of snow and a strong frost, so that the nearest unfrozen water pipe is 150 yards away. Give me 800 hungry men and give me a bunch of ATS. They'll feed 'em, and by golly they'll look nice while they are doing it.

Which reminds me. An A.T.S. sergeant cook running a big cookhouse was a veteran of the 1914/18 war. You all know the system. The Signalman when he gets to the business end of the queue grabs two plates. He passes down the line, the ATS slosh it on—hot meat, two veg., gravy, a pudd.—all to the tune of "The Old Grey Mare." Fortunately, the sergeant cook, aged 65, was a little deaf.

They've adorned every gun site in A.A. Command, and better pens than mine have written of their exploits. Many have been decorated. More have earned decorations for valour under fire.

But most of all they've adorned our Signal Offices. We all know how good they are. We all revile them for the good of their soul (if an AT has a soul!). But try and take 'em away. C.S.O.s rise in their wrath. The flannel quivers on their chests. They invoke "the Commander-in-Chief, —— Command, views with the gravest displeasure the irresponsible suggestion that the ATS be taken away from the Signal Office serving his headquarters."

No, there is no question about it, A.T.S. Signals are one of the, if not the, greatest success of the late war and the post-war period. Consider their reputation in Rhine Army. Minden Trunks. The Mercury Theatre. That wonderful repertory company which *while doing its normal Signal Office reliefs,* rehearsed and played a different play every week from late 1945 until now. And the War Office is taking A.T.S. Signals away from B.A.O.R., or so we hear.

A.T.S. Signals have had their imitators. One is reminded of the Indian equivalent in its various ranges of race and creed. Of the extremely English cipher office in Rawalpindi. "Women can't work in Rawalpindi in the hot weather." They could, they did, they had the spirit of the AT.

The tales that should and could be told. The ATS have served in Signals in many places during the war. Failure is not to be mentioned. There is no occasion known when they have not done better than expected, and better than the next man or girl.

In the post-war Army they are getting fewer. High wages in civil life. Worsening conditions in the Army. Accommodation tolerable in war is, after all, pretty shocking in peace. Cutting of the ration scales means a necessity to pay for more food in N.A.A.F.I. or restaurant. Uncertainty of the future. Long delay in announcing the terms of the post-war service. All the above are cogent factors against recruiting for the Regular Forces.

I remember in Germany an office of the Control Commission; the clerks were ATS. Not Signals but the A.T.S. officers were Signals trained. Well, as time went on release took them away. Civilian clerks came in to take their places. The civilians hadn't perhaps quite the same ideas about work. They were intent first of all on a good time. As I say, release began to take 'em. The others just closed their ranks and did twice as much work. This went on. The few worked the harder. At last there were three. Their names, and I still keep the card, Bessie, Millie, Ellen, threw a party to end all parties on the eve of their release. Every officer who could attended. All their friends attended. It was to be the greatest party ever. It ended at 11 p.m. Bessie, Millie, Ellen had all three passed out. No, not tight! Just too tired to go on. Mind you, though not Signals, they were Signal trained.

While the ranks of Regular A.T.S. Signals are thinning, to the sorrow of all of us, we have proof that there is nothing wrong with the spirit of the AT. Territorial Army Mixed Signal Regiments are having no difficulty. The girls are coming in as fast as they are wanted. Go where you like, you'll find 'em. They are mostly new entry, not having served before, but they are a grand lot. They drill well, they look well and they signal well. Wherever they are, wherever they serve, the A.T.S. Signals enhance our reputation and their own.

I went to Olympia at the time of the Royal Tournament and sought, unsuccessfully, for one of the three ATS who

had been borrowed to run the telephone exchange. I never found the switchboard room. I met an AT, or rather a couple, wearing "Jimmy" proudly on their chests. "Ho!" I said, "you are the ATS who are running the switchboard." "No, sir," said they, dimpling, "we're in the P.T." And what a good show that was, the Combined Women's Services P.T. Display at the 1948 Tournament. As I say, I never found the switchboard, but the three little ATS who ran it got their C.O. a letter of eulogy and thanks from the Secretary of the Tournament.

Or what about the switchboard supervisor at H.Q., London District, during the dock strike? Sent for by her officer, she was told there was a naval officer in the Ops Room who was expecting about 200 sailors to arrive at an unknown barracks in Woolwich some time today, and could he have their telephone number, please.

"Sailors," she breathed and fled.

Finding out all that and reporting it to the naval officer in the Ops Room took her 6½ minutes exactly.

And that's just being an AT (in Signals).

And now we hear they are going to call 'em WRACS ! ! !

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Canterbury

October

The Annual General Inspection of that part of the Regiment stationed in Canterbury was carried out on Monday, 11th October, by Brigadier F. Y. C. Knox, D.S.O., Commander, Home Counties District. The preparations for the visit had to be indeed *certa cito*, since we only had 48 hours' warning. However, by dint of hard work and the high standard maintained from day to day throughout the Unit, all was shipshape in time. The Regiment was drawn up in two Squadrons for the inspection, and then marched past the saluting base in a column of route, H.Q. Squadron leading. After the march past, the inspecting officer then saw the Regiment at work, questioning both officers and other ranks about their jobs and checking accounts and inventories in his stride. Before the inspecting officer departed, all ranks were granted the afternoon off in recognition of the hard work put in over the week-end.

H.Q. SQUADRON. Christmas draws nigh and Captain Smith is already organising a children's party. At the moment he has a worried air, but perhaps the sight of hordes of little children overeating themselves will bring back that benign look once again.

We have had many pleasant games of soccer with local clubs in Canterbury, and the honours have been fairly evenly divided. Rugger, hockey, boxing and basketball are also under way. A keen interest is shown in cross-country running, and we hope to enter for the District Cup. At the moment distances are small and aches and pains are many—incidentally, the Adjutant is just recovering from his first training run—but we hope to imitate "Jimmy" yet.

No. 1 SQUADRON. Signals work in Shoeburyness and its surrounding islands carries on apace, in fact there is more of it.

Arrivals in the Troop are too numerous to mention, but demob departures, much to the grief of those concerned, are nil. We have, however, to report the departure of Second-Lieutenant F. S. Gibbs. In the short time he was here Lieutenant Gibbs displayed a flair for hard work coupled with so much enthusiasm and energy as to leave many members of the Troop speechless. We all wish him well in his university studies and subsequent career. He is replaced by Second-Lieutenant J. P. E. Barrett, whom we welcome and who comes to us with some reputation as a squash player.

It has long been the practice here for the maintenance of the intricate communications of the Experimental Establishment to be handled by the civilian side of the Troop. With growing commitments this side is increasing, and we now have the nucleus of a Royal Signals Old Comrades' Club in our midst. Those WIRE readers who remember the Thames Estuary Section of early war days will recollect Messrs. Barker, Chapman, Mayhew and Robinson. Ex-Western Command Signal staff and all those who were ever at the Coast Artillery School will not forget Sergeant "Smudger" Smith, of bell-ringing fame. "Smudger" now tends our switchboards as lovingly as a new-born babe.

Last but by no means least, we wish to introduce "Kim," faithful companion of Captain H. E. H. Clements, the O.C. "Kim" not only keeps constant watch on his master's welfare but when feeling lonely has been known to ring the exchange. It is not true, however, that Captain Clements will entertain any offers from enterprising film companies or circuses.

No. 2 SQUADRON. EAD Troop are well represented on Colchester Garrison sports fields, Captain Crump, Second-Lieutenant Davis, Signalmen Phillips and Stewart playing for the rugger XV, with Captain Crump as captain and Second-Lieutenant Davis as hon. secretary; Lance-Corporal Hulme and Signalmen Culey and Gimour in the football XI; and last but not least, R.S.M. Grattage, M.M., in the hockey XI. S.S.M. W. Gibbs, trying his hand at hockey umpire, has so far had control of the Garrison Trials and Garrison *v.* R.A.F.

Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Crump on the birth of their son—and may he, too, lead Colchester Garrison rugger to slaughter.

With Captain I. C. Gibson and S.S.M. Phillips away with Dem Column on a T.A. recruiting drive, H.Q., No. 2 Squadron, is reduced to the "two men and a boy" level, but manage to struggle on. (But I did fatigues yesterday. — O.C. speaking.)

POETRY

Dedicated to all OSTs

He stood there by the Pearly Gates,
His face haggard and old;
And timidly he asked the saint
Admission to the fold.
"What have you done?" St. Peter said,
"To gain admission here?"
"I've been a switchboard op," he said,
"For many a drawn-out year."
Then were the Gates flung open wide,
St. Peter rang a bell.
"Come inside and take a harp,
"You've had your share of Hell."

4 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Warrington

October

"Hello everybody" from Peninsula Barracks, Warrington. How the barracks got that name nobody appears to know. It was originally Orford Barracks, built in 1870, in green fields 1½ miles from the centre of the town. Now it is Peninsula Barracks, nearly in the centre of Warrington, with the green fields miles away. From 1870 to 1912 it was the combined Regimental Depot of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment and the South Lancashire Regiment. In 1912 the King's Regiment moved to Liverpool, leaving the South Lancs the proud possessors until 1941, when it became a N.C.O.s' Training Centre, and later an A.T.S. Holding Unit. No. 4 A.A. Group took it over from them in December, 1946. It is a mid-Victorian type of barracks and one of the first converted under the Hore Belisha scheme, i.e. rest rooms, partitions in barrack rooms, new cookhouses, etc. The barrack rooms, six in a block, are very comfortable and up to date. It houses 70 married quarters, most of them old-fashioned, but the R.E.s are gradually converting them into respectable flats.

Now for Squadron news. Work is going on very much as usual. We are preparing a demonstration room for line training. The G.P.O. have very kindly given us odd bits and pieces to make this room interesting and instructive. The Q.M. has been rudely awakened from his slumbers and has issued teleprinters, exchanges, telephones, training sets, in fact everything to make a super training and lecture room. He has even had his merry band of storemen graining and polishing tables and chairs, which are the pride of the Squadron and the envy of the staff.

Lance-Corporal Hutchinson and his tele and radio mechanics are wiring the whole place up and making a grand job of it too. So proud of it are we that we will soon be sending invitations to other Signal Units to visit the super 4 A.A. Group Training School.

Our D.R.s are out daily, training for the 4 A.A. Group Motor Cycle Trials, to be held at Rhyl in the near future. Their training must be very intensive as there is always a procession backwards and forwards to the M.T. Stores for wire, bits of string, nails, screws and all the various items needed to keep the bikes really roadworthy. Remember Royal Signals Despatch Riders have the finest name in the world, and bring that trophy to Warrington.

We welcome to the fold Junior Commander J. G. Frame, A.T.S., Second-Lieutenant K. Gill, Royal Signals, also a number of lads and lasses with names too numerous to mention. May all their stays be pleasant and long.

We are running Group Dances monthly in the Gym, and to see the faces on early morning P.T. after the night before, one can only conclude they are successful.

LONDON DISTRICT MOTOR CYCLE TRIALS

THE London District Motor Cycle Trials were held near Pirbright on Sunday, 26th September, 1948, and were noteworthy for three things. First, practically every Signal Regiment in London, both Regular and Territorial Army, entered a team or teams. Secondly, 23 London Corps Signals, T.A., of Fulham House, near Putney Bridge, scored a bronze award for their team and also a bronze for Sergeant Hussey as an individual. They put up a very good performance over a difficult trial against strong opposition. Thirdly, the meeting was noteworthy because the spectators included a very much larger number of Royal Signals officers than of any other arm of the Service.

It was a very hot day, almost too hot and sunny, and the dust rose in clouds. From the spectators' point of view—and after all a spectator can only be at one place at one time—motor cycle trials are occasionally rather dull, but from the spectators' point of view this one was ideal. It may have caused some embarrassment to the organisers and possibly also the riders, but a very large civilian trial had been organised at the same time over the same ground. Taking one's place there as a spectator with a good view of one of the more difficult hazards, it was pleasant to see the soldiers attempting the hazard a few yards to one's left and the civilians on very professional specially hotted-up motor bicycles with competition tyres, etc., making an equal nonsense of it a few yards to one's right.

The Army scored heavily over the civilians in the matter of refreshments. The N.A.A.F.I. really did its stuff and several large store tents contained great quantities of food and drink. Those of the Military Police who were not actively engaged in the trial as competitors or officials were hard put to it to keep the civilians out. The remark was heard from one very dusty, very thirsty civilian competitor: "If this is the way the Army runs a trial, the sooner I join the Army the better."

Gardens in Barracks

Set crab apple sticks to graft on.
In the old of the moon set peas and beans, and sow parsnips and carrots.
Trench gardens with dung.
Uncover the roots of your apple trees and let them remain until March.
Kill swine at or near the full of the moon and they will be all the better for boiling.

—XVIIth Century Lore.

GARDENING has always been an unpopular pastime with the troops. There are two obvious reasons. The well-known and well-founded superstition that a good garden means a quick move; and someone else reaps where you have sowed. The second and more cogent one in these days of very short service is that few of the actual workers will be in the Unit or even in the Army when the crops come up. As Royal Signals we have advantage. In peace certain barracks or camps are sacred to Royal Signals. Therefore any work done is at least kept in the family. Can we have a common policy?

November and December are months of hard work and not much profit. But let us see what we ought to have in the ground already. Then on arrival in a new station, when we are put on garden fatigue we can have a constructive grouse as well as the normal destructive one. "What, digging! Me in my state of health! And why, I may ask, don't I see all the spring cabbage, the winter greens, the autumn-sown onions, the sweet peas, the eating peas, the broad beans, and why no Brussels sprouts for dinner today, and I don't see any leeks? Gardening fatigue! Now in my old Regiment we had . . ." If all the new chaps who do a bit of gardening fatigue while they are being assimilated into a Regiment to which they have been posted talk like that we shall be getting somewhere. There are two sorts of Regimental gardens. The one that grows weeds all the winter and a few of the easier of the annual crops in the summer, and the better sort that grows crops, not weeds, all the year round. With proper rotation and planning to grow flowers and vegetables all the year round takes little if anything more out of the soil than the winter weeds. What shall we really expect to see when we go for the first time into the camp or barracks of our new Signal Regiment? We can judge quite a bit of its efficiency by its gardens.

The flower beds should be full with the plants of wall-flowers, columbines, Canterbury bells, sweet williams, antirrhinums, all cheaply grown from seed sown in the early summer. Any neighbouring garden has an immense surplus of seed. Quite a small nursery plot will grow enough plants to fill your flower beds. Once you have a small stock you can go on growing from your own seed at no cost. They'll keep down the weeds and make a brave show in late spring and summer before the annuals come in. The lupins, daisies and all the herbaceous stuff should be divided, the beds cleaned and new herbaceous borders made on mild days at this time. "And where," you ask, "are the seedling lupins?" You can increase your stock of lupins by dividing roots, but much more easily by growing your own from seed. They grow fast; sown in September and October, they will flower next year and you then select the nice coloured ones you want to keep. Where are the rows of cabbage plants sown in August or September to eat in March and April, just when the dehydrated spud figures so much on the menu?

Where are the parsnips sown last autumn and now ready to come out, and thickly sliced to be so succulent when cooked with roasting beef? And the seedling parsnip for next year. Sow him now for earlies; sow him in the spring for lates. Rows of broad beans should be showing above the ground. They will winter well unless we get a very hard winter, and if very hard frost kills 'em the loss is slight.

Don't grudge a bit of hard digging. It will pay a dividend next year. Don't dig too deep and bring up the poor soil below the surface six inches. You, being a new boy, can only hope that P.R.I. has got a drawer full of old tobacco tins with the seeds of all the annual flowers for next year's sowing, and that he has those large biscuit tins filled with beans and peas stacked in a corner of his office. Every bit of seed saved means more money in the garden fund, and you *might* bounce P.R.I. into spending £4 on a wheeled hoe, which does the between-row work or makes a fine tilth in a seed bed in no time. It's hard work pushing it through crops but very quick, and if you are a Mixed Regiment you can have an AT in draught. She is more manœuvrable than a tractor for close work between the rows of cabbages, and the cost is very slight. Take her to the next dance. You probably intended to anyway.

On this question of seed, don't try for your own seed of the brassicas (what a silly word!), the cabbages, the kales, the lettuces and all that lot. It is too difficult and they aren't expensive. Onions, too, though many people do use their own seed. But beans of all sorts, peas, leeks and a third of your potatoes—why not save your own and save money? Nearly all the hardy flowers grow as well from your own seed as from that in the pretty packet, and often a great deal better.

When you dig, get *all* your rubbish underground—leaves, grass cuttings, weeds, crops past their best. Put it all in just as it is this winter. When you've finished the winter digging your rubbish dumps should be empty or nearly so, waiting to be refilled—and see they are refilled.

My gardening diary for November, 1947, day by day reiterates the word "digging." But my wife didn't spend a penny on vegetables. Each day I looked at my September-sown sweet peas—would they be ready for Whitsun? Whitsun was early in 1948 but on Whit Monday I met a man with sweet peas in his buttonhole. "Sown in the open in August," he said, "that's the secret." But it was a mild winter and my own August-sown sweet peas are now a foot high or more. Too high for my peace of mind if we get a hard winter. No, sow in September and be safe. Did you? I bet you didn't. Did you save your own sweet pea seed? I bet you didn't. Poor old P.R.I. will pay again.

So what *should* we see when we join our Royal Signals Regiment in November? The surrounds of the huts or barracks planted with the early flowering hardy bedding plants. Larger beds full of new and old herbaceous stuff. Not too much grass, I hope. That means work. Think of Catterick in its best days with defaulters cutting the lawns with razor blades. Flower beds are really much less trouble.

The vegetable patch: about half of it carrying sprouts, parsnips, carrots, cabbage and curly kale for present eating, with cabbage, carrots and onions at least as nicely established young plants to come on in spring and summer. Oh, and what about the broad beans and a row of eating peas for luck? Meteor is a good hardy sort. Perhaps these two latter are in the kitchen garden of the Sergeants' Mess. There is some risk and the outlay for an early crop for the Men's Mess would be too high. The Sergeants' Mess garden, too, should have a row of sweet peas nicely showing amongst a fairly thick covering of 12-inch twigs. Let us have sweet peas, eating peas and new potatoes this 1949 Whitsun, even if we didn't last. Let us see all vacant ground being well dug and the contents of the rubbish heaps going into it. If we keep poultry or a pig or two, save every bit of by-product and put it on the rubbish heap. It will help to rot down into the best of all composted manure.

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Hilden

September

General. The Regimental junior N.C.O.s' drill and duties courses have been progressing well and have proved of great value to the Regiment in building up a good standard of junior N.C.O., which is so vital to the well-being and running of the Regiment, a very important factor of Regimental life these days. Many promising young N.C.O.s have been unearthed on these courses and it is hoped that a high percentage of them will be continuing on in the Service.

Of the five National Service men who, as reported in last month's notes were to undergo another week of intensive training as drivers i/c, four were passed out by the Warrant Officer in charge of the L.A.D., and these have already been posted to Troops. So, of the 16 young soldiers who commenced the driving course, 15 passed out as drivers, which is a very good result indeed.

For the period 27th September until 14th October, Brigade Training is the order of the day. All three Brigades, 4, 5 and 6, will each have their own training period and will work in conjunction with their Artillery Regiments. This Brigade Training will give to the young soldiers who have recently joined the Regiment an insight into the working of communications within Brigades and will give them a grounding for the training periods that will be held later on.

The 14th September will be long remembered by many members of the Regiment who were due for release on the day following and successive days as and when their day of release was due. At 1630 hrs. on this day, all officers, warrant officers, N.C.O.s and men paraded, when the Commanding Officer read out the order of the cancellation of all Class "A" release for a period of three months. This order was received by those concerned with mixed feelings and wonderment, and not without some concern, but all have apparently settled down very well to the idea of serving for a slightly longer period than they thought. Personnel who had any query to raise on this order were invited to do so at a special Request Hour the Commanding Officer held at his office.

A Motor Cycle Racing Club has been formed within the Division recently. The racing track is situated quite near Divisional Headquarters at Opladen and consists of a part of the autobahn from which has been formed a closed circuit track; the track itself is approximately three miles long, both sides of the autobahn being used and incorporating in it three hairpin bends. Spectators have an excellent view of the whole course and this new sport is very well attended. The last meeting was held on 22nd September, in which Sergeant Dale, of the L.A.D., R.E.M.E., was first in the Open T.T. 350 c.c. Class and also first in the Novices' Unlimited c.c. Class. Congratulations, Sergeant Dale!

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. At last the "day of days" is almost here and Operation "Welcome" should become a reality on or about 16th October. The new Mess is the scene of much activity both by the G.E. Department and the R.S.M.'s labour squad. Our Foreman of Signals has prepared many useful additions, thanks to the kind co-operation of Captain Juniper, the T.O.M., and the carpenters of "M" Troop. In addition to the normal indoor amenities and games, we are preparing the grounds for a putting green, quoits tennis court and badminton court. The Divisional tennis courts are situated close to the Mess and next year a Mess tennis team is being organised. Also near at hand is the Divisional swimming pool, and in the winter we shall have the advantage of ice skating on a good-sized pond situated in the immediate rear of the Mess premises.

The internal layout of the Mess is satisfactory. On the second floor there are three single bedrooms, and on the first floor three double bedrooms with attendant facilities. The ground floor comprises the main Mess premises and consists of the ante room and bar, ladies' room, dining room, dance hall, a conservatory leading off the dance hall, and a large kitchen with modern equipment.

We welcome to the fold Sergeants Callan and Warren. Sergeant and Mrs. Callan have moved into quarters in Gruiten, but we hope that soon they will live a little nearer home. Sergeant and Mrs. Warren are awaiting quarters and we heartily hope they will soon be reunited. Our Mess family strength is now 13.

Mr. J. Binks, the *News of the World* athletic correspondent and former holder of the mile record, in a recent visit to this H.Q., informed our President, R.S.M. H. Griffin, that ex-Sergeant Joe Cotterell, whom many readers will remember as the finest runner our Corps has produced, is seriously handicapped with foot trouble. Joe, we all wish you a speedy recovery and sincerely hope by now that you have managed to cast off those crutches. Mr. Griffin can still remember those fine "miles" and "three miles" which you ran together when serving with 1st Divisional Signals in Mons Barracks, Aldershot, in '35 and '36. Good luck, Joe!

Mess Personalities. Sergeants Ted Tremear and Fred "Sunshine" Ray, on the Rhine at Koenigswinter. Ted is at present performing the duty of Officers' Mess Steward. His personality is always appreciated in the Mess, and he seldom misses a Guest Night. Fred is now with "J" Troop, 4th Infantry Brigade H.Q., at Hubbelrath. His "impersonations" at Mess functions have always proved very humorous.

Sailing. The 2nd Division Sailing Regatta was held at the Baldeney See Lake on 28th-29th August. This lovely lake, over four miles long, is formed by damming the River Ruhr near Essen. Club houses for both officers and other ranks have been requisitioned at the best part of the lake. The Regiment, represented by Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., and Second-Lieutenant G. Pearce, won the Inter-Unit Competition. Each pair sailed two races, and in all nine teams competed. The Regiment gained two firsts, one second and one fifth place, easily beating the runners-up. The result was all the more satisfactory as the Regimental expert, Major W. B. Rowett, was posted two days before the regatta, his place being taken by Lieutenant-Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.

Football. On 15th September the opening games of the Regimental Inter-Troop Football League took place. From all accounts the same great interest and enthusiasm is being shown this year as it was last year, and it is hoped that a good Regimental team will be formed from the Troops competing. Owing to manpower problems, only nine teams are competing this season compared to the 12 teams of last season. The games are arranged on a home and away basis, and this means that all teams play 16 matches each. Fixtures for the Regimental team have been and still are being arranged with other Regimental teams within the Divisional area, and where possible with teams from outside the Division. The first of these matches was played at home on 18th September against the B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment. Unfortunately, the kick-off was delayed until late, and in consequence shortly after the game had commenced down came the rain, which very soon had the ground under water in many parts. However, after a while the rain eased and the game continued. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment were the better side, and although Divisional Signals were pressing hard in the closing stages trying to save the game, B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment ran out worthy winners by 3 goals to 1. A return match has been arranged at a later date at Herford, when we hope to reverse the decision.

The Regiment has also entered for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition, which is scheduled to commence later on in the season.

Hockey. The Regiment has entered for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Competition this season and it is hoped that with the addition of one or two more experienced players we have now had posted to the Regiment to put up a good show. So far, two matches have been played this year, both against the 1st Manchester Regiment, the results being a draw of 1 goal each and a win for the Manchesters in the return game by 3 goals to 2.

Rugby. The Rugby fifteen beat H.Q., 2nd Division, by 33 points to 3 and drew with 42 Field Regiment, R.A., 11 points all.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

September

Whatever we report as having happened during the month under review, there is no doubt that it has happened to the background of aircraft engines. Day and night, in fair weather or foul, the roar goes continually on and the massive transports land and take off with a regularity that General Slim's Railways must surely envy! There have been few moments when one has been able to glance up and see a sky with no York, Sunderland or Dakota winging its way with life-saving and blockade-defying rations and necessaries into or out of our beleaguered city.

Many of the Squadron have been able to see Operation "Plane Fare" from close quarters at Gatow and all have been most impressed with the efficiency and organisation displayed by both the R.A.F. and that strange-sounding Unit the F.A.S.O. If you can imagine the taxi rank at Waterloo on

a busy day, you can imagine something of the scene at Gatow. As soon as one plane has taxied to the take-off point, another will touch down and a third commence moving up to the control point. As soon as the arriving plane has slowed up on its run-in, the waiting one moves with ever-increasing speed to take-off and the third arrives at the take-off point. And so it goes on, hour after hour. Arrived at the marshalling area, a plane has hardly time to switch off the engines before a lorry is backing up to the loading door, and intrepid unloaders are at work on the load, whether it be flour, coal or interesting-looking packing cases.

Statistics on this colossal airlift always seem to be lacking on one aspect which intrigues everyone watching the operation. The amount of tea drunk by the aircrews during the unloading period would appear to be sufficient to float some of the huge Sunderlands coming in on the Havel just nearby! The mobile canteen is kept open 24 hours a day and is most popular with the aircrews and unloaders alike. The same staticians would also be surprised at the number of mouths which were unashamedly left open when the "Globe Master" dropped in. Can you honestly imagine a plane which can carry 45 jeeps and 150 fully-armed men, and is fitted with its own lift to facilitate unloading? We don't need to imagine it—we've seen it! We've also seen a very famous A.V.M. who shall be nameless, stepping nonchalantly from an equally famous British plane in immaculate grey suit and trilby hat! We'd previously imagined pathfinders used armour in Tudor days!

Although the life-saving planes are doing their utmost to keep us at normality, the boys in the Squadron have been learning how easy it is to go without those things you just can't get. Even the largest plane cannot bring electricity in as a pay load, and it is really amazing how quickly one gets used to being rationed. Have you ever stopped to think what you would do if your power were arbitrarily cut off for about 16 hours a day? At least you would soon become expert at keeping your generators in good trim, to keep the "Wireless Bridge" open, and you would also become adept at lighting "Tilley" lamps to keep "the watches of the night" with some semblance of illumination.

There are, of course, many ways in which life in this, the most discussed city in the world, goes on quite normally. We still have parades for P.T. and work, for instance, and we still have sports teams which strive to keep "Jimmy" high in the various leagues. We have demobs (yes, we do, honestly!) and sicknesses and recoveries, film shows and canteens. Mostly, of course, we still have work, and there are few incidents reported in the Press which you read in which Signals, as exemplified by Berlin Signals, are not in some way mixed up.

There are many old Signals personnel in Berlin at the moment who have taken on various jobs in the C.C.G. and other organisations. They are too numerous to list but sufficient let it be to say that they retain sufficient *esprit de corps* to rally around when one of their number falls into trouble. Thus it was that we received the sad information that Mr. Rankin, a Corps hockey player of great fame in the past, was lying dangerously ill in the local B.M.H. The O.C. and S.S.M. took it upon themselves to represent the Signals Association and visit him before he was evacuated to U.K. It was really gratifying to see the way in which old Corps members rallied around, and we hope to learn from the pages of THE WIRE in due course that Vic is now fully recovered.

There was, at that time, also lying in hospital one S.Q.M.S. Gould, of our Squadron and undying fame. He fortunately recovered in sufficient time to attend the only Mess party there has been for a long time. In fact, it was his party—in farewell. Those of you who have worn the sign of the flaming ring on your arms will know and remember Jimmy Gould. We send our felicitations from behind the curtain wherever you may go, Jimmy!

Our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess farewell party on Saturday, 2nd October, held on the occasion of the

Beating the blockade

departure to civilian life of S.Q.M.S. Gould, went off with a real bang. Starting at 1900 hrs., we soon settled down to a red hot session, and after the usual preliminaries—speeches by the S.S.M. and the departing member—there was dancing, games, and plenty to eat and drink for the 40 or so members and friends who came along. I've never seen quite so many Units represented at such a small gathering, which goes to show just how popular we are in Berlin, but Jimmy Gould held the distinction of being one of the few old hands who entered Berlin with the first British occupying forces and was a very popular personality. On Monday he left us to catch the first plane out of Berlin with specific instructions to sit on his steel helmet whilst flying. One never knows how accurate some people might be with their A.A. fire in the corridor, and I assured him that this would be adequate protection. He intimated that he wanted the "Gipsy's" advice on this matter first, but alas! he scorned her for "The Diver" about three weeks before and she flatly refused him any further advice. A word of thanks must go to Sergeant Cliff Glennon; the party couldn't possibly have been the success that it was without his untiring efforts.

We extend a welcome hand to S.Q.M.S. Randle and S.Q.M.S. "Darky" Page, who have recently joined the Squadron. "Darky" has left us for a couple of days to collect his wife and family, who are going to settle down to life in Berlin, and we take this opportunity of wishing them all a happy stay with us.

Both "Q.s" are great personalities in the theatre of sport. Jimmy Randle represented the Corps at rugby on several occasions prior to the war years and I had the honour, too, of being chosen to play for the same team when Jimmy and myself were stationed at Aldershot in the good old days. "Darky" Page, on the other hand, excels at most games but prefers soccer. Many Berliners will remember with regret when he appeared in the Olympic Stadium last year as a representative player for Schleswig-Holstein Sub-Area, and B.T.B. were beaten to the tune of 10 goals to 1. It is quite a coincidence that the old 1 Squadron, 1 Corps trio should be together once again, for both the O.C., Major L. J. Parker, myself and "Q" Page have been together on three occasions since early in 1946, first with 1 Corps Signals in Iserlohn, later at Ploen with 32 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, and now with our present Squadron in Berlin. Well, we should know each other by now.

The soccer, rugby and hockey leagues are in full swing now, and each Wednesday and Saturday the many grounds at the Stadium are being used to capacity. Our Squadron football team is holding its own in the Junior League and should further improve its position under the capable guidance of "Q" Page. At rugby several of the boys are turning out regularly for the "Outsiders," who field a very

useful side chosen from the C.C.G. and Units in Berlin who are too small to field their own team.

The news about hockey is absolutely first class. Fielding three regular players for the B.T.B. representative side, we have to date an unbeaten record, having played 7, won 6 and drawn 1, with a goal aggregate of 24 for and 7 against. Out of the total number of goals scored, Sergeant Richardson, playing at centre-forward, has scored 11 (three hat tricks) and Signalman Briggs, at inside-left, 5. We hope to be able to publish further successes in our next month's issue.

Thursday, 30th September, was a big occasion in the life of Gillian Parker. On that occasion Gillian was three years old and entertained quite a number of her school friends to tea. After tea they all enjoyed a Punch and Judy show, and later to all the old traditional games that the much younger generation enjoy. The Squadron presented Gillian with a huge iced cake—made especially for the occasion—and ornamented with three candles. After the candles had been duly extinguished by Gillian, the process of devouring the cake was soon in operation. The party began to disperse at about 1830 hrs. after a most enjoyable afternoon. Surely this was an occasion that our O.C.'s daughter will long remember.

With the winter fast approaching, the garden produce—with the exception of the brassica family—has all been lifted and passed to supply depot for redistribution in Berlin. It may be considered most unfortunate that, due to the present circumstances in Berlin, we have been robbed of the pleasure of serving at our own tables everything we have produced. But that did not kill any former interest that we had in horticulture; in fact, it increased our efforts, and our final figures showed roughly 3,000 lb. of fresh vegetables from what can be termed as just a mere "back garden."

Stop Press News. Late Arrivals. Lieutenant M. Greenwood has joined us from H.Q., B.A.O.R., Signal Regiment. Yet another Onecorpite. We extend to you a warm welcome, sir, and may your stay with us be a happy one.

ROCKY

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Bückeburg

October

A new formation flash has now been issued. The Corps colours provide a background for a twin-engined aircraft (closely resembling a Bristol Beaufighter), which is coloured bright red. A photograph of the flash is reproduced below.

The B.A.O.R. Championship Scramble. The B.A.O.R. Motor cycle Scramble, held at Hamburg-Harburg on Saturday, 2nd October, resulted in an all-Signals victory. Three members of 118 D.R. Troop competed. They were Lance-Corporal Pullinger, Signalman Rose and Signalman Thomas.

On Saturday morning the riders walked round the course and were allowed two practice laps. The competitors were split up into three heats. Signalman Thomas and Signalman Rose were in the first heat, while Lance-Corporal Pullinger was in the second heat. Signalmen Thomas and Rose qualified for the final but Lance-Corporal Pullinger, was leading the field in the first lap when his chain broke and he was forced to retire. The first, second and third riders in each heat qualified for the final, in which there were only seven competitors as only one man in the third heat completed the course.

In the final everyone got away to a good start except Signalman Rose, who had some trouble with the carburettor on his machine, which was not functioning properly. By the time he got going the rest of the field, with Signalman Thomas in the lead, were half a lap ahead. Signalman Thomas kept this lead throughout the race, to win by about two minutes over a very strenuous course. Signalman Rose did remarkably well to catch up so much lost ground. In the last lap, near the finishing line, he was just beaten by a "short wheel" by Lance-Corporal Dyson. He thought that he was in third place at the time, but in reality he was lying second so that the final result was: 1st, Signalman Thomas (118 D.R. Troop, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment); 2nd, Lance-Corporal Dyson (Royal Signals, H.Q., B.A.O.R.); 3rd, Signalman Rose (118 D.R. Troop, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment).

It is good to know that Royal Signals can still retain first place as D.R.s.

Report on Operation "Plane Fare." A "reporter" from R.H.Q. went round to the R.A.F. stations from which the air lift is being operated, and below is a very brief account of the great work which is being done by men of the Regiment. Lack of space precludes the mentioning of the names of all concerned and as it seems invidious to mention some names and not others, as everyone has worked so hard, the report has been kept impersonal.

This anonymity should not be construed as a slight to those who have worked very hard and are still working to ensure the success of Operation "Plane Fare," but rather as a means of allotting credit where it is due—to *all* concerned, including of course those who are now demobilised.

80 WING SIGNAL TROOP, WUNSTORF. Wunstorf was the first, among British airfields at any rate, to operate the air lift. The master radar station had just been settled in and work was proceeding on the perimeter cable. That was in the days when Wunstorf was a fighter station, but this had to be suspended in July when Dakotas of R.A.F. Transport Command arrived. Soon after the arrival of the aircraft a tented encampment (including a N.A.A.F.I. under canvas) sprang up to house the R.A.S.C. who are doing most of the loading. This, of course, had to be wired. There is even a wireless; the quality of reception is somewhat strained but it *is* a wireless affixed to the main pole of the N.A.A.F.I. marquee!

To cope with all the extra work thrust upon the Troop, some reinforcements from No. 3 Squadron at Uetersen and

No. 1 Squadron at Bückeburg were sent. A large number of extra telephones were required and the number of extensions has gone up by 50 per cent. Fifteen extra phones were required by the civilian air lines people. The one switchboard on the airfield was being worked to capacity as a result.

The Dakotas left and were replaced by four-engined York aircraft—it seems as if every York from England is now at Wunstorf. About 60 to 70 per cent. of the British contribution to Operation "Plane Fare" comes from Wunstorf and there are planes landing and taking off every two or three minutes. All this extra activity means that greater demands are made on the communications system. New cables had to be laid all over the place—flying control, operations room and check points. The weather was shocking while all this was going on and men were out at all hours of the 16-hour working day (no union hours here). The billets were very overcrowded with seven or eight men sleeping in a room intended for two! Originally the Troop had been providing communications for A.A.T.O., and as a result were reinforced by a detachment of H.Q., B.A.O.R., Signal Regiment, but with the departure of A.A.T.O., these left.

All requests for phones were met, and these became so numerous that a directory typed out, say, on Tuesday was out of date by the Thursday. It became necessary to replace the station switchboard by a larger one, a job which was completed in record time. Requests went from the sublime to the ridiculous when it was suggested that the W.A.A.F. "Tele-ops" could be housed in more congenial, mosquito-less surroundings! (This would have meant moving the exchange.) The regard of some members of the Regiment for the W.A.A.F.s is great but it was sorely tried at this point.

Things are settling down now and some of the hurriedly supplied communications are now being made more permanent. Preparations are in hand for moving the master radar station from the temporary site where it had been installed just before Operation "Plane Fare" started to a permanent site now nearly completed. Also the new flying control site will soon be wired and ready so that Operation "Plane Fare" can continue unchecked through the winter.

139 LINE TROOP, FASSBERG. Fassberg Airfield is one of the commitments of 139 Line Troop, along with Scheuen A.F.P. Dump, Celle Airfield and 106 R.A.F. Police Flight in Celle. In the old days (pre-Operation "Plane Fare" that is) linemen courses for trainees from Sundern used to be held, while Fassberg Airfield was only on a care and maintenance basis.

On 18th July Dakotas of R.A.F. Transport Command arrived, to be followed soon after by some planes from civilian air lines chartered by British European Airways for the air lift. Prior to their arrival all cable outlets had been tested and so had the flying control hangar lines. All non-operational telephones were removed and made ready for priority use. On 11th July cables were laid for the B.A.B.S. (Blind Approach Beacon System) and new internal wiring for the "Met." building (now to assume greater importance) was completed. Telephones for the Rear Air Supply Organisation people were installed. By 16th July the number of phone subscribers had increased to such an extent that it became necessary to enlarge the switchboard to a 200-line one in the place of the old one of 100-line capacity.

On 19th August Skymasters of the Air Transport Command of the U.S.A.A.F. arrived and started operating on the following day. This influx of extra planes meant a large amount of reorganisation at flying control and naturally a large number of new telephone extensions and tie-lines between supply and maintenance departments were called for and promptly installed.

The 21st August saw the departure of the R.A.F. Dakotas for Lubeck and a corresponding increase in the number of Skymasters as Fassberg began to look like a little piece of America! A lot of work for the Signals was entailed by the handing over to the U.S.A.A.F. and the consequent moving of quarters, offices, etc., which meant considerable moving of telephones. Cables also had to be laid from the flying control hangar and the hangar on the north side of the airfield from which the Skymasters were operating.

Things are now running smoothly and the huge Skymasters take off with almost monotonous regularity for Berlin, backed by good organisation on the ground (line communications by No. 11 Air Formation Signals), while Fassberg Airfield provides a striking example of Anglo-U.S. co-operation on the vital job that is Operation "Plane Fare."

67 WING SIGNAL TROOP, SCHLESWIGLAND. One's first impression of Blankensee Airfield, near Lubeck, and incidentally only 400 yards from the Russian Zone, is that it is exceptionally quiet. This is a false impression, for Blankensee is providing about 40 per cent. of the British contribution to the air lift, but it does it in such a calm, unruffled, unobtrusive sort of way that a visitor, for the first few minutes at any rate, would be unaware of all the activity.

This atmosphere of calm efficiency redounds to the credit of all on the station, and of course to the men of 67 Wing Signal Troop, from Schleswigland, who are responsible for the line communications. This must be the case, for a senior R.A.F. officer without good telephones has been compared in effect with a fierce animal deprived of its young!

Originally there were two men at Blankensee in the "old days." There is no Troop stationed at Blankensee, but it is one of the commitments of 67 Wing Signal Troop, which also includes Schleswigland Airfield, R.A.F. Air-Sea Rescue Station, Priwall, the R.A.F. German M.T. Repair Unit at Kropp (where all German vehicles used by B.A.F.O. are repaired), the H.Q. of R.A.F. Works Services, 5352 Wing H.Q., St. Hubertus, R.A.F. Police, Lubeck town, and 5054 F.D.P. Radar Site at Wulsdorf. Blankensee started operations later than either Wunstorf or Fassberg, and the first intimation that the airfield was to be used for Operation "Plane Fare" was received on 22nd August. The Dakotas displaced from Wunstorf and Fassberg were coming. Some more men were posted in and the Signals staff was increased to eight men and Lieutenant Muir came down from Schleswigland.

Immediately a check point was built on the airfield, and before the building was completed the R.A.F. and R.A.S.C. of Rear Air Supply Organisation found phones installed and ready for use. This changing of the station from a fighter airfield to a transport aircraft base operating throughout the 24-hour day meant, of course, the installation of more landing control devices. This was made more difficult at Blankensee in the absence of a perimeter cable. Therefore nearly a mile of u/g cable for the beam approach beacons at the far side of the airfield had to be laid. This was done in record time over a week-end with the aid of a tractor and cable plough borrowed from the R.A.F. Electrical Section. Also a 60ft. detour had to be made so as to approach the B.A.B.S. from the rear, owing to the dislike of efficient radar beams for metal objects near them.

A large number of phones were installed for flying control and the operations room. Then to complicate matters (as if they needed it), flying control decided to move its offices to the top of the building, which entailed some frantic re-wiring. Then operations room moved—more re-wiring—and then half the check point staff decamped to a nearby hangar. No additional teleprinters were necessary but existing Met. T/P.s needed servicing; these assumed far greater importance with the 24-hour a day flying going on.

Apart from one lamentable morning, 17th September in fact, when half the switchboard *temporarily* broke down, causing much panic, things are now settling down and a start is being made on making some of the wiring more permanent. The most significant thing about Blankansee is that it did not start operating at full pressure at once, but gradually worked up to its present pitch from small begin-

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Klagenfurt Signal Squadron

(ex 3 SQUADRON, 8th ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT) AUSTRIA

The change has come, as we knew it must do. Even to many of us, who never saw active service with the 8th Army, it was a name and a tradition of which we were proud. It seems the last link that we in Austria had with the victorious Army that marched into Austria at the conclusion of the Italian campaign. Eighth Army Signals no longer exists and the two remaining Squadrons have assumed their location names, Klagenfurt and Vienna.

On this occasion we include two photographs, the old and the new. The Squadron as it is now, and the three members who served with the Squadron in the Desert and in Italy, S.Q.M.S. Gerrard, Lance-Corporal McDermott and Brownie, the dog. Brownie's history is that of the 8th Army, which he joined at Zarzis, in Tripolitania, when a bitch belonging to Corporal Edward, of P Line Section, one day produced this funny little ball of brown fluff amongst other even funnier looking pups. He was officially taken on 1 Company strength at Cabes when he was eight weeks old.

He travelled up to Sfax and back on the return journey, then accompanied the Regiment to Sicily, being made an honorary member of the P.I.s' Mess on the landing craft. From Sicily to Italy was Brownie's next move, when at a place just below Pizzo a DUKW Unit carried him off, leaving R.Q.M.S. heart-broken at his disappearance. Nevertheless, some months later, the R.Q.M.S., now working at Rear H.Q., called in at 1 Company H.Q. at Campobasso to find he had turned up again. At Cassino, Brownie met his life's love, a bitch belonging to Lance-Corporal Parr, for whom he fathered three litters of little Brownie's before she was shot at Cesana, when he was inconsolable for weeks.

It was at Cesano that he pinned down a burglarious and slightly drunk Armenian soldier on the steps of the "Q" Stores at least half an hour until the C.M.P.s arrived, by which time the Armenian was actually in tears, crying, "Keep him off me." At Udine, R.Q.M.S. went on release and Brownie chased the truck for three miles before giving up to go back to the Unit. The old dog now presides at the West Schule, our barracks in Klagenfurt, where he cracks a big whip over all the other dogs and exercises undisputed Squire's rights in the Barrack area.

As for the rest of us, led by Major "Timber" Woods, who was with 46 Division and 138 Brigade until he joined us in March this year, when Major H. J. Rae went on release, there is Captain Rowlands, doing Second-in-Command; Captain Newell, on administration, and two old members, Captain (T.O.M.) George Coles and Captain "Len" Harries, Our Sergeant-Major is S.S.M. "Slim" Williams, a fairly old member of 8 Army Signals; S.Q.M.S. Gerrard, whom we have already mentioned, and S.Q.M.S. Thomas, from 78 Division. We will mention a few more personalities the next time we write.

As for what we are doing, well, apart from our job, which is providing communication in the British Zone, in our spare time we swim, ride, play cricket, hockey, basket ball, etc., and when we really decide that we should win a team competition in Austria we muck in with Vienna Signal Squadron and can produce a formidable team at any game or sport.

Lance-Corporal McDermott, Brownie and S.Q.M.S. Gerrard

(*continued from page* 380)

nings. There are even station sports on Wednesday afternoons and offices close down over the week-end !

41 WING SIGNAL TROOP, GATOW. Gatow, being at the receiving end of a large part of the food, coal, and now even diesel oil being flown in for the population, both military and civil, of the British, United States and French sectors of Berlin, is consequently very busy. There are aircraft landing, unloading their cargoes and immediately taking off again continuously throughout the day and night. This sudden increase in the number of aircraft using the airport, from Transport Command, R.A.F., the Air Transport Command of the U.S.A.A.F., not to mention planes from numerous civilian air lines, has of course greatly increased the work of 41 Wing Signal Troop.

Operation " Plane Fare," especially in the initial stages, meant a thousand per cent. increase in duties for all, over and about the normal work, which is by no means inconsiderable. The Troop is responsible for S.D.S. and the maintenance of all teleprinters, which includes T/P.s in the Air Safety Centre in the Allied Control Authority Building in Berlin, those in the H.Q. of the C.C.G. in Lancester House, the H.Q. of British Troops Berlin, and also the ordering and recording of all local lines on Gatow Airfield.

An operation the size of " Plane Fare " necessitates considerable organisation on the ground, especially at Gatow, and telephones have been put in for the R.A.S.C. of F.A.S.O., for the C.C.G. Food and Agricultural Branch, and also at the " Newcastle Coal Strip." Altogether 100 new extensions and 60 removals of phones have been effected, including those for the U.S.A.A.F. and several civil air lines. Also direct lines and private wires to Tempelhof and the Air Safety Centre have been laid.

The greatly increased number of aircraft now using the airfield has resulted in the installation of more landing control devices, a job in which the Troop has played an important part. New cables have been laid for the Ground Control Approach System, for which two new sites have been made. New circuits have also been put in for ground-air radio. Cables for the East and West B.A.B.S. involved the laying down of 500 yards of u/g cable.

From this it will be seen that great demands have been and will continue to be made on the line communications set-up at Gatow. The past and present are being taken care of and the Troop is ready to take on any job in the future. They are determined to do their bit towards making Operation " Plane Fare " the complete success that it deserves to be.

HAMBURG DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON

September

Once again this month we must start our contribution to THE WIRE with a birth. This time it has turned out to be S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Cannon. Congratulations, " Crash," on the birth of a daughter, whom we believe is to be named Anne Christine.

We are afraid there are too many arrivals to welcome everyone by name, so we will just give an extra special welcome to Captain Sumner, who has now taken over as Second-in-Command and P.R.I. from Captain Bell. We only hope, sir, that you will be as happy in this Squadron as Captain Bell has been. Secondly to S.Q.M.S. Finch, who has taken the place of " Crash " Cannon, and we hope, " Q," that you will be as happy with us as " Crash " has been. Also to Signalman Murphy, who has rejoined the Service to complete 22 years with the Colours, and to the rest of the new intakes which we have received over the last month we can only say that we all give you a great welcome to Hamburg District Signals and we hope that you will all settle down and be happy there.

Our 2nd Echelon Signal Troop were very sorry to see the departure of their O.C., Second-Lieutenant D. N. Lindon, who has left us on Class " B " Release, to carry on with his studies at St. John's College, Cambridge, and everyone here wishes him the best of luck in his future. All members of the Squadron were very sorry to lose S.Q.M.S. Cannon, who left us for No. 1 Signal Equipment Troop, but we all wish him the very best of luck in his new Unit and hope that he will call at Uxbridge Barracks occasionally to see his old friends.

We congratulate Signalmen Williams and Sivell, and Driver Weir, who were married during the month, and we all hope that they will settle down and enjoy the happiness of married life.

Sport. The main game of the Squadron at the moment is soccer. The season opened badly for us with the loss of two consecutive league matches to the R.M.P.s and No. 38 S.R.D. respectively. Since then we have formed a football committee; the result of this has been immediate improvement. We have played 10 games since, and we are very proud to say that we have not lost any of them, three of these being league matches. We have also bought some new Signals jerseys and socks, with a nice large embroidered " Jimmy " on the front, and believe this and the very regular attendance of our C.O., Major L. H. Caldicott, at the matches is making the team go all out to win. Keep it up, lads, you will be at the top of the league soon. We are at present fourth from the top, only four points behind the leaders.

Now to hockey. We have three very prominent members of the Squadron who are at the moment playing with H.Q., Hamburg District, hockey team; they are Captain Sumner, S.S.M. Marks and Sergeant Jeffereys.

I'm afraid with that we must once again come to the end for this month, so we will say " Au revoir " until the next issue of THE WIRE.

Life in B.A.O.R.

General Amenities

No. 1 Wireless Regiment occupies a former German naval barracks situated on the banks of the Elbe, 45 miles from Hamburg, and has to rely mainly on its own resources for entertainments and pastimes during off-duty periods. Hamburg can be reached fairly easily by road, but recreational trips are mainly confined to Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays.

Amenities for troops in Hamburg are of course many, yet surprisingly few take advantage of the recreational transport provided.

Reasons for this would be fairly difficult to define as they vary between individuals. The general reasons which appear to be common to all are the length of the journey, the uncomfortable form of travel, the expense and, to those who once having settled down, the pointlessness of travelling 45 miles to enjoy pastimes mostly available within the Barracks limits.

The Barracks, which are typical of those throughout the British Zone, are modern and extremely well laid out. Accommodation is good and amenities include a large swimming pool, a gymnasium, hockey and football pitches, a newly-laid hard tennis court and cricket pitch. Generally speaking, interest in sports is high. Inter-Troop games are very frequent, particularly hockey, football and cricket matches. Just recently an indoor basket ball court has been constructed which should become popular on rainy days when outdoor exercise is limited. For any soldier interested in sport ideal facilities exist for training, and it is indicative of a general trend towards a policy of keeping fit to observe at almost any period during the day at least one form of athletics, be it weight-lifting or running, being practised. Others, as yet minor activities, are boxing, which it is hoped will soon be on an organised basis, badminton, and motor-cyling. Horses are available for recreational riding and lessons may be had for 1s. an hour.

Indoor recreation is centred mainly in the N.A.A.F.I., the Salvation Army Club or the Unit Reading Room. Evenings of organised games, besides the normal facilities, are generally well enjoyed. During winter, smoking concerts often disclose a surprising amount of local talent, though of course, as always, shyness has previously to be overcome by the M.C. The Unit cinema presents shows four times a week, and tombola is played at frequent intervals.

The local town, though small, offers many varied facilities for recreation, among the most popular being skittles and sailing.

Weekly dances are held in the town during the summer months and twice weekly during the winter.

Education plays its part in the life of the Unit. A weekly education programme is in operation, tuition in mathematics and geography being the main subjects. In the latter, local geography is well illustrated by trips round the areas under discussion. For those interested in handicrafts, tools and materials are made available. Musical fans are catered for by both a Classical and a Swing Music Club.

Similarly, amateur radio enthusiasts are provided with the necessary equipment and this has proved a very popular pastime. The married families on the whole find the life here pleasant, with one general exception. That is that the cost of living is high. Rations and transport are the main causes for this. The latter is particularly important, for families 45 miles from the nearest large shopping store incur a travelling expenditure of 15s. before the wife can start to buy her household necessaries.

Quarters and children's educational facilities are of a very high standard. Reports from those using the leave centres sing their praises; they make an excellent break for the family, and are fully appreciated.

The main cookhouse and men's messroom, which is more like a restaurant, are first-class and invariably impress inspecting officers. Rations are supplemented by vegetables and fruit, grown inside the Barrack area, and the products of the Unit piggery and poultry farm. The standard of messing is very good.

* * *

A Signalman

I have now spent nearly 2½ years in B.A.O.R.; the last two years in the same Unit. During this time, the life and social amenities have greatly improved. I shall endeavour to give the reader an idea of life as it is at the moment in B.A.O.R. from the point of view of the Signalman.

The Barracks we live in are of a modern design, formerly used by the German Artillery. The Camp is surrounded by the local " Stadtwald " or park, in which is situated a modern up to date swimming pool which is open to Service men and their families.

The Barracks consist of separate blocks which can accommodate a maximum of 400 men. The figure at present is less than that, and in consequence there is no overcrowding, although at times when there is a large influx of reinforcements the rooms tend to become rather full.

Most of the barrack rooms in this block are designed to accommodate seven men by British Army standards, but in the near future it is hoped that all the barrack rooms will be converted into " Monty Rooms " with bedside lockers, reading lamps, curtains, and the rooms decorated in pleasing colour schemes. These rooms will accommodate five men. Some rooms have already been converted and work is in progress on a number of other rooms.

Cost of living to the ordinary signalman in B.A.O.R. is much less than his counterpart in the U.K. For instance, the N.A.A.F.I. ration, consisting of cigarettes, chocolate or sweets, and soap, amounts to about 6s. per week. This leaves about 19s. from the average weekly income with which to get any extras from the N.A.A.F.I. and pay for beer, cinema, canteen suppers and morning breaks. At the end of the week it does not leave much over.

The facilities available for sports are quite numerous. During the football season, Inter-Troop games are very highly organised and great interest is displayed in the " Leagues." During the early summer months, individual and Inter-Troop athletics are held at Wuppertal and Dusseldorf Stadiums. These modern stadiums, which are used for the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit and Individual Championships, have the most up to date facilities for all track and field events. I should like to point out here that sport is probably more highly organised in B.A.O.R. than in any Command in the U.K.

In the cricket season, even though organised Troop cricket matches are not being played, men usually get together and have practice at the nets in the evening or on Wednesday afternoons.

Basketball and hockey is played under Troop arrangements, and there are good tennis courts opposite the entrance to the Barracks, which everybody can use.

Much is done to try and interest the soldier in the Barracks so that on a rainy day he does not have to go out in order to have an evening's entertainment. An excellent aero modelling class is functioning as well as carpentry classes and language lessons.

Last year the Unit Club was in the nearby town, but now it has been moved to the Unit lines, so it is more generally used than before.

The club is housed in a long wooden building and has a quite homely feeling about it, especially the " English type bar." Two billiard tables are in constant use, as are the three table tennis tables. The billard tables are quite new and are equipped with all accessories. Darts, draughts and other such games can be played there. The C.V.W.W. have a canteen in the club which sells a good assortment of cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and, of course, the usual cup of " char."

There have been many Inter-Unit darts matches, which have created much interest, as have the table tennis tournaments which take place occasionally.

If, however, the soldier does not want to stay in barracks, there is transport at scheduled times to take him to nearby Dusseldorf. Whether his taste may be opera, variety or symphony concerts, he is sure to find one place that will satisfy his taste. Opera house, theatre, cinemas and canteens all help to make the evening as pleasant as possible.

The life in B.A.O.R. is not all play and no work. The occupational role requires much hard work, a wide deployment of the Unit, and some long hours of duty at times. But there is still time for play, and everything is done to ensure that all the requirements of the soldier in his spare time are on hand and that his Army life will be as happy as possible.

* * *

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Signals Association Badges

Signals Association Buttonhole Badges (or Brooch pattern for ex-A.T.S. members) can be obtained from the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or from your Local Branch. Price 3/-. Cash with order.

A MODERN

Arabian Knight

By **Lieutenant-Colonel ALEX MONTIETH, M.B.E.**

AFTER a war one hears a lot about frustration and a desire by many people to choose a new mode of life; in the present age we call it rehabilitation, but what it really means, in simple language, is that a great many of us get unsettled whilst the war is on and can't face going back to our old humdrum jobs.

In a lot of cases it works out well, and I should like to tell you in particular about a friend of mine called Peter Lumsden, who was a young Gunner officer in the first Great War, not because I think he is by any means a genius or an outstanding chap, but just because he had the commonsense to sit down and think things out before he made up his mind to give up his job as a bank clerk and face the world on his own.

Peter ended up his fighting job in Baghdad in 1919 after some pretty rough stuff in Mesopotamia, and he made his mind up that the world was a good place for a young man with a few brains and quite a lot of initiative. He did not stop at the immediate field, but began to consider what he was best fitted to do and where best he could do it. He decided that motor transport was the best bet of all, so asked himself where all the other people interested in the transport industry would not think of going as well. He decided that the Old Lands, where he had spent so much time in the war, were the most likely. He packed his belongings, got on a ship and arrived back in Baghdad to start a bus service running up to Teheran, the capital of Persia.

Up till then, overland transport in those parts had been strictly the monopoly of the camel, but his new motor service proved popular, and it prospered. It prospered so well that in 1923 he was joined by another adventurous young man called Norman Nairn, and between them they began the Nairn Transport Company, which was to run a service from Baghdad to Damascus and thence across the desert to Beirut, on the coast of French Syria.

To understand what an undertaking of this nature means, one must know just what the conditions and the country were like at that time. Beirut, situated near the top end of the sweep of the coastline which forms the Levant, is a busy modern Mediterranean port, and the base through which the French were busy developing Syria, Lebanon and the interior country. It is a town of European construction, even though the inhabitants still claim that it was the scene of the battle between the mighty St. George and the Dragon, and have named the main hotel after him. It is pleasantly laid out and lies at the foot of a range of high mountains into which the European residents may escape in their leisure hours to the cool temperatures of the hill residences during the hot summer months. Beirut, even then, was an important French military centre, and extensive barrack and other military and naval construction was being rapidly advanced. It was also the seaboard terminal of the road linking another great French Army stronghold at Damascus with its lifeline to France, and this metalled highway ran over a hilly route over the Lebanon mountains, where the snow in high June was common near the summit.

From Damascus the way to Baghdad lay across some five hundred miles of trackless desert with no roads, precious little water and practically no landmarks, and where—till well into the 1930s, when French Syrian troops in armoured cars and Iraqi camel police began regular patrols—hold-ups by roving Arab bands, in the good old robber-bandit style, were commonplace.

About halfway across this desert there is a fort called Rutbah Wells. Here was quartered a detachment of Camel Corps, as well as some armoured cars and a radio station. There was also the luxury of electric light and refrigeration, a godsend in this wickedly hot part of the world. It had sleeping accommodation for about thirty travellers and was a haven quickly sought when blinding sandstorms and scorching heat of the Kahmseen winds made travel impossible. Here also, at Rutbah, was the only source of drinking water between Damascus and Baghdad.

It was a tough proposition.

This direct route was not the original track explored by these adventuresome young pioneers. They first learned of a crossing over this vast sand sea from an Arab sheik who claimed to know a camel track much further to the south which was capable of offering passage to automobiles, but it was deep into the Arabian desert and the waste lands south of the Transjordan. However, it was a possible crossing, so our young pioneers got two large Packard cars and converted them for the great adventure.

You may wonder why there was so much fuss about finding a way across a very hot, cruel and dangerous piece of country. It was simply because, up till this time, if you wanted to go from Baghdad to Beirut or the Mediterranean coast the only way was down the Persian Gulf, into the Indian Ocean, round the Gulf of Aden, up the Red Sea and through the Suez Canal, which took a month. Alternatively, you could take a camel train and go across the top of the desert lands to Beirut, but that might take two months —and possibly your life. This time factor was important, for every year thousands of Mohammedan pilgrims from the widespread areas of the Arab states lying in the Tigris and Euphrates districts and beyond, make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, which lies inland from the port of Jeddah, on the Red Sea. For a Mohammedan a visit to Mecca is the most important thing in his life because to go to the Holy City and the birthplace of Mohammet at the time of Hadje, or religious festival, ensures his pass to Eternal Life. It also adds a lot of prestige to his status in early life for after such a visit he becomes known as a Hadje and wears a white turban to mark him as a man of distinction. Naturally a visit to Mecca is the highest ambition of every good follower of Mohammed, and for it he saves for most of his life to pay the cost of the journey, which is about a hundred pounds.

To find, then, an overland route which would both lower this cost and shorten the journey was a matter of vital importance. No expense was spared in equipment and preparation, and finally the little cavalcade in its two cars set out into the blue. The guide kept bearing deeper and deeper into the south, right away from all the accepted trails, until both water and fuel, as well as food, was running dangerously low. At last, after six and a half days' driving across a trackless wilderness of sand and scrub, the party came out on to the shore of the Persian Gulf. They were away south of their intended destination, and this meant a long, weary trek back through the dusty, dried mud roads in the Iraqian heat to Baghdad.

The discovery of this track was at least better than nothing, and it meant that at a pinch it could be used, but it was not good enough for these two determined young men. The two partners made up their minds they were going to find the right answer, sheik or no sheik, camel track or no camel track, and remustered their forces in Baghdad, carried out a careful check, set the compass due west, and pushed off into the unknown. They made Damascus and found the direct route.

Soon the regular service was in being; at first the run was made in ordinary large cars specially adapted for the difficult conditions and the enormous mileages which had to be covered without refuelling or service en route. The line began to be used by Royal Air Force men going home to England on leave who did not want to lose precious time going around the long sea route. It was soon patronised in force by officials of the oil companies operating in Iraq and Persia, and before long it became the accepted method of travel for both British and Iraq Government employees, to say nothing of the casual traveller. Before long the business was bursting its seams.

Enterprise and foresight again solved the problem. Huge trailer buses, specially designed for the job, were built in the United States. These were, and probably still are, the largest in the world, as big as railway Pullman cars and fitted out much in the same way. They had two washrooms, a smoking room, and carried 40 passengers. They were powered by giant diesel engines and made the run, with a stop at Rutbah Wells, in 29 hours flat for a matter of just under £30; this was a far cry from the seven days of the southern crossing and the £100 and four weeks of the sea voyage.

Soon came a contract with the Iraq Government to carry the pilgrims on the overland route and thence down by sea to Jeddah, and later all the way back again to Baghdad. When the war came some 9,000 of these pilgrim travellers were being ferried across the desert to their Holy City for the annual Hadjes, and it was thus how we found things when, for the second time, a British Army went back to fight in the lands where civilisation was first cradled. I shall never forget seeing one of those great buses for the first time in Damascus, standing near a cluster of palms, its massive side slashed by the yellow glass windows, highlighting to the extreme the invasion of our modern mechanical world into the ancient and timeless. A lot later, after the trouble in those parts had passed and the buses started their journeyings again, I remember, whilst flying over that desert one day, looking down at the little caterpillar crawling along under its cloud of dust far below me and thinking to myself that if only Mohammet could have known that, in the years to come, his followers would be journeying to worship at his shrine in machines brought from thousands of miles away across an unknown sea, made in a country they never even knew existed, he would have been a very surprised man. And, as I flew on, high above the ruins of the oldest, perhaps, of all civilisations and human habitations the world ever knew, across what had been Babylon and eventually back to Baghdad, I found it hard to tear my thoughts away from the fact that, to those ancients, their camel caravans and their primitive wooden boats represented the ultimate in travel. Who knows but what, in the days yet to come, our own methods and our present aircraft will seem primitive and crude, too, to those who are to follow us ?

Other Overseas Stations

1st INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Tripoli

The greater part of the Regiment is now settled in and around Tripoli, but we are now well extended with detachments as far away as Cyrenaica, Egypt and Greece. We have just completed reorganisation on a new establishment introduced on leaving Palestine, and, having sorted out the somewhat chaotic stores position resulting from the move, are getting down to technical training and, in our off-duty moments, to sport and sightseeing.

A few familiar faces have disappeared during the past six months. Major O. J. Peck left us on python after about five years with the Regiment, and we understand is now nicely settled in at the War Office. Lieutenant (Q.M.) S. H. Henwood left after an even longer spell with the Regiment and is now happily married and a civilian. Wedding bells have rung for Captain G. Peat, too. He married soon after reaching U.K. on python, encouraged, perhaps, by the example of Captain W. N. Coleman, whose wedding in Tripoli was the occasion for a magnificent party in the Officers' Mess. Our heartiest congratulations to these newly-weds.

The departure of R.Q.M.S. "Froggy" French on python left a hole in our organisation, which has been adequately filled by R.Q.M.S. H. Brooklyn, who left his duties as S.S.M. 1 Squadron to take the job over. Still we were very sorry to see "Froggy" depart.

The chaps seem to like soldiering with us, judging by the way they roll up to join the T.A. during their release leave. Captain Bennett is now with the Signal Reporting Regiment (Kensingtons), T.A., and we hear that Signalman Churchill, the demon driver of Camp 456, was his first prospective recruit!

Despite D.O.V. and a host of woes, we came out of Palestine in remarkably good order. We wish, however, that J Troop would stop ramming their "Last out" tales down our throats and that the A/B Troop boys could mention the evacuation without a stream of hard words about a certain type of wireless set!

Since reaching Tripoli we have done a bit of overhauling and spring-cleaning and have surprised ourselves (and brought a new light into R.S.M. Gay's eyes) by proving ourselves quite reasonable parade-ground soldiers.

Amateur radio is going strong. Captain McAnsh (MD2BU), Captain Hawkins (MD2DH) and Captain Carpenter, of Tripolitania Signal Squadron (MD2B) are all operating from the same building, while Captain Smith, Captain Coleman and S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Pattison are all busy building. We are always looking for contacts with other Signals "hams."

Cricket. The first XI has continued in the Division A League with varying fortune. For a brief period it held second place, and had high hopes of breaking the unbeaten record of the league leaders—Camp 1 Division.

The hopes were, however, not justified, and having skittled the champions out for the modest score of 68, our batsmen fell victims to an attack of nerves, and excellent bowling, which in effect were equally disastrous.

Result: Camp 1 Division, 68; 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, 14.

Other league games provided much closer competition, and with one game left to play, we now occupy an honourable position in the "body" of the league table, having played 12 games, won 7, lost 5.

Due to the withdrawal of an R.A.S.C. eleven from the Division B League, we have been able to include a second eleven in the closing stages of that competition, and so far have played 3, won 1, lost 2.

The Inter-Troop League is well under way. The winners of the Troop knock-out, "O" Troop, are getting knocked about in some hotly contested games, and have yet to register a win.

Enthusiasm is high, and already there is talk of "next season"—a good omen.

Soccer. It's still too hot for serious football one might think, but Sergeant Berry and a band of enthusiasts are already hard at it, getting in form for the official opening of the season.

Athletics. We are entered for the athletics meeting at Tripoli early in October and track training of the combined 1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment and Tripolitania Signal Squadron has begun under Captain Potter and Second-Lieutenant Whitehead. The tug-of-war team is being taken seriously in hand by R.S.M. Gay.

POSTS AND TELECOMS DEPT., B.M.A. Eritrea

September

TELECOMS SECTION. Many changes have taken place since our last contribution. From a total of 32 B.O.R.s we are now reduced to 23. Our commitments remain the same as before but the work still gets done and we manage—somehow.

The recent D.O.V. has proved rather a blow to several of the lads who were "dreaming of a White Christmas," but like good troopers they have taken it philosophically and are consoling themselves with the knowledge that their retention is necessary and that Asmara is not by any means the worst place in which to be D.O.V'd.

This pleasant little city of Asmara, perched on the summit of a mountain approximately 8,000 feet above sea level, with its clean and spacious streets, modern shopping centres, tree-lined boulevards, flower gardens and its almost continuous bright sunshine, is a sight that must be seen to be believed.

We are enclosing three photographs of different parts of Asmara, which give some idea of the grace, dignity and beauty of this "Shangri La" of N.E. Africa.

There are, of course, drawbacks to every place, and the main ones so far as Asmara are concerned are (1) lack of oxygen due to the altitude, and (2) due to the failure this year of the rains to fall in the catchment areas which serve Asmara with water, there is a very serious shortage of that (in this part of the world at any rate) precious commodity. We think it is rather a pity that this item could not be included in the list of exports from the U.K. to this corner of the globe, during and after the present export drive, with mutual benefit to both, providing of course that some means could be devised of arranging the transfer before delivery in the U.K. (Board of Trade please note.)

Sport has been more or less at a standstill these past few weeks and there is nothing outstanding to report. We have, however, constructed a miniature rifle range in our Unit lines, complete with flood-lighting and falling targets. It should prove a never-ending source of entertainment to all concerned and, we hope, improve the standard of marksmanship in the Section. Great schemes are afoot for an Inter-Unit Shooting Competition with a cup, which the District Commander has promised to provide, for the winners. But more of this anon.

So until next time, "Happy landings everybody" and "Arrivederci."

HOW-FAIR-CHAMP

Viale Roma, Asmara, Eritrea

Corso Italia, Asmara, Eritrea. Looking east towards cathedral

Corso Italia, Asmara, Eritrea. Looking east away from cathedral

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT Singapore

September

Departures. Yet another departure took place during the month in the somewhat belated return to the U.K. of Second-Lieutenant "Mike" Petheram. He at last realised, after trying to get home since early this year, that it is best to remain upright at all times on a motor cycle and not "frat" with monsoon ditches, etc. We wish him all the best and a successful ending to his R.C.B. in the U.K.

Within a few days of writing these notes R.S.M. Milne will be on the high seas and we shall have to say when people ask where he is, he's "Gone with the Windrush." (For all you non-seafaring types who have no yacht club, that means he's coming home in the *Empire Windrush.*)

He will be missed, and good luck for the future to him as well as R.Q.M.S. Burgess and S.S.M. Bradbury, who will be accompanying him. Elim Camp will not be quite the same but there's no doubt that Mr. Milne's successor, S.S.M. Charlton, will "carry on," and we hope for some time, because he has proved already a valuable addition to our cricket and hockey teams.

Our move has already been reported last month. However, we are still here on our beauty spot, but not for much longer, and our roast turkey and plum pudding will this time be "put away" in our new home at Changi.

In sport the outstanding event was, of course, winning the R.A.F. Changi Cup. Only, however, after extra time—score 3—2, but we won, and it's still a debatable point as to whether anyone at all remained at Elim Camp that evening. For once the whole Regiment seemed to be massed in one spot watching the game.

Not quite so successful but no less creditable in a way was our team's performances in the Singapore District Swimming Championships. Although not winning any event, we managed a number of seconds against very strong opposition.

Basketball has really "caught on" and a competition is in full swing. Quite a considerable crowd watch it most evenings on the lawn in front of the Officers' Mess, and it would be hard to find a more romantic and beautiful setting than this one, between 5 and 6 o'clock any Singapore evening. Some seem to think it's better a little later with a moon—but not for basketball.

The Yacht Club was reorganised at a recent meeting and a number of new members enrolled. All the boats have been scraped and repainted in a bout of feverish enthusiasm which augurs well for the future both here and at Changi when we move.

WEST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

October

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON, Accra. We are now able to welcome our most recent arrivals to the fold, but regret our inability to publish detail owing to lack of space. However, we hope their stay will be a happy one and point out that every facility is offered to candidates desirous of signing on for a second tour.

Major Bill Main and family recently left us for the home country, also Captain Dawe and Captain Perry (C.S.O.'s Branch). We wish them the best of luck for the future.

The African R.S.M. (R.S.M. Sey) recently left us for W.A. School of Infantry and Education in preparation for his anticipated visit to O.C.T.U., U.K. We wish him every success.

Evening classes for the "Forces Prelim." are now in full swing and many members of the Unit may be seen walking around with the preoccupied air of the learned professor. They are soon to have the opportunity of justifying that description on the occasion of the examination, scheduled for 24th November. It is of interest to note that quite an appreciable percentage of candidates are African ranks.

Our Hobbies Centre has now been successfully instituted as a diversion from routine. Anyone can now spend their leisure hours in putting their flair for handicrafts to good advantage.

The weather is beginning to warm up once more and off-duty hours can be spent in getting pleasantly "browned off" (from the physical aspect) on the beaches of Labadi and Christiansborg.

A recent Sunday trip to Korforidua, as arranged by the C.S.O., took the form of a combined sports event and general day's outing of a highly successful nature. Our members received a great welcome from the members of the European Club and a gentle defeat on the cricket field from the same source.

The advent of new blood from U.K. has had a most improving effect on sports generally, and we are now contenders for all sports championships. Captain R. O. Edwards, ex-No. 3 Training Regiment, of hockey and football fame, already has the situation well in hand.

A "First Impression" of West Africa, as offered by a recent arrival, may interest our readers:—

"British West Africa, to a newcomer, is a land of mystery, 'Ju-Ju' and various cults. Having undergone disembarkation formalities at Takoradi, my ultimate destination was Accra. The journey from Takoradi to Accra, which is approximately 180 miles by road, proved both interesting and, in a sense, profitable. We drove along the seemingly endless hot and dusty roads, our 15 cwt. protesting at every pothole. Through countless African villages, each a veritable mêlée of African men and women, cows and chicken and children running about with no more encumbrance than their birthday suits. Here, in these villages, coconuts could be bought for a song or, if not in voice, for a penny each. One has to admire the African women for their deportment, presumably born of a lifelong practice in carrying all manner of wares, which may include anything from a water vessel to a Singer sewing machine, upon their heads. Little babies are strapped to their mothers' backs, kangaroo fashion.

"Life in the African villages seems a mixture of primitive native customs with a certain Western influence, the latter being apparent in its village schools and little chapels. The larger towns, Accra as an example, are cosmopolitan. Here large business houses of African, Indian and Assyrian origin mix with the much smaller native trader to form a wonderful shopping centre, second to none. Housewives need plenty of money but no coupons!"

I am sure that there is much more to be said about native customs and superstitions which would prove interesting reading, but a very limited experience coupled with a corresponding amount of space prevents further narrative in this issue.

Best wishes to all our readers from G.C.S.S., West Africa.

JONAH

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON, Lagos. The weather is slowly warming up again now but we have enjoyed cool and sometimes cold weather for over four months.

Unit activities this month have been somewhat limited but the Sergeants' Mess held a most enjoyable open-air dance, and the Corporals had an outing to Isheri, some 18 miles from Lagos, where they went up-river in native canoes for a picnic and swim.

Another highlight was a field day, which was much enjoyed by all despite rainy weather, and the only mishap—one British sergeant and party lost in the bush. We shall have to issue portable D/F equipment next time!

We thought you might like to hear how the British N.C.O.s on detachments fare in Nigeria, and therefore append a description by Sergeant D. Bowden of his sojourn at Enugu.

LIFE ON AN OUT-STATION IN NIGERIA

In Nigeria we have Signals detachments with all the Batta-

lions of the Nigeria Regiment. With Lagos as Squadron H.Q., we have Abeokuta and Ibadan in the south of the colony, Kaduna in the north, and Enugu in the east. Each detachment is manned by a British N.C.O., usually a radio-mechanic, and three or four African operators. The latter are trained by the Squadron in Lagos and most of them are quite good tradesmen. At the time of writing I am attached to the 4th Battalion, stationed in Enugu. The purpose of the detachment is to provide communication for the Battalion to the outside world.

We have both a C.W. and R/T link. At present we are using 53 sets as transmitters and R107s for receivers. These proved very satisfactory. R/T is exceptionally good. Facilities are made, through remote control units and telephones, to enable a subscriber to hold a conversation from his office.

Apart from the usual duties of the Signals, we also handle all official mail in the colony. To and from Enugu this is mostly by air, although the heavy parcels and stores go by rail. The detachment is run completely by the B.N.C.O., who is responsible to O.C. Squadron for the smooth running of the out-station. The Battalions are very co-operative with any matters in which they can be helpful.

Social life on an out-station is bound to be quiet, sometimes even lonely, because apart from the Battalion staff there are very few Europeans in the township. Even so, we manage to have a good time in our off-duty hours. Every afternoon there is sport—hockey, soccer, tennis and swimming. On all out-stations there is a European recreation club, where most people gather in the evenings for a chat or a game of billiards. In addition to the town cinema, which has shows thrice weekly, there is an A.K.C. cinema, showing usually two films a week.

On average there are about 20 members in the B.N.C.O.s' Mess of a Battalion out here. Just the right number for a happy, well-organised mess. The quarters are very comfortable and well furnished. Two men in each house with a personal servant to look after them.

Summing up, I should like to say that in my opinion it is a good life and a grand experience for any member of the Corps to be attached to the infantry on an out-station in Nigeria.

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moascar

September

The main event to record this month is the opening of the new B.T.E. and Mediterranean Command Signal Office. This is a spacious, H-shaped building, comprising S.M.C., ciphers and wireless room in one leg, with the S.D.O. and telegraph room in the other, whilst the cross-piece is the counter room. It is situated just outside the Headquarters and makes a welcome change to the old war-time air raid shelters in which the old office worked for so long.

Who was it said that the Corps theme song should be "We'll muddle through as we always do"? Slander though it may be, it is surprising how much the Unit seems to get done with ever-decreasing numbers. We work to a "tailor-made" establishment, but the "tailor" seems to be of the type that grabs a handful of slack in the back and then points out how well the front fits.

In between spells of work we manage to keep our heads high in the sporting world. As the Unit is so widespread, and serves in three different areas, sport is on a Squadron basis. No. 1 Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Cricket League and No. 4 Squadron continue to beat all comers at anything in their own sphere at El Ballah.

Our congratulations to S.S.M. Lane, of No. 2 Squadron, who made the most of his stay on the shores of the Great Bitter Lake to win the Army (Egypt) 100 yards breast stroke championship and got a place in the Army team against the R.A.F., also to Signalman Large, of No. 3 Squadron, on winning the inter-Unit plunging with 54 ft. 4 ins., and being runner-up in the Inter-District and Inter-Garrison Championships.

The Royal Signals Tie

MORE shame to me, because they are available, but I haven't got a Corps tie fit to wear. But if I had, should I wear it? I doubt it. I work in London, and in London wearing a Royal Signals tie is an expensive hobby. Only yesterday I was hurrying (*sic*) to work and I saw two in quick succession. The wearer of one I half recognised, but he was a drinking type. It would have meant at least two pints, and I knew I had much to do. But it is an extraordinary thing. Wear a Corps tie in the street, tube or train and you are almost bound to fall in with another. Mind you, I know several cases where a casual contact thus made has led to better things for one or other of the parties.

Years and years ago I had a friend in "D" Divisional Signals in India. He went out when he had finished his time. I stayed in. We never met or corresponded. After ten years I was serving at home and had occasion to ring up the local Police Station. As soon as I gave my name my friend of Indian days recognised me. He was the police officer on duty at that hour of that day. That was in about 1935. In 1948 I arrived in a country town and saw a chap collecting a couple of buckets of coal that had fallen off a lorry. I caught his eye. Yes, it was my friend. Now he has a tobacco and sweet shop, and doing very well too.

I was going home by train, the ordinary daily breader, and found sitting opposite me a very pretty girl wearing "Jimmy" on her coat. But I was not wearing my tie and so did not dare. Leaving the train, I passed a cove reading THE WIRE. But suburban trains wait for no man. And he was a nice looking chap too. But, oh! she was such a pretty girl!

One Territorial Army Signal Regiment in London in pre-war days used to run an unofficial employment exchange and mart. Wearers of the tie got to hear of it and in its peak year it successfully helped over 100 chaps either to a job or to a change from one employment to something better. Wearing the tie, in lieu of a membership card, the aspirant appeared at the bar in the drill hall. The motto of this bar plagiarised in advance the Windmill Theatre, "We never close." He was pretty certain to meet a pal. One drink led to another, eventually to an introduction to a prospective employer. Times have changed. The Royal Signals Association does all that now. But with the build-up of the Territorial Army, which we are all hoping for, some such admirable arrangement will no doubt be restarted.

In these austerity days the tie is hard to come by. It is also expensive and not as good as the pre-war sort, but by and large it's a jolly good investment. As I say, it's a two-edged sword. If you are busy and anxious to get about your business, don't wear it in London or in any other city or town for that matter. But if you have a few shillings and a couple of hours to spare, wear it. Walk a little way and you will come across a friend or the friend of a friend. Another member perhaps gained for a branch of the Association; probably a friendship renewed or made; certainly some good talk of old times, old friends, old battles and reminiscences of distant countries in which both have served.

We are an interesting lot, we old Signalmen! Get together a dozen or so and you will hear tales that ring the world. The talk jumps from continent to continent, from place to

(*continued at foot of col. 2, page 391*)

My First Yacht

AN EXPENSIVE EXPERIENCE

By **Major D. T. W. GIBSON,** *Royal Signals*

MY father was in the Navy, and unlike many in that highly mechanised service, he never lost a love of sailing small boats.

When I was a small boy at school, our family owned a yacht; holidays were spent afloat in the Solent area, and I learnt to sail in the dinghy that we towed behind us from place to place. The magic in the lonely cry of curlews coming over the mudflats, and the perfect peace of the lonely creeks and inlets that we visited, together with the sense of freedom and independence that one gets when sailing a small boat, made such holidays more than perfect for a child. I became determined to buy a yacht as soon as I could, so that I could explore on my own.

I went to Woolwich in 1935. The R.M.A. had a sailing club downriver at Erith, which was housed in the original clubhouse of the Royal Corinthian S.C. Like the four boats then in use, the clubhouse was on the verge of collapse from old age, and as gas masks were not then issued to cadets, the less said about the sanitation the better. Finding that my elders and betters monopolised the boats, I fetched up a dinghy then owned by the family. It was a robust, tubby, almost circular "pram," normally painted bright green, and called *Pippin*. Another cadet, whom I shall call John, also brought his dinghy to Erith for the same reasons. His was a far more racy affair with a tall mast, and aristocratic unstable habits. We used to go sailing together, or to be more exact we often left our moorings at Erith at the same time. John's greatly superior skill and experience usually got him back to Woolwich in time for tea, while normally I arrived in time for supper.

Towards the end of the sailing season, in November, I saw an advertisement offering a 25ft. cutter for sale for £15. Fired with enthusiasm, I went up to Putney to meet the owner and discuss terms. Even the sight of the half-submerged hulk, swarming with small boys, who were trying to find out what parts of the boat were detachable, with some success, failed to extinguish the flame of enthusiasm. I parted with my total capital, £10, to the owner, who gave an illegible address on the receipt, thanked me somewhat cynically, and departed, leaving me in the company of the owner of the boatyard. The yard owner's only comment was that I was a "bloody young fool," probably one of the most honest and accurate statements he has ever made to anyone. However, nothing daunted, I went off to go to a dance and to spend the night with some friends in London, bursting with pride of ownership, and making plans for reconstructing the shattered cabin-top, re-erecting the mast, and sailing away downriver further than ever before, with *Pippin* trailing peacefully behind.

At ten o'clock next morning, Sunday, I met John at the boatyard. He controlled his feelings admirably when he saw the battered hulk in which we intended to set sail for Woolwich, and straightway made practical suggestions about blocking some of the more obvious holes, through which the River Thames had been entering and leaving the hull as the tide rose and fell. He also was an enthusiast, but his enthusiasm was tempered by greater experience, and I shudder to think what his feelings were like as we put patches over the holes, lashed a short spar upright as a jury mast, and finally, as the tide rose and the *Sunflower* floated, loaded our gear (including my "tails" in a suitcase), and prepared to leave. By then it was about 3.30, and darkness was due to set in at 5.30, but the tide was in our favour, so we decided to risk a passage in the dark.

The owner of the boatyard gloomily bade us farewell, and asked me whether I could swim. Although he was obviously glad that we were removing an eyesore from his yard, he seemed relieved that there was a faint chance left that we might survive the removal.

A friendly bloke in a motor-boat offered us a tow, which we gladly accepted, and so off we went. Just below Tower Bridge the motor-boat ran out of petrol, and had to leave us to drift on downstream. The wind that had been helping us then died away; the tide was running at full ebb, at between five and six knots; the time was about 4.30, dusk was just beginning to gather, and in fact our future did not look at all bright as we were swept on towards the Pool of London and the Isle of Dogs.

The Thames makes a double bend round the Isle of Dogs, and the main currents tend to set diagonally across the river. Barges are moored in line abreast, being lashed to "dummies" which are moored permanently in the middle of the stream. We swept into the first bend, and were caught by the current and carried across towards the first of the banks of barges.

All the barges were empty, and the 15ft. slopes of their flat, black, barnacled bows, rearing up out of the water ahead of us, looked like the open mouths of some grim primeval monsters. They roared at us and foamed at the mouth, as the water boiled underneath them; the prospect of being devoured by these beasts as sacrifices to the God of Yachting did not appeal to either of us.

We managed to avoid the edge of the first bank by about 6ft. The current then carried us diagonally across the river towards the centre of the next row of barges, and I pictured my guardian angel going to the "quartermaster's" cloud to draw my harp. Fortunately for us, a tug was moored in the centre of this bank, and seeing this, we made frantic efforts to hit the vertical bow of the tug in preference to going into the crocodile-like maw of one of the empty barges. We succeeded in hitting the bow of the tug broadside on, and the old *Sunflower* was stove in to the midshipline with a heart-rending crunch, and water started to spurt into the hull.

She filled rapidly while we unloaded over the bows of the tug, which seemed like a rusty cliffside towering up above us in the fading light. We tried to lash her to the tug with a 6in. bass hawser, but it snapped as she slipped down the stem, until in only two and a half minutes she was nearly level with the water. Then, suddenly, she was engulfed and

dragged underneath the surface. We succeeded in leaping on to the tug as she went, and running to the stern, we saw pieces of wood about 2ft. square come up to the surface. I had then owned my first yacht for about 26 hours.

In the gathering gloom, seated on lengths of chain, suitcases, and other odds and ends salvaged in the three minutes available, John and I ate our sandwiches, our first food since breakfast. The kind people with whom I had stayed the night, and who had provided the sandwiches, pictured yachting as rather a polite white-cap-cover affair, and the delicate wrappings on the chicken sandwiches seemed somehow rather incongruous. We were roused by a puzzled voice from the darkness behind us, which asked:

"And wot the 'ell are you doin' 'ere——? "

In the end the watchman was forced to accept our story in the absence of any other reason for our presence on the bows of a tug at sunset in the middle of London, with about three-quarters of a ton of luggage. We managed to signal to a police speedboat with our torch, and after the inevitable notebook had been produced, we were put ashore with some of the more portable of the items we had salvaged, and dumped near a tram halt.

We carried the propellor shaft, a fine bronze affair, the mainsail, and our kit, up to the top of a tram as it rumbled off towards Woolwich.

The only other passenger, an old lady, left the top of the tram in a hurry as we stripped off our wet clothes and got out dry ones. Obviously she thought that people who carried bronze propellor shafts about were rather queer; or perhaps she did not consider the idea of changing from wet shorts into tails on the top of a tram on a Sunday evening a normal thing to do.

Some people are very easily shocked I know.

Aviation Radio

So much is written in the daily Press about the part played by radio and radar in aviation that many readers of this journal may be considering entering into the aeronautical radio field as a post-Service career. The intention of this article is to give a very brief résumé of the techniques employed in aviation from which an idea of the knowledge required can be gained.

First, the basic radar and radio needs of aviation will be examined. Primarily the aircraft must have means of communication with ground stations for the passing of messages relating to weather, position of the aircraft, instructions for landing and take-off, and for the transmission of distress signals in the event of an emergency. Secondly, the pilot requires accurate navigational aid. Thirdly, means must be provided for the aiding of the pilot when landing in conditions of poor visibility. Finally, radar and radio are required for the accurate measurement of the aircrafts' height above ground and for the warning of the danger of collision with other aircraft.

Having established the basic requirements, the methods can now be examined. For short range communication, V.H.F. is used as it is by far the most efficient, being inherently free from static interference and only needing small airborne apparatus for reliable operation. Communication over greater distances of the order of 400 miles is most satisfactorily carried out on M/F in the 340 kc/s band, whilst ranges of communication in excess of this are obtained by the use of H/F on frequencies which depend upon the distance to be covered, time of day, locality and all the usual factors associated with short waves. This means that the prospective candidate for a position in the aviation radio industry must have a working knowledge of transmission and reception on all frequencies from 150 Mc/s to 200 kc/s. A variety of systems are used for the provision of navigational aid to aircraft. The principal method used in Europe is what is termed MF/DF. Its *modus operandi* is for the aircraft to send out signals which are picked up by direction-finding stations on the ground and from which the position of the aircraft at the time of sending the signals can be fixed. This system is likely to be abandoned eventually, as it is not capable of handling the anticipated volume of traffic, owing to saturation of the ground plant and due to the difficulties of accommodating the amount of signals in the narrow M/F band. It has the advantage of enabling the equipment used for the transmission and reception of ordinary messages to be used also for nav-aid. The next most widely used aid is the loop direction finder. When using this equipment the radio operator of the aircraft tunes in suitably placed M/F radio beacons or even broadcast stations and takes bearings on them with the loop aerial. He then plots the bearing lines on a map and determines the position of the aircraft from the point of their intersection. In the U.S.A., track guides in the form of beams are laid down along all the main airways, which merely have to be followed by the pilot listening to their signals. A variant of this system was developed during the war by the Germans and is known as "Consol," which has the very considerable range of about 1,000 miles and is extensively used on the transatlantic flights. Both the MF/DF system and the beam system are, however, insufficiently accurate for modern conditions of flying, especially when a large number of aircraft are concentrated in a small area, when a number of airliners converge at the same time on an airport, and this has led to the development of what are known as hyperbolic navigational aid systems. The best known of these systems are Gee and Decca, which both have the common feature of using "space patterns" of intersecting position lines from which position can be determined accurately. How these systems operate is best understood if a normal map is first considered.

On a normal map, any point can be identified by referring to its latitude and longitude, and a typical map reference would be, for instance, 00.10 West and 50.50 North for Brighton. These lines of position are, however, purely imaginary, and merely serve as a reference. With the hyperbolic navigational aids, position lines can be made to exist by radio means, in that their presence can be detected by suitable apparatus when an aircraft is located upon them. The grids corresponding to the lines of latitude and longitude cannot for technical reasons be made to be of the same form as lines of latitude and longitude, but this is of little importance, because all that is required for a position fix is to be able to identify the lines and for them to intersect, though not necessarily at right angles as do the ordinary geographical co-ordinates. The manner in which the radio position lines are formed is best understood if the Decca system is examined. In this system, synchronised transmitters are used, which means that at a multitude of points in space the crests of the waves from the two transmitters are in exactly the same position. These points can be calculated from a knowledge of the characteristics of the waves being transmitted, the resistivity of the soil, etc., and maps can be prepared upon which all the points where the wave crest position coincide can be plotted. These points are then joined up by lines and a series of position lines are formed. A third station is then included and is synchronised with the main station, and by similar means a second series of position lines appears which by suitable positioning of the third station causes them to intersect with the first set. Each set of position lines has a distinctive colour, and in the Decca system they are Red and Green. Also each line has a number. The receiver picks up the signals from the Main and Red station and compares their phase or relative position of the crests and does likewise for the Main and Green station. The relationships between the signals are then displayed on meters similar to car speedometers and by reading off the numbers shown on the dials and finding the lines bearing these numbers on a map specially prepared for use with the system, the position of the aircraft can be located.

In the Gee system the method of interpretation is more complicated, as in this case the position lines are formed for constant time differences of arrival of pulsed signals from pairs of stations, which necessitates their being read off on a Cathode Ray tube. There is a further hyperbolic aid known as Loran, which is only utilisable over sea, due to the frequency employed; this system operates on pulsed transmissions and works on the 1.6 megacycle band, a frequency that is seriously attenuated when the waves pass over land. Gee works on V.H.F. and is therefore only capable of giving useful range when used by aircraft, whereas Decca works on M/F and has the same range at high and low altitudes, and, in fact, can be used at the extremity of its range, some 300 miles, by ships. Although these aids appear to be rather complicated from their technical viewpoint, they are in reality quite easy to understand after a little study of them. It should be remarked that at least some knowledge of them would be essential for anyone wishing to start a career in aviation radio.

Assistance to Pilots

Probably the most important use to which radio has been put in aeronautics is in its role of assistance to pilots making landings under conditions of low visibility. The system which appears to be likely to be adopted internationally is the American SCS 51, supplemented by Ground Control Approach Radar. In the former system the pilot is guided to the runway of an airfield by following the movements of an indicator on the dashboard which is actuated by signals sent out from a total of five transmitters. The G.C.A. system is a device whereby the Flying Controller on the ground watches the descent of the aircraft on a Radar screen with an apparatus similar to that used for gunlaying during the war, and gives verbal instructions to the pilot by R/T. The principles of such a device are probably known to the majority of the readers of this journal, but the SCS 51 is probably new to them. It consists essentially of a transmitter sending out a beam of very narrow breadth which can be followed by the pilot from indications on a central zero pointer. This serves to guide the aircraft along a defined path to the runway. A second beam is transmitted for the purpose of laying down a glide path for the aircraft so that it descends at the correct angle to approach the runway without the danger of colliding with obstructions. This beam is laid down on the same bearing as the directional guidance beam, but is inclined at an angle of about six degrees to the ground. Both beams operate pointers on a combined instrument in the pilot's cockpit. The pointer for directional guidance, worked by the signals from the first beam, shows whether the aircraft is to the left or right of the correct track or whether it is on the correct bearing. The second pointer, worked by signals from the glide path beam, shows whether the aircraft is above or below the correct height for a safe approach or whether it is on the correct glide path. Progress along the beam is indicated three times by lights which flash on the dashboard when the aircraft is at the beginning, middle and on the edge of the airfield. These lights are operated by signals from very small transmitters located on the ground in the path of the beam which transmit a narrow upward beam. The whole system operates on V.H.F., and a thorough understanding of its working would entail a sound knowledge of V.H.F. aerial arrays, as its reliable functioning depends largely upon the aerial systems.

In the flight instrument field—that is to say, for radio altimeters and collision warning devices—radar and frequency modulation techniques are used. The radar collision warning device recently developed is derived from ordinary centimetric radar and consists of a transmitter which sends out pulses which are reflected back from solid objects within the "vision" of the scan. In the practical instrument the scanner "looks" round a fairly wide angle in front of the aircraft and displays on a cathode ray tube traces corresponding to other aircraft. This also has the facility of "seeing" clouds in which there are hail and snow and serves to warn the pilot of their presence at night.

For the measurement of the height of an aircraft above ground, F.M. signals are sent out from a small transmitter located under the wing of the aircraft, which are reflected back from the ground and picked up by a receiver located near to the transmitter. This receiver simultaneously responds to the signal coming directly from the transmitter and from the ground after reflection. Due to the distance which the signal must travel from the aircraft to the ground and back to the aircraft, there is always a frequency difference between the directly received and reflected signals which causes a heterodyne note to appear in the output of the receiver. This note has a frequency proportional to the height of the aircraft. It therefore suffices to provide a frequency meter, calibrated in feet instead of cycles, for the indication of height. In a practical instrument, about six cycles correspond to one foot; thus a 600 cycle note is equal to 100 feet.

From the above very short résumé of present-day methods, the reader will appreciate that some knowledge of nearly all radio and radar techniques is required for a career in aeronautical electronics, but he will also appreciate that although this may seem to involve a lot of hard work, aviation is here to stay and almost daily new requirements arise in order to keep pace with the progress in aviation. This fact makes work in aviation both interesting and permanent, whether it be in maintenance, operating or technical development.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS TIE

(*continued from page* 388)

place. Some places well known, many never previously heard of, but somehow sometime a Signalman was there doing his hard unspectacular work. And if I know anything of the breed, he was contriving to make himself very comfortable too. One is reminded of little isolated Royal Signal Stations up and down the world. A corporal, five or six chaps, a switchboard, a couple of wireless sets. They keep the telecoms going, often under conditions of great difficulty. They keep their watch. And they have a genius of making themselves comfortable. Once in six weeks, perhaps once a month, the officer arrives with the pay, with the odd spare part for worn-out equipment, with news of arrivals and departures. Mostly unnecessary this last, because such news seeps through the Iron Curtain of operators' discipline without much difficulty. One knows of some detachments isolated for a year or two years. They always contrive a notice board or two in the Corps Colours. They keep their discipline. They wear the badge. And afterwards, if in funds, they buy the tie, become members of the O.C.A., and even sometimes subscribe to THE WIRE.

Territorial Army

No. 23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fulham House, S.W.6

September

Owing to pressure of work in preparing for camp, etc., this Regiment's contributions have fallen into arrears. We will, however, try and make up for lost time.

The high spots for July were a week-end camp and the Putney Regatta. The Regiment went down to Aldershot, where we were the guests of the R.A.S.C. at Buller Barracks. We were most grateful for the excellent arrangements made for our reception and training by Nos. 1 and 3 Training Battalions.

The Regiment was asked to provide the communications for the Putney Regatta, held on 24th July. Lines and telephones consisting of two 1 to 1 circuits were provided, also lines for the P.A. equipment. There were no faults ! In return we were given a full-page advert. in the official programme. The opportunity was taken to do a spot of recruiting. Two Command vehicles, two D.R.s, two jeeps and one of the Association's show lorries were on view. The Command vehicles with 19 sets working to the two jeeps, with 22 sets, cruised up and down the course. In addition, 1 to 1 teleprinter circuit was set up between the Association vehicle and the Constitution Club. The *pièce de résistance* was a Wire Recorder, which was most popular. While many of Putney's citizens showed great interest in the a/m marvels, they showed a peculiar lack of enthusiasm for signing on the dotted line.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a mixed social evening during the month. The entertainment included shooting against the local Home Guard O.C.A., which resulted in a win for the Home Guard by a narrow margin. The Mess was crowded and we also welcomed a strong contingent from the local branch of the British Legion. Matches of darts, snooker and table tennis all contributed to the success of the evening. As evidence of the good time had by all, a special S O S went out to the brewery the next day—there were only " dead men " left.

The rest of the available time was taken up in preparing for Annual Camp. This great event started when we left the Drill Hall on 21st August and arrived in Canterbury without incident, thanks to good convoy work by our D.R.s. We were the guests of Eastern Command Signals.

From the start things went with a swing. The D.R.s did convoy practice and rough riding, the linemen toyed with their lines, etc. The biggest training event was a scheme which took place on two separate days. This scheme took the novel form of a game—somewhat like dress—which was thoroughly enjoyed by the directing staff and control stations; the out-stations enjoyed some excellent practice in R/T procedure.

Our great moment came on the Friday when, according to custom, we played Eastern Command Signals at cricket. In the words of our hosts, they had soundly trounced all previous T.A. Regiments. We lost the toss and were sent in to bat. With grim determined faces we tried to settle this bogey, but we were skittled out for a very modest 78 runs. Our total looked huge after we had finished with the Eastern Command Signals. Thanks to some excellent bowling by Captain Mote and Corporal Phillips, the home side were back in the pavilion for a total of 42 runs, and the impossible had been achieved.

The week was rounded off with a Regimental Party, held by kind permission of the P.M.C. of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. This really went with a swing. Signalman Clapper earned fame by his rendering of " The Ball of Kirrie," and a host of others entertained in song and rhyme.

Colonel Vigers, our Honorary Colonel, came down on the Friday and stayed overnight. Without exception, everyone stated that they had had a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive week.

We broke camp on the Saturday and returned without incident. After off-loading, etc., the Drill Hall once again assumed its quiet and restful atmosphere at about 1700 hrs.

We have now settled down to a winter programme designed to lead, early next year, to Trade Boards.

In the social sphere, we start our winter session with a dance on 9th October. All ex-members and friends will be most welcome. Come along and see us at play.

No. 2 Squadron take their bow this month, commanded by Major R. C. Watson, with Captain H. Mote, Lieutenant E. V. R. Svensson, S.Q.M.S. Ludgate, Sergeant Ching, Lance-Corporals Evans and Alexander, and Signalmen Cooper and Cuss.

" Red Hot News."—News has just come through that our six entries for the T.A. and the N.S.R.A. Inter-Services Competition, 1948, were all accepted, and Lieutenant Burrows tied for top place.

On that note we leave you, and in conclusion hope that all other T.A. Regiments enjoyed their Annual Camp.

October

The Regiment entered two teams for the London District Motor Cycle Trials held at Bagshot on 26th September. Our " A " team made third place and Sergeant L. W. Hussey obtained a third individual award—a really first-class show which reflects highly on their training and enthusiasm. Incidentally, we were the only Signal Regiment to be placed.

We had another Sunday out shooting at Ash Vale Ranges, where those who had not qualified for their bounty at annual camp were given the opportunity of doing so. The weather was much kinder to us this time and a good day was had by all.

A Regimental Dance was held on 9th October, and even though accommodation was disrupted slightly, due to renovations, a good crowd was present and everyone appeared to have had an enjoyable evening. These dances are held regularly once a month at Fulham House and all Corps types are heartily welcomed. Incidentally, it was very nice to see Colonel J. G. Christopher again, who, with his wife, gave us the pleasure of their company at the dance.

We have the decorators in ! This will conjure up visions of bare boards, ladders, paint brushes and the usual depressing equipment of a decorator—we have 'em all. Anyway, from the look of things we shall be quite smart one of these days.

Training progresses well and the present plan leads to a Trade Board next April or sooner if possible. By that time we hope to have most of our tradesmen up to Class 2 standard.

Here's to the next time.

SVEN

22 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Liverpool

October

Quite some time has elapsed since a contribution from this Unit was published in THE WIRE, so perhaps a brief résumé of who we are and what we have been doing since our inception may be of interest to readers who might otherwise think we are a private army.

We are commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Ellison, M.B.E., T.D., Royal Signals, who first joined the Unit in 1933, when it was known as 55 Divisional Signals, T.A. Our Adjutant is Captain L. J. Brunnen, Royal Signals, of the Regular Army, to whom we offer our congratulations on his recent engagement.

The Headquarters, together with Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons, are housed in the T.A. Centre, Score Lane, whilst No. 4 Squadron is at Prescot, a matter of six or seven miles from Liverpool.

From our inception in May, 1947, until July, 1948, a fairly intensive programme of training organised by the Chief Instructor, Captain C. I. Mathieson, has been carried out on every Tuesday and Thursday evening (our training nights). The culmination of this training was our eight-day camp at Chester. One of the highlights of the camp was the D.R. trial. It has been said that in a stiff trial course nature offers a similar sort of challenge to a D.R. as she does in a mountain to a climber. All our D.R.s accepted the challenge and we feel all would have been successful were it not for the fact that nature brought up her big guns in the shape of a violent wind and heavy rain. The winner, who deserves heartily congratulating for putting up a magnificent performance over a very stiff course, was Lance-Corporal Lloyd. A word of praise is due also to P.S.I. Sergeant Hiscott, in charge of D.R.s, who by his own keenness and enthusiasm sets a high standard for the D.R. to emulate, but it is a standard which the D.R.s themselves are rapidly attaining.

Whilst on the subject of camp, may we thank Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., Royal Signals, and all ranks of Western Command Signal Regiment who did so much to make our first camp the success it was.

We now have a Cadet Unit, commanded by our Quartermaster, Captain F. C. W. Bennett, who also, as chairman of the Junior Ranks' Club, helped to get the first social going with a swing. All present voted it a huge success and it is hoped it will be a regular feature in the future. At these socials members can bring wives, children and friends along, and suitable games, food, drinks and entertainment for all are provided.

In closing this month's contribution, may we say that we are 105 strong but what we lack in numbers we amply make up for in enthusiasm, and if any keen men from Liverpool read this and have not yet joined the T.A., what about coming to see us? We can assure you of an enjoyable time with the Unit.

INBUR

62 H.Q. L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Chester

September

General. Almost month-end again. A deep sigh of contentment is emitted from yours truly, for the end of September will see our Regimental H.Q. happily settled down in our new abode. Lache Park Camp is the new venue. Already gardening tools have been produced, notice boards erected and plans for the comfort of our T.A. Unit discussed. In the near future it is hoped that our Officers' and Sergeants' Mess will function with the same old spirit as in days of yore.

We welcome the arrival of Junior Commander M. Foster and Sergeant Marjorie Gardiner, both ex Western Command (M) Signal Regiment. Our office has brightened considerably since their advent. Funny how a bunch of flowers can appear when the ladies get busy. Should there be time and space in next month's notes, I'd dearly love to write a short story on " A.T.S., T.A.," or " Marjorie's Indenting Dilemma." All joking apart, here's wishing them every success, and if I had half a jug I would drink to a prolonged and happy stay with us.

In conclusion, please let me remind everyone to call in and see us in Chester any time they are around. There's a wee gardening fork awaiting me around the corner, so cheerio, cheerio !

CESTRIAN

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT T.A. (THE KENSINGTON REGIMENT)

Hammersmith Road

November

On the evening of Friday, 24th September, the Regiment went down to Bisley for 48 hours' training. Saturday was devoted to trade training, most of which was performed out of doors owing to the lovely weather. On Sunday Headquarters was set up in the area and the patrols broke new ground in the neighbourhood of Beaconsfield, where the Royal Saracen's Head was found to be an excellent rendezvous. Apart from this, our training has been carried on regularly every Wednesday.

There was a Phantom reunion at Headquarters on Saturday, 25th September. Unfortunately, this was not well publicised and numbers were small. It was, however, a good party and we hope to see some more old faces when we hold the next one around Christmas.

The Officers' Mess held a cocktail party on 3rd October, which was a great success. All officers and their wives welcomed the opportunity of meeting the Honorary Colonel, General Sir Colville Wemyss, and Lady Wemyss.

Ex-Corps members who have joined the Regiment during the month include Signalmen C. D. Range, Goode, Blackburn, S. H. Barlow and J. Wayman.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Sunday, 3rd October, was the day decided upon for our trip to Brighton, and it proved to be a very good choice. The weather experts did their best and as we set off from the Drill Hall at 0930 hrs. a beaming sun was shining in a cloudless sky.

The party numbered 29; this included members, their wives and families, plus a few lady friends for the unmarried members. Stowed in the back of the coach was our sustenance for the journey in the form of a few crates of beer. Due to the difficulty of members arriving in time, we were a little late in setting off, but this did not damp our spirits. Arriving at Brighton at 1245 hrs., we proceeded to the " Top Hat " Restaurant, where lunch had been reserved for us. This was well arranged and thoroughly enjoyable. One quartet, two members and two smashing blondes, arrived very late for lunch and appeared anxious to explain how they had got lost. Of course, nobody believed them, and by the way they sailed into their lunch we are inclined to think that they did not expect anyone to do so.

After lunch we split up into small parties, which went their own ways. Some headed for fun fairs, etc., while the others made a dead line for the beach.

At 1830 hrs. we all met again at the place of parade appointed by the coach driver and set off on the return journey. A welcome stop was made at the " Talbot," in Cuckfield. The place was ideal and we soon filled the lounge, Sergeant Greaves obliging on the piano. Sergeant Baker sang a few songs to keep the ladies amused, thus giving the men a chance to sneak up to the bar and grab a few crafty pints. The stay, of necessity, had to be short, and we were once again on our way. The usual songs were struck up and in no time we found ourselves at Headquarters. Adjournment was made to the Mess so that members could fortify themselves for the journey to their respective abodes. Ultimately we all proceeded on our ways in a very expansive mood.

One incident of note was the fact that S.S.M. Lloyd organised a competition on the way down whereby sections of the wheel of the coach were numbered and members held corresponding numbers. An arrow was put on the mudguard, the idea being that the number nearest to the arrow when we stopped at Brighton collected the sum. There was a general scramble at the stop to see who was lucky. On the number being called, a voice (*that of the organiser*) at the rear of the coach piped up with the remark that he had got it. It is noted that S.S.M. Lloyd looked after the driver very well during our stay at Cuckfield.

50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

August

It is pleasant in these times to find something considered good in the old days showing every sign of recapturing its reputation—a compliment which several independent observers paid to this unit during its annual training at Whitby from 24th July to 6th August.

Unfortunately, only an inner was registered on the target of a strength of 100 in camp, but it was sufficient of a near miss not to matter. Everything else hit the bull—good weather, an excellent standing camp, a most co-operative permanent camp staff, and, with practically everyone a working number, a remarkable amount of work. The scale of rations and the standard of the cooking fattened all ranks for the kill, and the C.O. must have succeeded beyond his wildest dreams in justifying the issue of the special extra rations for heavy work. However, we have now had time to rest and recover, and there is no ill feeling, nor, for that matter, any ill effect.

Our activities seemed to create quite a stir of interest. Our visitors included the G.O.C., 50th (N) Division (Major-General C. F. Loewen, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.), the C.S.O., Northern Command (Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E.), the D.D.M.T., the B.G.S., Northern Command, the Brigade Commander, 150 Infantry Brigade, the A.D.M.S., Northumbrian Area, and the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Durham and North Riding T.A. Associations.

The first Officers' guest night was noteworthy in that C.O.s of the Unit (Colonel A. MacLeod, Brigadier G. H. Walton, Brigadier Sheffield and Lieutenant-Colonel Percival), covering all the years from 1925 onwards, were present, with gaps only in respect of 1941 and 1943-45. It was remarkable, too, that they all still looked young enough to be on the strength, and they proved it by their activity. We were also delighted to number General Sir Colville Wemyss amongst our guests on another occasion and to be able to drink a farewell toast to Brigadier Straight.

Refraining again from boasting (or moaning) about the amount of work, it should be recorded that No. 1 Squadron (Darlington) excelled in the sports department; No. 2 Squadron (Middlesbrough) in the drill, etc., competitions;

Front row (left to right): Captain (Q.M.) N. A. Norcross, M.B.E., Major G. F. H. Walker, O.B.E., Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. (Honorary Colonel), Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, T.D. (Commanding Officer), Major W. A. Lee, O.B.E., Major G. R. Thompson, Captain T. B. McVicker, Royal Signals (Adjutant). Back row (left to right): Lieutenant J. R. Colley, Captain D. A. Smith, Captain A. Watson, Captain J. F. Everett, Lieutenant A. A. Edwards, Captain K. A. Stone, Lieutenant E. L. Smith, Lieutenant H. C. Mattock

and No. 3 Squadron (Gateshead) gained much notoriety by their rendering of "Ich Spiel Die Musikale," which swept Whitby as the song of the year and brought much extra custom to the Squadron's favourite pub. Congratulations to Signalman J. Elliot for earning the cup for the cleanest and smartest man on parade. The competitions were judged by our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., who spent several days with us and was a most welcome visitor, though none of us regarded him as a visitor.

The sports day on the middle Saturday was an unqualified success, blessed with perfect weather and an attendance of about 300. One of the Never-die Brigade, aged 70, insisted on sprinting in the old crocks' race and immediately afterwards pulling in a tug-of-war—they must have made 'em tough in Queen Victoria's golden days! On the Sunday the officers and ex-officers played off the Unit Golf Bowl, and rumour has it that Captain Everett did, in fact, complete nine holes before nightfall with only one replenishment of balls. On a subsequent guest night, Brigadier Fairweather was suitably presented with the reward for his successful exertions, and it would be invidious to decide which was more impressive—the mashie drill of the Subaltern Guard of Honour or the Band of Major Walker and his (for the night) bugle.

Still avoiding the work question, much more could be written, but the last word shall be of the excellence of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. With R.S.M. Grant (Geordie) as president, and Sergeant (Mick) Henry (1916-?) as caterer, it reached pre-war standards in the opinion of all of its 22 members. This, indeed, was really the best thing about the whole business—the way in which the Unit slid into its old and proud groove without fuss or flap, to prove that 50th Divisional Signals still does its damnedest at work and play, at every level and as a team, and enjoys itself in doing so.

Birth of a Signal Office. 1/20 Army Signals, T.A., Birmingham

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Birmingham

October

"Recruiting Rush Beats Target" screams a headline in my daily paper. Well, I must confess that I haven't seen a great deal of pushing and struggling to enlist here. Nevertheless there is a very definite increase in the number of enlistments and enquiries, which encourages one to hope that the more intelligent members of the community are beginning to wake up. Most of the new arrivals declare that they wish they had come before, having seen what a first-class crowd we already have. There is a well-equipped Signal Office built and furnished by the members of the Unit. We are fortunate in having some extremely useful G.P.O. men with us, and they certainly take pride in their work. I must get you a picture of the Signal Office one day. The Wireless Room should interest radio fans, amongst whom I am all at sea. I must apologise for mistaking the 53 Set for a 1.8 kw. charging set. They are the same colour anyway, and that counts with me. Nearly as bad as the recruit who asked for a lorry to collect two "110" telephones way back in 1938. All right, skip it.

Through!

Another trip to Kingsbury Ranges in remarkably fine September weather enabled some of us to improve our scores with a No. 4 rifle. Six bulls in concussion—succession, rather—helped to restore a little self-respect on the rapid practice. The remaining four inners lowered it again. Then we saw some civilian club members wearing elbow pads and bush hats. They had enough special equipment to start a British Industries Fair but seemed to be scoring magpies and outers mostly. So we had a mug of tea and felt a lot happier. Which simply goes to show.

We have had no visitors during the past month so must turn to Unit notes for news of friends. When the Signals Association hold their Annual Armistice Dance in the Drill Hall at Cateswell House on 12th November we shall expect to see a very large number of friends. We always do. Our own Saturday night dances are a great success and we are still trying to convert a proportion of the many gent's natty suitings into battledress. It is a pity that we do not have A.T.S. here. There are many excellent types who are regular patrons of our dances. They often enquire about the possibility of joining, but only if they can come to Cateswell House. I hope they won't think that we don't want them. What a pity the Territorial Army is not featured a little more on the wireless. Wilfred Pickles could find some good material in the drill halls. Let the idea sink in, B.B.C. There would be no lack of volunteers to answer questions. We are not particularly modest. Or we might write our own script. What a chance for someone, but not yours truly, with the annual audit of stores hanging over my head like the whatsname of that well-known bloke whose name escapes me for the moment. You probably read about the Grand Prix motor race at Silverstone on 2nd October, and perhaps even saw some of it. The communications for that highly successful meeting were provided by this Regiment. Nearly all the Permanent Staff were engaged, and a very nice job they made of it. A letter of thanks and appreciation from the Secretary of the Royal Automobile Club has been received by the Commanding Officer. The relieving P.S.I.s due here in the spring of 1949 will find that they have quite a reputation to live up to. And now, if we are to show ourselves in the November WIRE, we must get a move on. Be good and keep an eye on your radiators.

BARLEUX

51st L. of C. Signal Regiment

Since our last epistle appeared in THE WIRE, we have had a number of activities, including an interesting and enjoyable annual training.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held their first full-scale dance, which was voted by all present as an exceptionally good start to what is hoped will be a long series of similar functions.

In April, the Regiment sent a large contingent of Officers to the Eastern Command signal exercise "Spearhead" at the Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow. One Officer of the Regiment attended the opening lecture on the Friday evening and was absent for the rest of the week-end. There was some speculation as to the reason for this extraordinary show of keenness, but nobody guessed the reason—he had been having some trouble with a psychiatrist, who whipped him into hospital on the Saturday morning! Which only goes to show that even after demobilisation the Army still has a hold on one.

On 20th July, 1948, the following appeared in the Supplement to the "London Gazette":

"Major-General Sir Hubert Elvin Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., to be Honorary Colonel, 51st L. of C. Signal Regiment, 28th May, 1948, vice Colonel J. Waley Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., deceased."

We are extremely fortunate to have one of the most distinguished officers of the Corps as our Honorary Colonel, and we are determined to justify such a privilege. Colonel Waley Cohen had been a very great help to us since our inception, and on his death, a few days previously, the Regiment lost an old and valued friend. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family in this sad loss.

Our A.T.S. Company now has a permanent O.C. in Junior Commander Peggy Nalder, who arrived on 26th May. Recruiting has been going on apace and it will not be long before our A.T.S. have outstripped the male members of the Regiment in numbers. A visit from their Group Commander, Chief Commander Lady Bowyer-Smyth, made us feel that we are now firmly established in the A.T.S. world.

It was a great pleasure to learn that Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth had been appointed C.S.O., London District. He is well known to some of our senior officers and we feel that we shall not be neglected in high places while he remains C.S.O.

In August we moved to Canterbury for our first annual training. Attached to the Eastern Command Signal Regiment, we were given every possible assistance from Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Barker, O.B.E., and his small but very willing band of helpers. The week passed quickly and everyone seemed to regret going home again. A great deal was crammed into the six working days, two whole-day schemes, two afternoons on the open range, an official visit from Lieutenant-General Sir James Steele, the Adjutant General, and an unusually good dinner on the last evening, to which came some of our Officers who had gone on courses this year instead of coming to annual training.

The week was a good opportunity for us to settle down and get to know each other. From this and many other points of view, it was extremely successful. We returned feeling that we are now all set for the future.

Our drill nights started again on the following Tuesday, and, as usual, we were at full strength. Our new training programme will take us to Christmas. (There is a lot to be said for our present T.A.—everyone is mad keen and there are never any absentees at any function, whether work or pleasure.)

The Adjutant, Captain G. J. C. Summer, has departed on posting to B.A.O.R., and he goes with our best wishes to continue his career. We welcome Captain B. D. Elsmore from the School of Signals at Catterick. It would be sufficient in itself to have a son of the legendary Bert, and now that we have seen Bruce, we feel that we are indeed fortunate in our new Adjutant. We also welcome W.O.I M. Cunningham as our new R.S.M.

It can be seen that we are now all ready for whatever comes next. There are still vacancies for N.C.O.s with the right experience, and any potential recruits will always be welcome at Signal House, Atkins Road, on Tuesday evenings. Any pre-war or war-time member of the Corps is bound to find someone he knows amongst us. Eighth Army, 21st Army Group, India, the Far East, Greece and the Airborne Divisions are all represented.

51st L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A., at camp in Canterbury, 14th-21st August, 1948

On the 4th September a Regimental dance was a good opening to the winter season. It was a large gathering and some 400 people enjoyed dancing on our excellent floor. We have a lot to offer potential members, and when we move to the City there will be the new H.Q. as well. The C.O. can then feel justifiably pleased with us (and himself!) for all the preparatory work done in the past year.

56 LONDON ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(City of London Signals)
London, S.W.12

OUR PART IN THE T.A. RECRUITING DRIVE IN SOUTH LONDON

October

The drive started in our particular part of South London on Monday, 11th October. It was opened at Wandsworth Town Hall on the evening of the 11th October, and we were fortunate in having the presence of General Sir Robert Mansergh, Colonel Newman, V.C., Mr. Richard Adams, M.P., and other notable personages on the platform that night.

For our own part, we started more quietly with a direct appeal for recruits for this Unit on the screens of most of the local cinemas and a recruiting tour, with the A.C.V. suitably placarded, round the area of the Drill Hall.

Our first real effort was made on Wednesday, 13th October, when the Unit was "at home" in the Drill Hall in Balham. This took the form of a social evening, with darts, billiards, table tennis and open bars in the Canteen and Sergeants' Mess. We did, however, mix business with pleasure and had the walls of the Drill Hall lined with tables, on which we laid out the wireless stations used in an Armoured Division. We also opened our amateur wireless room and rifle range for inspection.

In the Officers' Mess a cocktail party was arranged, and we were fortunate indeed in having the presence of Brigadier and Mrs. Willway at this function.

Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D., who is now Honorary Colonel of this Regiment, has a long and distinguished association with the Unit, and has a fund of experience and knowledge from which we frequently draw with great advantage. The evening as a whole was a great success, and in the Drill Hall were many interested people whom we hope will now join the Unit.

The real climax of the campaign came on the afternoon of Saturday, 16th October, when all the local Units of the T.A. took part in a great display on Clapham Common. The layout was good and the public had the opportunity of seeing many and varied types of equipment in general use throughout the Army today.

For our part we had on show the Golden Arrow, kindly lent to us by No. 4 Training Regiment, from Catterick. This was a great attraction, as it was undoubtedly the first time a large section of the public had seen such a comprehensive item of Signal equipment. In addition, we had our A.C.V. for people to look over, a three-ton lorry complete with charging equipment, a jeep station and a marquee tent, the inside of which was divided into two parts. On one side was laid out the 18 set, the 38, the 19 and 22, and their modern equivalents, the 88, the 31 and 62 set. On the other side of the tent was a mock up of the interior of an A.C.V.

Throughout the afternoon a series of live displays was given in the arena. The King's Troop of the R.H.A., a R.E.M.E. jeep assembly team and a R.A.F. fly-past all took part in this. For us this was the highlight of the week, for we had a motor cycle display team taking part. Unfortunately, we were at the end of the afternoon and the weather was beginning to break. But when the team entered the arena and started their display, such was the high standard of the performance that, despite the rain, the crowd grew larger and larger, and finally gave the team the terrific ovation which was their due. This was an entirely Territorial effort and hours of training at week-ends had gone into its making.

I have heard many who saw both shows say that there was little to choose between this display on Clapham Common and that at Olympia earlier in the year.

This Regiment has a reputation for producing fine display teams, and as I write this article I have in front of me two examples of the milestones in its history. Firstly, an illustrated book showing the performances of the display team which took part in the Royal Tournament at Olympia in May and June, 1937, and secondly, a very tattered copy of the *Eighth Army News*, dated 21st June, 1945, congratulating the team on its display held at Fraifell, Gradisca.

We feel we upheld this tradition last Saturday and have great hopes for the future.

38 A.A. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.
Rotherham

September

A day was spent on the Totley Range in beautiful autumn sunshine. The new recruits did quite well. After twice being given strawberries and cream, one man scored a bull with his next shot and an inner at three o'clock on his neighbour's target.

Signalman and Mrs. Foers, recently married, were guests of honour at our monthly social. The invitation was extended to the relatives of the happy couple, and O.C. Squadron presented gifts on behalf of their comrades.

During the month the A.T.S. visited the C.I.D., Wakefield, under arrangements made by Subaltern D. G. Fieldhouse. The photography section, fingerprints and modus operandi departments were visited, and the visit proved entirely successful. On the return journey a rounders game was organised, providing some hilarious incidents.

Our second week-end camp took place at Lodge Moor P.O.W. Camp, in conjunction with 37 Squadron, of Leeds. A Brigade Signal Office Scheme was organised and the D.R.s revelled in the mud on the rough riding course.

National Recruiting Week saw A.T.S. members of the Squadron on duty at a stall in the foyer of the local cinema. So far the response has been worthy of the effort, but it is felt that interest in the T.A. is still not sufficiently aroused among the civilian population.

No. 14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, TA.
Liverpool

September

As was mentioned in our last contribution, the Unit took part in the installation and maintenance, not forgetting the actual operation, of the line communications at the Liverpool Tattoo.

Good work was performed by both Permanent Staff and T.A. personnel. Even those only able to attend on one of the three nights, and therefore on duty in the nether regions, enjoyed the work and became quite adept at dealing with small boys whose one ambition was to see "how it works," and in acting as foster-mother to lost children who somehow got directed to the Signal Office.

Official figures show that over 100,000 people visited the tattoo; on one occasion it seemed as if they were all in the Signals Exhibition at the same time!

We regret to announce the resignation, through ill health, of W.O.II L. G. Easdown, A.T.S., noted as the first A.T.S.

to join any Territorial Unit with her husband on 1st May last year.

We wish to congratulate Corporal J. Dow, 33 Squadron, on the birth of a daughter on 17th July. Congratulations also to Sergeant E. Griffiths, who married Private Dorothy Chapman, A.T.S., on 21st August, and Corporal C. T. A. Law, who married Corporal Lilian May Matthews, A.T.S., all being active members of this Unit.

Social activities start on Saturday, 9th October, with a Sergeants' Mess Dance, which should open the season with a big bang (or at any rate splash) and should whet the appetite of all for further entertainment.

Like a famous firm of advertisers, we have "Branches in all large towns," our parish now covering Liverpool, Manchester, Cardiff, Newport and Runcorn.

No. 12 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Bristol

September

The Regiment's annual camp took place at Haxland, on the fringe of the New Forest, near the Solent, from 25th July to 8th August. It was an excellent site and particularly well suited to our requirements, although perhaps a little distant from the nearest "local." We are afraid that we shall be forced to go elsewhere next year as our strength has risen well beyond the capacity of the camp.

There is no doubt that everyone enjoyed themselves and we are most grateful to our C.S.O., who by arrangement with the Weather Clerk ensured that the camp coincided with the only heat-wave of the year.

Training went extremely well and by the end of the fortnight over 60 trade ratings were gained.

Outings to visit Portsmouth Dockyard, R.A.F. Station, Calshot, Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight were a great success. As the camp was only ten minutes' walk from the Solent, bathing was a most popular pastime. About a third of the Unit passed the rigorous swimming test set by the Colonel.

The weather, which had been unbelievably kind, was not good on our sports day. Although a number of heats in the team games were played, the main items had to be abandoned. We all regretted that the baseball match, Officers' Mess *versus* the Ladies of the Cookhouse, could not be played. The similarity of the baseball bat to the rolling pin may account for such good players amongst the A.T.S. cooks. The other A.T.S. were also most adept at this game.

We would like to record our appreciation of the work done by the party from 2 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, who prepared the camp for us. This happy band of stalwarts, who called themselves the "Glow-worms," contributed in no small way to the success of the camp.

The undoubted highlight of the camp was the concert held in the local village hall at the end of the second week. Nobody had guessed that the Unit possessed such an array of talented entertainers, and great credit is due to all concerned in arranging this memorable performance.

Our visitors included Major-General Dewing, G.O.C. 2 A.A. Group, Brigadier Rogers, C.S.O. A.A. Command, and Lieutenant-Colonel McGregor, C.S.O. 2 A.A. Group.

This camp was the first occasion on which the Regiment had been together as a whole and everyone regretted having to part and return to our widely scattered drill halls or to be up to date, should they be called T.A. Centres ?

Since the camp we have been busy getting the decks cleared for the T.A. Recruiting Drive, and already a 10 per cent. increase has been achieved.

Finally I would like to say how pleased we were to see our old friends the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team once again, who visited most of our areas and gave their usual excellent show.

IMPOSTOR

No. 11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our last notes came from Langham whilst we were halfway through our camp. The second week of camp was even more successful than the first and there was a general feeling of regret when the Q.M. began calling in the bedding so early in the morning after the "last night" celebrations.

The D.R. Trials resulted in a win for 23 Squadron, with Signalman Parker securing first place in the individual competition. The D.R.s are now preparing themselves for the London District Motor Cycle Trials on 26th September.

The A.T.S. Drill Competition was keenly contested and won by the 22 Squadron team under Corporal Colombo. (Sergeant Jim Kirby's heel ball and elbow grease was rewarded.)

R.S.M. "Mungo" Park left for Civvy Street with flying colours after a nocturnal episode of which the less said the better. Sergeant Walker has recently joined us from the 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment and is settling himself in with the Norwich Detachment.

Since camp our canteens have been doing a roaring trade, particularly at Brompton Road, where consumption has increased fourfold. Major Sard is already building up a huge stock in preparation for the night that the bounties are paid out.

TWO-O-SIX

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, T.A.
Signal Unit

October

Undergraduates of this University are now numbered among those recruits who have joined the newly-formed U.T.C. (T.A.). Owing to the nation-wide recruiting drive and also, maybe, to the smoothly-worded pamphlet composed by the Permanent Staff and sent to each "fresher," we have trebled our strength. We hereby send warning to all West Country "hams" to clear the air on Wednesdays and Sundays.

To all cadets who have left us and are now doing their National Service in Catterick and O.C.T.U.s we send greetings and remind you that the office door at 22 Berkeley Square is always open to you.

The annual bounty was paid out last week and we swear that tears of unbelieving joy and gratitude shone in the eyes even of the hardened and hard-up medical types.

The annual camp this year was in the form of an attachment to the Royal Marines at Blarrick, near Torpoint, in Cornwall. Situated almost on the seashore, it was ideal both for training and recreation. Our wireless and cable trucks became familiar sights on this stretch of the beautiful Cornish coast, and despite some tricky local conditions, all schemes were highly successful. The climax of two weeks' hard work came when Major W. C. Burke, S.O., South-Western District, conducted the Certificate "B" (Signals) examination, in which all cadets were successful. Another highlight was the first T.A. pay parade, which was celebrated in true student fashion.

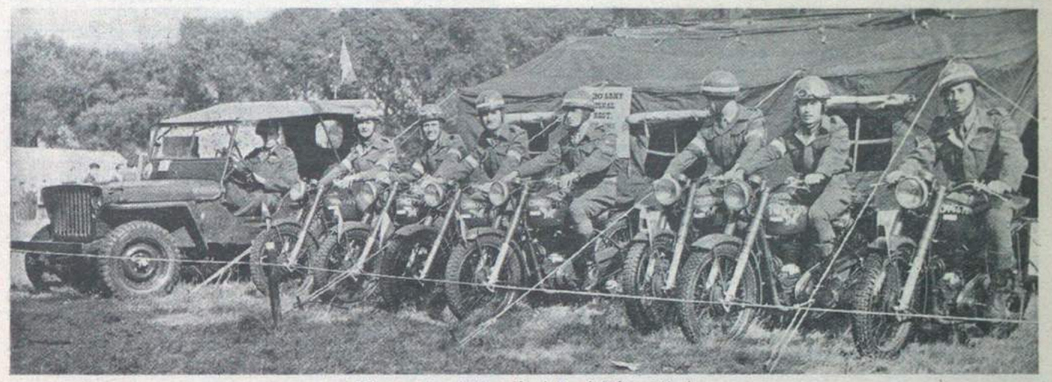
The two members of the Permanent Staff are Captain W. T. M. Gaskell, Royal Signals, who is shortly leaving on a pre-university course at Catterick, and S.S.M. R. D. Francis, who sends salaams to all who knew him in India and Burma, 1937-45.

KAY

Do you know the address of your local Branch of the Signals Association? If not, write to the General Secretary, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

No. 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

LONDON, E.11



Wanstead and Woodford Road Safety Week

October

The activities of this Unit, in common with all others, have been concentrated on the National Recruiting Drive. The H.Q. of the North-West Essex campaign has been made at our Centre, and the several meetings held have all been well attended, and much has been arranged and proposed to cover the next six months.

Unit activity has been in no way neglected, and our various training programmes are well under way.

We have been much encouraged by the arrival of recruits, and from camp till the first week in October our strength has increased by 25 men and women. We have not so far had the benefit of the present campaign, so we are very hopeful. The Drill Hall (or should I say "Centre"?) is liberally beflagged and posted, and the P.S.I.s, under R.S.M. Payne, have put in a lot of hard work pruning trees in the grounds so that we can be more readily seen from the roadway.

Week-end camps have been very popular, the most interesting being that of No. 1 Squadron. Twenty-five officers and men spent the week-end in Epping Forest putting up two miles of line of varying types. They slept rough in the Drill Hall (or Centre) and were fed by four volunteers from our A.T.S., who with one exception were not experienced in what amounted almost to field cooking. They made a very good job of it too. The camp went off without incident, unless one can consider the disturbance of true love in one of the deeper glades by an exactly sited pole as being an incident. The affair would probably have assumed greater proportions had it not been for the expert handling of Major "Jimmie" James, a pastmaster in such affairs and their solution.

On Sunday, 3rd October, a pleasant day was spent on the ranges at Purfleet. The shooting was not as good as we hoped for but good enough to enable those who had not previously qualified to do so.

One of the most pleasing features of our intake of recruits has been the arrival of several old friends. We sincerely hope that this is a feature that will be steadily maintained.

We put on a small show during the Wanstead and Woodford Road Safety Week. Two teleprinters and wireless stations were rigged up. They were very popular and several ex-Signals types got their hands in again. Our D.R.s gave quite an impressive show; their turn-out was first class.

UNDERGRADUATES IN THE T.A.
By **R. D. FRANCIS**

EARLY this year all University Contingents of the Senior Training Corps became Units of the T.A. with the new title "University Training Corps (T.A.)." Students may enlist for two, three or four years and are entitled to the same rates of pay, bounty and allowances as other members of the T.A.

The object of the U.T.C. scheme is mainly to give basic military training to those students who have had their whole-time military service deferred and to give them every assistance in preparation for their National Service. In addition, ex-Service students may be given special training with a view to obtaining T.A. commissions and ex-officers trained as Staff officers.

Each contingent has its own Regular Army P.S.O.s, W.O.s and N.C.O.s, and has a generous allotment of vehicles and equipment. One Infantry Company and one Royal Signals Sub-Unit is common to all establishments, but the larger universities have R.A., R.E. and R.A.C. elements in addition.

The Signal Sub-Unit is designed to give a general training in the principles of signalling, and more especially in the role of the Infantry Brigade Signal Troop and the R.A. Regiment Signal Troop. Besides the use of other Signal equipment, it includes the deployment and maintenance of light line equipment, also radio, both static and mobile.

A number of "freshers" joining the U.T.C. (T.A.) have received previous training up to Certificate "A" standard from their old schools J.T.C. and A.C.F., and welcome, indeed, from the Signals standpoint are those who wear the crossed flags of the classified signaller. During the present recruiting drive, before the commencement of the university year, a pleasing feature has been the number of ex-Service students who have signed on. These will form a backbone that will strengthen and enhance all contingents throughout the country.

It is hoped that training these young students in the helpful and happy atmosphere of the U.T.C. will make them valuable members of the T.A. for many years to come.

Fishing on the Swale

MY first introduction to Catterick was grim. Feet and feet of snow and more to come. The camp was buried for days, the buses couldn't get out of the depot, and everyone in the place clearing roads. That was early on in the war. They were happy days, though, and I never regret my three years' duty there. The happy companionship of the Mess, the team spirit of the O.C.T.U., and above all the Corps.

This article, however, is about fishing, particularly the Swale, a river of super fish, magnificent scenery, and full of natural history. Since those early days I have fished many rivers in England, Scotland and abroad, but to my mind there is only one river worth fishing, and that is the Swale.

The fishing available within easy reach of the camp is from Catterick Bridge Hotel to Marske Bridge. It is controlled by the Bridge Hotel, Easby Abbey Estates and the Richmond Angling Society. Day tickets can be obtained on these stretches and any fair methods can be used. In my opinion the best part of the river lies between the Swimming Pool above Richmond and Marske Bridge, and this is for fly fishing only.

To anyone taking up fishing the first question is cost of tackle. It is possible to buy very cheap equipment, but my advice is buy the best. I am still using tackle purchased over eight years ago, and it is as good as the day it was bought. My fly rod has stood up to a week's salmon fishing in Scotland and is being used again this week for the same purpose, proof that quality pays. Go to a good dealer and get his advice, and you won't be let down.

I am not writing this as a lesson on how to fish because I am still learning. After many years at the game, I am always finding out something new. I do recommend, however, a book on trout fishing written by H. D. Turing, which will not only put the beginner on the right road but has many useful tips for the average angler. If anyone is sufficiently interested to contact the Secretary of the Richmond Club, he will get the best advice possible, and any member will be only too pleased to take the novice with him and show him the ropes.

At the time of writing trout are out of season, but between the Old Bridge at Richmond and Easby Abbey there is some of the finest grayling fishing in England. I can thoroughly recommend fishing here for these fish. More than one kind of grayling has been caught in this stretch of the Swale, as I know to my dismay, for the C.O. was once presented with a chub for breakfast.

Finally, I would like to wish newcomers to Catterick the best of sport, tight lines, and the good fellowship it was my privilege to have when stationed there.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Branch Notes

Birmingham *October*

Perhaps I had better start by telling you what I remember of the Birmingham branch annual dinner. It will not do to remind you of the huge membership of this branch in case you should be surprised and possibly astonished to learn that approximately 110 members sat down to an excellent meal, the main item of which was roast beef and Yorkshire. On this pleasant evening of 2nd October we regretted the absence of the other 800 or so members who had prior engagements. We were delighted to have as our guest of honour Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., and we trust that this will be the first of many visits. Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., our Branch President, proposed the loyal toast. Thereafter, speeches of considerable interest and commendable brevity were made by Major Frank Braine, Mr. Carl Brown (Assistance and Welfare), Captain Ralph Ironmonger (Hon. Secretary) and Colonel A. W. Roberts, who interested us all very much with an explanation of the work done by Association Headquarters. We shall do well, he told us, to remember that the primary object of the Association is to help some of our less fortunate comrades. We hope, of course, that we shall never need such help ourselves. The amount of hardship is indeed surprising.

Messages of apology for enforced absence and wishes for the success of the evening were received from Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., who was confined to his bed by an unsympathetic doctor. From Major Martin Chatterley, T.D., who was in Brussels detained on business (it said in the message). Colonel J. W. Danielson, D.S.O., T.D., was particularly sorry to have missed this gathering but his business affairs took him to Canada. He will be glad to know that we had a most enjoyable evening and that his name in particular brought forth a special cheer from the old gentlemen of the 1914-18 R.E. Signals, who were present in considerable force. Bless their curly locks. As Ralph so truly said, "But for them there would have been no Birmingham branch for us to build on in 1945." Colonel M. E. Holdsworth and Colonel P. H. Jones, M.C., T.D., were there looking as though time had dealt lightly with them. Major David Allen hasn't altered very much. Lieutenant Bob Danielsen looks rather heavier than when he arrived home from a tour in the Offlags. Cyril Goffe and Bill Galpin remain unchanged, and in civvies. Shame! A large clique of old 48th Divisional Signals got together and some history became even more garbled. Mr. Carl Brown, after talking about the welfare work with which he deals so efficiently, handed Colonel Roberts a cheque for fifteen guineas as a contribution to the Benevolent Fund. Space does not permit a full report of the interesting speeches made, even if I could be sure of your interest outside Birmingham, but Brigadier E. A. James voiced the thoughts of many when he said that today one finds most of the *esprit de corps* amongst the Old Comrades and, of course, with the long service Regular soldiers who will eventually become Old Comrades themselves.

Now, having taken up so much of your time, if you are still reading, let us go back to the monthly meeting, which, believe it or not, took place on the last Thursday in September at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street. You know, the place most members think about on the last Friday or the first Saturday in the month. Well, this time some of you really did miss a grand gathering. I haven't seen such a jolly crowd for a long time. All back from their holidays perhaps. Major Max Keeling, looking very fit, paid us a visit. Captain E. H. "Pop" Offord also took us by surprise. Both were more than welcome. Mr. H. M. Watson, on a business visit from London, was vastly entertained. Mr. S. H. Atkins, a newcomer, claims to have run across country in company with Joe Cotterell. Where is Joe anyway? Ex-C.S.M. Bob Arnott wants to know where Lieutenant John Richardson hides. The one who commanded 35 Signal Park. Mr. D. W. Wright enquires for Lieutenant (T.M.O.) Stevenson, once of 8 Corps Signals when they were at Bakewell in 1940, if they ever were.

Cheer up! I am going to refer yet again to the disheartening lack of response from hundreds of Birmingham members, many of whom apparently do not even trouble to read the informative circulars compiled and sent out by the Hon. Secretary, assisted by the ever-willing Miss Jean Hopkins, one of our A.T.S. Committee members. There is a lot of work in sending out information to one thousand addresses. I only mention this in case it hadn't occurred to you. Unless Birmingham members take more interest in our activities it is feared that the branch will slide downhill until it reaches the more solid foundation of the real enthusiasts, who number less than two hundred. An appalling thought and a tragic possibility.

It is up to all of us to gather round in force and keep this big branch on top. No one could have worked harder or for longer hours than Captain Ralph Ironmonger, and it will be a mortal blow if he should throw in his hand as hon. secretary at the end of this season. So let us have the devil of a crowd at the Crown Inn, Broad Street, on Thursday, 25th November, at 8 p.m.

Look out for our next screamingly funny instalment.

BARLEUX

Huddersfield *September*

Hon. Secretary: Mr. K. Hiley, 44 Ashenhurst Road, Newsome, Huddersfield.

The Huddersfield Branch of the Royal Signals Association has been in existence for some time now, from February, 1947, in fact, but this is the first time we have shone our light out from behind the bushel.

Huddersfield was a scene of great activity of the Corps during the war years, and our numbers include quite a few members who have decided to make it their permanent headquarters after demob., some of them even marrying the native population in the process.

Captain Frank Newman (T.M.O.) is our guiding star and presides at our meetings on the first Monday of the month at the Crown Hotel, Westgate, at 8 p.m.

At our last meeting we decided to lay on some further entertainment, and Messrs. Tute, Edwards and Hiley were duly nominated on to an entertainments committee, and providing nobody treads on our hands on the way home we will render a report on their activities in due course.

We have already survived a motor coach outing to Dunford Bridge, which was enjoyed by all taking part.

We will conclude these brief notes by extending an invitation to any member of the Corps who happens to be in Huddersfield to drop in and look us up. You will be assured of a hearty welcome, and it is quite possible you will meet someone who knows you (although you can always deny it, of course).

EEEJEE

Warrington *October*

Here is the Warrington branch calling again. Truly a little branch, but a branch whose roots have at last struck. Our first year is over with a membership of approximately 50.

There must be hundreds of ex-Signals living in our area, which consists of Runcorn and Widnes, who have never heard of our branch. How can we get the news to them? When you have finished with this copy of THE WIRE, please pass it on to your friends, and if any new friends do read of this branch, we welcome them to our monthly meeting, held at 8 o'clock on the first Monday of each month in the British Legion, Warrington. On the mention of the British Legion, I must record our gratitude to them for allowing us to use their premises for our meetings.

We held our annual general meeting on 4th October, our President, Colonel J. J. Graham, Royal Signals, presiding. The following committee was elected:—Chairman, Colonel R. Jackson, Royal Signals; Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. E. Poole; Treasurer, Mr. Mee (re-elected); Secretary, Mr. Wyke (re-elected); members, Mr. Palling, Mr. Tracey. Also a Social Committee of five members was formed, under the able guidance of Mr. Palling.

Our thanks to Mr. Bennett (ex-chairman) and to Mr. Wyke (secretary) for their hard work during the year.

The President gave a brief résumé of the year's activities and the Treasurer a brief statement of the healthy accounts. The branch has had a fairly successful social year, including a dance, two hot-pots and a games evening. All we now want is a larger membership.

We hope the Social Committee have a good programme up their sleeves, and that at the next annual general meeting we can look back and say, "An even better year than the previous one."

With the "best" to all serving and ex-members of the Corps, I say "Cheerio" for the time being.

STAPOO

Coventry and District

The branch really got into its stride for the autumn season recently when the first dance of the season was held. A very good crowd indeed turned up, equal to two-thirds of the total strength of the branch. Music was provided by the usual efficient quartet, and as an evening's fun it was one of the best we have had.

On 2nd November, in response to numerous requests, we have another of our popular coach trips, this time to Warwick. The year finishes with a "real good do on 14th December, which is the date of our annual Christmas party and dance.

For the benefit of Coventrian readers of THE WIRE who are not members of the branch as yet (and we think there must be a few), this branch meets on the first Tuesday in each month at the Charterhouse Hotel, Terry Road, Lower Stoke, at 8 p.m. Details of membership can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, I. G. Davies, "Rosemary," Upper Rosemary Hill, Kenilworth. A monthly news bulletin is issued to all members giving full details of branch activities.

Bristol *October*

This month has opened with a swing. After an initial disappointment when the skittles team lost to the Wiltshire Regiment O.C.A. on 2nd October, the much-vaunted (much-vaunted in these columns anyway!) team beat the North Somerset Yeomanry O.C.A. in one of the most enjoyable matches played so far. The next night—the 8th October—we held our regular monthly meeting, when a record number of members turned up to meet our President, Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard, C.B.E. This was the first meeting he had been able to attend since he accepted the office a couple of months ago, but he made his visit all the more memorable with an inspiring though informal talk to the members. It is a pity that Brigadier Pollard lives in such an (almost) inaccessible spot, which makes it very difficult for him to attend the meetings more regularly. However, here's hoping to see a lot more of you and to hear a lot more from you, sir.

By the time these notes appear in THE WIRE our Annual Dinner will be just a pleasant memory. As things are going at the moment, it promises to be a terrific evening. One chap is coming all the way from Yorkshire to meet some of his old "regimentals," and we have news of others coming from considerable distances. Brigadier Pollard will be in the chair and Brigadier Murphy and Colonel Roberts will be representing Association Headquarters.

We got plenty of welcome publicity from the visit of the Display Team. One of our own members (Major Keeling) introduced the team and gave an amusing running commentary on the display, which was given to a capacity crowd. The ovation they got was terrific, and more than one spectator was heard to remark that the speedway riders had nothing on the Signals riders! What surprised me most was that so many of the riders were National Service men.

To revert to skittles. The first league match was played on 16th September, when we lost to the Royal Marines O.C.A., but we regained some measure of dignity on 23rd September, when we trounced the Sappers. That makes us just about even with two victories and two losses. Our skittles members are terrifically keen and, lose or win, every

match has been unanimously voted a fine evening. We have to play the W.A.A.F. O.C.A. next December—yes, I said W.A.A.F. and mean W.A.A.F. ! Here's hoping they stick to beer though !

Unfortunately, I have to report another resignation. Our Vice-Chairman, Major J. S. Hill, has found it necessary to resign office owing to pressure of work. We offer him our thanks for the work he has done during the last few months and know that we shall see him at some of our monthly meetings still.

Mr. J. S. Stuart has taken on the onerous duty of running the employment register. We have every confidence in him and wish him all the best in his task.

That's all for this month, chaps. All the best from Bristol, and here to end with is our diary of activities for the next month or so:

Nov. 4.—Skittles v. R.A.F. Gremlins.
Nov. 8.—Skittles v. R.N. and R.M. O.C.A.
Nov. 12.—Monthly meeting at the "Old Duke."
Nov. 13.—Annual Dinner at the Grand Hotel, Bristol.
Nov. 18.—Skittles v. Pioneers O.C.A.
Nov. 26.—Skittles v. R.E. O.C.A.
Dec. 10.—Monthly meeting, "Old Duke."

SPORTS NOTES

RUGBY

Prospects for the Rugby season, 1948/49, are quite good. Royal Signals, Catterick, expect to have a very useful side again this year.

FIXTURE LIST

Sept. 4.—v. Northern Seven-a-side, at Newcastle (lost in semi-finals).
Sept. 11.—v. Huddersfield, at Huddersfield (won 22—6).
Sept. 16.—v. Melrose, at Melrose (lost 3—6).
Sept. 25.—v. Durham City, at Catterick (won 33—5).
*Oct. 6.—v. R.M.A., at Sandhurst (won 30—0).
Oct. 9.—v. H.M.S. "Ceres," at Catterick (won 74—0).
Oct. 30.—v. Percy Park, at North Shields.
*Nov. 3.—v. Royal Artillery, at Catterick.
*Nov. 10.—v. Oxford University Greyhounds, at Oxford.
Nov. 13.—v. Hillhead High School F.P., at Glasgow.
*Nov. 17.—v. R.E.M.E., at Catterick.
*Dec. 1.—v. Royal Engineers, at Ripon.
Dec. 4.—v. Billingham, at Billingham.
Dec. 11.—v. H.M.S. "Ceres," at Wetherby.
Jan. 5.—v. Scottish Wayfarers, at Edinburgh.
*Jan. 19.—v. St. Mary's Hospital, at London.
Jan. 22.—v. Billingham, at Catterick.
Feb. 5.—v. Halifax, at Halifax.
*Feb. 16.—v. R.A.O.C., at Catterick.
Feb. 26.—v. Percy Park, at Catterick.
Mar. 5.—v. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at London.
Apr. 2.—v. Durham City, at Durham.
*Apr. 18.—v. Pontypridd, at Pontypridd (Easter Tour).
*Apr. 20.—v. Ebbw Vale, at Ebbw Vale (Easter Tour).
Apr. 23.—v. Huddersfield, at Catterick.
Invitation Seven-a-Side Tournaments.

* Corps representative matches.

It is hoped that members of the Corps, both serving and those in civilian life, will go and support the team when it is playing in their district. It would be very nice to see a number of Glasgow supporters at the Hillhead match at Hughenden, Glasgow, on 13th November; of Edinburgh supporters on the Fettes College ground at Edinburgh on 5th January; of Londoners on the St. Mary's ground at Teddington on 19th January, or at the Barts match at Chislehurst on 5th March; and a Welsh contingent at Pontypridd on 18th April; or Ebbw Vale on 20th April, would be welcome.

Although they have lost Second-Lieutenant Glynn Davies (Wales), who has gone up to Cambridge University, and Second-Lieutenant J. K. Williams, the Lancashire forward, and most of last year's "fifteen," there are some newcomers who are expected to do well and the side should be stronger than last year, when they beat such clubs as Huddersfield, Roundhay, Headingley and St. Mary's Hospital. The Rugby Sub-Committee consists of Major G. M. Fraser, Major K. M. Evans, Captain P. D. Parker and Captain P. S. Westmacott. Second-Lieutenant N. M. Hall (England), happily, has quite recovered from his eye injury and captains the side. Second-Lieutenant I. S. Gloag (Army and Yorkshire) plays on the left wing and it is expected that Captain T. G. H. Jackson (Scotland) will be playing on the right wing when he arrives in Catterick at the end of October.

Signalman Mason (Rugby) is a very useful scrum-half who has already pleased the Yorkshire selectors, and he and Hall may well figure as the Army halves. Lance-Corporal Tranter, Corporal Gaunt, Second-Lieutenant Taylor and Signalman Cross play in the Yorkshire trial on 13th October, and in addition to those already mentioned, Corporal Froom, Signalman Johnson, Second-Lieutenant J. Hall, with Sergeant Rees and Signalman Anderson (reserves), are playing in the Northern Command *v.* Yorkshire match at Harrogate on 20th October.

The season started by our sending a "seven" to take part in the Northern "Seven-a-side" at Newcastle, in which the Scottish Border clubs, who seem to play this game all the year round, figured prominently. Our "seven," without much practice, did well enough to get into the semi-final, where they were beaten by Kelso, who ultimately won the competition.

On 11th September Huddersfield was visited and a good game ended in a win for Signals by 22 points to 6.

On 16th September a long journey to Melrose was undertaken and once again the Scottish club defeated us before a good crowd of enthusiastic home supporters. Hall, Mason and Gloag had been playing in a Yorkshire trial the evening before (Bob Oakes' XV *v.* Otley), at Otley, and were feeling the effects of this hard game; in fact, Gloag could not turn out owing to an injured ankle and a last-minute "switch-over" of the threequarter line was necessary, with Bamford, who had travelled as reserve, taking his place. The game was a very robust one, characterised by strenuous forward play and good tackling on both sides. For Signals, Hall kicked a penalty goal, and Melrose replied with a penalty goal, and a dropped goal in the last few minutes won them the match by 6 points to 3.

The first home match was against Durham City on 25th September, and the result was Royal Signals (Catterick) 35 points, Durham City 5.

On 6th October R.M.A. (Sandhurst) were defeated at Camberley by 30 points to 0.

On 9th October H.M.S. *Ceres* were defeated at Catterick by 74 points to 0. The visitors never gave up trying but were overwhelmed.

Although Signals were without N. M. Hall, Mason, Tranter, Cross, Gaunt, Froggett and Johnson, the substitutes were most effective, and with J. Hall hooking well, Couch at scrum-half giving a good service, the backs gave a brilliant display, the inter-passing of Rees and Gloag being good to watch.

Before long the Army Cup, County and Army Trial games will be in full swing and many of our players will be very busily engaged.

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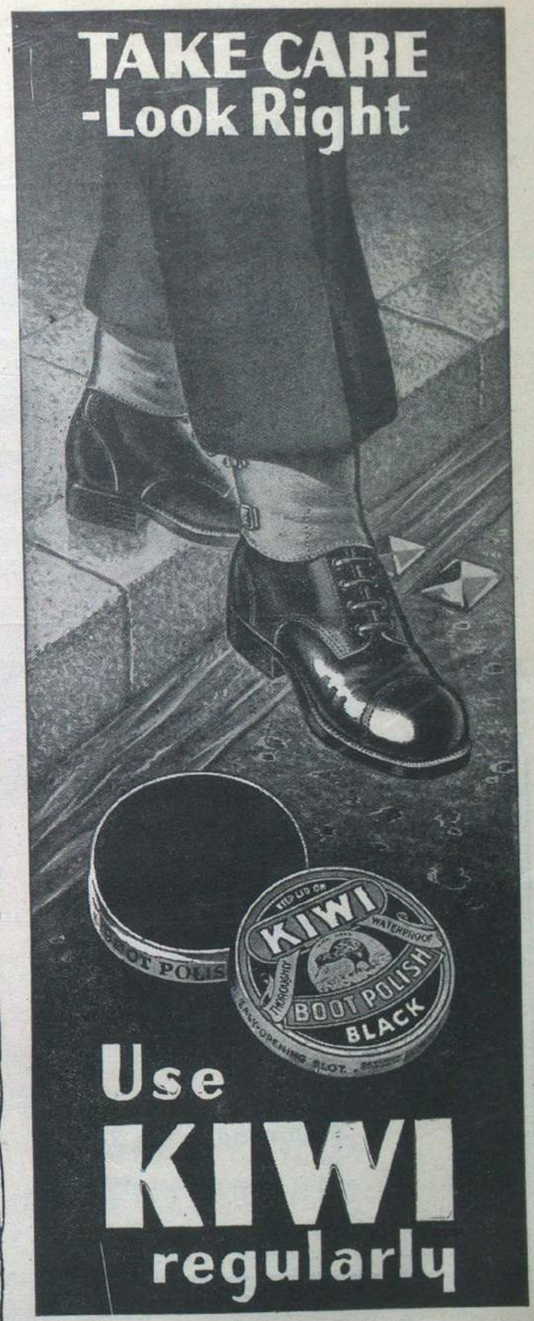

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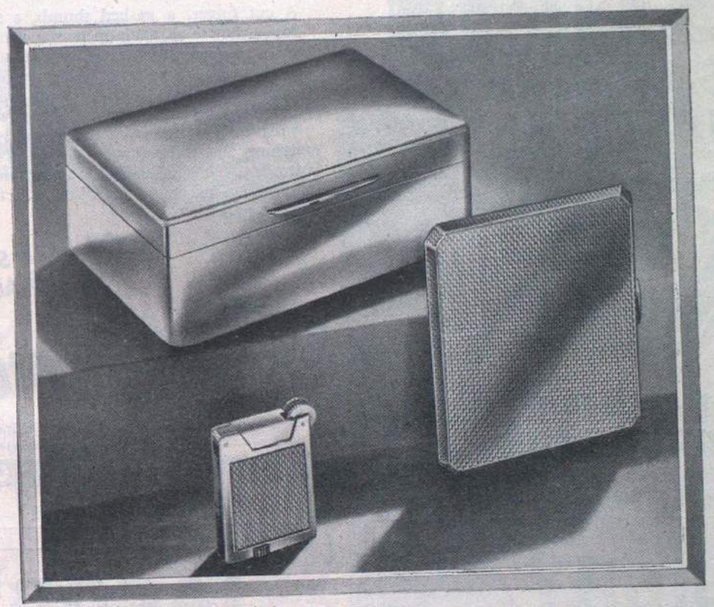

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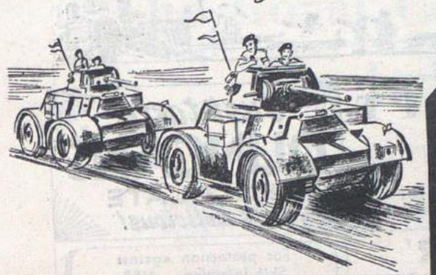

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ROYAL SIGNALS

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.

☆

DECEMBER • 1948

Volume 2 *New Series* **No. 12**

☆

PRICE: ONE SHILLING

Editorial

ON another page we publish a report of the conclusions of a Committee to decide the future of THE WIRE.

It is to continue at any rate until December, 1949.

BUT—AND IT IS A VERY BIG BUT—ITS CONTINUANCE EVEN UNTIL THEN DEPENDS ON YOU.

In your representations to the Committee you have asked for improvements without increase of price.

At present each copy of THE WIRE costs 2/- to print. You pay only 1/-.

We have to sell at least twice the numbers of copies to make it pay.

The Editorial Staff consists of TWO, both part-timers. One a serving officer, the other a retired officer who has many other duties in the Association Offices.

You ask for more short stories. More feature articles. More humour. YOU MUST PROVIDE THESE.

You will find details of a competition for the best article or short story on another page. We are offering a prize of £3 for the best.

BUT THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS SALES.

We publish a list of bulk sales to Units. Please read it, and compare your Regiment or Squadron with others. Then do something.

Make your resolution for 1949 to HELP "THE WIRE" TO KEEP GOING.

A Happy Christmas to you all

As "The Wire" goes to press, the bells are ringing, the flags flying in London. The British Commonwealth and the Empire rejoices in the birth of a Royal Prince.

On behalf of all ranks Royal Signals, past and present, we offer our heartiest congratulations to H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

REPORT OF A MEETING

at the Offices of the Royal Signals Association to discuss

THE FUTURE OF "THE WIRE"

Present: Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commandant S.T.C. (Chairman); Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C., General Secretary, Royal Signals Association; Brigadier E. J. Murphy, C.B.E., Royal Signals Association; Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Yule, O.B.E., Editor, Royal Signals Journal (attended the latter half of the meeting); Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth, Editor, THE WIRE (at present); Lieutenant-Colonel L. A. E. Tozer, late Editor THE WIRE; Captain L. N. Lloyd, Royal Signals Association, Editorial Assistant.

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1. After a certain amount of general discussion Brigadier Galwey read a series of extracts from letters giving the views of Regiments and Brigades of the Association which had been collected by him in reference to a questionnaire. On investigation it was found that of the suggestions made a certain number were impracticable though otherwise praiseworthy. A number had already been carried into effect and a few were accepted by the Committee which will be referred to later.

2. The Committee then discussed the general question of sales, and from figures produced it was clear that bulk sales of THE WIRE to Regiments show: (a) very considerable variation as between Regiments of equivalent strength and function; (b) overall an extremely low figure of bulk sales.

3. Discussion also took place on the question of whether THE WIRE should be a monthly or a quarterly publication. In fine, it was decided that THE WIRE should continue as a monthly publication until December, 1949. The decision as to whether it should continue at all after that must be reached by midsummer, 1949.

4. The question of advertisements was discussed, and it was pointed out that advertisers would pay more for an advertisement inserted within the reading matter of a journal than they would for advertisements published at the beginning and the end. It was stated that the increase in income from advertisements might be in the region of £80 a year if advertisements were interleaved. The matter was left that the General Secretary would inquire from the Advertising Agents on two points:—

(a) Whether better quality advertisements could be secured to go in as facing pages to the reading matter.

(b) Exactly what financial difference could be anticipated.

5. In addition, the Editor was directed to arrange the following:—

(a) Reproduction of photographs of pin-up girls.

(b) The cover to be varied by the addition of a high quality photograph of current or past interest.

(c) To organise a competition and to offer a money prize of £3 for the best article submitted.

6. The Editor was further authorised to publish from time to time a list showing bulk sales to Units with the idea of rousing the spirit of emulation.

* * *

Photographs of the Stars

J. Arthur Rank Organisation, Ltd., has most kindly offered us a photograph of one of their stars for reproduction each month. Miss Margaret Lockwood, whose photograph appears on another page, needs no introduction, but we wish to thank her for gracing our Christmas number.

It is proposed to offer the privilege of selection to Regiments in turn. Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment have been asked to select the star for January; but despite the strength of the A.T.S. contribution to this Regiment's notes we have specified that the star is to be Miss —— not Mr. ——. The Editor will invite other Regiments to select from time to time.

Short Story Competition

The Editor announces a prize of £3 for the best original short story submitted before 10th February, 1949. A second prize of £1 10s. and a third prize of 10s. may also be awarded. Stories should be between 2,500 and 3,500 words in length.

Authors to be bona fide amateurs. The term "bona fide amateur" is intended to rule out anyone who habitually writes short stories for publication.

Competitors must be serving in Royal Signals or be members of the Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association or serving in Royal Signals T.A.

All entries must be accompanied by full details of name, Regiment and/or address, and/or Branch of the Association, as is suitable. These details are not for publication.

A condition of entry is that:—

(a) The Editor's decision is final.

(b) Submission of a short story includes permission to publish in THE WIRE whether or not a prize is awarded.

(c) Stories must not have been published before in any form.

The Editor reserves the right to publish a story in the January WIRE whether or not it is a prize-winner when the entries are judged in February.

BULK SALES TO UNITS

List of bulk sales of THE WIRE to Units. It is realised that many in Units also buy THE WIRE as individuals.

HOME STATIONS	
Staff of AG 11. The War Office	6
1 Depot Regiment	8
2 ,, ,,	12
1 Training ,,	15
2 ,, ,,	12
3 ,, ,,	72
4 ,, ,,	41
5 ,, ,,	40
7 Selection ,,	50
OCTU } Now School of Signals } amalgamated	34
H.Q. Mess, Catterick	8
Northern Command Signal Regiment	2
Eastern Command Signal Regiment	30
Western Command Signal Regiment	Nil
(Mid West Dist. Signal Sqn.)	2
Scottish Command Signal Regiment	16
Southern Command Signal Regiment	65
Northern Ireland District Signal Sqn.	12
London District Signal Squadron	Nil
War Office Signal Regiment	30
Signals Experimental Establishment	3
51 Signal Equipment Troop, Donnington	3
10 Wireless Training Squadron	3
1 A.A. Group Signal Regiment	3
2 A.A. Group Signal Regiment	3
3 A.A. Group Signal Squadron	6
4 A.A. Group Signal Regiment	Nil
5 A.A. Group Signal Squadron	3
B.A.O.R.	
H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment	12
Berlin Signal Squadron	12
Hamburg Signal Squadron	6
Hanover Signal Squadron	8
11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	12
2 Divisional Signal Regiment	20
7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron	2
3 Air Support Signal Unit	12
4 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron	10
Vienna Signal Squadron	8
Klagenfurt Signal Squadron	8
Graz Signal Troop	3
3 Railway Telegraph Squadron	6
12 Wireless Squadron	3
BETFOR Signals	6
M.E.L.F.	
C.S.O.'s Office	5
3 G. H.Q. Signal Regiment	12
Egypt Command Signal Regiment	27
Cyrenaica Signal Regiment	5
Tripolitania Signal Squadron	3
EAST AFRICA	
C.S.O. for distribution	18
Mauritius Signal Troop	3
Eritrea Signal Section	1
Nigeria Signal Squadron	6
	689

About 2,000 copies are sold either individually or through Branches of the Association and to Territorial Army Signal Regiments.

THE RETURNED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION

All ex-prisoners of war who are sick or disabled as a result of their captivity, are invited to communicate with the Returned British Prisoners of War Association, 34 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for full particulars of the Association's Overseas Food Parcel Scheme.

The Malayan Affair

IN July, 1948, for the first time in British history, a British Government outlawed a political party.

A step so drastic as this indicates how seriously the Government of the Malay Federation and Singapore felt about the state of lawlessness throughout Malaya. Nationalism was one thing, but when a Communist-inspired movement secretly plotted the downfall of the present Government by force, with the intention of setting up a controlling body based on minority opinion, the time had come to act firmly.

The culprits of the terrorist outbreaks are the Malayan Communist Party (M.C.P.). Before describing their present activities, it will be useful to look back to the period of the Japanese occupation.

During the first year of the Japanese occupation there was no British contact with Malaya, and during this period the M.C.P. gained control of the rapidly developing resistance movement. It was also during this period that the military side of the M.C.P. was developed into what was subsequently known as the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (M.P.A.J.A.).

In the beginning a considerable amount of offensive action was taken against the Japanese, but as control by the latter tightened, and the arms and food situation deteriorated, the M.P.A.J.A. found itself fully occupied in maintaining its own existence on the defensive in the jungle. British rear parties which had been left behind made contact with H.Q. M.P.A.J.A. and were treated with deference throughout, but, although invited to help over training, were refused any voice in the organisation or control of the movement.

Later on, however, an agreement was signed in which the resistance organisations undertook to co-operate against the enemy. The British undertook to supply and train the M.P.A.J.A. and at the beginning of 1945 British liaison officers were dropped into Malaya to take over the operational control of the M.P.A.J.A. By the date of the Japanese capitulation some 6,000 M.P.A.J.A. were properly equipped, led and trained to provide a striking force against the rear of the Japanese Army.

During the occupation the political section of the M.C.P., later known as the Anti-Japanese Union, was concentrated on the dissemination of Communist propaganda and the boosting of the spirit of resistance. Already at this time the M.C.P. planned to take over the Malayan Government when the war should be over, getting ready details of administrative plans, personnel, etc.

When the British returned with strong forces the M.C.P. realised that their carefully laid plans could not be carried out and the supreme leader of the M.C.P. therefore adopted the policy of apparent co-operation with the authorities, while aiming to use labour and youth support to sweep the board in an elected government. Failure after failure in the more recent past with the above policy influenced the leaders to embark on more ambitious plans, and in February this year the M.C.P. supreme leader was replaced by more extreme and fanatical men who issued orders to prepare for active operations.

Although the M.P.A.J.A. was disbanded in 1945 and most of the arms were handed in, the M.C.P. organised an ex-Comrades' Association, ostensibly to look after ex-guerilla interests, but actually to preserve and perpetuate Malayan Communist Party control over the members.

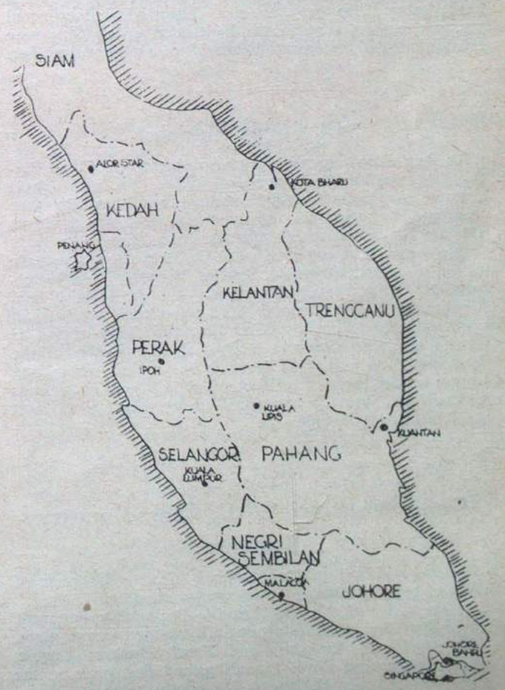
At the same time the M.C.P. retained the clandestine military organisation, which had been built up simultaneously with the M.P.A.J.A., as a nucleus for mobilisation and training of the present terrorist army.

This army is at present mobilising, and it is thought that there is no immediate shortage of arms and ammunition. Although well armed, the insurgents have no larger weapon than a Bren gun. Living almost entirely in the jungle, they depend on local squatters for their food and normally do not wear uniform, although on one or two occasions uniforms have been seen.

The present terror campaign is being conducted by small gangs of three to fifteen men, called Special Service Squads, who are picked to do certain "jobs" by the political section of the M.C.P. In other words, murdering selected people in order to reduce morale and cause lack of confidence in British administration.

This is thought to be the first phase of the M.C.P. strategical plan, the second phase aiming at gaining control of certain country areas, with a subsequent setting up of local Communist Administrations in those areas, and the third phase being the joining up of all the M.C.P. controlled country areas, the capture of towns and general revolution.

Although the present terrorist activities are largely confined to the activities of the Special Service Squads, larger scale attacks have been carried out by one or more organised platoons of between thirty to fifty men. These platoons are part of the M.C.P. Field Army and are probably being used with the idea of giving them battle inoculation for future operations. Attacks by platoons have been for the most part



well organised and well executed. In addition, the army is still mainly covert; a perfectly innocent looking Chinese villager may be a reputable shopkeeper by day and a S.S. murderer by night.

So much for the enemy.

The task facing the police force and the Services is to eliminate the terrorists resident in villages, either by arresting them or by driving them, in fear of arrest, into the jungle whilst at the same time providing protection to vulnerable points, communications and, as far as possible, individual estates. Once the enemy has been driven into the jungle he can be starved or bombed out.

With the arrival of reinforcements to the military forces—the Guards Brigade and 4th Hussars from U.K., the Inniskillings from Hong Kong, and Signal Troops from M.E.L.F.—and with the rapid expansion of the Malayan Police Force, both by Palestine Police reinforcements and by a large increase in local recruits, the initial phase of the campaign to eliminate the terrorist is quickly gaining momentum, a momentum which will be materially increased by the recent introduction of registration.

In its role of assisting the Malayan Police, the Army has been called on to carry out a variety of tasks, such as the provision of guards, patrols and escorts, both to rail and road transport, of forces of up to Battalion strength and of "Ferret" groups consisting of specially selected jungle fighters. All these tasks present their own signals problems, problems to which, by virtue of the conditions peculiar to jungle warfare, a standard solution can seldom be applied.

In addition to the provision of communication for the Army, and for ground to air purposes, Signals have had to give considerable assistance in men and material both to the Malayan Police and to civil telecommunications; in this they have been helped by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

It is not possible to predict when the trouble in Malaya is likely to end; so long as one Communist-indoctrinated terrorist remains alive in the Federation or on Singapore Island there will continue to be trouble of one sort or another.

* * *

13 Corps Signals

An Association, open to all ex-members of 13 Corps Signals, has been formed in London. There has been a good response so far and several reunions and meetings have been held, but there are still many old 13 Corps members who are not yet in touch with the Association.

If you served at any time with 13 Corps Signals you are invited to contact Angus G. Scholes, Secretary, The Gazellians, 13 Corps Signals Association, 25a St. Luke's Road, Westbourne Park, London, W.11, who will welcome all inquiries and willingly supply details. This appeal is printed at the enthusiastic request of all members of the Association—so now it all depends on you; we are relying on you to join us in the project which will keep old friends in touch and provide opportunities for everyone to meet again from time to time.

* * *

Good Work by S.T.C. Cross-Country Runners

We are indebted to the *Catterick Gazette* for news of successes by the Corps in cross-country running.

In the Catterick District League, 1 Training Regiment gained first place, 2 Training Regiment gained second place.

In the North Yorkshire and South Durham League, teams representing Royal Signals gained first place in the senior run and second place in the youth match.

An Appreciation of the late

COLONEL F. I. N. McOSTRICH

I AM sure many old members of the Corps, past and present, were indeed grieved to read in the September WIRE the news of the death of Colonel F. I. N. McOstrich.

I had the honour to serve under this excellent officer as a Section N.C.O. in the early thirties at Aldershot ("A" Corps Signals).

He was not a clever man nor did he ever pretend to be one, even to the newly-joined recruit, but what is more important for a regimental officer, he had that great gift of understanding human nature, of getting together a "team" and of imbuing his Section or Company with *esprit de corps*.

His loyalty to the N.C.O.s and men under his command was intense and I remember particularly one occasion when a Section commanded by him, and of which I was a member, was out at camp at Thursley Common, in Surrey. The weather was marvellous, the task given to the Section by the Officer in charge of the Exercise (who shall be nameless) was an impossible one; but "Lieutenant Mac," as he was affectionately known to us all, made his plans, got us all together, explained them to us and, as full of enthusiasm as always, we went to work.

Towards the middle of the afternoon it became increasingly apparent that the task would not be completed until well into the night. Our arrangements to go back to camp for the hot meal at 1900 hrs. had to be abandoned and "Lieutenant Mac" went back to camp to alter the time for a later hour. I think it was something like 2100 hrs. that was agreed on.

At this hour a very hungry and tired Construction Section arrived in camp to wash and have the hot meal before returning to work; but, whilst sitting on the grass waiting for the "come and fetch it" cry, word was given that the Officer in charge Exercise had ordered that the Section was to return to work at once and no food would be forthcoming until the task was completed.

The look on "Lieutenant Mac's" face when he received this news was enough for the Section to know that he did not approve of it, and we learnt later through various "birds" that he went directly to the Commanding Officer and protested vigorously that men cannot work without food. Suffice it is to say that we had our meal—a good one, incidentally. We then returned to work and the task was completed with the aid of the moon and hurricane lamps.

I think that this illustration shows that "Lieutenant Mac" always had the welfare of the O.R. at heart, and he also realised what some are apt to forget—that loyalty from the officer should go down as well as up.

I met him again in Catterick after his return from the Far East as a prisoner-of-war in the hands of the Japs; he was the same old "Lieutenant Mac" in spirit, full of energy and laughter, and by a question I heard him put at an Officers' Mess meeting, still keen to put an injustice right.

About his sporting achievements, which are too numerous to mention, I will only say that he could always be relied upon to win the 100 yards, 220 yards and 440 yards at any Unit Sports, and if the Section wanted a relay man he'd do that as well.

To all Troops who served with Colonel McOstrich he typified to them the phrase "An officer and a gentleman."

If the Corps in its future quest for officers, who must have high academical qualifications, can find the time and room to accept some candidates of the calibre of the late Colonel McOstrich, then the Corps will indeed still keep its flag flying as strongly as it has in the past.

We, his old friends, salute his memory, and to his wife and children we offer our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

G. H. McK.

Home Stations

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Salisbury

November

HEADQUARTERS. We take this opportunity of extending seasonal greetings to all members of the Corps at home and overseas. We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, who has assumed command of the Regiment *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hyde, O.B.E. May his tenure of office be a happy one. We also welcome Captain (T.O.M.) W. Berry, who has taken over command of South-Western F.S.S. Troop at Plymouth.

A very successful All Ranks' Dance was held in the N.A.A.F.I. on 3rd November, which was enjoyed by all who attended. Judging by the numerous enquiries as to when the next one will take place, it must have been a popular event. It is hoped to hold many more during the winter season. We would like to thank the committee and all those willing hands who contributed to the success.

There are quite a number of new faces to be seen around the lines, mainly belonging to 27 Independent Brigade Signal Squadron, who are at present busy training prior to joining their Headquarters.

R.H.Q. *Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.* We welcome the following to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Figsbury Barracks: S.Q.M.S. Dunkerley, Sergeant Foster (A.T.S.) (on promotion), Sergeants Smith, Blake, Ryder (A.C.C.) and Robinson (R.A.E.C.).

A social and dance was held in the Mess on Thursday, 21st October. This event was much enjoyed and we discovered a great asset in the piano playing talents of S.S.M. McMurray, who now entertains us frequently.

Twelve members of the Mess were invited to the Amesbury Police Club during the month, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all, darts and snooker being the most popular games. The law says that police bars must close at 10 p.m., so our members enjoyed at least one early night.

Hockey is a very popular game among Mess members. Our team just managed to beat the Rest of the Unit by 2—1 during the month, after a gruelling battle.

ALDERSHOT F.S.S. TROOP. By the time these notes appear in print we shall have said *au revoir* to our five old soldiers, all with the A. and S. Group 1 DV/GD/E, but will gladly welcome them back as civilians, after each takes a well-earned rest (*sic*) on his release leave.

The history of our last two remaining old soldiers is as follows:

2306188 Signalman (L/L/Sergeant) H. S. McGregor

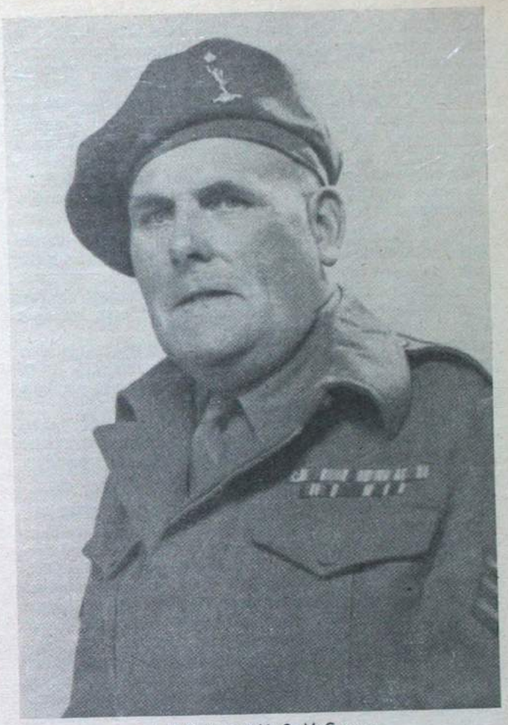
Mac enlisted in the Royal Engineers in July, 1907, transferred to the Corps in 1920, and was discharged to pension July, 1929, as a C.Q.M.S. He enlisted for the duration in September, 1939, and will be finally discharged about December, 1948. Total service, 31 years. Present age, 59 years.

Medals: 1914 Star, British War and Victory 1914/18, Defence 1939/45, War Medal 1939/45, M.S.M., and L.S. and G.C.

2307755 Signalman (L/L/Sergeant) L. V. Goodman

The youngest of the old soldiers is Vic Goodman.

Vic Goodman, present age 51 years, enlisted in the R.E.s in April, 1915, transferred to the Corps in 1920, and was



L/L/Sergeant H. S. McGregor

discharged to pension January, 1939, as a R.Q.M.S. Enlisted for the duration in September, 1939, and will be finally released in December, 1948. Total service, 32 years.

Medals: British War and Victory 1914/18, Defence and War Medal 1939/45, L.S. and G.C. Medal.

A.T.S. OFFICERS. We are all extremely sorry to have had to say good-bye to our Junior Commander Rosemary Stewart, who left us on release on 29th October. Junior Commander Stewart was the O.C. of our Command H.Q. Troop for the last 18 months, an appointment which she filled with as much charm and efficiency as she had previously shown whilst Adjutant of No. 3 Command Signals, A.T.S.

Junior Commander Stewart served with A.A. and special wireless detachments during the war before being commissioned. She will be as long remembered for her ability to remain unruffled in the face of day-to-day crises (and to emerge fresh and gay after late nights or harassing occasions which might have reduced hardier-looking individuals to monosyllabic bad temper!) as for her outstandingly competent administration, the high standard she always produced in her Troop, and her cheerful assistance in all activities of the Regiment.

Many auxiliaries have her to thank for an increase in pay, as it was mainly due to her hard work and energy that we were able to continue our Unit Upgrading Courses for A.T.S.

We understand that Junior Commander Stewart hopes to be married shortly, and we can only wish her all happiness and success, and say that our loss will certainly be her future husband's gain.

A.T.S. R.H.Q. As stated in a previous WIRE, the toys

for the Y.W.C.A. Christmas Fair have been forwarded to the Y.W.C.A. Headquarters, and the A.T.S. are to be congratulated on some of their efforts, as they were quite "professional" in their appearance.

The A.T.S. of this Unit also contributed the magnificent sum of £18 12s. 6d. to the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, as annual subscriptions, and it is felt that every auxiliary concerned should feel "mighty proud."

We are anticipating a visit from our new D.D.A.T.S., Controller Macfie, on Wednesday, 10th November, and a description of the visit will be included in our next report.

Sports. The R.H.Q. team had a netball match with the Salisbury Athletic Club during the month, and although the score was 35—4 in our favour, the game was greatly enjoyed.

Some members are now taking fencing lessons; we can always pick out these auxiliaries as they are seen hobbling along with stiffness of the joints.

The A.T.S. were included in a mixed hockey match with the H.A.A. at Bulford. We managed to win this game 3—0. We certainly like to travel to these various Units to play our games, as fresh faces are always welcome.

We are very sorry to have to lose one of our "Hello" girls, Private Johnstone, to the Middle East, and wish her all the best in her new surroundings. We must also congratulate our Corporal Foster on her promotion to sergeant.

H.Q., SOUTHERN COMMAND, SIGNAL TROOP. In the past month we have said good-bye to Subaltern Ree, who has left us for the wilds of Scottish Command, and also to W.O.II Collins (Cipher), A.T.S., who has gone to B.A.O.R. Here's wishing them the best of luck in their new stations.

We have welcomed back Subaltern Swaby to the fold after her tour with M.E.L.F. Also W.O.II Buxey, ex-India and Singapore, who has joined our Cipher Section.

We have always prided ourselves on having a good-looking lot of girls in the Troop, and it raised the old morale when we heard that Private "Babs" Lee, one of our switchboard operators, has been declared "Beauty Queen of the Salisbury N.A.A.F.I. Club" at a beauty contest. The occasion was the first of a series of social evenings organised by the Club for Service personnel. Second prize was won by Private Evelyn Meldrum, also of this Troop. The winners were entitled to various beauty treatments at a beauty salon in Salisbury, and we hear that they came back looking even more beautiful and alluring than before!

Our Private Elsie Jackson, backbone of Troop Office, distinguished herself recently by being the first A.T.S. girl to attend a Police Course run by London District. She nearly passed out when she found herself the only girl amongst a bevy of Military Police who were taking the course preparatory to becoming "flat-foot floogies." Anyway, she passed the course with flying colours, and we wish her the best of luck when she joins the Salford Police Force.

To our great joy, we beat the R.H.Q., A.T.S., at rounders—our one and only victory against them in the sports line so far, but, we hope, a good start for the future. We are now endeavouring to form a mixed hockey team, and hope to challenge the R.H.Q. types in the very near future.

ALDERSHOT DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP. We said good-bye and extended our best wishes to Sergeant Hanlon, Lance-Corporal Dighton and Lance-Corporal Southan, who are on their way to the M.E.L.F. We feel very envious of their voyage through the Mediterranean waters and have mental pictures of being able to bask in glorious sunshine, but we are quickly brought down to earth when braving the winter winds across Barossa barrack square.

Welcome to Sergeant Blellock, who was "See-en-dubble-you" teleprinter switchboard superintendent until Cheltenham D.T.N. Troop "defemaled" in September. The arrival of Sergeant Blellock brings the total of ex-C.N.W.-ites up to six and makes up for the loss of Private Eileen White, who was demobbed recently. Best of luck to Eileen and Private

L/L/Sergeant L. V. Goodman

Irene Burmingham, who is also being demobbed in the next day or so.

The Red Berets certainly have that extra "something," as they have done it again this month! Best of luck to Private Rose Taylor, who was married on 23rd October to Trooper Douglas Riley, of the Glider Pilot Regiment, at St. Paul's Church, Battersea. Our Private Pam Winch was bridesmaid. Congratulations to Pam also, who became engaged recently to Private Edward Rolls, R.A.M.C. Who was it who said that in spring a young man's fancy lightly turned to thoughts of love? It seems that it is not that season which prompts the lovelorn to "name the day"! Again, we are pleased to announce the marriage of Private Elsie Sharp to Private Green, R.A.S.C., on Saturday, 6th November, at Aldershot Register Office. Here's hoping that he appreciates her cooking as we have done in the past!

In sporting circles, we are proud of the part Lance-Corporal Wedgwood played in the District netball match between Aldershot District and S.P. District. The result was a grand victory for Aldershot, 25—8. It is reported that Sergeant E. French also put up a good show in the Southern Command Rifle Shooting Competition. Lance-Corporal Stavers has been selected to play for Aldershot District hockey team. Well done!

In the entertainment field, the Area Education Officer is organising a Group pantomime. The main parts are filled, but it has been whispered that the assistance of the "bonny Signals girls" is especially required for the chorus of "Aladdin." Perhaps we may discover a potential Anna Pavlova in our midst! Look out for more news of this in the next issue.

To round off this month's news headlines, we congratulate Corporal Cottington, Lance-Corporal Wedgwood and Lance-Corporal Reaney on their recent promotions. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Southan for her wonderful effort in winning a prize in the Southern Command Arts and Crafts Competition for a very good poem, "Inheritance," given below:

INHERITANCE

No epitaph is theirs: but some of us remember
How gallantly they forsook the fitful-glowing ember
Of life, and sank into eternal darkness and silence,
Returning to that deep oblivion from whence
They came. Their unlived hours of pain, of happiness,
They bequeath to us: all the poignant fitful stress
Of life, and the unfailing wonders of this lovely earth—
The changing beauty of its seasons and moods, worth
More than riches. They will never see the sky on a frosty night,
The pure outlines of stark trees etched upon its bright
Canvas of moonlit grey: with the wind's unfettered song on high
All these they lose, when they so violently, so needlessly, die.
They'll never know the grace of a lone heron's flight,
Mirrored in silver water, in the fading light
Of evening, with the first brave star venturing
Through shining bastions of cloud, and wraiths of mist appearing
In all the brackened hollows of earth. No! these to them are for ever lost—
Theirs was not the fault, but they paid the cost.
We, the fortunate, have our inheritance: we'll claim it—one day,
When the harsh clamour of battle has died away.

By JOAN B. SOUTHAN

No. 3 TRAINING REGIMENT
Bourlon Lines, Catterick Camp

October

This month brings news of our first efforts at drafting, and at the time of writing four parties of various sizes have assembled here under the care of Headquarters Squadron, and duly passed on to B.A.O.R. or B.T.A., and a fifth draft is now with us.

We welcome these guests and hope that their last few days in the Old Country passed comfortably and smoothly.

Turning to sport, we cannot report any really outstanding achievements in soccer, rugger or hockey, though the season is yet young and our rivals may well find us pulling some unpleasant surprises out of the bag for them.

Most unfortunate for us in the soccer line was our defeat at the hands of the 14th/20th King's Own Hussars in the first round of the Army Cup, when, after overtime, they beat us by 2 goals to 1. It was a real "cup match" and thoroughly enjoyed by a large crowd of spectators.

In the District League, our First Division team remains unbeaten with 3 wins and 2 draws to date, the last but one match being an exciting "no score" game against No. 2 Training Regiment. Our Second Division team did rather better this month than last, winning against 605 Company, R.A.S.C., by 3 goals to 2, losing to No. 7 Selection Regiment by 3 goals to 6, and drawing with No. 4 Training Regiment, 5 goals each.

We had no rugger matches during October, though there have been a number of exciting Troop and Squadron games, and there is no doubt that the game is attracting far more interest this season than last.

As for hockey, our team this season has a great deal of leeway to make up if it is to compare with that of last year, which ended top of the District League. Indeed, we have won but 1 game of the 6 played. Much of this falling-off may be attributed to the loss of such stalwarts as Captain Edwards, S.Q.M.S. Bourner and S.Q.M.S. McPherson, and to the resultant reorganisation, and we trust that when our present team have become more knitted together they will be able to retrieve the Unit's fortunes in this sphere.

Athletics have now given place to cross-country running, and if present form is anything to go by, we have a very good chance of a successful season in the S.T.C. League, standing second as we do after the second meeting. Keep it up, fellows, you've got No. 2 Training looking rattled!

Last month we had something to say of our Model Aircraft Club, and now, by way of a change, here is the latest report from our "ham" enthusiasts:

Amateur radio station G3DSS/A has been in operation on 80 metres from No. 4 Squadron for the last month. The object was to get on the air as soon as possible, using all available material. After trying in vain to obtain a CR100, it was decided to use a R107 receiver. The transmitter was soon built by Lieutenant Symons, using a piece crystal oscillator (6x6) and the good old 6L6 as a XPA. A 6x5 as rectifier gave us the necessary power, and we were on the air with an input of 20 watts. The aerial was strung between two convenient poles 36 ft., and we were ready to start. First of all, an end-fed was used, but having after three days only succeeded in contacting Darlington (!), it was decided to erect a windom tuned up with the aid of a 19 set AVC meter. That produced results, and one Saturday night in the course of an all-night session between 1800 and 0800 hrs., ten countries, all European, were worked at strengths varying between S6 and S9, all done on the one frequency 3505. Frantic calls are being sent to America, but so far with no result. We are now scrounging around for sky hooks as the two poles are to be removed, but no doubt we shall soon find a way round this difficulty.

Last month we promised to get a report from one of the ladies on the Families' Tea Party, and Mrs. Sheerstone has kindly obliged with the following information:

There was a very good attendance at the monthly tea party for the wives of No. 3 Training Regiment, held at Bourlon N.A.A.F.I. on Wednesday, 27th October. The hostess, Mrs. Wise, conducted a raffle of the contents of a Canadian food parcel. This realised 8s. 6d., and it was agreed that a raffle at each meeting would be a good idea as apart from the interest (especially for the lucky ones), it was a good way of raising funds for next summer's "day at the seaside." An excellent tea was provided and enjoyed by all, including the numbers of children present.

Thank you, Mrs. Sheerstone, and thank you, Mrs. Wise.

Major MacDonnel has now left us for B.A.O.R., and we are soon to lose Major Williams on release, and Lieutenant

Battery charging

Prescot on posting to West Africa. We wish them all every success for the future. We have also lost Lieutenant Barnes to No. 4 Training Regiment, and congratulate him on his recent promotion to captain. In exchange, we welcome Lieutenant Sidney, who has recently returned to this country from Hong Kong.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. We welcome the arrival of the wives of members who have recently moved into Married Quarters. Slips, bolster (rations, for the use of), have been framed for future use.

We are pleased to record the safe arrival of a daughter to Sergeant and Mrs. Groves, R.E.M.E.

We began the month with a social evening which, unfortunately, clashed with those of several other Messes. Our entertainments committee, nothing daunted, however, finished up the month by putting on a really first-class "do," and showed all and sundry that we can and will be a power in the social world.

During the month we were entertained to a games tournament by our neighbours, the 14th/20th Hussars. The highlight of the show was the snooker match between the Hussars Q.M. and our Sergeant Earl. Joe Davies had better look to his laurels !

In order to sort out our own talent, we ran some very successful billiards, snooker and darts handicaps, which were won by Sergeant Groves, R.E.M.E., Sergeant Robinson, R.A.M.C., and Sergeant Porter, S.Q.M.S. Dearing, Sergeant Groves and Sergeant Porter taking the highest score prizes.

The Mess unites in sending heartiest Christmas and New Year greetings to our friends at home and overseas. We will set aside a "firkin" for absent friends.

Notes from Aisne Lines. "J" TROOP have now passed out, gaining a high percentage of B.IIIs (87.1 per cent.), and much of the credit for this must go to Lieutenant Symons and Sergeant Hunt, who put in some very hard work between them.

"K" TROOP. At the time of writing we are fast approaching the B.III tests and farewells to No. 3 Training Regiment. We have won all our inter-Troop soccer matches, and under the stimulus of our O.C., Captain Sullivan, have played quite a lot of rugger. Captain Sullivan, Lance-Corporal Tully and Signalmen Cooke, Allen and Jad have all played rugger for the Regiment.

The Troop artist, Charlie Pryke, former "busy," with that deft hand and sense of humour of his, has provided a "new look" in aids to visual training, one of which is forwarded with these notes.

If it were not for bad lads, humorists and howler experts, a section N.C.O.'s life would be a dull one indeed. "K" Troop has certainly not been lacking in such characters, who will be seen at their best on pass-out night.

"L" TROOP. When the lads of "L" Troop read these notes they will, we trust, have matriculated from No. 3 Training Regiment and left its "quiet, peaceful" life for service in foreign climes. Those who applied for service in special Units ("Wee Scouse" Kallaher and "Jock" Cochrane to note) have been heard to say that the daily routine will be drab, dull and lazy after 14 weeks under our Commando Squadron Commander, Major Williams. We shall miss that daily "bash" down the Richmond road after first works parade, and it is with profound sorrow that we realise that we are not to be allowed to do it on Christmas Day. We feel slighted that after the pantomime dress in which "K" Troop paraded for their five-mile "bash," the order that we should parade in cowboys' trousers, football boots, sheepskin jackets and busbies was cancelled in favour of normal battle order. Talking of sheepskins reminds us of our last day on the range at Herron Tree, when Captain McKay was suddenly heard to scream "Safety catches back, stand up from your rifles, flag up," and then on the blower to the butts, "Sergeant Betts, remove that sheep from the butts . . . Yes, sheep, S-H-E-E-P. What? . . . Sheepskin liberty bodice. . . . Well, get it off!" Well, good-bye, "L" Troop. Give all our love to Germany and Austria, and tell them all we are sorry that they could not be back in peace in Catterick with comfortable beds and warm barrack rooms.

The fire bell tolls across the Square at Aisne
And "Love" Troop race towards that fiery scene.
The hours of fire drill in the pouring rain
Make automatic the action that they need.

A mad rush across the gravelled Square,
With Nelson, Hall and Mitchell in the van,
To quench those flames with water and with sand?
Not on your life—to warm their ruddy hands!

"N" TROOP is now well settled down in its new quarters in Aisne Lines. Before leaving No. 2 Squadron, N.1 Section gave a concert in the N.A.A.F.I. in Bourlon Lines, which was well received by a large audience and earned great praise for their efforts, which were under the guiding hand of Lance-Corporal Johnny Freeman, their Section N.C.O. The Troop have provided the Regimental soccer team with three players and are doing very well in their weekly sports events. Lieutenant Sidney is the Troop Officer, and the Troop Sergeant is "Paddy" Millington, Lance-Corporals "Paddy" Bogle and Freddie Belcher being Section N.C.O.s.

Agony Column. Sergeant Frank Betts would like to hear from S.S.M. Bill Sinclair or Sergeant Alan Stout.

Calling Signalman Brooksbank, Maurice, last heard of in Catterick. Signalman Pinkney, L. G., 2351046, of Aisne Lines, Catterick Camp, is hopefully awaiting your news.

Bill Hockaday, believed residing in B.A.O.R.: Corporal Doug. Godbeer awaiting lines.

Letters from "Busty" Burdess now hangs in its place of honour in the Sergeants' Mess. Thanks, "Busty"!

Calling Sergeant Alan Sweet. No. 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, is the address. Remember?

Sergeant Jeremy would like to hear from any of his Rumanian Military Mission colleagues. Any languages accepted.

To Tommy Tompkins (believed to be in Singapore). What news of Pat O'Brien and "Tich" Funnell, last seen on the Buthidaung Road, and any others of that happy little band ?

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

1. The Catterick Amenities Committee

Little ever gets told in THE WIRE of the happenings in the camp which is really the home of the Corps.

The Catterick Amenities Committee is presided over each month by the G.O.C. Catterick District, Major-General R. T. O. Cary (late Royal Signals), when it assembles in the conference room at District H.Q.

This committee is built up from representatives from every Unit in the District to discuss the welfare and amenities problems of the troops and their families.

A recent proposal by the G.O.C. was that married families themselves should form committees from various parts of the camp, which has been split up into four wards for this purpose. So far, each ward has had its initial meeting, and ward committees have been elected. It should not be long before great improvements in camp life are under way. More anon.

SERGEANT ("BUSTY") HUNT

2. Quick Thinking

The cook sergeant was ready and waiting for him—a young shaver no more than 19 if a day. Almost too young to be in the Army, and there he was, Orderly Officer. All those questions at dinner time, and that particularly ancient crack about the potatoes' eyes winking at him. Why that one had been cracked in the Army ever since men had first peeled potatoes.

As the Orderly Officer drew nearer, the cook sergeant took up what could only be described as a defensive position, between two soyer stoves, and threw a hasty glance round for possible snags which would constitute a weakening of his defences.

The bread was all out and ready, the ham was nearly ready to serve, and the sardines on toast looked particularly pleasing. Yes, everything was just as it should be. Was that a faint frown of disappointment on the young brow ?

No, it had cleared away, only to be replaced by a slightly smug smile. The O.O. had found it. The soyer stove was not quite boiling; a few small bubbles in the centre were the only sign of life, and tea should be ready for serving within the next half-hour.

At last he spoke: "Oh, sergeant, why is your water not boiling? Look, only that small drop in the middle is boiling. Why is that?" Quickly the sergeant thought; he must say something to save the day. Yes, he had it! "That drop in the middle, sir? Well, you see, sir, that drop in the middle is for the guards' tea, sir. They have their's half an hour before the rest, sir."

CORPORAL A. E. WOODLEY

3. Der Tag

At last the day has arrived. The day that has been preceded by weeks of hard, intensive training. We are awakened in the usual manner, but today the early morning light looks more depressing than usual. The tension is great; one can sense it all around. We joke as we dress about our chances of coming through O.K., and it helps to cover the uneasiness of a few among us. Then we're waiting, smoking and running over all we have been taught. Peep, peep!—that's the whistle, and out we run to fall in, with a corporal in charge. He chats with us for a few minutes and then says, "O.K., chaps, you're on your own. Good luck!" and away we march, heads up, clutching our pencils, as we make our way towards the room to sit our B.III trade test.

CORPORAL P. BYERS

4. Sweet Nineteen

It was a warm summer's day as an excited O.W.L. sped along the winding country lane with an almost lustful look in his eyes.

Yes, today she was all his, for the first time. That glorious day had arrived when he could spend the whole day with her; when she was entirely at his mercy.

The truck pulled up at the small copse at the top of the hill. Yes, this was ideal; here was a perfect spot where he would at last be able to do those things of which he had dreamed so long. Here he would accomplish everything. He searched for a suitable spot. Yes, this was ideal; plenty of cover, away from the inquisitive masses.

He hurried back to the truck. Yes, she was still there. He smiled that knowing smile as he lifted her almost reverently from the vehicle. This was beyond his wildest dreams. There she was in his arms, as irresisting, as much alive as yesterday's lymphatic codfish. He felt a surge of excitement run through him.

He laid her down on a small mossy bank with all due care. He was so gentle, but he knew she liked to be treated with care. She, of course, offered no resistance as he tactfully removed her raincoat. She even looked more inviting.

How he loved the preamble; she co-operated wonderfully. But now she offered a little resistance. Tactfully he tried enticing her, but she refused. He pleaded, he implored, but she only uttered a baleful moan. What was wrong? Why should she act like this?

It was now 11 o'clock and he had made no progress. Perhaps he should try again. This time he would be more careful. . . .

Success at last! She was purring like a she-cat feeding her newly-born. For the next 15 minutes the indoctrine system was surely overworked, but at last he was on net. At last his wireless set No. 19 Mk. III was working. At long last he was on net !

CORPORAL SMITH

Sognal Singsters No. 2

(With apologies to the *Tatler*)

A flurried fowl oppressed by the CEE-ESO bird and depressed by its fellows

The Greenshanked Eyewozthur or Tobruk Chicken

(Pakmiportmanto—Offontaur)

Adult Male: Easily recognised by its sad brown eyes and habit of looking down its beak at lesser birds. Beak long, sensitive and mobile. Body feathers, coarse-textured and greeny-brown during the winter changing to sandy-brown and becoming very abbreviated during the summer; especially in the Southern Hemisphere. Gait uncertain; when not in motion appears to be sitting on an imaginary shooting stick.

Habits: The Eyewozthur is a commanding fowl and is usually to be found in sanctuaries with a B.E. (bird establishment) of 600 or over. It appears only when it has thought out some horrid new ideas, e.g. twig fatigues and sanctuary sanitary squads. Delights in parading its flock, which it summons with a call that sounds rather like this: "Werzmeflipinadj—getcheraircut—werzmeflipinadj."

Habitats: Has the largest nest in the sanctuary, which is cleaned out daily by 0830 hrs.—or else! Ground around nest usually littered with small white stones arranged in lines and intricate patterns which appear to fascinate the Eyewozthur, but are a constant source of irritation to the other members of the sanctuary.

A Christmas Carol

MODIFIED FOR BURMA BY "ABDUL SANDY KHAN"

CHRISTMAS always brings its memories and I must confess that after reading a short notice in the paper regarding a well-known orphanage, I found myself miles away from the fireside and back with the grandest crowd of fellows I have ever soldiered with.

Should it be that some "shooting the line" becomes apparent, you must accept the writer's apologies, and so, "Over to Burma."

It was a nice gesture on the part of the O.C. to recall us from the Brigade H.Q. for "instructions," especially as the date was 24th December, 1944. We were then in the Katha area, where, for the first time since scrambling down the Railway corridor, we were near a decent airfield.

Everyone had done his share to make it a "real" Christmas. Even the Japs called it a day, and as for supplies, they appeared in streams of lorry-loads from the airfield.

All our supplies throughout the campaign were flown out to us by the U.S. Air Force, and may it be ever remembered that they never missed one delivery. They must have been very determined that Christmas because they just kept coming in with load after load of Christmas delicacies.

Night soon fell but there was no black-out, so the hurricane lamps remained uncovered and the odd "genny" gave additional lighting to the Mess "areas" as well as the dining hall. The "hall," of course, was rows of felled tree trunks and planks arranged for seating purposes only.

While a "sing song" was arranged for the lads off duty, the C.O. and officers gathered the warrant officers and sergeants for the first "get together" since the previous Christmas—in any case it was the first time any liquor had been made available for such a gathering. Strange as it may seem, it finished up not as a drinks party, but as a choral society heartily singing carols. What I recall most of all was the reverence with which the carols were sung.

Wandering round later in the night, one had to chuckle at the improvised Christmas decorations which had been made. There were parachutes spreadeagled around the "hall" with "Greetings from 'Appy Ack Section," "Best wishes from the Daring D.R.s" and other such greetings, all artistically dabbed on with charcoal. When one thinks of the use the parachutes were put to then and the value of them now——! !

Further on, near the "hall," the "bomerghees" (cooks), under the supervision of the R.Q.M.S. (the one and only Alf), were busy cooking the ducks. Alf worked like a super human being preparing the food, and consequently fell fast asleep beside the fire. He was eventually wakened and informed that he was well done on one side, would he please move over ! He moved over but never left the ducks until the last one was "on the turn."

It is impossible to record all the various celebrated events on that Christmas Day, but three remain unforgettable. The crowded church made of parachutes, which bulged in all directions. The midday meal, which really was some feast. The Second-in-Command with the Q.M. were chief dish washers while everyone with three stripes or "pips" to his credit was running round serving filled, or collecting empty, plates. The toasts were given and a special one was included for "the Folk at Home."

Then came the Christmas tree.

How it originated was never recorded, but three signalmen staged the whole business, and what a success it was. It was not spectacular nor had it any publicity, but like the proverbial snowball, it grew and grew.

To begin with, an attached United States Army operator had presented a carton of cigarettes which was tied to the tree and one paid eight annas for a ticket. It was the financial side that attracted everyone because all proceeds were for Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Money and presents poured in, not only from our own Unit but from other Divisional troops in the area. The cashier's book was filled with names when the Divisional Commander arrived to pick out the first winning ticket. It was a fine gesture on his part but one feels sure he appreciated the opportunity to support the venture. The Commanding Officer drew the second winner, and then the ever-popular O.C. "Dog" Section carried on until even the bar of soap—which was precious even then—was won from the tree.

Everyone was satisfied, whether a prizewinner or not, because after all a Christmas tree is always great fun and when a few special "prizes" were palmed for various individuals—I for one was "presented" with some Indian "Beedies" because of my association with the Indian linemen—it became more of a Christmas party game. I recall that months later a letter from the Home was pinned to the notice board and they, too, appreciated the Christmas tree—or at least the generous donation.

Returning next day to the Brigade, we crossed the Irrawaddy on Boxing Day and pushed on to bed down in somewhat different surroundings. Come New Year's Eve we were in a black-out area so those off duty crept under their nets fairly early. Much to our horror, we were rudely awakened at 2330 hrs. by the O.C. Brigade Section—needless to say he was a Scot—with orders to report to the Signal Office at once. We did, and it must be recorded that our remarks about a Happy New Year were far from the normal trends. Arriving at the tarpaulin which *was* the Signal Office, our Scottish friend said, "Listen Sassenachs, in a few minutes it will be the New Year and we Scots always celebrate it. Brigade Major or no Brigade Major, we are going to celebrate—where's your mugs ?" Soon all containers—one fellow used a milk tin—were filled with various liquors. Only the O.C. Section knew from whence the liquor had been "borrowed," and obviously it was never returned. However, we drank to 1945 and then in traditional manner linked arms round a tree outside the office and sang "Auld Lang Syne." No wonder the sentries smiled.

All this was yesterday, but if I am near a Christmas tree this year or link arms on New Year's Eve I know whom I shall think of; what is more, they were all a grand crowd well worth thinking of, and I sincerely wish them every success in 1949.

No. 2 TRAINING REGIMENT

November

The main event of the fading year is the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker. He has been our Commanding Officer for nearly two years, and during that time he has watched over us all and had an ever-patient ear for all our many problems.

Mrs. Goodeve-Docker will be sadly missed by all the families, in whose welfare she has taken an unceasing interest.

The Colonel and his wife are going to Farelf, and all ranks of the Unit join in wishing them *bon voyage* and "Good Luck" in whatever the future holds for them.

Headquarters Squadron will soon be saying goodbye to W.O.I Watters, "Q" Burke and Corporal Reeves. The departure of R.S.M. Watters causes mixed feelings; the Unit barbers will miss all the trade that he was wont to send them, the pipe-smokers will find that they have to buy only half as much tobacco, and all the people in the many departments in which he has worked will miss his efficiency and humour. We feel that we shall be seeing S.Q.M.S. Burke and Corporal Reeves again, the former because he intends to keep a pub, and the latter because he will be living in the nearby village of Scotton.

The Unit suffers a further loss (temporary, we hope) in the departure of Mr. Maddocks, who held the post of Orderly Room Chief Clerk for nearly two years. His health has forced him to take a rest, and we all wish him a speedy return to us.

We are also bidding farewell to the Royal Signals Display Team at the end of their most successful season.

Congratulation for this month go to Sergeants Diaper and Snow on their recent promotion to this rank, and to Ash, Batho, Bradford, Bruce, Cantrill, Craston, Johnston, Taylor and Weedall on the acquisition of their second stripes.

During the past few weeks it has become increasingly difficult to contact Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s during working hours. We are told that they are "at school." The reason for this is the imminent Forces Preliminary Examination. Indeed, it is doubtful that even Shakespeare's Jacques could be more amazed than we are to see the fourth of the Seven Ages gradually replaced by the Second!

The Newcastle Blood Transfusion Team have visited the Unit twice in the last four weeks. On the first occasion there were 150 donors and on the second 250. Well done, all concerned!

Another visit during the month has been that of the Documentation Team from Royal Signals Records. A certain amount of midnight oil was burnt in laying out the docs., and now Docs. Clerks, with closely-knitted brows, look on while the team meticulously combs its way through piles and piles of paper.

On 9th November the Unit Drama Group presented a broadcast version of Patrick Hamilton's play, "Rope." This was engineered by having a microphone, an amplifier, a gramophone and a great deal of wire in the Education Office, and running cables to the Quiet Rooms in the two N.A.A.F.I.s. The audience sat around loudspeakers, which were installed in the Quiet Rooms. At the business end there was much flapping and disturbance, but little of this was communicated to the listeners, and the evening was considered to be a success.

The married families enjoyed another tea party on Thursday, 11th November. As this was likely to be the last appearance of Mrs. P. G. Goodeve-Docker, the R.S.M.'s wife, Mrs. Irvine, presented a bouquet on behalf of all the families. The monthly competition, judged by two Army schoolmistresses, Miss Marchant and Miss W. Ragg, revealed the winner of the grown-ups' class as Mrs. Morris, with Mrs. Phyall second. The children's embroidery competition was won by Miss June Morris, closely followed by the Misses Annette Beardmore, Jeanette Burke and Glenda Grigg.

Preparations for the Yuletide festivities are in full swing. A grand Christmas draw is announced within the Regiment, and the P.R.I. (Captain J. D. Willey) has promised to add £10 to the takings, so that the prizes will be really something to write home about.

The "Monstrosities" are planning a bumper pantomime for the Christmas period, and we take off our hats to their members who are staying behind to entertain the unfortunates who cannot get away.

As these notes will probably appear in print at Christmas time, we may well end on this festive note, and wish all members of the Corps a Merry Christmas and the very best of luck in the New Year.

PREWITT

No. 4 TRAINING REGIMENT

November

The Regiment has now emerged from a short period of chaos, caused by the move from Shaiba to Gaza Lines; everything is more or less back on a steady keel, even to the extent of the Education Office being open.

We rounded off a very excellent Cricket season by sharing the Northern Command Cup and we look forward to the next season with high hopes; although by then we shall have lost Major Evans, whose unbounded energy for all sports has been invaluable to the Regiment.

The Rugby season has opened well. We have several people playing for the Corps, namely Sergeant Reece, Lance-Corporal Tranter, Signalman Anderson, and Corporal Grant and Signalman Mason, who also play for Yorkshire. Unfortunately Signalman Mason has left us to join No. 1 Training Regiment.

In the match between H.M.S. Ceres and Catterick Signals, Sergeant Reece played brilliantly, in a game which ended in a victory for Catterick Signals.

We have to thank Mr. Goldstein for all his excellent work in starting off the Regimental Dances with a grand opening dance at Hipswell Gymnasium. It is to be hoped that these dances will continue as well as they began.

On the 26th and 27th of this month we held our Novices' Boxing Competition. On the Tuesday night No. 4 Squadron received a severe blow to their pride by being beaten thoroughly by H.Q. Squadron, but H.Q. were not quite able to match No. 3 Squadron at the finals on the following night. The standard of boxing was very good but will probably improve as time goes on.

The Blood Transfusion Team from Newcastle visited the Regiment and found many willing volunteers ready to step out of the ranks. The Ypres N.A.A.F.I. blossomed forth overnight with hospital beds, and everything went very smoothly.

Most of the Regiment now lives in a comfortable Sandhurst Block, where the food, provided by the Jaffa School of Cookery, A.C.C., is incredibly good.

One other extaordinary thing about the block is its clock. The fact that we have a clock may not sound unusual, nor does the clock appear in any way deformed, but it chimes in such a way that only few can hear it, due to the high pitch; hence one half of the Regiment knows that it chimes, whereas the other half will lay 8—1 that it does not.

* * *

Success of No. 5 Training Regiment in Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials

We are indebted to the *Catterick Gazette* for news of a conclusive victory for Royal Signals. Producing five out of the best ten individual results, 5 Training Regiment lost only 63 points against 137 points lost by the second team.

It was good to see a representative of 21 Corps Signals, T.A., finishing fourth in the individual scores.

No. 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals

Back row: Second-Lieutenant F. W. Millman, Lieutenant G. Mackenzie, Lieutenant D. J. Baxter, Second-Lieutenant G. F. Armitage, Second-Lieutenant P. N. Morshead, Second-Lieutenant J. L. Monk, Second-Lieutenant P. G. Eaton, Lieutenant K. G. Harvey, Second-Lieutenant D. W. Holden. Centre row: Captain A. Higgins, Captain W. Gillett, Captain L. C. P. Jaggard, Captain F. J. Reed, Captain J. H. Walmesley-Cotham, Captain W. F. Rattue, Captain E. Priestley-Cooper, Captain A. P. Boyle, Captain W. C. W. Smith, Captain J. W. Green. Captain (Q.M.) G. J. Gillings. Front row: Major G. M. Fraser, Major H. R. Jordan, Major F. T. C. Williams, Major W. S. Bevan, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Beeton, Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Captain P. D. Parker, Major J. N. Boyland, Major W. J. Hotchkiss, Major F. S. Petrie

November

We are at the 7,000 recruit mark now and still pressing on regardless.

Both pairs of Squadrons have had a very welcome break of three weeks between intakes last month. Not that we hung about the place sucking our thumbs; cadre courses, range classifications and 10-mile hikes were the order of the day. It would have done the recruits' hearts good to see us.

Some welcome upgrading in star ratings followed, and we are now back at the old grind.

The Regiment's fortnightly pass-off parades are proving a magnet for all the V.I.P.s in the district and we seldom have a parade without an inspection by very senior officers, who so far have expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the results.

Our reconstituted football team has covered itself with glory by winning all its first six matches by very handsome margins indeed and is now firmly placed at the top of the league. A heavy setback in the Army Cup, when we lost 1—4, was followed immediately by a District game, which we won 9—1 just to prove that we hadn't lost form.

Careful preparations are being made for the winter; .22 shooting and selective trials are taking place now which we hope will produce a good team and do even better than last year—Mossbergs permitting.

A thrilling evening's entertainment was witnessed at the Blood Tub when the Regiment was narrowly defeated by the 14th/20th King's Hussars in the first round of the Northern Command Challenge Cup on Friday, 22nd October. The final score—No. 7 Selection Regiment 13 points, 14th/20th King's Hussars 14 points—bore testimony to the keen, hard rivalry.

The Regimental team did remarkably well considering all but three of the team were recruits with only two weeks' Army service. Their fighting spirit and physical fitness were a credit to the Corps, and they nobly upheld the past traditions of the Blood Tub, cradle of Corps boxing.

Signalman Hearns defeated Trooper Taylor in what must have been a very close fight in the bantams. Corporal Norris, the first string feather, won on points after being knocked down twice in the last round by his stronger but less skilful opponent. Lance-Corporal Norris, the second string feather, won his fight by a k.o. in the second round. Signalman Bryant was beaten on points after just failing to k.o. his opponent in the last round in the lights. Signalman Brand, the second string light, won on points from his opponent. The highlight of the evening was the bout between Signalman Brooks and Corporal Percival. Brooks, who faced a much more experienced fighter, gave a fine display of boxing and was unlucky to lose in what must have been a very close decision. Brooks will be a valuable addition to the Corps team. His opponent, who must have had several unpleasant moments during the bout, is representing Northern Command *versus* Coventry in the middles this month.

Back row: Signalman P. Wilkinson, Sergeant A. Merrills, Signalman H. Larkin, Signalman C. Brooks, Signalman W. Brand, Corporal K. Norris, Signalman O. Bryant. Front row: Signalman H. Hearns, Sergeant-Instructor C. Johnson, Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Beeton, Captain W. F. Rattue, Corporal T. Bailey

For the first time since we started our new job we have managed to muster enough of the Regiment's officers together at one time to justify a group photograph, which we have enclosed. If anyone develops any peculiar ideas as a result that we are well supplied with officers, they are welcome to come along and have a go.

Resistance Unparalleled

COLONEL STANDYNGE-WAIVE drove furiously into R.H.Q. car park on his modern streamlined megacycle, and looked anxiously at his watch. He had come from ohm by the short circuit over Wheatstone Bridge as he was late getting up, but he had made up for lost time and was earlier than usual. He strode masterfully into his office, ignoring the H.Q. cat which let out a variable mew as he trod on its tail, and, picking up the phone, asked for the Adjutant.

"Engaged, sir, I'm sorry," replied the duty operator.

"Watt, engaged? Who to?" queried the C.O., naturally if ungrammatically.

"Why, sir, Miss Milli Volt, the Signal Mistress," came the answer. "She's been to the Regimental barber's to have a sine wave before the wedding."

As the C.O. replaced the receiver with specific gravity, Dai Electric, the little Welsh Q.M., knocked and walked in.

"Morning, Dai," said the Colonel. "How's the wife?"

"Fine, sir, and the neipers too—all alive and kicking."

"Good. Glad to hear it. Well, what can I do for you?"

"Sorry to bother you, sir, but I've been having a bit of a cross-talk with Dados and——"

"Send for the Lines Officer," interrupted the Colonel, and rang the decibel impatiently (the other 9/10 was in workshops for repairs).

"Henry has been getting a bit slack lately—I must choke him off."

A short silence followed, which was broken by a hesitant tap on the door. At the sharp "Come in" the door opened and Henry Koyle staggered in, carrying an R.E. shovel on his shoulder.

"Sorry to bring the gardening implements with me, sir," he began by way of explanation, "but I've just been removing an earth. We've had a shocking accident out on the circuit."

"Accident? How do you mean?" asked Colonel Standynge-Waive.

"Well, sir, it was like this. Somebody in the district must have been out doing a spot of line shooting, because one of ours suddenly snapped, and brought down a pole as it fell. I'm afraid we suffered one dead short, and we're burying him with full military honours in the morning. Another chap has got one leg dis, and I'm afraid his main artery is affected too."

"Hm. Very sorry to hear this," grunted the C.O. "We'll arrange the funeral of this fellow—we'll let the band pass without interference too. I'll see about it. Now I understand the reason for the confusion on the lines, but I can't say I'm altogether convinced you are entirely faultless. I think you've been spending too much time with that girl—what's her name, Kath Ode? I know she's got very good connections but you must think a bit more of your job. I think a bit of expert technical advice would be of use to your section too. I'll send for the foreman."

"Four men, sir? But I've only had two casualties," hesitated Koyle.

"Don't argue," thundered the C.O. "Wait outside."

As Koyle hastily disappeared, Dai Electric saluted smartly and took his leave, pausing only to say "Good morning" to the Adjutant, Alec Tron, who entered at that moment.

"Morning, sir."

"Morning, Alec. What's all this I hear about you and Subaltern Milli Volt? I suppose you're hoping I'll favour this match? How will you manage financially?"

"I can't even manage to buy a ring, actually, sir. One of the telephone operators is going to give me one. But Rector Fier approves the idea."

"Well, good luck to you. Now I was wanting to see you about something—what was it? What on earth's that?" The Colonel was distracted for a moment by a hairy squeg which had appeared on his desk, its legs working in quiescent push pull, but he went on, "Oh yes, this telephone. Now I want you to go to the exchange this morning and get me a new one. You can put this letter in the post office box as you go, and bias some stamps while you're about it." The Adjutant saluted and withdrew.

The office was silent once more, and Colonel Waive turned his attention to his correspondence. Suddenly he raised his head and shouted for the Sergeant-Major. W.O.I Mathew Mattics came in at the double on hearing his master's voice.

"Serg'nt-Major, we've had another complaint about our OWLS. Apparently they are hooting out of hours, and playing on cabledrums or something. And what about the Guardroom—have you checked that lately?"

"Yes, sir," answered Mr. Matticks. "All the cells are dry now, the grid's stopped leaking. The cells are being issued with log tables too—it's a new A.C.I."

"I see. Well, thank you, Mr. Mattics. Have you got anything else for me?"

"Only one thing, sir. I told my new clerk (Lance-Corporal Algy Bra) to charge some batteries this morning, but he tells me we've run out of 252s."

By TONY, MAX and ROGER

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY SEASON CLOSES

Once again our now famous Royal Signals Display Team have brought to a close a most successful season. Since the Press Show in Catterick last May, the Team has taken part in the Royal Tournament at Olympia, visited Scotland and Ireland and the Channel Island of Guernsey, not to mention a most extensive tour of this country, including a very welcome return to Catterick at the time of the Annual Fair.

At all their shows they have been most warmly received by record crowds, and in their wake have followed glowing tributes of their performances.

On Tuesday, 19th October, to celebrate the close of the season and to say farewell to the members of the team, some of whom are already experiencing the throes of civilian life, a dinner was held to mark the occasion.

Among those present were Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., Commander, Signal Training Centre, Captain J. St. C. W. Robinson, Royal Signals, Officer-in-Charge Display, Lieutenant R. T. Dimmock, Royal Signals, Team Officer, and among the guests were Major E. S. Colman, Royal Signals, Officer-in-Charge Display earlier in the year, and Captain A. Stirk, Royal Signals, of 5 Training Regiment, where the Team received their initial training.

After an excellent dinner, Brigadier Galwey paid tribute to the Team and its staff, including Captain C. F. Jackman,

Royal Signals, who is now in Singapore, who have done so much to uphold and enhance the good reputation of the Corps throughout the country. They had given great service in stimulating the present Recruiting Drive for the Territorial Army. He stated that from the very warm tributes he had received from all parts of the country where they had visited, they had obviously never enjoyed so successful a season. He wished every success to the new Team which will be formed in 1949.

Lieutenant R. T. Dimmock replied on behalf of the Team, and thanked its members for their willing co-operation throughout the season, and also those of the staff who had ensured the smooth running of their programme.

It would be fitting to say "Good Show" to the Royal Signals Display Team of 1948, and leave their good example as an inspiration to those who will succeed them.

The 1949 Team will be fortunate in having the services of several old members of the Team, including Sergeant Oglanby, the Team Sergeant and a pre-war member, and all preparations are now well in hand.

During the season which has just closed, displays were given at the following tattoos, agricultural shows, etc. Already many requests have been received to book the Display for 1949, and there is every prospect that we shall enjoy yet another successful season.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM—1948 SEASON

May 5. Press Show, Catterick Camp.
May 17. Heston Community Centre Carnival.
May 21. Derby Territorial Association.
May 22. Derby Territorial Association.
May 27/29. Royal Northern Show, Belfast.
June 2/3. Suffolk Show, Ipswich.
June 9/26. Royal Tournament, Olympia.
June 28. British Legion Fete, St. Neots.
July 3. Leeds Schools Athletic Association.
July 5. 8th Cadet Bn., D.L.I., Stockton.
July 14. Royal Northern Show, Aberdeen.
July 15. Recruiting Display, Aberdeen.
July 17. Wick Improvement Committee, Wick.
July 20/21. Tunbridge Wells & S.E. Counties Show.
July 22. Snaith Agricultural Show.
July 24. Newport Show, Salop.
July 28. Angus Show, Dundee.
July 31. Border Union Show, Kelso.
July 29. Kirkcaldy T.A., Fife.
Aug. 2. Brewood Show, Wolverhampton.
Aug. 3. St. James' Sports, Thirsk.
Aug. 4. Barnard Castle Show.
Aug. 5. A.C.F. Camp, Whitburn.
Aug. 7. Perthshire Show, Perth.
Aug. 9. Catterick Fair.
Aug. 12. Catterick Fair.
Aug. 14. Ashington Show, Northumberland.
Aug. 28/20. Blackpool & Fylde Show.
Sept. 1/2. Northern Show, Guernsey.
Sept. 6. A.C.F. London, Wimbledon.
Sept. 9. Wembley Stadium.
Sept. 11. Daimler Social Club Sports, Coventry.
Sept. 16/18. Liverpool Tattoo.
Sept. 20. Exeter Speedway.
Sept. 22. Barnstaple F.A. Match.
Sept. 24. Bristol Speedway, Knowle Stadium.
Sept. 25. Torquay—Rugby Union Match.
Sept. 29. Plymouth T.A. Tattoo.
Sept. 30. Bridgewater Fair.
Oct. 2. Taunton—Rugby Union Match.
Oct. 6. Salisbury T.A. Display.
Oct. 8. Southampton T.A. Tattoo.
Oct. 9. Southampton T.A. Tattoo.
Oct. 14. Reading—A.C.F.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT
Blacon Camp, Chester

October and November

The tenor of our existence flows evenly and pleasantly for all of us. No. 3 Squadron is a hive of activity these autumn days, testing radio equipment out in the blue. Lieutenant Lister and S.S.M. Causey are with them, so we can expect some quite interesting results! No. 2 Squadron, of course, supply the Signal Office personnel, and are very busy. No. 1 Squadron is at present undergoing a visit from the vehicle experts from the Ministry of Supply. No wonder Sergeant Acton looks worried, although the inspection is proceeding quite smoothly.

New faces crop up every day: the new "types" are absorbed quickly into the swing of things.

Officers' Mess. Yes, believe it or not, news from the Officers' Mess.

We lay down the red carpet for the following new arrivals, and welcome them with open arms: Major (T.O.M.) G. R. Bishop (who comes to lend his weight to ease the M.T. situation) and Second-Lieutenants Williams, Haycock, King and Watkin. (The feet of Williams hadn't touched the ground before he was whisked off to Preston).

Hearty congratulations to Major Hatcher, who managed to snatch the North-West District Singles Golf Title from under the noses of the powers-that-be. Not bad for a beginner of two years' standing! I'm afraid that those few golf balls won't look half so well as the massive silver trophy we all pictured.

Congratulations are also due to our O.C. No. 3 Squadron, Major Sawers, for his successful efforts towards Staff College. Best wishes for next year!

Sergeants' Mess. We have no arrivals to report, and no departures. The last three weeks have been quiet ones—the calm before the festive season, we presume. The married members, fortunate to have their wives and families at Poulton Camp, travel to work every day in the "Blacon Pride," S.S.M. Mayhew's recently-acquired Austin "Ruby" saloon. The rumour that he takes it to bed with him every night is definitely refuted.

Sports Day. After a postponement, our Sports were finally arranged for 8th September, and did, in fact, take place on that date (much to everyone's amazement)!

Apart from the fact that overnight rain had made the running track very slippery, conditions were otherwise good.

Major Dixon (Second-in-Command) acted as starter and, apart from his looking rather nonplussed on one occasion when his pistol refused to function, the track events were clear-cut and decisive under his guidance.

Our thanks were also due to Major Kingman (T.O.M.), Major Sawers (O.C. No. 3 Squadron), Major Hatcher (O.C. No. 2 Squadron) and Captain Davidson (pay)—a very harassed recorder.

Prizes were distributed by the wife of the Commanding Officer, the Hon. Mrs. Boileau.

W.O.II Mitchell and his merry men, given the N.A.A.F.I.'s blessing, the Gym, all the tables the Unit could unearth, and not much time, excelled themselves in providing a tea that mother could not have bettered. It disappeared with astonishing rapidity down approximately 190 to 250 eager throats, and our congratulations are belated but none the less sincere.

The Athletics Cup was won by the combined teams of Nos. 2 and 3 Squadrons, composed mainly of switchboard and teleprinter operators. As neither job is conducive to great prowess on the field of sport, this was a jolly good show. Major Hatcher (O.C. No. 2 Squadron), whose decorum did not permit of a war-dance at this result, was naturally extremely pleased.

W.O.II Jackson (S.S.M. No. 2 Squadron) is still blushing with shame! Mrs. Jackson came first in the impromptu Ladies' Race, yet he could only come third in the Veterans' Dash. We are certain there's a moral there somewhere, if we could only take the time to think!

Because of the posting to Harrogate of Corporal Barrett, No. 2 Squadron have lost probably their finest all-rounder. (These ex-Rats, you know!)

Best performance? Well, at the risk of being dubbed a sycophant, I'd say R.S.M. Barrett. Three times he ran the 100 yards, and three times he won, which isn't bad for his 30 years, and, on a track greasy with rain, 11 seconds isn't bad, either.

Football. Three games have now been played, two against civilian teams. Sergeant Roberts is team captain, and has moulded together a useful combination. In Signalman Scott

we have a goalkeeper of no mean ability. He plays custodian in both Hockey and Football, and is equally at home in either game.

Results.	v. Browns, Chester	Lost	1—2
	v. Chester Co-op.	,,	2—3
	v. 12 Coy., R.A.S.C.	,,	2—4
	v. Western Command H.Q., R.A.M.C.	Won	7—1

Hockey. Our Hockey Team progresses from success to success. Team after team has "bitten the dust" in the face of the furious attacks of R.S.M. Barrett's "lakri wallahs." The R.S.M. is our team captain, and is justly proud of the skill and enthusiasm shown by the eleven.

Results.	v. Deeside Ramblers	Won	4—2
	v. Cheshire County Officers	,,	9—0
	v. H.Q., Western Command	,,	4—0
	v. A.P.O., Manchester	,,	9—0
	v. 1 P.D.C.	,,	5—3
	v. Hawarden Hockey Club	Drew	2—2
	v. Port Sunlight	Won	11—0
	v. Chester College	Drew	1—1
	v. R.A.F., Hawarden	Won	6—0
	v. Brookhirst Hockey Club	,,	6—2
	v. 1 P.D.C.	,,	9—0

MID-WEST DISTRICT SIGNALS. As promised last month, notes once again from Salopia. The new scribe mentioned last month has "passed the can."

We have been expecting to move from our camp at the Mount to Copthorne Barracks, but up to now we have had to say put. A few families have moved into our camp and taken over some huts as Married Quarters. We wish them a comfortable stay.

Once again our organisation has experienced a slight change. The appointment of S.O.II Signals at Mid-West District has come under the axe, and Major F. P. Johnson has left for the School of Signals, Catterick. We wish him every success in his new job. Major "Bob" Dixon has arrived to take over duties of O.C. Mid-West District Signals, as the Troop is now called, and we greet him well.

In last month's notes no mention was made of our civilian clerk at Mid-West District, Mr. H. Reason, M.M. Mr. Reason served with the Royal Engineers from 1914 to 1920, being awarded the Military Medal. He has served with Mid-West District since 1946.

Sergeant J. P. Kelly has now left us for the Army Airborne Development Transport Centre, Brizenorton, and our best wishes go with him.

Old Comrades. I feel there are many ex-members of the Corps in Shrewsbury and district. From experience I have found that "old timers" are still interested in Corps activities. I shall be pleased to hear from any ex-Royal Signals who happen to live in the district. A letter to Captain E. Marchant, Silverdale, The Mount, Shrewsbury, will be appreciated, to enable me to try to arrange a small reunion.

The Signalman. The Editorial in the October issue of THE WIRE is of interest to those of us who served in India, and spent much of our service with the Indian Signal Corps. Extracts from the first issue of "The Signalman" are eagerly awaited. We shall, in the meantime, polish up our Urdu.

Royal Show (Free Advertisement). The Royal Agricultural Show is being held in Shrewsbury during the period 5th-8th July, 1949. Arrangements are in hand by Shrewsbury Corporation. Bands and all kinds of shows are incorporated. What a fine chance for the Corps Band and Motor Cycle Display Team. The Town Clerk, Shrewsbury, is the person to approach.

Sport. We have played two football matches this month, both against Mid-West District, winning 2—0 and 4—3. A very good effort.

TERMITE

No. 5 A.A. GROUP (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT
Scarborough

November

Our move, coupled with the loss on demob of the Unit scribe, unfortunately prevented us from sending in any notes during September and October. We hope, however, to make up for this in the coming months.

The Regiment's Remembrance Day Parade revived old associations between 5th Divisional Signals and St. Mark's Church, Scarborough. Turning out in full strength, the Regiment, led by the Adjutant, Captain A. L. Fayerman, marched to the church in what we have now learned to be a typical Scarborough bitter wind. Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Adams, read the lesson, and our "Schoolie," C.S.M. Tradgett, played the organ.

Since our last notes, the officer situation has deteriorated alarmingly. Captain Hurst and Second-Lieutenants Maltby, Murrell, Melford and Lepper have wended their weary way back to Civvy Street, and Second-Lieutenant Ingledow has gone the way of all flesh, i.e. a long course at Catterick.

Football. The Regimental football team accepted an invitation to join Scarborough's Wednesday League, although doubt was expressed as to our ability to provide much opposition. Our present position in the league, however, belies that statement. We are now second, our goal average alone keeping us down. Our success is largely due to the magnificent support given by our A.T.S. It is said that the M.O. treats half the Regiment for sore throats after each match, and to crown all, we turned out in scented shirts for one game.

Our outstanding players are: Goalkeeper, Signalman Anderson; right-half, Signalman McKenzie; centre-half, Driver Timmoney; inside-right, Signalman Weetman.

Hockey. Our highly successful team of last season being now practically defunct, we are striving desperately to form a new one. Unfortunately, no opposition can be found in the district, necessitating mixed games amongst ourselves for practice. With the discoveries from these and the remnants of last season's team, it is hoped to produce a reasonable side.

C.S.M. Pavey and Sergeant Drake are playing for Scarborough's 1st XI against powerful opposition.

No. 3 A.A. GROUP INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Craigiehall, Midlothian

November

Since our last notes were published much has happened to the Squadron, of which the most important was the move from the Group H.Q. at Riccarton to our new home at Craigiehall, about seven miles away.

True there are disadvantages. Picket duties and fatigues are more frequent, but we are now a truly independent squadron with our own football and hockey pitches, and our own Dance Hall. The hall itself is quite a historic building, for it was in it that the German Navy formally surrendered at the end of the First World War.

Within a week of our arrival we had our Housewarming Dance, at which we celebrated a 14—0 victory at football over the Gunners from the Group H.Q. At Hockey, however, we were not so successful, being beaten by six goals to four by a team from No. 12 A.A. Brigade, the previous occupants of our home.

Due to the postponement of release, which news was given a very jaundiced reception by the "Group Happy," there have been few changes of personnel. Second-Lieutenant Temple has, however, gone back to civilian life and to a course of accountancy. No doubt he was inspired to this from his masterly handling of the Imprest Account.

Our congratulations to Corporal Kimber, the Orderly Room "Poobah," on his marriage to Corporal Gill, ex-

A.T.S., on the day before she was released. It was such a tight secret that we didn't even have time to pass on to them Punch's advice to those about to marry—"Don't."

For the winter we have many plans. There will be our fortnightly Dance and a Concert Party is being formed.

We welcomed our new C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland, on 4th October, who relieves Lieutenant-Colonel I. St. Q. Severin—sick. We sincerely hope that he will find Scotland to his liking.

On 28th October we were inspected in our new home by Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., C.S.O. A.A. Command. He was quite pleased with our turn-out, and we hope, sir, that we will be even more impressive when next you call. There is a great deal to do yet, and still less "bods" to do it. "Never before has so much been required to be done by so few." Thanks, Mr. Churchill, for these kind words!

Entertainment. Despite the call of duty, courses, etc., we still manage to run our fortnightly Dance, and we say with pride that many people have gone away—and come back for more.

The Sergeants' Mess, too, has had its little "do's," and, despite setbacks, have had a very nice time.

We had hoped that Scottish Signals and No. 13 A.A. Signals would have responded to our invitations. We know the nights are cold, but they are far colder in Leith Fort.

In No. 3 A.A. Group Motor Cycle Trials on 5th September, the D.R. Section came out with flying colours. Signalman Brown (4th), Signalman Gill (6th) and Signalman Cox (15th), the team placing being third of nine.

The visit of the Corps Band to Edinburgh on 28th October was greatly appreciated—and the Dance in the evening was by far *the* event of the month.

The concert was very much enjoyed, too, by the few who attended. It was good to hear the appreciative remarks made by the visitors from Limburn and Welbourne Blind Institutes.

Some amusement has been caused in the Unit through the girls' enthusiasm to have a lady's name for each chap. Although this is taken in good part it causes some embarrassment at times.

Now for a peep behind the scenes. There is a movement afoot by some of our present members in compiling a variety programme which is to be presented during the Christmas week.

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

26th October, 1948

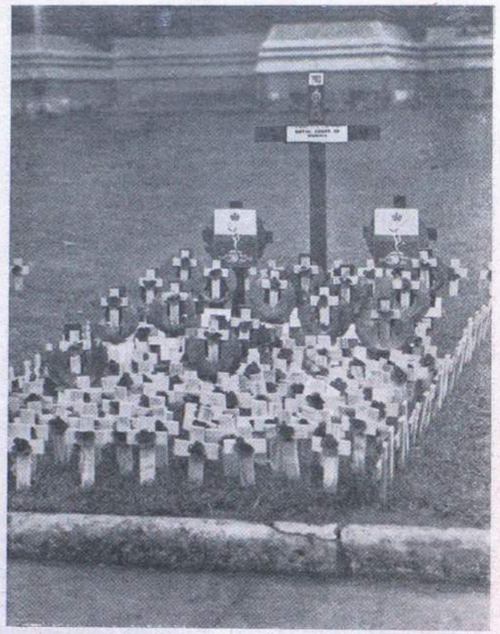
THE business of the Opening of Parliament by His Majesty was well reported in the November issue. This more important session differed in that the route from Buckingham Palace to Westminster was lined throughout by 1st Welsh Guards, 1st K.S.L.I. and 1st Middlesex. It was a fine, sunny but cold day. The troops wore greatcoats and the crowds were much greater.

The staff of the Signal Office and Switchboard at H.Q., London District, were treated to the spectacle of a long stream of cars and even taxicabs passing through the Horse Guards' Arch. Peers and Members of Parliament on this occasion only can infringe that jealously-guarded privilege.

The quality of the cars was a sign of the times, and if the wheeled chromium palaces of the ambassadors are excepted, it was almost fair comment to say that the more decrepit the car the more distinguished the occupant.

The telecommunications worked. Synchronisation was exact.

We in Royal Signals of H.Q., London District, also got a very good view of the procession. Essential operators who were busy during the drive to Parliament were relieved for a close-up during the return journey.



EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

At noon on Thursday, 4th November, the Empire Field of Remembrance was opened in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, Westminster. A Service of Dedication was held outside the north door of the Abbey by the Dean of Westminster. This was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Morley Peel, M.B.E., T.D. (Chairman of London Branch, Royal Signals Association), who was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel T. Victor Barber, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hemsley, M.B.E., T.D., and Major J. W. Hyde, T.D.

Crosses were planted in the Royal Signals enclosure on behalf of the Royal Signals Association and the following Branches: Bournemouth, Bristol, Central Scotland, Chester, East Surrey, Exeter, Glasgow, Huddersfield, Leeds, London, Manchester, Portsmouth, Salisbury, Scarborough, Sheffield, and also on behalf of the following Airborne Signal Units: "L" Section H.Q., 6th Air Landing Brigade Signals, and "A" Section, No. 1 Company, 6th Airborne Divisional Signals.

The Service of Remembrance was duly honoured.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE, CENOTAPH

7th November, 1948

THE annual service was held at the Cenotaph, and it was as impressive and moving as in former years. The weather this year was atrocious, very wet and cold, but hundreds of people, young and old, were crowding the paths opposite the Cenotaph as early as 9 a.m.

The two minutes' silence was announced by "Big Ben" and the gun fired on Horse Guards' Parade. The swishing of the damp-sodden flags on the Cenotaph and the steady patter of the rain were the only sounds as the people remembered.

The King stepped forward, laid a wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph and saluted. Other wreaths were laid by the Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Edinburgh, and on behalf of Queen Mary by Lord Claud Hamilton, her Comptroller.

Wreaths were also laid by the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Creech Jones, Colonial Secretary, and by representatives of the Dominions and Colonies. Wreaths were also laid by the three Service Chiefs, and by Captain Ladd for the Merchant Navy. Mr. Chuter Ede, Home Secretary, laid the wreath for the Civil Defence Services.

I seemed to sense from the spectators that when Mr. Churchill laid his wreath they all felt that here was our war-time leader laying a wreath for us, and that he seemed to be saying as he hesitated and bowed his head after having laid the wreath, "Thank you. Well done, you good and faithful servants."

To see the veterans of both world wars wearing their medals was a very moving sight, especially the several elderly white-haired ladies wearing medals across their chests and marching past the Cenotaph in the rain in their detachments of Old Comrades. I wondered what their thoughts were—no doubt many; perhaps of their dear ones who had died that we might live, or of their own services during those two world wars.

The part played by Royal Signals is the provision of the timing arrangements for the two minutes' silence and for the Director of Music to start and stop the massed bands. The signal for the firing of the gun is given to the King's Troop on the Horse Guards' Parade. This report from the gun is so timed that it goes off at the exact moment that "Big Ben" chimes its first stroke of 11 a.m.

This is done as follows:

A G.P.O. telephone circuit is used from the Clock Room immediately behind the faces of "Big Ben" *via* a room facing the Cenotaph at the Home Office, to a terminal point on the Horse Guards' Parade. The three points are in omnibus and a Royal Signals officer mans each point with a tele. F, using a head and breast set instead of the usual hand set.

The actual seconds are called out by the officer at "Big Ben" and at 10.57 stop watches are started by the officers at the Home Office and the Horse Guards' Parade. At 10.58 + 30 the stop watches are checked. The timing of the firing of the gun is done by watch to avoid the time lag in calling the seconds.

The cue for starting and stopping the Massed Bands is given by the Royal Signals officer in the Home Office window, who switches on and off a light signal on the Director of Music's rostrum.

Like the firing of the gun, it is timed to a second and the timing taken from the seconds repeated from the officer at "Big Ben."

G.H.Mc.K.

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

9th November, 1948

THIS traditional free entertainment for London crowds wound its way through Trafalgar Square between 1.20 and 2 p.m. on a cold, grey day.

The theme was the Auxiliary and Armed Forces of the Crown. The patriotic object was to encourage recruiting.

The Royal Navy led off with decorated cars advertising the R.N.V.R. and R.M.V.R. The Territorial Army showed on their cars mainly the past history of the more famous of the Regiments of City and County of London.

From the back of the crowd the first sight of Royal Signals was, appropriately enough, an A.T.S. switchboard operator with a 40-line F. and F. One caught sight of the shoulder title of Royal Signals in the marching columns of the three Territorial Army Divisions and 1 A.A. Group which followed the tableaux.

Tableaux and marchers of R.A.F.V.R., the Royal Observer Corps and the R.A.F. followed.

There was then mild excitement; a detachment of the Royal Navy had just led past columns representing the Regular Forces when a small Communist demonstration getting undeserved publicity in the eye of the television camera dashed across the route. They were quickly rounded up by unsympathetic policemen and it was gratifying to hear a young lady who had her mirror out describing the arrest and removal of some of them.

Amongst the more striking tableaux was the Royal Marine V.R. with a full-rigged ship in which were Royal Marines in a variety of old-time uniforms, and a huge poster-like tableau with the Divisional signs of all the Territorial Army Divisions.

Gardens in Barracks

In this month and in January cut down timber.
In the last quarter of the moon let fowlers mind their game and hare and fox hunters to their diversion.
But with all let them be careful not to break their own necks or their neighbours' fences.
Cover your best flowers and herbs from frost and storms with rotten horse dung.
Look well to your cattle, water and moist your meadows and let your horses blood.
Set a warm fire and a cup of generous wine or good October beer for thy hearth; the kitchen thy apothecarys shop; hot meals and broth thy physic and a well-spread table the proof of thy charity to thy poor neighbour.

—XVIITH CENTURY LORE.

SO you see what our forefathers thought of it. All the work that should have been done has been done. Relaxation and pleasure the order of the month.

But what of us moderns. I find in my diary that the words hedging and digging constantly recur.

Hedging is in order in the private garden, but unless you are lucky, hedges in barracks are few and far between. If there are any, now is the time to trim them up. It is too late to take cuttings of hedging bushes. Last year I set about 150 laurel cuttings. It was a mild winter, but only about a dozen or so have survived and have been planted recently in their permanent quarters.

Digging should go on only when the soil is working reasonably well. On days when the soil is wet or hard, leave it undisturbed. It is worth while covering up anything special which you fear may suffer from hard weather. In Germany, for instance, their winters are harder than ours; they actually bend over and cover with earth all their roses.

We can't cover with horse dung as they could in the old days, but we can cover; which brings me to the spring cabbages, etc. If you have several rows, and you should have of August/September planted cabbages, try to draw the earth up around them. It will stop them rocking in the wind and help surface rooting, which makes for quick hearting in March and April.

If you have any bracken growing near you, keep some alongside your rows of young stuff, broad beans, early peas, and if the B.B.C. prophets forecast hard frost, cover up the seedlings. Everyone dislikes the man who brings mud into the barrack rooms. Now is a good time to renovate paths. I see in my diary I spent three successive wet week-ends carting coal ash and resurfacing paths.

One last point, when your spades and forks are put away do clean and oil them first.

Signals Day, 1948, at the Royal Canadian School of Signals *Photo by George Lilley*

Left to right: Mrs. R. White, Major R. White, Royal Signals, Mrs. G. C. Leech, Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Leech, O.B.E., Royal Canadian Signals, Major P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Royal Signals, Mrs. F. B. Jones, W.O.II J. E. Burman

"Signals Day"

INAUGURATED IN CANADA

THE Canadian Signals Association, at their annual meeting in September, 1948, decided that a "Signals Day" should be held each year with the object of effecting a reunion of present and past members of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. A secondary object of "Signals Day" would be to raise funds for Signals Welfare. The first Saturday in November was selected as "Signals Day," as it was felt that at this time of the year the thoughts of veterans and serving soldiers would turn towards friends and acquaintances with whom they had come in contact during two World Wars.

This year the inaugural "Signals Day" fell on 6th November, and, in all main centres throughout Canada, Active and Reserve Force units organised reunions, dances and memorial parades which were well attended by present and past members of the Corps and persons connected with Signals in the welfare and auxiliary fields.

The celebrations at the Royal Canadian School of Signals in Kingston, Ontario, consisted of a Dance and Bingo* evening which proved to be an outstanding success. One of the main problems with which the Signals Day Committee was faced was getting in touch with past members of the Corps in the neighbourhood of Kingston. Over 200 copies of a circular letter were sent to those whose addresses were known, and local and industrial concerns were asked to co-operate by displaying posters; advertisements were also inserted in the local newspaper. The committee estimated that 350 persons would attend and were consequently gratified when more than 500 turned up.

The proceedings were opened by Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Leech, O.B.E., Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian School of Signals, who welcomed the guests and read messages of good will from the distinguished personages and Signals units in Canada. Included among the messages were telegrams from H.R.H. the Princess Royal, the Chief Signals Officer United States Army, the Canadian Minister of National Defence, and the Chief of the General Staff. The message from H.R.H. the Princess Royal read as follows:

> "I send to all who are celebrating Signals Welfare Reunion week-end my greetings and good wishes. I hope the gatherings of signallers to be held throughout Canada will maintain and arouse interest in the good work of Signals Welfare. It is a cause in which I am deeply interested, and I hope that these reunions will help towards making it a fitting memorial to those members of my Royal Canadian Corps of Signals who gave their lives in the Second World War.
>
> MARY, Colonel-in-Chief."

Two officers from Royal Signals were present at the reunion in Kingston. Major P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., who is on a short visit to Canada and was spending a few weeks in Kingston, and Major R. White, who is on a two-year exchange. Major White is stationed at the Royal Canadian School of Signals and, as Executive Chairman of the Signals Day Committee, was responsible for the arrangements for the reunion in Kingston.

* Bingo—Canadian version of "Housey-Housey."

Behind the Scenes

By **BRIAN THOMAS**

"BEFORE I give the weather and news, here is a police message: 'At about six-thirty' this evening, on the main road between Arunbridge and Medcaster, an elderly tramp was knocked down and fatally injured. Will anyone who may have witnessed the accident, or who can give any information regarding it, please communicate with the Chief Constable of Southshire, telephone number Medcaster 2, or any police station.'"

The cultured voice of the announcer ceased for a moment, and Colonel Stanwell took a thoughtful pull at his cigar.

"I'm glad they got it in to the B.B.C. in time," he remarked. "Though I don't suppose it'll do any good."

His guest, the Dean of Medcaster, looked up quickly, and his shrewd grey eyes were inquisitive.

"What's the trouble?" he inquired. "You don't usually indulge in this sort of publicity."

"No," answered the Colonel shortly, "I don't; but this is an unusual case."

"If that's so," answered the Dean, reaching for the brandy, "the Church is refusing to budge from this room until you have disgorged the details."

The Colonel smiled.

"All right, you old cormorant. I'll satisfy your morbid curiosity, and we'll see whether you can make any more of the problem than I can.

"The body was found by an A.A. Patrol, and it looked like an ordinary road accident, until we came to try and identify the deceased. Then we got quite a packet of surprises.

"To begin with, what we took to be an elderly tramp, of the kind you can see any day wandering from one casual ward to another, turned out to be a comparatively young man, with a respectable sum of money sewn up in various parts of his clothing."

"Clean or dirty?" asked the Dean.

"Dirty enough to fit the part, but it obviously wasn't his usual state."

"Any clues as to identity?"

"Not a thing. No marks on the clothing, and the contents of the pockets weren't much help."

"What were they?"

The Colonel paused impressively before replying: "Four and eightpence in cash; a .38 Webley automatic, and a grubby piece of paper, with some writing on it, which looks like a corner torn off an advertisement for somebody's butter. I've got it with me—here it is."

The Dean took the piece of paper and examined it on both sides.

"I don't think this was part of an advertisement," he remarked. "It's been stuck on to something. The type isn't big enough for a poster, so I should say it was once part of a label."

"Possibly," answered the Colonel irritably, "but that doesn't help us much."

The Dean put on his spectacles and studied the writing carefully.

"Twenty-five, O-six-four-five, AA, four miles N of ME . . ." he read. "Pity most of the last word is missing. What do you make of it?"

"Nothing much. If one assumes that the last word was Medcaster, there's certainly a connection, because it was about four miles from here that the body was found.

"All I know for certain is that the man wasn't a tramp, although he looked like one. Thank goodness tramps don't make a habit of going about armed with automatic pistols!"

"No," answered the Dean thoughtfully, "and in this country people don't arm themselves without some pretty adequate reason. By the way, I suppose he really *was* run over, and not—as the Americans would say—'bumped off' somewhere else and just planted on the road to make it look like an accident?"

The Colonel shook his head.

"Obvious line of thought, but no good. The doctor was quite definite as to the cause of the injuries."

Just then a telephone bell sounded in the distance, and both men waited impatiently until the portly form of the Colonel's butler appeared in the doorway.

"Inspector Shipway, of East Durling, on the telephone, sir," he announced. "He says he has some information about the h'accident what was broadcast this evening."

The Colonel was out of the room with surprising alacrity, considering his years, but he returned more slowly, looking rather disappointed.

"What luck?" asked the Dean, looking up from the scrap of paper.

"Nothing very helpful. A lorry driver has reported that he picked up a man who wanted to get to London in a hurry, and gave him a lift until the lorry broke down about halfway between here and Arunbridge. When the passenger found they weren't likely to move again for some time, he got out of the lorry and went down the road like a scalded cat, and that was the last seen of him."

"Did you ask what the lorry was carrying?" asked the Dean.

"Good heavens, no! Why should I?"

"I only thought that, if it was butter, the missing bit of the last word on this scrap of paper may still be sticking to one of the boxes, and I've a notion that it's going to be important."

"I expect it's only the rest of 'Medcaster,'" said the Colonel easily, "but I'll ring up Shipway and tell him to look."

The Dean's eyebrows went up.

"Aren't you going yourself?" he asked.

"No. I've told them to get a statement from the driver, and then let him get on with his job. I can't see there's anything to be gained by driving 20 miles on a nasty wet night."

"Can't you?" the Dean's voice had an edge to it. "I can. Inspector Shipway may be an excellent man, but he doesn't know the case, and it would be hard to explain over the telephone. He may miss vital bits of information which may be got out of that lorry and its driver."

"Perhaps you're right," the Colonel agreed reluctantly. "I'll tell them to hold the lorry till I get there. What about coming too? You seem to be more fruitful in the way of ideas than I am."

The Dean's eyes sparkled.

"Nothing I'd like better. This case looks like being interesting, and I've always wanted to watch the police at work."

The thoughts of the two men were very different during the drive. The Colonel's dwelt on his warm fireside, and he was feeling slightly aggrieved that he had been forced to

leave it before he had digested his dinner. The Dean was feeling pleasantly excited, and was doing his best to make something of the facts, so far as he knew them.

"I don't see the lorry!" he exclaimed, as they pulled up outside the police station at West Durling. "I hope they haven't let it go."

Inside the station, Inspector Shipway was full of importance.

"This is the man, sir," he announced, indicating a burly individual, clad in a varied assortment of overcoats and mufflers.

"I hear you can give us some information about the accident," the Colonel began briskly.

"Don't know as I can 'elp much, sir," the man answered doubtfully. "I've told the Inspector 'ere all I knows."

The Inspector held out a sheet of paper.

"Here you are, sir. That's 'is statement."

The Colonel glanced through it, and then looked at the driver.

"This is all right, as far as it goes, but you don't say where you picked the man up."

"I couldn't rightly tell you, sir, I'm a stranger in these parts, but it were about ten mile t'other side of Arunbridge, on the main road to the North.

"'E come out of a side turning, and stood right in front o' me waving 'is arms, so's I 'ad to stop. Then 'e asked if I were goin' to Lunnon, as 'e wanted to get there quick.

"There weren't any room in front, 'cos my mate Joe's rather fat, so we put 'im in the back . . ."

"Where's Joe now?" interrupted the Colonel.

"Round at the 'Three Crowns,' minding the lorry. We was in there 'avin' a drop o' somethin' to keep the cold out when we 'eard that bit on the wireless. I came straight 'ere an' told the Inspector."

"Quite right," said the Colonel approvingly. "By the way, what where you carrying?"

"Grocery stuff for Sampson's Stores, sir. Butter and cheese mostly."

The Dean, who had been studying a large wall map of the district, suddenly swung round.

"If we could just have a look . . ." he began.

"Yes, yes," answered the Colonel testily. "We'll go presently. In the meantime," he added, turning to the driver, "I want you to think carefully over what happened this evening—there may be some small details you've forgotten."

"Don't know as there is, sir," answered the man, his brow furrowed in thought. "When the engine stopped, the bloke nipped out and came round to the front. 'E asked if we'd be long, and, as it was water in the ignition, I told 'im I couldn't say. 'E seemed rather upset about that, and asked if there was a railway station near. When Joe said there was one at Medcaster 'e went off, fast as 'e knew 'ow, with not even a 'thank you'."

"What happened after that?"

"Nothin' much 'cept that a car came along and stopped to ask whether we wanted any 'elp. Very pleasant gents they was, too. Came round with a big electric torch. We told 'em we was all right, and they went on. I should say they was foreigners."

"Rather unsual," murmured the Dean from the background. "One would think they were looking for something.

"Tell me," he added, addressing the driver. "Did any other vehicles pass you before the car came along?"

"I don't think so, sir. There weren't much traffic about."

"I think that'll do," said the Colonel firmly. "The Inspector has your name and address, so we needn't detain you any longer."

"But what about the lorry?" protested the Dean.

"All right," answered the Colonel shortly. "Have you still got that piece of paper?"

Outside the "Three Crowns" they found a large lorry, with the patient Joe asleep in the driver's seat. Regardless of his lack of official status, the Dean snatched an electric torch from the scandalised Inspector, and scrambled up into the back of the vehicle as soon as the doors were open. He flashed the light round, and then gave an excited yelp.

"We're in luck! But the word isn't 'Medcaster'—it's 'Merley.' Half the label has been torn off in a hurry, and the rest's still on the box, as I thought it might be."

"Where's Merley?" demanded the Colonel.

The Dean jumped down from the lorry, and started back towards the police station.

"Let's go and look at the Inspector's map," he suggested.

"Four miles north of Merley, and ten from Arunbridge," muttered the Colonel, as he indicated a point on the map with a pencil. "Our friend the lorry driver was a bit vague, but I believe the note on that bit of paper refers to the very spot where he picked up the tramp!

"The devil of it is, it's out of my area, and we can't go messing about there without asking old Fairshaw. As Chief Constable in those parts, and an ex-Captain, R.N., he's inclined to stand on his dignity."

"What does that mean?" asked the Dean.

"It means we've got to give the old boy time for his liver to settle in the morning, and then go and explain it all to him. After that, if we're good, he'll let us go and play in his yard."

For once the Dean of Medcaster was guilty of losing his temper.

"What absolute rubbish!" he exclaimed. "A man's been murdered on the King's highway, and, instead of doing something about it, you propose to waste valuable time over the niceties of etiquette! I suppose a murderer can escape arrest by dodging from one county to the next while all the Chief Constables beg each other's pardon!"

"Hi! Steady on!" gasped the Colonel, turning rather red about the gills. "Who says the man was murdered, anyway?"

"I do; and you know it yourself, though I suppose you'll say there's no proof. Those men who examined the lorry were looking for something, or somebody, and my belief is they found what they were looking for."

"I feel the same," said the Colonel, more calmly. "But, as you say, there's no proof, and what beats me is how they managed it. If he knew someone was after him, he'd hardly stand in the road waiting to be run over!"

"I've thought of that," answered the Dean, "and I think I've got the answer. We know he was in a desperate hurry, and, when the lorry broke down and he wanted to get to Medcaster, his first thought would be to stop the next vehicle which came along and try to get a lift. You'll remember that the car with the mysterious foreigners in it *was* the next vehicle, and my belief is that they recognised him as he stepped out into the beam of the headlights, and deliberately ran him down."

"Sounds reasonable," the Colonel agreed. "But we've yet to find a motive. Why should they want to do the poor devil in?"

"You'll find the motive when you understand the meaning of the notes on this scrap of paper," answered the Dean decisively. He smoothed it out, and placed it carefully on the Inspector's desk. Inspector Shipway examined it carefully.

"Excuse me, sir," he began diffidently. "But it looks as though this refers to something which is going to happen at a certain time and place tomorrow."

"Eh! What's that?" ejaculated the Colonel.

"You've identified the place, sir," continued the Inspector. "Tomorrow's the 25th; and the next set of figures may mean six forty-five a.m. in the twenty-four-hour clock code."

"By jove, I believe you're right!" exclaimed the Colonel.

(*continued on page* 425)

(*continued from page 422*)

" Chap may have been in the Army—used to writing operation orders and that sort of thing. If so, the two letters AA may be just some sort of full-stop."

" If the Inspector's correct," remarked the Dean drily, " there's even less time to waste in formalities. Whatever's going to happen must, in someone's estimation, be important enough to justify murder, and, unless we're quick, it'll be over before we even know what it is."

" All right," agreed the Colonel, " I'll ring up Fairshaw now. Perhaps he may know something."

It was some time before he could get through. When he did, a peevish voice came over the wire:

" Who's that? Speak up, man, I can't hear. Oh, it's you, Stanwell. Why the devil couldn't you say so before?

" What's that? You've had a man run over and killed? Dammit, that's nothing! I get at least three a week! Oh, you think it was done on purpose? Why the deuce should anybody want to do a thing like that?

" I see. You think you can find out if you come over to Merley and look round. Do, by all means, but don't expect me to do anything about it tomorrow; I've got enough troubles of my own in those parts.

" What's that? Is something happening there about 6.30 tomorrow morning? You bet there is—but how did you know? No; I can't tell you over the phone. Come over and see me if you must, but, for the love of mike, be quick. I'm not going to sit up all night."

" We're getting warmer," remarked the Dean, on hearing the result of the conversation. " I'm beginning to enjoy myself, and if you leave me behind I'll never forgive you."

Captain James Fairshaw, R.N. (Retired) was clearly a very worried man. His round, and normally jovial, face betrayed him as he hustled his visitors into his study and carefully closed the door. There was no trace of the pompous senior officer about him now.

" How on earth did you find out about tomorrow's doings?" he demanded. " The Home Office have been so beastly secretive about it all that I've not even been allowed to take my own police officers into my confidence."

" We don't know anything," the Colonel answered soothingly. " We've come to find out. The whole point, so far as I am concerned, is that a man has been killed under mysterious circumstances, and there are indications that he was murdered because he *did* know something."

Captain Fairshaw whistled softly, and his face became even more anxious as the Colonel gave him a brief outline of the events of the evening.

" That's serious," he muttered. " I may as well tell you what the trouble's about. A very big political bug from abroad is coming over to confer with some of the Cabinet, and it's most important that it should be kept dark. I understand he's taking a pretty big risk, as there are quite a number of blokes who'd give their shirts for a chance to break up the meeting if they knew it was on.

" Whitehall's scared stiff that something may go wrong, so they've arranged for the meeting to take place at Merley Court, Lord Bancaster's place, instead of in London. The big noise is being smuggled off a yacht at some unearthly hour in the morning, and whisked down to Merley by car before anybody's about.

" I've had orders to watch the route, and keep any inquisitive strangers on the move, but I'm not allowed to turn out a police escort, or do anything which would be likely to draw attention to the gentleman."

He unrolled a map which lay on his desk, and made some rough calculations.

" Yes," he said, when he had finished, " he'll be about there at 6.45, provided he's up to schedule. Whatever dirty work's planned for that time, it's too late to alter the route."

" What are you going to do about it?" asked the Colonel.

" Go and have a look round when it's light, about 6.15. We may as well have a drink and some sandwiches, and then I'll try to get a bit of sleep."

" I'm stopping here with you," said the Colonel. " What about you, padre? You can have my car, if you like, to take you back to bed."

" No, thank you," said the Dean with decision. " Unless you tell me I'm not wanted, I have every intention of being in at the death. I may even be of some use."

Everything looked very peaceful as the three men got out of their car and surveyed the stretch of road which had been in their minds for so many hours. The turning was there, with a very second class road running off through a wood. There was no sign of other human beings, and no sound beyond the dripping of moisture from the trees.

Suddenly, a cock pheasant rose from the wood with a prodigious clatter.

" That's where we start," announced Captain Fairshaw. " Something may have frightened him."

They ran the car into a field, and searched the wood and the hedgerows without finding a trace of anything suspicious. The Colonel had the sharpest ears of the party, and was the first to hear the sound of a motor cycle approaching.

" Quick!" he called. " Take cover. It's nearly quarter to seven, and there's somebody coming!"

They dived for the hedge on either side of the road, and were well concealed by the time a solitary A.A. patrol came in sight, travelling sedately on his yellow-painted motor cycle and sidecar.

On reaching the turning he halted and glanced at his watch. Then he dismounted; opened the box on his sidecar, and extracted two metal signs. He nailed one of the signs to a direction post, which pointed up the by-road; the other, he stood upright on the grass verge by means of spiked feet. When he had finished he remounted his machine and returned the way he had come.

It was all done with such easy precision that, for a moment, the reactions of the three watchers were completly nil. Then the Dean craned forward to get a better view of the signs. The lower one read " Road Under Repair "; the upper one, " A.A. Loopway."

The intials " A.A." struck a faint chord in his memory, then full recollection returned to him, and he was out of his hiding place and running as he had not run since he left Oxford. He kicked over the sign which stood on the grass and wrenched at the one nailed to the signpost. It came away just as a sonorous " toot " announced the approach of a big saloon car, which swept by at high speed. The Dean just caught a glimpse of a muffled figure huddled in the back seat.

" Phew!" he gasped. " That was a near thing."

" What's happened?" chorused the others, crowding round him.

" I remembered just in time. The initials ' AA ' on that piece of paper. Whatever fate was in store for your political friend is up that side road; the signs were meant to divert the car to it. I expect they were stolen, or made up specially, with the rest of the outfit."

They hurried along the lane, which dropped sharply through the wood towards a stream, which ran between high and almost vertical banks. Suddenly, on rounding a sharp turn, they came to a narrow bridge.

" Careful!" called the Colonel as he forced his way through some brambles, and started to slither down the bank. " There may be some kind of booby-trap down here."

The others followed cautiously, but there was nothing to be seen—no sign of any lurking menace. It was not till they stood directly beneath the arch of the bridge that they realised the masterly simplicity of the scheme they had only just succeeded in frustrating.

The bridge was old and dilapidated, and would long ago have been scheduled as dangerous if it had been called upon to carry heavy traffic, but, in addition to this, several of the

stones had been carefully prised out, so that the structure only just hung together. The passage of a heavy car could not have failed to bring the whole thing crashing down into the gorge below.

Three elderly gentlemen looked at each other, and each in turn breathed a heartfelt sigh of relief.

Captain Fairshaw was the first to speak.

"If you two hadn't turned up when you did, I suppose there'd have been one less politician in Europe, and I'd have lost my job!"

"If the Dean hadn't goaded me on with whips and scorpions, mixed with bright ideas, we wouldn't have been in time," answered the Colonel. "It's all due to him."

"No," protested the Dean. "I had very little to do with it compared with that unfortunate young man who lost his life. He must have been on the trail of those foreigners, and actually saw them preparing the bridge. He may even have posed as one of their gang.

"He was evidently trying to get away to warn the authorities when he was discovered and overtaken. We must be thankful that he wrote that note. I wonder who he was?"

The answer to the Dean's question came when they returned to the main road and met an agitated Inspector in a police car.

"Excuse me, sir," he began, saluting Captain Fairshaw, "there's a message just come through from London to say that if Inspector Hascombe, of the Special Branch, should report to you, he is to be instructed to return to Scotland Yard at once. I think they expected him there last night.

"I was also to tell you that they were very grateful for the arrangements made for this morning, which had gone off without a hitch. They said you would understand."

The old sailor smiled grimly.

"I understand all right," he said slowly. "Cheerful little optimists, aren't they? I suppose they'll now go home to eat large breakfasts and tell their wives how easy it all was!"

British Army of the Rhine

2nd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT
Hilden

October

Regimental Survey. A feature of the year has been the high rate of turnover of personnel. Only five officers are with the Regiment today who were here on 1st January, 1948, and in ten months over 680 reinforcements have been absorbed into the Regiment.

Improvements initiated in 1947 and 1948 have been completed, the most noticeable being the new Sergeants' Mess at H.Q., which was occupied in October; the making of the attics in the Barracks into much-needed living and lecture room accommodation; the opening of a separate dining room for corporals; general improvements to the Canteen, known as Jimmy's Club; enlarging of the kitchens and ration stores; and last, but not least, much improved accommodation for those unfortunates undergoing detention. At out-stations, the living accommodation at 6 (H) Brigade has been redecorated throughout, and at Dortmund (42 Field Regiment, R.A.) a new and redecorated block has been taken over by the Signal Troop.

The telephone system has been continuously improved. At H.Q. the enlarged six-position auto manual with 300 subscribers and its associated test point has been completed. The 100-line auto manual exchange at H.Q., 4th Infantry Brigade, has been finished and provides subscribers with full inter-dialling with H.Q., 2nd Division, and Dusseldorf. At H.Q., 5th Infantry Brigade, the new 300-line automatic (ordered in June, 1947) is at last operating. In addition, a large telephone system west of the Rhine, consisting of ten major exchanges, was set up at short notice. These improvements, coupled with a generous allotment of private wires, gives military subscribers in the 2nd Division area a telephone system which is the envy of those less fortunately placed.

Survey of Sport, 1947–1948. A short review of the sporting activities of the year in which the Regiment participated is as follows:

The Regimental Inter-Troop Football League, which consists of 12 teams each playing a home and away game, accounted for 242 games played. Besides these games, other Inter-Troop Challenge Matches accounted for about 60 games, and the Regimental team played over 40 games, the total games played being approximately 342. The winners of the Inter-Troop League for this season were 6th (H) Brigade Signal Troop, with "O" "A" Team the runners-up.

The Regimental team was a great success, the most noticeable achievement being that of reaching the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Football Competition. Altogether a very comprehensive and successful season from the Regimental viewpoint.

Cross-country also provided a great shock to quite a few other Units in the Divisional Cross-Country Championships, when the Regiment came in a good third, beating many Battalion and Regimental teams in the process. This was a great improvement on the previous year, when the Regiment finished ninth.

"Another of these ex-India types, Sir — very unorthodox"

The Regimental swimming team also did very well, finishing second in the Brigade Championships and third in the Divisional Championships.

In the Hockey Tournament the Regiment were eliminated in the first round by the York and Lancaster Regiment. This year, however, we have the makings of a much better side and it is hoped to progress a great deal further in this realm of sport. The Regimental cricket team also had a successful season, although the weather was not at all good for the summer game. However, great keenness and enthusiasm was shown and the critics were confounded when the semi-final of the Divisional Championships was reached.

In the rugger sphere, the Regiment, although not very strong at the game, proved on numerous occasions that they were a side that was hard to beat, and always gave their opponents a very good game. This season they are proving to be a good team indeed and are making themselves felt within the Divisional Area in this branch of sport.

In the Divisional Motor Cycle Trials we gained second place in the team event, a very good show. We also provided the individual winner in Lance-Corporal Hill, who lost only 21 marks throughout the 31-mile course.

General. The weather for the month of October, at least in the beginning, was quite nice, and we were fortunate in having a week or so of sunshine, which is not normally expected at this time of the year.

The latter part of the month, however, proved to be typical October weather, with rain and the first warnings of cold days and nights with a nip of frost in the air. A very noticeable feature was the bareness of the trees, this making such a difference to the surrounding countryside. Experts are saying that this coming winter is going to be similar to that experienced two years ago, when the whole country was enveloped in heavy falls of snow and it really was very cold; those who were here at that time will no doubt have many memories of that winter and the difficulties that were encountered.

Owing to the Brigade Training Exercises held during the latter part of September and the first fortnight in October, the Junior N.C.O.s' Drill and Duties Courses were postponed during this period of training. They have, however, started again and are proving to be of value to the Regiment in forming a well-trained type of junior N.C.O., which is so important to the well-being of the Regiment.

The Commanding Officer's Drill Parades, held every Saturday, have also recommenced, the Junior N.C.O.s' Course being utilised on these parades to give demonstrations of the type of drill which is earmarked for that particular day. Upgrading courses were also got under way during the month for the following trades:—OWL DIII to OWL BIII, R/Mech. AIII to R/Mech. AII, T/Mech. AIII to T/Mech. AII.

This month also saw the start of Wireless Courses for operators to teach them the working and manipulation of the Wireless Set No. 53.

Due to commence in November is an upgrading course for Linemen BIII to BII.

Troop Curiosities. Herewith reproduced is another sketch by our Regimental artist, Sergeant Aitkenhead, R.A.E.C., of the ease with which a lineman trained in India repairs a break in the overhead line.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The Mess .22 Annual Rifle Championship for 1948 was held on Wednesday, 27th October, and was won for the second year in succession by our Tara. It was a particularly close competition, being finally decided on a reshoot between R.Q.M.S. "Jock" Grant and Mr. H. Griffin. Major Button, who kindly officiated, set a special snap target for the reshoot; this target was so special as to be almost visibly invisible. However, our R.Q. took first five rounds and recorded two

hits, much to the discomfiture of Tara, who was still trying to locate the target. However, it must have been visible, for Tara recorded three hits. Well done, sir, and better luck next time, R.Q. Sergeant Ted Ledger and Sergeant "Jonno" Johnson are to be congratulated on their fine effort. "Jonno" looked all the way a winner but unfortunately ruined his chances on the last application, snap.

First three final placings were as follows (H.P.S. 100): R.S.M. H. Griffin, 87; R.Q.M.S. J. Grant, 87 (reshoot won by R.S.M.); Sergeant Ledger, 86.

We have commenced the first rounds of the Annual Championships in table tennis and darts, and all members are striving valiantly to win a suitably inscribed pewter pot, and to have the honour of their names being recorded on the Mess Annual Championship Roll.

In preparation for the official opening night on 6th November, a Mess week-end shoot was organised, bringing in a fine bag of one wild pig and 16 hares. This will go far to set up a first-class buffet. Well done, you "merry hunters!" One member is reported to have made "very good friends" with the wild pig family, not to mention wear and tear on the wire fence!

Mess Personalities. (1) S.Q.M.S. "Nobby" and Mrs. Clarke with baby Patricia Anne. "Nobby," who was formerly our F. of S., is now doing spartan work on the Unit Educational Branch. "Nobby" formerly served with 1 Corps Signals and is also credited with ten years' Indian service, in Jubbulpore, Quetta, Meerut and Rawalpindi. "Nobby" is always ready to volunteer his services on behalf of the Mess, and will leave a reminder of his presence behind in the form of the very nicely designed Mess Annual Games Championship Roll.

(2) Sergeant Bill Worboys, N.C.O. i/c D.R. Troop, in his favourite position astride a bike. Bill has represented the Unit in motor cycle reliability trials since 1946, and his riding achievements are as follows: 1946, captain Unit team, winners 53rd (W) Divisional Trials, and individual winner; 1947, captain Unit team, winners 2nd Infantry Divisional trials; 1948, captain Unit team, second in 2nd Infantry Divisional Trials (Lance-Corporal Hill, of D.R. Troop, was individual winner; D.R. Troop won Regimental Inter-Troop Motor Cycle Trials). Bill is now with the Unit team in Hahnenklee, competing in the B.A.O.R. Trials.

Sport. Football. The Regimental Inter-Troop Football League, which commenced on 13th September, is now in full swing, and judging by the keenness and enthusiasm shown by the Troops, last season's success will be repeated this year. Competition is very keen indeed, and great discussions

are taking place every week on how the teams are faring.

"O" Troop are at present league leaders, having won all their games to date, including the defeat of last year's champions ("L" Troop) by 2 goals to nil at Hilden a fortnight ago. This was a battle of giants, with "O" Troop worthy winners. H.Q. team are also very strong this season, and will surely have a great deal to say in who are going to be league champions at the end of the season.

"A" Troop are also doing very well, having won 4 out of the 6 games played. Much better than last season, "A" Troop.

The Regimental games played on a friendly basis have commenced, and the results to date are as follows:

v. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment	Lost	0—2
v. 5 D.P.A.C.S.	Won	5—0
v. 139 Wing, R.A.F.	Won	5—4
v. 17th Vehicle Company, R.A.O.C.	Won	8—2
v. 1st Black Watch (R.H.)	Won	3—1

These games have been more in the nature of trial matches preparatory to finding a team to represent the Regiment in the forthcoming Inter-Unit Competitions. We have the material, but it requires moulding into shape. There is no doubt that we shall give a good account of ourselves in this sphere of sport.

Hockey. The Regimental team has so far been successful in the games played and we have the makings of a very good team. The team has played 6 matches so far, having won 3, drawn 1 and lost 2.

Rugby. The Rugby XV are going great guns this season, and from reports are going to give a very good account of themselves. Five players played for H.Q., 2nd Division, on 9th October against an unbeaten Control Commission XV, the result being a win for H.Q. by 22 points to 6. At least three of the tries scored came from Signals representatives.

No. 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT
Bückeburg

November

No. 1 SQUADRON. On Saturday, 30th October, our D.R.s again left Bückeburg Barracks. This time our objective was Hahnenklee, in the Harz Mountains, for the B.A.O.R. Reliability Trials. They spent the night in the Leave Centre at Altenau, which was a very pleasant change. The next morning, Sunday, they were up and on their way to Hahnenklee, about a half-hour's run away. In spite of the fact that there was about a foot of snow, Lance-Corporal Pullinger finished first in the individual event and Signalman Rose sixth. Our team, representing Hanover District, of Sergeant Kealey, Signalman Thomas and Signalman Parsons, finished third in the team event.

That night was also spent at Altenau, and it is whispered round the barracks that quite a good time was had by all. They returned on the Monday, having had a most enjoyable and successful week-end.

Throughout the season Air Formation Signals have been at the head of all the motor-cycle events in which they have competed. No special mention can be given, as many people have played their part in keeping our riders in the front.

115 TERMINAL EQUIPMENT TROOP, SUNDERN. With the advent of H.Q., 2 Group, Sundern has become a veritable hive of industry, and not the least of the conscientious bodies is 115 T.E. Troop.

From a line mechanic's point of view, "Planefare" did not mean a great deal of manual labour, but that does not mean we had nothing to do. Our greatest problem was, and still is, what do we do for pairs when the u/g cables are full? Our linemen supplied the answer with temporary overhead routes and along the ground routes.

Trunk lines, too, were rapidly increasing in number. The Reichspost came along with a 14 pr. cable to cope with the sudden increase.

Operational faults were, of course, given priority, but there were times when we had to decide which of the operational lines should be cleared first. In addition to lines "here, there and everywhere," it was decided that "RAMO" should have their own switchboard, so along came a mobile "PMBXIA" complete with operators and linemen. Meanwhile, we had a new switchboard. Bigger, yes, but hardly better.

It was possible at one time for one certain extension to lift the receiver of his tele F and, by turning the handle, blow the position fuse. Happenings of this sort were passed off as "weird and wonderful," but nevertheless they had to be accounted for.

Shortly we start on two more jobs which will provide a few worries and also a few laughs—the movement of the Master Radar Station into a permanent building and also the rewiring of Flying Control. Ah, well, such is life—never a dull moment.

The Troop is sorry to have had to say "Goodbye and good luck" to Captain P. Macintyre, the man who could keep going after all the Troop had said, "It's time we knocked off."

80 WING SIGNAL TROOP, WUNSDORF. In the month of October the Troop has not had such a rush of work as there was at the beginning of the airlift. The main job of installing communications on the airfield being over, it has merely been necessary to keep them free from faults. Although this has still entailed a considerable amount of night work, we have not in the last month had the whole Troop out working throughout the night.

About the hardest-worked members of the Troop have been the line mechanics, two of whom have had to maintain two exchanges, one of them at M.R.S. out on the airfield. Since the airlift started, the transport problem has become a lot easier, as we now have more trucks than we had before, which makes life a lot less arduous for the drivers.

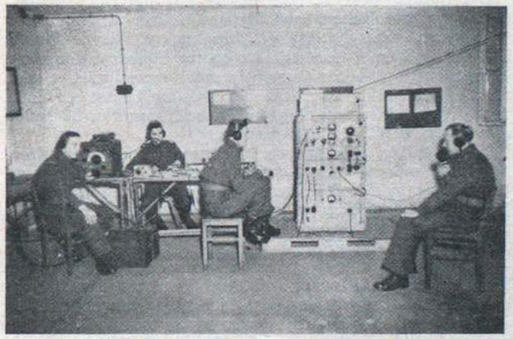
Also finding life easier are the tele mechanics, as we now have a number of new teleprinters and a reserve stock in store. This is necessary as the air move and met. office printers are working 24 hours a day. The decrease in the number of faults also leaves time for more thorough maintenance.

Another hard-worked member of the troop is Lance-Corporal Cannon, who has performed the duty of orderly corporal every day since nearly the beginning of the month.

"A" Trades Training School, B.A.O.R.

In 1947 the situation as regards "A" tradesmen in B.A.O.R. was becoming extremely critical, due to the small trickle arriving from Catterick being quite insufficient to replace the drain occasioned by demob. Individual Units had commenced training schemes based on their individual requirements and had remustered a number of operators as "A" Class tradesmen, but it was still obvious that this was insufficient.

At H.Q., B.A.O.R., the C.S.O., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., initiated an attempt to place training on a firm basis by drawing up plans for a B.A.O.R. S.T.C., but these were inevitably vetoed by the old bogey "shortage of cash."



A corner of the radio mechanics' 53 set room

However, an arrangement was proposed whereby a less ambitious programme came into being. For the space of 12 months an "A" Trades School was to be built up with the object of producing approximately 200 "A" tradesmen and thus to supplement the output from Catterick, the plan being that the radio mechanic training scheme run by No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and a line/tele mechanic scheme of No. 15 Air Formation Signals was to be combined into one, 12 additional instructors were to be loaned by Catterick T.T. Battalions, and trainees were to be selected from the Signals N.S. intake at the rate of 15 per fortnight and despatched to B.A.O.R. to be trained as tradesmen, having first completed their primary drill, etc.

Accordingly, a complete syllabus was drawn up for a Line/Tele/Radio Mech. Course which would cover the entire "Q" sheet requirements in a space of four months. Individual courses were to be about 30 strong and were to take common theory and common equipment together and were then to be split into trades to suit the individual capabilities of the trainees and zonal demands at the same time.

The question of suitable accommodation presented some considerable problem as both living and training space was necessary. However, No. 15 Air Formation Signal Regiment,

Introduction to the works

in the Luftwaffe Barracks occupied by the R.A.F. at Sundern, had what was required, for here Squadron-Leader Pearce, the Station Commander, had put at our disposal two entire blocks containing sufficient large, airy rooms for lecture and equipment purposes, and also admirable accommodation for the expected ceiling of some 200 men.

By December, 1947, all the paper work had been completed, and on the arrival of the 12 Catterick instructors the School officially came into being under the wing of Lieutenant-Colonel Keddie, of SX Branch, and commanded by Major W. C. Jarvis, M.B.E., with Captain J. E. Burns Chief Instructor, Captain H. W. H. Milligan Admin. Officer, and S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) St. John Beale. The equipment was installed, demonstration and training rooms electrically wired, and suitable furniture "scrounged," and on 4th January, 1948, the first class, 28 strong, commenced its course.

Equipment difficulties were many, but thanks to Major Johnson, of SX Branch, sufficient was forthcoming to enable full practical instruction to be a valuable part of the training in spite of the fact that a large number of useful ideas with training aids and the construction by students of working models had to be abandoned as various components proved to be unobtainable.

The position as regards instructors also varied considerably, due largely to the fact that the Catterick element were of low A. and S. Groups, and by the time the School was in full operation the majority of these instructors had already been demobilised. Suitable replacements, however, were obtained from local Units and later from the courses passing out, so that although the instructors' strength was always

Lance-Corporal Kennard with a class of Line/Tele. mechanics

below the required establishment, it was by hard work on the part of those present that full unbroken instruction was given to the trainees. Recruits to the instructional cadre included Lieutenant N. S. Lilley, from No. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and Sergeant Collins (once of India and later 5th Division).

Owing to the extreme concentration of the course, little time was available for social activities within the school, but a healthy Amateur Radio Club under the call D2MA was started, with the guiding influence of D2IN (Lieutenant Lilley) and D2CH (Sergeant Collins), and results, if only the large number of transmitting aerials which sprang up around the school buildings, were very encouraging. Corporal Wright struggled with inadequate facilities to encourage dramatic aspirants and for a short time a School Dance Band flourished under the direction and enthusiastic leadership of Signalman Boyling, himself an admirable saxophonist, but as the majority of the playing members were themselves trainees it was found impossible to maintain full strength. Many students, however, found time to visit the Leave Centres at Moehne See, Winterberg and Bad Harzburg as welcome breaks during their intellectual struggles. Athletics, hockey, Rugby, soccer, swimming and cricket found a good backing amongst the trainees, and in this respect the School had two very successful participations in both Regimental and R.A.F. sport meetings, and it can be said that both the Signals and the R.A.F. have found keen and talented players from amongst the trainees.

A word must be said of the R.A.F. Chaplains, Squadron-Leaders Hughes and Elliot, who from its inception took a great interest in the N.S. soldiers on their arrival in the School and encouraged them by opening both their homes and the R.A.F. Church Club for their use, and every trainee soldier has had the opportunity of proceeding to a Moral Leadership Centre for one week on the completion of his technical training. A high percentage have taken full advantage of this facility, a fact which indicates that the Padres' influence has been and is still making itself felt. Much could be said of problems past and present and also of dormant talent, but unfortunately space is limited. The year draws to a close and all new intakes have ceased for some months so that the School, once 200 strong, is now reduced to a mere 60, and by Christmas these last trainees will have passed out. In its brief life to date it has produced 62 line mechanics, 58 tele mechanics and 48 radio mechanics, a total of 168, and on completion this number will have increased to 210, the figure originally aimed at on its inception. The number of trainees tested and found unsuitable is 19, representing 8½ per cent. of the total intake. These figures reflect credit on the instructional staff and also on the selection officers responsible for the making up of the drafts and not forgetting, of course, the hard work and hours of study done by the trainees.

The School will shortly be closing down, but the work will go on. All ex-Sundern trainees who read this will look back with mixed feelings on their stay at the "A" Trades School, but if they found that the discipline was somewhat irksome, the food not quite what mother made, the parades a bit of a bore, and the spit and polish somewhat beneath the dignity of a technician, they must surely concede that they suffered no harm and that they had many experiences which will furnish them with worthwhile material for "grips" in the days to come. Every encouragement was given to the School Staff by both the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier W. H. G. Rogers, C.B.E., and Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Keddie, together with C.A.F.S.O., B.A.F.O., Colonel McGregor, and their interest and sincere help has been greatly appreciated by all at the School.

* * *

Have you filled in the Subscription Form yet?

There is one in the front of this issue

31 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Goslar

October

Phœnix-like, out of the ashes of 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment rose 7th Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron and 31st Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron. The former has already burst into print; now is the turn of its foot-slogging twin.

Though on paper the Squadron was formed on 1st January, 1948, it was not until March, 1948, when 31st Independent Infantry Brigade moved from Melle to Hanover and the Signal Squadron absorbed the last remaining elements of 5th Divisional Signal Regiment—15th Brigade Signals—that we really began our own independent existence and took our present form.

We make no secret of the pride we feel as we boast of our direct linear descent from such famous ancestors as 7th Armoured Division and 5th Divisional Signal Regiments—a relationship which those of us from the Infantry Division feel is not adequately expressed in the kangaroo-like "rat" of the Brigade flashes.

Seventh Armoured Division gave us Major "Stan" Schofield, who commands the Unit. He is assisted in the task by Lieutenant V. D. R. Dugdale, who came by way of 5th Division, whilst among the others who provide the Squadron's body with a brain, the names of S.S.M. "Bill" Judd, "Q" Furtado (4 x 2), both ex-Wazdist and 5th Division, and Sergeants Roberts and Parker of 7th Armoured are prominent. Captain "Wilf" Brookes, of 7th Armoured Divisional Signals, also served with the Squadron for some three months prior to taking up a much more lucrative post in Civvy Street in July. Latest arrivals are Lieutenant Lane from West Africa and Sergeant Russell from No. 30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron.

So much for early history. Hanover kept the Squadron very busy indeed, for not only was the Brigade area one of the biggest in B.A.O.R. both in number of Units and in square miles, but Hanover itself was also a basic trunk routing centre for S.D.S. and line throughout the zone. Small wonder then that the Signal Office and S.D.O. became almost fundamental to the everyday life not only of the British Forces in the area but also of the Norwegian, Danish and even American formations for which they were responsible.

The Berlin air lift and the currency reform both entailed a great deal of extra hard work for the Signal Office personnel and D.R.s, but the importance of these tasks overshadowed the inconveniences they caused and the Squadron took them easily in its stride. In addition, Brigade training was continued throughout the summer, and though the difficulties were immense, they too were overcome to the satisfaction of all demands, and to the growing reputation of the Squadron.

And so to the record of sport, without which no report is complete and seldom interesting. Owing to the smallness of our numbers, we were unable to run a cricket team during the summer, although keenness was not lacking. As is the general rule with sport in the Army, however, talent triumphed where numbers failed. We provided four cricketers for the Brigade team, and we understand they acquitted themselves well, Major Schofield's contribution in this respect being outstanding. From a century in his first match for the Brigade he went on to make a decisive 43 and highest score in the Royal Signals victory over 2nd British Infantry Division, and finally captained the combined Hanover and Hamburg District team against the Adastrians. The Hanover Festival Week in August provided great scope for talent, and it would be unfair not to mention the success of Corporal Molony (former instructor of Catterick) in the swimming events. Our .22 rifle team covered itself in glory by winning the team shoot, while S.S.M. Judd crowned everything by collecting the prize for the highest individual score.

By the beginning of September it was found that all the many obscure reports and rumours of our moving our location did contain a kernel of truth. We heard we were going to live in Goslar, a thousand-year old town at the foot of the Harz Mountains, and on 22nd September there our convoy took us. We have found Goslar somewhat strange after Hanover, but when we woke up the other morning and looked out of the windows to see the slopes of the Harz covered with thick snow, all doubts and misgivings gave way to delightful visions of ski-ing, skating and tobogganing. We are, after all, right on top of three winter sports leave centres. However, neither this nor the change of environment and season has affected the rhythm of our normal sporting activities. Football and hockey have taken the place of cricket, while even a few are seen carrying about with them that strange leather object which looks like a badly-shaped football. Some, too, play golf (*sic*)! Stop press news is that the Squadron soccer team have just defeated the Foresters full regimental team by 4 goals to 2!

By way of introducing ourselves we feel that this is enough, for we are not a little alarmed at the thought of these tentative efforts appearing in print. We hope, though, that having begun, we shall continue to contribute regularly to your august columns and give a better and more detailed account of ourselves and our activities as time goes on. The muse in our case needs practice. . . .

(O.C. Squadron, please "make it so"! — Ed.)

HAMBURG DISTRICT INDEPENDENT SIGNAL SQUADRON

November

We commence this month by offering our congratulations to Signalman Sivell on his marriage to Fraulein Klara Stubbecke, and to Signalman Williams on his marriage to Fraulein Irmgard Gusdick. We wish them every success, and hope all their troubles will be wee ones. Signalman Williams has now departed on Class "A" Release.

The Squadron has been very busy these last few weeks. We have moved into H.Q. Hamburg District Barracks from Phillips Barracks, and we have now settled in comfortably in our new quarters, which are set in sylvan surroundings, and we are situated close to the "S" Bahn which takes some 20 minutes to get into Hamburg Dammtor.

Since our last notes the Squadron has commenced Weekly Field Training Schemes, which should prove invaluable to our young National Service soldiers who have joined us in steady batches recently, and we hope that their stay with us will prove of value to them and that perhaps some of them will decide to make the Army their career.

The Squadron was inspected by the G.O.C. Hamburg District, Major-General R. H. Bower, C.B.E., on 5th November. He visited the troops on Field Training, and we hope that he was satisfied with everything he saw.

We said "Good-bye" to Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. Milner, O.B.E., D.C.S.O. Hamburg District, who has left B.A.O.R. to take up an appointment elsewhere. We wish you and your family all success, sir.

We said farewell to some of our old stalwarts, who have proceeded on repatriation to the U.K.—we believe for posting to pastures new.

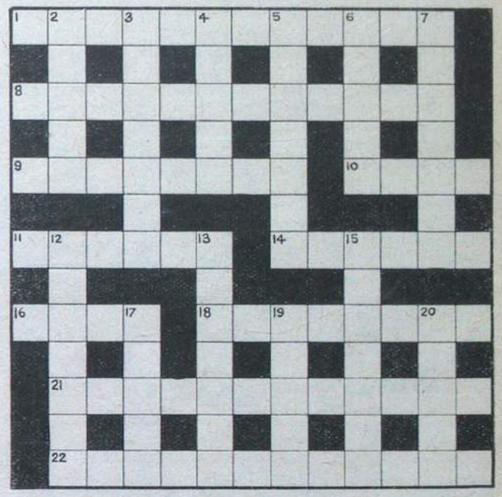
At present we are whipping up enthusiasm to form a Squadron Concert Party, which we hope will prove a success and keep the troops in Barracks during the cold winter evenings. In addition to the Concert Party, a drive is going ahead to commence hobbies on a variety of subjects.

Sport. The Squadron 1st XI is still continuing its run of successes in the Hamburg District League, and every match except the first two of the competition have been won. We now occupy third place in the league table, and hope to top the league by the end of the season.

A friendly game was played against No. 1 Wireless Regiment on 7th November, and we lost by two goals to one after a very keen and sporting game.

Crossword Puzzle No. 4

Composed by J. Riley



ACROSS

1. Strife (12).
8. A Christian would consider it to be inconceivable that anybody could be (7, 2, 3).
9. A civic dignatory (8).
10. Members of the Senior Service (4).
11. Quite often taken out (6).
14. A Spiv is said to (7).
16. When is a door not a door (4).
18. Nourishing (8).
21. An extension of that which is past (12).
22. The cancellation of privilege leave would (4, 8).

DOWN

2. A blackbird (5).
3. Gulliver had many (7).
4. Vapour (4).
5. Decorated (7).
6. A mass of gold (5).
7. In referring to that point of the heavens directly opposite the zenith (7).
12. Often referred to in Twenty Questions (7).
17. This varies between C.W. and R/T (5).
19. The ground of confidence (5).
20. Places sought after by courting couples (5).
13. Taller (7).
15. Shipshape and — fashion (7).

Solution to Crossword No. 3

* * *

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

have sent some excellent cartoons with their notes, but unfortunately too late for this number. Look out for them in January.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY, 1949

Have you ordered your copy yet? The diary contains many pages of useful and interesting information, including coloured road maps of the British Isles. Order your copy NOW.

☆ Berlin Signal Squadron

In response to an appeal from the Editor through C.S.O., Rhine Army, Berlin Signal Squadron has found time to produce the following original stories and articles. Berlin Signal Squadron must surely be the hardest worked Signal Unit in the Army. In a "beleaguered City" (vide Press) they have taken time for us.

We hope that for them at least "Operation Planefare" will be "Operation Christmas Fare" about 24th or 25th December. Anyway, we at home will be thinking of what a grand job they are doing.

They sent the cartoon "Certa Cito." What it has to do with Berlin we don't know, but we publish it because they are a grand lot of chaps who are upholding the best traditions of Royal Signals.—Editor.

"Dawn Patrol"

His batman woke him at three in the morning; it was a cold, bleak morning, with the wind whistling across the drome. He was up and dressed in 15 minutes and making his way to the Mess. A cold, empty feeling inside him, his first patrol! Would he make good, would he be coming back? They were the thoughts that raced through his mind as he made his way across the almost desolate drome. Suddenly the shattering roar of the planes made him come back to reality. Through the early morning mist he could just make out the mechanics harrying round the planes, making last-minute check-ups. So they were using "Camels" this morning, a good plane, he thought. All of a sudden he was in the Mess, joining the laughing crowd of pilots—if only he could feel gay, laugh and get that empty feeling out of his stomach. His breakfast was put in front of him, but he could not eat; 10 minutes and they would be taking off. The door was thrown open, making him look up with a start; in came their Flight Commander. "Ten minutes," he said, "so hurry it up." The Mess quietened, everyone was hurrying round, posting their letters, some were even making their wills. This was it, then, he thought, walking across to his plane; almost mechanically he checked the controls, and from far away he heard the mechanics' cheery "Good luck, sir." Then they were away; not a bad take off, he thought, climb to two thousand and level off, that was it. He looked round and the rest of the formation were spaced out around him. It was a nice feeling up there alone, only the steady hum of the engine drumming through your ears, almost a supernatural feeling. The Flight Commander waggled his wing; he wondered for a moment what it meant, then it came to him: over enemy lines, got to keep a sharp look-out, he thought. In about 10 minutes he was almost dozing off when he was startled suddenly by the fierce chattering of machine-guns. Looking above him he saw a squadron of Fokkers diving down on them. All of a sudden the sky was full of twisting, turning, diving planes. For a moment it was hard to see who was who. His plane vibrated and little holes appeared in his wings. Pulling hard on the stick and kicking his rudder, over he went into a sickening turn; straightening out he caught a glimpse of a red plane in his gun sights, and he pressed his triggers, feeling the whole plane shake. Suddenly the red plane turned into a flaming mass, diving straight at the ground, thick black smoke billowing out behind it, his first victory, but he felt strangely sick inside, he had killed a man. A green Very light burst into the sky, the signal to break off and make for home. All of a sudden the sky seemed to empty, what once had been a mass of planes was now emptiness. He was home inside 20 minutes; landing he felt a tingle flowing through him, he had survived his first patrol, he was a veteran, there would be no more nervous feelings, but he felt strangely tired. Undressing, he climbed into bed and was soon fast asleep. A trace of a smile on his lips, "He had made it."

R. A. Barber

Aldershot, 1939

At 10 o'clock on a very mild September day, the 29th September, to be exact, Michaelmas Day to be more accurate, I entered a very grim yellow-bricked building closely resembling a prison. Over the front door a large red board, with white letters, one foot high, proclaimed that it was His Majesty's Recruiting Office.

I climbed the stairs, feeling very light-hearted; who wouldn't at the tender age of 14 years seven months, just about to enlist. The Army seemed a great adventure in those days, that is from the outside looking in. I was received in the office at the head of the stairs by a very red-faced individual in a blue uniform with gold chevrons (3), over which were crossed flags (very gaudy), also wearing a blue cap with tricoloured rosette at one side—the Recruiting Sergeant! "Well, me lad, wot can I do for you?" I meekly replied that I had received instructions to report to him for onward transmission to the Royal Signals and to be sworn in, etc. The Sergeant picked up probably the only book he never intended to read (a Bible) and told me to place my left hand on it. In the other hand he put a large board and instructed me to read the contents, which resulted in me swearing to bear allegiance to all sorts of people, heirs and successors, etc., any of which I didn't have a clue about. He then handed me the enormous sum of three shillings and sixpence, or so it seemed then, and announced that for the next 11 years I would be living at the country's expense as a soldier. (I found out since that the country is very thrifty indeed.) I was also issued with a railway warrant. He then took me by the arm, led me downstairs to where a small Army Austin 7 was waiting and drove me to the station (by this time I was feeling like a "million dollars") and put me on the train in charge of a soldier of the Royal Signals, who was also proceeding to that earthly paradise, Catterick.

I arrived at 10 o'clock that evening at Richmond station in pitch darkness, as miserable as anyone could be. I have never been happy in the Army since seeing that place.

R. Hayes

The Active Brush

We have with us in the Unit Workshop a German painter, whose name is "Bismarck." He is a man of great activities, especially with the paint brush. One would think when looking at him that he would be handicapped because of his age, which we of the Workshop believe to be about 70, and of his height, which would be about 5ft. 5in.

No work will stand in his way; if he is not painting the vehicles in the Car Park, he is painting the aerial wires or the benches in the Workshop. In fact, he'll paint anything anywhere, and give no consideration to the time of day. Whenever a jeep or lorry arrives in the Workshop for a 406 inspection or repair, Bismarck is there with his paint and brush, and before you can say Jack Robinson he is painting away to his heart's content. It's a nightmare to repair a jeep when he is around. He'll see a scratch on the bumper and he is away on the job without a second's delay. On many occasions he has painted my shirt a lovely green, and when you tell him to be careful he produces his pipe and in a very excited voice asks for "Haben Sie Feuer, bitte."

C. Jones

Christmas Morn

'Twas Christmas day in the Army,
The room was cold and bare,
I opened my eyes on Christmas morn,
The day that Jesus Christ was born;
But no Christmas cheer was there.
There was something missing, something gone,
No friendly greetings from Mary or John
Shouting what Santa had brought from afar,
Books, toys and sweets in a jar;
No hurry and bustle or running around,
No cries of delight as their presents they found.
Gone the twinkle of the Christmas tree,
The joy, the sounds, so careless and free;
Here we were in a cold barrack room,
It was dark and still, like an empty tomb.
Just a card from home, wishing us cheer,
A merry Christmas and happy New Year.
Some had a portrait by their bed,
Of the girl some day they hope to wed.
No one spoke . . . all thoughts were of home,
They wished they were there, no more to roam.
Away in the distance church bells chime,
Ringing forth with a joy sublime,
Telling of our Saviour's birth,
How He came down from Heaven to earth.
I was wishing now with all my might,
I could be home—just for Christmas night,
To sit by the fire's warming glow,
And peep without at the shimmering snow;
To watch the stars as they appear,
Glistening gems, so bright and clear;
To list to the wind in the chimney top,
Then—suddenly I stop—
The bugle sounds—'tis Christmas morn,
Faint light in the East heralds the dawn.
But for me 'twas not a happy day,
From home and friends I'm far away,
Cruel fate has ruled—I cannot go,
I must remain 'midst the unkindly snow
With MEMORIES, till I'm home once more.

Written by H. Goodwin (M.E.L.F.) and D. Mole on Christmas Day, 1947, at 38 P.T.C.

A Seaside Storm

Oppressed and humid was the atmosphere as I stood and gazed at the sea. Its waters did not possess the flash and glitter of the day before, and as the sunbeams kissed the waves, instead all I could perceive was a vast expanse of oily heaving water. The sun, like a golden ball, shone down from a heat-laden sky, affecting all, both human and animal alike. Few people were moving about, and those

that were, were complaining of the heat every few steps; even the birds were silent.

After a time I moved to a convenient deckchair, and there, following the simple rules of nature, fell asleep. When I awoke, conditions had changed, the wind was blowing hard, raising up great foam-capped breakers that looked strangely like phantom horses in the half-light as they raced towards the sea wall, then with a mighty effort smash themselves on to it, only to be smashed into a thousand pieces.

When rain began to fall I once again moved, this time to one of those all-glass pavement shelters, where I could observe the sea in its angry mood.

Ominous black clouds filled the sky, creating a semi-darkness which was illuminated as great jagged fingers of lightning reached greedily across the sky, only to be snuffed out in a second. The thunder sounded like the demons of hell having a party as it echoed and re-echoed about the sky with unceasing fury.

My thoughts turned to the sailors, and I was glad my feet were on terra firma and not on a rolling, bucking deck, with a few inches of steel between myself and a watery grave.

I searched the horizon, and there, much to my surprise, was a small fishing vessel, obviously in distress. It seemed impossible for anything to survive in such a sea, but the tiny boat was just holding her own. As I watched there was a shower of fiery red sparks above the vessel, which meant send help.

Then I suddenly realised I was soaked; it seemed madness to be out in such weather. So away I went for a bath and change, leaving the winds and waves to continue their furious onslaught on the shore. Before I departed I had one more glance seaward, and there, slowly but surely heading towards the vessel, was the lifeboat with its gallant crew. After seeing that I made my way home. Next day I heard all the crew of the fishing vessel were saved, and all I caught myself was a cold.

D. MOLE

A Funny Experience

When I first joined the Army I was sent to Northern Ireland to do my primary training, and towards the end of the training period we went out on a battle course on the Mountains of Mourne.

We left camp about seven o'clock for the training area, a nice fresh morning with a bit of frost in the air and a heavy mist. It was still very misty when we arrived, and we got sorted out in groups to go through the course. At ten o'clock it was the turn of the group I was with. Well, we arrived at the starting point with big fireworks exploding all over the place and tracer bullets whistling by overhead. Of course, we didn't stay in groups; we scattered all over the course in ones and twos; another boy and myself stuck together, and owing to the ground mist, missed the marking pegs on the course, and when we realised it we were lost, and owing to the mist we could not tell where we were going. We had been walking around for about two hours when we came to a big fence, and so we climbed over it. After ten minutes' walk, much to our surprise, we found ourselves back at camp and the fence we had climbed over was the camp boundary. We went to the Guard Room and told them what had happened. The Sergeant in charge of the guard gave us a good telling off and sent someone to find the main party, which had been looking for us for over an hour. When the boys came in we got scragged, because they were late for dinner.

J. PARSONS

The Army

Many lads of my age in Civvy Street today do not look upon the Army as a good thing. I myself was one before joining the Army. I was a travelling herring buyer and I did not think I would have to go into the Army. As I grew into the age of 18 my papers came through for me to go for my medical. As a couple of weeks passed on, I was in the Army. I did not think much of it when I first came in, but as my training went on I began to like it, meeting lads of my age from all parts of the country.

As time went on I was made a Local Lance-Corporal. After doing 16 weeks as a Local, I was sent on an N.C.O.s' course, which I did not like at all, so I put in for a posting.

About two weeks later I got my posting to Ripon; from there I was sent to Germany, to a place called Herford. After spending three weeks there I was flown in a Dakota to Berlin.

The flight was a good one. I had never been in an aeroplane before, so it was quite a thrill. I don't ever suppose I will ever get a chance to fly when I get into Civvy Street again. So I may as well make the best of it while I am in the Army.

In Berlin we have a very good N.A.A.F.I. Club, with anything you want to read, billiards, table tennis, darts and lots more things.

Attached to the N.A.A.F.I. we have a cinema, which shows English pictures, and they have quite good shows there.

The place I am billeted in is an eight-storeyed building, which stands opposite the cinema named the Puck and just above Neu-Westend underground station.

The flats are quite good accommodation, with good washing basins and baths. This is kept clean by a cleaner, she being German.

The kit layout, which is to be laid out every morning, has to be good and up to the standard of the S.S.M. This includes the room as well. The parade we go on in a morning is known as first works parade.

First of all the roll is called by the S.S.M. After that we are inspected by the Orderly Officers.

Following the parade we commence to work. I, myself, am an operator working on a wireless link with one outstation. We have to keep in communication with each other in case of an emergency in Berlin.

One or two mornings during the week we go to education, where we do arithmetic and other subjects, such as story writing. I am writing this in education, and it is time for me to finish my work.

So I hope the Army remains good until my demob.

D. ALLAN

November

We take this opportunity of wishing all ranks of the Royal Signals a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to love"—but if he's in Berlin right now his fancy loves to turn to lights, fires or any other method known to man for keeping warm.

The rapid approach of winter has already given us a taste of what we are to expect in the trying months ahead of us. If it's going to be trying for us with reduced heating, lighting and power, it is almost impossible to imagine how the local population of the Western Sectors are going to keep warm.

As soldiers it is our duty to take what comes—moaning a bit it's true—but it's extremely difficult for us who are politically uneducated to understand why harmless women and children should be subjected to such trials. The cold of Berlin can be very, very cold, and the fires of patriotism will need to be very, very hot to overcome it!

The Airlift goes on—and we raise our hats to the intrepid pilots who bring the planes in with monotonous regularity through weather of all sorts. The recent fogs have produced the first breaks in the schedule, but the moment they lift the old familiar drone may at once be heard pouring out its song of defiance for democracy.

On 25th and 26th of October we were visited by the C.S.O. Rhine Army, Brigadier A. E. Morrison, O.B.E. On arriving at Gatow the C.S.O. inspected our communications in connection with F.A.S.O.; afterwards he lunched with the G.O.C. B.T.B., Major-General E. O. Herbert, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. The remainder of the C.S.O.'s tour on 25th consisted of inspecting the wireless transmitters, the Squadron accommodation, tea in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he was introduced to all the members, and later a "get together" at the O.C.'s residence, where he met all the officers of the Squadron. The C.S.O. wound up his tour on 26th by inspecting the Signal Office, S.X. Branch, Radio P. & T. H.Q., C.C.G., and the P. & T. Branch of Military Government.

When the C.S.O. left Gatow at 1530 hrs. on 26th by air for Bückeburg he expressed his complete satisfaction in all he had seen, and for the social entertainment that he had received during his short but most interesting stay with us.

On 9th November we said "Good-bye" to Sergeant Cliff Glennon, who has left us on reverting to the Home Establishment. Cliff had been our Orderly Room Sergeant since British Troops first entered Berlin. He was a most efficient clerk and a very popular figure in the social life of our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. We wish him the very best of luck and hope "Mr. Records" will find him the sort of employment that Cliff would wish for.

The sporting activities of the Squadron are still very active. The highlight of the past months' sport has been the undefeated record of the Second XI Soccer Team. Who said we couldn's field two sides? We take off our hats to Corporal "Curly" Brewer for this great effort, and hope that his team continues to remain at the top of the ladder.

The First XI has been playing very well and are lying third in the B.T.B. Junior League. We hope that next month we shall be in a position to tell our readers that we have gone further to the head of the table.

We are looking forward in the near future to a series of Darts, Table Tennis and .22 Rifle Meetings, and we can promise all our rivals some very stiff opposition in all these events.

Marriages. On 3rd November, 1948, in the Chapel of the Garrison Church of St. George, a quiet wedding took place between Signalman C. Harrison and Marianne Hedwig Elsa Falk. We wish them both the very best of luck.

A Photography Club is now in the making; quite a considerable amount of equipment and material has been granted to us by Welfare. Lieutenant M. Greenwood is President of the Club, and, with the very capable assistance of Sergeant Naylor—our "Schooly"—it is hoped that the Squadron will be overrun with budding photographers.

ROCKY

41 GARRISON SIGNAL TROOP

Hook of Holland

October

The Troop is perhaps little known in the Corps, although some thousands of Royal Signal personnel have passed through 113 Transit Camp since 1945. So here is a brief outline of the activities of this little outpost.

The Troop is made up of 1 officer and 25 O.R.s, and is housed in Nissen huts in the Permanent Staff Camp of 113 Transit Camp, Hook of Holland. Our main job is the handling of S.D.S. traffic between War Office and B.A.O.R. and Austria. We run a small Signal Office with teleprinter direct to Rhine Army. In addition, we have rather an elaborate telephone set-up for the Transit Camp, with a four-position manual exchange manned (or should I say womanned?) by Dutch females. The latter are all good English-speaking girls and quite efficient.

Amenities are few, such as the Camp Cinema, Gymnasium with ample facilities for basketball and badminton. Usual N.A.A.F.I. facilities. The Troop combines with the local C.R.S. to make a football team which has had good results in the past and is looking forward to a successful winter season.

We are fortunate in that we are allowed to change our pay into local currency, and can therefore hit the fleshpots such as Rotterdam and The Hague, both within easy reach. This is a distinct advantage over Troops in Germany, as life in

41 Garrison Signal Troop

Holland is fairly normal and shops appear to be well stocked.

There is, however, a strict rationing system in the country and coupons are required for almost everything except shoes and boots.

Contrary to general opinion, we get no more leave in U.K. than anyone else in B.A.O.R. The idea that we can just slip across for the week-end is a myth. There is a weekly dance in the N.A.A.F.I., at which only the best Dutch girls are invited—and they do not wear clogs. The winter is almost with us and eyes are turned towards the ice rink in The Hague, and the Troop will actually be putting on their skates.

The personnel at present serving with the Troop are Captain R. Prendergast, M.C., Royal Signals (O.C.), Corporals Robertson, McClelland, Reece, Lance-Corporals Moisley, Laidlaw, Signalmen Jenkins, Brant, Elsender, Johnstone, Kelly, Parkes, Phillips, Porter, Pickett, Ronnie, Davison, Berry, Moors, Ager, Barton, Royan, Driver Pratt. A group photograph is published in these notes.

This is just a trial effort, and the scribe is remaining anonymous in case there are any repercussions, but the notes are submitted in the hope that they will be improved upon in future issues, and the full support of all members of the Troop with stories, pictures or any other items of interest is solicited.

So come, scribes, let us have your news and put 41 Garrison Signal Troop on the map. We are just as important a cog in the machine as any other Unit in the Corps.

ARCON III

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT
Hamburg

Since our last notes many old faces have departed, some beating the deferment announcement by only a few days. Captain B. S. Walker went to U.K. to sit a qualifying examination for No. 3 Technical Staff Course, which we now understand he has passed. Captain C. F. Vinn has left us to explore new fields and Second-Lieutenant R. Webster, who just managed to get away before the deferment news, has taken upon himself the cares of civilian life. Other departures include R.Q.M.S. Stratton and family on Python, and Sergeant Drummond to Austria. In whatever sphere they now find themselves, we wish them the very best of luck.

Captain Bickerstaffe joined us from Austria early in September and several small drafts of trainees have arrived. Unfortunately, our reinforcements have in no way equalled our losses, but the deferment announcement, although unpalatable, will help us to carry out our commitments during the next quarter.

We were pleased to welcome Colonel Water Scott, O.B.E., who paid us a short visit from the War Office during September. He gave us an interesting talk on past, present and likely future events.

Sport. So far our soccer team have not met with the same success as last season, having only won two games out of the six played. However, the team is really much better than league tables have so far shown. They were only beaten by the odd goal in the games against the two league leaders, and with more accurate shooting in front of goal they will do much better.

We have entered a rugger XV in the Hamburg District League, but so far have not played any matches. The talent is fairly good and we look forward to a good season in this new venture.

Inter-Troop hockey and basketball matches are still being played with much enthusiasm, and keen rivalry exists between the teams. A basketball team is being selected to compete in the Schleswig Holstein League and we hope to enter quite a formidable side.

There are several exponents of the art of shooting in the Unit. Duck and hare can be obtained in the vicinity for a little patience, and even wild pig has been known to be brought back to the camp, but much more patience is needed for this rare prize. The other day a frantic telephone call was received from the local game warden to the effect that numerous wild pigs had been tracked down in the Lockstedt area and imploring us to send out about a dozen guns. With thoughts of a good afternoon's sport and the taste of roast pork for dinner in their mouths, a party was despatched to the scene. Someone must have telephoned the pigs, too, because although they beat almost every wood in Schleswig Holstein, they only saw a few hares and a red fox. However, Captain Craggs, who had been wise enough to take a shotgun besides a .303 rifle, accounted for two hares, so the party did not return empty-handed.

No. 4 A.G.R.A. SIGNAL SQUADRON
Luneburg

November

Very little of outstanding interest has happened within the Unit during the past month or two—apart, perhaps, from the gladly welcomed compulsory deferment of Groups 76 onwards, welcome that is by *almost* all concerned—and, in consequence, it's very difficult to write an article of particular interest. I must get a literary-minded member of the Squadron to do a write up on Luneberg, which should supply heaps of subject matter for an interesting article. This is no promise, but merely a possibility. What about you other Unit scribes reciprocating with something in a similar vein?

Training. Individual training of O.W.L.s has commenced, and our old friend, the impish A.M.P., continues his perpetual pursuit of MEG OHM around resistive circuits. Despite the difficulties consistent with static roles and under-establishment, a fair amount of success has been achieved.

Trainees from 3rd Hussars, 15th Medium and 29th Field Regiments, R.A., were very reluctant to return to their respective troops, but one rather suspects that the good food, accommodation and amenities at Squadron H.Q. were more responsible for that attitude than the thirst for knowledge.

Sport. Sporting activities—legitimate—have been confined mainly to football, and our first three games were all reverses. No doubt the heights to which we rose last season somewhat dwarfed our lads' efforts, but the last four games have seen a revival and a better heart—three wins and one loss. We have great hopes of continuing the winning strain and to maintain the high level of Signals soccer.

Arrivals and Departures. The hand of welcome is extended to all newcomers to the Squadron, including Sergeant "Monty" Trusscott, known no doubt to many of the old brigade of East of Suez and the Yellow River Districts—Grip on! May you all be with us for a long, long time, and may your stay be pleasant.

Christmas preparations are afoot, and, on a note of pending festivities, more of which anon, I'll say: Cheerio, everybody!

HANNOVER DISTRICT SIGNAL SQUADRON,

October

Well, chaps, here we are again with another round-up of the news of the Unit. To start with, the weather is of the decidedly sticky kind. It's done everything so far except rain upwards. I expect it'll have a go at that next.

The hockey team has got off to a good start this season under the paternal eye of Lieutenant Roderick. We've only played two matches so far and on both occasions emerged triumphant; against 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron and 125 Transit Camp. Let's hope we do as well against 1st Rifle Brigade in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Trophy.

We're doing well in the Football League, too, the three wins to our credit being 6—0 against 3 Medium Workshops, 4—1 against 156 Vehicle Park, and 2—0 against H.Q. 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group. We are also the possessors of one resounding defeat. 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron really rubbed it in with a score of 8—0. 'Orrible. Our star forward is Signalman "Cannonball" Carter, who has scored nine goals out of our total of 12. Well done, mate; keep it up. Our regular goalkeeper, Sergeant Rees, is on the injured list, so he says, but Corporal Meese is deputising very efficiently. We mustn't forget Sergeants Hayes and Chalker, who are the big noises in running the team. It's with regret we say "Good-bye" to our captain, S.Q.M.S. Harding, who is being posted to H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment very shortly.

We have a Unit Dance every other Thursday run by Sergeant Rees, and so far they are a great success. There are plans afoot for a big "do" over Christmas and New Year, but of that, more anon.

A few congratulations seem indicated here. First, to Sergeant Murdoch, who is now a *very* proud Poppa. Mrs. Murdoch has presented him with a bonny baby daughter. Mrs. Murdoch was very ill at the time, but we are glad to say that she has fully recovered.

Our best wishes also go out to S.Q.M.S. Bruce and Signalman Haggis, who are taking the plunge sometime in the near future. Take warning, lads, a man cannot work for two masters. Anyway, they're going to try.

As that seems to be the lot for this month, until next time we bid you *Adios Amigos.*

JUG BEER

The Mystery of "Sweetbriars"

By **F. W. STANBURY**

WHEN a youth I lived in the country, halfway between Tidemouth and Crocken, attending school at Tidemouth, about 1½ miles away. About half-a-mile distant from my home stood an old house named "Sweetbriars," which was approached by a long drive. No one had lived there for many years, the windows were shuttered, doors locked and what were once gardens were now a jungle-like mass practically impossible to penetrate. Local people shunned its neighbourhood—rumours were that the house was haunted and no one had ever known people living there. As boys we always passed the house with nervous feelings expecting something terrible happening to us. During the war years when evacuation of children took place and the housing shortage was acute, the local Council decided to take charge of the house and prepare it for the accommodation of refugees.

Workmen were sent there but they always seemed full of fear, some even saying they had seen an ape-like creature peeping at them through the bushes. In time the grounds were cleared, and then the door was broken down and shutters removed. Inside the house, all the rooms were furnished with good furniture, hanging in both drawing and dining-room were oil paintings of a lovely young lady, the bedrooms held beds made many years ago, and everything looked as if the people had suddenly gone away intending to return—even the larder held decayed foodstuffs. The workmen inspected the house in a state of fear; as lads they had heard such stories of the place, and growing years had not altered their beliefs. The climax came when they were admiring the oil painting. A cold hand touched the head of one. Turning around he saw an ape-like figure which immediately disappeared. He was too frightened to speak, then fell in a faint with such startling eyes that his mates could not understand, and, after recovery, he was too terrified to explain. Just then the same face was seen by them all, looking through the window, then disappearing. They stood still, powerless to move with fright, but upon recovering left the house to report to their master, who reproached them for their cowardice. The next day a party of men was sent to the house to make a search, and one of them hurriedly left after seeing the figure in a passage. Finally all the workmen refused to work in the house.

News of the strange happenings reached the papers, and a Research Society decided to send some of their members to investigate. They went armed and slept in the house, occupying the bedrooms. During the night they heard strange noises downstains, which they went to investigate. Upon opening the dining-room door, something felled one to the ground and a strange figure passed them, too quickly to stop. The following night they decided to remain in the dining-room, fully armed, and resolved to elucidate the mystery. After a long, tedious watch they heard the door opening, and a volley of shots fired in that direction produced a deafening scream. With their torches they saw an ape-like figure on the ground, a human being, unwashed and unshaven for many years. He muttered, "Beneath the stable"—and passed away.

The next day they searched the stable and found a trap door leading beneath. There, in a cellar, lay the remains of a human body (his wife), who had been dead for many years, and a heap of straw where he had kept constant vigil.

The mystery of "Sweetbriars" had now been solved.

CHRISTMAS BELLS

Ring, Christmas Bells! Ring your peals o'er land and sea;
Send God's message of Love, Peace and Liberty.
Give all men courage, strength, strong hope and light;
May they pray daily for wrongs to be set right.

Ring, Christmas Bells, ring! Gladden all hearts today;
May troubles cease, and life be lived God's way.
Angels speak the words of Peace and Goodwill;
Yet men live to quarrel, fight and even kill.

Ring, Christmas Bells, ring! The world hears your sound;
Still misery rules, full joys can't be found.
Men don't understand the message sent out;
And without Faith, it's the Truth they doubt.

Ring, Christmas Bells, ring! Time alone will tell;
Men's hearts will change, the world will then know well
That Peace has been found, all evil hath flown;
Christmas Bells, ring! Your good seeds are sown.

LANCE-CORPORAL F. W. STANBURY

* * *

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following:—

THE THISTLE, October.

R.E.M.E., November and December.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS, November.

THE QUEEN'S OWN GAZETTE, November.

ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE, October.

THE CATTERICK EXPRESS, 29th October, 12th and 26th November.

Other Overseas Stations

No. 3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT
Fayid

October

Once again we enter the pages of THE WIRE with a few lines giving the latest news.

Since our last appearance many changes have taken place in the Regiment, due primarily to a decrease in man-power. Two shift systems are in full swing, and our Regulars have the odd eye open for the day when there will be but one shift left to handle communications. Communications which, none the less, are still handled with typical Royal Signals efficiency.

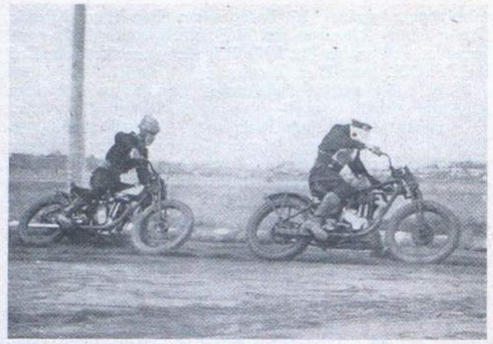
Although the all-swamping rain season fast approaches, planting of gardens round the tent areas continues apace. Keen competition continues for who will be the holder of the best allotment, such person to be munificently rewarded with Pounds, Egyptian, One.

Corporal Bertie Beale, former London District swimming champion, recently came first and second respectively in the 220 and 440 yards during the Inter-Services Swimming at Moascar. A good achievement.

Apropos the subject of swimming, bathers in the Great Bitter Lake are having to keep a sharp eye open for sharks—the sea variety, as distinct from the touts of Fayid village.

The Lake still draws the yachting enthusiasts, who spend most of their spare time presumably cruising by day and "boozing" by night.

On a smaller scale, the Inter-Squadron Sports in the Unit



Speedway racing at Fayid—a heat in progress

are keenly followed by enthusiasts. Our Royal Navy attachés are providing strong competition in this field.

Last but by no means least, "Mercury," the Unit's own open-air theatre, has presented some very successful plays and variety shows in the past few weeks, mostly performed by members of the Regiment. Among them has been "You Can't Take It With You," and under the guidance of Lieutenants Rolls and Shipton they continue to provide attractive entertainment. We are indebted to the Signals A.T.S. for their help and co-operation, which has made success possible.

The interest of the moment other than, of course, the opening of the football and Rugby season, is speedway racing.

With the finish of athletics, the District ground has been adapted for speedway racing, and the strange contraptions appearing on the track are a compliment to the ingenuity of the riders. The Unit have won the Challenge Cup but will have to fight hard to hold it as the interest is spreading and competition is becoming closer.

"Blue Aces" dirt track riders—winners of the first round at Fayid, 1948

With the close of the cricket season, we emerged at the top of the Cricket League. Mention should be made of the bowling of Signalman Williams, the able assistance of Lieutenant Cox and S.S.M. Swinson, and the underarm slows of Captain Meik (31 wickets at 7 runs each).

The opening of the football season will see us well to the fore, and Captain Willis has the fortunes of the Rugby XV under his care. Other activities include an active Camera Club, under the guidance of Captain Beard.

The photograph shows our speedway enthusiasts with their "blue aces" badge. Prominent among them is Lieutenant Turner, who is primarily responsible that the machines do their stuff.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Many of you will be interested to know that R.S.M. S. French (ex-49th Division, T.A.) has arrived to take over from R.S.M. W. Rowbory, who has been in hospital for some time and is due for Python in the near future. I can smell those D. and D. Courses coming along.

Many of our members have their wives in the Middle East now, a few members making the trip from Ismailia to Fayid and returning daily. The wives, by the way, are rapidly discovering that a piastre has only a mythical value.

The Mess dances still continue to be very popular in the Fayid area, as most ex-members will be pleased to hear. We notice, of course, the lack of dance bands now that the P.o.W. have returned to their homeland, but the Unit Band will be re-formed shortly, with Sergeant Kent as manager.

Past members of the Mess will share our regret in the mysterious demise of the goldfish. These have always been a source of delight to visitors and no satisfactory explanation can be found for this unfortunate incident.

Our swimming activities have been curtailed somewhat during the past month owing to shark warnings being posted alongside the Bitter Lake, but as Joe Goldsmith used to say, "Dog don't eat dog." S.S.M. Swinson has left us for a course in the U.K., where, in his own words, "I shall be learning how to make out a 252." Our R.E.M.E. sergeant, Sergeant Nickerson, will shortly be wending his way towards the altar. Best of luck, "Nick."

The Mess was successful in winning the Area Darts Competition last year, and the cup is now being competed for once again. Unfortunately, the "A" team has been knocked out, but the "B" team are now in the second round, so we have hopes of retaining the cup.

The Area Snooker Cup was also won by the Mess after some good matches against Messes in the Area. Now that S.Q.M.S. Wride is back with us once again, we have hopes of retaining the cup when it is next competed for.

We have attached to us eleven C.P.O.s and P.O.s of the Royal Navy, and a short while ago we had the R.A.F. also, so we are well up in Combined Operations, especially around the Shopping Centre area, as most ex-members will remember.

No. 1 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, M.E.L.F.
Ballah

November

On introducing ourselves to THE WIRE we wish all members and ex-members of the Corps a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Visit of the D.C.I.G.S. On Monday, 1st November, we were visited by Lieutenant General Sir K. N. Crawford, K.C.B., M.C., Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff. The General was accompanied by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F.

This Regiment is camped in a "war-time" R.A.F. Station in the Canal North Zone, and is about three miles from the Suez Canal. The occasional troopship goes sailing by at the odd eight knots, and the usual cries are heard as were spoken 30 years ago, or more—"Get yer knees brown," ex-Far East cry, or "You're going the wrong way," poor blighters proceeding South, and hoping Python will be cut down from three to two and a half years, or even less.

Our camp is virtually self-contained, in fact it could be called a "Village" (Salt Lake Village), for it contains two churches, a cinema, bazaar shops and the usual messes and canteens in lieu of "pubs." Of course, we are completely denuded of grass, the camp being erected on the bed of the old Lake Ballah, which, unfortunately, produces a salty, damp atmosphere all the year round, and the sandy soil churns into mud during the winter and after any rainstorms—this atmosphere spoils the camp. Otherwise we are as well off as any other camp in the Zone. The cinema gives us a nightly change of all kinds of films and really serves us well. As we are 16 miles from Moascar, one can well appreciate this amenity. The weekly game of "House" helps the "debits" into "credits," while the occasional dance or social event at the Warant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess breaks the monotony of a quiet night life. Welfare wireless sets provide us with our radio listening.

Our role is that of a reserve Signal Regiment, and our tasks are most varied, for we send off complete troops and detachments all over the Middle East on demand. We have troops in Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and throughout the Canal Zone. We also assisted greatly in Palestine. Together with other Signal Regiments, we have an active life in the wireless and telecommunications of the Canal Zone. The odd V.H.F. experiments are carried out and put into practice. In addition to this, we have a Training Wing with courses for N.C.O. Leadership, U.G. Cable and Cipher for all Signals personnel in the theatre.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Owing to the small number of resident members in the Mess, our social activities are very limited, being confined mainly to sports fixtures. As about 75 per cent. of the members live out or are on detachment, the "home" members, at present 14 strong, can invariably be seen nightly drifting in the direction of our open-air cinema, although one or two members still find time to do their daily "elbow exercises."

Amateur Radio. Our radio "hams" are disgusted at their present fate, for they are "off" the air by orders—a bitter blow, but they have not given up hope, for every evening MD5AA comes in all smiles and says, "It works," and proceeds to pull it to pieces again and build another sender, while MD5CN constructs "snorter" and an aerial. So the days, or rather nights, go on, dismantling and reassembling and living in hopes. But, if any radio enthusiasts care to give us a call on the 28 M/c/s Band and require a report, we may be listening on log. G2EC heard a.m. 31st October, 1948, QSA5s.

Sport. The Regiment takes part in all Army sports and it is represented in the Canal North District Hockey and Football Leagues. The teams are now getting into action and we hope to see some excellent games. During the "hot" season all ranks took advantage of the swimming and sunbasking at the various lidos along the Canal or Lake Timsah clubs. A number also enjoyed sailing on Lake Timsah.

The Regimental cricket team's results for the season were: Won 7, lost 8, so it was a pretty even result.

No. 26 Tele Operating Troop are to be congratulated on their splendid efforts in keeping the Troop cricket alive. They really took on all comers, and their results were: Won 7, lost 3.

Captain Gordon and Captain (T.O.M.) Minns met, and helped to entertain, the Australian Test cricketers when they passed through Port Said. What a grand set of fellows they are, too.

* * *

REUNION—WAZIRISTAN DISTRICT SIGNALS

All ranks interested in a reunion in London should get in touch with D. Jamieson, St. John's College, Oxford.

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Moascar

October

General. Firstly, to all ranks of the Corps—past, present and future—a happy and non-austerity Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful and D.O.V.-free New Year.

October saw the arrival of Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., to take over the duties of C.S.O., H.Q. B.T.E. and Mediterranean Command, and the departure of Brigadier H. Bartlett, C.B.E., on the *Empire Halladale* to the "land" of beginning again.

No. 1 SQUADRON. The Squadron is coping with its new commitments, but certain persons, who do not believe that grey hair carries with it an air of distinction, have been seen combing the chemists for hair dye.

Hockey. The Squadron and R.H.Q. combine to form "Moascar Signals," and have entered a team in the Garrison League. So far we have played three matches, winning two and losing one. The youngsters are being taught the game, that, judging by the average age of the team, seems to have been learned by most of them between walks to Chitral. R.S.M. "Darky" Irvin, who now wears a sircingle for a Sam Browne, has given up the stick for the whistle, the Q.M. having refused to issue an E.P.I.P. tent to make him a pair of shorts.

Rugby. For the first time since 1938, the Army Cup is being put up for competition. Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Hardy, himself a player of repute, is assisting in training the team, and it is hoped that C.A.F.S.O., Colonel C. Danby, will also assist. With these two officers, who have done so much for Corps "rugger," we hope to go far.

T.E.K. DETACHMENT. The Det. is still "honour" bound! The weekly trips to Cairo still continue. What the attraction is to "bods" living in the luxurious No. 5 B.O.D. is hard to define . But a strict ruling has been made that 10-sets will not be used on Pyramids.

No. 2 SQUADRON. Since our last notes things have happened. U.K. weather descended on us in the early hours of the morning. It is a cross between a Scotch mist and a November fog.

The Squadron linemen are having the time of their lives; the "Scotch mist" plays all sorts of tricks on the D.P.s. What with this and the "locals" collecting lead, there is never a dull moment.

We had a visit from the new C.S.O., Brigadier Chadwick. The highlight of the C.S.O.'s visit was when he spoke to an ex-Naval type officer of the Squadron, who replied: "Aye aye, sir."

There have been a few changes in the Squadron during the past month, the main one being Lieutenant Callaghan to R.H.Q. (No. 109 M.U., please note).

Sport. The sporting activities of the Squadron were carried on during October with the same zeal and enthusiasm of former months, the chief centres of interest being:

Soccer. October saw the commencement of the Canal South Soccer League championship, and the Squadron, having entered Division II, played the first match on 10th October *versus* No. 223 Company, R.A.S.C. To date three league games have been played. Although, as yet, we have only drawn one match and lost two, the Squadron team is rapidly settling down, and we hope to give a good account of ourselves in future matches.

The Inter-Troop Tournament was started early in October, and this is causing great inter--Troop sporting rivalry, and we have seen our dark horses in soccer really excelling themselves on the field of contest.

Three friendly matches were played also, *versus* Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons of No. 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, and to date the Squadron have won two and lost one.

Basketball. A number of matches were played during October, and in every game the Squadron proved the victors. Our finest achievements were a double win over our brothers in arms of No. 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, whom we beat 42—8 and 4—2.

Tennis. A Squadron Tennis Doubles/Singles Tournament was run towards the end of the month, and several enjoyable afternoons were spent on the Olympia courts, while our Jack Kramers and Fred Perrys battled it out. Our old friend, Sergeant-Major Knight, showed the younger members of the Squadron that you can't keep a good man down, even though his girth is widening and his hair is turning grey. In a splendid match with Corporal Ogden, who also put up a very fine performance, he defeated his opponent, 6—2, 6—2, to win the final of the singles.

In the doubles, S.S.M. Knight again figured prominently, for, partnered by Captain Spence (ex-Punka Wallahs note) they reached the finals, only to be beaten 6—3, 4—6, 6—4 by Captain Wood and Lieutenant Hellier.

Rugby. The Squadron will not be running a rugby team in the District League, but already No. 2 Squadron is making its name heard in the Rugby world, since four of its members, Lance-Corporal Peers, Signalmen Lloyd, Ernest and Hurley, have been chosen to play in the representatives' Rugby trials on Saturday, 30th October.

Darts. Although an indoor game, it is worthy of note that the darts tournament, now being run in the Squadron, is proving extremely successful.

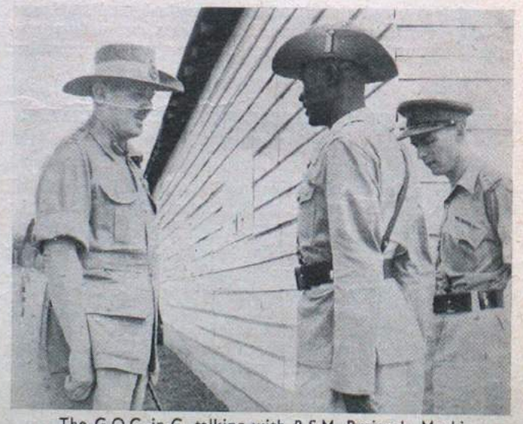
WEST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

November

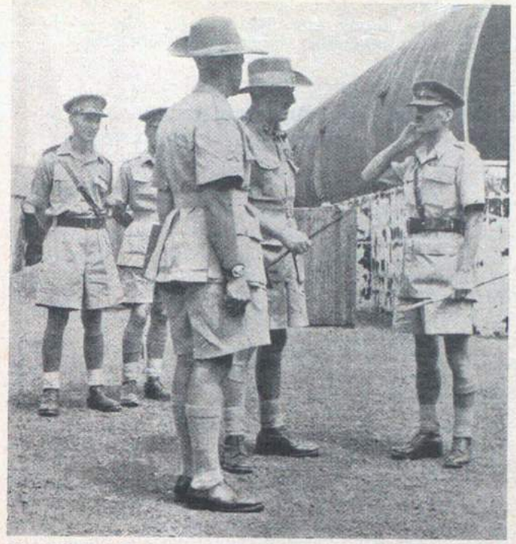
GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON, ACCRA. Greetings once more to all WIRE fans, both serving and ex-members, from here in Accra, British West Africa.

We extend the hand of welcome to Mrs. Dutton, wife of Captain Dutton, Royal Signals, and feel sure that her stay will be an enjoyable one. Further reinforcements are expected on the next boat, but at the moment their identities cannot be disclosed, for the very good reason that as yet they are not known here.

In this issue we say a somewhat premature "Good-bye" to Captain August and family, Captain Philp, Sergeants Barrett, Elliott, Grant, "Mush" Kennedy, Howells, Nixon



The G.O.C.-in-C. talking with R.S.M. Braisnah, Moshi



The G.O.C.-in-C. discusses "Q" with Major Bolam and R.Q.M.S. French

and Stewart, who are due to leave us for the U.K. in the near future. They take with them our best wishes.

Our new G.O.C.-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General C. G. G. Nicholson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C.-in-Chief West Africa, inspected the Unit one day last month. The G.O.C., who was conducted on his tour of inspection by the Officer Commanding, Major F. G. Bolam, displayed a keen interest in all that he saw, particularly the Signal Office and our newly-acquired 53-Sets.

The weather here is once more beginning to stoke up, and the beach is the centre of attraction during off-duty hours. "Bods," varying in colour from an attractive pink to a well-done brown, are busy practising their beach landings with the aid of their three-foot surfboards. Some are even running a taxi service for the benefit of the many youngsters who share in the fun by jumping on the backs of the ever-obliging soldiery out to sea and enjoy a free ride back to base. So far, no mermaids have been encountered. Too many "sharks." For those who enjoy an ice-cream after their dip, the position is disappointing. We have only oranges, pineapple, bananas and coconuts to offer. The N.A.A.F.I. beach hut offers a supporting line in "teas and wads."

Palm Beach holds nothing over us here, and if this is the land of the white man's grave, nothing has hitherto been said of its jovial ghosts.

European Day has recommenced this month after a short break. For those unfamiliar with the term, this represents a day, usually Monday of each week, on which all available Europeans of the Unit are relieved from normal duties for the purpose of collective training, varying in nature and usually planned on very pleasant lines. Recent practices have commenced with an early morning trip down to the beach. Individual effort is the medium of transport on these occasions in the form of a "run in the sun." It is therefore accurate to say that a person gets there under his own "steam." On arrival, and having cooled off, a dip in the pool is the next phase, but there is a catch in this to the tune of a three lenghs' swim of the bath in full dress. The incentive is provided by the aroma of bacon and eggs frying on the beach close by, breakfast being the next item on the agenda. After breakfast comes the bitter bit, represented by the assault course at the West African School of Infantry, further down the beach. To those who have already tried lifting bacon and eggs over a 20-foot "monkey run" in these climes (GRIP), there is little left to the imagination. The day is invariably balanced by practices of a somewhat more studious, if less strenuous, nature, Often they take the form of short wireless schemes or a series of lectures designed to familiarise each and all with the various functions of the Unit with which one may not normally be associated.

We are anticipating a large-scale coast-to-coast signal exercise, scheduled for the future. This may provide food for interesting comments in subsequent notes.

Business is brisk in this part of the world, where almost every conceivable item of merchandise can be sought with money in lieu of coupons. A couple of us here are resisting the temptation of opening up a butcher's shop on the strength of much of the "bush cow" and lesser livestock that seem to roam around pretty freely. To this end, an assumed local name may assist the goodwill aspect and, in anticipation, we begin advertising:—

At Mensah's shop—one moment stop,
And on the counter rattle.
Immediate pay, without delay,
And you'll be served with the best of cattle.
Tip-top quality, rock-bottom prices;
If the pieces don't suit you
We'll cut 'em in slices.

Please take your pick and pay up quick,
And we will fill your basket
With steak and kidney, heart or ribs—
You only have to ask it.
We've this and that for your old tom cat,
And odds and ends for doggie.
We're always ready to oblige,
Wind, rain or foggy.

Upon our word, you've never heard
Of "bush cow" such as ours, we declare.
We've fat, lard and dripping—oh, isn't it ripping—
To say that it's rationed back there.
Come one and all, both great and small,
We're here to do your bidding.
We'll fulfil your requirement to speed our retirement—
And in this we can say we're not kidding.

By the time that these notes go to press (assuming that they do), Christmas will once more be upon us. We, in Gold Coast Signal Squadron, therefore join in wishing WIRE fans a Very Merry Christmas (white one where possible) and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

JONAH

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON, LAGOS. We had the pleasure of a visit from the Chief Signal Officer, Colonel C. H. Lyddon, who visited the Unit and Out-Stations during October.

Despite the little leisure time at his disposal he still contrived to show the Squadron officers how to win both at indoor and outdoor games.

However, with luck, we hope for a return match in the New Year.

N.C.O.s. We have said farewell to one or two old faces from both Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes, but are pleased to welcome three new corporals from Gold Coast to the fold, especially as we have three N.C.O.s in Hospital with football injuries, etc.

A Description of Lagos. We thought that this month you might be interested in hearing about Lagos itself. You may

be seeing it one of these days, and perhaps your family, too, if you have one.

First of all, the means of getting here—Ikeja Airport, about 10 miles from Lagos, is 3,010 miles from London—22 hours' flying time by B.A.O.C. Air mail is normally a two or three days' service on five days per week.

The troopship on this run—the "Empire Bure"—takes approximately 17 days, the mail ships 13 days, calling at ports *en route*.

The H.Q. area of which we are a part is situated about five miles by road from the centre of Lagos, which, as you probably know, is on an island, joined by one bridge to the mainland.

We are at Apapa on the mainland, about one mile from the main wharf, which is straight across the harbour from Lagos, and a very pretty sight at night.

Lagos, with suburbs, is a city of some quarter million inhabitants, rather cosmopolitan, mainly Yoruba, but with a fair proportion of Ibo and quite a few Hausa traders from the Northern Area.

The main shopping centre is on the Marina, which is on a front overlooking the harbour. The big shops are run by British, Syrians, French, Indians and Swiss, although the African traders are expanding rapidly .These shops are extremely well stocked with every line of goods, but prices are much higher than at home. This applies to food as well.

In town there are some six open-air cinemas. Also there are three European Clubs, which have very reasonable fees and are open to any European. Sports of every description play a big part in the list of pastimes. There are two main beaches—Victoria and Tarquah Bay. To reach the latter one has to go by the welfare launch, "Libra"—there is a nice beach and canteen, and good swimming. Victoria Beach is rather dangerous unless one is a very good swimmer. And, of course, one always has the normal regimental and civilian dances.

There is quite a large European population, and many families out here. The rate of sickness is low and, providing one takes the normal medical precautions, one can expect to do a tour without an apple a day.

The climate is cool to warm in summer and rather hot in winter, but by no means unbearable. Rainfall is heavy for a month in spring, and very occasional storms throughout the year.

You will find that the African is normally of quite a cheery disposition, though since the war there has been a large incidence of minor crime. The Police Force is extremely efficient, however.

Before putting your name down for West Africa—a word of warning. Don't promise rashly to send home nylons, etc. —imported goods are not allowed to be re-exported. There are, however, Australian food parcel schemes, and also you are allowed to send one welfare food parcel per month. Goods made in the country—from beef fat to crocodile handbags—may be exported.

And if this land of tinned milk and bottled honey still doesn't appeal—there are unlimited cigarettes!

Soccer. Our European team won the League by beating Ordnance Depot 4—2.

Our A.O.R. team finished third in the African League, but had a lot of bad luck due to discharges.

Hockey. We won the Hockey League without a single defeat, and the stalwart defence only conceded two goals throughout.

Cricket. There is no league running as yet, but we have had several enjoyable games with mainly wins against both civilian and Army teams.

Boxing. In the District Boxing Championships we combined with Staff, two of this Unit finally being selected for the team. Unfortunately the first night during individual matches our two men drew against each other. Lance-Corporal Osigidu eventually reached the semi-finals but was beaten after a very hard fight and won the best loser's medal. The team finished second in Southern Area.

S.X. BRANCH, H.Q., B.T.E., AND MERITERRANEAN COMMAND

Ismailia

November

We've looked in a lot of WIRE back-numbers but can find no trace of any notes from us for many years past. Perhaps, therefore, we should introduce ourselves — we're really C.S.O.s Branch H.Q. British Troops in Egypt and Mediterranean Command, late of Semiramis Hotel, Cairo. Nobody is quite sure why we call ourselves S.X. Branch, but at least it prevents confusion with our guides, philosophers and friends (we hope) of X Branch, G.H.Q.

We have just said "Good-bye" to Brigadier H. Bartlett, C.B.E., and welcomed Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., as our new C.S.O. Those of you in the know will realise from this that our personnel problems are being well looked after, while any anti-aircraft communication problems are dealt with effectively and expeditiously!

We are not going to waste a lot of space with a summary of our AF.s B 199A; we'll just tell you who we are and if you knew any of us in the past you'll know where we are now—if you didn't know us before then you couldn't care less! We have two G.S.O. II.s: Majors J. R. Piddington, M.C., and A. Beattie; two S.O.II.s (Royal Signals), Majors D. Hayes, M.B.E., and J. H. Patridge; Captains T. I. G. Gray, D. J. L. Garbutt and G. F. Lowe as S.O. III.s do all the work and complete our officer establishment. Our Chief Clerk is W.O.I H. P. Kraft (who insists that we add a *nom-de-plume* by which he claims he is best known: "Griggle"). Mr. Kraft brings fame and a certain amount of notoriety to us by being active in a whole host of spheres apart from that of the purely parochial one of finding lost files; he can be seen on various playing fields at all seasons and is also the leading light in many Sergeants' Mess activities, including frequent dances at which the suppers would do credit to Fortnum and Mason.

We work fairly hard. Our communications are mostly of the type known as Fixed Signal Services (a little bird tells us that there's a move afoot to abandon this title—not a bad idea, either!). The trouble with our particular variety is that they won't stay fixed; apart from a continually shifting military population we have quite a bit of trouble with the "clifty wallahs," who remove large lengths of our underground cables (the black market price of lead in Cairo is said to be £80 per ton). Egypt Command Signal Regiment, however, work wonders and by mid-day things are seldom as bad as the 0800 hrs. fault-report indicated they might be.

On the wireless side there's a fine transmitter site with a terrifying network of highly lethal dipole feeders (we never can remember which one is "live").

We also have a number of most impressive "No 10 things" about the place (on loan from 1 L. of C. Signal Regiment); they are a great help during times of excessive cable thefts, although we hear a new theory each week as to why they—occasionally—fail to work. We've come to the conclusion that they are very feminine, and propose to refer to them, like ships, as "she!"

Our summer is on its way out, but we are still in K.D., and plenty of people are in bathing costumes only during off-duty hours. Sailing is, of course, an all-the-year-round sport here and Lake Timsah is dotted with white (almost) sails each afternoon. Incidentally, we hear our C.S.O. is taking over the job of Commodore of the Officers' Sailing Club, so we suppose that oft-refused "essential" telephone for the club will have to be put in at last!

A SIGNALMAN'S

Reminiscences

OF NORTH ASSAM, 1942

By **CAPTAIN JOHN WHITNEY,** *late Royal Signals*

THE bald outlines of the campaigns of the late war are gradually being made plain to us by book and despatch, but these general and terse reports, stripped of their warm human envelope, will not inspire us or entertain.

A fortuitous meeting with a former comrade-in-arms has revived memories of two little cameos of Signal Office life in the very uncertain days of 1942, and in recounting these very minor and fragmentary memories I have tried to adopt Erskine Childers' prescript to give the story with "its humours and errors, its light and its dark side, just as it happened."

(1) *The Fatal Message*

The year was early 1942, the locale the compound of a large tea plantation in Upper Assam. On one side masking the road stood the gaunt "factory" buildings where the tea was dried and pressed; on the far side a wide open horizon to the mountains of Northern Burma; the middle and near distances being filled in with row upon row of heavily pruned tea plants, already shimmering in the brilliant sun. On our right, shaded by a row of florid Japanese cherries growing to a great height in that humid atmosphere, stood a luxurious bungalow, supported on massive stilts in the customary manner, and right near us, in great contrast, a humble bamboo "basha" with a great thatch roof. Let us walk into the hut and examine the proudly named "North Assam Signal Office."

There was always a great bustle at that period. Although everything looked serene in that tea garden, a perusal of the deciphered messages piling up for the despatch riders to take away would have told of ominous happenings not far away. The wives and daughters of the European tea planters had long before departed to the refuge and entertainment of Darjeeling. General Alexander (as was) still struggled to extricate his army from Burma. Echoes of that great work were reflected in our traffic. General Wood was employed by the civil power organising the relief of refugees, and from his headquarters at Margherita our despatch riders brought back floods of packets. The oil town of Digboi was a vital target guarded by H.A.A., and had to be served, while the frontier village of Ledo had already reported their first Japanese patrol. Two airfields near at hand were the object of many signals passing in and out of the office, while the embryo of one of the first Air Supply Units already had a propensity to use no priority lower than Emergency Operations. Troops of one form or another were beginning to flow into a province that had hardly ever seen a soldier of any kind before, while the recorded density of one white man per hundred square miles was already the subject of ribald jests.

Our one transmitter was a hideous and treacherous piece of ironmongery on loan from the oil company. Treacherous because the housing of the instrument gave a kick like an elephant if accidentally touched, vicious because the keying was modulated on the high tension side of the valve, and most inconvenient because wavelength could only be changed by an instrument mechanic with a wavemeter, and a most long-drawn out procedure at that.

With this powerful set (Calcutta, 900 miles away, reported it was much too powerful) we had a sounder, working on a civil phantom, and a small branch exchange borrowed from the Posts and Telegraph Department, connected with Tinsukia Civil Exchange and our one telephonic outlet to the outside world.

These three instruments in one small compartment of a basha hut kept life from being dull, and there was the very great advantage that when manpoyer was particularly low, when malaria was taking a very heavy toll (this was before the days of mepacrine) one signalman could at a pinch supervise the telephone exchange, keep the wireless net quiet with a choice selection of the old "X" numbers, nip in with an occasional high priority on the sounder, and even spare time to walk into the adjoining compartment to receive the inward flow of messages and packets, sort and register a few, before dashing back to monitor a call.

Tea hour was the time that manpower was at its lowest ebb; but this period unfortunately coincided with the most vital job of the day, the one job that took precedence over even a most immediate message, the getting ready of the bulging sacks of registered and unregistered packets to go out with the courier on the evening Assam mail train. While the railway was still under civil control a plaintive telephoned plea to the stationmaster usually was quite sufficient to delay the great train until the despatch rider hurtled up with his sacks for the courier: when pleas were unheeded, bullying and threats mouthed into the telephone were successfully used: the train never left without its precious load of packages for all stations to Calcutta and the thick sheaf of routine and important messages that had found no place on quicker circuits.

At this bewitching hour there was much to contend with. A "Hostile Aircraft Immediate" could paralyse the office, or a delayed "Most Immediate Sitrep" cause chaos for other subscribers on the exchange. Signals for outward transmission could be disposed of to the overworked cipher officer with the plea that the only available circuit was W/T, although even this useful stalling practice could not be carried out in the case of "Meteor Immediates" from the meteorological section as cipher definitely laid down that the mass of numbers composing the text of these messages could not be enciphered in high grade under some thousand groups per message, and would in any case wreck the cipher, so the poor signalmen had to devise very complicated message instructions to effectively disguise the addressees from the enemy.

Flaps were very rare, work was hurriedly but accurately carried on, but in that small space there was always an unavoidable babble of sound. The great printed placard with the order "Silence" could not, unfortunately, be complied with.

During the day a minimum of two duty operators could be

relied upon, sometimes three, and when lucky a corporal or lance-corporal would appear to wrestle with the "In" and "Out" registers, and try to bring order to the daily balance sheet of registered packets received, minus packets despatched, less packets held undeliverable, and then make a convincing case about the twenty or so packets invariably unaccounted for.

It was on one of these occasions that I was mournfully trying to clear a great pile of traffic by W/T. During this shift I was amazed to find a message in plain language placed on top of the cryptograms, with some sort of priority.

"I cannot send this, you fool," I said without turning round. "Send it to cipher."

An ominous silence made me turn my head, and I looked straight into the eyes of a corporal. He was terse: "Send it!"

I adopted an apologetic but firm attitude. This being of no avail, I adopted an explanatory attitude.

An offer then coming up from control, I too became terse: "It is a definite order to send this message in plain?"

"Yes."

"Can I have it in writing?"

"There seemed to be mild gasps behind me, but I could pay no further attention while I concentrated on a spate of numbers coming over the loudspeaker from control. I grimaced to myself. The orders were plain enough surely! Why, only the other day someone with an excess of zeal for the letter of the law had sent a "Hostile aircraft immediate" into cipher. That episode had been on everyone's lips!

I turned round again. "Write the order on the back of the message and get it witnessed, then I will send it." This was done; the message sent.

In the pressure of other things I forgot all about the incident. A day or so later the storm broke. My precious morning off was rudely interrupted when I had to leave the comfort of my charpoy to appear before my Commanding Officer. I was duly marched in, and as the charge was solemnly read out I was in a daze. I had a sick feeling. What could have happened? Could the message have been accidentally destroyed? But no, I saw the fatal paper, face upwards on the table before me. When I was allowed to speak, my words were few.

"Please turn the message over, sir, and read the reverse."

In the mild confusion that ensued, I quickly made my escape.

(2) *A Christmas Dilemma*

It was Christmas Eve at the North Assam Signal Office. The courier had long since departed. The wireless net was closed, but could be reopened, so ran the log, on a telephone call from control (a polite fiction as there was no operator available). The sounder had ceased its irritating clicks. The only channel open was the telephone link. It was after midnight, and except for the incessant hum of the mosquitoes and an occasional scream from a hyena and the answering howls of jackals, all was quiet. I was alone in the office.

Since sundown a great mosquito net had enveloped the telephone exchange in diaphanous folds. The whole working evening this device to combat the deadly minimus mosquito had caused much unparliamentary language, as every time the exchange buzzed other work had to be dropped and the voluminous folds of netting negotiated. But now everything was quiet and it was a relief to crawl under the net and lie on the charpoy placed there, with ammunition as a pillow and a rifle as a bed-mate.

I gradually drifted to sleep with memories of other Christmases, with entrancing visions of snow and ice (it seemed then!), when an insistent buzz awoke me to realities.

"Makum Military," I murmured into the handset.

"You are the postmaster at Makum, you say, and you have a cipher telegram for us," I drowsily repeated. "Well, it can wait until tomorrow morning!"

"What? . . *Immediate*, you say . . . send it up then."

"You have no staff? Tik hai, I will send for it."

Someone, it seemed, was not aware that we had had a Signal Office in violent eruption for nearly a year.

I went through the usual routine. A call to the guard room sent someone scurrying with a hurricane lamp to drag out a reluctant despatch rider. A call to the cipher officer in his quarters only seemed to produce obscenities, but that was only surface froth.

All this having been carried on in a recumbent position, it was simple to doze again.

The despatch rider came and went. The wretched telegram was brought in and handed under the net. (All the essentials to run a Signal Office had prudently been gathered in under that canopy.)

The cipher officer hobbled over and rescued his cipher books in their tin boxes from their safe custody under my charpoy, and departed muttering.

We enlivened the deciphering interval with bright chat.

"We can only hope," I remarked with the camaraderie of youth, "that the telegram is so hopelessly corrupt that we shall not be able to even find out who originated it!" But it was not to be.

The cipher officer triumphantly returned. "It was a bit corrupt but I made it out all right."

I studied the plain language. It was "All informed." The Army Commander wished all his Commanders a "Very Merry Christmas and a Victorious New Year." That was that. "But what would you do, sir," I asked, "in a case like this. Here is an 'Immediate' message, it is zero three hundred hours on Christmas morning. What will anyone at Brigade think of Signals when they are awakened to receive this message?"

"There is a story," the cipher officer began, "that in 1916 or 1917 an advance was planned for Christmas. The code words to set this operation in motion would be a Christmas message from the Army Commander to all his Divisions and Brigades. You must bear in mind that this message may not mean what it says."

With my profuse thanks he departed to his quarters, and with my specific instructions to deliver the message personally to the Brigade Commander and insist on a receipt, the despatch rider rode noisily off.

No. 2 WIRELESS REGIMENT STAMP CLUB

The Stamp Club trusts that Signals far and wide saw the opening article in the last edition of THE WIRE, setting out briefly our purposes and aspirations. We have written personally to P.R.I.s or O.C.s of all the Signal Units whose addresses we know in various parts of the world to make contacts for swopping and are anxiously awaiting replies. If by any chance O.C.s or P.R.I.s are not ardent stamp collectors themselves we should be more than grateful if they could publicise our club by a short notice in their Daily Orders.

We are quite ready to start correspondence and swopping with individuals as well as Unit Stamp Clubs.

Any country you happen to be in will interest us; send a full or short set, used or unusued, and we will send you an equivalent Cyprus set as per Stanley Gibbons 1947 catalogue, value for value, i.e. if your set is valued at, for instance, 10/- in the catalogue, we will send a Cyprus set of at least equal value.

We prefer British Empire sets, and are most anxious to establish contacts in the Dominions. We hope Editors of Dominion Signal Journals saw our Editor's note in the last edition asking them to copy. Any publicity Dominion Editors can give us will be greatly appreciated.

If collectors would like sets of Cyprus now out of issue we can supply any reasonable quantity at about three-quarters of 1947 catalogue value or less.

As our scope increases so we shall let our stamp collecting associates know what swopping we can do. At the moment we can do: Current Cyprus, British Olympics (used), current British, and we hope soon to be able to do the following current issues in small quantities: Egypt, Greece, B.M.A. Eritrea, Abyssinia, Malta.

The Cyprus Silver Jubilee issues will soon be out and we expect the issue to be of very short duration. We shall be able to sell the mint and used sets for 45/-. If collectors would like these please let us know at once. We are most anxious to be able to swop the Cyprus set with Wedding issues of other countries.

MALTA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

November

Since our last issue of WIRE notes, considerable changes have taken place in the Squadron and many of our old friends would hardly recognise us now. The biggest item has been the move of the Squadron from the comfort and seclusion of St. Francis Ravelin into Lintorn Barracks, which we share with Fortress Squadron, R.E., R.A.S.C. and Garrison Adjutant Staff. The transmitters are still in the Ravelin, the M.T. is in St. Francis Barracks, and we have out detachments at Mosta, Luqa, Hal Far, Gozo and Bir-id-Deheb, so that the Squadron is still fairly scattered.

The Squadron recently had quite a busy time preparing for a visit from the C.S.O., M.E.L.F. It was rather a strain, coping with operational commitments as well as making the barracks spick and span, but all ranks put their backs into things with a will in order to make a good show for Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who visited us on Wednesday, 20th October, and stayed until Sunday.

In the evening of Wednesday, Lieutenant-Colonel McNair, C.S.O., Malta, gave a very pleasant cocktail party in honour of General White. All Royal Signals officers and their wives were invited to meet the General. The guests also included Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Knight, of Forces Broadcasting, and Mr. and Mrs. Riviere, of Cable and Wireless. After the cocktail party, all Royal Signals officers and Lieutenant-Colonel Knight departed to the Union Club, Valetta, where a Guest Night Dinner was held. A very pleasant evening was had by all, which closed with the toasting of His Majesty the King and our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

The following day General White visited the C.S.O., Malta, and inspected the Barracks and installations in the Valetta area. On arrival at the Barracks, the General was received by a guard of honour under the command of Captain E. A. Knott.

On Saturday General White toured the island and inspected all out-stations. He was particularly pleased with their neat and tidy appearance, and also commented on the smart turn-out of the guard of honour.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., is received by a guard of honour

Sport. Our successes continue. As mentioned some time ago, Captain Knott was captain of the Malta team for the Colonial Small Bore Rifle Match, and Corporal Anderson and Signalman Allen (now corporal) also fired. The result of the match was that for the second year in succession Malta were runners-up, the winners this year being Gibraltar. We are still in the middle of the 1948 League and will report results later.

In the Cricket League we came runners-up, the best individual results being:

BATTING

	Played	Highest score	Times not out	Total score	Average
Captain Knott	14	119	4	506	50.6
Sergeant Parfitt	16	76	1	429	28.6
Corporal Hayes	8	33	0	148	18.5
Major Buirski	12	78	0	211	17.6
Captain Donaldson	10	47	0	171	17.1
Signalman White	16	55	2	217	15.5

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Signalman Cleaton	96	18	268	33	8
Captain Knott	24	2	108	10	10.8
Signalman Neville	116	23	383	33	11.6
Sigialman White	112	19	394	30	13.1
Signalman Baines	55	14	217	15	15
Major Buirski	78	15	297	16	18.5

CATCHES.—Captain Knott (12), Major Buirski (9), Signalman Baines (9), Sergeant Parfitt (8), Signalman Street (8).

In the Governor's Cup we had two very exciting matches against the C.-in-C.'s Staff. The first, ending in a draw, was played at Marsa and we batted first. Getting right on top of the bowling, we scored 198 for the loss of only 2 wickets, Major Buirski (78), Sergeant Parfitt (57) and Signalman White (55 not out) being our scorers. We soon had the Navy in trouble, Major Buirski sending their first man back to the pavilion with only 1 run on the board. Unfortunately, time went against us, and although we kept on top (Captain Knott taking 3 wickets for 22), we could not get more than 6 of their wickets down before stumps were drawn.

The replay, at Corradino, saw a different game; bowlers were on top all through and only Sergeant Parfitt, who scored 39, could do anything for us, and we were all out for 77. Again we had them in trouble early and captured their first wicket with 2 runs on the board; but even though Captain Knott took 5 wickets for 18 runs, we couldn't quite make it, and were beaten by 4 wickets.

In representative matches, Major Buirski captained the Army team and Captain Knott also played.

Football is now getting well into its stride and we have the makings of a very good team. More about them in a later issue.

Personalities. Many have come and gone since we last wrote. Second-Lieutenant Glew has been released, Second-Lieutenant Cameron-Webb has gone to 1st Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, S.S.M. Adams has been released, and other old friends have also put off uniform. S.Q.M.S. Buchanan is fit again and is back with us in his pre-war job of Chief Clerk. Another Smith has arrived, so that F.S.S. Troop has three brothers, Sergeants H. F., A. W. and G. R., as well as a corporal of the same name. To make matters even worse, the last draft produced a Signalman Smith!

Major Buirski leaves us soon, having been posted to East Africa. We will be sorry to lose him and wish him luck in his new job. We welcome Major O. B. G. Shoubridge from home to take over as O.C.

Captain J. A. Brown has also joined us as T.O.T., and Captain Norbury will be going to Cyrenaica as soon as a boat arrives. S.S.M. N. Robinson is another of the important newcomers and he had the luck to get the warrant officer's quarter next door to the office block. All he wants now is the family.

We congratulate Captain and Mrs. Chapman and Corporal and Mrs. Hathaway on the birth of a son each.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Since the move of the Unit to its new location in Linthorn Barracks, the warrant officers and sergeants have for the purposes of Mess facilities combined with the Royal Engineers. It is regretted that accommodation will not allow the Unit Mess to continue its separate existence, but the excellent Mess spirit prevailing in the combined Mess, together with the very good building in which the Mess is housed, offers adequate compensation.

Besides having the opportunity of living with and learning how another branch of the Service works, the chances of broadening the individual outlook with contacts not only on the Sapper side, but also with the people and departments with whom the Sappers work, gives an added interest to the normally accepted Mess life. Traditionally, the Navy have always looked on the R.E.s as their particular "adopted" Mess, and the chiefs and petty officers who call in are derived from all sorts and types of naval vessels. Return visits to warships are encouraged, and recently Mess members spent a memorable afternoon visiting H.M.S. *Vanguard*, a trip which will not easily be forgotten by those who went.

The usual Mess entertainments, dances, socials, etc., serve to keep the social side very live and attractive, the Mess being unusually fortunate in having both an outdoor and indoor dance floor.

We are unfortunate in losing one of the Mess stalwarts when Sergeant Bayfield leaves shortly, not only having completed his Python tour, but to take up a Foreman of Signals Course in U.K. The best wishes from all members of the Mess go with him and Mrs. Bayfield for the future, together with the thanks of all members of the old Mess for all they did in the past to help enliven the Royal Signals Mess of the Ravelin days.

S.Q.M.S. Leach and Sergeant A. Smith are still with us, both of whom will be tasting the delights of Blighty early next year, when their Python tour expires.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

October

The last month has seen very few new faces in this Unit, due to the recent hold-up in releases. We all sympathise with Lance-Corporal Linsdell and Signalman Cooper (both of 78 Group), who were within a few days of leaving us when the news came through. However, we are sure they will both make the best of their extended stay here and will seize the opportunity of getting yet more "gash" in.

To the four recent arrivals, Sergeant Nutt, late of War Office Signals, Signalman Ness, Signalman Cunliffe and Signalman Ward, we extend a hearty welcome, and trust they will not get bored listening to our "old soldiers'" reminiscences on the dark days.

With the approach of the winter season we find pleasure in looking back on our summer activities, especially in the field of sport, leave and entertainment. We find that many new arrivals to Gibraltar believe they have been posted to an isolated rock, rising from the depths of the Mediterranean, and any hope they may have had of sport and leave in other countries has disappeared.

Lest any of our readers are suffering from the same erroneous conclusions, we would hasten to add that Gibraltar is a peninsula jutting out from the province of Andalusia, Spain, and joined thereto by a sandy isthmus, enabling inhabitants of Gibraltar to cross into Spain in a matter of minutes, where they are able to visit bullfights, football matches, and to explore the southern regions of Spain in general.

We have in this Unit a number of keen "aficionados" (bullfight fans), who regularly visit the "corridas" held at the Spanish border town of La Linea. Controversy still rages in the barrack rooms as to whether or not bullfighting is a sport. Ethically, we haven't come to a conclusion, but at least it gives those who are interested an afternoon of thrills.

Throughout the summer months organised trips and leaves have been arranged, under the auspices of Command Welfare, to Malaga, Granada, Seville and Tangiers. The majority of the Unit have taken advantage of these schemes, and besides enjoying themselves immensely, have added to their knowledge by personal observation of the customs and ways of local people. All these trips have been extremely well organised and the accommodation provided can only be described as excellent.

Cricket. Our cricket XI won 7 matches and lost 3, finishing as runners-up in the Services Minor League. In the Knock-out Cup we were perhaps a little unlucky, the R.A.S.C. beating us in the second round by the small margin of 6 runs, even after a fine fighting innings by Captain C. H. G. Allen, who hit a very well-deserved 50.

Heartiest congratulations to our team for such a fine effort, and a special pat on the back for our captain, Lance-Corporal Wensley, for his batting average of 49.00 and bowling analysis of 40 wickets for an average of 12.27 runs; also to Corporal Denniff for a bowling analysis of 39 wickets for an average of 11.64. We are proud to say that Lance-Corporal Wensley also had the honour of representing the Combined Services in matches against civilian teams, in which he acquitted himself in his usual style, scoring 107 runs in one innings.

Small Bore Shooting. In the Small Bore League we finished on the right side of the halfway mark, against extremely keen competitors. When one considers that our opponents were in all cases officers and N.C.O.s having many years' Army service, then our position is quite creditable, as the only two Regulars in our team were S.S.M. Bradbury and Sergeant King.

We must commend S.S.M. Bradbury for topping the list with an average of 82.2. (It would appear that S.S.M. Bradbury has shown his versatility, for was he not, in younger Army days, a deadly shot with the bow and arrow?)

Indoor Sports. Last month we challenged 20 Wireless Troop to an indoor games tournament. Each Unit was represented by a team of officers, N.C.O.s and signalmen at games of snooker, darts and table tennis. The ever-victorious signalmen of our Unit demonstrated their supremacy by winning the event by a clear margin, proof (if any were needed) that this Unit is built on foundations as safe and sure as the Rock itself.

Table Tennis. Recently the table tennis enthusiasts of this Unit matched their skill against the R.A.M.C. The match was very strongly contested, the result of a 10-all draw speaking for itself. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and it is hoped that this match will prove to be the forerunner for a series of indoor games to be played against other Units throughout the winter months.

Football. With the advent of the winter season our thoughts and actions have turned to the football field. Captained by Corporal Denniff (late of No. 2 T.R., Catterick, fame), our team has so far been undefeated in friendly matches, and in our first league match successfully defeated "Y" Company, 1st Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, by the clear margin of 5—1. If form be the judge of class, then we appear to have a classical team in the making. Time will tell!

Congratulations to Corporal Denniff, who has been selected to play for the Combined Services. Well done, Phil!—and may you lead our team to victory this season.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

Singapore

November

A merry Christmas to everyone and a happy New Year.

It has been a few months since notes for our Regiment were sent in, and to all who have looked for us in vain we send our apologies. A foolproof (?) system has now been laid on, peremptory demands have been sent out to all and sundry, Squadron Commanders have been asked for yet another return to be rendered WITHOUT FAIL, and we now hope that all future contributions will arrive "on the dot."

Certain Officers in the Regiment have recently been through a period of anxiety, trial and tribulation. The facts are that a R.C.B. visited Farelf and a number of our bright Officers who had applied for regular commissions were duly hauled up before it. If their stories can be believed they suffered all the tortures of the inquisition for four days while with the R.C.B., but it is doubtful if these equalled the anxiety experienced while waiting the War Office decision. However, all's well that ends well, and our heartiest congratulations are tendered to Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., Captain P. J. C. Lloyd, Captain P. H. F. Webb, Captain A. G. Clapham, Lieutenant A. R. McCreadie and Second-Lieutenant J. Ridge, also to Lieutenant Charles, of 12 Construction Troop fame, who passed in another command and heard the results while with this Regiment.

H.Q. AND No. 1 SQUADRON. Changes in Squadron H.Q.s have been so many recently that it is difficult to know where to start. Major G. G. Stretch, the Squadron Commander, has recently left us to become a gilded Staff Officer at "X" Branch, Singapore District..

We welcome 12 Construction Troop, ex "Empire Windrush," and hope their stay with us will be a happy one. May they uphold the record of their sister Troop (8 Construction) for proficiency and cheerfulness (and leave the barrack room as they found it!).

Sport. The Squadron soccer team still struggles on. Messrs. Forest and Grogan are still holding the fort, with Corporal "Tiger" Gough urging his boys to "Have a bash, mate." These boys thought their Army soccer days were almost over, but we're glad to hear that they have decided to stay for our December games and keep the old flag flying for a few more months.

No. 2 SQUADRON, consisting, as it does, exclusively of operators and mechanics, is pleased to consider itself the hub of the Unit. Our main responsibility is the efficient running of the Singapore terminal of the Army Wireless Chain, and the members of the Squadron are, therefore, the Elite within the Elite.

Apart from the Auto Room, we also staff the Receiver and Transmitter Stations, which are situated at five and 15 miles respectively outside Singapore Town. Numerous additional jobs come our way to distract and harass us, but somehow we manage to cope with all sorts of local links. The comparative monotony of normal communication is not infrequently relieved as a result of some astute native (obviously a believer in the motto, "God helps those who help themselves") appropriating large portions of our carefully-laid underground cables between Transmitter Station and the Auto Room.

We have been undergoing of late some very considerable changes what with the departure of 76 Group, not to mention the arrival from England of four new Officers who have come to take over key posts in the Squadron.

With the rapidly decreasing number of National Service soldiers in the Squadron—reinforcements these days can only be described as negligible—we are learning to rely increasingly on our Regular soldiers. Of these, our most notable is certainly S.S.M. V. Humby, who, quite apart from his full-time job of Squadron Sergeant-Major, has, off and on, taken on alll manner of jobs, ranging from Senior Wireless Officer to Duty Mechanic. On occasion, when Mr. Humby's technical skill and experience are required other than in the Squadron Office, Sergeant J. Taylor is called upon and makes an admirable deputy.

The Squadron is just completing a most successful soccer season, during which we have managed to win the G.H.Q. Farelf League Soccer Cup. The strength of our team may be assessed by the fact that no fewer than nine of its members represented the Regiment at some time or another during the season. We are greatly indebted to Corporal Jock Taylor for the considerable trouble to which he has gone in arranging all our matches and for his great tact and skill in picking our team. On the field of play, although it is invidious to pick out individuals, as everyone deserves mention, there is no doubt that our match-winners were Giles, Inglis and Ireland, while in the back division Gilroy and Harrington were outstanding.

There are rumours afoot that the Amateur Radio Club is being resurrected and some ambitious persons are even hoping to be in communication with Blighty by Christmas. If this scheme bears fruit, there is no doubt that the air will be in colossal demand.

We welcomed to our fold the members of No. 212 Medium W/T Troop, but they just stayed long enough to say "Hullo, what's on? Goodbye," and then left for a place up country where they could spread themselves and to do their work instead of being cooped up in a Static Unit. We wish them the best of luck and good hunting.

Transmitter Station. A Sub-Unit of No. 2 Squadron is, of course, the Transmitter Station, and after our last notes appeared, complaints came in thick and fast to the effect that they had been left out in the cold—well, here they are.

The last notes mentioned that the station buildings were not all that they might have been, and we now have pleasure in saying that our local Garrison Engineer has at last visited the camp and several improvements are now being carried out.

Entertainments are not as many and varied as at R.H.Q., but the tennis court is still serviceable, and in the new canteen, whist drives and other social evenings are popular.

Changi Beach, a few miles away, sees a lot of us and swimming gets its place on the programme of amusements.

If there are any amateur radio enthusiasts about, Ray Evans, VS1CO, can be heard on 10 metres or above.

No. 3 SQUADRON, alias "The Bottomless Pit" (as it is often referred to by other Squadron Commanders, jealous of our ability to absorb limitless reinforcements), continues to thrive. The Squadron soccer team finished second in the G.H.Q. Branch League; needless to say, we stood down and let No. 2 Squadron have the honour of first place, just by way of encouragement.

We also supply a regular and talented quota of players for the Regimental soccer, rugger and hockey teams.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. After a short absence the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Tyersall Camp, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, Farelf, comes to print again in a blaze of glory, under the paternal leadership of R.S.M. Johnstone and S.S.M. Harry Sinclair.

The first notable achievement was our victory over the Officers' Mess in the quarterly games tournament, the final score being 69—60. It is with great pleasure that we gaze upon the cup, the wooden spoon now being in the reluctant hands of the Officers' Mess.

Other victories in the field of sport comprise soccer and darts; the Mess was also victorious in the Unit shoot.

During the past month we have lost three of our Sergeants, namely, "Bill" Meadows, "Pop" Pellant and Johnny "Lost Week-end" Fairbrother. "Pop" has gone to the U.K. on an airborne course. To replace our late-lamented comrades we are pleased to welcome Sergeants "Bishop" Holmwood and "Caruso" Robinson.

Recently the Mess has undergone drastic changes, the main one being the construction of a new bar, locally known as "Johnstone's Folly." R.S.M. Johnstone, who returns to the U.K. on Python in '51, hopes to witness and officiate in the initiation ceremony before he leaves.

MALAYA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Kuala Lumpur

To all members of the Corps we wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Although it seems early to be talking about Christmas at the time of writing, and the climate hardly the kind to "turn the Briton's thoughts to home," we have started growing our Christmas dinner. Under the close surveillance of Signalmen Heeley and Hale, we have a flourishing duckling farm. The rumour that the pond is kept filled by "watering mouths" was originated by the luckless repatriates of 76 and 77 Groups, not to mention the odd Python.

The camp has recently acquired a cinema, the "Globe," and judging from the trails made to it nightly from all quarters of the camp, it would not appear to be in need of support.

Captain Perry, Lieutenant Knock and Sergeant Matthews have left for release in the U.K.; Captain Hill, ex-D.S.O., transfers from one Signal Service to another on joining the Malayan Telecommunications Dept.; whilst S.S.M. Townsend and Sergeant Essex have left us to battle elsewhere. Space is against recording the departure of many others, but we wish them all the best of luck. Newcomers to the Regiment have been numerous and very welcome. They include Major Atthill as Second-in-Command, Major Cornish and Captain Wythe from the U.K., Lieutenant Deakin and S.Q.M.S. Shorter from Singapore. We also welcome 212 Medium Wireless Troop, with Lieutenant Agar, Sergeant King and their crew of "journeymen," who have sailed from Mid-East, swopped their trucks for trains, and are providing communication for the Malayan Railways.

Sergeants' Mess. In a small way we are now a Combined Services Mess, a petty officer of the Royal Navy and two R.A.F. sergeants living with us at the present time. Enjoying well-earned leave, R.S.M. Bevan, M.M., is sojourning in Wales on Lilop, whilst S.S.M. Parish is in Australia. Congratulations to S.S.M. Parker on his promotion, and to ex-Corporals Marnie, Martin and Whittington on entering the Mess.

At the recent match of Warrant Officers and Sergeants *versus* Men at hockey, Sergeant Mewes, who was playing for the first time, soon made violent contact with an opponent's stick, as a result of which he was removed to hospital suffering from a fractured jaw. He is now back with us again and can be seen every evening, smiling at us from behind the bar.

The Mess has three representatives on the Unit football and Rugby teams, namely, Sergeants Trethowan, Hildred and the venerable Jack Cloke, who also includes tennis and soccer in his repertoire ("Age shall not weary him nor the years decay").

S.S.M. Jim Feakes and Sergeant Kennedy have returned from their terrorist-hunting activities and are now engaged in the somewhat quieter occupation of instructors in the Infantry Wireless Training School.

The monthly dance held in October was a great success. The C.S.O. Malaya District, Colonel Gordon, and the C.O. both attended.

Ex-members of the Mess will be interested to know that amongst the "old sweats" of the N.W.F. still with us are the Foreman, Joe Shackleton, and Jack Craig. "Chirpy" Finch's rendering of "O Thou Great Jehovah" has not been heard for quite some time!

Soccer. In a modestly successful season our team came fourth in the Selangor "B" League and reached the semi-final of the Junior Knock-out Cup in the F.A. Cup, when we can boast eliminating the mighty Selangor Club. Our second team fared less happily in the "C" Division, but it proved a valuable nursery for new arrivals.

Rugger. The Malayan Rugby season is now in full swing. A Royal Signals team has been formed in Kuala Lumpur from "X" Branch, No. 1 Squadron and "X" Brigade personnel. Later it is hoped that players from 2nd Guards Brigade Signal Squadron will be available. Royal Signals have lost both matches played so far; the scores, however, have been very close, 6—8 and 0—5. With the return from Lilop of R.S.M. Bevan, M.M., and the assistance of our padre, Captain the Rev. Derbyshire—at present nursing a wrist broken when playing soccer for the Unit—we feel sure that our winning term will come. Signalman Burrows, Corporals Nottingham and Rawson, Signalman Clegg, Sergeant Hildred and Major Farr have played regularly for the Garrison side, whilst the latter two recently played for the Combined Services against the Combined Civilians.

Hockey. Captain J. Smith has rallied old and new blood in the trial matches for the coming season, and we are pleased to note that Sergeant Whittington, Corporal Smith, Lance-Corporal Ross and Signalman Wainwright are more than just promising players. Major A. C. Cox, M.B.E. (soon to leave us with his newly-formed "X" Brigade), and Captain Parkinson have both played for the Selangor Club.

Other Sports. Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Heap, and Captain Walsh are still ably representing the Regiment in H.Q. golf matches. Tennis stalwarts include Corporals Goose and Gibbs, Privates Gaccon and Knuckey, whilst tenni-quoits and badminton are greatly in vogue at the moment. Corporals Smith and McDonald, Lance-Corporal Addicott, Signalmen Monnickedam and Marshall make full use of the courts, whilst in the Officers' Mess Major Spindler and Captain Fuller (when they are not gracing the billiard room) may be seen to great advantage, generally encouraged by our gardening P.M.C., Major Harris. Dancing lessons every Wednesday evening by the W.V.S. are proving very popular, and it is reported that Lance-Corporal Perry and Signalman Baines must be watched! Amongst our billiards enthusiasts may be included Corporal Rowe and Signalmen Staples and Taylor.

No. 2 SQUADRON, TAIPING. The attractive town of Taiping (where "swarthy ladies wear pyjamas all day") is set below the grandeur of the Maxwell Hills of North Malaya. It is around here that many recent jungle operations have taken place, and for which more than one of our members has lost all but his set—and his trousers.

Lance-Corporal Brewster and Corporal Bidmead are only two of many that bid sad farewells with 76 Group, whilst Captain A. R. Wythe, an old friend of Major Sinnock, the O.C., has joined the Squadron as Second-in-Command.

Our cricket team has had its successes, under the guidance of Signalman Roxburgh, and our lone footballer, Signalman Massey, has been of great help to the H.Q. team.

An armed guard is the only distraction of "the loveliest swimming pool in the world," where the more daring sportsmen can watch the O.C. execute a half pike swordfish from the top board. Probably the greatest sport at the moment, however, is Corporal Hutchinson, N.C.O. i/c Mepacrine Issue.

To all ranks—everywhere—a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Freetown

October

The wet season having finished, it is now possible to live a more outdoor life.

Trades Training Troop are deserting their lecture rooms and getting out on to practical training and schemes, in which they are keen and really interested.

In July last the Squadron enlisted a number of ex-naval and R.A.F. wireless operators, who have now completed their training and have become part of the Signal Office Troop; already they have proved themselves an asset to the Squadron and R.W.A.F.F.

Sport. Tennis is now becoming very popular. Each afternoon and evening our B.N.C.O.s can be seen there practising for the forthcoming challenge tournament with the officers of District Headquarters.

Hill's Elegy on Gambia. Old Sierra Leone and Gambia Squadronnaires, who probably visited the Gambia Colony, will be interested to know that that wireless station has been closed down. The wireless detachment was attached to the "D" (Gambia) Company The 1st Battalion Sierra Leone Regiment. With a detachment of one B.N.C.O. and A.N.C.O. and one signalman, the duties were carried out smoothly.

The Gambia is approximately 400 miles north-west of Sierra Leone and has a climate which differs very much from the other British Colonies. It is much better than in Sierra Leone, and we were thankful for the sea breezes which were always to hand, as we were billeted about 50 yards from the sea. Much of our time during late afternoon was spent playing tennis and football; tennis with nearby European civilians and football against various African teams.

The Signal detachment always fielded two players in the Company team, and I am sure the third would have been welcome if duties had permitted his playing. The detachment's football abilities is no boastful admission as one can hardly boast when the team never wins.

Cricket was played a great deal and the Squadron was represented in the European Gambia eleven which turned out against African teams each week, and with good results.

The Colony is exceptionally flat, being 6 ft. above sea level around the coastal area, and even further inland it isn't much more. Three miles wide at its widest point and 200 miles long, it has a river almost one-third of its width, and is completely surrounded by French Senegal. The river is the Gambia River and provides a happy hunting ground for crocodiles further inland from the coastal stretch. It is one of the most backward of the British Colonies and it wasn't until last year that research parties investigated agricultural development possibilities with a view to increasing the groundnut production.

Report My Signals

By **ANTHONY BRETT-JAMES**

I VERY nearly entitled this review, "Choice of Arm—Signals," for we as a Corps are fortunate that "B.J." either elected for or was directed to Royal Signals in 1940.

To say that I enjoyed his book is an understatement.

Recognising old and valued friends in Dicky Dumville and the elder Donaghy on page 4, I read with speed and great enjoyment. As is customary with me when I get a first-class book, I am now re-reading more slowly to savour it the more.

Being the detailed history of two of the Brigade Signal Sections of 5 Indian Divisional Signals, it appeals perhaps most to those who have served with the Indian Signal Corps.

But its appeal is to all; to the very old like myself; to the very young like my son, not yet called to the Army, who votes it the best war yarn he has read. For the older amongst us the book is full of memories of Signalmen, of Generals, of Brigadiers and places, of names famous and honoured, and of the equally deserving of honour, the ordinary man, British or Indian, who served so well.

I must not tell the story of the book. Suffice that it follows the fortunes of 5 Indian Division from the time when they fought in North Africa, through a grim period of inactivity in Iraq, and equally objectionable training in India. The highlights of the book for me, at any rate, describe the fortunes of B.J.'s" Brigade Signal Sections—Madrassi and Punjabi Mussulman—in the Arakan, in Assam and in Burma.

E. J. C. Harrison will no doubt get a free copy, and be the prouder for it.

All other Signal officers who have served and loved their Ayaswamy, Balasundram, Isaiah or Joseph; their Mohd Khan, Mohd Ashgar, Rab Niwaz or Rahim Ullah, must buy a copy although the price is stiff.

Brett-James writes beautifully and graphically. He wastes no time in description, but every word tells, and his descriptions of men, matters and scenery are vivid.

With the admirable prejudice of the good Brigade Section Officer, his comments on the deeds or misdeeds of formations other than his own are delightful in their emphasis on what appears wrong.

Few, except his own Commander, his own Staff, his own Section, escape criticism—and they not always.

To those of us who are old, the book brings back exactly our own youth. To everyone who served in the Fourteenth Army every line will bring a memory.

For me the descriptions of "B.J.'s" two leaves, the one mainly in Gulmarg, the other a trek from Darjeeling, were perhaps the least interesting. I was loath to leave the Indian Signalmen and their training or fighting. But the beauty of the prose, the author's knack of delving below the superficial, make these chapters in my re-reading almost my favourites.

I have said enough. Every Royal Signals Mess must be made to buy a copy at 15s., published by Hennel Locke, Ltd., and distributed by George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd., 182 High Holborn, W.C.1.

Everyone who served with the Indian Signal Corps during the war will buy a copy if he can.

Incidentally, Brett-James is no mean artist; his portraits are excellent, and the few maps beautifully clear.

Review of the Territorial Army by H.M. The King

Sunday, 31st October, 1948

THIS report, while attempting to describe the work of Royal Signals in connection with the Review, must, for obvious reasons, include some short description of the arrangements which led up to the Review and of the Review itself.

In accordance with extremely detailed administrative arrangements, some 8,000 men and women of the Territorial Army and Auxiliary Territorial Service were assembled in or brought into London by the morning of Sunday, 31st October. The bulk of them either detrained at Clapham Junction Station or came from and were housed for the night of Saturday in Woolwich, in Clapham Deep Shelter, and in Richmond Park Barracks. Thence they came to Hyde Park in L.P.T.B. buses.

The Signal arrangements at this period included the provision of loudspeaker coverage to Nos. 1 and 2 platforms of Clapham Junction Station, which was put out to civilian contract (Standard Telephones Co., Ltd.), public address equipment provided at very short notice by C.S.O. 1 A.A. Group, at Clapham Deep Shelter, and the Military Police control of the bus columns was made possible by the Signal Reporting Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A., with their scout cars working a suitable wireless net.

London District (M) Signal Squadron, assisted by a party of linemen and some material from Eastern Command Signal Regiment, had on the previous Friday and Saturday installed a comprehensive telephone network covering all the important points in Hyde Park. These important points were also connected by wireless using the W.S.18, and were manned by personnel from other T.A. Signal Regiments in London.

Sunday, 31st October, took a leaf out of November and produced a typical November fog. Visibility in Hyde Park at mid-day was down to 50 or 60 yards, and the troops when drawn up in mass had a frontage of nearly 300 yards. At this time the staff of Headquarters, London District, with the AAG mounted in a "Tilly" with PA equipment, was endeavouring to get the markers for the various contingents into their places. One could see very little. The work was, however, accomplished. Here the problem arose of ensuring that the Contingent Commander (A.A. Command), on the right of the line, gave his words of command at the moment that His Majesty stepped on to the rostrum at the Saluting Point. Neither could see the other. When successive Contingent Commanders had given the orders for the salute, then, working on the order of the left-hand Contingent Commander, the Band of the Royal Artillery on the right of the line was to play the Royal Salute. Again, neither could see the other, and at that distance synchronisation by hearing was doubtful. The problem was solved by officers of London District (M) Signal Squadron with Wireless Set No. 88 at each end of the line and at the rostrum at the Saluting Point.

There was one period when failure seemed certain. A seemingly authentic but mercifully untrue rumour that His Majesty would address the parade; the available resources were confined to the same "Tilly" with a couple of speakers mounted on the roof. By no possible manipulation could these be angled to give audible cover to the whole area of the parade. The fog made motoring slow and hazardous, and that, and the time factor, precluded getting in sufficient equipment. Mercifully, as has been said, the rumour was unfounded.

In Signals, once one's plan is made and one's troops deployed, there is often little to do, and many of us, and also a little clutter of operators near the saluting base, had admirable opportunity of looking over the "Land Rover" in which His Majesty was going to inspect the Parade. One remembered a paper, or hoped one did, that this was to be the British Army equivalent of the jeep. Certainly in its showroom condition it looked a first-class vehicle.

As so often, it was "all right on the day!" By 2.45 the enormous mass of troops had been marched on, had found their markers, were steady and impressive in their ranks. The area round His Majesty's rostrum was cleared of idle spectators, there remaining only a select few of very senior officers of the three Services and essential operators, Royal Signals. At 2.58 Stanhope Gate telephoned that His Majesty had passed. At 2.59 he arrived. The 88 Sets worked. The orders were given. The band played. His Majesty then mounted his "Land Rover" and motored round the ranks.

At this stage our reporter left the Review ground and hurried to Stanhope Gate, where His Majesty was later to stand for the March Past. The telephone at Stanhope Gate had reported previously: "The crowd is very thick, sir, but I have got a spanking view." Whether he retained his view is not known. Certainly the crowd, which was immense, ruled out any possibility of access to his favoured position. We took up footroom in the crowd halfway between Stanhope Gate and Hyde Park Corner, and were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of Her Majesty the Queen and Princess Margaret going up to Stanhope Gate, where they met His Majesty as he returned from reviewing the troops. There were then, we understood, many presentations to be made of those old and famous in the Territorial Army movement. To the crowd the wait appeared long, but in good time we heard the bands at Stanhope Gate change to marching music and the unending stream of the T.A., marching six abreast, began to flow past us. To single out a contingent of any one Command would be invidious, but, as always, London thrilled to the men of the 51 Highland and 52 Lowland Divisions of Scottish Command. They have an unfair advantage in the matter of dress. As each contingent came to Hyde Park Corner they swung right along South Carriage Drive and so to their buses for dispersal. Here we found the scout cars of the Signal Reporting Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A., and for a moment watched the troops embussing or falling out with permission to seek what pleasure London could give them.

Amongst the marching troops (the light was still very bad), it was impossible to distinguish any Signalmen, though there were many. A.T.S. Signals, with the blue and white diamond on their arms, were easily distinguishable by that and by their smartness and good marching.

So ended a very long day.

We went home by train with the band of the Royal Artillery from Portsmouth a carriage or two behind us, and in our compartment a B.Q.M.S. of 4 A.A. Group going to spend the night with friends in the suburbs. Having done his Regular Service, he had straightway joined the Territorial Army and, speaking with the experience of 21 years as a Regular soldier, expressed himself as well satisfied with all the arrangements.

13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

EDINBURGH

[By courtesy of "The Scotsman," Edinburgh

H.R.H. with Lieutenant-Colonel L. W. J. Dryland and Lieutenant-Colonel H. Scarborough inspecting 31 and 32 at a signal exercise

On Monday, 8th November, the Regiment was honoured by a visit and inspection by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, who was accompanied during the inspection by G.O.C. No. 3 A.A. Group, C.S.O. A.A. Command and C.S.O. No. 3 A.A. Group.

Great was the polishing that preceded her visit, and long may her praise of the Regiment be remembered!

Two of our D.R.s escorted Her Royal Highness to the Drill Hall, and on her arrival the officers were presented. She then inspected R.H.Q., Nos. 31 and 32 Squadrons on parade, with detachments of Nos. 29 and 30 Squadrons which had come over from Glasgow for the evening. Her Royal Highness spoke to a number of officers and other ranks on parade. After a short adjournment to the Officers' Mess for coffee and sandwiches, she inspected a training exercise representing operational and administrative A.A. communications. She showed great interest in the training, which by this time has reached a satisfactory standard.

[By courtesy of "The Scotsman," Edinburgh

Left to right): Major A. Gould, Junior Commander I. D. Caris Carter, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Scarborough, H.R.H., Sergeant M. Morrison, Lance-Corporal E. McLean, Lance-Corporal P. Gray

Her Royal Highness was pleased to say that the turn-out of men and auxiliaries was excellent, that their standard of drill was very high, and that she had been most impressed with everything she had seen.

Here let us say that since we have had unrestricted use of the H.Q. Drill Hall we have at last been able to get our permanent training lay-out settled. During October all hands worked hard to instal equipment, and we have now got multi-core cables from the main D & P frames to every training room. The installation was not finally completed until the afternoon of 8th November, and it says much for the accuracy of the job that when Her Royal Highness inspected it in the evening it all worked perfectly.

A sad piece of news is the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Sutcliffe, O.B.E., who left us after 18 months in command of the Regiment. During all that time we advanced from strength to strength in spite of every difficulty. He and Mrs. Sutcliffe took their leave at a ceremony in the H.Q. Drill Hall on 16th September. Major Brady, thanking them and saying farewell on behalf of the Regiment, made an excellent little speech which expressed our feelings well; he presented Colonel Sutcliffe with a quaich, while Junior-Commander Caris Carter gave a bouquet to Mrs. Sutcliffe. (A quaich, for the benefit of those in England who wonder, is a Scottish silver cup of a traditional design.

Colonel Sutcliffe then thanked us and introduced Major H. Scarborough, T.D., as our C.O. designate. He is now Lieutenant-Colonel and no longer designate—we all wish him a long and happy command.

Thereafter all the officers went to the Mess, where the quaich was filled three times with whisky and passed round as a loving cup. Colonel Sutcliffe is now Telephone Manager of the Middlesbrough Area. He and Mrs. Sutcliffe take with them the affection and good wishes of all of us; and especially of the Permanent Staff, who had the good fortune to work with them more often than others.

No. 61 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A.

BEDFORD

November

Since annual training we have been much concerned with recruiting drives. The Bedford Area Recruiting Week was organised from our R.H.Q., and many of us became, temporarily, bill-posters, publicity men and announcers on the P.A. equipment. There is no doubt that Bedford now knows that there is a Territorial Army. They also know that there is a local Signal Regiment. In putting us on the map the assistance of the Regular Command Team was invaluable. Captain I. C. Gibson and his merry men did sterling work for us in Bedford. Captain Gibson, having once been with this Regiment, of course knew the district well, and so did his team by the end of their stay. They have also done displays for us at Cambridge and Dunstable, and shortly will be on view in Ipswich.

"Here is the news and this is Corporal Woodcock reading it." While in the background Griffiths says, "There's a funny smell about this thing"

For a long time we have suffered from cramped quarters at R.H.Q.; but now things are moving and with a reshuffle of units we expect to be able to build up some permanent training devices. The new Social Club is under way and held a very successful night on Friday, 12th November. There was dancing and a table tennis match, a cake judging competition and darts, and a most extraordinary parlour game called "Getting Married." Altogether everybody had a very happy time. The funds raised were to be used for the children's Christmas party, on which the Ladies' Committee is now working.

Ten minutes before training begins on a Tuesday night in Bedford. In the centre: Junior Commander Riley and C.S.M. Miller (A.T.S. permanent staff)

R.S.M. Webb and his helpers deserve a word of praise for the good work they put in in getting the party organised. However, by comparison with their most successful darts tournament, it was only a minor triumph.

The darts tournament was a winner. The organisation was remarkable and it was the first time for many years that nearly 600 men have congregated in the Drill Hall (pardon, Training Centre!) at any one time.

There was a row of darts boards along one wall and, of course, a bar along another. The darts boards were in continuous use, about half a minute elapsing between games. Play began at 7.30 p.m., and before 11 p.m. the winning teams were receiving their prizes from the Mayor of Bedford. Altogether 37 local teams were engaged. They all brought supporters with them, and the management of the crowd, the whipping in of the teams and recording of the results provided quite a problem of organisation.

Another, and even larger, darts tournament is to be held on 10th December. After that the next big event is the children's party and then the local Signals Association dinner.

At Cambridge our youngest Squadron is doing well and shows signs of developing into a lusty infant. At the present time the Officers are attending a course in Bedford, which means a 60-mile round trip every Tuesday evening. The Saxon Works, where the Squadron has its Headquarters, is being gradually developed as a T.A. Training Centre and will eventually be a very comfortable home.

Private Izzard gets some good advice about Jeeps from C.S.M. Miller

Corporal Woodcock and Drivers Smith and Cook discuss transport troubles

Sergeant Hawthorne shows how, watched by Signalmen Blackwell and Griffiths and Driver Cook

Ipswich, where No. 2 Squadron lives, is shortly to have a T.A. Week, and we look forward to seeing a few more of the "old hands" back in the Unit after that. Ipswich was the first of our Squadrons to have A.T.S. attached, and they have without doubt been thoroughly put through their paces by S.S.M. Robson. Recently these A.T.S. went to H.Q., East Anglian District, for a week-end to gain experience on the switchboards there.

At Dunstable the Infantry Brigade Group Squadron is building up and shows signs of becoming a very active Unit. S.S.M. Baxter (P.S.I.) and Mrs. Baxter are already becoming known in Dunstable.

The pictures shown here were all taken at Bedford and were used by us in our little booklet which we published during Recruiting Week.

Bedford members are anxious to have news of old friends Harry Collins and Tom Sayers, pre-war P.S.I. We think they would find some familiar faces among us, but they wouldn't recognise the Unit now.

SIGNAL TROOP, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, T.A.

Belfast

October

This Unit has undergone two changes of title since its doings were last reported in THE WIRE in 1939. Early in World War II it ceased to be the Signal Unit, Queen's University Officers' Training Corps, and became the Signal Unit, Queen's University Senior Training Corps, and on 1st April last (what's in a date?) was further transmogrified (dictionary definition, "Transmogrify: to change into something else, as if by magic") into a Unit of the Territorial Army.

Annual training for 1948 was done, in company with the Infantry and Medical Units of the Corps, at Kirkby-in-Furness, Lancashire, from 3rd to 16th July. Our vehicles crossed to England by the new vehicle-ferry service from Larne to Preston, run by an ex-L.S.T., while the main body of troops went a rather roundabout journey *via* Liverpool, Ormskirk, Preston, Carnforth and Barrow-in-Furness. We left Belfast on 2nd July and settled in under canvas at Kirkby on the afternoon of the 3rd. Sunday, 4th July, was devoted mainly to hasty earthworks of one kind and another in endeavours to save some, at least, of the tents from being flooded by the day's torrents of rain. The weather continued unkind during most of our stay, but there were sufficient dry intervals to enable the Corps to take part in three cricket matches, two against the local team (lost one, won one) and one in which Queen's beat the 5th Battalion The King's Regiment, who lay alongside us for a week.

There can be few parts of the United Kingdom where the roads are so unsuited to cable-laying as are those in much of Furness. The roads near Kirkby are so narrow and twisting, and are bounded by such high, loose-stone walls, that cable-work on them is fraught with danger both to detachments and civilian road-users, and we had to go far afield to find areas where better conditions prevailed. Perhaps this was not altogether a bad thing, for it meant that exercises involving cable-laying took us as far away as Lake Windermere and afforded us opportunities of seeing that lough (no, I mean lake) and also Coniston Water, and such places as Ambleside and Hawkshead. Unfortunately, the weather prevented us from carrying out a 36-hour wireless exercise on 12th and 13th July, reconnaissance for which had led us to follow sign-posts bearing such intriguing names as "The Drunken Duck" and "Cul-de-sac," and had taken us along a road worse than anything we could have found at home, running close to the western shore of Lake Windermere.

On 14th July all members of the Troop not in possession of Certificate "B," as well as two cadets from Liverpool University and one from Manchester University who had been attached to Queen's for training, sat the examination for the Certificate, and all succeeded in passing. Certificate "B" examinations have now been discontinued, and this will give a little more flexibility to our training in future. We returned to Belfast by the same routes as those followed on the outward journey, arriving on the morning of 17th July.

On 21st August, probably the wettest day of a very wet summer, we turned out a party "in aid of the civil power," to find wireless communications for the Royal Ulster Constabulary on duty on the course of the International Grand Prix Motor Cycle Race in Co. Antrim. We are now quite certain that our skins are waterproof, even if the covers of our 15 cwt. trucks are not. It was very annoying to have the rain stop within five minutes after the conclusion of the race, still we lived up to Signals traditions and kept "through" throughout.

In a few days we send off a very small party (Captain J. H. A. Patton, M.C., T.D., Lance-Corporal H. Dickson and Lance-Corporal P. A. Beirne) to the T.A. Review in Hyde Park. It is believed that the two last-named will have the distinction of being in the extreme left-hand file of the whole parade.

Our Royal Signals Regular Staff at the moment comprises one member only—S.S.M. George E. Surfleet.

Santa Claus

IN Signals we have always been famous for the way in which we stage the annual Christmas party for the kiddies. General Cary's dramatic flair was notably evident in the Christmas parties he threw for the old Training Battalion in the Newbigging Hall in pre-war days. On one occasion he had a film specially produced for the show, telling the story of a small boy's letter to Santa Claus, showing the postman's weary tramp across the snow to Santa's cottage, whence the latter set out laden with gifts to Catterick R.A.F. Station, where he emplaned to be duly parachuted out, landing in a large dummy fireplace in the Newbigging Hall just as the film faded out.

Another year a small pantomime prelude was staged in which two small children interviewed first a magician, played by C.Q.M.S. (now Captain) Molyneux, famous throughout the Corps as "Molly," in a cave complete with a talking pantomime cat, and finally by television, Santa himself, played by Stan Poole.

But wherever there were Signals' children, by hook or by crook a party was given, despite unfavourable conditions. In that delectable spot, Dera Ismail Khan, a childish epidemic just before Christmas prevented the giving of the party, so Santa took his tree to the various married quarters in a gaily decorated A.T. cart. The following year it fell to my lot to do the honours, and I was much embarrassed by my whiskers coming adrift, so much so that I could not give the little girls the customary kiss. This turned out to be lucky, for the following day one of them went down with diphtheria!

During the last war I was again roped in for two successive years, and each time had to dash to the local emporium just on closing time to borrow the necessary regalia.

On arriving at 'Pindi early in 1945, to take over as T.M.O., I was greeted by the C.O. with "Tim, your main job, in addition to your normal technical duties, will be to see that the T.M. Section keeps up its reputation for turning out the best toys in the North-Western Army." As autumn approached, I got down to the job of planning, and found that there were at least 50 children eligible, the majority of whom were girls between 11 and 14, and posed us a problem, which I solved largely by the use of surplus helio mirrors on nicely polished teakwood stands, but with sisters of this awkward age group I had to think again, and decided on small underarm handbags of sheepskin, with the recipient's initials, but some low cunning was needed to ensure that they should not be too "posh" so that mother might commandeer them, while they must not be small enough for daddy to misappropriate as a baccy pouch. The small boys were not too much of a problem, for we had a number of aircraft recognition models and made up some tanks, armoured cars, jeeps and similar toys —incidentally, all wheeled toys had ball-bearing wheels culled from the salvage dump. I borrowed the patterns for cuddly toys from the Occupational Therapy Department of the W.V.S., which was run by the wife of the District Commander. I made an oblique approach through the A.D.C., who was a Signals type, anyway—as the G.O.C.'s daughter was in need of some copper wire to stiffen a fancy dress, matters were arranged amicably. I traced them out on white oilcloth salvaged from surplus signalling strips, the mochi cut them out, and I handed them over to the married ladies to stitch together, and I then stuffed them with cotton waste, and had the unit draughtsman paint the appropriate markings. Thus I had a supply of cuddly toys which were both washable and waterproof.

The C.Q.M.S. said that as his two small boys had already had airguns, model tommy-guns and would have no thrill for them, so could I please make them crossbows. With many misgivings, having duly warned him (a C.Q.M.S., mind you) of the danger of broken windows, I designed a pair, and gave a demonstration to the Quartermaster and the R.S.M. Each of them put his foot down with a firm hand and said, "No!" So I made tommy-guns instead.

The C.O. walked in one day and said casually, "Tim, Mrs. D. is quite a good type, her husband is in the Corps, and her two kiddies—a boy and a girl, five years old and six months, I'll get you their names later—have never been to a Signals' party; see she gets an invitation." I passed the information on to the Adjutant, who 'phoned the only Mrs. D. we knew, the D.A.D.W.A.C. (I) (or Queen A.T.—modified for India) and got the names of her children.

We had made some push-horses for the smaller kiddies, and needed fur for manes and tails, so we sent an S O S around the married quarters and the W.A.C. (I) Company. A sergeant of the latter produced an old fur tippet. It turned out that she had a small sister—one more guest to provide for!

The Q.M.'s small son wanted a yacht. I felt that was beyond my powers, so the Q.M. himself came into workshops and made it.

After I had checked up and found that there were enough toys, with some spares in case of miscalculations, I asked who was to present the gifts, and the R.S.M. replied, "Well, sir, if you wouldn't mind, the general opinion in the Mess is that you are the most suitable person!" Landed again!

For the great day we had fixed up the P.A. Equipment in the Mess, and I addressed the kiddies over it, telling them that the R.A.F. had kindly lent me a 'plane and would parachute me into the barracks. I then handed the mike over to my F. of S., who gave a graphic commentary on my descent. I finally appeared in a dummy fireplace to the accompaniment of a loud crash.

The C.Q.M.S. had said that a tommy-gun would have no thrill for either of his lads. You should have seen the professional way in which the younger, aged four, grabbed it from me, and assuming a genuine gangster's crouch, advanced on the sergeant distributing the sweets!

For the little six-month-old daughter of Mrs. D. I had a woolly rabbit. When I called her name, a tall girl of 10 stepped forward! My face must have been as red as my robe. Yes, it was the wrong Mrs. D. I apologised to her afterwards and sent a more appropriate present later.

For the "spoof" present we selected the Adjutant. During the previous summer he had caught a small tree-rat and unsuccessfully tried to rear it, with the assistance of his bearer, who was quite a character. I presented him with a model cut out of plywood, painted in the correct colours and mounted on wheels.

The following year was my last Christmas in the Service, and I was again asked to deputise for the old gentleman with the whiskers, but fortunately toys were sufficiently numerous and cheap for the T.M. Section to be relieved of the job of making them. Also with the disbandment of the W.A.C. (I) the number of children was smaller. The previous year I had had to provide 66 presents. With the rapid Indianisation of Signals, we had a large number of Indian Officers, and my happiest memory of the party is of a little Sikh boy blissfully wearing a paper cap with the star and crescent of Islam.

44 (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

LONDON, W.6

November

This being our first contribution to THE WIRE since the Unit's re-formation in May of last year, perhaps it will be as well to begin by giving readers our locations:—

Unit H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and No. 1 Squadron are situated at Stamford Brook, W.6, No. 2 Squadron is located at Chatham, and No. 3 Squadron, although not at the moment officially formed, will in the near future operate in the Brighton area; meanwhile, "K" Section of No. 3 Squadron is in the process of forming and is open to recruits at Hurstpierpoint, a small village approximately six miles from Brighton.

Permanent Staff.—The permanent staff at the time of going to press is comprised of: Major E. R. Nanney-Wynn, Second-in-Command; Captain C. G. Sandys, Adjutant; Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Robertson, Q.M.; R.S.M. C. A. Turner, M.M.; S.S.M. L. R. Cook; S.Q.M.S. S. Kendrick; Sergeants E. Nicholls, F. Hubbard, M.M., and D. Smith; and Corporal J. Christian.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Gandy, who saw service in the Middle East and with Wingate's Chindits during the late war, the Unit officially opened for public recruitment on 1st May, 1947, and although the initial enlistments were not as plentiful as may have been expected, in view of the large membership of the Old Comrades' Association, it was, nevertheless, very heartening to see some of the pre-war members of the Unit among the first to join—Major K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., Major (Tiny) Angell, Major R. Lightoller and Captain A. Ottway (Unit E.M.E.) were foremost among the Officers at present serving, and the first batch of O.R. enlistments included S.S.M. A. Brown, S.Q.M.S. Joe Beckett, Sergeants Harry Hatcher, Harry Hossick, Stan Fiddes, Reg. Forsythe and Harold Schurer and Corporal "Pogger" Folkerd.

Enlistments at Chatham and Stamford Brook are continuing at a steady pace, and it is hoped that our ranks will be swelled by even larger numbers now that the National Recruiting Campaign is under way. Training is carried out on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Stamford Brook and Monday and Thursday evenings at Chatham.

This year's annual camp was held at Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury, from 17th-24th July, 1948. During this period the Unit was visited by several senior Officers, including the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General C. E. N. Lomax, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who inspected the Regiment and gave out the prizes to the fortunate winners on the occasion of the Unit sports. Whilst at camp the Unit held its first annual All Ranks' Dinner since its re-formation, the guest of honour being the Honorary Colonel. The one regret of all ranks is that this dinner only takes place annually.

A very pleasant day was spent at the Ranges near Canterbury, R.S.M. Turner, M.M., being the only one to obtain a possible. The results generally were of a high level, but there is little chance of any of us making Bisley next year.

Winter training is now in full swing. The W/T merchants, under the able tuition of S.S.M. L. R. Cook, coupled with their own enthusiasm, are making rapid strides towards obtaining their much-sought-after Trade Ratings. The Chatham element in this branch of Signals are also aspiring to the same end under the instruction of Corporal Matthews. Lineman training, under Stan Fiddes, and instruction in vehicle maintenance, under S.Q.M.S. Kendrick and Corporal Christian, is also proceeding smoothly; a keen interest is being shown by all concerned.

Our social amenities at the moment are somewhat limited, but we are effecting improvements, and with the progress of time and the steady influx of recruits, we are hoping in the very near future to build up a first-class Recreational Centre. At the moment we are restricted to darts, snooker

44th (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment at camp, 1948

and miniature range, but in our present wave of optimism we are hoping to enlist some budding Wilf Mannions and put to use the set of football kit which the Quartermaster has got stored up in mothballs.

Unit dances are held at frequent intervals, our last big event being one which the Unit ran in conjunction with the O.C.A. on 24th October, 1948, to commemorate the Battle of El Alamein. For this occasion we hired the Hammersmith Town Hall, and the Band of the Grenadier Guards were engaged to provide the music. This function proved to be a great success in all respects, and provided an ideal medium for members of the Unit, past and present, to get together for a good "grip."

In conjunction with the Wormholt Estate Boxing Club, we held a display of boxing on Friday, 12th November, at Stamford Brook. There was an excellent attendance and a first-class standard of amateur boxing was seen, providing a very enjoyable evening for all who saw it.

The foregoing is intended only as a very brief résumé covering the Unit's activities over a period of many months, but once begun, we shall keep up our WIRE notes.

Having taken up so much valuable space, we should like to conclude by offering our sincerest congratulations to Sergeant P. Lancaster, who has just obtained his T.A. Commission after a period of eight months. He waited patiently, but not in vain.

43rd (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Taunton, Somerset

November

R.H.Q. AND H.Q. SQUADRON. Since 1st October, when the National Recruiting Campaign for the Territorial Army commenced, the strength of the 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., has shown a welcome increase, and we feel sure that our target will be reached before the end of March.

The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team again paid us a visit and gave each of our Squadrons an exceptionally fine show; these visits give a good fillip to recruiting in addition to fine entertainment, and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

A Territorial All Ranks Ball was held at the Empire Ballroom, Taunton, on 21st October; this was the first of its kind to be held in this County Town of Somerset since the war. The ball was arranged as a concerted effort by all Somerset T.A. Units stationed in and around Taunton, and turned out to be an unqualified success; naturally the Signals were well in evidence. It is hoped to hold further balls of this nature in the future.

H.Q. Squadron were represented on H.M. the King's Review of the T.A. on Sunday, 31st October, by Corporal J. F. Howell, Signalmen W. G. Martin, D. E. Rose and H. T. Sparkes. These lucky four had to be drawn by ballot as the whole Squadron were desirous of attending. We hope that in future parades of this kind we shall have a larger allocation of vacancies.

No. 1 SQUADRON, EXETER, DEVON. This has been a very busy month for all concerned with the recruiting campaign in full swing. We started off the month with a Squadron dance and it was such a huge success that the dance floor resembled the Black Hole of Calcutta. Still we bagged a couple of recruits over it.

The month has been carnival mad; no fewer than four carnivals have been attended, at Heavitree, St. Thomas, Topsham and Crediton, and we are hoping our displays will have the desired effect and bring in the ex-Signal types we need. The Squadron did wireless communication for the Heavitree Carnival Committee, and it was gratifying to receive their compliments for our good work.

Our recruiting campaign is definitely showing results, as during the past month we have enrolled nine new members to the Squadron, all of whom we welcome and feel sure their stay with us will be of great assistance to the T.A. and themselves.

The King's Review Party had a grand send-off! Not knowing what they were in for, the party comprised all the old brigade and all good-time Charlies, Sergeants Pauley, Pearce and Kettell, Corporals Kettell, Ofield and Roberts, Lance-Corporals Stevens and Welch, Signalmen Vince and Wright. On their return all looked the worse for wear and stated it had been an ordeal, but we know the A.T.S. entertained them the evening before. Still, all agreed that a wonderful time was had by all, and they wouldn't have missed it for love or money. Now the Squadron is settling down to some real training again, and all are looking forward to the next trade board on 27th/28th November. Lance-Corporal Stevens, that do or die one, is again having a try, and here's wishing the best of luck this time.

The spirit in the Squadron is first-class, and a darts competition is in full swing, with our P.S.I. S.S.M. Taylor (Tim) favourite for the bottle of whisky.

Our P.S.I. would like to contact Major Jones, 3 Squadron, 5 Divisional Signal Regiment, who started him off on this career, and Sergeant Berglin, of 15 Infantry Brigade, also on this job somewhere in Blighty; a line from both of you would be welcome.

No. 3 SQUADRON, TORQUAY. What a job it is to find yourself late with the notes for THE WIRE and so much "griff" of the recent events to wade through and work up for the grand finale. Nevertheless, here we are again, in that land of sunshine and jollity, training like hell AND liking it.

We welcome to the fold Recruits L. F. Beazley, R. A. Manley, R. T. A. Paddon, and our very latest, E. A. Williams, and we can assure them that their tour of duty with this gallant band will be a very pleasant one. We have jumped well into the local public eye on two events recently. Our contingent of one Officer and six Other Ranks who attended the T.A. Review on 31st October were produced in all the glory of an excellent turn-out, complete with blue berets and 3 cwts. of medals, for inspection by the C.R. Signals, at which we had all the local Press hounds with their cameras, who did us grand in the local papers.

We also had the honour this year of mounting a guard of honour on the local Cenotaph and produced an excellent bugler for the traditional renderings.

The greatest event of all was definitely the payment of BOUNTY. This took place on Thursday, 28th October, 1948, and a grand time was had by all; so easily said and covers such a multitude of sins. But my own eventful life was in jeopardy on 1st November, when being behind the wheel of our jeep I was pulled all the way to Marsh Mills in driving rain at what must be a record for the journey in any vehicle.

On the way back we saw such a mess on the roadside and I'm still not sure whether or not it was me.

Only NINETY-NINE days to go and then catastrophe (capital C) hits the old Corps. I do hope they will survive without me.

TOPPER

No. 2 SQUADRON, BRIDGWATER, SOMERSET. We in Bridgwater are at the peak of the National Recruiting Campaign, which we hope will bring recruits to our door in their hundreds. Up to now we are very glad of the company of Recruits Webber and Luke, who joined us about a week ago. Another recruit, one named (Nobby) Hall, joined us about a month ago, coming to us on completion of his National Service with R.E.M.E.; just the type we want and we hope to see more of these technical wallahs, both R.E.M.E. and Royal Signals.

During Carnival Week in Bridgwater the folks as usual went quite mad and people were very lucky if they managed to get anywhere near it because of the crowds.

The lads went off to the King's Review in high spirits, the Squadron being represented by Lieutenant B. C. Dromgoole, Sergeant Manley, Lance-Corporal Taylor, Drivers Hosey and Parker, Signalmen Slater and Keirle, and returned full of praise about the parade.

A Squadron dance was held on 6th November and turned out to be a huge success, having more than 600 enter our doors during the evening.

The Squadron sends their best regards to S.S.M. (Nobby) Hall, who left us on a posting to Catterick and whom we hope to meet again some day.

No. 15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Leeds

November

T.A. Review. In common with most other Units in the T.A., this Regiment supplied a party of 40 to take part in the review of the T.A. in Hyde Park by H.M. the King on 31st October. Contingents from Leeds, Birmingham, Nottingham, Newcastle and Rotherham produced a Regimental strength of four male officers, nine male other ranks, two A.T.S. officers and 23 A.T.S. other ranks. The quota allowed was unfortunately only one-third of those who volunteered and there was considerable heart-burning amongst the unlucky ones. The detachment was under the command of Major L. Hayes, O.C. No. 39 Squadron (Nottingham).

Personnel from the various Squadrons proceeded to London under local arrangements, arriving on Saturday evening. The messing and accommodation was "laid on" by the capable and friendly hands of the R.A. Depot at Woolwich and others, who are to be congratulated on performing so difficult a task in such an efficient fashion. Many thanks to all concerned.

H.M. the King, accompanied by Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, inspected the Parade, and later took the salute at the March Past. On the completion of the march, all ranks were dismissed and several of the leading contingents (this Regiment amongst them) were able to secure a fine view of the remainder of the Parade. All ranks of the Regiment taking part were emphatic when they said, "Well done, Parade."

The C.O. and a few others attended as spectators and were able to pick out our detachment by locating certain well-known figures.

A number of friendships started at Camp this year were renewed and eventually people reached their homes just about in time for work on Monday.

As a result of this parade, Squadron recruiting graphs are expected to show a mercurial rise.

Permanent Staff. R.S.M. Thornton is at present attending a five weeks' M.T. Course at the Army School of M.T., which should make him of great assistance to Squadrons with their transport. After battling for 18 months to get even one Regular driver for the whole Regiment, they have at last agreed to a Corporal Vehicle Mechanic, and will he be busy!

Incidentally, if there are any ex-Signals who would consider taking on jobs as civilian caretaker, gardener or vehicle mechanic at the R.H.Q. camp in Dewsbury Road, Leeds, 11, we shall be delighted to see them and give them more information.

[By courtesy of the "Sheffield Telegraph and Star."

Major-General The Earl of Scarborough, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel, and Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. B. Kealy, Commanding Officer

No. 37 SQUADRON, LEEDS. The majority of the Squadron attended a successful week-end camp which was held in conjunction with No. 38 (Rotherham) Squadron at Lodge Moor Camp, Sheffield, on 11th and 12th September.

Recruiting Parades and Demonstrations have been frequently attended together with the other T.A. Units in the Leeds area. It is noticeable that there is always a stronger turn-out of the A.T.S. than men. Come on, the men!

The male members of the Squadron recently fired their Annual Range Practices on the open range at Hawlesworth, and put up some fairly good results considering that they have had little practice. It is hoped to carry out as much open range practice as possible when the weather becomes warmer

On the social side, a mixed party proceeded to Morecambe by coach on Sunday, 5th September. Dances are held in the O.R.'s Club and Canteen on alternative Saturdays, and are well attended.

No. 38 SQUADRON, ROTHERHAM. A.T.S. members of the Squadron staffed a display counter in a local theatre. The response was not overwhelming, but justified its existence.

The Squadron was invited to a Church Parade by No. 467 (York and Lancaster) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), to mark the beginning of Gunner Week. The Regiment's Honorary Colonel, the Earl of Scarborough, took the salute. The A.T.S. put up an excellent show and Lady Scarborough congratulated Second-Subaltern Fieldhouse on their smart turn-out.

The main event of the month was the review of the T.A. by H.M. the King in Hyde Park. One officer, four male other ranks and five A.T.S. other ranks took part, and joined up with the rest of the Regiment. Those taking part enjoyed themselves, and events of this nature are good for morale. It is a pity that more V.I.P.s cannot visit us on our own home ground.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Birmingham

November

Every now and then we have people popping in to enlist or inquire, and it transpires that they served in the 48th or 61st Divisional Signals. One of these days we will surprise you with an account of the great recruiting rush here. On the other hand, we may be so dumbfounded ourselves at this phenomenon that our pencil will go all static. However, don't get the wrong impression. Our numbers rise almost daily and training nights reveal a pretty good crowd of very keen types. And still they come. The bar sales alone tell the story. The recreation room, now fixed with new curtains, is a comfortable and very popular spot these rough nights. Signalman J. Hook is the landlord and has become quite a fixture. If more of the T.A. members were subscribers to THE WIRE we would make it known that Hooky is a voluntary barman. As it is, so few of them buy a copy that they will go on thinking that he makes something out of it.

We are always on the look-out for a really good pianist to join up. A bachelor pianist, with a capacity for unlimited beer, would do, but they say that the species is almost extinct. If you do happen to hear of one you may be in time to prevent the Quartermaster selling his saxophone. Then, again, if someone could strangle the prospective pianist recruit, the sale of the saxophone might well go forward.

But there, you can't please everyone, as the Corporal said when he splashed electrolyte on the R.S.M.'s Service dress.

Lieutenant R. M. Fulford is proving to be an energetic member of this Regiment. His wireless schemes are acquiring quite a name. Perhaps we shouldn't have put a full stop there and left it just like that. We have every reason to believe that they are jolly good schemes. Remind us to find out more about them and at the same time discover who is to pay for all the tea and sugar. All information to the P.R.I. or any good Quartermaster's Stores.

We sent a smart little party to represent this Unit at the Review, by His Majesty the King on 31st October: Major E. R. Price, Signalmen F. Curtis, G. P. Powell, H. S. Savin and R. Worton, all complete with blue berets.

Sergeant J. J. Stokes arrived on 18th October as P.S.I. in place of Sergeant F. Finney, posted to Kingston-on-Thames. Hail and farewell, so to speak. There used to be a tolerably decent café on the Kingston By-pass called the Ace of Spades. We once played in a band there. Once. Then wrote a book called "The Ace of Spades and how to Trumpet." Musicians from all over the world ignored it. They were very ignorant in those days.

If you watch the papers closely you will find that someone will go to the trouble of working out how many shopping days to Christmas. As if you care. A much pleasanter occupation is to be found in talking over past happy Christmases, but if you think a more solemn theme is called for, try speculating on the chances of any more like those old ones coming along in the foreseeable future. All right, put your handkerchiefs away. We'll get by. If there are any happy Christmases to be had in 1948 you can bet that we are going to have our share in Birmingham. And we all wish you the same. Which shows that we are not selfish. Book now for New Year wishes. Only a few left.

I suppose you have heard about the Quartermaster who fell down and twisted himself? No? Oh, well, never mind.

No. 2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Wanstead

November

As these notes will appear just before Christmas it would not be seemly to burden you with much routine detail . . .

Some of the members of the Unit who attended "Corps Night" —8th November

a dull sauce for the lashings of food and drink you no doubt have all around you!

Our activities have been mainly concerned with the National Recruiting Campaign and its local repercussions. A representative body of men and A.T.S. attended the Territorial Parade in Hyde Park on Sunday, 31st October, and we are supplying vehicles and personnel for a recruiting column which is touring the N.W. Essex area on Saturday, 13th November. On Sunday, 14th November, the Army Recruiting Demonstration Team is joining us—we hope for good results.

On Remembrance Sunday we were very fortunate in obtaining the Corps Band for our own service. We had planned a Drumhead Service, but the inclement weather drove us to our Drill Hall. A large gathering of members of the Unit, their families and friends, and Old Comrades attended, and afterwards enjoyed a concert by the band. They are indeed an excellent band, and Captain Judd and his men are to be congratulated on their performance. On Monday, 8th November, we held a Regimental Dance at which the Dance Section of the band played for us, under the direction of Band Sergeant-Major Purvis. They, too, were first-class and were greatly appreciated by almost 300 dancers.

Our recruiting is slow—we are 25 per cent. up since camp—but those men and women who have joined up are keen people we need.

We extend to all T.A. readers of all ranks, to the National Service man and to the Regular our sincerest wishes for a happy Christmas and all health and prosperity in the New Year.

No. 49 (W.R. & M.) ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, 2

October

After the "close" season of August, we reopened on 7th September to prepare for Recruiting Week, this being held 3rd–10th October. There were thousands of jobs—painting, wiring, partitions and a stage to set up—yes, and even heather-picking for wall decorations. A certain S.S.M. has practically denuded the moors around Leeds, much to the annoyance of the grouse and the moor-lovers! But, joking aside, everybody got down to it and the miracle took place; we were ready on time.

A message from "Monty" started the Leeds Display Week off and we began with a Massed Church Parade on Sunday, 3rd October, a lovely day and a fine turn-out. Our Unit Band led us to the tune of "Colonel Bogey" to the Drumhead Service held at the Majestic Cinema. The lesson was read by the Earl of Scarborough and the address by the Vicar of Leeds, with the usual hymns so popular in the Services.

At the close of the service we re-formed and marched through the City centre, giving salutes at the War Memorial and at the saluting base by the Town Hall, the salute being taken by the Earl of Scarborough.

Saturday, 9th October, was the big parade with all the T.A. Units taking part and showing off their vehicles and equipment. A march through Leeds, headed by our Unit Band, was followed by a salute at the Town Hall, taken by the G.O.C.-in-C., whilst the 609 W.R. Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Spitfires dipped and roared overhead, and this was a fitting climax to a grand week, held in glorious autumn sunshine throughout.

On Tuesday, 12th October, we start serious training with a programme laid out until April, 1949. The seriousness will be mellowed by the bedecked Drill Hall, for we intend to hold dances fortnightly on Friday nights, commencing 22nd October.

Arrivals or Postings. Sergeant G. W. McGee got his recruit in the form of a daughter. All are doing well except Mac's pocket.

.22 Rifle Competition. We are proud to announce that our two shooting teams obtained first and second places in the Leeds T.A. .22 Rifle Shooting Competition sponsored by the Association of Leeds and District Rifle and Revolver Clubs.

November

R.H.Q. AND ALL SQUADRONS, GIBRALTAR BARRACKS, LEEDS, 2. The high spots of the last four weeks have been the King's Parade and the Remembrance Day Parade.

Our detachment for London, led by Major V. H. Woodrow, Royal Signals, consisted of Sergeant S. Spencer, Sergeant J. Feeley, Corporal C. H. Ware, Lance-Corporal L. Christian, Lance-Corporal J. Northgreaves, Lance-Corporal S. Pickles, Lance-Corporal L. Wilder, and left Leeds on Saturday, 30th October, with chests all a-glitter with gongs and heads adorned with the new beret—they'll never be the same chaps again. Of course, there was a super "grip" session on their return, with head and chest measurements larger for the trip.

Sunday, 7th November, saw other T.A. Units on parade with us on our Drill Ground, from whence we marched to Victoria Square, led by our Regimental Band. The weather was rather chilly and even our Polar Bears were seen to shiver. The Lord Mayor, after laying his wreath on the War Memorial, took his place on the steps in front of the Town Hall and, as the British Legion and other associations finally moved into position, the Drum Head Service began with an address by the Vicar of Leeds.

The Silence having been observed and the National Anthem played, we marched off, giving the salute at the War Memorial, and on up to the Civic Hall, where the salute was taken by the Lord Mayor. So back to the Drill Hall.

Our frozen limbs thawed out considerably on receipt of our bounty, and some even melted after several jars of ale had been consumed to the detriment of the aforesaid bounty.

However, we have a steady training programme before us for the winter and are eagerly looking forward to the lighter, longer and warmer evenings, when practice can take the place of theory and the open spaces for the lecture room and blackboard.

62 H.Q. L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Chester

October

Since our last publication the designation of this Unit has changed. We are now 62 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A. Several other changes have taken place—93, 95 and 96 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadrons have left our administrative fold. We are indeed sorry to lose them. 96 Squadron, with Major Toler, Captain Kneen, Lieutenant Thompson, S.S.M. Shreeve and Sergeant Goldthorpe, are the backbone of a very promising Squadron. 14 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., at Liverpool, are lucky to acquire such a good lot of chaps.

No more will the Adjutant and R.S.M. be in the position to thrash the Permanent Staff element of 95 Squadron at billiards and snooker. To Major Forest-Jones, S.S.M. and Mrs. Miller at Newport (Mon.), we bid *adieu* and all the very best of luck. It really isn't farewell to 93 Squadron at Liverpool, for we shall see them on our visits to our other Squadron at Liverpool.

The recruits at 94 Squadron, Atherton, Lancs., and 88 Squadron at Newcastle-under-Lyme continue to come in at a steady rate. It is rumoured that S.S.M. Richardson at Atherton is shortly to move into a civvy atmosphere. Civvy Street will gain and we shall lose a keen and most efficient member of our Unit.

Another Recruiting Campaign has taken place. This time we had a small display of Technical Equipment at the Gaumont Cinema, Chester. The results are not very encouraging; we hope the numerous inquiries made will materialise.

The A.T.S. have now several recruits, probably a good asset to the recruitment of the male element of the Unit.

Our next door neighbours, 23 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A., held a Recruiting Dance during the month which was very well attended and successful.

At the end of October, Major the Earl Kitchener, who is serving with 16 Wireless Squadron, and ten O.R.s from the Unit, are proceeding to London for the Royal Review in Hyde Park.

R.S.M. Dawson has visited the wilds of Catterick for a Corps Hockey Trial. He played in the match *versus* Manchester University on 20th October.

The only other change is the advent of a G.P.O. switchboard installed in the Orderly Room. Quietness gives way to an impersonation of Arthur Askey and his Bumble Bee whenever the G.P.O. switchboard operators call us. One member of the Permanent Staff has suggested "carpet slippers" for a good little switchboard as a suitable present for Christmas. It really is marvellous how time flies—one more month gone, and once more to all members of the Corps, past and present—Salaams.

CESTRIAN

No. 23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fulham House, S.W.6

November

We apologise most humbly for our lapse in not sending our contributions in to time. Readers will note the "we." Why should I always have to take the "can" back?

Items of interest this month include the usual monthly dance, Remembrance Day services and the doings of our Rifle Club. Another Unit Dance was held on 6th November and was well attended. All present enjoyed themselves and the raffle for a doll for our Children's Christmas Party was a great success. Our next dance is on 4th December, and our invitation to all Corps members, present and past, still stands. Fulham House has the ever-open door.

The Regiment was represented at the Royal Review by Corporal Ruthven, our only representative actually in the parade, Sergeant Banham did right guide, and Sergeant Sampson and Lance-Corporal Alexander manned a communication post on the saluting base. Though many were disappointed at the small allocation of representatives for the Regiment, we were lucky to get 50 tickets for the enclosure.

Three of the volunteers from the Regiment were lucky to be chosen to represent the Unit at the Albert Hall for the

British Legion Festival of Remembrance—Signalmen Manly, Bartlett and Cooper. From all reports they had a most enjoyable day. We gather the bar was open between and during the two performances.

Captain Oliver, Sergeant Kimble, Lance-Corporal Alexander and Signalman Bartlett represented the Unit in the Territorial Section of the Lord Mayor's Procession—a very smart body of men in their new blue berets. Six and a half miles at the slope was tiring but enjoyable.

The Regiment also sent a detachment to the Fulham Parish War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, when the usual service took place. In addition, a plaque commemorating the fallen of the last war was unveiled by the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, the Minister of Defence, in the presence of the Bishop of Kensington, who conducted the short service. The Mayor of Fulham and other local dignitaries were present. The ceremony was simple but nevertheless most impressive.

Our Rifle Club are keeping their head above water, and in the City of London Rifle League have played 3 matches, winning 1, drawing 1, and the result of the last match is awaited. Our victims were the 4th Battalion The Essex Regiment. It is interesting to note that we have beaten every Service Unit that we have come up against in any competition or friendly match for that matter—a notable achievement!

The opportunity is taken of resuming the introduction of "our lads" which was missing from our last instalment. No. 3 Squadron is presented this week, led by Captain C. Vincent-Smith, assisted by Captain J. D. F. Stow, Lieutenants R. Thorne and G. Comfort. A lot of readers will probably remember George Comfort, the bloke with the T.A. gong and three bars! He's still as young as ever, the old ——.

SVEN

No. 11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our recruiting still goes strong and we recently saw our total strength pass the 300 mark. To help us on our way to a fourth century we have recently adorned the Brompton Road with a conspicuous hoarding and a large banner flying high across the road.

The high-spot of the month was a Halloween Dance held at Brompton Road on 30th October. The party went with a swing from beginning to end. The Permanent Staff provided an amusing interlude when, in a dance hall lit only by a purple beam of light, we heard a witch-like voice exhorting us to heed the hour and be on our guard against the Spirits of Halloween. As the voice cackled various apparitions appeared, and finally a green-glowing man-eater spider appeared outside one of the windows and winked his eyes at us in startling fashion. Junior Commander Aylen's masterly work on the decorations was being continually remarked upon. We were particularly pleased to see with us members of No. 20 Squadron (Chatham), No. 21 Squadron (Brentford) and Captain Anger, together with a large party from his detachment in Norwich.

On the Sunday after the dance twenty fortunates had to be up betimes and prepare themselves for H.M. the King's review of the T.A. in Hyde Park that afternoon. Notwithstanding the night's revelry, they set to in high spirits, as witnessed by their marching past the Royal dais in a manner which even R.S.M. Staton approved of.

On Saturday, 6th November, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a special evening. We were taken aback at the outset by discovering that Sergeant "Jim" Kirby had come off the "water wagon." A "whip round" for cigarettes for Sergeants Brown and Bowden proved disappointingly unproductive. (Sergeant Kirby was somehow involved in this event as well).

We notice that on occasions when Pipe-Major Hill performs so ably behind the Canteen Bar, Signalman Hall performs equally ably in front of it. Perhaps these two have something in common, but we cannot for the life of us think what!

It is rumoured that Corporal Geddie is endeavouring to revive the Dramatic Society and produce his version of Cleopatra, with Private Milligan in the title role.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS, T.A.

November

SIGNAL UNIT. Now we are under the wing of the T.A., we find the limelight turned on us in no small measure. A visit from Major-General G. W. Symes, C.B., M.C., Commander, South-Western District, and No. 43 (Wessex) Infantry Division (T.A.), was appreciated by the Permanent Staff, who now feel brave enough to peer, somewhat coyley, from under their bushel.

The Annual Dance, which had lapsed since 1944, was revived on 6th November, and proved a success. Our guests, both University and T.A., enjoyed themselves at the Victoria Rooms, and welcome indeed were Brigadier W. M. Gayer, O.B.E., and, unexpectedly, Captain (Q.M.) L. G. Wardley, Royal Signals, an ex-P.S.I. of this Unit. To those West Country readers throughout the world who might suffer an attack of nostalgia, I will state that the "Vic" Rooms are as ever they were; the old order does not change.

For the first time in our history we have become an active link in the U.T.C. net, and it has given the Signal Cadets a tremendous fillip to "get through" to the other Universities on the air. The Scottish 'varsities have evaded us as yet, but, as the morse which flows from this station is of the golden variety, we should be through to them in due course.

In common with the rest of the country, the T.A. units here have held "At Homes," exhibitions and parades, but have had more success with recruiting than most places. We have played our part by lending our wireless vehicles, sets and "bods" to neighbouring units (we trust you, but sign this 108—please). In doing these good turns old acquaintance was renewed with Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Gambier, Commanding No. 12 A.A. Group (M.) Signal Regiment (T.A.), and his R.S.M., "Tommy" Wilding, and once again memory turned to Rawalpindi and all points north-west—heigh ho, halcyon days! Whilst in Old Market Street I found Major M. Keeling, S.S.M. R. Hayer and Sergeant V. Platt, of the Armoured Reporting Group Signal Squadron, presiding, with nonchalant ease, over the biggest conglomeration of Signal equipment I have seen in a long time. Their "At Home" was held in conjunction with No. 44 Royal Tank Regiment (T.A.). All the above-mentioned exiles send regards to old friends.

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

Cadet A. Walker receives his first pay, while Cadets Bolingbroke, Finney and Norris beam approvingly

SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT T.A. (THE KENSINGTON REGIMENT)

Hammersmith Road

November

When H.M. the King reviewed the Territorial Army on 31st Ooctober this Regiment was represented by Corporal E. R. Pearce, who paraded with the Eastern Command Army Troops Contingent. The Regiment, however, was responsible for running the Provost communications, which entailed having two wireless stations in Hyde Park and one at Clapham.

Three members of the Regiment, Corporal E. R. Pearce, Corporal E. J. H. Cast and Signalman G. D. Whiting, took part in the Lord Mayor's Show, the theme of which was "The Auxiliary Forces of the Crown."

The Regiment held its Remembrance Parade on Sunday, 14th November. The parade consisted of a contingent from the Regiment, the 1st County of London Cadet Battalion, who are affiilated, and the Old Comrades' Association. The parade formed up in Kensington Palace Barracks, where the Honorary Colonel, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, held an inspection. The Regiment then marched to the Headquarters in Hammersmith, where the Honorary Colonel took the salute. A short Remembrance Service was then held in the Drill Hall. Tea was then laid on for all members and their families.

We have concentrated on trade training during the month, with a view to holding a trade board in December.

Recruiting is looking up, and we are glad to welcome the following ex-members of the Corps to the Unit: Major D. Cocks, Lieutenant K. E. Jones, Signalmen N. M. Ceazar, E. Halton, R. H. Pink, F. W. Bryant, A. C. Snell, C. G. T. Penfold, A. W. Keene.

We say "Good-bye" to Major E. R. Nanney-Winn, who has been such a help in forming the new Unit, and wish him the best of luck in his next appointment with 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

A Scottish Interlude

I MET quite a lot of Scots in the Army, a lot of Scotch also. Many times I promised I would pay a visit over the Border and see for myself if all they said were true. I've waited a long time since my demob; now I'm packing my kit, tomorrow we leave Yorkshire for a week, so here's to good company, happy reunions and tight lines.

The journey was uneventful; tea in Kendal at the Fleece, a famous hostelry with its old beams, buxom maids and a hearty welcome. Over the tops of the hills, via Shap, Carlisle, Gretna Green, and so we arrived at Ecclefechan. This is a place where one can't go wrong, for the simple reason there is only one pub and only one Jock Mackesson, the landlord.

I must describe our host: very quiet, always waits to hear what you have to say first, like the Sergeant-Major, then says his piece. What Jock doesn't know about salmon fishing isn't worth knowing, and his flies and tackle are at every guest's disposal. I think apart from the hotel business Jock thinks of nothing but salmon. His hotel is spotless, the food good and service with a smile.

Unfortunately the Annan is in flood; spinning is the only method, and faint hopes of a fish, but at this game one is always hoping. There are plenty of fish, one can see them jumping as they make their way up river to the spawning grounds, but so far no luck. About three o'clock in the afternoon I hooked my first salmon. I very nearly dropped my rod in my excitement. Bang went 50 yards of line and still more. I held him and gradually reeled in, slowly up came the fish; his head came out of the water, had one look at me, and then the line went slack. That was the last I saw of him.

In the meantime, the ladies of our party, paying their first visit to Scotland, were having a gay time. They visited Bruce's cave, a walk of three miles; any rate that's what they were told by some local, but after six miles they caught a bus back to the hotel without seeing Bruce's cave or the spider. They, however, did see the cave later in the week, and I believe it was worth their trouble.

During the next few days we fished fly, every fly in the book and others unheard of. There were plenty of sea trout about, salmon abounded but not for us. Naturally we were after the big game and put everything else back; apparently salmon did not care for Yorkshiremen.

In the meantime, the ladies had departed for Edinburgh; they also visited Rabbie Burns's house, the largest fair in Scotland and other places of interest. We men on our own discussed the lack of catch until the early hours; we discussed other things also, but it came out of a glass. The Doctor quoted "Waddington," put it down to the floods; our host said if fish were on the move they were very rarely caught. Whatever the cause, no fish were caught during our stay.

One of the last things said to us before we left was, "Dare to come back without a salmon"; we daren't. How to obtain one was another kettle of fish. I have always in my wanderings around this world had the knack of making friends, friends in all stations of life, from the humblest to the highest. Fortunately for us one of my friends owns a salmon fishery, and it has been in his family for generations. In fact, records go back several hundred years. Sandy McGlasson was only too pleased to supply us with whatever we required, so a visit to the loch where the fishery was situated was indicated. Sandy often tells the story of the London visitor who visited Annan every year and surprised his friends with his prowess at salmon fishing. They never knew that Sandy had supplied them and even gaffed them in the right place.

The nets used in salmon fishing stretch for hundreds of yards far out into the Solway; they are mounted on stakes at least 20 feet high. Salmon, sea trout and other fish are caught in the trap which is in the centre of each net and each trap is fished at low tide when it is just low enough for a man to go in up to his waist. Sandy estimates that to visit every net means a journey of 15 miles.

The fishermen are a hardy lot, and they have to be. From February to September, with the exception of Sundays, when the traps are open, they fish the traps twice per day. The time, as one will understand, varies daily owing to the tide; many are the times when there are so many salmon in the trap it means more than one journey with, say, eight or nine fish. These fish weigh anything from ten to thirty pounds, and are carried by the fisherman in a huge net fastened to a stick. The nearest nets are at least half a mile away from headquarters, so it is no picnic on a dark March night with snow on the ground and not a light to be seen except across the Firth miles away.

There are no grumbles amongst the men. They live in Sandy's cottages if married; these have bathrooms and electricity and there are more applications than jobs, and they do not mind the varying hours of work. From September to February they work on repairing nets and any odd jobs on the farm at the loch.

We said au revoir to Sandy and his good lady over a drink and so we returned home. No fish were caught, but who worries? The hotel was good, the weather excellent, Scottish hospitality abounding, and we look forward to our next visit in spring.

So to my old Scottish comrades in arms I say thanks a lot. All you told me of your country is true. I'll never again believe the stories told of the miserable Scotsmen; never saw any.

HAROLD RAWNSLEY.

Flash-Back

ONCE upon a time, about sixteen years ago, there was a very naughty Imp. Imps are not always naughty but this was a girl-Imp, which perhaps accounts for it.

Neither the Imp nor her naughtiness would have mattered if it hadn't been that she started playing her pranks just as Father Christmas was preparing for the Signals Christmas Party at the Signal Training Centre, Catterick. He had spent a strenuous evening going through the list of some 300 children and sorting out toys for each. Finally the job was done and, with a sigh of relief, Father Christmas closed the cupboard where he had put the toys, and settled down for a nap before setting out for the party.

While he was asleep, the naughty Imp put her head in, gave him one of those looks which mean that there's trouble brewing for someone, and then proceeded to walk off with the toys.

When Father Christmas woke up he boiled himself an egg, which turned out to be a dud and then, realising that he was going to be late, went to the cupboard to collect his toys and found them gone. It was all very upsetting, and he was racking his brains to think what to do when who should come in, as bold as brass, but the cause of all the trouble. She listened sympathetically to the old man's troubles and they both sat down to try and think of a way out.

After they had been thinking for some time the Imp pretended to have a brainwave. "It must be magic," she said, "Let's go and find Aladdin and see if he can do anything."

"It's a long way," protested Father Christmas, "and we haven't got much time."

"Never mind," urged the Imp, who was beginning to feel she'd behaved rather badly. "I know a short cut; come along."

She dragged the old gentleman out and they started a most tremendous trek across country. They went over moors and through woods, and then came to a river. It wasn't a very deep river, but the water was running fast and there were a lot of nobbly stones. Father Christmas didn't like the look of it a bit but the Imp urged him on, and squeezed the water out of the bottom of his red coat when they got on the other side.

Then they climbed up a steep hill and at last came to an opening between two big rocks, on one of which was a note: "Danger. High Voltage Magic." The Imp pushed Father Christmas inside and then ran away, just as Imps will.

Father Christmas found himself in a long, dark tunnel which ended in a cave in which Aladdin, in a wonderful Eastern costume, was practising a little magic in front of a large audience of children. The cave was on a stage, and Father Christmas realised that this was the Signals' party and that things were getting worse and worse because he had arrived there without his toys.

He asked Aladdin whether he could do anything about it. Aladdin thought for a bit, and then said that if Father Christmas would just step into a large cabinet for a minute he'd see what he could do. Father Christmas stepped in and Aladdin promptly made him vanish altogether.

The disappearance of Father Christmas was too much for the children, who protested so loudly that Aladdin had to bring him back again. He then made a bit more magic, and the next time he opened the cabinet there were sacks of toys ready for distribution.

It was great fun, and perhaps it may still be remembered by a few of those who saw the film of the wanderings of Father Christmas and the Imp, and the conjuring done by Aladdin on the stage at the Newbigging Hall.

Father Christmas now has a farm in Sussex. Aladdin has been a prisoner of war and is now in the Sudan, and the Imp has been nearly round the world, and has a husband and an "Imp" of her own to look after.

The memory which will always remain with the script-writer and the camera man is the look on the face of a stolid North country policeman at the sight of Father Christmas arriving on "location" in a Sports M.G. with his beard flowing in the wind.

SPORTS NOTES

Hockey

Several Corps hockey players have proceeded overseas during the summer recess, thus leaving the Corps team sadly depleted.

Several trial matches have been held and new blood found, and when moulded with our experienced players it is hoped to bring the Corps side up to its usual high standard. Fixtures for the season include six Corps representative matches and six with Universities.

MATCHES PLAYED

21st September. v. *Catterick District.* This game was more in the nature of a trial for the Corps team, as the District eleven was composed mainly of Signals players. Both sides played extremely fast hockey and for a time play was even. Then Signalman Gardner showed the way to goal by scoring from the edge of the "D." Half-time came with the score 2—1 in our favour. During the interval both sides effected certain changes. The Corps side played lively hockey throughout the second half, turning out winners by 4—2, Gardner and Turner being the scorers for our side.

27th September. v. *Babcock and Wilcox, Renfrew.* Royal Signals arrived in Renfrew with last year's reputation to live up to, as at least one ex-member of the Corps team (now playing for our opponents) has spread the news of our capabilities. Our opponents, normally an average side, paid us the compliment of including in their side at least three internationals (two of whom participated in the recent Olympic Games) from other clubs.

From the start of the game Signals more than held their own, and much against the run of the play Babcock's scored, the scorer being the renowned Scottish international Archie Young. Signalman Gardner, who played a storming game throughout, equalised just before half-time. The second half was all Signals, our opponents scoring their goals from breakaways, and try as we did, we were unable to penetrate their defence, the final result being Babcock's 4, Signals 2 (scorer for Signals, Signalman Gardner).

Our team was composed as follows: Goal, S.S.M. Tyers; backs, S.Q.M.S. Holt, S.Q.M.S. Deegan; halves, Officer-Cadet Mason, R.Q.M.S. Roscoe, Second-Lieutenant Ashworth; forwards, Lieutenant Murray, Major Evans (captain), Signalman Turner, Signalman Gardner, Lieutenant Brabham.

2nd October. v. *Norton, at Catterick.* The Corps side included Lance-Corporal Gibbons at left-back and Major Gregory, of Scottish Command Signals, at centre-forward, Signalman Turner replacing Lieutenant Brabham at outside-right. Our visitors started off strongly and were soon in the lead with a goal scored by their outside-right. This appeared to be all that was required to make Signals wake up, and from then on the whole game was dominated by our forwards, Major Evans and Signalman Gardner being outstanding. Signalman Gardner scored three goals before half-time, the interval seeing the score 3—1 in our favour. Signals opened the second half attacking their opponents' goal, Gardner soon finding the net to make the score 4—1. Goals followed from the sticks of Lieutenant Murray and Signalman Turner, the final result being 6—1 in our favour. Mention must be made of the performance of Signalman Gardner, whose hockey at times was truly brilliant, and in him we hope to have a player who should gain fairly high honours in the hockey world.

Rugby

Royal Signals Team. On 30th October seven of the team were playing in the Final Yorkshire County Trial at Cleckheaton, but Royal Signals (Catterick) XV beat Percy Park at North Shields by 11 points to 3.

Inter-Corps Representative Match—Royal Signals versus Royal Artillery, at Catterick, 3rd November. Our first Inter-Corps fixture was against the Gunners at Catterick on 3rd November. Winning the toss, Signals elected to play against the strong westerly wind which blew down the Command Central Ground towards the Richmond Road.

After five minutes Signals were penalised for offside on the half-way line and Smith landed a fine penalty goal for the Gunners. The same player repeated the effort from nearly the same place a few minutes later, and the six points obtained by these two penalty kicks were all the Gunners scored. A magnificent dribble by the Signals forwards which ended in Signalman Johnson picking up and touching down, and a characteristic burst by Captain T. G. H. Jackson to score at the corner, were Signals' scores in the first half, and so the teams changed over at six points all.

With the wind behind them, Signals immediately attacked and Second-Lieutenant Gloag scored within a minute of the restart. Although Signals were without Second-Lieutenant J. Hall (injured) as hooker, Major Hammersley did well, and with the threequarters getting a fair share of the ball from the scrums and line-outs, scores came with the utmost regularity. Sometimes it was a cut through by Sergeant Rees, at other times it was N. M. Hall or I. S. Gloag, and on one occasion a 40-yard run by Mason resulted in a try. One of the most spectacular efforts was a remarkable run by Jackson, who, getting the ball at half-way, zig-zagged from the right wing across to the left and eventually scored under the posts, leaving a trail of bodies in his wake!

The Gunners had a fairly good side, including such players as Cameron (Scotland), Major Neale (Army), Smith (Army) and Captain Fenning (Swansea), but they were completely outclassed by a better side and the display given by the Corps side was outstanding and a grand afternoon's Rugby was enjoyed by an appreciative crowd.

Result: Royal Signals 42 points, Royal Artillery 6 points.

Royal Signals versus R.E.M.E. This Inter-Corps match, arranged for 17th November, has now been postponed to 26th January, 1949, at the request of R.E.M.E.

Army Cup, First Round (played at Catterick 1st November). It was unfortunate that two such good teams should be drawn as opponents in the first round of the Army Cup as No. 1 Training Regiment and the National Service Officer Training Wing. There was little to choose between the sides except that No. 1 Training Regiment, with Signalman Mason and Second-Lieutenant N. M. Hall as halves and Captain T. G. H. Jackson, Signalman Froggett, Signalman Morphy and Signalman Bell in the threequarter line, had more thrust than their opponents; indeed, the strong running of T. G. H. Jackson was a continual anxiety to the O.T.W. defence.

At forward, No. 1 Training Regiment sadly missed the hooking of Second-Lieutenant J. Hall, who had been injured in the Final Yorkshire County Trial on the previous Saturday, and the O.T.W. forwards were the better pack, and their work in the tight and in the loose nearly won the game for

The two teams in the representative match—Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery—on Command Central Ground, Catterick Camp, 3rd November, 1948

their side. The O.T.W. threequarters played well and their tackling was sound, and Second-Lieutenant I. S. Gloag's diagonal kicking often worried the No. 1 Training defence.

In the first half Captain T. G. H. Jackson obtained the ball at half-way from a passing movement, cut inside when unable to round the defence and scored under the posts. N. M. Hall converted. Signalman Morphy (No. 1 Training Regiment) obtained another try and half-time came with No. 1 Training Regiment leading by 8 points to nil.

In the second half Froggett and Bell scored for No. 1 Training Regiment and N. M. Hall converted both these tries. Towards the close N. M. Hall just failed with a dropped goal and Gloag dropped a fine penalty goal for the O.T.W. The final score was: No. 1 Training Regiment 18 points, O.T.W. 6 points.

Royal Signals (Catterick) Water Polo and Aquatic Sports

The swimming season has come to an end—the second season of the Royal Signals (Catterick) Swimming Club—and it has had a fair degree of success. From eight fixtures in 1947, the number has grown to 27 in 1948. This is largely due to the North-Eastern Water Polo League, to whose President, Mr. A. Mothersdale, Secretary, Mr. J. Cuthbert, and committee, we are very grateful for accepting Royal Signals (Catterick) into the League.

Owing to the lack of diving facilities and to the small swimming accommodation, aquatic activity has again centred round water polo. There have been five matches at Corps level, 16 matches in the N.E.W.P. League and two friendlies, against Harrogate A.S.C. and Middlesbrough A.S.C. In addition, we have had four mixed meetings, namely, swimming, diving and water polo, against the S.M.E., of Ripon, and against Ripon A.S.C. These latter four fixtures enabled 14 people, other than those in the "A" team, to take part.

Difficulty in obtaining swimmers has been experienced all through the season. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, were the most forthcoming in swimmers, in fact at the end of the season everyone in the "A" water polo team, except the captain, was in 1 T.R. The School of Signals provided nearly as many individuals, but their general standard not being as high as that of 1 T.R., they formed the bulk of the "B" polo team. Of the remaining Flag-wagger Units in the camp, 2, 3 and 4 Training Regiments and 7 Selection Regiment, Royal Signals, provided a few good aquatitions, but it is hoped that next year they will bring forth their good material in greater quantity. We were fortunate in these times of transport difficulties to have in Catterick most of the Signals Units. 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, now at Barnard Castle, were not able to produce players; however, we want to see them next year.

Royal Signals (Catterick) Water Polo "A" team, September, 1948

Standing: Captain J. K. V. Lee (president). Back row: Corporal Allen, Lance-Corporal Neilson, Signalman Evans, Lance-Corporal Peacock, Captain R. H. Maxfield. Front row: Signalman Vallet, Signalman Phillips, Signalman Wait, Major G. S. Waterman

Although the accommodation at Sandes Soldier's Home Baths is very limited for a camp of the size of Catterick, the Corps team were alloted three three-quarter hour periods per week by the warden. We used these periods for polo practice games on Mondays and Thursdays and for swimming practice on Tuesdays. R.S.M. Smith, from 8 R.T.R., was a great help and never failed to referee for us and to use his whistle to good advantage when we asked him. On swimming evenings people swam two lengths (40 yards) free-style, back, butterfly or breast-stroke, improving their times week by week. We were honoured and very pleased to have Major Glen S. Waterman, of the United States Signal Corps, as captain of the "A" team. The Major used to swim for California. He was appointed captain of the Flag-waggers' "A" team by common consent, and his enthusiasm, hard work, knowledge and ideas were of great value to us.

Towards the start of the season, Mr. J. Cuthbert, the Secretary of the N.E.W.P. League, was really useful to us in that he came over on three occasions from Stockton to coach the teams.

Once the water polo had got going, as it were, the League games came quite often, and provided as good practice for our Corps fixtures as we could wish.

In June we went down to Aldershot and played the following matches:—

Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough	Won	4—1
R.A.M.C.	,,	5—2
Southern Command Trial Team	Lost	2—9
Aldershot District	Won	5—3
R.M.A., Sandhurst	,,	6—2

On each night the team was picked from: Major G. S. Waterman (captain) (attached School of Signals); Captain R. H. Maxfield, Royal Signals (No. 1 Training Regiment); Captain P. Ashlin, Royal Signals (N.S.O.T.W., School of Signals); Second-Lieutenant G. Edwards, Royal Signals (N.S.O.T.W., School of Signals); Corporal Allen (All Arms Wing, School of Signals); Corporal McAvoy (Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals); Lance-Corporal Neilson, Lance-Corporal Peacock, Signalman Wait, Signalman Johnson (No. 1 Training Regiment); Signalman Canale (No. 4 Training Regiment).

We were accommodated at the R.A.M.C. Depot, Crookham, and played all the games in the Aldershot Command Baths. Lance-Corporal Neilson and Signalman Wait played exceptionally well; Second-Lieutenant Edwards, as centre-half, was outstanding in attack and defence; and Signalman Canale moved up and down the bath at amazing speed, getting the ball invariably, although his ball handling was weak. Captain Maxfield's cannon-ball shots at goal were a pleasure to watch. Major Glen Waterman played in the last three matches. He is an outstandingly fine swimmer and an offensive player who is an asset to any strong team. Corporal Allen, on the right wing, played a steady game throughout the tour and provided a number of thrills for the spectators with his powerful right-arm shots.

Owing to the floating population of the Signals Units in the camp, the composition of the team changed appreciably in July. It turned out that this was for the better since we got more fast swimmers, and polo players with better staying power.

Our thanks are due firstly to Brigadier F. S. Straight, O.B.E., M.C., who has recently retired, and to Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., who is now President of the Royal Signals (Catterick) Sports Club; then to the Secretary and Financial Secretaries, and to Mr. C. A. Travers, the Warden of Sandes' Soldiers' Home, for his co-operation; and last, but not least, to Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Goodeve-Docker and Captain R. H. Maxfield for their co-operation over transport.

We finished the season with some tough matches in the N.E.W.P. League. The results are given below.

RESULTS

1. North-Eastern Water Polo League matches:

Date	R. Signals (Catterick) "A"	Home or Away	Opponents	Water polo	Relay Race
May 5	,,	H	Stockton (T)	Lost 2—4	Lost
May 10	,,	A	Synthonia	Lost 3—4	Won
May 19	,,	H	Darlington	Won 5—3	Won
May 28	,,	A	Furness	Won 8—0	Won
June 2	,,	H	Hartlepool	Won 15—3	—
June 7	,,	A	Middlesbrough B	Lost 2—9	Lost
June 16	,,	H	Stockton (C)	Lost 5—11	Won
July 6	,,	A	Darlington	Won 6—2	Won
July 19	,,	A	Middlesbrough A	Lost 0—11	Lost
Aug. 9	,,	A	Hartlepool	Won 9—3	—
Aug. 18	,,	H	Furness	Won 9—2	Won
Aug. 25	,,	H	Synthonia	Won 10—2	Won
Aug. 26	,,	A	Stockton (T)	Lost 1—4	Lost
Oct. 6	,,	H	Middlesbrough B	Won 7—5	Won
Oct. 13	,,	H	Middlesbrough A	Lost 2—9	Won
Oct. 14	,,	A	Stockton (C)	Lost 2—10	Won

2. Swimming, Diving and Water Polo fixtures:

Date	R. Signals (Catterick) "B"	Home or Away	Opponents	Water polo	Swimming and Diving
June 30	,,	A	S.M.E., Ripon	Lost 2—5	Lost
July 26	,,	A	A.S.C., Ripon		
July 28	,,	H	S.M.E., Ripon	Won 9—4	
Sept. 1	,,	H	A.S.C., Ripon	Lost 4—5	Won

Fencing

Royal Signals Fencing Club v. *Edinburgh University Fencing Club*

The match which was held in Edinburgh at the Fencing Salle of the Pollock Institute of Physical Education, at 1430 hrs. on Saturday, 23rd October, resulted in a Royal Signals victory. The keenly contested match was won by 16 wins against 11 defeats. Details of results are given below:

Foil.—Royal Signals win with 5 wins, 4 defeats.
Captain E. J. Beale—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Major M. A. Lloyd—1 win, 2 defeats.
Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—1 win, 2 defeats.

Epée.—Royal Signals win with 5 wins, 4 defeats.
Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Major R. B. Ridley-Martin—1 win, 2 defeats.
Major M. A. Lloyd—1 win, 2 defeats.

Sabre.—Royal Signals win with 6 wins, 3 defeats.
Major R. B. Ridley-Martin—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—1 win, 2 defeats.
Captain E. J. Beale—2 wins, 1 defeat.

Royal Signals Fencing Club v. *Durham University Fencing Club*

The match was held in the Marne Lines Gymnasium at Catterick Camp on 16th October, 1948.

The team to represent the Corps on this occasion was drawn from members serving in Catterick District only, and they did well in a hard-fought match to win with 17 wins and 10 defeats.

Results in each weapon were:

Foil.—Captain E. J. Beale—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—0 wins, 3 defeats.
Major M. A. Lloyd—1 win, 2 defeats.

Epée.—Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Major M. A. Lloyd—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain E. J. Beale—3 wins, 0 defeats.

Sabre.—Lieutenant L. W. Prescot—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain E. J. Beale—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Major M. A. Lloyd—1 win, 2 defeats.

Royal Signals Fencing Club v. *Portsmouth Command (Royal Navy)*

This match was held at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, at 1430 hrs., Friday, 5th November, 1948. The Royal Signals did well to win a very close contest by 15 wins to 12 defeats.

Foil.—Royal Signals lost 3 wins, 6 defeats.
Captain E. J. Beale—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain D. L. Herminster—1 win, 2 defeats.
Captain T. G. M. Jackson—0 wins, 3 defeats.

Epée.—Royal Signals won 6 wins, 3 defeats.
Captain T. G. M. Jackson—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Major R. B. Ridley-Martin—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain E. J. Beale—2 wins, 1 defeat.

Sabre.—Royal Signals won 6 wins, 3 defeats.
Major R. B. Ridley-Martin—2 wins, 1 defeat.
Captain T. G. M. Jackson—3 wins, 0 defeats.
Captain E. J. Beale—1 win, 2 defeats.

RESULTS CORPS CRICKET MATCHES, 1948

	Result
Royal Signals *v.* R.E.	Drawn
Royal Signals *v.* R.A.O.C.	Won
Royal Signals *v.* R.A.C.	Drawn
Royal Signals *v.* Yorkshire Gentlemen	Won
Royal Signals *v.* R.E.M.E.	Won
Royal Signals *v.* R.A.S.C.	Won
Royal Signals *v.* R.A.P.C.	Drawn
Royal Signals *v.* Cryptics	Won

It is evident from the results of the Corps 1948 cricket matches set out above that the post-war record of the Corps is still intact—the Corps team has not lost a cricket match since 1945. However, what will not be evident to the majority of readers is how that record has been attained. The success of the team was due mainly to the keen team spirit which was fostered among members of the team both on and off the field, and this itself was largely due to the untiring efforts of Ken Evans, the team captain, in coaching players at the nets and finding new talent throughout the winter. His loss will no doubt be felt next year as he is due for service overseas.

The team was fortunate in having the services of several players who had played for the Corps in 1947. Among them were three reliable batsmen, Messrs. Normans, Porter and Hall; the latter is also the Corps stand-off half in the Rugby team. Another Corps Rugby player who was always a pleasure to watch in the field was Glynn Davies, who has now been demobilised. Stewart Squires, the team's expert slow left-arm leg-break bowler, has also gone; his bowling was one of the highlights of the team and was on occasions of first-class standard. We wish him the best of luck in his debut in Yorkshire cricket next season. The team was a young side and nowhere was this more noticeable than in the fielding. If the batting was shaky at times and often depended on Porter and Evans, this was not the case with the fielding; it was here more than in any other department of the game that Signals really outshone their opponents. When the team was on its day, the bowling was accurate and hostile, the field attacking, and not a run was conceded; it was this that gave us our victories, and particularly the excellent win over R.A.S.C. at Aldershot. It was in this match that Major B. R. M. Hayles, the Corps wicketkeeper, accepted a lightning stumping chance to consolidate the victory, and Captain Gomm, probably the team's most attractive batsman, hit a glorious 87, which included four 6s, and gave Signals a winning total.

The other match which comes to mind as one of the best of the season was played against R.A.C. at Bovington, Dorset, in which R.A.C. narrowly avoided defeat when stumps were drawn. Again Signals fielded well and a grand century by Evans in conjunction with Porter took the score from 60 to 150 and put Signals on the attack. Next year the following players should be available: N. Hall, J. Hall, Pocock, Hayles, Gomm, Porter, Law and Mason.

The team will, however, need urgently a really good slow leg-break bowler and some good batsmen. All those interested in playing should send their names and details of play to Captain G. D. M. Pocock, Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals C.C., 4 Squadron, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Gaza

Lines, Catterick Camp, Yorks. A good fixture list has been arranged, including a match with R.A. for the first time since the war.

Corps Shooting, 1948

NINETEEN FORTY-EIGHT represents a milestone in the history of the Corps as it was the first year in which the Corps entered a team for the Army Rifle Association central meeting at Bisley. It is hoped that from this beginning an interest in full bore as well as small bore rifle shooting will be fostered and that in future all Units, particularly those at home and in B.A.O.R., will send representatives or teams to the A.R.A. meetings. In addition, there are several "non-central" competitions which Units may enter and fire for on their own local ranges. Details of "central" and "non-central" competitions are given in the A.R.A. Handbook, copies of which are sent direct to Units or may be obtained from the Secretary, A.R.A., Room 98, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

As a preliminary to the A.R.A. Central Meeting, it was decided to hold a Corps Rifle Meeting at Catterick in May, 1948, at which officers and O.R.s from Home Commands and B.A.O.R. were given the opportunity to practice the various A.R.A. competitions.

The meeting was held on Bellerby Ranges from 18th to 22nd May, 1948. The weather on the whole was favourable, and, thanks to the excellent arrangements made by H.Q., School of Signals, and the hard work of the butt parties provided by various Training Regiments, the practice shoot was very enjoyable and successful. As a result, a Corps team was provisionally selected to compete at Bisley.

The A.R.A. Central Meeting was held at Bisley from 28th June to 3rd July, 1948. The principal competitions with which the Corps were concerned were:

(a) The Army Championship (Individual Shoot).
(b) The Methuen Cup (Team Shoot).

In addition, some officers and other ranks entered for other rifle and pistol competitions, but no one entered for L.M.G. competitions. It is hoped to rectify this in future years.

The weather at Bisley was not very good, the first four days being very cold and windy. Apart from that, however, the meeting was very pleasant, although many of the amenities associated with pre-war meetings were lacking. This was due to general post-war austerity conditions and the increased costs which the A.R.A. has to meet.

The Army Championship included three competitions. The Roupell Cup and the Roberts Cup competitions combined to form the First Stage. From the First Stage, those competitors whose aggregate scores placed them in the first hundred were qualified to shoot for the Second Stage, the Army Hundred Cup.

The Corps entered 16 competitors for the Army Championship, the total "field" being over 600. Of the 16, three qualified to shoot for the Army Hundred Cup. The detailed scores were as follows:

Name	Roupell	Roberts	Army Hundred	Placing in Army Hundred
Lieutenant J. Greenway 2 Training Regiment	113	103	161	20
Major H. J. Thompson H.Q. School of Signals	114	108	152	38
Major G. A. Dutton H.Q. Eastern Command	104	100	144	53
R.S.M. J. Howley 2 Training Regiment	105	96		
Lance-Corporal A. Peters 3 Training Regiment	105	93		
Captain A. G. Haystead Hanover District Signal Squadron	101	93		
Captain H. R. Jordan 7 Selection Regiment	106	76		
S.S.M. J. Crosby Eastern Command, Signal Regiment	96	85		
Captain D. S. A. Hutley Royal Signals O.C.T.U.	91	83		
Major R. C. Kendall-Baron Method of Instruction Team	97	65		
Sergeant B. E. Clerk 2 Training Regiment	90	62		
Sergeant N. Smith 2 Training Regiment	88	55		
S.S.M. D. G. Appleton Eastern Command, Signal Regiment	104	35		
Signalman R. G. Minton School of Signals	93	42		
Signalman G. T. Nicholson 1 Training Regiment	91	38		
Corporal G. Oliver Western Command, Signal Regiment	77	8		

Lieutenant Greenway and Major Thompson were selected to shoot for the Army Fifty Team in the Regular and Territorial Armies Cup during the National Rifle Association meeting at Bisley on 6th July, 1948.

In the competition for the N.R.A. Silver Medal and the Bisley Cup, shot under N.R.A. conditions on the last day of the A.R.A. meeting, Major Thompson had a very good shoot and would have ended up only three points behind the winner if he had not had the misfortune to put a "bull" on the wrong target.

The Corps Team for the Methuen Cup was finally decided after the Army Championship had been shot. It consisted of:

Lieutenant J. Greenway, Major H. J. Thompson, Major G. A. Dutton (Team Captain), R.S.M. J. Howley, Lance-Corporal A. Peters, Captain A. G. Haystead, Captain H. R. Jordan, Captain D. S. A. Hutley, Major R. C. Kendall-Baron (Reserve).

It had been hoped to publish a photograph of the team, but unfortunately, owing to production delays, it is not yet available.

Twenty-eight teams from the three Services entered for the Methuen Cup; the Corps team was placed nineteenth. This is by no means a discouraging start. The detailed results were:

Placing	Team	Score
1	H.M.S. Excellent	1,277
2	Royal Marines, Plymouth	1,269
3	R.A.F. Bomber Command	1,266
4	H.M.S. Pembroke	1,262
5	H.M.S. Drake	1,250
6	English Regiments	1,248
7	R.A.F. Flying Training Command	1,241
8	R.A.F. Fighter Command	1,237
9	R.A.F. Technical Command	1,231
10	School of Infantry (Pl. Weapons Wing)	1,230
11	Experimental Establishment Pendine	1,230
12	R.A.F. Transport Command	1,227
13	R.A.F. Maintenance Command	1,224
14	Royal Marines, Portsmouth	1,218
15	R.E.M.E.	1,216
16	Irish Regiments	1,208
17	R.A.O.C.	1,206
18	Royal Marines, Chatham	1,185
19	Royal Signals	1,165
20	Green Jackets	1,144
21	R.A.F. Coastal Command	1,140
22	Brigade of Guards	1,129
23	Royal Engineers	1,123
24	H.M.S. Victory	1,120
25	R.M.A. Sandhurst	1,106
26	Scottish Regiments	1,089
27	R.A.C.	1,088
28	R.A.S.C.	1,032

For 1949 it has been decided that a Corps Shooting Team from Units in Catterick will be raised and trained under the captaincy of Major H. J. Thompson. This should not discourage other Units and individuals from entering the A.R.A. competitions at Bisley as, based upon their showing at Bisley, they will have a chance of being included in the Corps team.

The A.R.A. Committee has under review the question of amending the rules to allow African, Gurkha and locally enlisted personnel to take part in A.R.A. competitions. This has not yet been decided, but it is an important consideration for most overseas Signal Units.

One final word concerning the A.R.A. The Association was run at a loss of £630 in 1948. At a recent committee meeting it was decided to balance the Association budget, not by increasing subscriptions, but by:

(a) Asking C.O.s to encourage all Regular officers to join.
(b) Making a free issue of the A.R.A. Handbook to Units only (on a basis of eight books per Unit) and charging individuals who require the handbook the cost price of 3s. 6d. per copy.

All Regulars in the Corps, both officers and other ranks, should therefore please note that the A.R.A. requires their support if it is to continue to fulfil its task of encouraging shooting in the Army.

CHRISTMAS on the D-Day Beaches

WE were be.ng withdrawn back to the very beaches we had landed on on D-Day six months previously, and we hoped to be left there in peace over Christmas.

Many of the inhabitants remembered us individually as the Invasion Army which fought its way ashore that memorable sunny day in June.

Things had not gone too well for the dwellers on the Normandy Coast, food was scarce, clothing at a premium, no gas or electricity, no transport, many of the children barefoot, and, generally speaking, life was at a very low ebb.

At an All-Ranks parade I asked for a vote as to whether we could and should do something to entertain the children for Christmas. By a unanimous vote it was agreed we should do something in the way of a party. A small reserve was to be created by scaling down rations daily for a fortnight, and all ranks gave up their chocolate ration for the two weeks.

Events once inaugurated moved quickly. A huge Christmas tree was cut and brought in. The dining-room of the Grand Hotel (which, by the way, had suffered pretty badly from the Naval bombardment on D-Day) was transformed with evergreens, holly and mistletoe. Paper chains and decorations were made from milk tins and other wrappings. The drivers' spare lamp bulbs were coloured and festooned over the tree, cotton wool from the M.O. provided the snow and tinsel trimmings cut from tinfoil.

At last the great day arrived and 250 children—from babies in arms to an age-limit of 13 years—passed into our billets.

An outfit for Father Christmas was unprocurable, so a huge Nazi flag was turned inside out and provided the red cloak and hood, cotton wool the beard, and rubber gum boots the mocassins. Lieutenant Peter Galbraith, six feet tall and proportionately well-built, filled the bill admirably. With his fluent French he greeted each little visitor personally. It was just a gasp of excitement as they viewed the long tables running the length of the hall, each place set with two bars of chocolate, meat-filled sandwiches, cakes made by our cooks from our ration savings and who had worked continuously for 24 hours over mud-made field ovens, together with tea and lemonade. There had been no Christmas celebrations whatever during the period of the occupation, and this was the first sight of an entertainment for the majority of the children. It was a sheer delight to see the children's faces; they were delirious with joy and happiness. Grace was said by Father Christmas and tea tackled in earnest.

Every single child held a little reserve of food of some sort, and jerseys, blouses and shirts bulged to an alarming extent as tit-bits were carefully stored away for absent brothers, sisters and parents.

With the aid of sacking and a head made from an ammunition box, a property horse was made and "manned" by the Company Clerk and Draughtsman. Duly introduced as the "Mad Horse of Bayeaux," it galloped the length of the hall. Never have I heard such laughter; they just shreiked as the horse pranced, danced, and then gave the tiny tots rides.

A mobile Field Cinema then came in and showed two Mickey Mouse films. Here again scarcely any of the children had seen a film or even heard of Mickey Mouse, and these we had to show a second time.

Time was flying. Soon the Schoolmaster drew a selected few round the shell-battered piano and, as a very great surprise to us all, sang "God Save the King" in English.

It was amazing to see how my men responded in the way they looked after the children. They were all Combined Operation Troops, under 25 years of age, and "case-hardened" in Commando Training of the toughest battle-schools. They had trained and lived for the one job—the "Invasion of the Continent." Tough as they were, there was more than a suspicion of a damp eye as the children tried to thank us before leaving.

As each child left it was given a sealed personal envelope with a 10-franc note in it by Father Christmas. Just what all the sweet little confidences were that were whispered in Father Christmas's ear as he kissed each one "Good-night" he alone knows.

I don't think I shall ever know a happier Christmas than that in Normandy, 1944.

SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Branch Notes

CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 21st OCTOBER, 1948

Brigadier A. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., took the chair at the Annual General Meeting on the Association held by kind permission of the O.C. 56 (L) Armoured Division Signal Regiment, T.A., in the Canteen at Signal House, Atkins Road, Clapham Park, S.W.12. Unfortunately only about twenty members were able to be present, but the business of the meeting was conducted satisfactorily.

At the conclusion of the meeting Brigadier Willway spoke briefly of the improvement in relations between the Old Comrades' Association and the present Regiment which had taken place since the accession to command of Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Dobson.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Dobson, who succeeded to the command of City of London Signals in July of this year, said that he was highly honoured to have the privilege of attending at a meeting of the Old Comrades' Association. He welcomed them and would always welcome them. He felt that to have a successful Old Comrades' Association was a *sine qua non* for a successful Territorial Army Regiment. He placed one task upon the Association, and that was the bringing in of the right type of recruit for the living T.A. Regiment.

If the volunteer T.A. members of the Regiment imbued with the old-time spirit so exemplified by the conduct of the Old Comrades in peace and war did not permeate the Regiment now, the T.A. spirit ran risk of being swamped when next year they had an influx of the National Service men.

He gave an open invitation to members of the O.C.A. to attend on drill nights and the Friday night social gatherings in the Drill Hall.

The question of holding O.C.A. dances was discussed during the meeting, and it was decided that the O.C.A. would not organise dances. It was suggested that members of the O.C.A. who were so inclined could well attend the Regimental dances which were now held in the Drill Hall fairly frequently.

The following officers of the Association were elected or re-elected:—President, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D., J.P.; Chairman, Mr. B. Collins; Vice-Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth; Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. A. Davies; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. D. Strike; Committee, Mr. G. Crawshaw, Mr. G. Clarke, Mr. W. Lamb.

Sheffield and District

The October meeting of this Branch was held at the Dega Club, Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield, and took the form of a social event and dance, preceded by a short business meeting.

The whole event was most successful; the attendance was upwards of 50. Mrs. G. E. Stone looked after the refreshment department most admirably, and we are all looking forward to the next meeting with joyous anticipation. For the next few months we are meeting at the Dega Club, as usual, on the fourth Wednesday—not, repeat NOT, the last Wednesday—in the month, and there is still room for new members.

The present scribe, though personally somewhat cynical about such matters, is pleased to record that the Branch is not immune from the attentions of Cupid, who has apparently transfixed Miss M. Jervis (late of the A.T.S. Signals) and Mr. G. Dixon with his fatal arrow. The wedding day was 15th November, and the best wishes of all Branch members will be with Mr. and Mrs. Dixon in their married state.

JONAH

Scarborough

November

The Branch held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, 2nd November. New members were welcomed by the Chairman, Captain N. Hunt, and we were pleased to have as visitors Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Adams, Royal Signals, Officer Commanding Burniston Barracks, and his Second-in-Command, Major A. H. Costen, Royal Signals. It is hoped that with the co-operation of the lads and lassies at the Barracks and members of this Branch that the winter will produce some social events worth recording—so here's hoping. Latest members of the Branch are Lieutenant-Colonel S. Goddard ("Sam"), ex-Sergeant H. A. Fraser ("Tam"), of Aldershot and Egypt Signals fame, ex-Sergeant J. Humphreys, transferred from London, and his *memsahib*, ex-Private Humphreys, A.T.S.

Major Mansfield and Mr. F. J. Kelly, our Honorary Secretary, were recently in London, and were seen snooping around H.Q. presumably for any surplus stores or free gifts. However, the General Secretary, Colonel Roberts, and staff welcomed our visitors and for the next 45 minutes one could hear murmurs of "Kohat, Pindi, Abbassia," etc.

Our weekly Whist Drives at the Rhul Café on Fridays are again in full swing, and we extend a hearty welcome to the lads and lassies at the Barracks to come and "have a go."

By the way, we have in Scarborough a Motor Cycle Club, which was formed by an ex-Signals D.R. and appropriately called the "Mercury Motor Cycle Club." Trials and scrambles are held from time to time, and we have some keen riders in the Branch, headed by Don Cooper. Rumour has it that Ted Whittaker, ex-D.R., is busy assembling a hush-hush machine ready for next season.

The Branch was represented at the local Armistice Parade, Jim Newman being conspicuous by his absence. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants from Burniston Barracks invited members of the Branch to their Mess for a "chota peg" and a grip. Chief grippers were "Paddy" Ryan and "Ping-Pong" Picton, with McDonald *sahib* listening spellbound to old soldiers' tales.

Jews' Mail. Salaams to Major P. A. Harding, Captain ("Shoey") Pummell and all ex-5th Div-ites, from Major A. G. Hales, R.A.O.C., ex-Royal Signals.

Salaams to all ex-9th and 6th Indian Div-ites from Tim Kelly.

Conclusion. Committee meetings take place every Tuesday night in the Salisbury Hotel. Business, 8 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Gripping from 8.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. If any member or ex-member of the Corps cares to pop along at 8.30 p.m. they will receive a hearty welcome.

Be with you again next month. VIC ACK

Birmingham

November

I distinctly remember making a few notes at the meeting on 28th October. A great pity that I neglected to make a note of what I did with them. One thing I do know is that the winter season is bringing a sharp rise in the number of members attending the monthly meeting. Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., our Branch President, was with us again and took the chair at the committee meeting. There was not a great deal of business and you may be glad to know that the Branch is ticking over nicely. Mr. Carl Brown told us about a couple of interesting cases of assistance. We are glad to know that these unfortunate affairs are in such capable hands. The welfare side of our Signals Association is still a very real and important business, to us at any rate. Some misguided people may rush into the newspaper columns with their pet ideas for doing away with this, that and the other now that the State takes a hand, but we will not argue the matter here. The Signals Benevolent Fund is by no means redundant. The need for it is as great as ever. Many a fire has been put out with a bucket of water before the arrival of the Fire Brigade. If you see what I mean, which I doubt.

There are times when I begin to wonder if I know myself. It just shows what a small world it is.

In these days and nights of warm, drizzling rain, it is not easy to get oneself into the right frame of mind for issuing Christmas greetings. However, with the aid of a few cards depicting six feet of snow on a thatched cottage, some despondent carol singers with adenoids and lamps hurricane, I can just bring myself to the subject of a merry Christmas. I feel sure that all 931 members of the Birmingham Branch will wish me to send you their hearty greetings for Christmas and the New Year. On we go full of optimism. What is there without that? Next year a little better than last year, and so on. Like the penny points pool, it doesn't always come off. But we can hope. That's it, hope. And some fathead will say, "What a hope."

Take my advice and come to the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, on the last Thursday in the month at about 8 o'clock. If you have any troubles you will be able to share them, or forget them, just as you like. If you have no troubles you can come just for the hell of it. I'll look out for you.

Late News. The annual Armistice Ball at Cateswell House, on 12th November, was the inevitable success. Dance Band by the South Staffordshire Regiment, from Lichfield. Bar and refreshments by Ralph Edwards. Enterprises under the command of Mrs. Palmer, from the Old Bull Inn, Wootten Wawen. The hall was filled with old friends, and this annual ball is certainly a grand opportunity to meet everyone you ever cared about. The ladies took advantage of the occasion to produce a beauty show of wonderful evening frocks. What it pity it is that men must stick to black and white. How different from jungle bird life. Captain Evans and his sub-committee were responsible for the arrangements, which ensured that this annual function was once again a big success. Winning raffle numbers were drawn out of the hat by Miss Sally Ironmonger. In spite of all bribes and promises, she declined to produce for me even one little bottle of whisky.

Let me know if there is anything I have forgotten to tell you. Now I will go and borrow a typewriter.

BARLEUX

Bristol and District

November

It is with fear and trepidation in my heart that I take up pen to my new duties. Alas and alack! A sorry tale of bulk resignations. We have, unfortunately, lost our Chairman, Vice-Chairman and two committee members, all due to business moves. However, every cloud has a s . . ., or have you heard that one.

Firstly, our Chairman, Captain D. G. Hamlin ("Ham" to the boys), is leaving Bristol and has had to relinquish the gavel. He will be missed by all the branch, old 8 A.A. boys, as well as newcomers, like myself. Best of luck to you, "Ham."

Major J. S. Hill has had to resign from the Vice-Chairmanship due to business reasons, and will be missed by his 12 A.A. associates at our monthly meetings.

Next, our very able A.T.S. committee member, Miss E. V. Stone, has already left Bristol for the city of colleges and bikes—Cambridge. (Lucky Cambridge! Have one for me at the "Baron," Liz.)

Our final item of bad news is by no means the least. You have read (and probably chuckled over) the notes sent in under the initials D.P.J.H. I wonder how many of our readers will remember Major D. P. J. Holbrook, late of 1 Command Signals and T. L. of C. Signals, India. He informs me that 8th December will find him aboard ship heading for Trinidad. I feel sure you join me in wishing him every success in the future. (He was once my Section O.C.—happy days!)

Now for the first items of the good news, Major A. M. Keeling, of Bath (and of the local T.A. Unit, No. 1 Armoured Reporting Group Signals) was unanimously elected Chairman for the remainder of our year. He is one of our most staunch workers, and has yet to miss a meeting or a function. (Please note, Bath members and potential members.)

The Vice-Chairmanship has fallen to the lot of Major E. F. Hedger, ex-10th Air Formation Signals and 7th (Indian) Air Formation Signals. He is another live wire and —coincidence—also a resident of Bath.

Miss P. M. Barclay (recently engaged, congratulations, Pat) was unanimously elected to the committee as the A.T.S. member. She has done valuable work in the past on the Social Sub-Committee, and we anticipate big guns from now on. Other committee members elected were Mr. A. H. Rogers (of skittle fame), Captain T. M. Cook (no relation to the pirate), and my unfortunate self. All these elections took place on Friday evening, 12th November, and the air of anticipation was very general at the meeting. The 13th was drawing near, and that, as will be remembered, was the date on which the "Big Eats" would be taken.

The dinner, held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, was highly successful. We were about 100 in number and had quite a steady session. As our guests we had with us our General Secretary, Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C.; the Chairman and Secretary of the Bristol Advisory Council of Ex-Service Organisations, Colonel E. W. Lennard, T.D., and Mr. W. H. Lewtas; and the C.O., 12 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Gambier.

The first speech was made by our President, Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard, C.B.E., who, proposing the toast of "Our Patron, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal," informed us—to our delight—that we are now the second largest branch in the country. (Sorry, Leeds—and thanks for your good wishes per Colonel Roberts.) He expressed the regret of the branch at the loss of our Chairman, and called on Colonel Lennard, who proposed the toast, "The Royal Signals Association." Colonel Lennard emphasised the value of Old Comrades' Associations and gave the branch some sound advice, saying that party politics must never be allowed to creep into the activities of an Association such as ours. He wishes the branch and the O.C.A. in general every success, and passed on quite a few very humorous anecdotes. Space, however, does not permit me to do the same. (Does it, Mr. Editor?)

Colonel Roberts, replying, spoke for some minutes and congratulated the branch on its rapid growth. He passed on greetings from Headquarters staff and members and finished by saying that he looked forward to his next visit to Bristol.

First-class entertainment followed the speeches, the artistes being Tony and Talbot and "Johnny" Creighton, who, incidentally, travelled down from London to attend the dinner. Other long-distance travellers were Bert Varley, from Bradford, Tommy Tucker, from Taunton, Brian Stagg, from Sherborne, and others. We had only one member present in uniform. Does anyone remember Fred Poole, 3rd Divisional Signals, 1930, and Orderly Room Sergeant, 2 Corps District Signals, 1942-43? Well, Fred's son, Fred, attended the dinner with Dad and sunk several nifty pints in the traditional style. He's on leave from H.Q., B.A.O.R., and tells me he "loves the Signals."

After all that news, I must down tools and head and get some shuteye. As I've already said, we had a large evening and I'm still suffering. So I'll say cheerio, but this time without a pint pot held on high. BEE-EE-BEE

"Old Soldiers'" Column

Dedicated to those who are in danger of fading away.

Come along, Old 'Uuns, what about a few lines from some of you. If you have any interesting anecdotes of Civvy Street, let's all share them and make this column something to be looked forward to by ex-Service and serving members alike.

By the way, I should like to hear from old "A" Corps personnel who were in Aldershot between 1936 and 1938.

(BUSTY) G. N. MILLEN.

2 Alexandra Terrace,
Teignmouth, Devon.

So get cracking, and let the Editor of THE WIRE, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, have your news or your address, or where we can get in touch with one another.

THE SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

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

Benevolent Fund

Donations Received and Grants Disbursed during the period June to October, 1948

DONATIONS RECEIVED

JUNE, 1948	£	s.	d.
"F" Ind. L. of C. Signal Squadron	56	11	0
War Office Signal Regiment	7	16	4
Kent Coast Troop	5	1	11
Shoeburyness Troop	2	13	0
Middle East Welfare Fund	500	0	0
H.Q. Mess, Catterick	2	11	0
Captain R. L. MacQueen	1	1	0
Miss C. H. Archer-Houblon		10	0
H.Q. Collection Box	2	9	6
	£578	13	9

JULY, 1948	£	s.	d.
Burma Command, Signal Regiment	228	11	10
H.Q., Eastern Command, Hounslow	2	0	0
12 A.A.Gp. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	0	6
Catterick Units	116	0	0
Sergents' Mess, R.A.F., Zeltweg	10	0	0
Captain W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
Ex-Signalman A. de Felice	1	0	0
	£368	12	4

AUGUST, 1948	£	s.	d.
32 Ind. L. of C., Signal Squadron	52	10	0
44 (H.C.) Division, Signal Regiment, T.A.	89	4	5
Vienna Signal Squadron	20	0	0
Thames Estuary and East Anglian Coast Troop		16	0
B.I.T. Signals attached B.M.M. (Greece)	9	5	0
Royal Signals Corps Fund	66	2	8
7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment (Amateur Radio Club)	5	5	0
H.Q. Mess, Catterick	9	2	4
No. 51 P.T.C.	22	10	8
Captain W. H. Robinson		6	0
Ex-Signalman W. E. Simner		10	0
	£276	1	1

SEPTEMBER, 1948	£	s.	d.
H.Q., 5 Divisional Signal Regiment	419	14	8
44 (H.C.) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	92	4	0
S.T.C., Haidari	25	0	0
Royal Signals Depot, Pocklington	750	0	0
Iraq Signal Squadron	137	7	0
15 Infantry Brigade, Signal Squadron	37	6	7
Signal Troop, Paris	76	0	7
H.Q., Schleswig-Holstein Sub-Area	137	18	1
Major T. Stibbs	5	0	0
Mr. V. Bilsby	2	2	0
Mr. H. Smith		4	0
Mr. W. J. Clark	1	1	0
	£1,683	17	11

OCTOBER, 1948	£	s.	d.
30 Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron	3	17	1
7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	368	5	0
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	20	0	0
3 Independent Signal Reporting Squadron	193	4	3
Kent Coast Troop	5	3	5
Thames Estuary & East Anglian Coast Troop		8	0
H.Q., Guards Division	66	0	1
Services Recreation Club, Bakewell	20	0	0
Yorkshire Cycling Federation	1	1	0
Birmingham Branch	15	15	0
Chester Branch	3	17	3
Mr. J. H. Fish	1	19	9
Mr. C. West		8	0
Mr. T. H. Stevens		3	3
	£700	2	1

GRANTS DISBURSED

JUNE	No. of Cases	£	s.	d.
General Assistance	43	242	9	2
Rent, Rates, and Insurance	9	63	11	6
Cots and Prams	10	58	10	0
Beds and Bedding	3	16	10	0
Furniture	10	81	0	6
Clothing	3	24	0	0
Hospital and Doctor's Fees	14	69	6	0
Convalescence	3	9	15	0
Surgical Appliances	5	24	19	3
Funerals	1	12	4	0
Removals	2	16	5	0
Tools	1	5	10	0
Legal Fees	-			
Fares	1	5	0	0
Dentures	1	8	8	0
Rehabilitation	1	25	0	0
	107	£662	8	5

Analysis of Persons Assisted

Families of soldiers serving with U.K. 8; M.E.L.F., 2 10
Released or discharged soldiers 88
Widows or dependants 9

JULY	No. of Cases	£	s.	d.
General Assistance	32	188	0	0
Rents, Rates and Insurance	9	58	12	0
Cots and Prams	13	61	0	0
Beds and Bedding	4	28	0	0
Furniture	13	99	0	0
Clothing	11	66	6	6
Hospital and Doctor's Fees	11	84	17	6
Convalescence	6	21	1	6
Surgical Appliances	2	4	8	3
Funerals	3	19	10	0
Removals	5	50	5	0
Tools	1	4	0	0
Legal Fees	-			
Fares	6	22	19	0
Dentures	-			
Rehabilitation	5	100	0	0
	121	£807	19	9

Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 12; F.A.R.E.L.F., 1; B.A.O.R., 1; M.E.L.F., 4 18
Released or discharged soldiers 91
Widows and dependants 12

AUGUST	No. of Cases	£	s.	d.
General Assistance	30	150	7	6
Rent, Rates and Insurances	7	31	14	6
Cots and Prams	15	80	5	0
Beds and Bedding	3	24	0	0
Furniture	4	33	0	0
Clothing	10	63	10	0
Hospital and Doctor's Fees	9	80	2	0
Convalescence	5	55	0	0
Surgical Appliances	-			
Funerals	3	27	4	6
Removals	2	20	0	0
Tools	-			
Legal Fees	1	4	7	8
Fares	5	14	11	0
Dentures	-			
Rehabilitation	3	54	0	0
	97	£638	2	2

Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 9; M.E.L.F., 2; B.T.A., 1 12
Released or discharged soldiers 74
Widows and dependants 11

SEPTEMBER	No. of Cases	£	s.	d.
General Assistance	35	209	13	10
Rents, Rates and Insurance	7	29	0	6
Cots and Prams	12	72	10	0
Beds and Bedding	1	7	10	0
Furniture	18	125	3	8
Clothing	5	32	0	0
Hospital and Doctor's Fees	4	19	4	0
Convalescence	3	32	10	0
Surgical Appliances	-			
Funerals	3	17	0	0
Removals	4	35	0	0
Tools	2	14	10	0
Legal Fees	-			
Fares	1	4	0	0
Dentures	-			
Rehabilitation	1	25	0	0
	96	£623	2	0

Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 10; B.A.O.R., 1 11
Released or discharged soldiers 78
Widows and dependants 7

OCTOBER	No. of Cases	£	s.	d.
General Assistance	25	108	16	6
Rent, Rates and Insurance	9	43	12	0
Cots and Prams	10	59	0	0
Beds and Bedding	5	37	5	0
Furniture	10	71	10	0
Clothing	8	41	10	0
Hospital and Doctor's Fees	3	18	15	0
Convalescence	2	7	9	9
Surgical Appliances	-			
Funerals	-			
Removals	3	39	0	0
Tools	-			
Legal Fees	-			
Fares	3	19	10	0
Dentures	-			
Rehabilitation	2	60	0	0
	80	£506	8	3

Families of soldiers serving in U.K., 8; M.E.L.F., 3 11
Released or discharged soldiers 66
Widows and dependants 3

NEW MEMBERS REGISTERED AT ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

	Life	*Annual*
June	25	97
July	36	106
August	33	84
September	22	76
October	24	72

Headquarters Notes

At the request of branches, I am writing a few notes telling of the activities, etc., at Eccleston Square. There is really nothing of outstanding interest to report. We are quite a busy team in all our branches.

A Branch Circular has already gone out reminding branches of the usual Hon. Secretaries' Meeting, suggesting dates, etc. It is hoped to hold it immediately after Easter. Replies are still awaited. I am looking forward very eagerly to this my first Hon. Secretaries' Meeting. I am particularly keen also that our staff here should meet you all, so that we all know with whom we are working.

The question of the Annual General Meeting will be discussed, and it is hoped that with the co-operation of the Commandant, S.T.C., Catterick, we might be able to make a two-day show of it, and to hold a Church Parade on the Sunday.

I have had the good fortune to visit quite a few branches, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all concerned for the kindness and hospitality which has been extended to me. I have already visited Plymouth, Exeter, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Leeds, Bristol, and Torquay, and have several more in my books to visit before the end of January, 1949.

These visits interest me very much, and I get many ideas

of the requirements of branches and of the sort of assistance they require. The Birmingham party has been the largest so far, followed closely by Bristol and Leeds.

It is with regret that the Bradford branch found it necessary to close down, at least for the present. We have to welcome to our fold the newly-formed branch in Torquay, which has already made great strides.

We are also trying hard to get a Nottingham branch going, and by the time this appears in print I hope that it will be actually started.

We get many suggestions that branches should be formed in certain towns, etc., but it is difficult to find the right man who will take on hon. secretary, etc.

We at H.Q. are grateful to all our hon. secretaries and do appreciate the work which they put in. Without them we should be helpless.

With best wishes to all our branches.

GEN. SEC.

CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS

The Old Comrades' Association Annual Dinner took place at Signal House, 20 Atkins Road, S.W.12, on Saturday, 20th November. An unexpectedly large number, about 150, attended, and it would be an understatement to say that a good time was had by all.

The President of the Association, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., spoke for some minutes on the objects of the Association and of the necessity of assisting and encouraging by every means possible the present Regiment, 56 (L) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. He realised that many of his audience were too old, too immersed in business or family to join the T.A. He was not making a recruiting speech. Whether to rejoin or not to rejoin was entirely a matter for each of them in his own conscience, but what he did insist on was the duty of all members of the Association to help with recruiting.

The following resolutions were agreed to unanimously by the Association:—

That the Committee be asked to organise a Ladies' Night at the Drill Hall during the spring. That the Annual General Meeting and the Reunion be combined next year, so that all those members who found it difficult to attend two functions could combine the business meeting with the opportunity of meeting their friends at the Reunion.

APOLOGIA

The Editor apologises to the very many Regiments who sent in notes too late for inclusion in this issue of THE WIRE. As far as is possible, each Regiment has been written to individually. It will be clear for those who read thus far in this issue that it is larger than usual by many pages, and our printer, although sympathetic, was adamant on the subject of the provision of paper.

It must also be realised that every day which elapses after the 16th of the month, when THE WIRE officially closes and goes to press, means a delay in printing and in the ultimate distribution of the paper before the 20th of the following month.

STOP PRESS

Under the title of "He Lost Seventeen Marks but Won the Trial," the *News Chronicle* of Monday, 29th November, mentions "Hugh Viney, ex-Sergeant Instructor of Royal Signals," who won the British Experts' Motor Cycle Trial organised by the Birmingham Motor Cycle Club in the Cotswolds.

If any reader of THE WIRE happens to know Hugh Viney, will they please pass on our congratulations, and perhaps the Birmingham branch of the Association will be able to get in touch with him.

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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.
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